## **Nuclear Power Overview**

A Critical Component of the Decarbonization Solution

Summer 2022





# Exploring the Merits of Nuclear Energy

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# Critical Themes in the U.S. Nuclear Market

Nuclear power will be required to achieve energy independence and reduce carbon emissions, providing long-term, stable energy supply





54 Nuclear Power Plants in the U.S.

**92** Nuclear Reactors in the U.S. **~20%** of U.S. Electricity Generation

**1.5x** Generating Capacity vs. Wind & Solar **~\$15B** Annual Operating Spend

**~\$4B** Annual Capital Spend

## The Current State of the U.S. Nuclear Market

## Nuclear energy is a stable element of U.S. energy generation and is a critical component of a carbon-free future

### The Most Productive and Safest Energy Source...

- The U.S. is home to the world's largest nuclear fleet, consistently generating 20% of the country's electricity
- Nuclear power is highly productive, stable, and continuously improving. Despite inexpensive alternatives governing growth over the past decade, uprates and other investment across the fleet have driven meaningful improvements in productivity
- These uprates, combined with strong utilization (high-capacity factors) and reduced operating costs, have enabled the fleet's consistent generation for 20+ years
- Nuclear energy is as safe as wind and solar. Unlike other energy sources, nuclear waste is contained, limiting external impacts, while stringent regulations demand safe and secure plants and operators
- U.S. Electricity Generation by Source<sup>1</sup>

Nuclear power plants have maintained a critical position in the U.S. energy mix by improving productivity, despite capacity reductions



### ...Has Been Improved Over Time...

- Through the 1950s, the Eisenhower administration supported efforts to commercialize nuclear technology, resulting in rapid plant development in the '60s and '70s
- The industry both expanded and right-sized through the 1980s, reducing fleet age with industrywide productivity and safety advancements
- The 2000s brought stronger investment with the nuclear renaissance initiatives, post-9/11 security investments, and safety upgrades in response to Fukushima
- However, inexpensive natural gas prompted the industry's Deliver the Nuclear Promise ("DNP") program to support nuclear operators and decrease costs

#### **U.S. Nuclear Fleet and Generation**<sup>2,3</sup> *Number of reactors; million MWh*

#### Consistent electricity generation despite right-sized capacity, with the recent infrastructure bill and decarbonization momentum limiting further decommissions



### ... and Is a Critical Component of U.S. Decarbonization

- Nuclear energy needs to be a meaningful contributor to generation in order to achieve lofty decarbonization goals
- Today, half of the carbon-free energy in the U.S. comes from nuclear power
- Over the past 50 years, nuclear power eliminated 60 gigatons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions globally — nearly two years' worth of global energy-related emissions<sup>1</sup>
- Renewables have become competitive, but their utilization is constrained due to their reliance on battery storage and their inability to operate in certain climates and weather environments
- Nuclear power generation has received strong bipartisan support across recent administrations, and stands to benefit greatly from the recently passed Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

U.S. Nuclear Levelized Cost of Energy and Capacity Factors<sup>4</sup>

## Nuclear energy has a higher LCOE than wind and solar on a stand-alone basis, but does not require energy storage



. Generation for 1957 - 2015 reflects average annual generation for periods

2. World Nuclear; EIA

4. LCOE: A measure of the average net present cost of electricity generation for a generator over its lifetime; EIA, Statista, University of Michigan

## Nuclear Energy's Role in a Carbon-Free Future

Strong and immediate decarbonization goals demand a meaningful nuclear baseload in the U.S. energy mix

### Powerful Tailwinds Demand a Transition to Net-Zero

Powerful, Long-Term Commitments to Decarbonization<sup>1</sup>

- > Political momentum and widespread adoption of ESG initiatives have changed how governments and businesses approach "net zero" and decarbonization strategies
- Government, utility, and corporate commitments have set aggressive timelines that require the exponential continuation of an already historic buildout of carbon-free energy capacity to displace much of the current dispatched generation infrastructure
- The U.S. nuclear fleet is in place and operable, already enhanced to meet more challenging security and environmental scenarios, and protected by state-level tax and regulatory programs to support competitiveness
- Political support has been consistent over the last two decades spanning multiple presidential administrations. Most recently, the Biden administration has shown a commitment to carbon-free nuclear power with new production credit and R&D programs

