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News & Information on Nuclear Weapons, Power, Waste, and Nonviolent Resistance

Four DOE Test Reactors Go Critical in Public Relations Stunt

By Lindsay Potter

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and private Big Tech investors have spent billions of dollars, and side-stepped decades of safety regulation work, to jump-start the small modular and "advanced" new nuclear reactors that the Trump White House dreams will deliver a "nuclear renaissance." The DOE even declared in a press release that the "Golden Era of American Nuclear Energy has Arrived."

There were 15 projects chosen for an expedited DOE approval process as a pilot program, and five have now achieved "criticality," or a sustained nuclear reaction, most without producing electricity.

With its zero-power criticality demonstration, the company Antares Nuclear, Inc.'s reactor design, the Mark-0, was the first. The demonstration took place June 5 at the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) under DOE authorization.

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Pulitzer prize-winning photo by Palestinian Saher Alghorra. The family, pictured amidst the rubble of Beit Lahia, shares a meal to break the Ramadan fast in the devastated remains of their home. Israel violates agreements with daily violence, starvation, eviction, and killing of Palestinians. Prizes such as the Pulitzer magnify the hypocrisy that the world will honor recording such suffering but refuse to take real action to end it.

Gaza's Board of Pieces Morphs into War on Iran

By Chris Hedges

Donald Trump's peace plan for Gaza is a mirage, a conjuring trick in which peace is unilaterally declared as Israel seizes more Palestinian land and brings the genocide to its grim conclusion.

There is no ceasefire in Gaza. There is no functioning "Board of Peace." There is no roadmap to ending the genocide or mechanism to creation of a Palestinian state. Israel has refused to implement or abide by any of the conditions of Trump's "Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict" since its inception. It won't begin to honor them now.

There is only genocide. It changes shape and intensity. But it does not change its essence.

Trump's plan is a mirage, a conjuring trick, a fleeting vanity project. In October 2025, Trump gathered world leaders in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, to announce his peace deal, which he said "took 3,000 years" to achieve, before disappearing offstage. The peace plan, like the smoke-and-mirrors act that defines the Trump era, has been relegated to a dark memory hole, as our P. T. Barnum commander-in-chief trots out another bloody spectacle: war on Iran.

Trump announced an "historic" agreement on July 30 that entailed "the complete disarmament of Hamas and all other armed groups in Gaza." He called the 15-point plan, credited to the Board of Peace, which has no Palestinian representatives and installed Trump as its chair for life, "a monumental step toward lasting peace and security."

But Hamas swiftly qualified the demand by saying that handing over its heavy weapons was only contingent on Israel ending "all forms of" its "aggression" and withdrawing its occupying forces from Gaza. Benjamin Netanyahu blithely dismissed Trump's proposal. Israel, he said, will not withdraw its forces until Hamas is "genuinely" disarmed. Read this to mean never.

The peace plan — which was endorsed by the United Nations in a stunning disregard for Palestinian sovereignty and international law — was never more than a publicity stunt. It exists to provide Israel with the diplomatic cover to bring the genocide to its intended conclusion — the "voluntary emigration" of Palestinians from Gaza — a euphemism for ethnic cleansing.

Since the "ceasefire" went into effect on Oct. 10, 2025, two months before the Trump "peace plan" was formalized, Israel has killed 1,258 Palestinians in Gaza.

Ceasefires with these body counts are not ceasefires. Once Gaza is emptied, the West Bank will be next. Of the myriads of peace plans over the decades, [this] one is the least serious.

Aside from a demand that Hamas release the hostages within 72-hours after the ceasefire began — which took place — it lacks specifics and imposed timetables. It is filled with caveats that allow Israel to abrogate the agreement. That is the point.

"It is not designed to be a viable path to peace, which most Israeli leaders understand," I wrote when the plan was announced. "Israel's largest-circulation newspaper, *Israel Hayom*, established by the late casino magnate Sheldon Adelson to serve as a mouthpiece for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and champion messianic Zionism, instructed its readers not to be concerned about the Trump plan because it is only 'rhetoric.'"

Israel, I noted, in one example from the proposal, will "not return to areas that have been withdrawn from, as long as Hamas fully implements the agreement."

"Who decides if Hamas has 'fully implemented' the agreement?" I asked. "Israel. Does anyone believe in Israel's good faith? Can Israel be trusted as an objective arbitrator of the agreement? If Hamas — demonized as a terrorist group — objects, will anyone listen?"

"How is it possible that a peace proposal ignores the [United Nations] International Court of Justice's July 2024 Advisory Opinion, which reiterated that Israel's occupation is illegal and must end?" I continued. "How can it fail to mention the Palestinian's right to self-determination?"

"Who gave the U.S. the authority to send to Gaza an 'International Stabilization Force,' a polite term for foreign occupation?" I wrote. "Why is Israel, which has destroyed Gaza, not required to pay reparations?"

Ninety-two percent of Gaza's residential buildings have been damaged or destroyed and around 81 percent of all structures are damaged, according to UN estimates. The Strip has been reduced to 61

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