



This June 24, 2010 file photo shows, the Palisades Nuclear Generating Station in Covert, Mich. (John Madill/The Herald-Palladium via AP, File). A deal was announced on September 13, that will restart a nuclear plant in Southern Michigan, which is the first time in U.S. history that such a plant will be reopened.

California Water and Infrastructure Report For September 14, 2023

**(With expanded coverage of all the Western States)
by Patrick Ruckert**

Published weekly since July, 2014

An archive of all these weekly reports can be found at both links below:

<http://www.californiadroughtupdate.org>

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www.californiadroughtupdate.org/20230803-California-Water-and-Infrastructure-Report.pdf

A Note to Readers

The **Feature** this week is an article by my associate Michael Steger, which presents the kind of overall policy required for real economic development, driven by the building of, as he quotes Donald Trump from one of Trump's recent "Agenda47" videos. Michael writes, "Trump proposes to build 'hundreds, and hundreds, and hundreds,' of new power plants with the intent of restoring America as a manufacturing superpower." Like Trump or not, he is the only presidential candidate with an economic development platform.

Meanwhile the real state of the economy was widely reported yesterday in the media under headlines

like this one, as reported by “The Hill: “5 states’ residents got richer, but 17 states’ got poorer, new Census data shows.”

The rest of this week's report:

Drought, as reported by the *U.S. Drought Monitor*, in California remains almost non-existent. But, Oregon is a different matter. See the *U.S. Drought Monitor* for California below, and the article on Oregon that follows.

We have an update on the resistance to the Silicon Valley's zillionaires plot to seize Solano County for their “New Silicon Valley.” Not only are all the members of Congress from the area, all of the state legislators from the area, and all of the elected officials from the area, opposed to the project, but now they have been joined by the Solano County Water Agency, which has rejected offers to buy land crucial for the agency and demanded by the parasites.

Just one item on the Colorado River crisis. That is an article celebrating the rise of Lake Mead by 22 feet during this year. Now the reservoir is 34% of capacity, about 7% better before the last winter.

During the heat wave and electricity crisis in Texas, power prices briefly increased by 20,000%. Meanwhile in Michigan, a nuclear power plant that was shutdown will soon be reopened.

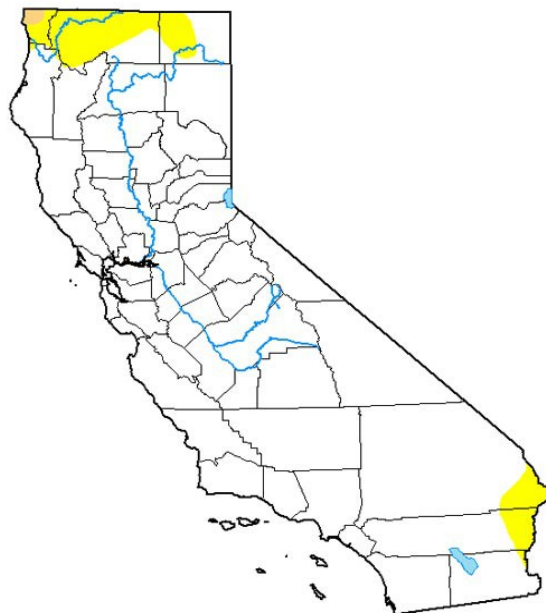
And in California, The State Assembly Votes to Strike Down Electric Vehicle Mandate.

The last item is the **Feature**, as discussed above.

U.S. Drought Monitor California

U.S. Drought Monitor California

September 12, 2023
(Released Thursday, Sep. 14, 2023)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	93.54	6.46	0.22	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 09-05-2023	93.53	6.47	0.22	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 06-13-2023	72.32	27.68	4.63	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-03-2023	0.00	100.00	97.93	71.14	27.10	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-27-2022	0.00	100.00	99.76	94.01	40.91	16.57
One Year Ago 09-13-2022	0.00	100.00	99.76	94.06	40.91	16.57

Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:
Brad Pugh
CPC/NOAA



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

The West

Much of the West was status quo this week as Monsoon rainfall begins to decrease during September and this is a drier time of year for California and the Pacific Northwest.

