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Macro Roundup Article

Headline: Pricey Things

Article Link: https://gregor.substack.com/p/pricey-things

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Publication	The Gregor Letter
Publication Date	March 20, 2023

Tweet: Nuclear power generation capacity will increase in the US for the first time since 2016 as Georgia's Vogtle plant comes online. @GregorMacdonald

Summary: Nuclear power generation in the United States will finally bump up a little this year, as 2.2 GW of new capacity comes online at Georgia's Vogtle. The last new nuclear capacity to come online in the US was the second phase of Watts Bar, in 2016; and then twenty years prior with the first phase of Watts Bar, in 1996, and before then the second phase of Comanche Peak in 1993. The US has of course lost a great deal of nuclear capacity as plants like Pilgrim in Massachusetts and San Onofre in California simply got too old, and retired. Accordingly, US power generation from nuclear has been on a treadmill of no-growth for decades. To set the context, compare nuclear's output since 2010 with combined wind and solar. Vogtle is currently ramping up, and achieved initial criticality earlier this month. By summer, output will be flowing and will produce about 17-18 new TWh per year. You can visit the interactive version of the above chart and roughly see that these new 17-18 TWh per year will likely push total US output back towards 800 TWh per year, without quite getting there.

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