

AFTER FUKUSHIMA: AMERICAN ATTITUDES ABOUT NUCLEAR POWER POLICY QUESTIONS

A Survey Conducted for the Civil Society Institute

March 22, 2011

SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS:

In the midst of the unfolding Japanese nuclear reactor crisis, a new ORC International survey of 814 Americans conducted March 15-16, 2011 for the nonprofit and nonpartisan Civil Society Institute shows that the Fukushima disaster is having a major impact on U.S. views about further expanding the use of nuclear power in this nation:

- Over half (53 percent) of Americans would now support “a moratorium on new nuclear reactor construction in the United States,” if “increased energy efficiency and off the shelf renewable technologies such as wind and solar could meet our energy demands for the near term.”
- More than two thirds (67 percent) of Americans now say they would oppose “the construction of a new nuclear reactor within 50 miles of [their] home.”
- Nearly six out of 10 (58 percent) Americans are now “less supportive of expanding nuclear power in the United States” than they were a month ago. Only about one in seven Americans (14 percent) said their views had not been changed by the Japanese reactor crisis.
- 73 percent of Americans do not “think taxpayers should take on the risk for the construction of new nuclear power reactors in the United States through billions of dollars in new federal loan guarantees for new reactors.”
- 76 percent of Americans say they are now “more supportive than ... a month ago to using clean renewable energy resources – such as wind and solar – and increased energy efficiency as an alternative to more nuclear power in the United States.” In fact, nearly half (46 percent) of ALL Americans now say they are now “much more supportive” of relying on more clean energy and energy efficiency than they were a month ago.

- 74 percent of Americans would support “a shift of federal loan-guarantee support for energy away from nuclear reactors” in favor of wind and solar power.
- Nearly three out of four (73 percent) Americans would favor Congress reviewing a 1957 law indemnifying nuclear power companies from most disaster clean-up costs. Instead, Americans would hold the companies “liable for all damages resulting from a nuclear meltdown or other accident.”
- Over half (52 percent) of Americans living within 50 miles of a nuclear reactor do NOT know “what to do in the event of nuclear reactor emergency,” such as “the evacuation route and what other steps to take.” The poll indicates that nearly one in four (24 percent) of Americans say they live within 50 miles of a nuclear power reactor.
- Fewer than half (46 percent) of Americans would “support more nuclear power reactors in the United States” and 44 percent now oppose new reactors. That support level is down by more than 25 percent from the most recent March 2010 Gallup Poll showing 62 percent support for nuclear power.
- Over half (51 percent) of Americans would support “a halt to the United States extending the operating lifespan of its oldest nuclear reactors.”
- 92 percent of Americans are “following news about the nuclear reactor crisis and related disaster in Japan.”

SURVEY METHODOLOGY:

These findings are based on a telephone survey conducted among a national probability sample of 814 adults comprising 404 men and 410 women 18 years of age and older, living in private households in the continental United States. Interviewing for this survey was completed during the period March 15-16, 2011. Completed interviews are weighted by five variables: age, sex, geographic region, race, and education to ensure reliable and accurate representation of the total population, 18 years of age and older.

TOPLINE RESULTS:

- A1 How closely are you following news about the nuclear reactor crisis and related disaster in Japan? Would you say...
(READ ENTIRE LIST BEFORE RECORDING ONE ANSWER)

| | Total | GENDER | | REGION | | | |
|-------------------------|-------|--------|--------|-----------|---------|-------|-------|
| | | Male | Female | Northeast | Midwest | South | West |
| n= | (814) | (404) | (410) | (152) | (187) | (294) | (181) |
| <i>FOLLOWING IT</i> | 92% | 94% | 90% | 90% | 92% | 91% | 96% |
| Very/Somewhat | 77% | 79% | 75% | 76% | 76% | 76% | 82% |
| Very closely | 34% | 36% | 32% | 34% | 29% | 36% | 37% |
| Somewhat closely | 43% | 43% | 43% | 41% | 48% | 40% | 45% |
| Not very closely | 15% | 15% | 15% | 15% | 16% | 15% | 14% |
| Not following it | 7% | 4% | 10% | 9% | 6% | 9% | 4% |
| DON'T KNOW/ NOT SURE | 1% | 2% | 0 | 1% | 2% | * | 0 |

