



Infographic

Nuclear Regulatory Costs

SAM BATKINS, PHILIP ROSSETTI, DAN GOLDBECK | JULY 14, 2017

Today the American Action Forum released an infographic examining federal burdens imposed upon the nuclear industry. AAF research finds that each year nuclear power plants pay \$8.6 million in regulatory costs, \$22 million in Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) fees and \$32.7 million in regulatory liabilities. This equates to \$63 million in annual cost burdens. Despite significant advancements, NRC regulations and approval timelines have not shortened. Consequently, the burdens placed on the nuclear industry have stifled the adoption of newer and safer nuclear power plants.

[Read the entire analysis here.](#)

NUCLEAR

REGULATORY COSTS

Nuclear power is among the safest sources of energy in America. It is also among the cleanest, and is America's largest source of low-carbon energy.

However, the regulatory regime in place does not adequately reflect the safety and environmental benefits of nuclear power.

\$8.6mil
IN PAPERWORK HOURS
Per Nuclear Plant

\$32.7mil
IN REGULATORY CAPITAL EXPENDITURES*
Per Nuclear Plant

\$63.3mil
ANNUAL COST
Per Nuclear Plant

\$22mil
TO FUND REGULATORS
Per Nuclear Plant



* updates, extended operations, equipment replacement, and regulatory spending

COMPARING INCIDENT RATES

From 2006 to 2015, the nuclear generation industry is on average:

4.7x
safer than
HYDROELECTRIC
POWER

5x
safer than
FOSSIL FUEL

6.6x
safer than
ELECTRIC
TRANSMISSION

7x
safer than
NATURAL GAS

ANNUAL TONS OF GREENHOUSE GAS RELEASED*

The nuclear generation industry's CO₂ emissions are a fraction of a percent of its energy counterparts.

79
NUCLEAR

167,486
OIL

417,035
NATURAL GAS

4,056,398
COAL

* Per power plant | Greenhouse gases measured in CO₂ equivalent for warming capacity.

The federal government has failed to adequately consider the role nuclear power plays as one of its safest and cleanest forms of energy. They must sufficiently identify problems in the current regime, and implement reform — lest the U.S. lose its primacy in nuclear energy and become reliant on foreign powers for innovation and expertise.

AMERICANACTIONFORUM.ORG

