Northwest Colorado Energy Initiative

SURVEY 1 REPORT

Delivered on June 26, 2024 for Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (FECM) in support of the Capacity Building for Repurposing Energy Assets Opportunity.

AGNC
ASSOCIATED GOVERNMENTS OF NORTHWEST COLORADO

COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY

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Acknowledgements

This study was conducted by the Northwest Colorado Energy Initiative (NCEI), operating under the purview of the Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado (AGNC). The advisory board members are: former Colorado State House Majority Leader and Colorado Mesa University (CMU) President Emeritus Tim Foster, former state Sen. Bob Rankin, Mesa County Commissioner Cody Davis, Garfield County Commissioner Mike Samson, Rio Blanco County Commissioner Doug Overton, former Moffat County Commissioner Ray Beck, and AGNC Executive Director Tiffany Dickenson. Former Town of Eagle Council Member Matt Solomon is the project manager.

The Capacity Building for Repurposing Energy Assets grant effort is funded by the Department of Energy (DOE) through the Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (FECM) and the Office of Technology Transitions (OTT) in collaboration with the newly established Partnership Intermediary (PI) known as ENERGYWERX to support Northwest Colorado energy impacted communities.

NCEI Initiative partnered with Bisconti Research, Inc. and the Unconventional Energy Center at Colorado Mesa University for the development and analysis of the surveys. The survey was written by Ann Bisconti, Ph.D., president of Bisconti Research, Inc., an expert in public opinion and communications research, and Matt Solomon of the Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado. Matt Solomon administered the survey and wrote the introductory remarks about the report. The report data was compiled, illustrated, and narrated by Nathan Perry, Ph.D., Professor of Economics at Colorado Mesa University with the help of Dillon Chapman, economic research assistant at Colorado Mesa University.

NCEI is working closely with all of the regional communities affected by the closure of the Craig and Hayden Power Stations and neighboring mines. These communities include Moffatt County, Rio Blanco County, City of Craig, Town of Meeker, Town of Rangely, Town of Hayden, Town of Yampa, and the Town of Oak Creek. NCEI is actively coordinating with Craig Station executives to complement each other's efforts in the region.

Those involved in the project are grateful to the Craig Chamber, Colorado Mountain College, Colorado Northwest Community College, Colorado State University Extension, Craig Press, Steamboat Pilot, Steamboat Radio, Jackson Star, and the Grand Junction Sentinel for assisting us in circulating this survey.

NCEI is also appreciative of the regional state and federally elected officials that have supported us in this effort: Senator Hickenlooper, Senator Bennett, Congresswoman Boebert, Senator Roberts, Senator Will, Representative Lukins, and all of the local elected officials.

DOCUMENT VERSION

In order to maintain the highest level of accuracy, this document will be updated with changes, suggestions, and edits, when the authors see fit.

Version 1: Released 6/25/24.

Version 2: Released 6/26/24. This version fixed spelling errors, table name errors, and some phrasing.

Version 3: The current version of the report is version 3, released 7/15/24. This version updated the acknowledgement section to improve language on the DOE grant source, changed an issue in figure 7, added ENERGYWORX logo to front page, as well as spelling and graph font changes.

INTRODUCTION

Northwest Colorado Energy Initiative (NCEI) was established with a critical mission: to guide the region through a pivotal energy transition, identifying suitable alternatives to coal and preparing for an upcoming feasibility study for nuclear power. NCEI is deeply committed to maintaining affordable energy costs, retaining a skilled regional workforce, and ensuring the availability of quality jobs with competitive wages. This commitment aligns with the broader goals outlined in Colorado HB23-1247.

NCEI's vision focuses on fostering a comprehensive regional discussion about the energy transition. Our approach is inclusive and forward-thinking, encompassing a range of potential energy solutions such as gas generation with carbon capture and storage, geothermal, clean hydrogen, advanced nuclear, wind, and solar coupled with storage. This diverse energy portfolio reflects our commitment to a balanced and sustainable energy future for our region.

This report analyzes survey data performed in Northwest Colorado, specifically Moffat County, Routt County, and Rio Blanco County, and asks about perceptions regarding different energy sources. This survey is a first step to follow through on concerns, questions, and misconceptions identified in NCEI's 2023 community outreach. There is some emphasis on nuclear energy in the 2023 outreach survey, as NCEI wanted to better understand the divisive nature of conversation around nuclear energy and how it truly fits into the larger context of integrated energy systems. A national survey of the same questions circulated parallel to the northwest Colorado outreach. This report focuses on the results of Northwest Colorado and compares those results to national results.

The motivation for such a survey is due to the retiring coal power plant in Craig, Colorado, located in Moffat County, and the economic losses that will be incurred. The transition away from coal has led to much research on how to replace coal's economic activity in the region. There is significant energy infrastructure in Craig that could accomodate a small nuclear reactor in place of the coal fired power plant, which makes nuclear power a potential strategy. This study aims to provide data that will help the region, stakeholders, and policy makers understand the perceptions and interest in nuclear power in the region. The Northwest Colorado region is defined as the area surrounding Craig, Colorado. Craig is in Moffat County, the upper most northwest county, with Routt County to the east and Rio Blanco County to the south. All three counties have an energy legacy with coal mining and coal power.

By conducting comprehensive surveys and providing factual education through NCEI, one of the goals is to identify preferences for opportunities that align with the community's goals and aspirations during the energy transition in Northwest Colorado.

This survey covered five main categories: Demographics, Opinion, Personal Knowledge, Personal Impressions, and Facts & Thoughts regarding energy production and usage. The survey informed participants that their input will directly contribute to shaping development initiatives that benefit the region during this crucial energy transition time.

The goal of this survey is to establish a baseline the Northwest Colorado region's knowledge and understanding of various energy types. After this survey, the results will lead to further actions surrounding energy education and provide the space for fact-based discussions regarding the future of Northwest Colorado's economic development.

Methodology

The goal of this study is to understand perceptions in Northwest Colorado regarding the issue of energy and compare these perceptions to the state and the nation. The survey was written by Ann Bisconti, Ph.D., president of Bisconti Research, Inc., an expert in public opinion and communications research, who produced a concurrent national survey with he same questions, which provided an opportunity to compare Northwest Colorado to the nation. All national data come from Bisconti Research, Inc., as well as what are considered the correct answers in the facts section of the survey.[1]

The strategy for ensuring the success of the survey was multifaceted, focusing on comprehensive outreach and direct engagement with the community. NCEI initiated efforts by conducting interviews with local newspapers, which provided a platform to explain the survey's objectives and importance, as well as to address any immediate questions or concerns from the public. This direct communication helped build transparency and trust, encouraging more residents to participate. Additionally, it was a priority to be accessible and responsive to the community by answering questions and addressing voiced concerns promptly. This responsiveness was crucial in alleviating any apprehensions and fostering a sense of involvement and empowerment among the participants.

To maximize outreach, the survey was publicized as widely as possible. This included leveraging various media channels, such as social media platforms, local radio stations, community bulletins, and partnerships with local organizations. By utilizing a diverse array of communication tools, we aimed to ensure that information about the survey reached all segments of the community, including those who might not be engaged through traditional channels. The publicity efforts were designed not only to inform, but also to emphasize the significance of each community member's input in shaping the future of energy transition in Northwest Colorado.

The survey was input into Survey Monkey and was advertised in local and regional newspapers, newsletters, and sent to government officials. The survey was also sent to Tri-State and Trapper Mine to get the opinion of the retiring coal industry, since any nuclear policy would have the potential to employ those who lose their job in coal in the region. The survey was open to the public.

The results focus on the differences between Northwest Colorado and the nation. "Somewhere else in Colorado" is also used as a comparison when relevant. It's important to note that "somewhere else in Colorado" does not have a confirmation data point, such as a zip code or county to illustrate where geographically the respondents are from in Colorado. In fact, due to the survey distribution methodology it is likely weighted more towards Western Colorado respondents than Colorado as a whole. Despite this, it does represent non-Moffat, Routt, and Rio Blanco responses in Colorado, which make it a useful comparison. It is important to remember when using this comparison that it may not and likely does not represent a solid representation of Colorado as a whole. The emphasis in the writing in the report is between Northwest Colorado and the national responses. "Somewhere else in Colorado" is presented in the tables and graphics as a third comparison point. The survey had 29 questions and took approximately 15 minutes to complete. The survey was open May 1-15, 2024.

Many of the questions in the survey asked the respondent to rate their knowledge or opinion on a scale of 1-10. This provides two ways of reporting the data. The first is to show what percentage of each category the respondents responded to. The second is to create a weighted average of the responses, which is a more simple way of comparing results between geographies by providing an average of responses. Both methods are used in illustrating the results in this report. In addition, there are two layers of analysis presented in this report. The first is the comparison between Northwest Colorado, somewhere else in Colorado, and the nation. The second layer is the pre-fact and post-fact opinions on nuclear energy, by geography.

1 Bisconti, A., May 2024. 2024 national nuclear energy public opinion survey: Knowledge vs. facts. Retrieved from : www.bisconti.com.

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

The Colorado survey received 428 responses, however 3 of the responses were outside of the state of Colorado and hence were excluded, leaving 425 usable responses. There were 1,000 responses to the separate national survey. Table 1 lists the respondents county of origin. 42.35% reported being from "somewhere else in Colorado," while 26.12% were in Moffat County, 23.53% in Routt County, and 8% in Rio Blanco County. Figure 1 illustrates the age/generation of the respondents broken down by three regions, Northwest Colorado, somewhere else, and the nation. 47.53% were Baby Boomers (59-77 years of age), while 28.94% were Gen X (43-58), 16.47% Millenials (27-42), 6.351% the Silent Generation (77 years old and above), and 0.71% being Gen Z (less than 27 years old). The national responses had more millenials, while the Northwest Colorado responses had more Gen X and Boomers.

53.41% of the Northwest Colorado respondents were male, while 43.29% were female, while 3.29% chose "no answer." The vast majority of respondents were of white/caucasion descent (85.41%), with "no answer" the second highest response at 8.24%. The third and fourth highest responses were hispanic or Latino at 2.35%, and mixed race at 1.88%. The majority of respondents had a bachelors degree (33.65%), while 28.27% had a graduate degree, meaning that 61.91% of respondents had an undergraduate degree or above. Only 6.12% of respondents had no post-high school education, and there were no responses from anyone without a high school education. Figure 2 shows that the respondents in Northwest Colorado had a higher percent of bachelors degree than the rest of Colorado and the nation, and a higher percentage of graduate degrees than the national responses.

Table 1:

County of Origin

Location	Percentage	Frequency
Moffat County	26.12%	111
Rio Blanco County	8.00%	34
Routt County	23.53%	100
Somewhere else in Colorado	42.35%	180
Total	100%	425

Figure 1:

What Generation Are You?

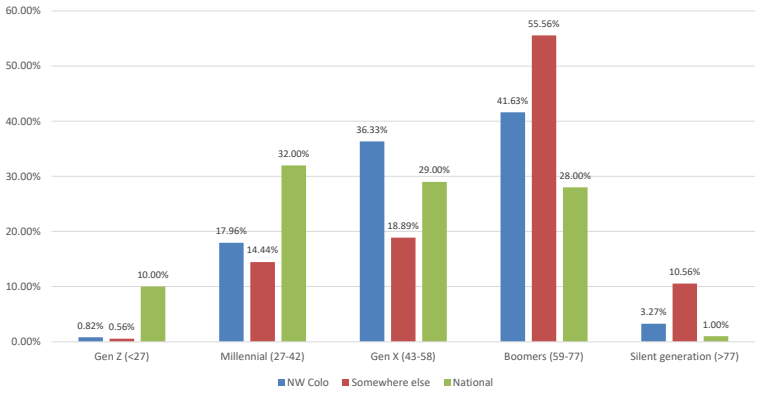


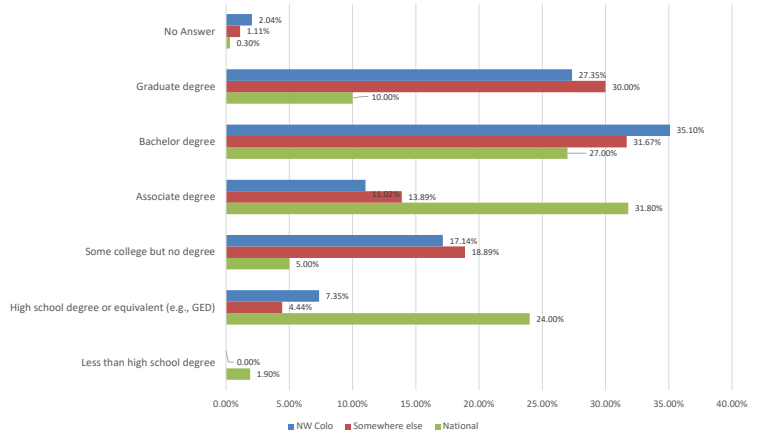
Table 2:

Ethnicity of Respondents

Location	Percentage	Frequency
Black or African American	0.47%	2
Hispanic or Latino	2.35%	10
Asian or Asian American	0.71%	3
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.94%	4
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0.00%	0
White or Caucasian	85.41%	363
Mixed Race	1.88%	8
No Answer	8.24%	35

Figure 2:

Education Level



DEMOGRAPHICS CONTINUED, AND OPINIONS AND KNOWLEDGE

Northwest Colorado respondents had a lower percentage that identified as Democrat, with Northwest Colorado at 12.65% and the nation at 30.90%. The percentage of Republicans was close, with Northwest Colorado at 37.96% and the nation at 35%. The difference is those who identified as Unaffiliated or Independent, with Northwest Colorado at 40.82% and the nation at 27.40%.

