

# US Energy System and Innovation Needs

### June 6, 2012

Sputnik, Climate and Energy: Are Small Modular Nuclear Reactors a "Game Changing" Innovation?



Victor H. Reis Senior Advisor U.S. Department of Energy

### A few recently (related) read (or re-read) books







TOOR MONUMENTAL PROJECTS THAT CHARGED THE MOBERN WORLD LINE YOUT



#### PASTEUR'S QUADRANT Basic Science

and Technological Innovation

Donald E. Stokes

# IF THE IF MASTER SWITCH

THE RISE AND FALL OF INFORMATION EMPIRES





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#### Secretary Chu

## Is the Energy Race our new "Sputnik" Moment?



National Press Club Washington, D.C. 29 November, 2010



President Obama State of the Union January 25, 2011



Newton Lavoisier "Half a century ago, when the Soviets beat us into space with the launch of a satellite called Sputnik, we had no idea how we would beat them to the moon. The science wasn't even there yet. NASA didn't exist. But after investing in better research and education, we didn't just surpass the Soviets; we unleashed a wave of innovation that created new industries and millions of new jobs. This is our generation's Sputnik moment."

"Some folks want wind and solar. Others want nuclear, clean coal and natural gas. To meet this goal, we will need them all -- and I urge Democrats and Republicans to work together to make it happen."

"We're telling America's scientists and engineers that if they assemble teams of the best minds in their fields, and focus on the hardest problems in clean energy, we'll fund the Apollo Projects of our time."

### Sputnik & Apollo: A Strategic Planning Perspective



#### **Civil Nuclear Power Leadership: Small Modular Reactors**





### The Challenge of Climate Change





"And unless we free ourselves from a dependence on these fossil fuels and chart a new course on energy in this country, we are condemning future generations to global catastrophe." *Senator Obama* April 2006



### Energy (Electricity) is Fundamental to Development

The Human Development Index (HDI) is an index combining normalized measures of life expectancy, literacy, education ad GDP per capita



### A (very simple) look at Climate and CO<sub>2</sub>





Net absorption of  $CO_2 \sim 14$  Gt/year Total Population ~ 7 Billion

Net earth equilibrium  $CO_2$  footprint ~ 2 Tons  $CO_2$  /person/year

Electricity CO<sub>2</sub> footprint:

= Per capita electricity consumption x (1- clean energy fraction)x 1 kg/kWhr(coal)

Country	Per capita Electricity kWhr/yr/p	Clean Energy (%)	Tons/year/p
U.S.	12,500	42	7
China	2500	20	2
France	6900	93	0.5

### Secretary Chu on Small Modular Reactors

•"one of the most promising areas is small modular reactors (SMRs). If we can develop this technology in the U.S. and build these reactors with American workers, we will have a key competitive edge. Small modular reactors would be less than one-third the size of current plants. They have compact designs and could be made in factories and transported to sites by truck or rail. SMRs would be ready to "plug and play" upon arrival.

•If commercially successful, SMRs would significantly expand the options for nuclear power and its applications. Their small size makes them suitable to small electric grids so they are a good option for locations that cannot accommodate large-scale plants. The modular construction process would make them more affordable by reducing capital costs and construction times.

•Their size would also increase flexibility for utilities since they could add units as demand changes, or use them for on-site replacement of aging fossil fuel plants. Some of the designs for SMRs use little or no water for cooling, which would reduce their environmental impact."



Steven Chu, Wall Street Journal, March 23, 2010

•U.S. Competitiveness
•Affordability
•Flexibility
•Market

• Retiring Coal Plants

**Clean Energy** 

### Recent (Strategic) Events

Sputnik ? Moment

#### **Climate?**



2010 Election



NATURAL GAS SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY ADVISORY BOARD Safety of Shale Gas Development

### **Competition?**



President Obama November 3, 2010

"There's been discussion about how we can restart our nuclear industry as a means of reducing our dependence on foreign oil and reducing greenhouse gases. Is that an area where we can move forward?"

### SAFETY?





SMR?