| | Total | EDUCATION | | | |
|-------------------------|-------|---------------|-------------|--------------------|------------------|
| | | HS incomplete | HS graduate | College incomplete | College graduate |
| n= | (814) | (41) | (198) | (216) | (348) |
| <i>FOLLOWING IT</i> | 92% | 93% | 84% | 95% | 98% |
| Very/Somewhat | 77% | 64% | 72% | 79% | 87% |
| Very closely | 34% | 34% | 31% | 34% | 39% |
| Somewhat closely | 43% | 30% | 41% | 45% | 48% |
| Not very closely | 15% | 29% | 12% | 15% | 11% |
| Not following it | 7% | 7% | 14% | 5% | 2% |
| DON'T KNOW/ NOT SURE | 1% | 0 | 2% | * | 0 |

A2 Would you say that you support or oppose more nuclear power reactors in the United States?
 Would you say you...
 (READ ENTIRE LIST BEFORE RECORDING ONE ANSWER)

| | Total | GENDER | | REGION | | | |
|-------------------------|-------|--------|--------|-----------|---------|-------|-------|
| | | Male | Female | Northeast | Midwest | South | West |
| n= | (814) | (404) | (410) | (152) | (187) | (294) | (181) |
| <i>SUPPORT</i> | 46% | 57% | 35% | 39% | 51% | 46% | 46% |
| Support strongly | 18% | 29% | 7% | 14% | 21% | 17% | 19% |
| Support somewhat | 28% | 28% | 28% | 25% | 30% | 29% | 27% |
| <i>OPPOSE</i> | 44% | 35% | 53% | 52% | 37% | 46% | 39% |
| Oppose somewhat | 23% | 22% | 23% | 21% | 22% | 25% | 20% |
| Oppose strongly | 21% | 13% | 30% | 32% | 16% | 21% | 19% |
| DON'T KNOW/ NOT SURE | 10% | 8% | 12% | 9% | 12% | 8% | 15% |

| | Total | EDUCATION | | | |
|-------------------------|-------|---------------|-------------|--------------------|------------------|
| | | HS incomplete | HS graduate | College incomplete | College graduate |
| n= | (814) | (41) | (198) | (216) | (348) |
| <i>SUPPORT</i> | 46% | 42% | 35% | 51% | 56% |
| Support strongly | 18% | 7% | 8% | 26% | 27% |
| Support somewhat | 28% | 35% | 28% | 24% | 29% |
| <i>OPPOSE</i> | 44% | 53% | 52% | 40% | 33% |
| Oppose somewhat | 23% | 16% | 29% | 22% | 17% |
| Oppose strongly | 21% | 37% | 23% | 19% | 16% |
| DON'T KNOW/ NOT SURE | 10% | 5% | 13% | 9% | 11% |

A3 Thinking about the nuclear reactor crisis in Japan ... are you now more or less supportive of expanding nuclear power in the United States than you were a month ago? Would you say you are...
 (READ ENTIRE LIST BEFORE RECORDING ONE ANSWER)

| | GENDER | | | REGION | | | |
|--------------------------|--------|-------|--------|-----------|---------|-------|-------|
| | Total | Male | Female | Northeast | Midwest | South | West |
| n= | (814) | (404) | (410) | (152) | (187) | (294) | (181) |
| <i>MORE SUPPORTIVE</i> | 24% | 31% | 18% | 26% | 27% | 25% | 19% |
| Much more supportive | 8% | 12% | 3% | 10% | 7% | 8% | 7% |
| Somewhat more supportive | 17% | 19% | 15% | 16% | 20% | 17% | 12% |
| <i>LESS SUPPORTIVE</i> | 58% | 48% | 68% | 59% | 57% | 59% | 57% |
| Somewhat less supportive | 30% | 27% | 33% | 23% | 31% | 32% | 32% |
| Much less supportive | 28% | 21% | 35% | 35% | 26% | 27% | 25% |
| NO CHANGE | 14% | 18% | 10% | 13% | 12% | 13% | 19% |
| DON'T KNOW/ NOT SURE | 3% | 3% | 4% | 2% | 3% | 4% | 5% |