Table 3 shows the weighted average response to "how important to you are the following considerations for the way electricity is produced," and shows that Northwest Colorado values reliable electricity, afforable electricity, energy security, and energy independence the most, and climate change and small footprint the least. Figure 4 illustrates the broken down answers to table 3's question, and shows a high percentage of the response "extremely important" for the question prompts afforable electricity, reliable electricity, efficiency, energy security, and energy independence.

Figure 3:
Political Affiliation

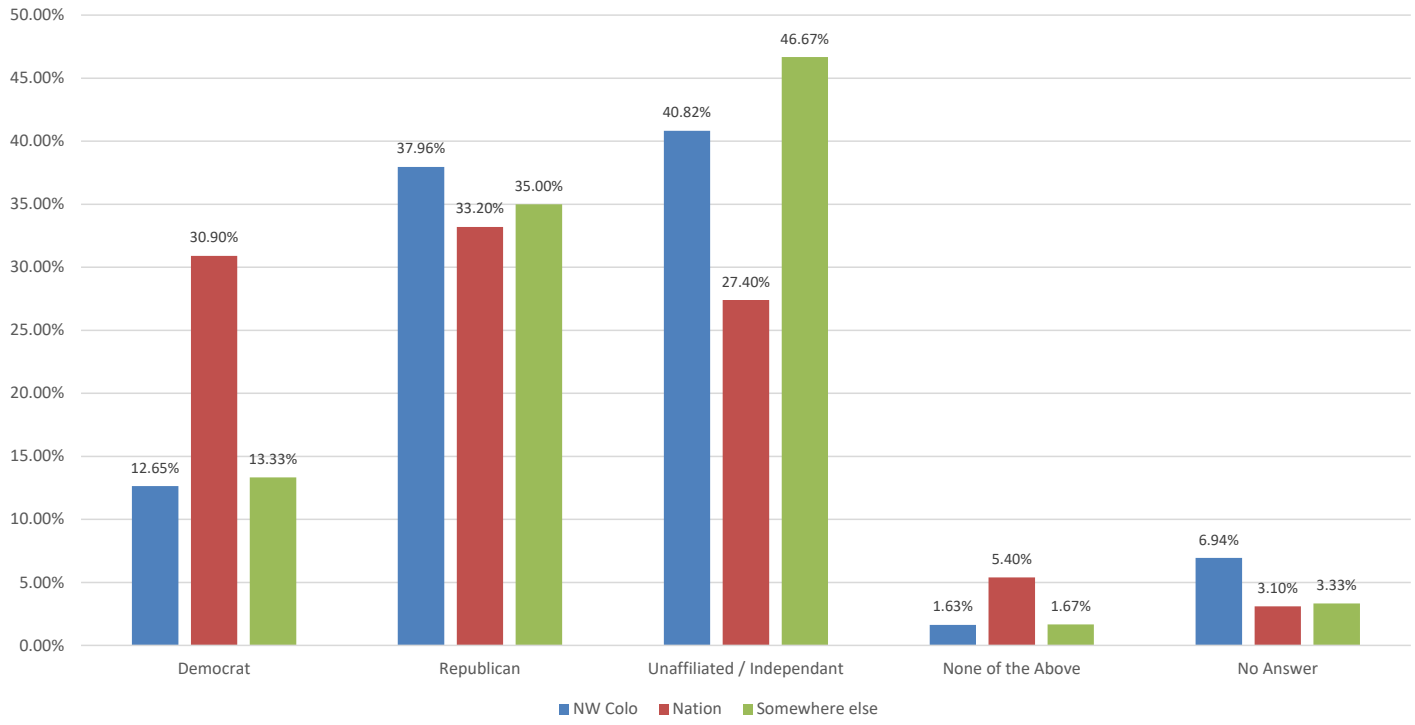


Table 3:

How important to you are the following considerations for the way electricity is produced?

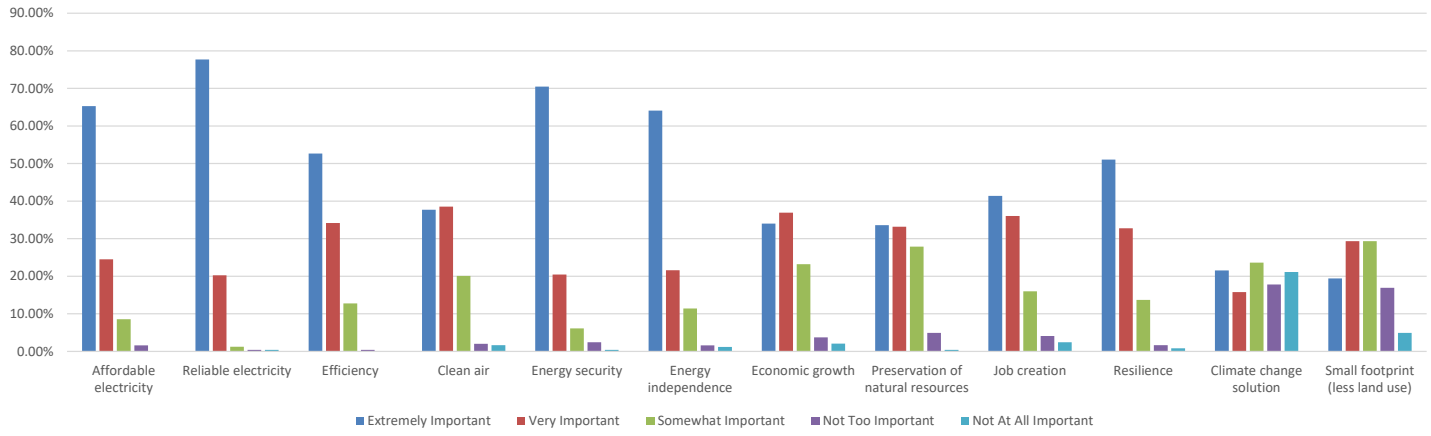
WEIGHTED AVERAGE

Location	NW CO	Somewhere else	Nation
Affordable electricity	4.53	4.47	4.49
Clean air	4.09	4.22	4.35
Climate change solution	2.99	3.16	3.77
Economic growth	3.97	3.78	4.13
Efficiency	4.39	4.4	4.23
Energy independence	4.46	4.39	4.14
Energy security	4.58	4.55	4.24
Job creation	4.10	3.81	4.07
Preservation of natural resources	3.95	3.91	4.13
Reliable electricity	4.74	4.73	4.45
Resilience	4.32	4.3	3.99
Small footprint (less land use)	3.41	3.29	3.68

Figure 4:

How important to you are the following considerations for the way electricity is produced?

NORTHWEST COLORADO RESPONSES



OPINION AND KNOWLEDGE: NUCLEAR ENERGY

Figure 5 illustrates the Northwest Colorado responses to the question "how much do you agree or disagree with the following statements," while figure 6 illustrates the national survey response to the same question for comparison purposes. The first statement states "when their current operating license expires, we should renew the license of nuclear power plants," and shows that 73.47% of respondents in Northwest Colorado strongly agreed, wheras 44.5% of national respondents strongly agreed. In response to "our nation should prepare now so that advanced design nuclear power plants are ready to provide electricity as needed," 72.54% answered "strongly agree" in Northwest Colorado versus 46.2% for the nation. The third prompt states "we should definitely build more nuclear power plants in the future, and 61.22% of Northwest Colorado respondents strongly agreed, while 31% of national respondents strongly agreed.

Figure 5:

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
NORTHWEST COLORADO RESPONSES

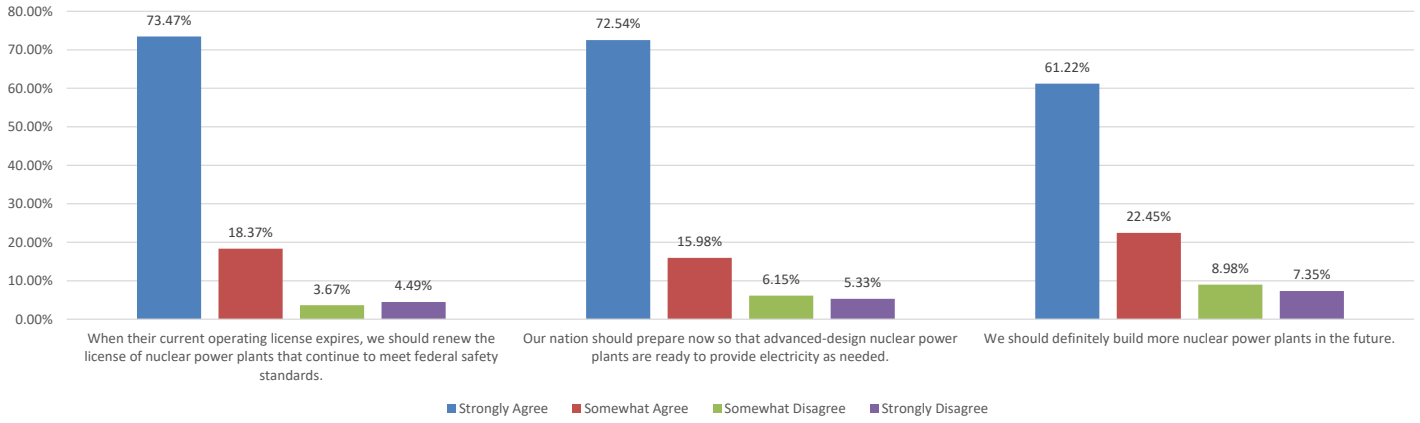
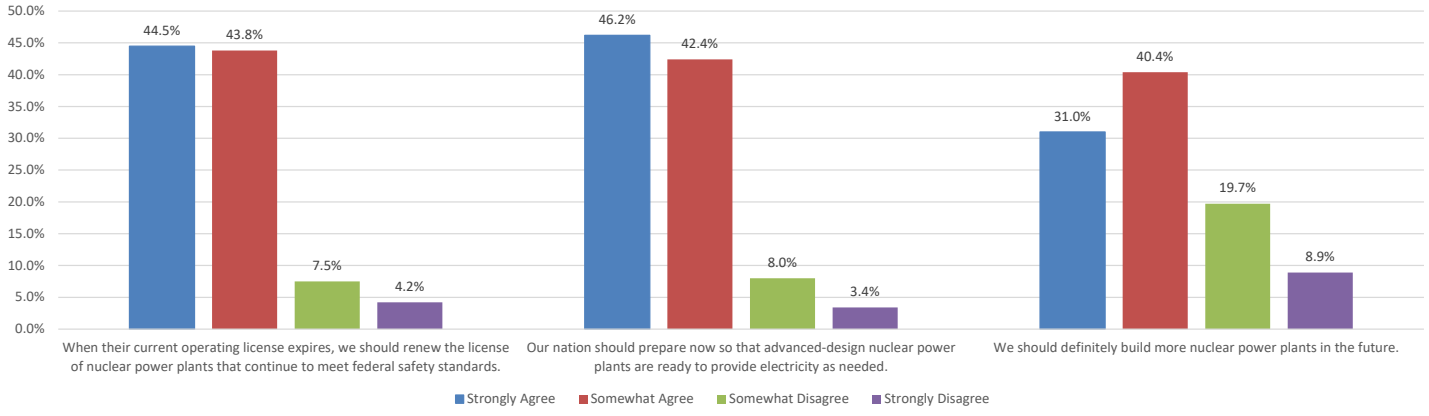


Figure 6:

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
NATIONAL RESPONSES



OPINION AND KNOWLEDGE

Tables 4 and 5 show preferences regarding the use of nuclear power to provide energy. Table 4 shows the results for nuclear power generation in the U.S., while table 5 asks the same question for nuclear power generation in Northwest Colorado. 60.82% of Northwest Colorado respondents strongly favor the use of nuclear energy as one of the ways to provide electricity for the nation, while 58.78% strongly favor this for Northwest Colorado. The results in table 4 also show that Northwest Colorado had a much higher percentage of people who strongly favor nuclear energy for electricity generation, with 31.6% of national respondents strongly agreeing. However, when adding strongly favor and somewhat favor together, Northwest Colorado had 88.58% that favored nuclear energy in the U.S., with 76.8% of national respondents in favor. The combined strongly favor and somewhat favor for NW Colorado is 84.49%.

