

Re: posting of article by James Delingpole

It seems everyone has made up his/her mind about nuclear energy and then touts opinions. It is shocking to me that a journalist is quoted as an authority on this critical subject. The link to this article begins with, "James Delingpole is a writer, journalist and broadcaster who is right about everything. He is the author of numerous fantastically entertaining books including..."

We have enough opinions, how about some fact, such as the World Nuclear Association "Representing the people and organisations of the global nuclear profession." <http://www.world-nuclear.org/info/inf04.html>

Here is just an excerpt:

"There are about 270,000 tonnes of used fuel in storage, much of it at reactor sites. About 90% of this is in storage ponds, the balance in dry storage. Annual arisings of used fuel are about 12,000 tonnes, and 3,000 tonnes of this goes for reprocessing. Final disposal is not urgent in any logistical sense. To ensure that no significant environmental releases occur over tens of thousands of years, 'multiple barrier' geological disposal is planned. This immobilises the radioactive elements in HLW and some ILW and isolates them from the biosphere."

Now let's do some math: For nuclear to have a real impact of energy needs, let's build 10 times the number of plants and run them for 100 years. That will produce 12,000,000 tons of HLW (high level waste) that eventually has to be shielded and safely buried for "tens of thousands of years." The nuclear waste now sitting in pools represents about 30 years worth of spent HLW, not yet stored away, but "planned."

Re: Sir John Beddington's Q&A session

Shall we consider Sir Beddington an authority on nuclear physics, reactor meltdowns and biological effects? Here is his bio from Wikipedia:

"He went to the London School of Economics, gaining a BSc in Economics, and later an MSc.

Beddington studied at the University of Edinburgh where he obtained a PhD degree in 1973....

Beddington has been a specialist in the economics and biology of sustainable management of renewable resources....., and has previously advised UK ministers on scientific and environmental issues. He has chaired the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' science advisory panel and the Defence Scientific Advisory Committee, and is a member of the Natural Environmental Research Council.[4] He has also advised the European Commission and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation....

Beddington was accused of "misinforming" the British Government over the Fukushima I nuclear accidents. He initially underestimated the seriousness of the incident by "unequivocally" saying there was no danger from radiation, but 24 hours later said he was "extremely worried".

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/mar/17/japan-giving-erratic-information-about-nuclear-crisis>  
<http://www.taipeitimes.com/News/world/archives/2011/03/19/2003498585>