However, low 28-day streamflows and SPEI at various time scales led to an expansion of severe drought (D2) across coastal Washington and northwestern Oregon.

Oregon sees severe drought amid September dry stretch

by: [Michaela Bourgeois](#)

Posted: Sep 14, 2023 / 04:01 PM PDT

<https://www.koin.com/weather/oregon-sees-severe-drought-amid-september-dry-stretch/>

PORTLAND, Ore. ([KOIN](#)) – Oregon is seeing worsening drought conditions along the coast, according to [U.S. Drought Monitor](#) data published Thursday.

As September marks a drier time for the west coast, officials said low stream flow and precipitation led to parts of [Oregon expanding into severe drought](#), including Clatsop and Tillamook counties.

“Drought continues to worsen along the northwest corner of Oregon with Thursday’s latest drought update. I’m not surprised that some locations have fallen deeper into drought conditions due to the lack of rain,” KOIN 6 News Meteorologist Josh Cozart explained.

“September is typically a drier month for us here in the PNW. It’s known as the third driest month, just behind July and August, but Portland’s rain deficit has grown to nearly a half inch for the month of September. So, these below normal rain amounts are helping increase the drought situation. Portland hasn’t seen accumulative rain in over 10 days, and very little rain is expected over the next week. So, drought conditions will continue to worsen until the fall rains return,” Cozart added.

The latest drought data comes after [Gov. Tina Kotek declared a drought emergency](#) in Gilliam, Lincoln and Douglas counties on September 6.

According to Thursday’s drought monitor data, parts of Gilliam and Lincoln counties are in severe drought and Douglas County is moderate.

Update on Silicon Valley's Zillionaires Plot to seize Solano County for Their “New Silicon Valley”

Tech Moguls’ \$17 Million Land Offer Spurned by California Water Officials

- Agency in California’s Solano County rejected multiple bids
- Group has been buying up property to develop a new city

A parcel of land that was purchased by Flannery Associates near Rio Vista, California.

By [Dana Hull](#) and [Jason Leopold](#)

September 8, 2023 at 1:39 PM PDT

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-09-08/california-secret-city-17-million-land-offer-spurned-by-water-officials#xj4y7vzkg>

A historic cattle ranch in California’s Solano County has been a target of a secretive billionaire-backed group that’s been buying up large swaths of land to create a new city northeast of San Francisco.

The [latest offer](#) of \$17 million, made in mid-July, by Flannery Associates LLC was for about 950 acres at a property known as Petersen Ranch, according to term sheets, proposals and emails obtained by Bloomberg News through the California Public Records Act. It was turned down by the local water agency, which owns the land.

“The Flannery group has approached the water agency on multiple occasions looking to purchase either the entirety or a portion of Petersen Ranch,” Chris Lee, general manager of the Solano County Water Agency, said by phone Friday. “All offers were rejected.”

The documents obtained by Bloomberg show that Flannery approached Solano’s water agency in January with a draft term sheet and revised its offer several times after facing resistance from the agency. Lee [wrote in an April email](#) that the water agency turned down the offer because it needs the land for habitat and mitigation purposes and that the price wasn’t a “deciding factor.”

Flannery’s attorney, Richard Melnyk, expressed frustration in his correspondence with Lee over the agency’s plans to use part of Petersen Ranch for mitigation. “Depending on where this is and how much acreage, this may very much change the deal,” Melnyk wrote in response. “It doesn’t necessarily stop us from doing something, but the terms may change.”

The documents also show that Flannery went to great lengths to hide the identity of its owners.

The Colorado River

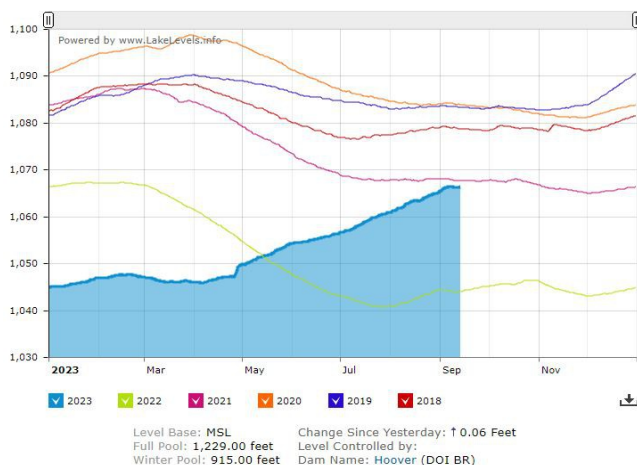
As the summer comes to an end, the remarkable celebration, at least by some of the media, of Lake Mead's water level rising from 27% of capacity to now 34%, demonstrates the hysteria and fear that only the media can present.

