

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: [Nuclear Power Is Hard. A Climate-Minded Billionaire Wants to Make It Easier](#)

Article Link: <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/06/11/climate/bill-gates-nuclear-wyoming.html>

Author(s)	Brad Plumer
Publication	New York Times
Publication Date	June 11, 2024

Tweet: [@BillGates](#) broke ground on the first nuclear power plant from [@TerraPower](#), which uses liquid sodium vs. water as a coolant and is projected to generate power at half the cost of the current US nuclear fleet. Gates has invested \$1B in TerraPower.

Summary: Workers began construction on Tuesday on a novel type of nuclear reactor meant to be smaller and cheaper than the hulking reactors of old. The reactor being built by TerraPower, a start-up, won't be finished until 2030 at the earliest and faces daunting obstacles. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission hasn't yet approved the design, and the company will have to overcome the inevitable delays and cost overruns that have doomed countless nuclear projects before. What TerraPower does have, however, is Bill Gates. Who has poured more than \$1 billion of his fortune into TerraPower, an amount that he expects to increase. TerraPower's reactor uses liquid sodium instead of water, allowing it to operate at lower pressures. In theory, that reduces the need for thick shielding. In an emergency, the plant can be cooled with air vents rather than complicated pump systems. Chris Levesque, TerraPower's chief executive, said its reactors should ultimately produce electricity at half the cost of traditional nuclear plants.

Related Articles: [Electravisión and Bill Gates' TerraPower Plans To Build First US Next-Generation Nuclear Plant](#) and [Plant Vogtle Unit 4 Begins Commercial Operation](#)

Primary Topic: Energy

Topics: Energy, Innovation/Research, Investment, News article, Productivity

Permalink: <https://www.edwardconard.com/macro-roundup/billgates-broke-ground-on-the-first-nuclear-power-plant-from-terrapower-which-uses-liquid-sodium-vs-water-as-a-coolant-and-projects-to-generate-power-at-half-the-cost-of-the-current-us-nuclear-fl?view=detail>

Featured Image Link: <https://www.edwardconard.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/21263-nuclear-power-is-hard-a-climate-minded-billionaire-wants-to-make-it-easier-space-filling-graphic.png>