#### Bloomberg **DENERGY** POWER REUTERS **11 Reasons Why DOE** Biden Launches \$6B Nuclear **Net-Zero Needs EU Removes Last Hurdle** is All In on New Nuclear to Label Nuclear as Green **Power Credit Program** Nuclear ~75% 70+ ~35% **Energy Sector's Contribution Countries Have Adopted** Fortune 500s Pledging to Achieve 1+ Climate Targets to GHG Emissions **Net Zero Pledges** Dominior Energy **IOCC** 🗋 exelor O PSEG Xcel Energy Limit warming to 21 states with 100% and 10+ other IOUs with net-zero Net zero electricity 1.5C by 2050 by 2035 clean energy goals emission commitments by 2050

### Nuclear Is in a Critical and Sustainable Position to Underpin the Carbon-Free Buildout

- Wind and solar have scaled enormously over the past decade, but still contribute just 14% of U.S. electricity (versus 61% fossil) and are constrained by intermittency, storage, and raw material limitations. Renewables will undoubtedly make up a growing part of the energy mix, but the industry largely agrees that a combination of renewables and bedrock, low-carbon nuclear and hydropower is the only path to achieving lofty decarbonization goals
  - The scale of the expected renewables buildout will require significant infrastructure spend on direct wind and solar inputs, and across T&D and nascent storage networks
- > Amid the commitments to decarbonization, increasing weather events, surging energy prices, and geopolitical conflict are demanding a more reliable and secure energy future. Increased focus on U.S. energy independence is bringing new perspectives on nuclear as a highly stable, consistent source of energy

### Nuclear Is Essential for the Carbon-Free Transition<sup>1</sup>

U.S. Carbon-Free Electricity Generation, million MWh

**Department of Energy:** Expected Carbon-Free Generating Capacity<sup>1</sup> GW





801

2050

Solar



# Nuclear Services Benefit from Recurring and Highly Visible Spend

### Nuclear facilities require significant, predictable operating and capital spend to comply with regulations and maintain safe operating conditions

- > While power plants must continuously spend to achieve license renewals and perform updates to increase output, they favor continuous maintenance over upfront replacement
- > Certain years see material capex step-changes, and with an average age of 40 years across the U.S. nuclear fleet (the oldest in the world), capex is expected to increase meaningfully over the next decade
  - The upcoming wave of Subsequent License Renewals and accompanying requirements will drive increased capital spend – approximately one-third of plants will need to begin the second renewal process prior to 2030
- > Nuclear plants typically complete a significant portion of maintenance work during routine outages
  - Reactors close every 18 24 months for refueling, occurring in the fall and spring and averaging ~32 days
  - Non-refueling outages include other planned maintenance and forced outages

#### The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act – Securing and Investing in Nuclear

- The \$579 billion federal infrastructure package the IIJA is the largest federal investment into infrastructure projects in more than a decade, adding approximately 30% to annual infrastructure spending over the next five years, and the largest investment in clean energy transmission in history
- This additional investment will help preserve the existing nuclear fleet, deploy advanced reactor technologies, and expand nuclear energy to markets beyond electricity



### Highly Visible Nuclear Spending Programs<sup>1</sup>



### U.S. Nuclear Power Plant Capital and Operating Expenditures<sup>2</sup>

#### *\$ millions per power plant, in 2020 dollars*



Third-party industry report
 Electric Cost Utility Group

3. Decontamination & decommissioning

# The Future of Nuclear Energy: Subsequent License Renewals

### Subsequent license renewals are required regulatory events that will drive significant revenue for service providers across the nuclear landscape

