THE CHANGING **NUCLEAR NARRATIVE**

In 2018, the nuclear energy industry saw a significant shift in the nuclear narrative, with editorials of support from major media outlets and a chorus of third parties—including historically adversarial organizations—publicly supporting efforts to preserve the existing fleet. Here are some examples:

2018

Bloomberg

JAN. 10 **Bloomberg** editorializes that "Another strategy is for states to expand their renewable portfolio standards—which require that a certain proportion of power come from renewable sources—to make them low-carbon portfolio standards, hence taking in nuclear as well as wind, solar and hydropower."

grist

JAN. 12 Commentary in **Grist Magazine**, an environmental news publication, suggests that climate change cannot be solved without nuclear power and says a shift in attitude toward nuclear is needed "to prevent us from going over the climate cliff." The piece concludes with "if we are smart, we'd see nuclear power for what it is: A good bet to save the world."

Vox

APR. 5 Dave Roberts, an influential writer at the left-leaning news outlet **Vox**, writes that the nation's biggest energy market, PJM, may lose five nuclear reactors in the next few years, larger than all the region's wind and solar combined. "If climate change is indeed an existential threat," Roberts asks, "isn't the loss of 40 TWh a year of carbon-free energy a four-alarm emergency?"

JUN. 26 A group of **77 industry leaders, U.S. statesmen, retired flag officers, generals, national security officials** sends a letter to Secretary Perry, endorsing nuclear energy's national security importance and urging him "take concrete steps to ensure the national security attributes of U.S. nuclear power plants are properly recognized by policymakers and are valued in U.S. electricity markets."

NRDC SIERRA CLUB

OCT. 1 **Natural Resources Defense Council and Sierra Club** join NEI and others in a filing with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission asking the commission to "preserve states' ability to achieve clean energy policy goals," including Zero-Emission Credit programs.

UNITED NATIONS

OCT. 7 **United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change** predicts severe effects of climate change coming by 2030 and identifies nuclear as one of the technologies necessary to hold warming to 1.5 degrees C.

Google

OCT. 10 **Google** publishes a white paper on progress toward its data centers using 24x7 carbon-free electricity and acknowledges that nuclear provides a large share of the grid's carbon-free energy. "Data centers that perform well on the metric of 24x7 carbon-free energy are often located in regions that have a substantial amount of carbon-free energy already on the grid," Google reports. "Accordingly, it's important for governments, utilities, and other energy market players to carefully consider retirement of existing firm carbon-free generation."

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MacArthur Foundation

OCT. 12 **President of the MacArthur Foundation Julia Stasch** co-authors an op-ed with Exelon President and CEO Chris Crane that calls for actions to address the climate challenge, which includes "the use of safe and secure nuclear power." They agree that the climate is changing quickly and the nuclear fleet must be maintained.

The Nature Conservancy

OCT. 15 **The Nature Conservancy** releases its Science of Sustainability study, which found that "In order to both meet increased energy demand and keep the climate within safe boundaries, we'll need to alter the way we produce energy, curtailing emissions of carbon and other harmful chemicals." The report presents multiple scenarios for sustainable energy use in 2050, including one in which one-third of all global energy comes from nuclear energy, to complement 54 percent coming from renewable energy. TNC also notes that a switch from fossil fuels would "lead to a massive reduction in air pollution exposure."

Union of Concerned Scientists

NOV. 7 **Union of Concerned Scientists** issues "The Nuclear Power Dilemma: Declining Profits, Plant Closures and the Threat of Rising Carbon Emissions." UCS acknowledges the impact that nuclear plant closures have on climate and air quality and advocates for policies to preserve financially struggling nuclear plants. In a blog post about the report, UCS President Ken Kimmel writes it's important "that we keep an open mind about all of the tools in the emissions reductions tool box — even ones that are not our personal favorites."

The Boston Globe

NOV. 10 Covering the UCS report, a **Boston Globe** editorial endorsed taking action to support nuclear plants and says "the potential to lose those resources could undo the nation's recent progress in reducing its greenhouse gas emissions."

Our clean energy future depends on keeping nuclear plants online and building new reactors at home. More are valuing nuclear for what it is: the largest carbon-free source of electricity in America, and the only one that runs 24/7. Find out more at **nei.org/preserve.**