

Editor, Times-Dispatch:

Regarding the September 19 letter “This Environmentalist Supports Nuclear Energy”, I cite Wendell Berry, who once pointed out that “a good solution solves more than one problem and doesn’t make new ones”. Mr. Moody should do a little more research on the subject of nuclear energy and its supposed merits, particularly the “zero emissions” claim. Notwithstanding the downstream issue of waste disposal, one really must consider the upstream effects relative to the amount of energy (and ecological depredation) that goes into creating one of these monstrosities, particularly given the dangerous and unsustainable entwinements associated with the fossil fuel inputs. Furthermore, one of the most energy-intensive endeavors in the entire mining industry is the extraction, milling and leaching of uranium. At least one study has concluded that for every single unit of usable uranium extracted, 20 units of CO₂ are released into the atmosphere - - and this is just the imbalance associated with the fuel itself - - so it seems likely that the average plant may be responsible for more emissions than it avoids over its operating life.

This is one environmentalist who supports only one form of nuclear energy, but prefers to keep it where it currently resides - - 93 million miles away from Earth.