- > U.S. nuclear plants are licensed by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to operate for 40 years. After that, plants can extend their operating licenses for up to 20 years at a time. Most U.S. nuclear power plants have already renewed their operating licenses once
- > About 260 GW, or 63%, of today's nuclear plants are over 30 years old and will exceed their initial operating licenses or 20-year extension period over the coming decade, prompting the need for license renewals for another 20 years<sup>1</sup>
- > In awarding SLRs, the NRC subjects the plant to a rigorous review, including plant inspections, environmental impact reviews, and verification of aging effects calculations and/or analyses<sup>2</sup>
  - Nuclear service providers will benefit from significant spend as plants begin preparations for these renewals in the years leading up to their applications. Upgrades are focused on improving the safety and reliability of direct plant assets, but require ancillary T&D and environmental investment across power infrastructure as well
- > Over the last three years, the NRC has granted an initial 20-year extension for one reactor and granted subsequent 20-year extensions for six other reactors, totaling 7.6 GW of capacity<sup>1</sup>

#### U.S. Nuclear Reactor License Terms<sup>3</sup>

U.S. Nuclear Reactors by Age Number of Licenses Expiring per Five-Year Period (count)



## Over half of U.S. nuclear reactors will need to obtain a second renewed operating license by 2040



Current Term Expiration Expected Subsequent Term Expiration



Visible U.S. Subsequent License Renewal Filings<sup>2</sup>

Recent License Renewal

Applications Under Review

Publicly Announced Intention to Renew



2. U.S. NEI

3. U.S. NRC Status of Initial License Renewal Applications and Industry Initiatives

# The Future of Nuclear Energy: Small Modular Reactors

### Small modular reactors currently under development stand to provide a capital-light alternative to traditional large nuclear reactors

- Small modular reactors ("SMRs") are advanced nuclear reactors that have a power capacity of up to 300 MW(e) per unit and are designed to be manufactured off-site and then delivered to a location for final assembly<sup>1</sup>
- SMRs are poised to address rising global demand for small-scale, zero-carbon power generation, while also providing advantages such as lower capital commitments, supply chain simplicity, flexibility in placement, and shorter construction times<sup>1</sup>
- > Due to their efficient cost and size, SMRs are an ideal clean, reliable, and affordable energy solution to repurpose retiring coal-fueled power plants without requiring significant investment in additional infrastructure, as legacy coal-fueled plants are already connected to the grid
- > Advanced nuclear technology is drawing significant funding from public and private capital allocators

Advanced Reactor Categories<sup>5</sup>

- Investors such as Bill Gates, GE Hitachi, Berkshire Hathaway, and other institutional sources of private capital have made significant investments in advanced nuclear technology as climate change concerns rise
- > While only a small number of units are likely to start operating this decade, with recent momentum SMRs could start playing a significant role in energy transitions in the 2030s

### Small Modular Reactor Comparative Economics

Reactor	<b>SMR</b> (77 MWe SMR <sup>2</sup> )	<b>Traditional Reactor</b> (2200 MWe Reactor)		
Time to Construct	36 months	84 months <sup>3</sup>		
Capital Cost (\$/KW)		\$7,675 - \$12,500 <sup>4</sup>		
Capital Cost (\$)	Less than \$2B	Greater than \$6B		
Levelized Cost of Electricity	\$40 - \$65	\$129 - \$198 <sup>4</sup>		
Time to Commercialization	2029	Today		



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

# Market Participants

The nuclear energy market has numerous diversified participants but is led by specialized, technical leaders across sub-categories



# Considerations for Investors in the U.S. Nuclear Market

### Platforms in the industry are highly technical with stable underpinnings, but opportunities are rarer compared to other infrastructure sectors

