Nuclear Energy and Health: What's the story?

By ACSH Staff — August 27, 2008

Nuclear energy is released from atomic nuclei via controlled nuclear reactions. The most common method used today is nuclear fission, which involves the splitting of uranium atoms with a resulting release of energy. This energy is then captured and used to produce electricity to power modern societies varied needs.

In terms of environmental impact, nuclear power is one of the cleanest means of generating electrical power available today. There are no controlled pollutants or greenhouse gases emitted during electricity production at nuclear power plants, so there is no impact on respiratory problems or other human health issues.

There is no fear of depleting the supply of uranium, the fuel used in most reactors worldwide, and nuclear fuels can be recycled, so this source of energy is sustainable well into the future.

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