| | EDUCATION | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|---------------|-------------|--------------------|------------------|
| | Total | HS incomplete | HS graduate | College incomplete | College graduate |
| n= | (814) | (41) | (198) | (216) | (348) |
| <i>MORE SUPPORTIVE</i> | 24% | 20% | 20% | 30% | 27% |
| Much more supportive | 8% | 9% | 4% | 12% | 7% |
| Somewhat more supportive | 17% | 11% | 15% | 18% | 20% |
| <i>LESS SUPPORTIVE</i> | 58% | 73% | 63% | 53% | 49% |
| Somewhat less supportive | 30% | 25% | 30% | 31% | 31% |
| Much less supportive | 28% | 48% | 33% | 22% | 18% |
| NO CHANGE | 14% | 6% | 11% | 16% | 21% |
| DON'T KNOW/ NOT SURE | 3% | 1% | 6% | 2% | 3% |

A4 Again, thinking about the nuclear reactor crisis in Japan ... would you say that you are now more or less supportive than you were a month ago to using clean renewable energy resources – such as wind and solar – and increased energy efficiency as an alternative to more nuclear power in the United States? Are you...

(READ ENTIRE LIST BEFORE RECORDING ONE ANSWER)

| | Total | GENDER | | REGION | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|--------|--------|-----------|---------|-------|-------|
| | | Male | Female | Northeast | Midwest | South | West |
| n= | (814) | (404) | (410) | (152) | (187) | (294) | (181) |
| <i>MORE SUPPORTIVE</i> | 76% | 73% | 79% | 77% | 77% | 76% | 75% |
| Much more supportive | 46% | 45% | 47% | 48% | 43% | 49% | 44% |
| Somewhat more supportive | 30% | 28% | 32% | 29% | 34% | 27% | 31% |
| <i>LESS SUPPORTIVE</i> | 13% | 15% | 11% | 14% | 15% | 13% | 12% |
| Somewhat less supportive | 7% | 7% | 7% | 5% | 7% | 8% | 5% |
| Much less supportive | 6% | 8% | 5% | 8% | 8% | 4% | 7% |
| NO CHANGE | 9% | 11% | 8% | 9* | 8% | 9% | 11% |
| DON'T KNOW/ NOT SURE | 2% | 1% | 2% | * | 1% | 3% | 2% |

| | Total | EDUCATION | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|-------------|---------------|--------------------|------------------|
| | | HS graduate | HS incomplete | College incomplete | College graduate |
| n= | (814) | (41) | (198) | (216) | (348) |
| <i>MORE SUPPORTIVE</i> | 76% | 77% | 77% | 80% | 72% |
| Much more supportive | 46% | 51% | 49% | 47% | 40% |
| Somewhat more supportive | 30% | 26% | 28% | 33% | 32% |
| <i>LESS SUPPORTIVE</i> | 13% | 19% | 14% | 9% | 14% |
| Somewhat less supportive | 7% | 6% | 9% | 5% | 7% |
| Much less supportive | 6% | 14% | 5% | 4% | 7% |
| NO CHANGE | 9% | 3% | 7% | 8% | 13% |
| DON'T KNOW/ NOT SURE | 2% | 0 | 2% | 3% | 3% |

A5 Do you think taxpayers should take on the risk for the construction of new nuclear power reactors in the United States through billions of dollars in new federal loan guarantees for new reactors?

