#### Nuclear Energy: Today and Tomorrow

**Everett Redmond, Ph.D.** 

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## **Types of Advanced Reactors**



#### Range of sizes and features to meet diverse market needs



Micro Reactors

Oklo (shown) Several in development LWR SMRs <300MW



NuScale (shown)

**GEH X-300** 

Holtec SMR-160

High Temp Gas Reactors



X-energy (shown) Several in development

#### Liquid Metal Reactors



TerraPower Natrium (shown) Several in development

#### **Molten Salt Reactors**



Terrestrial (shown) Several in development

Non-Water Cooled Most <300MW, some as large as 1,000 MW

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# **UAMPS and NuScale**



#### • UAMPS

- Plans to deploy a NuScale reactor at Idaho National Lab around 2029
- NuScale
  - Light-water SMR
  - Four to 12 modules 77 MWe each
  - 308 MWe to 924 MWe gross
  - Ability to rapidly adjust total power output by adjusting individual modules
  - Air cooling for condensers is an option



#### U.S. Department of Energy Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program



- Established and Funded in FY 2020 Appropriations
- Awards announced October and December 2020 contracts finalized months later
- Three pathways
  - Advanced Reactor Demonstrations Technical feasibility that the demonstration can be operational in five to seven years – 50/50 cost share – two awardees
  - Risk Reduction for Future Demonstrations Commercial horizon approximately 5 years later than the Demos – up to 80/20 cost share – five awardees
  - Advanced Reactor Concepts 20 Lowest design maturity commercial horizon in the mid- 2030's up to 80/20 cost share three awardees
- Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill, enacted in 2021, included \$2.477 billion for demonstrations





#### Natrium Reactor

- Liquid sodium fast reactor 345 MWe
- Metallic fuel
- Molten salt thermal storage for peaking to 500 Mwe



- Location: Kemmerer Wyoming retiring coal facility
- Operational: around 2028



#### Xe-100

- Pebble bed helium cooled gas reactor 80 MWe
- Four reactors 320 MWe total
- TRISO fuel
- Location: Washington State
- Operational: around 2027





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## **ARDP Risk Reduction Awards**







🚫 Kairos Power

Southern Company



- develop commercially viable
  transportable microreactor
- early-stage engineering, design and licensing for SMR-160
  - design, construct, operate a test reactor
    - design, construct, operate a molten chloride reactor experiment
    - advance design of eVinci microreactor

#### ARDP ARC-20 Awards









- conceptual design of a seismically isolated advanced sodium-cooled reactor
- fast modular reactor conceptual design
- conceptual design of the Modular Integrated Gas-Cooled High-Temperature Reactor (MIGHTR) concept

## Micro-Reactors for Remote Locations and Transportable Micro-Reactors









Project Pele – transportable microreactor demonstration being planned by DoD and BWXT for Idaho National Lab around 2024



#### **Advanced Nuclear Deployment Plans**

Projects in planning or under consideration in U.S. and Canada; >30 globally





# **NEI Member Survey: Top-Level Results**



Nuclear power's potential role in meeting company decarbonization goals:



\* NEI utility member companies produce less than half of all US electricity ©2022 Nuclear Energy Institute 12

# Nuclear Demand to Support Decarbonization by the 2050s – Grid Only



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#### Dow Weighs Buying Nuclear Power in Low-Carbon Push, CEO Says

- Dow looking at two small-scale sites in the United States
- Nuclear can provide baseload power to industry Fitterling

Includes using emerging technologies to improve processes and increase carbon capture; exploring alternative power sources, such as **small modular reactors**, for oil sands production.

## Future Front End of the Fuel Cycle?



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# Challenges to Establishing Future HALEU Fuel Cycle

- Technology is not the problem
- Market development and infrastructure investment (enrichment and transportation) is the challenge



# Key Challenges

- Successes with First-of-a-Kind
  - Establish nuclear builds as predictable
- NRC Licensing Efficiency
  - Unprecedented scale can't be addressed by increasing staff
- Siting
  - Suitability, environmental reviews, public
- Supply Chain Ramp-up
  - Global demand race
- Workforce Expansion
  - Licensing, construction, supply chain, operation
- Facilitation of Export
  - Global demand may dwarf U.S. heavy competition



#### QUESTIONS? ELR@NEI.ORG

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