Lake Mead’s rise levels off after 5-month climb — 34% full as an incredible water year nears its end

by: [Greg Haas](#)

Posted: Sep 13, 2023 / 06:29 PM PDT

<https://www.8newsnow.com/news/local-news/lake-meads-rise-levels-off-after-5-month-climb-34-full-as-an-incredible-water-year-nears-its-end/>



Lake Mead’s level compared to the previous five years. (U.S. Bureau of Reclamation)

LAS VEGAS (KLAS) — Leveling off after steady increases since early April, Lake Mead appears to have reached its peak for the year — more than 22 feet above last year.

And who knows, we might see it all happen again.

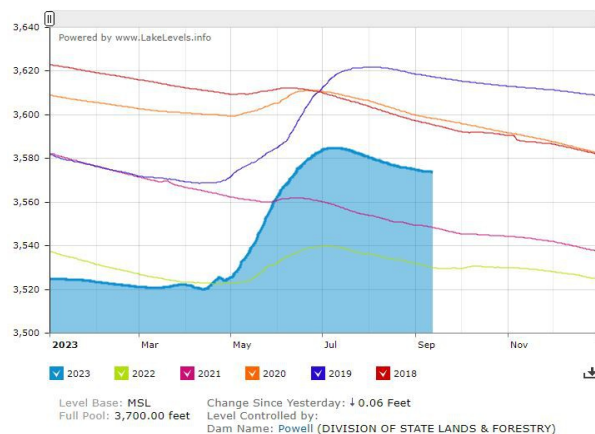
Average daily levels computed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation show the surface of Lake Mead at 1,066.32 feet above sea level on Thursday, Sept. 7. Since then, it has hovered around the same level and come down slightly, now at 1,066.25 feet as of midday Wednesday.

That beats forecasts from earlier this year, when Reclamation said the lake would reach 1,065.59 by the end of September. It's always possible Reclamation might adjust operations in a way that increases the lake level this month. It's a simple equation: how much comes in from Lake Powell, and how much gets sent downriver through Hoover Dam? Tweaks to operations at the dams could change the picture.

Recent fluctuations in releases from Hoover Dam have all been within normal ranges, according to Reclamation spokesman Doug Hendrix.

The end result: Lake Mead is 34% full nearing the end of the 2022-23 "water year," which runs from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30 each year. Lake Powell is at 38% full.

Lake Powell (lower left) is 38% full, according to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Lake Mead is currently 34% full according to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Lake Powell (lower left) is 38% full, according to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Lake Mead is currently 34% full according to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.



Lake Powell's level compared to the previous five years. (U.S. Bureau of Reclamation)

Electricity Generation: Crisis in Texas, and a Nuclear Plant That Was Shut Down in Michigan Will Reopen

Texas power prices soar 20,000% as brutal heat wave sets off emergency

[Jason Ma](#)

Sep 8, 2023, 12:00 PM PDT

<https://markets.businessinsider.com/news/commodities/texas-power-prices-20000-percent-heat-wave-ercot-grid-emergency-2023-9>

- Texas power prices soared 20,000% Wednesday evening amid another brutal heat wave.

- Spot electricity prices topped \$5,000 per megawatt-hour, up more than 200 times from Wednesday morning.
- The state's grid operator issued its second-highest energy emergency, then later said conditions returned to normal.

Texas power prices soared 20,000% Wednesday evening amid another brutal heat wave that forced the state's grid operator to issue an emergency alert.

By 8:20 pm local time Wednesday, spot electricity prices had topped \$5,000 per megawatt-hour, up more than 200 times from that morning, [according to the Dallas Morning News](#).

Earlier on Wednesday night, the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) issued an "Energy Emergency Alert 2," but hours later said conditions had returned to normal. Still, it marked the first time since the deep freeze in 2021 that ERCOT issued its second-highest alert.