| | Total | GENDER | | REGION | | | |
|-------------------------|-------|--------|--------|-----------|---------|-------|-------|
| | | Male | Female | Northeast | Midwest | South | West |
| n= | (814) | (404) | (410) | (152) | (187) | (294) | (181) |
| Yes | 22% | 28% | 16% | 20% | 20% | 22% | 25% |
| No | 73% | 66% | 79% | 77% | 75% | 72% | 67% |
| DON'T KNOW/ NOT SURE | 6% | 6% | 5% | 3% | 4% | 6% | 8% |

| | Total | EDUCATION | | | |
|-------------------------|-------|---------------|-------------|--------------------|------------------|
| | | HS incomplete | HS graduate | College incomplete | College graduate |
| n= | (814) | (41) | (198) | (216) | (348) |
| Yes | 22% | 16% | 14% | 27% | 29% |
| No | 73% | 79% | 82% | 70% | 62% |
| DON'T KNOW/ NOT SURE | 6% | 5% | 5% | 3% | 10% |

A6 Here is another question about federal support for energy development ... would you support or oppose a shift of federal loan-guarantee support for energy away from nuclear reactors and towards clean renewable energy such as wind and solar? Would you...
 (READ ENTIRE LIST BEFORE RECORDING ONE ANSWER)

| | Total | GENDER | | REGION | | | |
|-------------------------|-------|--------|--------|-----------|---------|-------|-------|
| | | Male | Female | Northeast | Midwest | South | West |
| n= | (814) | (404) | (410) | (152) | (187) | (294) | (181) |
| <i>SUPPORT</i> | 74% | 70% | 78% | 75% | 77% | 75% | 68% |
| Support strongly | 47% | 43% | 51% | 47% | 47% | 48% | 47% |
| Support somewhat | 27% | 27% | 27% | 28% | 30% | 27% | 22% |
| <i>OPPOSE</i> | 22% | 27% | 17% | 21% | 21% | 23% | 24% |
| Oppose somewhat | 11% | 13% | 8% | 8% | 10% | 10% | 14% |
| Oppose strongly | 12% | 14% | 9% | 13% | 10% | 12% | 11% |
| DON'T KNOW/ NOT SURE | 4% | 3% | 4% | 5% | 2% | 2% | 7% |

| | Total | EDUCATION | | | |
|-------------------------|-------|---------------|-------------|--------------------|------------------|
| | | HS incomplete | HS graduate | College incomplete | College graduate |
| n= | (814) | (41) | (198) | (216) | (348) |
| <i>SUPPORT</i> | 74% | 65% | 76% | 79% | 71% |
| Support strongly | 47% | 36% | 46% | 56% | 44% |
| Support somewhat | 27% | 29% | 31% | 22% | 28% |
| <i>OPPOSE</i> | 22% | 32% | 19% | 20% | 24% |
| Oppose somewhat | 11% | 10% | 13% | 8% | 10% |
| Oppose strongly | 12% | 22% | 6% | 12% | 15% |
| DON'T KNOW/ NOT SURE | 4% | 3% | 4% | 1% | 4% |

A7 Currently nuclear reactor facilities in the US are indemnified under the Price Anderson Act. In the event of an accident or a meltdown, the corporate owners and operators of a nuclear reactor would have limited liability for damages. The 1957 Act was seen as necessary for getting private industry to build nuclear reactors and it has been renewed for new reactors built before 2025.

Should Congress review the Act and hold these corporations liable for all damages resulting from a nuclear meltdown or other accident?

| | Total | GENDER | | REGION | | | |
|-------------------------|-------|--------|--------|-----------|---------|-------|-------|
| | | Male | Female | Northeast | Midwest | South | West |
| n= | (814) | (404) | (410) | (152) | (187) | (294) | (181) |
| Yes | 73% | 74% | 71% | 74% | 74% | 72% | 72% |
| No | 20% | 22% | 18% | 15% | 20% | 23% | 20% |
| DON'T KNOW/ NOT SURE | 7% | 4% | 11% | 11% | 6% | 5% | 8% |

| | Total | EDUCATION | | | |
|-------------------------|-------|---------------|-------------|--------------------|------------------|
| | | HS incomplete | HS graduate | College incomplete | College graduate |
| n= | (814) | (41) | (198) | (216) | (348) |
| Yes | 73% | 77% | 79% | 75% | 60% |
| No | 20% | 12% | 15% | 20% | 31% |
| DON'T KNOW/ NOT SURE | 7% | 11% | 7% | 5% | 9% |

