An Illustrative Comparison of Solar and Nuclear Energy

PARAMETERS	SOLAR	NUCLEAR
Average Life Cycle GHG Emissions		
(grams of CO ₂ equivalent/kWhr) ¹	50	14
Average Capacity Factor (%) ²	18-25	80-90
Electricity Generation from a 1000	2190	7000
MWe plant (in million kWhr)	(at 25% capacity factor)	(at 80% capacity factor)
Actual Generation as a proportion	~ 33	Almost 100
of installed capacity (%)		
Land Requirement	6-7	0.3-0.4
(acres/MWe of installed capacity) ³		
Life Cycle (years) ⁴	20	>60
Effective Cost for 1000 MWe	30	25
installed capacity adjusted to		
average capacity factor	(Rs. 7.5 cr/MWe	(Rs. 20 cr/MWe
(Crore Rs./MWe) ⁵	at 25% capacity factor)	at 80% capacity factor)
System Effects Costs for the Grid		
(due to variable generation) at 10%		
penetration (OECD study for	43.03	2.07
France)		
(US\$/MWhr) ⁶		

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¹ "Development Impacts and Sustainable Governance Aspects of Renewable Energy Projects" – Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Govt. of India, September 2013, page 6.

² Ibid., page 24; Also, World Nuclear Association – Renewable Energy and Electricity (http://www.world-nuclear.org/info/Energy-and-Environment/Renewable-Energy-and-Electricity/)

³ "Development Impacts and Sustainable Governance Aspects of Renewable Energy Projects" – Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Govt. of India, September 2013, page 26.

⁴ Ibid., page 20

World Nuclear Association – Renewable Energy and Electricity (http://www.world-nuclear.org/info/Energy-and-Environment/Renewable-Energy-and-Electricity/)

⁶ OECD-NEA report "Nuclear Energy and Renewables: System Effects in Low-carbon Electricity Systems", 2012 (https://www.oecd-nea.org/ndd/reports/2012/system-effects-exec-sum.pdf)