What Investors Should Be Looking For Select Red			t Recent M&A Transactions			
NR		Acquirer	Target	Date Closed	Transaction Overview	
	<b>Allied</b> Power	RSCS Acceler Billing & Cover Terrores	7/14/2022	Allied Power Holdings, a full-service provider of power plant services, acquires Radiation Safety & Control Services, a leading provider of project management, technical, and laboratory services to the nuclear power industry.		
Technical Expertise	Proven Project Execution	Westinghouse	BHI energy	5/27/2022	Westinghouse Electric Company acquires BHI Energy from AE Industrial to expand its global capabilities and expertise in nuclear plant maintenance and modification services, industrial, power delivery, and complementary renewables, including solar, wind, and hydro power.	
		Spring Valley Acquisition Corp	NUSCALE	5/2/2022	NuScale Power completes merger with Spring Valley Acquisition Corp. to create world's first and only publicly traded provider of transformational small modular nuclear reactor technology.	
		Westinghouse	<b>Έ</b> τεςηστος	3/10/2022	Westinghouse Electric Company acquires 50% of Tecnatom from Iberdrola and Naturgy. The acquisition advances the company's strategy to expand its technical nuclear outage, engineering, and digital services capabilities worldwide. Westinghouse co-owns and co-manages Tecnatom with Endesa through a joint venture.	
M&A Canabilities	National	Stedf	GE Steam Power	2/10/2022 (Announced)	EDF to acquire part of GE Steam Power's nuclear power activities. The transaction brings together GE's nuclear steam turbine technology and services expertise with EDF, strengthening its commitment to the nuclear power sector and creating an industry-leading global steam turbine equipment and services provider within EDF Group.	
			Paragon	12/1/2021	Windjammer Capital Investors acquires Paragon Energy Solutions from Argosy Private Equity. Paragon is a leading independent provider of critical parts and services for existing utility nuclear power generation facilities, and the next generation of advanced small modular nuclear reactor technologies.	
	$\overline{\mathbf{A}}$	Guldman Sacis Management		10/20/2021	Mirion Technologies, a leading provider of detection, measurement, analysis, and monitoring solutions to the nuclear, defense, medical, and research end markets, closes its combination with GS Acquisition Holdings Corp II.	
Depth of	Safaty	BOYNE	ONC STORE	9/15/2021	Boyne Capital acquires Sonic Systems International, a leading provider of mission-critical support services to the commercial nuclear power industry.	
Customer Relationships Performance	Westinghouse		6/1/2021	Westinghouse Electric Company acquires Laveer Engineering, a Canada-based provider of custom tooling and solutions. The acquisition will further expand Westinghouse's CANDU capabilities, particularly in outage maintenance services.		

# Additional Resources

## Select recent industry insights that offer additional depth and perspective. Please contact Harris Williams for additional resources.

## Nuclear Energy: A critical pillar of a carbon-free future "Nuclear energy is an important part of the power generation landscape, and it is a critical pillar in the transformation to a carbon-free future." <u>GE</u>



### **Nuclear Power and Secure Energy Transitions**

A new report by the International Energy Agency that looks at how nuclear energy could help address two major crises: energy and climate IEA



### **Nuclear Costs in Context**

Describes the costs drivers for generating electricity using nuclear energy – capital, operations, and fuel costs

NEI

### **Advanced Reactor Overview**

Outlines the research and development of a wide range of new advanced reactor technologies that help meet the nation's energy, environmental, and national security needs DOE



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### Restoring America's Competitive Nuclear Energy Advantage

Department of Energy overview of the importance of nuclear energy to national security



### **Utility Decarbonization Strategies**

"There appear to be significant gaps across the board between utilities' stated goals and the scheduled capacity retirements and additions."

<u>Deloitte</u>

DOE

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- Water

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- ESCOs
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- Building Optimization
- Energy Management Systems
- Electric Submeters
- Demand Response
- Utility Billing
  - Workforce Management
- Distribution Automation

#### Renewables and Distributed Energy

- Solar Technology
- Wind Technology
   Energy Storage
- Electric Vehicle Infrastructure
- Operations and Maintenance
- Operations and N
- Software
- Asset Management
   Development
- Development

#### Energy Technology

- Internet of Things
- Digital Oilfield
   Equipment and Technology

### **Select Relevant Transaction Experience**



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