Figure 7 illustrates the respondent's best estimate for how many countries in the world already have operating nuclear power plants. The correct answer is 31-40, or more precisely 32 (including Taiwan, 33), and 26.12% of Northwest Colorado survey respondents answered 31-40. Note that for the facts and correct answers to survey questions in the proceeding questions, facts and answers are taken from the Bisconti Research, Inc., national survey.

Table 4:

Overall, do you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or stongly oppose the use of nuclear energy as one of the ways to provide electricity in the U.S.?

Answer	NW CO	Somewhere else	U.S.
Strongly Favor	60.82%	56.67%	31.60%
Somewhat Favor	27.76%	28.33%	45.20%
Somewhat Oppose	6.12%	13.33%	17.00%
Strongly Oppose	5.71%	2.22%	6.20%

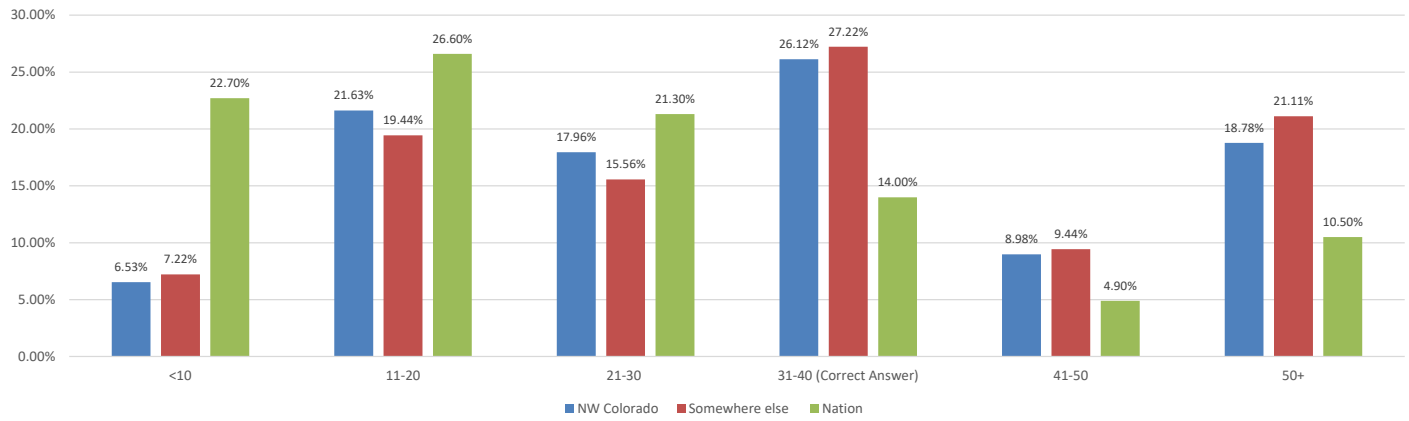
Table 5:

And do you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose the use of nuclear energy as one of the ways to provide electricity in NW Colorado?

Answer	NW CO	Somewhere else
Strongly Favor	58.78%	52.78%
Somewhat Favor	25.71%	31.11%
Somewhat Oppose	6.53%	13.33%
Strongly Oppose	8.98%	3.33%

Figure 7:

Give your best estimate: How many countries in the world already have operating nuclear power plants?



OPINION AND KNOWLEDGE CONTINUED

Figure 8 shows the answer to "how many of the 50 states already have operating nuclear power plants?" The correct answer is 21-30, or more precisely, the answer is 28 states. Table 6 provides answers to the question "how many operating nuclear power plants (reactors) are in the U.S.?" The answer is 94 reactors, and only 11.43% of Northwest Colorado and 6.8% of the nation answered this question correctly.

Figure 8:

Give your best estimate: How many of the 50 states already have operating nuclear power plants?

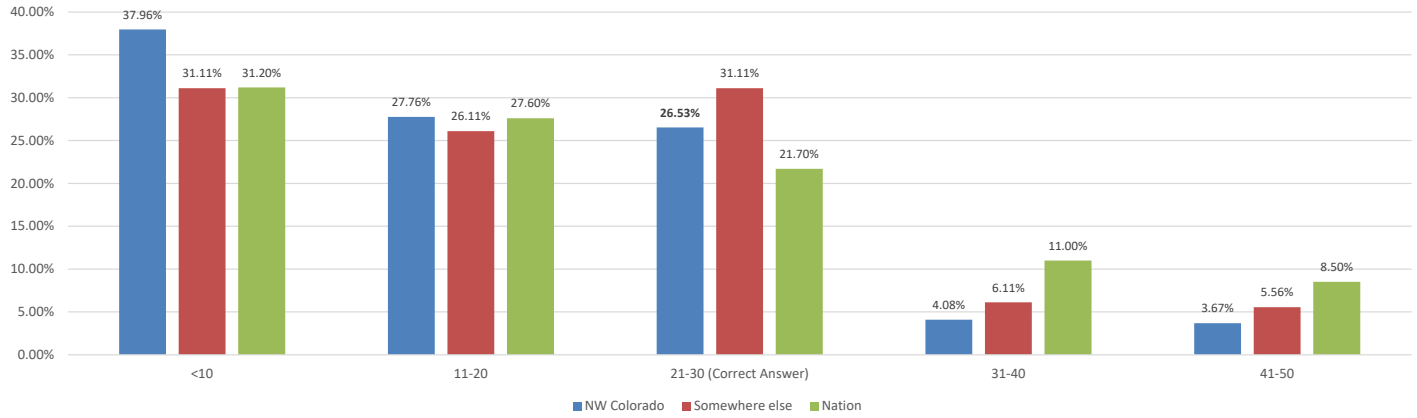


Table 6:

Give your best estimate: How many operating nuclear power plants (reactors) are there in the U.S.

Quantity	NW Colorado	Somewhere else	Nation
<10	23.67%	21.11%	21.10%
11-20	22.04%	11.67%	20.30%
21-30	10.61%	14.44%	13.90%
31-40	8.16%	6.67%	11.80%
41-50	6.53%	11.67%	11.30%
51-60	9.80%	14.44%	7.10%
61-70	2.45%	2.78%	3.50%
71-80	2.04%	1.67%	2.40%
81-90	3.27%	3.33%	1.80%
>90 (Correct Answer)	11.43%	12.22%	6.80%

IMPRESSIONS

Figure 9 illustrates the impression that respondents had regarding how much air pollution each source of electricity creates graphed as a weighted average. In general, Northwest Colorado's impression of pollution was lower for every single source of energy compared to the nation. Figures 10 and 11 illustrate the percentage of each response for both Northwest Colorado and the nation. For nuclear, 58.77% of people in Northwest Colorado answered either 0 or 1, while 18% of those in the national survey reported 0 or 1.

Figure 9:

What is your impression of the amount of air pollution each of the following sources of electicity emits (scale of 1-10, weighted average reported)

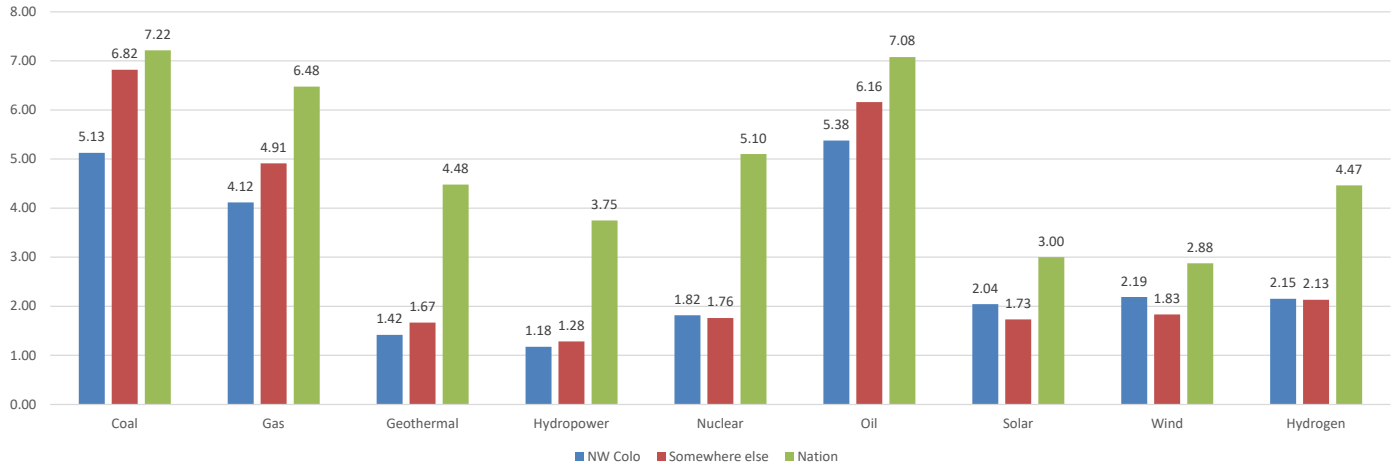


Figure 10:

What is your impression of the amount of air pollution each of the following sources of electicity emits, NW COLORADO

