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Nuclear Power: Devastating, Dangerous, and Expensive

As of today, there are 100 active nuclear power plants in the United States, built to provide over 20% of America’s households with electricity (Conserve Energy Future). Nuclear power plants can be efficient; however, they are dangerous. I agree that society should not use nuclear power because of factory accidents, toxic waste, and expensive materials.

Although nuclear factory accidents tend to be uncommon, they are extremely devastating to the people of the surrounding area. For example, the nuclear accident of Chernobyl ruined 63,000 square miles of land, and affected about 7 million people’s health in the area (Friends of Chernobyl Centers). Many people became affected by thyroid cancer because of radiation leaking into the air. Factory accidents are not the only dangerous part of nuclear energy.

The management and disposal of toxic waste is very time consuming and dangerous. Toxic waste is very unsafe and can only be stored for a certain amount of time before the container is destroyed. When toxic waste is handled improperly, it can be dangerous and expensive to clean up.

To have nuclear power, nuclear fission occurs with an element called Uranium. This element, along with all other radioactive elements, is limited. Mining, refining, and transporting uranium tends to be costly; It also can result in negative health effects, unless it is carefully managed. In addition to the expenses of handling Uranium, building a nuclear power plant can cost up to 9 billion dollars per unit (Union of Concerned Scientists). Because of the overbearing fund necessary to build nuclear plants, most construction sites are abandoned.

Although nuclear power is environmentally friendly and can be more proficient than fossil fuels, it is highly dangerous and expensive. Many people can be negatively affected by nuclear explosions and toxic waste. Nuclear energy should not be used because of the possible danger behind it.

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