

Dear Editor,

In response to Mr. Gideon Forman's opinion piece that appeared in the Spectator on July 2 ("Wind-turbine Power is far healthier than Coal or Nuclear"), I would like to clarify some of the misleading claims made about nuclear energy.

Firstly, radioactive releases from nuclear power plants are very small and do not pose a health risk. In fact, there is no evidence that people living near nuclear facilities or working in them have increased risk of any diseases, including cancers. Numerous studies conducted both in Canada and abroad have demonstrated it. Canada's nuclear facilities have a strong track record of keeping radiation doses far below regulatory limits.

Secondly, Mr. Forman is misinforming the public when citing the German childhood leukemia study. Indeed, numerous health agencies assessed the study and ruled out radiation exposures from nuclear power plants as a cause for the childhood leukemia clusters. At present, the reasons why some clusters occurred near these facilities, as well as in many other areas of the country far from nuclear facilities, are not known. Recent British and French studies used the same methodology as the German study and did not find any increase in risk in their populations.

The power generated from nuclear energy is clean and virtually emissions-free. On a life-cycle basis, nuclear energy also has low carbon dioxide emissions. A number of studies conducted around the world show that nuclear energy's life-cycle emissions (construction to completion) are much lower than coal, oil, and natural gas - and are similar to those of wind, solar and hydro.

As residents of Ontario currently struggle to stay cool amidst a summer heat wave, let us all be reminded that wind turbines are not spinning in these humid temperatures. In fact, they must be backed up by other forms of generation that can start up quickly when needed. Only nuclear power can produce the large amounts of continuous, baseload power that will enable renewable sources such as wind energy in the future.

I encourage your readers to please visit www.cna.ca to get the facts on nuclear energy in Canada.

Denise Carpenter, President and CEO

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