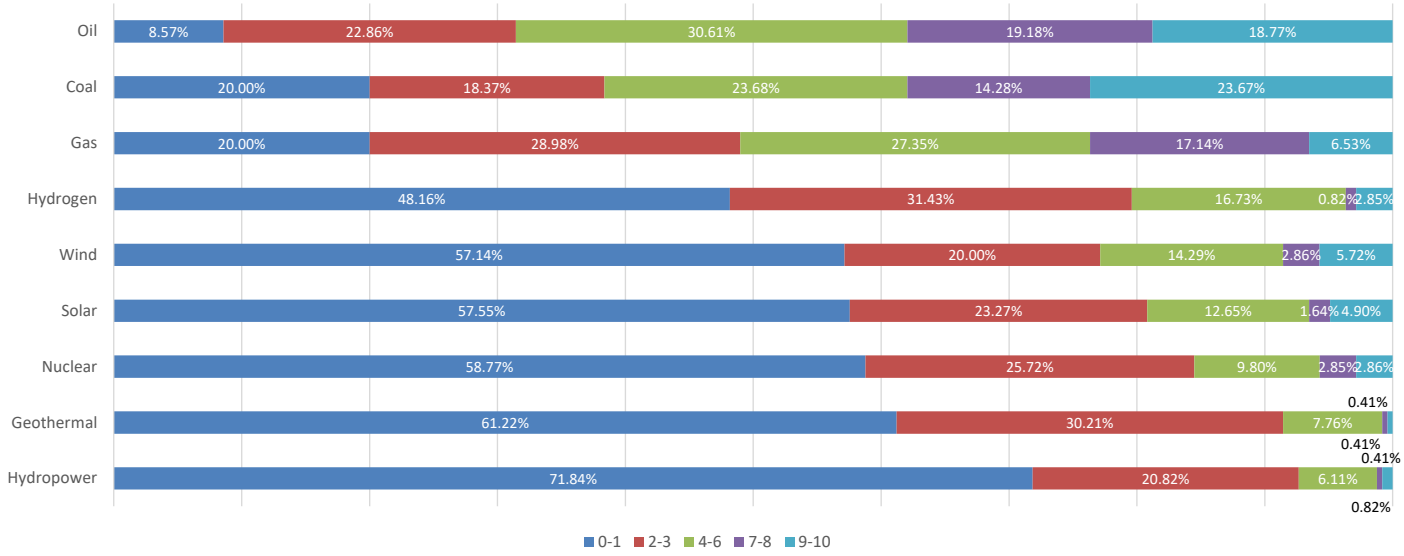
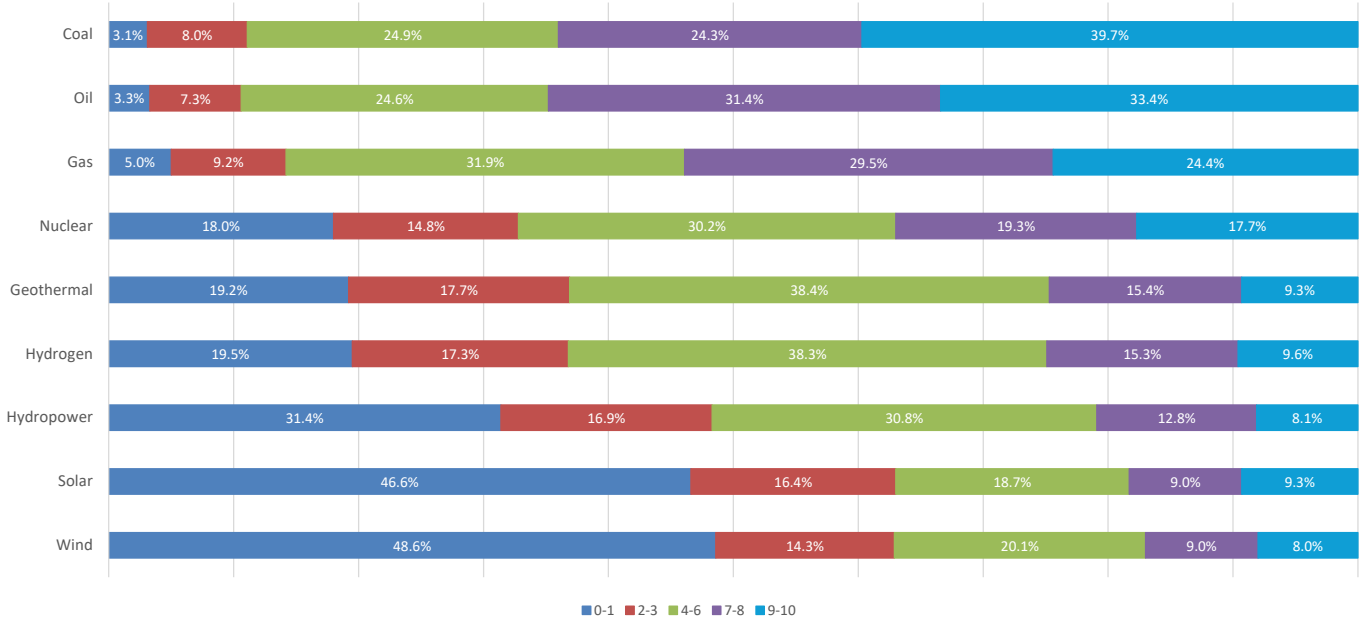


Figure 11:

What is your impression of the amount of air pollution each of the following sources of



IMPRESSIONS CONTINUED

Figure 12 depicts the impression of reliability of each source of electricity. Northwest Colorado scored significantly higher in coal, gas, and nuclear, and lower in solar, wind, and hydrogen than the nation. Figures 13 and 14 illustrate the percentage of each response for both Northwest Colorado and the nation.

Figure 12:

What is your impression of the reliability of each of the following sources of electricity? (scale of 1-10, weighted average reported)

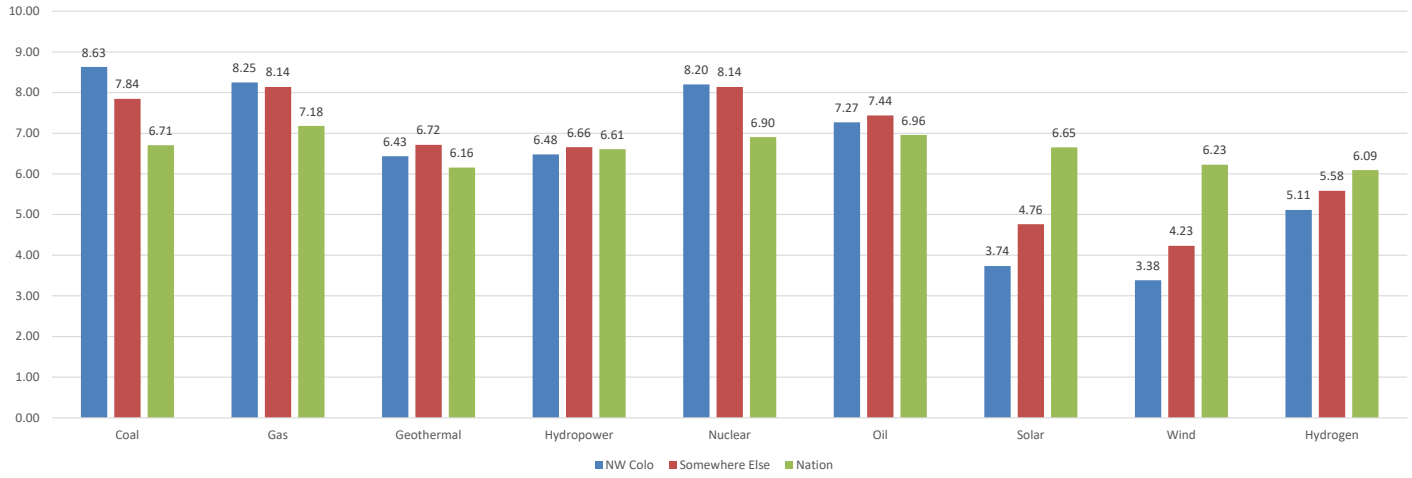


Figure 13:

What is your impression of the reliability of each of the following sources of electricity?

NW COLORADO

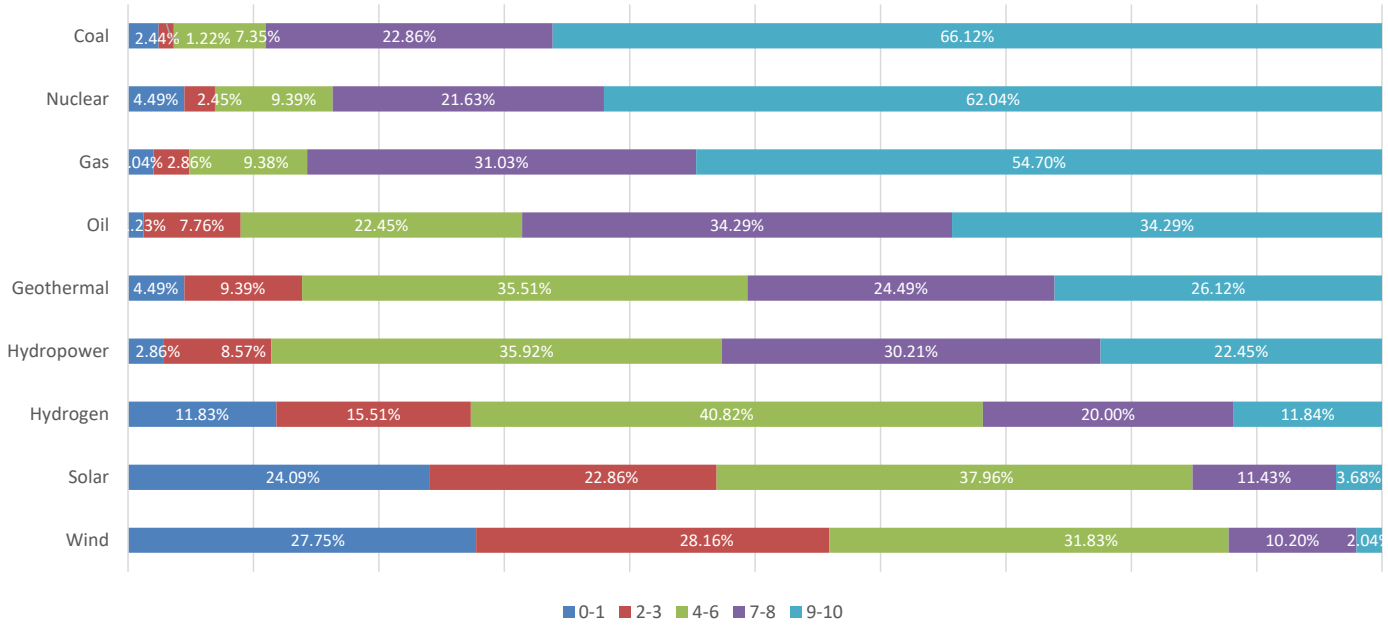
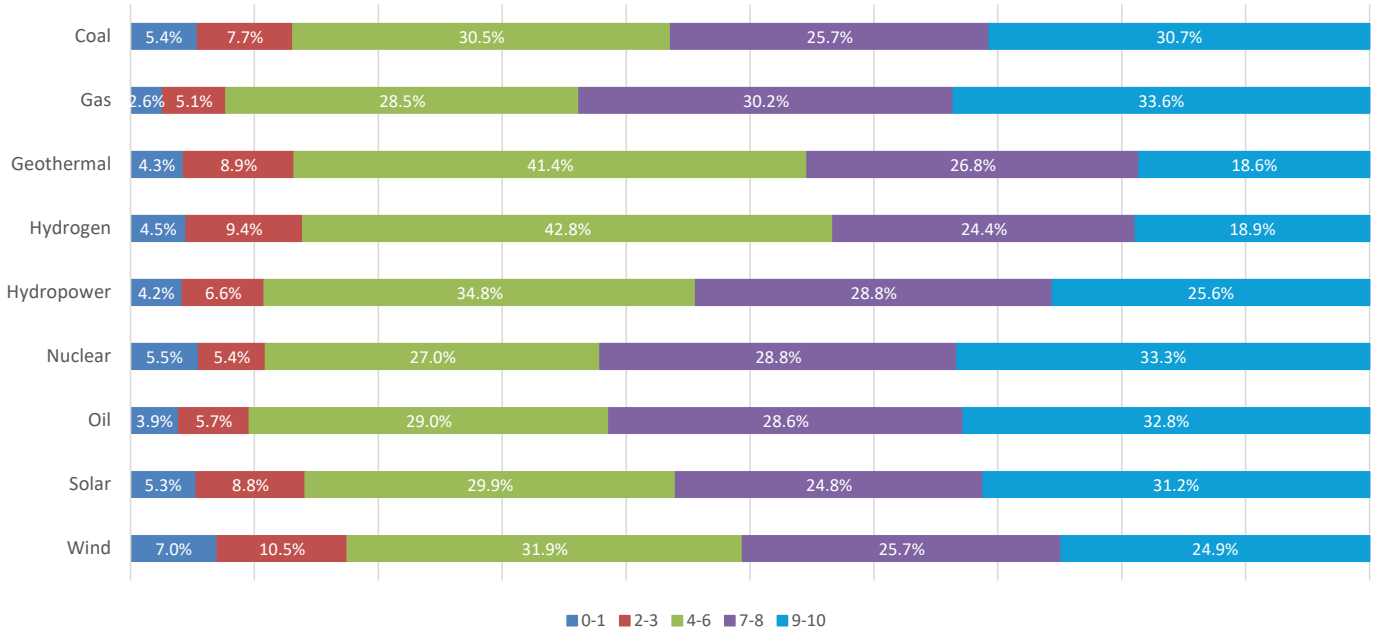


Figure 14:

What is your impression of the reliability of each of the following sources of electricity?

NATION



IMPRESSIONS CONTINUED: COST AND EFFICIENCY

Figure 15 illustrates the impression of cost to consumers of electricity from different sources. There is not a national comparison for this question. Northwest Colorado perceived coal, gas, and hydropower as the lowest cost sources of energy, with solar and wind as the highest cost.

Figure 16 illustrates impression of the efficiency of each source of electricity. Northwest Colorado rated nuclear the highest, followed by gas and coal. The Northwest Colorado scores were significantly lower than the nation for solar, wind, and hydrogen. Figures 17 and 18 llustrate the percentage of each response for both Northwest Colorado and the nation. For nuclear, 49.80% of people in Northwest Colorado answered either 9 or 10, while 33% of those in the national survey reported a 9 or 10.

