

Proposed Massachusetts Nuclear Power Strategy

By Glenn Weinreb

First, the bad news. Nuclear power is not popular in Massachusetts (MA) for several reasons. These include: (a) meltdown risk, (b) nuclear waste, (c) high cost, and (d) nuclear bomb proliferation risk.

There are several ways to mitigate each of these; however, opponents of nuclear power are not likely to change their position. This includes the majority of the MA state senate.

Resistance to nuclear power is likely to soften over the next 10 to 20 years. This begs the question, what can we do between now and then? Below are several ideas in no particular order.

- MA engineers could develop machines that automate site construction of an existing nuclear reactor that does not melt down when not cooled. This would solve the melt down risk and cost problems. Reference Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=afO0cy1I7Qo>
- We could set up a \$100M MA Climate Moonshot research initiative tasked with solving the entire climate problem. MA currently spends \$1.5B/year to reduce CO₂ emissions from MA. However, MA emissions are 1/500th of global total. Therefore, this is not likely to solve the climate problem. In theory, \$0.1B of the \$1.5B could support a “climate moonshot” that tackles the entire climate problem. Reference Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihTGiOEKrnS>
- MA engineers could develop a website that calculates the impact of MA state energy policy on electricity and natural gas prices. This includes the impact of nuclear power construction, solar/wind construction, and increased LNG ocean tanker deliveries.