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For more information:

Blair Horner 518 436-0876, bhorner@nypirg.org

NYPIRG'S REACTION TO GOVERNOR HOCHUL'S NUCLEAR POWER PLAN

New Yorkers must not be fooled a *third* time about the purported benefits of nuclear power.

The public should demand that Governor Hochul deliver a full *independent* public vetting of her latest nuclear power plan. That means allowing the *entire state* to be part of the discussion, examining the expected costs (including the industry's history of cost overruns), examining the waste storage requirements (on-site forever?), and examining the full cost impacts both directly and indirectly, such as what New York Power Authority projects will be scrapped in order to fund the building of a new nuclear power facility. The fact that the governor is eyeing new, untested approaches to nuclear power underscore the need for a full, transparent process.

New York was first fooled when nuclear power was sold as a new way to generate electricity that would be [too cheap to meter](#). Former New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller was a [champion](#) at that time. But his speedy, all-in embrace ignored one key problem – where will the wastes go? Rockefeller pushed for storage in West Valley New York, which led to an environmental disaster – the inadequate disposal [resulted](#) in the “spreading radioactivity into Cattaraugus Creek ... from which the [City] of Buffalo obtains its drinking water.”

The second time was by another New York Governor, Andrew Cuomo. The former governor proposed that ratepayers underwrite a multi-billion-dollar [bail-out](#) of nuclear power plants that were so old that they were constructed during the Vietnam War era.

At that time, the public was told by the Cuomo Administration that the [costs](#) would be around \$3 billion over the course of a dozen years. Outside reviewers [estimated](#) that by the time the bailout was complete in 2029, the costs would be around \$7.6 billion.

According to state documents, the bailout has [cost](#) over \$4 billion as of April of this year and there are still four years to go! All of that money comes from ratepayers' pockets. The critics were right, but the public was bamboozled once again.

Now the pitch is from current New York Governor Kathy Hochul. Governor Hochul has [directed](#) the state power authority to develop one or more nuclear power plants with enough capacity to [supply electricity to roughly 1 million households](#).

In the 1960s, New Yorkers were told all would be well. It ended in an environmental disaster. In the early 2000s, New Yorkers were all told all would be well. It ended in multi-billion-dollar add-ons to electric bills.

New Yorkers are *now* being told, all will be well. Let's not get fooled a *third* time.