

Commonwealth Coalition for Democracy and Safe Energy  
Massachusetts State House, April 9, 2026  
Ann Darling, Easthampton, Citizens Awareness Network

Getting Real About Advanced Nuclear Power (Part 1)  
Assumptions, Expectations – and What It Will Take to Get This Right  
Sustainable Energy Advantage, SEA-Scape Substack, April 1, 2026  
Bob Grace, Founder, President, and Managing Director, Sustainable Energy Advantage

The author “believe[s] nuclear energy deserves serious consideration.” He is not anti-nuclear; he’s just asking questions we all need to be asking.

“...A growing body of studies, legislative proposals and policy signals is placing significant weight on advanced nuclear – often without clearly stating or rigorously testing key assumptions about cost, timing, and feasibility, or grounding those assumptions in how projects are actually developed, financed, and built. In some cases, nuclear is positioned as a near-term or lower-cost alternative to renewables and storage, without comparable scrutiny – glossing over the uncertainties that will ultimately determine what it can deliver, and when.

This positioning introduces real decision risk. Without clarity on assumptions, uncertainty, and timelines, decisions are less likely to hold up. If nuclear is to be part of the solution, it will be because we are clear-eyed about what it can actually deliver – not what we hope it might...

Many policymakers, legislators, stakeholders, and members of the press have limited exposure to how these projects are actually developed, financed, and delivered – or the specific risks and hurdles that can prevent successful deployment or lead to significant cost overruns. This creates a challenge for those who may not have the background to fully interrogate these assumptions.”

In short, the author is saying, and we agree, that we – especially legislators and the press-- need to be educating ourselves and asking and answering a lot more questions before we rush headlong toward new nuclear in Massachusetts.

And what we, the Commonwealth Coalition, are saying is that we don’t want to be guinea pigs, especially when there’s radioactivity involved. We want to preserve our say in the matter by keeping Chapter 503 of the Acts of 1982 in place.