A8 If increased energy efficiency and off the shelf renewable technologies such as wind and solar could meet our energy demands for the near term, would you support a moratorium on new nuclear reactor construction in the United States?

| | Total | GENDER | | REGION | | | |
|-------------------------|-------|--------|--------|-----------|---------|-------|-------|
| | | Male | Female | Northeast | Midwest | South | West |
| n= | (814) | (404) | (410) | (152) | (187) | (294) | (181) |
| Yes | 53% | 48% | 57% | 52% | 55% | 49% | 57% |
| No | 41% | 45% | 37% | 42% | 41% | 45% | 33% |
| DON'T KNOW/ NOT SURE | 6% | 7% | 6% | 6% | 4% | 5% | 10% |

| | Total | EDUCATION | | | |
|-------------------------|-------|---------------|-------------|--------------------|------------------|
| | | HS incomplete | HS graduate | College incomplete | College graduate |
| n= | (814) | (41) | (198) | (216) | (348) |
| Yes | 53% | 51% | 52% | 56% | 52% |
| No | 41% | 48% | 40% | 39% | 41% |
| DON'T KNOW/ NOT SURE | 6% | 1% | 8% | 5% | 7% |

A9 One of the concerns about the Japanese reactors was that they were of an old design and had been constructed in the 1970s. Here in the U.S., nearly one out of five nuclear reactors is of the same design and about the same age as those in Japan. Currently, the federal government is extending the permitted lifespan of these and other aging reactors.

Would you support or oppose a halt to the United States extending the operating lifespan of its oldest nuclear reactors? Would you...

(READ ENTIRE LIST BEFORE RECORDING ONE ANSWER)

| | Total | GENDER | | REGION | | | |
|-------------------------|-------|--------|--------|-----------|---------|-------|-------|
| | | Male | Female | Northeast | Midwest | South | West |
| n= | (814) | (404) | (410) | (152) | (187) | (294) | (181) |
| <i>SUPPORT</i> | 51% | 50% | 52% | 48% | 49% | 51% | 57% |
| Support strongly | 29% | 30% | 28% | 27% | 26% | 27% | 37% |
| Support somewhat | 22% | 21% | 24% | 21% | 23% | 24% | 19% |
| <i>OPPOSE</i> | 43% | 45% | 41% | 46% | 46% | 45% | 36% |
| Oppose somewhat | 20% | 21% | 18% | 15% | 22% | 21% | 20% |
| Oppose strongly | 23% | 24% | 23% | 31% | 24% | 24% | 16% |
| DON'T KNOW/ NOT SURE | 5% | 4% | 6% | 7% | 4% | 4% | 8% |

| | Total | EDUCATION | | | |
|-------------------------|-------|---------------|-------------|--------------------|------------------|
| | | HS incomplete | HS graduate | College incomplete | College graduate |
| n= | (814) | (41) | (198) | (216) | (348) |
| <i>SUPPORT</i> | 51% | 46% | 50% | 55% | 51% |
| Support strongly | 29% | 26% | 31% | 31% | 26% |
| Support somewhat | 22% | 21% | 19% | 24% | 25% |
| <i>OPPOSE</i> | 43% | 49% | 45% | 41% | 42% |
| Oppose somewhat | 20% | 13% | 20% | 20% | 22% |
| Oppose strongly | 23% | 35% | 25% | 21% | 20% |
| DON'T KNOW/ NOT SURE | 5% | 5% | 5% | 4% | 7% |

