

American University  
Physics Class Talk by Steven Curtis  
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A Bright Future for Energy in America  
Introduction

What is the state of electrical energy delivery in the United States? What is the trend for the future? Is there something that can make this trend better? These are the questions I hope to have you ponder for this talk. It is a talk that is directly applicable to your generation since you are participating in forming the environment you will mature in as you become professionals.

I am strongly in favor of nuclear power, but also strongly in favor of free enterprise. This means that competition in any product line produces the best deal for consumers. Free enterprise and Government intervention have a direct proportional relationship. The more Government intervention you have, the less free enterprise is manifest in any economic system. Why does this matter to you? Because you are aspiring to be the technical leaders of tomorrow. Certainly most of you will be scientists and engineers, but some may choose other ambitions. It is important to understand how to apply the technical skills you develop in service to a community of citizens in your country, county, city, and even the world.

There will be some technical concepts introduced here on a high level, so you are left to ponder and study the details. But the main theme here will be technology application to the business of living in society. I will introduce a concept that makes a lot of sense to me, but needs practical application of technological principals to make it work. I will introduce the concept of “recycling used nuclear fuel in a fast reactor” as a potential solution to the business of delivering electricity to consumers in an effort to stimulate thought and conversation on both the technical level and the “quality of life for citizens” level as well. The most successful technology giants not only conceive great innovation, but they also focus their discoveries to work in a market system.

Please consider this background information as you listen to the talk and formulate your questions. I am happy to maintain contact with any student or professor who cares to dig deeper into this discussion because I understand that such discussions make understanding better on all levels and are more productive for the final product. Any help you can give me can only make the innovation better. I look forward to your questions and the discussion.

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