Figure 15:

What is your impression of the cost to consumers of the electricity from each of the following sources? (scale of 1-10, weighted average reported)

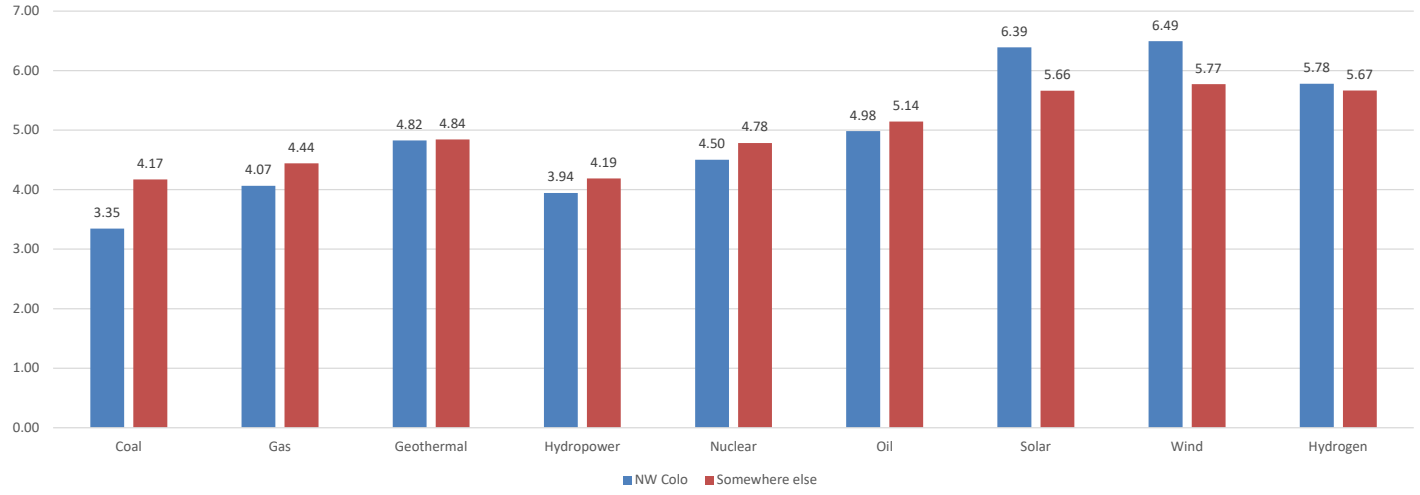


Figure 16:

What is your impression of the efficiency of each of the following sources of electricity?

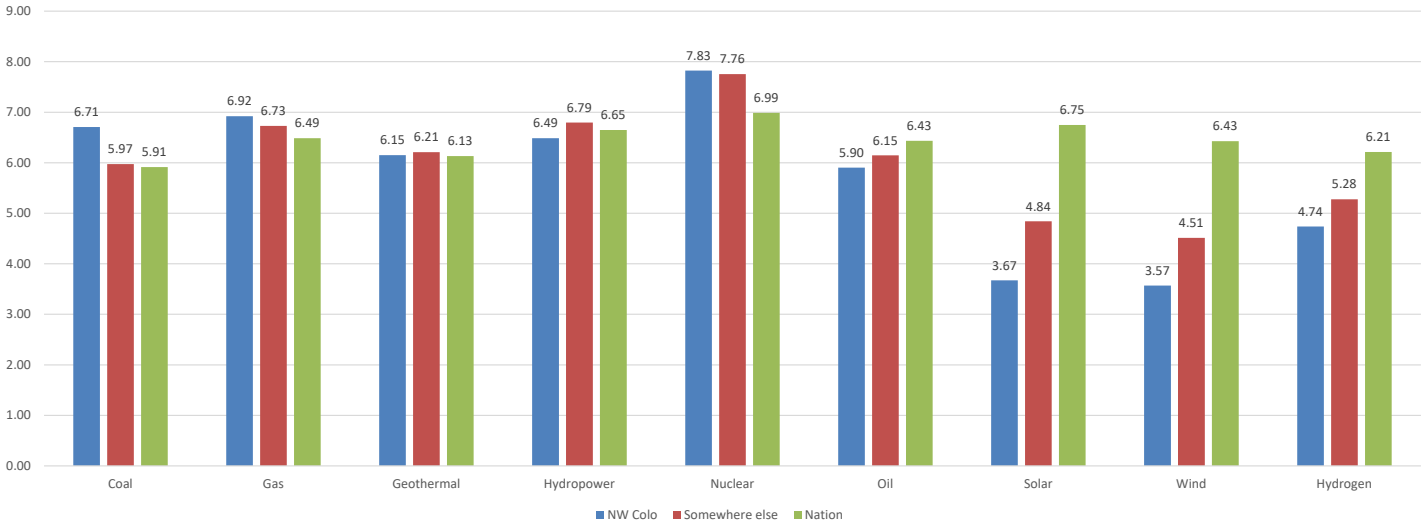


Figure 17:

What is your impression of the efficiency of each of the following sources of electricity? NW Colorado

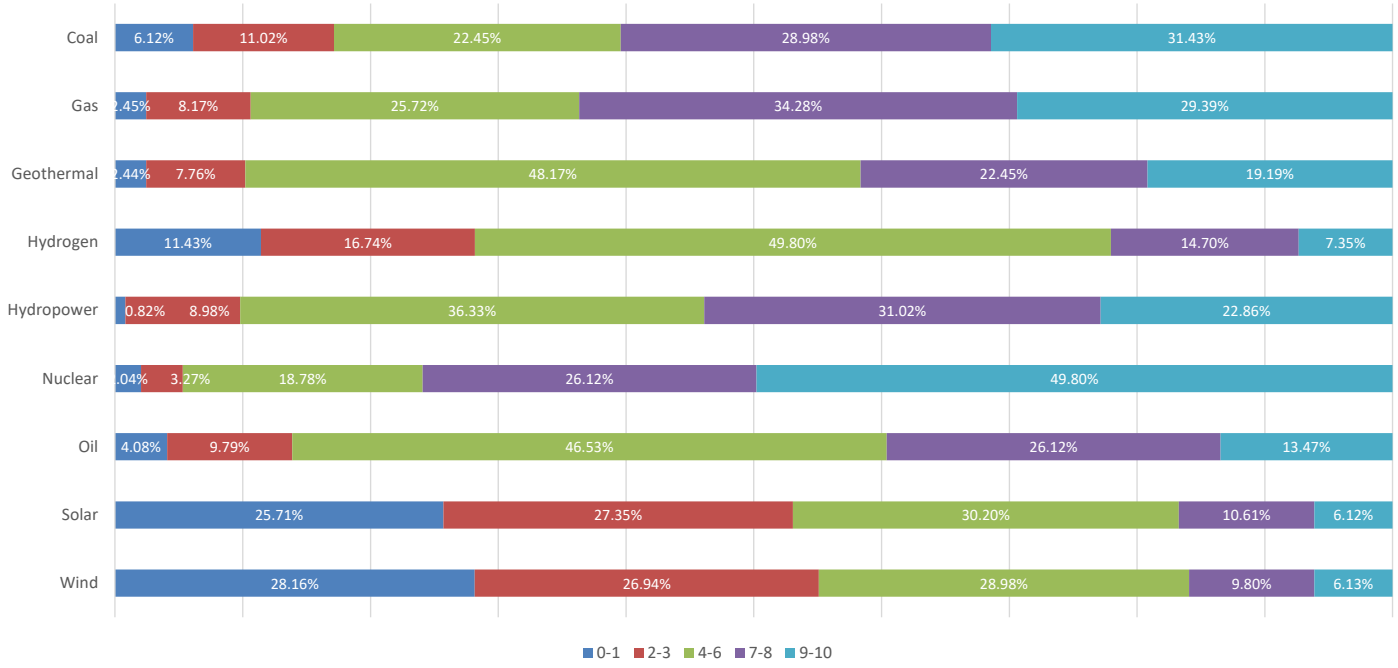
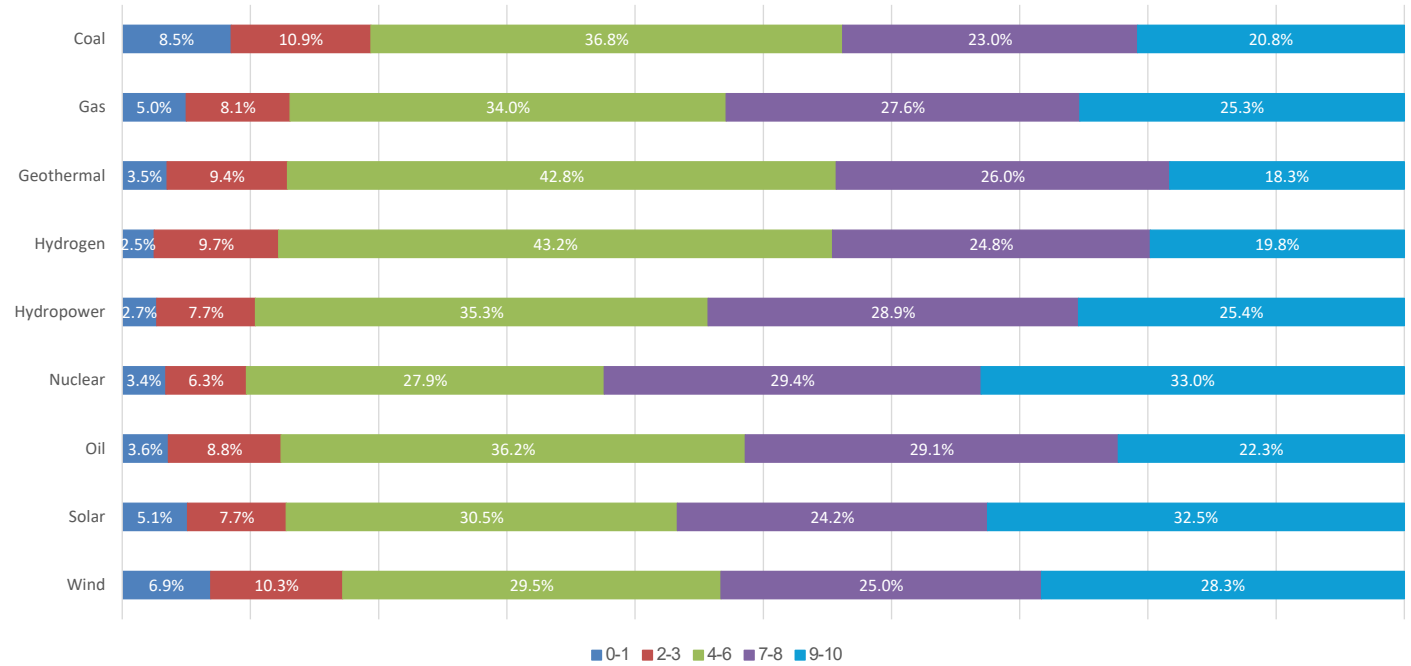


Figure 18:

What is your impression of the efficiency of each of the following sources of electricity? Nation



KNOWLEDGE: SMR'S, SAFETY, RADIATION

Table 7 shows that 64.49% of people in Northwest Colorado had heard about small modular reactors (SMR's), while 18.10% of the nation had heard of them. Northwest Colorado perceived SMR's as less expensive, safer, more reliable, and cleaner than the national survey. Northwest Colorado responded lower to "good for the environment" than the national survey.

In response to "How often does the Federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission monitor each U.S. nuclear power plant to make sure the plant meets federal safety requirements," 35.1% of Northwest Colorado responded to the correct answer "every day," while 18.4% of the nation responded "every day."

In regards to radiation (table 10), the actual amount of radiation a person receives for having a chest x-ray is 6.00 millirem, for living next to a nuclear power plant it's 0.10 millirem, living next to a coal plant is 0.30 millirem, and flying from NY to LA is 2.50 millirem. 71.84% of Northwest Colorado answered "chest x-ray," while 45.30% of the nation answered "chest x-ray." 4.9% of Northwest Colorado responses were "living next to a nuclear power plant," while 39.10% of the nation thought living next to a nuclear power plant exposed a person to the most radiation.

Table 7:

Have you heard anything about advanced design nuclear power plants called Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)?

Answer Choice	NW Colorado	Somewhere Else	Nation
Yes	64.49%	58.33%	18.10%
No	27.76%	32.78%	67.40%
Not Sure	7.76%	8.89%	14.50%

Table 8:

If you said yes to the previous question, please select all of the following words that you think describe SMRs:

Answer Choice	NW Colorado	Somewhere Else	Nation
Small	78.02%	76.47%	46.4%
Less expensive	54.95%	53.78%	47.5%
Safe	67.58%	63.87%	61.3%
Reliable	68.68%	66.39%	63.0%
Good for the environment	48.90%	57.98%	58.6%
Clean	70.33%	68.91%	63.0%

Table 9:

To the best of your knowledge, how often does the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) monitor each U.S. nuclear power plants to make sure the plant meets federal safety requirements?

