

Almost 50% of Albertans 'conflicted' about nuclear power, report says

BY DINA O'MEARA, CALGARY HERALD DECEMBER 14, 2009



More than a quarter of Albertans oppose allowing nuclear power plants to be built in the province, while almost half remain "conflicted" about the energy source, according to a new government report released Monday.

Photograph by: JOE KLAMAR, AFP/Getty Images

CALGARY - More than a quarter of Albertans oppose allowing nuclear power plants to be built in the province, while almost half remain "conflicted" about the energy source, according to a new government report released Monday.

And people north of Edmonton - where several nuclear plants have been proposed - were more likely to oppose building the plants, by around 32 per cent, compared to the Calgary region, at 24 per cent, was the least opposed.

"Only those Albertans who hold consistently positive views of science and the nuclear industry - and are less concerned by the potential for negative consequences - actually want to see the government encourage nuclear proposals," said the report by Alberta Energy.

While 45 per cent of the people polled by Innovative Research Group for the Energy ministry said they preferred nuclear power plants be considered on a case-by-case basis, only a fifth of those polled said the provincial government should encourage nuclear power plants in Alberta.

The Alberta Nuclear Public Consultation report polled 1,024 randomly-selected Albertans by telephone on the subject of nuclear power.

domeara@theherald.canwest.com

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