#### Fukushima March 11, 2011

### Meeting Administration's 2035 80% Clean Energy Standard

Assume: • Weighted Emission Standards:

Coal= 1, Gas = 0.5, CCS = 0.1

- No New Coal Builds
- All Coal > 50 years phased out
- Renewable and CCS goals met

- 2.5t/y/p

<u>Source</u>	Elect (TWhr)	CO <sub>2</sub> (Gton)	Elect (TWhr)	CO <sub>2</sub> (Gton)	Elect (TWhr)	CO <sub>2</sub> (Gton)	Replace
Coal	1800	1.85	2100	2.1	300	0.3	Phased out
Coal (CCS)	0	0	0	0	200	0.02	Coal
Natural Gas	785	0.4	1030	0.5	1200	0.6	
Nuclear (Large)	800	0	870	0	800	0	A lot 150 CW
Nuclear (SMR)	0	0	0	0	1200	0	Fast ~ 12 GW/yr
Hydro	250	0	250	0	250	0	ُ ل
Renewable	130	0	320	0	650	0	
Petroleum	40	0.04	0	0	0	0	
TOTAL	3800	2.3	4570	2.6	4600	0.92	
2010 U.S Electricity Consumption and CO <sub>2</sub> Emissions. <i>EIA, CE=42%</i>			EIA Reference Projections 2035 CE=43%		Assumed 2035 electricity production to meet "clean energy" standard, <i>CE=80%</i>		

### Align Civil Nuclear Sector with National Goals

"Nuclear is a Business – Not a Religion"

Currently: 104 Reactors 100 GW 800 TWhrs Last Previous Ground Breaking - 1973



Talk to ANS November 2011



![](_page_13_Figure_0.jpeg)

Loan Guarantees for large plant "first movers"

### Innovation in Small Modular Nuclear Reactors: LWR Examples

![](_page_14_Picture_1.jpeg)

### Innovative Safety Case for SMR

Probabilistic Risk Assessment (PRA) of Core Damage Frequency (CDF)

![](_page_15_Figure_2.jpeg)

#### SMR Could Become Cost Competitive Through (Innovative) Manufacturing Learning

![](_page_16_Figure_1.jpeg)

### Other Nations are "planning" Small Nuclear Reactors

Russia

- KLT-40S is a 35MWe barge mounted PWR Available for commercial deployment
- Other Russian SMR designs include **VBER-150/300**, VK-300, ABV and the SVBR-100
- Korea
  - SMART is a 90MWe PWR

![](_page_17_Picture_6.jpeg)

- Plan to begin operation of a Demonstration plant in 2017
- Plan to be used for electricity or desalination
- China
  - CAP100 /ACP100 is a 100-150MWe PWR
    - Plan to begin construction of a 2 module plant in 2015
    - Plan to be used for electricity, heat or desalination
  - HTR-PM is a High Temperature Gas-Cooled Reactor
    - Rebar in place, waiting on government approval to continue construction
- Argentina
  - CAREM-25 is a 27MWe PWR
    - Plan to complete construction of a prototype in 2016
    - Plan to be used for electricity, desalination or as a research reactor

![](_page_17_Picture_19.jpeg)

![](_page_17_Picture_20.jpeg)

![](_page_18_Picture_0.jpeg)

#### Small Modular Reactor Licensing Technical Support.

-The conference agreement includes \$67,000,000 to provide licensing and first-of-akind engineering support for small modular reactor designs that can be deployed expeditiously, to be administered as specified in the budget request. The Department is directed to consider applications utilizing any small modular reactor technologies. The conferees expect the program to total \$452,000,000 over five years.

![](_page_18_Picture_3.jpeg)

"And with rising oil prices and a warming climate, nuclear energy will only become more important. That's why, in the United States, we've restarted our nuclear industry as part of a comprehensive strategy to develop every energy source. We supported the first new nuclear power plant in three decades. We're investing in innovative technologies so we can build the next generation of safe, clean nuclear power plants."

3/26/2012 Hankuk Univ

![](_page_18_Picture_6.jpeg)

"We can build the next-generation nuclear reactors that are **smaller** and safer, cleaner and cheaper." *Ohio State Univ., March 22, 2012* 

#### Small Modular Reactors for Civil Nuclear Power Leadership

When we enhance nuclear security, we're in a stronger position to harness safe, clean nuclear energy. When we develop new, safer approaches to nuclear energy, we reduce the risk of nuclear terrorism and proliferation.

![](_page_19_Picture_2.jpeg)

3/26/2012 Hankuk Univ

President's Vision

# National Energy & <u>Nuclear Goals</u>

Climate/Clean EnergyNational Security

Non-proliferationEnergy SecurityCompetiveness

Strategy —— Align U.S. Electricity Sector Goals to National Goals

- License 2 or more ultra-safe SMR designsMultiple Factory Manufacture
  - •U.S. Navy Industrial Base
- •Compete with Natural Gas to replace coal
  - Financial Incentives (?)
  - Government first user
- Global Market Leader

![](_page_19_Picture_15.jpeg)

Fukushima

" **By 2035, 80 percent** of America's electricity will come from clean energy sources"

> Timely Goal

![](_page_19_Picture_19.jpeg)

2011 State of the Union