

THE NUCLEAR RENAISSANCE

A Tour of Calvert Cliffs on the Chesapeake Bay



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I recently had the opportunity to see up close and personal what the global nuclear renaissance is all about.

I toured the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant, with its two nuclear reactors perched on a cliff above Maryland's scenic Chesapeake Bay. The Constellation Energy-owned plant provides 1,700 megawatts of clean, safe, stable

electricity. A third reactor is planned.

I was impressed with how clean, high-tech, and safe the plant was. I have toured grimy, sooty, coal-fired electrical plants with mountains of ash piled outside. Calvert Cliffs is pollution-free and nearly spotless. Here's an interesting fact: If nuclear energy supplied your lifetime energy needs, the waste produced would fit in one soda can. By comparison, coal energy waste would fill 98,000 soda cans. One uranium pellet, a bit bigger than a pencil eraser, produces as much energy as a ton of coal.

We drove by the concrete bunker where

spent fuel rods are stored in steel and concrete casks designed to withstand a direct hit by a large aircraft. The storage area is small, even after decades of stockpiling spent fuel. Security is obviously tight. No-nonsense big guys with automatic weapons and bullet-proof vests are highly visible.

Local leaders and citizens clearly love their nuclear plant. A Calvert County (population 90,000) official could hardly contain his delight at the prospect of a third reactor (supported by 80 percent of citizens) with its 4,000 construction jobs and 400 new permanent jobs.

The plant already provides \$17 million annually in county taxes, 800 high-paying jobs, \$40 million payroll, and \$430 million in economic impact.

With hundreds more nuclear reactors planned across America and internationally, the global nuclear renaissance is coming, offering enormous economic opportunity.

Utah's own *EnergySolutions* provides essential services to this industry. At a time when Utah desperately needs jobs and tax revenue for our schools, we would be foolish not to participate.