Spot power prices remained high the following day, topping \$4,000 per megawatt-hour for more than an hour on Thursday evening.

At ERCOT's request, the Biden administration declared a power emergency in Texas on Thursday, waiving some air-pollution rules so generators in the state could produce more electricity.

And forecasts for Friday put high temperatures above 100 degrees in major cities like Houston, Dallas and San Antonio.

This summer has seen brutal heat waves for Texas and large swaths of the US, as well as Europe and other parts of the Northern Hemisphere.

Last month, [Texas power prices soared 6,000%](#) in one day. And in June, [power prices doubled](#) in a single day ahead of an earlier heat wave.

The Texas power market is deregulated and on its own electricity grid. But while it has experienced massive spikes in demand this summer, supplies have held up.

That's due in part to gains in renewable energy. Texas generated about 40% of its power from natural gas last year, with wind accounting for about 25% and solar energy also contributing, according to ERCOT.

Michigan nuclear plant will be restarted under new deal

[Site Staff, AP](#)

09/12/2023 11:53 AM EDT

<https://www.9and10news.com/2023/09/12/michigan-nuclear-plant-will-be-restarted-under-new-deal/>



FILE- This June 24, 2010 file photo shows, the Palisades Nuclear Generating Station in Covert, Mich. (John Madill/The Herald-Palladium via AP, File)

A deal was announced Tuesday that will restart a nuclear plant in Southern Michigan, which is the first time in U.S. history that such a plant will be reopened.

Holtec International and Wolverine Power Cooperative, a not-for-profit power generation cooperative based in Michigan, announced that they have entered into a long-term agreement that will restart the 800-megawatt Palisades Nuclear Power Plant in Covert Township. Covert Township is just south of South Haven.

Holtec Decommissioning International [bought the Palisades Nuclear Generating Station](#) for the stated purpose of dismantling it, weeks after previous owner Entergy shut it down. Fuel was removed from the reactor core. Federal regulators were notified of “permanent cessation of power operations.” But with support from Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and leaders in the Lake Michigan community where Palisades was an economic driver for 50 years, Holtec soon kicked off a campaign to bring the plant back. The 800 megawatt facility had generated roughly 5% of the state’s electricity.

Wolverine said it is committed to purchasing up to two-thirds of the carbon-free power generated by the Palisades Nuclear Power Plant for its Michigan-based member rural electric cooperatives. Wolverine’s nonprofit rural electric cooperative project partner, Hoosier Energy, will purchase the balance.

California State Assembly Votes to Strike Down Electric Vehicle Mandate

8 House Democrats join Republicans in voting to strike down California's electric vehicle mandate

'Electric vehicles cannot meet the demands of my constituents,' Republican congressman told Fox News Digital

By [Thomas Catenacci Fox News](#)

Published September 14, 2023 4:30pm EDT

The House voted Thursday afternoon in favor of legislation striking down [environmental regulations in California](#) mandating electric vehicle (EV) purchases.

In a 222-190 vote, the House approved the [Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act](#) with 214 Republicans and eight Democrats voting in favor. A group several Republican lawmakers led by Rep. John Joyce, R-Pa., first introduced the bill, which has been endorsed by the energy industry, in March, arguing EV mandates would hurt the economy and violate consumer choice.

"The simple fact is that electric vehicles cannot meet the demands of my constituents," Joyce told Fox News Digital in an interview earlier this week. "Coupling the mountains with the harsh winters and the intense heat of summers makes driving an electric vehicle both unreliable and ultimately unrealistic for many of my constituents."

"This legislation, H.R. 1435, is an option. It is not an anti-electric vehicle legislation," he added. "For those who would like an electric vehicle, they should have the option of buying one. But it doesn't help

my constituents — it doesn't help in any district to require an individual to buy an EV regardless of what they want and regardless of the demands of the market."

The Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act, if enacted, would block the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from issuing waivers to states seeking to ban or limit internal combustion engine vehicles. Under the Clean Air Act, the EPA is currently empowered to [grant California a waiver](#) to implement stricter emissions standards than the federal government.