Answer Choice	NW Colorado	Somewhere Else	Nation
Every day (Correct answer)	35.10%	28.33%	18.40%
Once a week	4.49%	6.11%	14.00%
Once a month	26.12%	22.78%	23.40%
Once every six months	15.10%	18.89%	22.40%
Once a year	18.37%	22.22%	16.20%
Never	0.82%	1.67%	5.60%

Table 10:

To the best of your knowledge, how would a person receive the most radiation?

Answer Choice	NW Colorado	Somewhere Else	Nation
Living next to a nuclear power plant for a year.	4.90%	7.78%	39.10%
Living next to a coal plant for a year.	4.49%	2.22%	8.00%
Flying one time from New York to Los Angeles.	18.78%	28.33%	7.60%
Having a chest X-ray (Correct Answer).	71.84%	61.67%	45.30%

KNOWLEDGE: RADIATION AND WASTE

Table 11 reflects the same data as in table 10, but instead of the "most" radiation, it shows answer to the "least" radiation. Northwest Colorado answered "living next to a coal plant" at 46.94%, with the correct answer being "nuclear power" at 35.10%. National respondents ranked flying from NY to LA as the lowest source of radiation at 46.60%, with the correct answer of "nuclear power plant" at 17.10%.

Table 12 asks about the perception of nuclear waste as a solid, liquid, or gas. 65.31% of Northwest Colorado answered "something solid," which is the correct answer. National respondents answered "something liquid or gas" at 57%. Table 13 asks about the size and storage of nuclear waste. 70.20% of Northwest Colorado answered "something small and safely contained," while 32.10% of the nation answered the same way. 52.20% of national respondents answered "something large and spread out." "Something small and safely contained" is the correct answer.

Table 11:

How would a person receive the least radiation?

Answer Choice	NW Colorado	Somewhere Else	Nation
Living next to a nuclear power plant for a year (Correct Answer).	35.10%	47.22%	17.10%
Living next to a coal plant for a year.	46.94%	28.33%	22.20%
Flying one time from New York to Los Angeles.	14.29%	17.22%	46.60%
Having a chest X-ray.	3.67%	7.22%	14.10%

Table 12:

When you hear the words "nuclear waste," what comes to mind?

Answer Choice	NW Colorado	Somewhere Else	Nation
Something solid (Correct Answer)	65.31%	71.67%	25.80%
Something liquid or gas	26.53%	22.78%	57.00%
No idea	8.16%	5.56%	17.20%

Table 13:

When you hear the words "nuclear waste," what comes to mind?

Answer Choice	NW Colorado	Somewhere Else	Nation
Something small and safely contained (Correct Answer)	70.20%	68.33%	32.10%
Something large and spread out	17.55%	22.78%	52.20%
No idea	12.24%	8.89%	15.70%

FACTS AND RESPONSE

Figure 13 lists some facts about nuclear energy and asks respondents to rate how much it is new and surpring to them. The figure reports the weighted average of the responses. Figure 14 takes the same approach, but shows how respondents to rate how important they are. Figure 13 shows that Northwest Colorado finds nuclear facts less surprising than the nation. Table's 14 and 15 break down the questions from figure 13 and 14 and instead of illustrating weighted average response shows the actual response grouped into response categories.

Figure 13:

Here are some facts about nuclear energy. Please rate each fact on how much it is new and surprising to you.

Please select one answer for each from 0 (NOT new/surprising) to 10 (VERY new/surprising). Weighted Average

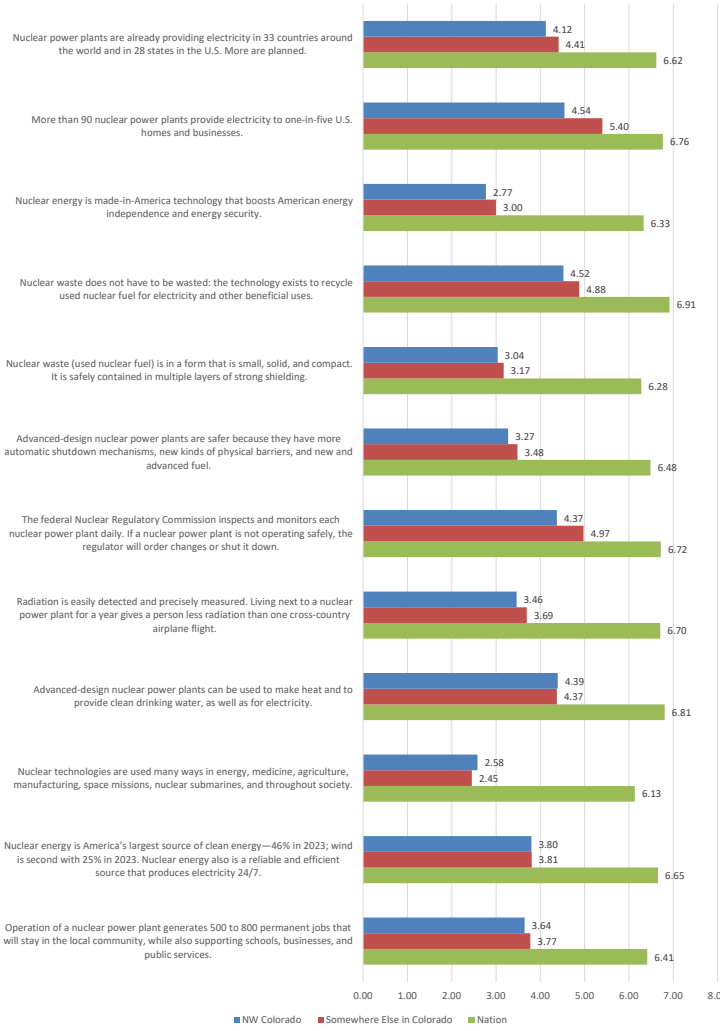


Figure 14:

Here are the same facts about nuclear energy. Please rate each fact on its importance.

Please select one answer for each from 0 (NOT important) to 10 (VERY important). Weighted Average.

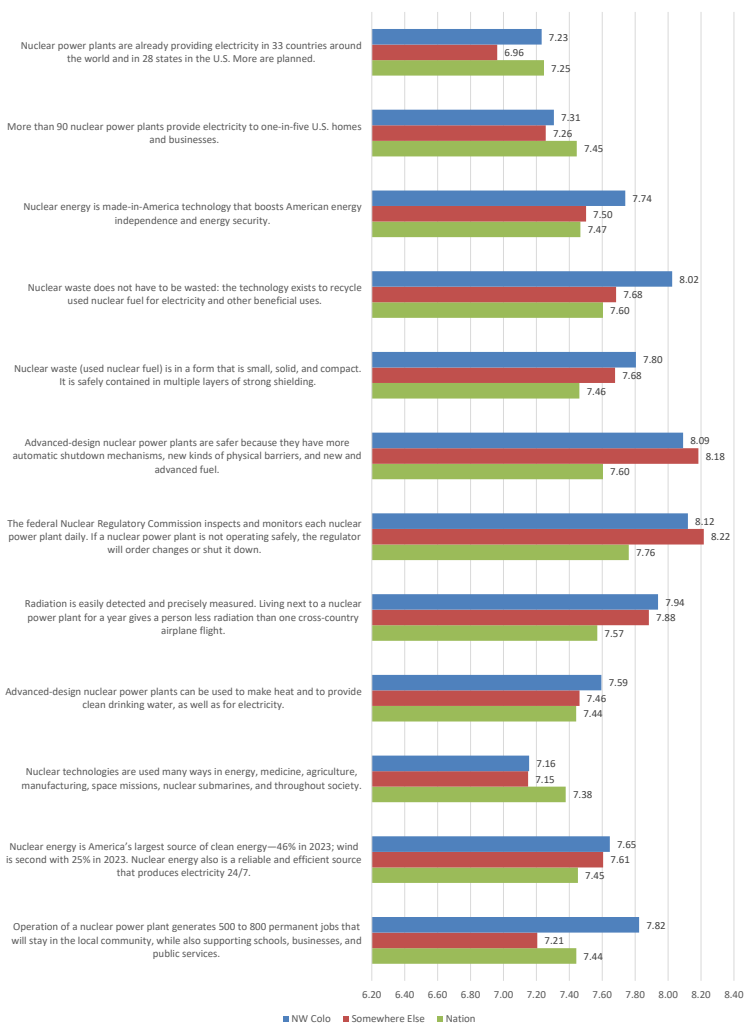


Table 14:

Here are some facts about nuclear energy. Please rate each fact on how much it is new and surprising to you. Please select one answer for each from 0 (NOT new/surprising) to 10 (VERY new/surprising).

	Low Surprise				High Surprise
Fact	**0-1**	**2-3**	**4-6**	**7-8**	**9-10**
Operation of a nuclear power plant generates 500 to 800 permanent jobs that will stay in the local community, while also supporting schools, businesses, and public services.	37.15%	17.14%	21.63%	15.10%	8.98%
Nuclear energy is America's largest source of clean energy—46% in 2023; wind is second with 25% in 2023. Nuclear energy also is a reliable and efficient source that produces electricity 24/7.	32.24%	20.81%	22.85%	11.84%	12.24%
Nuclear technologies are used many ways in energy, medicine, agriculture, manufacturing, space missions, nuclear submarines, and throughout society.	50.21%	18.37%	17.55%	7.34%	6.53%
Advanced-design nuclear power plants can be used to make heat and to provide clean drinking water, as well as for electricity.	27.75%	17.56%	22.86%	15.92%	15.92%
Radiation is easily detected and precisely measured. Living next to a nuclear power plant for a year gives a person less radiation than one cross-country airplane flight.	35.92%	21.23%	23.27%	8.57%	11.03%
The federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission inspects and monitors each nuclear power plant daily. If a nuclear power plant is not operating safely, the regulator will order changes or shut it down.	31.43%	12.65%	22.86%	17.15%	15.92%
Advanced-design nuclear power plants are safer because they have more automatic shutdown mechanisms, new kinds of physical barriers, and new and advanced fuel.	39.59%	17.96%	24.49%	9.80%	8.16%
Nuclear waste (used nuclear fuel) is in a form that is small, solid, and compact. It is safely contained in multiple layers of strong shielding.	44.90%	17.96%	19.60%	9.39%	8.17%
Nuclear waste does not have to be wasted: the technology exists to recycle used nuclear fuel for electricity and other beneficial uses.	26.94%	14.70%	25.72%	15.10%	17.56%
Nuclear energy is made-in-America technology that boosts American energy independence and energy security.	47.75%	17.14%	20.82%	8.98%	5.31%
More than 90 nuclear power plants provide electricity to one-in-five U.S. homes and businesses.	25.72%	13.07%	29.39%	18.36%	13.47%
Nuclear power plants are already providing electricity in 33 countries around the world and in 28 states in the U.S. More are planned.	22.04%	22.86%	31.43%	15.51%	8.17%

Table 15:

Here are the same facts about nuclear energy. Please rate each fact on its importance. Please select one answer for each from 0 (NOT important) to 10 (VERY important).

