

Short- and Long-term Scenarios for Nuclear Energy: Closing the gap

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Many scenarios published in recent years explore the driving forces and assess plausible ranges of global energy use and the resources they draw on. Some scenarios focus on the next decade or two and project the evolution of world energy demand, supply, and the resources, technologies and prices to match them. Other scenarios explore the long term with a view to resource availability and depletion, technological transformations, or environmental concerns, predominantly climate change. A persistent gap can be observed in the projections for nuclear energy: near-term scenarios typically project a flat or slightly declining contribution of nuclear energy to the world energy supply whereas medium- and long-term scenarios anticipate significant increases. The presentation (and the ensuing paper) explores the analytical frameworks and the underlying assumptions to explain this apparent gap. It offers possible approaches to close the gap and establish consistency between short- and long-term global energy projections.

Keywords:

global energy resources, scenarios, energy technologies, nuclear energy