

Swiss government seeks more activity - more radioactivity!

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The Swiss government seeks more activity - more radioactivity generated by new nuclear power plants! The government issued this as its «new energy policy» on 21.2.2007 and promised once again action plans for energy efficiency and renewable energies for end of the year.

The Austrian Federal Ministry for foreign affairs responded on the same day to SolarPeace.ch...

»We are convinced that nuclear energy is not a sustainable solution to the challenges of climate protection and power supply in Europe. Austria is aware of the possibilities and importance presented by renewable energy sources.«

Fossil-nuclear reserves of raw materials:

In its media release dated 21.2.2007 the Swiss government deceives the public by referring only to the uncertain oil and natural gas supply due to the dependence on foreign countries and the limited fossil fuel reserves - and at the same time fails to mention that also the supply with uranium (the fuel for nuclear energy) depends completely on foreign countries and limited reserves.

According to IAEA there is a sufficient uranium supply for 20 to 60 years. »The well-known reserves can supply the existing power station park [world-wide 440 nuclear power plants] for approximately 30 years. If we would aim to generate a 40% share of world-wide primary energy with nuclear power plants, total uranium supplies would be exhausted within ten years.« (LBST, 2006)

»In contrast to fossil energy raw materials, consumption of uranium outpaces production levels since several years« (BGR, 2005)

A day later, on 22.2.2007, federal authorities of Switzerland informed via a press release issued by EMPA, the Swiss federal material testing and research institute, during the international symposium «Hydrogen & Energy»: »Hydrogen is a 'clean' source of energy and indeed has the potential to change our power supply substantially in a few decades. ... For this [the production of hydrogen] renewable energy sources are to supply the energy.« and justifies the urgency not only with CO₂. »Additionally, fossil energy reserves - including uranium - will start to decline in few years.«

CO₂ and radioactivity:

Secondly the Swiss government deceives the public, by referring to the CO₂ emissions of oil and natural gas as well as to the problems of the global climatic change - but at the same time completely omitting the risk presented by nuclear power plants.

»The quantity of radioactivity, which is present in a reactor, is larger than the quantity of radioactivity spread by a nuclear bomb - significantly larger.« (Professor Dr. C F. von Weizsäcker, nuclear physicist)

Each new nuclear power plant (European pressurised water reactor EPR with 1600 MW) produces substantially more radioactivity than 1000 nuclear bombs of the size of Hiroshima - per year! (BUND, 2007) Technical and human failure, terrorism or natural catastrophes can lead to the release of this radioactivity and destroy the whole country, making it

uninhabitable for thousands of years. Since with such risks the probability of entrance is perfectly irrelevant, this risk is covered world-wide by no insurance - otherwise nuclear power would cost 5.00 CHF/kWh!

»What do you prefer: To save energy and use solar power, resulting in fewer cancer patients as well as genetic disorders, or to use nuclear power?« (Professor Dr. Dr. h.c. Karl Bechert, nuclear physicist)

Supply security:

Thirdly the Swiss government leads the public to believe that because of long-term import contracts coming to an end and limited life span of nuclear power plants a »remaining gap in power supply« looms after the year 2020 despite increased efficiency measures and the development of water power as well as other renewable energy sources - at the same time authorities fail to state that »Switzerland is fully integrated in the open European power market as of 2008«.

To close a possible »remaining gap in power supply« nuclear power plants are completely oversized and unnecessary, given that: »In case of power shortages the prices would rise and thousands of foreign suppliers would be ready and willing to export.« (NZZ, 2007). In fact, with a rapid and purposeful build-up of efficient energy use and renewable energy sources in Switzerland, a »remaining gap in power supply« as forecasted by the government can be prevented today.



Build-up of a future oriented power supply:

While the Swiss government wants to waste billions pursuing the risky nuclear dead end strategy, Austria and other countries invest purposefully in the build-up of a future oriented power supply. For decades the Swiss government failed to implement an obligatory and future oriented energy policy, in order to substantially develop energy efficiency and renewable energy sources.

In this nuclear age, Switzerland should look to energy efficiency and renewable energies as an opportunity for peace (*e.g. also in the Iranian nuclear conflict*), a stronger economy and new jobs, security without nuclear risk, neutrality and independence, health, ecology and climate!

As a Swiss citizen I hereby request the government to inform all Swiss regarding the following:

- »Medical Memorandum for industrial use of Nuclear Energy« (original text and summary are published on www.SolarPeace.ch)
- Possibilities and necessity to purchase natural power (oeko power). A rising demand for natural power (oeko power) triggers purposeful investments, providing for an increased supply thus enabling the build-up of a future oriented power supply (www.oekostromland.ch).

Finally I respectfully request that the Swiss government corrects its media release dated 21.2.2007 «new energy policy» to include the information mentioned above. For it is the basis of a functioning democracy to provide its constituents with complete and objective information.

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