



NUCLEAR POWER: RADIATING ECONOMIC BENEFITS FOR UTAH

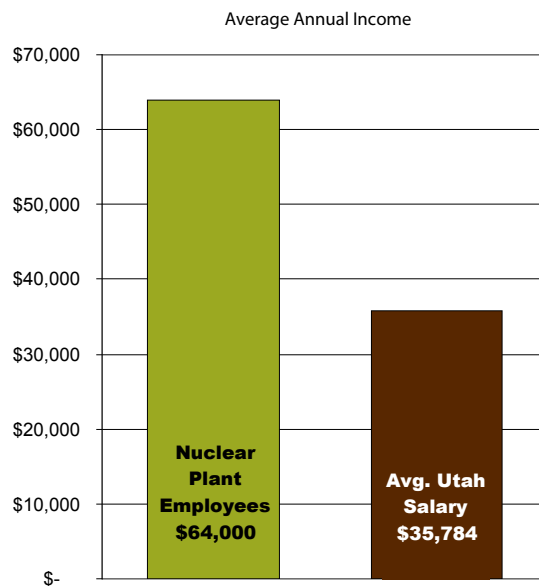
Establishing nuclear power in Utah will mean thousands of high-paying jobs for Utah families.

FACT: THE AVERAGE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT EMPLOYEE MAKES 79 PERCENT MORE THAN UTAH'S AVERAGE ANNUAL INCOME

Adding nuclear energy to Utah's energy portfolio will bring many benefits to Utah. Not only will it generate affordable, pollution-free electricity, but it will also strengthen Utah's economy through the high-paying jobs it will create. The average salary of a nuclear power plant employee is \$64,000, which is 79 percent higher than Utah's average annual income.¹ However, the economic benefits of nuclear power will be felt by more than just those working at a nuclear power plant.

In 2004, two economists studied the economic impact of a 1,770 megawatt nuclear plant in North Carolina.² They found that the plant supported 2,030 jobs spread across four separate counties, including jobs at the plant itself as well as at businesses providing support services to the plant. The added economic output from the nuclear plant in 2003 was over \$900 million.

Utah should expect similar, if not greater, economic benefits from nuclear power-plant construction. For instance, a nuclear power plant being proposed for eastern Utah is projected to produce at least 3,000 megawatts.³ The larger scale of the plant project will translate into a larger economic impact, creating even more jobs than the North Carolina plant. With an average income in Utah's eastern counties that is lower than Utah's average annual income, the economic boost to the area should be significant.⁴



In addition to creating high-paying jobs in Utah, nuclear power will also generate the inexpensive electricity necessary to keep Utah's economy attractive for businesses.⁵ Utah's utility rates are among the lowest in the nation – fourth out of 50.⁶ If our rates increase, businesses will hire fewer employees or relocate altogether, and Utah's economy will suffer as a result.

Recent public opinion polls have shown that Utahns are beginning to recognize the significant benefits that nuclear power can bring to Utah.⁷ While the realization of those benefits is still several years away, it is certain that building nuclear power plants in Utah will help maintain the state's current economic strength in the decades to come.

ENDNOTES

1. Utah's average annual income was calculated by multiplying the state's average monthly wage (\$2,982) by 12. Department of Workforce Services. 2008. "Utah Statewide Wage and Employment Data – 3rd Quarter 2007." At <http://jobs.utah.gov/jsp/wi/utalmis/gotoIndustry.do>; and Simply Hired, Inc. 2008. "Average Nuclear Power Plant Salaries." At <http://www.simplyhired.com/a/salary/search/q-Nuclear+Power+Plant>.
2. Farrell, Claude and William H. Hall, Jr. 2004. *Economic Impact Study of the Progress Energy, Inc., Brunswick Nuclear Power Facility on North Carolina State Planning Region O*. Progress Energy, Inc.: Raleigh, NC.
3. The exact location of the plant is yet to be determined. See Baumann, Joe and Lisa Riley Roche. 2007. "Utah Nuclear Plant to Double Up?" *Deseret Morning News*. October 26, 2007.
4. The average monthly wage in the third quarter of 2007, weighted by the number of employees, in Kane, San Juan, Garfield, Wayne, Emery, Grand, Carbon, Duchesne, Uintah, Summit, and Daggett Counties was approximately six percent lower than Utah's average monthly wage. Department of Workforce Services. 2008. "Utah Statewide Wage and Employment Data – 3rd Quarter 2007." At <http://jobs.utah.gov/jsp/wi/utalmis/gotoIndustry.do>.
5. Sutherland Institute. 2008. *The Core of Nuclear Power: Affordability*. Fact Sheet – April 2008. At http://www.sutherlandinstitute.org/uploads/core_of_nuclear_power_affordability.pdf.
6. Energy Information Administration. 2007. "Utah Electricity Profile." US Department of Energy. At http://www.eia.doe.gov/cneaf/electricity/st_profiles/utah.html.
7. Piatt, Richard. 2007. "Poll: Utahns Warming Up to Nuclear Plant Idea." Utah Division of Public Utilities. At <http://publicutilities.utah.gov/news/pollutahnswarminguptonuclearplantidea.pdf>.