Fact	Low Importance 0-1	2-3	4-6	7-8	High Importance 9-10
Operation of a nuclear power plant generates 500 to 800 permanent jobs that will stay in the local community, while also supporting schools, businesses, and public services.	6.12%	2.45%	15.92%	21.22%	54.28%
Nuclear energy is America's largest source of clean energy—46% in 2023; wind is second with 25% in 2023. Nuclear energy also is a reliable and efficient source that produces electricity 24/7.	5.72%	3.27%	17.15%	24.08%	49.80%
Nuclear technologies are used many ways in energy, medicine, agriculture, manufacturing, space missions, nuclear submarines, and throughout society.	8.57%	4.90%	21.23%	20.82%	44.49%
Advanced-design nuclear power plants can be used to make heat and to provide clean drinking water, as well as for electricity.	6.13%	2.04%	19.99%	22.04%	49.79%
Radiation is easily detected and precisely measured. Living next to a nuclear power plant for a year gives a person less radiation than one cross-country airplane flight.	5.72%	2.45%	16.33%	17.14%	58.37%
The federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission inspects and monitors each nuclear power plant daily. If a nuclear power plant is not operating safely, the regulator will order changes or shut it down.	4.08%	2.45%	15.93%	14.29%	63.27%
Advanced-design nuclear power plants are safer because they have more automatic shutdown mechanisms, new kinds of physical barriers, and new and advanced fuel.	5.31%	2.85%	11.84%	19.19%	60.82%
Nuclear waste (used nuclear fuel) is in a form that is small, solid, and compact. It is safely contained in multiple layers of strong shielding.	5.71%	2.45%	15.10%	23.27%	53.47%
Nuclear waste does not have to be wasted: the technology exists to recycle used nuclear fuel for electricity and other beneficial uses.	3.68%	2.86%	13.88%	20.81%	58.78%
Nuclear energy is made-in-America technology that boosts American energy independence and energy security.	7.34%	3.67%	14.70%	13.88%	60.41%
More than 90 nuclear power plants provide electricity to one-in-five U.S. homes and businesses.	4.90%	5.71%	20.82%	26.53%	42.04%
Nuclear power plants are already providing electricity in 33 countries around the world and in 28 states in the U.S. More are planned.	5.31%	6.94%	22.44%	23.67%	41.63%

FAVOR OR OPPOSE NUCLEAR POWER

Table 16 shows the results from table 4 and table 5, as well as the end of survey response to the same question. The end of survey response is important because the respondent had the opportunity to read through the facts stated in the previous questions. Table 16 shows that after reading Bisconti Research Inc.'s facts regarding nuclear energy, there was an increase in "strongly favor" from 60.82% to 68.16% regarding the support of nuclear power in the United States for Northwest Colorado respondents. The national respondents saw an increase in support for nuclear in the United State go from 31.60% "strongly favor" to 43.50% "strongly favor."

Table 17 looks at the same question but for nuclear in the Northwest Colorado region. After reading nuclear power facts, "strongly favor" increased from 58.78% to 66.12%. Almost all of this increase was from the "somewhat favor" category, as "somewhat oppose" barely changed and "strongly oppose" did not change. Figure 15 illustrates the pre and post fact nuclear opinion by demographic. Table 18 in the appendix shows the open ended responses to the final question "what is the main reason for your opinion regarding nuclear power in Northwest Colorado."

Table 16:

Based on this information, do you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose the use of nuclear energy as one of the ways to provide electricity in the United States? Select one answer.

	NW Colorado		Somewhere Else		Nation	
Answer Choice	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After
Strongly favor	60.82%	68.16%	56.67%	63.89%	31.60%	43.50%
Somewhat favor	27.76%	19.18%	28.33%	24.44%	45.20%	40.70%
Somewhat oppose	6.12%	7.35%	13.33%	9.44%	17.00%	11.90%
Strongly oppose	5.71%	5.31%	2.22%	2.22%	6.20%	3.90%

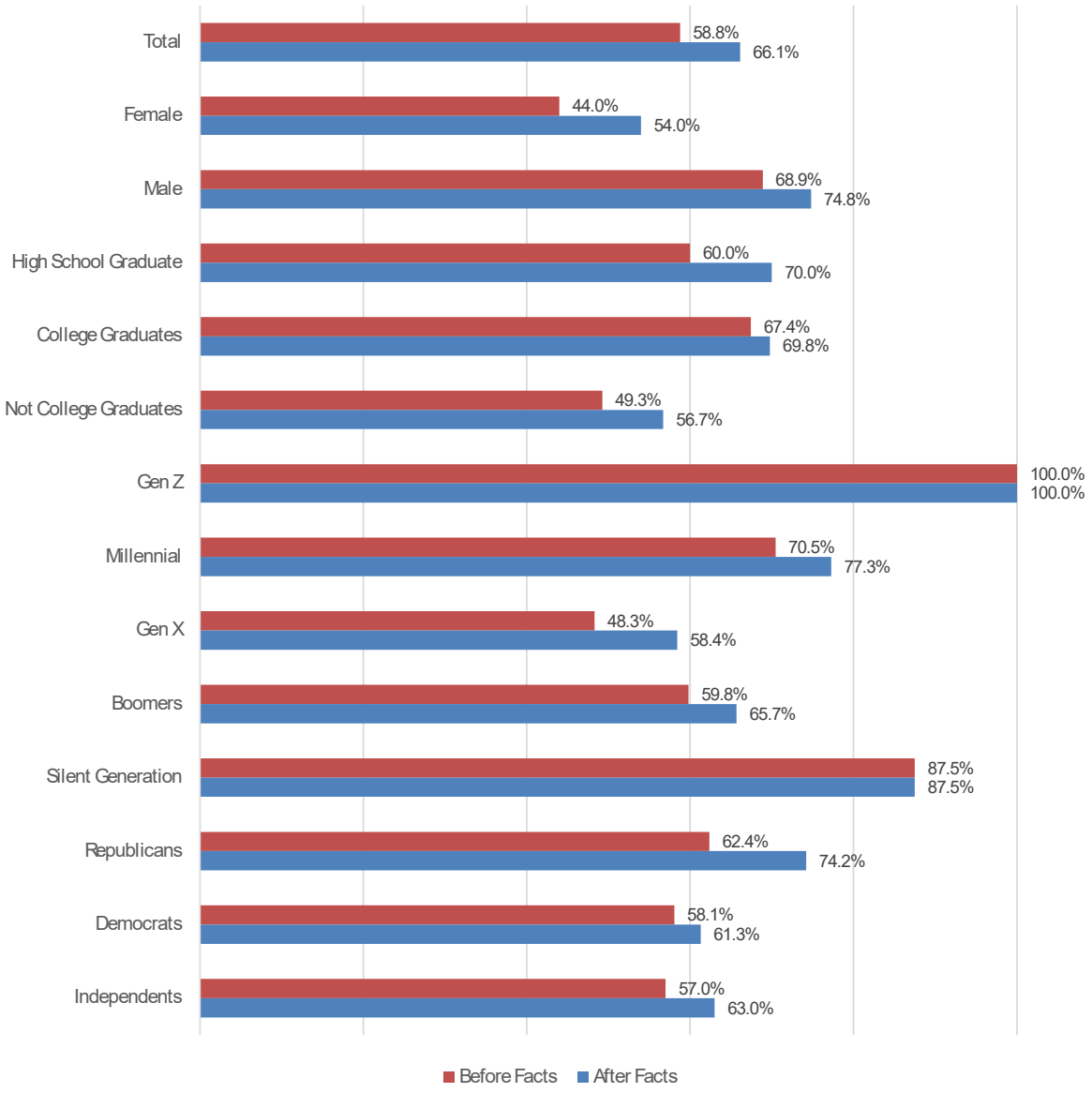
Table 17:

And do you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose the use of nuclear energy as one of the ways to provide electricity in Northwest Colorado? Select one answer.

	NW Colorado		Somewhere Else	
Answer Choice	Before	After	Before	After
Strongly favor	58.78%	66.12%	52.78%	63.89%
Somewhat favor	25.71%	17.96%	31.11%	24.44%
Somewhat oppose	6.53%	6.94%	13.33%	9.44%
Strongly oppose	8.98%	8.98%	3.33%	2.22%

Figure 15:

Nuclear opinion change pre and post nuclear facts by demographic ("strongly favor" response rate)



CONCLUSIONS

As Northwest Colorado considers options for replacing a coal-fired electricity generating power plants, this survey was launched to hear the views of stakeholders on one of the options, nuclear energy, as it compares to the other options being considered. The focus on nuclear in this survey came as a result of questions and comments from our 2023 outreach efforts.

The survey revealed opinions about nuclear energy in Northwest Colorado and the nation. In general, Northwest Colorado residents were more strongly favorable to nuclear energy than the general U.S. public and much more knowledgeable on the subject. The difference could be because Northwest Colorado respondents have heard more about the topic from ongoing discussions of options to replace the coal plant.

60.82% of Northwest Colorado respondents strongly favor the use of nuclear energy as one of the ways to provide electricity for the nation, while 58.78% strongly favor this for Northwest Colorado. When adding strongly favor and somewhat favor together, Northwest Colorado had 88.58% that favored nuclear energy in the U.S., with 76.8% of national respondents in favor. The combined strongly favor and somewhat favor for Northwest Colorado is 84.49%.

Northwest Colorado values reliable electricity, affordable electricity, energy security, and energy independence the most, and climate change and small footprint the least. There is distinct difference between how Northwest Colorado and the nation valued climate change.

In the knowledge section, Northwest Colorado residents scored above the U.S. public at large. After reading nuclear power facts, "strongly favor" increased from 58.78% to 66.12% in Northwest Colorado. Almost all of this increase was from the "somewhat favor" category, as "somewhat oppose" barely changed and "strongly oppose" did not change.

Northwest Colorado's impression of the efficiency of each source of electricity rated nuclear the highest, followed by gas and coal. The Northwest Colorado scores were significantly lower than the nation for solar, wind, and hydrogen.

The focus of NCEI has been to facilitate fact-based discussions around the energy transition. This report took a community survey on energy perceptions and preferences and has illustrated the communities knowledge and opinions on the topic.

APPENDIX

Table 18:

What is the main reason for your opinion (regarding their opinion on nuclear power in NW Colorado)?

Former director at YVEA. I LOST MY 3RD TERM TO GREEN ENERGY candidate by 43 votes out of 2300 cast .
Solar and wind are unreliable and wind turbines expensive to maintain. Nuclear seems to be a way to make sure we are not dependent on other for our energy.
Jobs, reliability
More information needed
Green idiots are shutting down reliable electrical sources such as coal and natural gas
Political driven energy sources (e.g. wind/solar) are not reliable, cheap, nor green. Nuclear provides the baseload needed at all times.
No pollution new plants are proven safe
We need jobs for this community when coal is taken out of the economy.
Wind and solar are not the answer
For all of the reasons listed in question 26
Reliable, inexpensive power is paramount
We need a reliable and affordable power solution in this area and across the country before we shut down the coal plants. Wind and solar are not going to be reliable on their own and are very expensive.
Where are you going to get the WATER for it?
Still a gamble. What about the mine jobs, too? We are the most clean areas in the state and why do we have to pay for Denver's stupidity?
With the political destruction of our Coal fired power plants we need a replacement for the power that will be lost. Wind and solar are far too unreliable and expensive.
Consistent jobs and stable power source
I attended a university where Nuclear Engineering was a degree and understand the importance of safety to those engineers. Also, from a clean economic energy standpoint I believe nuclear is our best shot. If we increase the amount of nuclear energy and diversify the rest of our energy profile we will become incredibly efficient and resilient.
if it can replace jobs
I want to be able to be energy independent and I want a good paying job so I can take care of my family.
I am a member of my community and do not want to see my town turn to a ghost town because of jobs being lost.
There is already a source of clean, cheap, reliable power with NW Colorado's low sulfur, bituminous coal that is burned in a highly efficient plant with scrubbers utilizing limestone slurry to neutralize emissions that effectively produce water vapor. The vehicles in City of Steamboat Springs and the Front Range of Colorado produce more visible air pollution than NW Colorado coal-fired power plants. Clearly the purpose of this survey is to educate folks on nuclear power, too bad this same effort was not utilized to educate the ill-informed, indolent, nescient politicians who opted to eliminate, clean, efficient, low-cost coal from regional energy production.
Water! Where, on whose land, what public uses would be inhibited if on public land. Why, if our sparse population needs a huge power plant. Are the plans over 10 or 20 years old while waiting for approval?
Because of all of the factual information stated above and the ability to retain and create jobs as well as provide a clean, reliable source of energy to replace coal.
We need clean affordable electricity.
Use of existing infrastructure.
Think it's a safe and reliable source of energy that NW CO would be great at providing.
Energy independence and its good for the American ecnomoy.

Table 18 (continued):

What is the main reason for your opinion (regarding their opinion on nuclear power in NW Colorado)?

