

Samarys Seguinot-Medina

Greetings and thank you for the opportunity to comment.

As a Doctor in Public Health and an Environmental Scientist working with Alaska Natives tribes that are facing the giant challenges of military toxics and climate change, the idea of just considering nuclear energy is not only dangerous and irresponsible but highly disrespectful to Alaskans, people of the Arctic and to many other communities of color facing the impact of nuclear power.

There are serious health and safety concerns with micronuclear reactors, and they are a false solution for our energy needs and the climate crisis. Nuclear power is destructive throughout its life cycle from the mining of uranium which is done predominately on Indigenous lands through the enrichment process to the untenable problems of disposal of radioactive waste.

Even a very small reactor contains enough radioactive material to cause a big problem if it is sabotaged, and none of the so-called microreactors have been demonstrated to be so safe that they can function without operators. A single microreactor core would contain about 10 nuclear weapons' worth of nuclear and radioactive material.

Opening the door to nuclear power in Alaska is unwise and dangerous. The nuclear industry is not a solution for our energy needs. It is well-documented that nuclear energy is expensive, dangerous, and clearly linked to severe health and environmental degradation.

We are grateful for all that you do. Thank you!