Feature:

Trump Sets Agenda To Win The War And Build The Peace



By [Michael Steger](#)
September 10, 2023

https://www.larouchepac.com/trump_sets_agenda_to_win_the_war_and_build_the_peace



President Trump's newly released Agenda47 video of Friday, September 1st, is the most coherent economic proposal by a President, current or former, since FDR's commitment to the Four Corners and electrification. Trump proposes to build "hundreds, and hundreds, and hundreds," of new power plants with the intent of restoring America as a manufacturing superpower.

The Four Corners project, for those that may not know, was responsible for establishing our modern national electrical grid that powered the famous Arsenal of Democracy and U.S. industry during WWII and the post-war era, and this proposal can quickly exceed any prior success if implemented in full. In fact, this kind of policy is how we build our way out of the current stagnation, and drive real economic growth for generations to come!

And its not just more energy and manufacturing, but the magnitude of nearly five hundred new plants that makes this policy a major national driver for reviving U.S. industry. This kind of magnitude of proposal echoes the programmatic commitment of Lyndon LaRouche, whose contributions to economic science hinged on the concept of [energy flux-density](#), as well as electric power output per capita, and broad-scale manufacturing in high tech fields.

We will let President Trump speak in his own words, and then develop some of the implications of this commitment. There will also be more from LaRouchePAC on this proposal, because it is without

question the most critical feature for reestablishing a pro-growth economic agenda not only for the U.S. but the world over. For the entire video, click [here](#).

President Trump:

“If America’s going to dominate the world manufacturing once again, — as it did when I was running things, remember when they used to say you can’t have manufacturing jobs in our country any more, I said, really, why? I created hundreds of thousands of jobs — we must be the most affordable energy and electricity place anywhere in the planet. We have to have affordable energy.

“Right now we have energy that’s weak, substandard, and unaffordable. It’s made by the wind, and windmills rust, they rot, they kill the birds—it’s the most expensive energy there is. And we have other things that are also no good. It’s called the Green New Deal—I call it the Green New Hoax.

“One of the reasons manufacturing jobs were flooding back into the United States when I was President, was that we dramatically reduced energy costs.

“Sadly, crooked Joe Biden sacrificed this tremendous economic advantage on the altar of the Green New Deal, perhaps because he was bribed by Communist China...

“Biden’s war on American energy has sent prices soaring, and his latest actions will make it catastrophically worse. It’s going to be bad at a level that we’ve never seen. This will be so bad. Under Biden’s newly proposed power plant regulations, most natural gas and coal plants will be forced to shut down.

“By the way, they tried that in Germany. Now they’re going back and building coal plants all over the place. Because they destroyed Germany. They have no energy. So Germany now is building a coal plant every two weeks. And China is building a coal plant every week—every single week they’re putting up a new coal plant. And we’re playing games with the wind. It’s terrible what’s happening with our country.

“There is nothing to replace our energy at this time, not even close. It’s very expensive and it’s very weak—it doesn’t have the power to power up those big plants that you see.

“At the same time Biden is shutting down existing power plants, he also wants to force hundreds of millions of Americans into ultra-expensive electrical vehicles. They will strain the grid to a breaking point. It already is at a breaking point. If you look at California it already is, it’s got brownouts and blackouts every single day, people can’t turn on their air conditioning. It will drive electricity prices into the stratosphere.

“If Biden’s policies go forward, our electricity costs will be the highest on earth. They’re already very close. With shortages, blackouts, and crippling inflation, US manufacturing will be dead, and China will be laughing all the way to the bank.

*“My plan is the exact opposite. As **President, I will set a national goal of ensuring that America has the lowest energy prices of any industrial country anywhere on earth. I want to be number one.** We were energy independent just three years ago, and now we’re begging Venezuela for their oil. And yet we have many times more than any other country. No country, Saudi Arabia, Russia, nobody, no country has what we have.*

“We will develop the liquid gold that is right under our feet. Including American oil and natural gas, and we will also embrace nuclear, clean coal, hydro, which is fantastic, and every other form of affordable energy to get it done.

“We will not only match China, we will be cheaper than China by a lot! And more energy will mean lower inflation, and it will mean more jobs.

“I will cancel Biden’s ruinous power plant rules, and terminate his electrical vehicle mandate. If you want to buy an electric car that’s fine, but you should be able to buy every other form of car also.

