The bosses at SCANA and Santee Cooper, with the help of their lawyers and complicit SC legislators, got the 2007 Base Load Review Act passed with the intent to swindle billions from SC ratepayers and line their own pockets with millions. The BLRA forces us, instead of investors, to pay the utilities billions to build 2 obsolete, bankrupt nuclear reactors currently under construction in Jenkinsville, SC.

A Reward of 100 silver dollars is offered for the firing or retiring of these scoundrels. The price on their heads isn't the reward, it's their annual pay! All monies looted by these culprits must be returned to the citizens of SC before bounties can be collected.

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The Base Load Review Act (BLRA), was enacted into law in 2007 as “an act to protect South Carolina rate-payers.” This is the opposite of the truth. The unjust BLRA was written by SC utility industry lawyers for the purpose of saddling SC electricity ratepayers with the extremely risky and costly business venture of building new nuclear power reactors.

Once the utilities got their designer bill passed by utility controlled legislators, SCE&G went before the SC Public Service Commission (PSC) in May 2008 to ask “permission” to build 2 experimental Westinghouse AP1000 nuclear reactors in Jenkinsville, SC. Per the BLRA, all risks and costs were to be transferred from SCE&G and its shareholders onto the backs of ratepayers, eliminating a free-market approach for the semi-regulated SCE&G.

In February 2009, the PSC and the SC Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS) approved the project. Caving in to all of SCE&G’s requests, ignoring testimony and studies that were presented that proved that the nuclear power plants were not needed, that employing more affordable and cleaner energy choices would be the best option and that the “modular” reactor construction plan was risky and fraught with guaranteed cost overruns and schedule delays. The PSC discounted our now-validated arguments and handed over a blank check to SCE&G.

SCE&G owns 55% of the project and Santee Cooper (SC Public Service Authority) owns 45%. As state-owned Santee Cooper, not regulated by the PSC, provides electricity to rural electricity cooperatives, the 1.5 million co-op customers will also be hit hard by the failing nuclear project.

Due to gross mismanagement with the reactor construction in SC and GA, Westinghouse filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy on 3/29/17. This debacle has also left Toshiba, the owner of Westinghouse, on the brink of bankruptcy. We can thus expect to be hit with more costs and continue paying the highest utility bills in the country. To date, there have been 9 rate increases under the BLRA to cover just the financing costs for the reactors and we are now paying 18% of our bill for the project. It was recently estimated by Morgan Stanley that if finished, the reactors will cost at least $19 billion, far above the original $10 billion estimate. Now, project termination is rightly on the table.

Our elected officials, who need to be held accountable, created a predictable mess by letting SC utility monopolies dictate legislation and SC energy policies. We encourage SC electricity users to join with public interest groups in pushing back against the BLRA. The PSC/SCE&G/ORS must also be held accountable in working against our energy and economic interests. Listed are the State Senators and Representative who sponsored this bill in 2007. Some are no longer in office.

The SC state Senators who sponsored the BLRA are:
McConnell, Moore, Drummond, Setzler, Matthews, Thomas, O’Dell, Gregory, Jackson, Mescher, Rankin, Alexander, Anderson, Grooms, Scott, Williams, Cromer, Vaughan, Ritchie, Verdin, Ford, Cleary, Patterson, Hayes and Knotts

The SC Representatives who sponsored the BLRA are:

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