A10 Would you support or oppose the construction of a new nuclear reactor within 50 miles of your home? Would you...
 (READ ENTIRE LIST BEFORE RECORDING ONE ANSWER)

| | Total | GENDER | | REGION | | | |
|-------------------------|-------|--------|--------|-----------|---------|-------|-------|
| | | Male | Female | Northeast | Midwest | South | West |
| n= | (814) | (404) | (410) | (152) | (187) | (294) | (181) |
| <i>SUPPORT</i> | 30% | 42% | 20% | 32% | 33% | 27% | 33% |
| Support strongly | 12% | 16% | 8% | 10% | 12% | 12% | 13% |
| Support somewhat | 19% | 25% | 12% | 22% | 21% | 15% | 20% |
| <i>OPPOSE</i> | 67% | 56% | 78% | 66% | 64% | 71% | 66% |
| Oppose somewhat | 13% | 15% | 11% | 12% | 10% | 16% | 12% |
| Oppose strongly | 54% | 41% | 67% | 54% | 54% | 55% | 55% |
| DON'T KNOW/ NOT SURE | 2% | 2% | 2% | 2% | 3% | 2% | 1% |

| | Total | EDUCATION | | | |
|-------------------------|-------|---------------|-------------|--------------------|------------------|
| | | HS incomplete | HS graduate | College incomplete | College graduate |
| n= | (814) | (41) | (198) | (216) | (348) |
| <i>SUPPORT</i> | 30% | 14% | 25% | 36% | 40% |
| Support strongly | 12% | 8% | 5% | 16% | 18% |
| Support somewhat | 19% | 6% | 20% | 20% | 21% |
| <i>OPPOSE</i> | 67% | 83% | 73% | 63% | 58% |
| Oppose somewhat | 13% | 11% | 15% | 9% | 14% |
| Oppose strongly | 54% | 73% | 58% | 54% | 44% |
| DON'T KNOW/ NOT SURE | 2% | 3% | 2% | 1% | 3% |

A11 Do you currently live within 50 miles of a nuclear reactor site?

| | Total | GENDER | | REGION | | | |
|-------------------------|-------|--------|--------|-----------|---------|-------|-------|
| | | Male | Female | Northeast | Midwest | South | West |
| n= | (814) | (404) | (410) | (152) | (187) | (294) | (181) |
| Yes | 24% | 31% | 17% | 39% | 27% | 20% | 17% |
| No | 64% | 59% | 69% | 47% | 62% | 68% | 72% |
| DON'T KNOW/ NOT SURE | 12% | 10% | 14% | 14% | 12% | 12% | 12% |

| | Total | EDUCATION | | | |
|-------------------------|-------|---------------|-------------|--------------------|------------------|
| | | HS incomplete | HS graduate | College incomplete | College graduate |
| n= | (814) | (41) | (198) | (216) | (348) |
| Yes | 24% | 20% | 21% | 26% | 27% |
| No | 64% | 56% | 65% | 65% | 64% |
| DON'T KNOW/ NOT SURE | 12% | 24% | 13% | 8% | 9% |

[ASK IF A11 (01)]

A12 How aware would you say you are of what to do in the event of nuclear reactor emergency
– do you know the evacuation route and what other steps to take?

| | Total | GENDER | | REGION | | | |
|-------------------------|-------|--------|--------|-----------|---------|-------|------|
| | | Male | Female | Northeast | Midwest | South | West |
| n= | (224) | (136) | (88) | (63) | (54) | (72) | (35) |
| Yes | 47% | 57% | 30% | 56% | 45% | 49% | 28% |
| No | 52% | 42% | 68% | 42% | 55% | 51% | 69% |
| DON'T KNOW/ NOT SURE | 1% | 1% | 2% | 2% | 0 | 0 | 3% |

| | Total | EDUCATION | | | |
|-------------------------|-------|---------------|-------------|--------------------|------------------|
| | | HS incomplete | HS graduate | College incomplete | College graduate |
| n= | (224) | (9) | (52) | (54) | (108) |
| Yes | 47% | 31% | 38% | 55% | 54% |
| No | 52% | 69% | 60% | 44% | 44% |
| DON'T KNOW/ NOT SURE | 1% | 0 | 1% | 1% | 1% |