



## **PRESS RELEASE: Governor Whitmer urged to save the Palisades nuclear plant**

*Climate crime is in progress, say professors, activists and community leaders as the 811MW nuclear power on Lake Michigan faces premature closure.*

Lansing, Michigan, (February 23rd, 2022). More than 250 experts and concerned citizens signed an [open letter](#) to Michigan's governor Gretchen Witmer and all state lawmakers urging them to halt the premature closure of the Palisades nuclear power plant.

The 811MW plant located in Covert Township, Michigan is licensed to operate until 2031, producing enough power for 800,000 homes and providing 600 well-paid jobs. However, the wheels are in motion for the plant's owner, Entergy Energy, to close the plant in May. Leadership from the governor is the only way to save the plant.

The output of the plant will be replaced by shale gas and hurt Michiganders in the wallet as well as the environment, said Mackenzie Warwick, the Founding President of Women in Nuclear Student Chapter at the University of Michigan and Protect Nuclear NOW spokesperson.

"The decision to close Palisades was made in 2018 when gas was cheap," said Warwick, "it was always a terrible bargain for the climate, but gas isn't even cheap anymore."

"Around the country, when nuclear plants close, their output is replaced by hopes, good intentions, and fossil fuels" [said](#) Todd Allen, a signatory of the letter and the Founding Director of Fastest Path to Zero program at the University of Michigan "Let's not let that happen here in Michigan."

While Palisade's owner, Louisiana-based Entergy, shows no appetite to continue operating the plant, it could be sold to another entity to be profitably operated until 2031 and beyond, say Protect Nuclear NOW.

"The Biden administration says all the right things about nuclear power being a part of the solution," said Warwick, "and the cheapest and fastest way to do that is to save our existing plants. The bipartisan Infrastructure Act of November 2021 offers \$6 billion to help plants like Palisades compete in electricity markets that do not aptly reward their climate, reliability, or resiliency characteristics. It really is a no-brainer now: Palisades must live."

Nuclear energy accounts for 19% of U.S. electricity generation and 49% of the carbon-free share. Both real-world experience and climate models repeatedly show that nuclear power is indispensable for cost-effective decarbonization due to its reliability and resiliency. Shutting down the nuclear power we already have will make the already challenging job much harder still.

*Protect Nuclear NOW is a coalition campaign that seeks to prevent the premature closure of our largest source of carbon-free energy – America's nuclear power plants.*



## About Protect Nuclear NOW

**Protect Nuclear NOW** is a communication initiative of the Climate Coalition, which raises the alarm that shutting down our largest sources of clean energy in the midst of this climate crisis is a serious and costly mistake. Protect Nuclear NOW was formed specifically to seek support from the Biden Administration and other state and local officials to help prevent the premature closure of nuclear power plants, the United States' largest sources of clean energy, on an emergency basis. Nuclear power still produces more than 50% of the clean, carbon-free energy used in the U.S. and would be a profitable and competitive energy source except for prejudicial and discriminatory treatment from energy policies that prioritize and subsidize renewables (a means) rather than actual carbon reduction (the ends).

**Climate Coalition** is a private initiative powered by a coalition of independent, volunteer activists who come together in common purpose to work on climate advocacy campaigns. The coalition is not itself a registered non-profit and does not raise funds from donors but rather is a virtual group operating as a coalition of individuals and organizations who connect within a virtual space optimized for collaborative organizing. Many members of the coalition are also active members of other environmental groups, many of which have been unable to take an active position in support of nuclear energy or opposed to natural gas.

The Climate Coalition seeks to engage the American public about the urgency of addressing climate change and the necessity to rapidly deploy and scale all types of clean, low-carbon energy—including renewables, geothermal, nuclear and hydropower—in a coherent, collaborative, and comprehensive energy system to cost-effectively transition away from fossil fuel combustion globally to reduce carbon emissions while ensuring grid reliability and climate resilience. Because nuclear power is one of the only sources of firm, clean power that can compete with natural gas, the Climate Coalition supports a nuclear-inclusive approach as the most expedient and cost-effective way to achieve a 100% fossil fuel-free grid that also provides reliable, low-carbon power both for electricity and for other hard-to-decarbonize sectors.

The Climate Coalition seeks to alter the perceived taboos surrounding support of nuclear energy. The group maintains lists of high profile individuals who have publicly supported nuclear as a climate solution (<https://climatecoalition.org/supporters-of-nuclear-energy/>); groups that endorse the use of nuclear energy (<https://climatecoalition.org/pronuclear-groups/>) and members and supporting organizations who have formally joined the Climate Coalition (<https://climatecoalition.org/coalition-members/>). These lists are always in process as many activists and groups connect with and work to support coalition campaigns who may not have the ability to formally join or permission from their groups to publicly support the coalition.

### Contact on Palisades

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