

Pennsylvania Nuclear Caucus Guiding Principles

Nuclear energy is a vital part of Pennsylvania's energy portfolio.

- The birth of civil nuclear energy in the United States began in Shippingport. The Commonwealth has a historical legacy of being a leader in nuclear power.
- Pennsylvania's five nuclear plants generate more than 34.6% of the state's electricity.
- Nuclear energy produces over 90% of Pennsylvania's carbon emission-free electricity and is the only clean-air source that can produce large amounts of electricity around the clock. Nuclear power plants prevent substantial emissions from CO₂, SO₂, and NO_x. Average annual CO₂ emissions would be about 52 million tons greater absent the generation from Pennsylvania nuclear plants.
- As competitive generators, these plants operate in the PJM wholesale market which is considered one of the most liquid markets in the world and motivates resource entry in a cost effective manner.
- Pennsylvania's nuclear industry positively impacts the Commonwealth's consumers, economy, environment, reliability, and robustness of the electric system. A robust nuclear power fleet also serves as a security asset to the Commonwealth.
- Pennsylvania's nuclear plants support more than 15,600 direct and secondary full time jobs, have an annual payroll of \$360 million, and leads to about \$81 million in tax revenue from secondary/induced economic activity from plant and employee activities.
- Even if you replace every lost nuclear megawatt in PA, it will still result in a 90% reduction in jobs associated with that power. By comparison, a nuclear energy facility creates 500 permanent jobs per 1,000 megawatts of electricity generating capacity, compared to 50 for a wind farm and 50 for a natural gas plant. Pennsylvania's nuclear plants contribute approximately \$2.36 billion to the state's gross domestic product (GDP).
- The nuclear energy industry purchases more than \$1.8 billion of materials, services and fuel from more than 4,150 companies in Pennsylvania.
- The absence of Pennsylvania's five nuclear plants would increase wholesale electricity prices by about 7%, and result in additional retail price impacts arising from transmission investments necessitated by the closures. With nuclear plants operating in Pennsylvania, consumers will save almost \$600 million annually and over \$5 billion more over the next ten years on their electricity bills.

More than the valuable jobs, taxes and revenues provided to Pennsylvania, plant employees are strongly committed to giving back to their communities. In particular, nuclear power plant employees raise the standard of living by investing in educational, environmental and social programs that make their cities and towns ideal places to live, work and raise families. The Pennsylvania Nuclear Caucus was formed to increase awareness within the Pennsylvania General Assembly of the environmental and economic benefits of nuclear energy and support for the continued safe operation of Pennsylvania's five nuclear energy plants.

The Pennsylvania Nuclear Caucus:

- Promotes nuclear energy as a clean, safe, reliable and affordable source of electricity to power the economy, and achieve Pennsylvania's environmental goals.
- Advocates for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to recognize nuclear energy's zero carbon emission attributes, similar to other zero carbon technologies.
- Promotes, and seeks to preserve, the positive contributions the nuclear industry provides to the Commonwealth's economy through employment at the nuclear plants, indirect employment through vendors and contracted labor, civic and philanthropic engagement, and taxes paid by the industry's workforce and businesses.