

A paper released on September 27 by the Breakthrough Institute, ClearPath, and the R Street Institute, titled *Planting the Seeds of a Distributed Nuclear Revolution: The Case for Expedited Licensing and Commercialization of Micronuclear Reactors*, provides another perspective on micro-reactors. The paper focuses on reactors smaller than 10 MWt, about two- to three-thousandths the size of the AP1000 reactors being built at the Vogtle site in Georgia.

“Small reactors allow safe operation with radically simplified designs, making the case for far-reaching licensing and regulatory reform much stronger,” the paper states. “At a very modest cost to the public treasury, the federal government could jumpstart an advanced nuclear industry in which multiple designs from multiple companies would compete for public contracts, and the government would choose based on predefined performance metrics.”

SUMMER

**ORS: Disallow costs incurred after March 2015**

On September 24, the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS) submitted prefiled testimony to the South Carolina Public Service Commission (PSC) regarding the decision by South Carolina Electric & Gas Company (SCE&G) to abandon the construction of Summer-2 and -3 and to seek the recovery of “billions of dollars over decades for the two nuclear plants that will never produce any electric energy for ratepayers.” The testimony was to be presented to the PSC during a contested hearing scheduled for November 1.

The ORS recommended that the PSC disallow about \$1.87 billion in construction costs incurred by SCE&G after March 12, 2015. The ORS said that its testimony shows that SCE&G should have abandoned the Summer project in 2015 when it knew that construction was years behind schedule and would cost billions more than it was telling the PSC.

The ORS also recommended ending all revised rates or financing costs during the construction of the project and crediting ratepayers for the revised rates that have been paid since the termination of construction on July 31, 2017. Among the costs that the ORS contends should not be passed on to ratepayers is the \$1.8 million paid to SCANA’s former chief executive officer, William Timmerman, under a consulting contract following his retirement in November 2011.

If the reductions recommended in the ORS’s testimony are enacted, customer bills would be reduced by more than 20

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