“And unleash domestic energy production like never before. Just think of it, energy independence three years ago, energy dominance was going to follow very shortly. We were going to pay off our debt, were going to lower taxes for everybody, and they ended that, they immediately ended that. First day, ended it.

“I will fully modernize the electric grid to prepare it for the next hundred years, implement rapid approvals for energy projects, and green light the construction of hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of brand new, beautiful power plants that actually work.

“This will pave the way for an enormous growth in American wealth.

“In the future every manufacturing plant, every data center, every semiconductor facility, assembly line, will want to be built in America, they’re all going to want to be in America, because the lowest cost of energy is a big factor.

“This will be the place where the cost of energy is lower than any place else on earth, where the economy is stronger than any place also on earth, and where the workers are the best, brightest, and most talented anywhere in the world.

“I want to thank you very much. We cannot let this man, who is diminished mentally and physically—but much worse mentally—we cannot let him tell us what to do with our country. He has no clue; he can’t put two sentences together. We have to make America great again, and we can’t do it with a man who is severely diminished. Thank you very much.”

President Trump is spot on when he connects energy costs to manufacturing. As he mentions, the case of Germany over the last two years is an unfortunate negative proof. Electricity and energy costs have skyrocketed for Germany’s once-famous industry, which has been the engine for the European economy. This is the result of a combination of shutting down Germany’s nuclear power plants for insane ideological reasons, moving towards ineffective sources like wind, combined with the loss of Russian natural gas. This double self-destruction is equivalent to the Biden push for the Green New Deal, electric vehicles, and all-renewable electricity by 2035.

Since February 2022, electricity prices for Germany industry have more than doubled, and the government is now attempting to subsidize electricity costs for German firms at \$4 billion per year. Even with these subsidies, one in three German industrial firms is reported to have plans to move production abroad. Without a stable energy environment—which Russia provided with long-term contracts at below-market prices—German firms, and firms internationally, will increasingly seek locations with long-term stable and low cost energy for industry. Germany is being destroyed, and the German people are reaching a breaking point.

For perspective, in the U.S. currently, 40% of all U.S. power supply ([combining the burning of fuels with electricity consumption](#)) is used for industry and manufacturing, excluding transportation. Prior to Wall Street’s globalization agenda which gutted U.S heavy industry, manufacturing, and advanced production in areas like telecommunications and semiconductors over these last thirty years, it was over 50%! For comparison, China uses 55% for industry today, and is the center of global manufacturing.

With approximately 5500 power plants in operation in the U.S. today using either coal, natural gas, nuclear, hydroelectric or petroleum, and with some plants containing more than one power generator, Trump’s proposal to build hundreds of new and modern plants can increase U.S. electricity and power supply by more than 10%. And President Trump is absolutely correct—this new capacity can and should

be entirely dedicated to rebuilding the American manufacturing sector.

The majority of these plants should be nuclear for two critical reasons. First, it's the most effective and reliable form of energy long term, and this is based on LaRouche's energy flux density metric for economic growth. Second, nuclear plants require greater manufacturing inputs due to complexity of design, safety requirements, and materials. This means we get the most advanced energy with the greatest boon to our manufacturing sector at the same time, and if at the scale of hundreds of plants then we can build out our national manufacturing capacity on a rapid scale.

President Trump also plans on rebuilding the power grid, which requires 3,000 to 5,000 new extra-high voltage transformers, each of which currently requires 12-18 months to build, and which cannot currently be built in the U.S. As multiple reports have found, the U.S. is vulnerable to numerous threats, including solar flares and other cosmic activity which could decimate our electric grid in a matter of minutes in areas affected by extreme solar activity.

Merely to build the power plants will require a major increase in manufacturing, construction, and industry within the U.S. By rebuilding and fortifying the national grid, with all parts produced domestically, we will further expand U.S. industrial capability and ensure national security long-term.

To accomplish this project, which approximates LaRouchePAC's [Project Prometheus](#)—a plan to build 1000 nuclear power plants over Trump's next four years—will also require ending the unconstitutional independence of the Federal Reserve, and a return to Hamiltonian national banking.

More on that, and other implications to come!