We really don't have many legitimate choices, do we? Govt says we can't use coal, so I guess we will get whatever we are told we will get. Whatever makes politicians the most money, I guess.
Technology advancement has made nuclear safe. Less foot print than wind or solar. Reliable base loads.
High paying job opportunities
been in the electric utility business for the last 34 years and know how, where and when electricity functions the best for the national grid.
Safe and will provide jobs
Who else will bring as many jobs as our closing power plants do.
Less harmful to the environment & wildlife than wind turbines & not unsightly like solar panels. Coal would still be the best choice for CO., as it is abundant & less expensive
Risk
Coal is abundant in our region and we already have the infrastructure to keep , maintain, and modernize for coal production. Everything else will cost massive amounts of money to construct and implement.
Energy needs in this country will continue to increase. We need to plan ahead, be prepared.
Nuclear power is clean, and efficient
Safety concerns
Transition away from carbon emitting sources necessitates large baseload generation of some kind for voltage regulation, rolling power, benefits of generator VAR's, and reliability.
Tree huggers will not leave coal fired power plants in service as a power producer, and hydro is coming under attack from the tree huggers. Wind and solar are not cost effective, and actually produce massive amounts of hazardous waste. Remove the subsidies and wind and solar would go away.
We need dependable, cost-effective energy. Wind and solar are not the best solutions because they are not going to meet the needs of the consumers.
It's safe and reliable. It would provide jobs for our community.
Low cost reliable electricity is needed to maintain our way of life. Something must replace the coal fired plants that are being shut down hastily and without good reason
Cheap reliable energy
Coal is better
The cost of power is getting out of hand. With all the cola plants being shut down , we need a back up plan.
Clean, reliable power
I believe in a use everything possible scenario for energy and job creation.
If coal mining and power generation are discontinued, SMRs are the most reliable, dispatched energy source which can provide equivalent jobs and economic benefits for the community
Tri state can't safely run a coal plant why would you trust them with nuclear
Coal is reliable, efficient, CLEAN, and inexpensive. Switching to nuclear generation will be costly and slow, even if the technology is available. We do not need to shut down coal in order to bring in nuclear. Our nation needs more electricity every year. We cannot eliminate one of the most efficient ways of producing it = coal. I do not work in the coal or power plant industries.
LOCAL JOBS AND RELIABLE ENERGY SOURCE WITH A SMALL FOOTPRINT. WIND AND SOLAR ARE AN EYE SORE.
Nuclear power suffers from poorly planned and executed public relations and misinformation issues. It is almost criminal that we are not aggressively focused on developing this type of clean energy.
Clean energy and jobs in northwest Colorado
I understand how it works and how important it should be.
It's effective, steady power that also provides our community with jobs and long term growth
With population growth, electricity consumption will continue and demand will increase.we cannot wholly rely on green energy. As it doesn't produce enough energy.

Table 18 (continued):

What is the main reason for your opinion (regarding their opinion on nuclear power in NW Colorado)?

We need reliable electricity. Wind and solar will NEVER be able to support the need for electricity in America, they are both complete jokes. We should NOT be shutting down our current reliable coal fired plants until there are enough nuclear plants to handle to load.
I prefer to wind or solar which is ugly anf changes the landscape
Keep using coal! It's clean due to scrubbers at power plants, affordable, reliable and provides high paying jobs!
Economic & energy security for rural Colorado
Nuclear power has can a long way and is safe and reliable
If nukes are so great build one in Washington DC or Aspen not Craig. Find a permanent solution to the waste disposal question and again consider putting it in Aspen or DC.
To hopefully retain my employment
I guess because I have educated myself on the subject matter.
Because we need reliable energy not wind power not solar but we never tell the American public they just don't keep up they still think wind and solar is powering their cars
With the coal industry shutting down in Northwest Colorado our region needs a new industry to maintain and support the region. People in this region need jobs to be able to stay in Northwest Colorado. The western United States that receive its electricity from the Tri-State Generation needs another source of affordable electricity.
I do not believe that man has caused climate change. We should be good stewards of the environment. But not to the extent that it caters to the vocal minority of left leaning environmental and political groups whom have their own "control" agendas. I do believe that coal fired electricity generation is here now (at least at this moment), and is still the most economic, efficient, and abundant source of energy in the US and has continued to be cleaner, with respect to emissions, through billions of dollars of improvements over the past 50 years; That said, coal energy has been wrongly demonized and is on its way out. However, nuclear energy appears to be a more reliable and economic (?) source of energy than the other alternatives and would be a better fit than the other sources (i.e. wind, solar, hydro, etc.).
Like anything, there are inherent risks to any industrial complex. No one obviously wants to live near a nuclear powerplant, even with their new efficiencies and safety. With that said, it would be a vital way to continue to use the knowledge and existing infrastructure in NW Colorado to continue to support our community. I would emphasize Thorium Molten Salt Reactors need more attention in this transition as a safe and efficient, new nuclear technology that can utilized across the country. The economic boom of Uranium mining could also be a welcome boost to the western US with increased nuclear use, but we must mine and refine the fuel here, no more importing of this fuel, we have the resources, put America to work.
Provides jobs and uses existing transmission lines.
I have grown up around and worked most of my adult life at coal mines.
I believe in coal and many have the misconception that it pollutes the air from coal fired power plants which is totally untrue. The power plants emit steam not coal fumes into the atmosphere
Could work, but not an immediate solution. Permitting alone is a decade long process.
I don't want to see NW Colorado die. However, neither do I want it to become urban sprawl
I think that it is a great way to get power, but living around so many fault lines, with regular small Earth quakes, concerns me with Nuclear Power Plants.
Northwest Colorado, as well as the rest of the USA, requires a stable energy grid with safe and reliable sources. Energy independence is key to our safety and success for years to come.
slanted questions, that are one Demensional
I think nuclear energy should the corner stone of clean, affordable, and reliable electric power
I am for all forms of clean energy that make sense for Northwest Colorado. If that was to include Nuclear I would be all for it as long as it met the safety standards. I am strongly in favor of energy independence and strongly for a clean environment and safety of people so as long as that can be done I am good with the technology.
I feel Nuclear is a good option.
National security and standard of living for all citizens.
Fukushima! Radiation is FOREVER!!
We need more reliable power. Solar and wind are a joke for large scale power.

Table 18 (continued):

What is the main reason for your opinion (regarding their opinion on nuclear power in NW Colorado)?

I am an "all the above" kind of person and nuclear must be used or our lights will go out given the direction Colorado and the federal government is going the use of renewables. Nuclear is really the only remaining reliable option to power the electric grid.
The safest, most efficient and climate friendly source of energy.
Nuclear energy is an energy source that is greatly misunderstood and overly feared.
Reliable, proven, climate-friendly power generation
Clean energy and job creation
I would like more information regarding the use of nuclear power and the effects of communities. I would like to know who owns the nuclear power, is it the government or private entities.
Nuclear energy is the best option to replace coal powered energy. The megawatt output of a nuclear plant is similar and nuclear plants provide consistent reliable power, unlike wind and solar. They also do not produce the same long-term waste that solar and wind does due to the shorter life expectancy of the main power producers (solar panels and wind turbines)
Nuclear power is relatively safe. At present there are no commercial reprocessing plants to recondition the fuel. Nuclear waste is more than the fuel, it's water, rags, anything that comes in contact to the fuel. It produces power when the wind doesn't blow, the sun doesn't shine, or the river level drops due to drought.
My family grew up in close proximity to "3 Mile Island" in PA - I've researched nuclear energy and find that today's safety record is great and the overall costs in the long run would save the USA lots of $$$ over other forms of energy.
Clean energy
reliable, non-polluting power to transition out of coal
Best form of clean energy
Need to consider all forms of energy
Energy independent from exporting from other countries
1. Local workforce does not has the knowledge to build/run a nuclear facility 2. Cost to build a new nuclear facility (many new projects have ran over budget) 3. Water supply to cool nuclear reactor
We need reliable energy
It's a clean, safe, efficient way to replace jobs and generate energy in our area
No pollution
Nuclear has less impact on the environment, requires less space, create jobs, and is very reliable
We need reliable and cost efficient power and solar/ wind are not the answer.
As much as I like the draw of the advancement of technology it remains that nuclear power is a phenomenally complex and somewhat ridicules way to boil water. Bypassing boiling water on the way to generating electricity is somewhat archaic given we now can generate electricity directly from wind and solar incidence. That said; if it can serve to eliminate fossil fuel consumption I am all for it. It seems a good option for providing a reliable base load energy source.
I want to see the small scale, all the same style units throughout the country. The type where any technician from any other nuclear plant can step into any other plant and operate it safely and efficiently because of redundancy of design. The U.S. Navy has been operating such plants for decades; municipalities ought to be able to do the same. Such small sites could be better situated and hardened for security than the previous generations of plants currently operating. I don't want to see the big, one-of-a-kind designs as we currently use in the U.S. I would answer "Strongly Favor" if I knew we would have those small-scale power plants in the U.S. and in Northwest Colorado.
Wind and solar are intermittent and require 100% fossil fuel backup, and cannot supply frequency and voltage control.
I think it is silly to close down an already functioning Coal Mine and spend the money to put in a nuclear power plant that when in 10 years they are going to get upset with the process and shut it down as well. Every source of energy has its pros and cons but it is very when you are replacing one with another it just seems like an even bigger waste of "energy".
American-sourced energy that does not give more money to dictatorships around the world and does not emit greenhouse gases.
Clean cheap energy
Innovation is required given the pending shut down of two regional power plants and the uncertain future of hydroelectric power at Lake Meade and Powell. Wind and solar are good options but they can be negatively impacted h weather and battery storage systems may likely add to operational costs

Table 18 (continued):

What is the main reason for your opinion (regarding their opinion on nuclear power in NW Colorado)?

We need to reduce our reliance on carbon fuels. Nuclear is the best alternative that won't impact access to power.
Like nuclear generally. Not sure having one close is an advantage, but if the new plants could be located here and support jobs, that would be great.
Forcing reliable, affordable energy that is the primary tax base offline before establishing a reliable, affordable alternative is the definition of insanity. Ask Germany how well that worked.
We need to be secure in our getting our electricity.
I'm not a green whacko. If we want cleaner energy it's nuclear and natural gas. Never get there with wind and solar.
We have coal plants with transmission lines already, it would be a no-brainer to make them into nuclear plants.
We need local reliable baseload energy generation (nuclear, geothermal, hydro) if coal is going away in Routt County. People are naive to think wind and solar are the answer in our harsh winter environment.
Reliability and environmental impact may be offset by costs which were not brought up in this survey
I've worked in the utility industry and know for a fact that nuclear energy is going to be the future for providing electricity to America. We should not be afraid of new technology. The electrical grid is evolving and we need to move forward with nuclear energy. Windmills kill birds, and they are not environmentally friendly. Solar also has its problems.
Since its inception in 1948, the U.S. Navy nuclear program has developed 27 different plant designs, installed them in 210 nuclear-powered ships, taken 500 reactor cores into operation, and accumulated over 5,400 reactor years of operation and 128,000,000 miles safely steamed.This will be good for Colorado and we already have much of the infrastructure here to house the nuclear plants by using the coal plant footprints.
We need a clean, reliable energy source in the mix to be able to counter-balance the intermittent nature of some renewable energy sources. Nuclear energy also buys us more time for the energy transition which we urgently need.
We must do something to maintain the viability of our communities as the political environment changes, knowing that our economic base must also change.
Climate change needs
Better for the environment and more efficient
We need power, solar and wind take up a lot of land and need batteries for always on power. Nuclear can do the job in las space. Issue is cost…
Efficiency with a smaller impact on land use and available generation in all kinds of weather conditions.
Nuclear Power is very safe and SMR are perfect for this region to replace coal.
Share my opinions
We have reliable energy with our gas, oil and coal. The liberals need to quit pushing solar, wind and nuclear on us. We have good jobs with gas, oil and coal. We don't need the other stuff.
Clean and safe. Awesome! Let's bring the 500 - 800 jobs to Meeker!!
Northwest Colorado always gets targeted for utility-scale power generation because we are remote and already have the existing infrastructure of the power plants and mines and proximity to that labor. Our air and water is already contaminated. The power plant is the only nuclear attack target in the event of a 2,000 warhead scenario. We don't have the severe weather events, but our roads are treacherous and taking nuclear waste down the highway to yucca mountain or wherever will lead to an inevitable accident. Nuclear power plants are not designed for war time though the area is insulated from that. They are also not immune from cyber attack, EMP, and unknown unknown threats. I don't like living near the coal plants, and I wouldn't like living near a nuclear plant either.
Clean energy
I strongly favor the use of nuclear energy as a means to provide electricity in Northwest Colorado. My support is grounded in the significant economic opportunities that establishing a nuclear energy sector would bring to the region. Introducing nuclear energy facilities would likely catalyze a "bonanza of jobs" across various fields and industries. Firstly, it would attract highly skilled professionals such as scientists, researchers, and engineers, enhancing the intellectual capital of the area. This influx could also lead to the development of related sectors, including materials science and advanced manufacturing, further diversifying our local economy. Secondly, the construction and maintenance of nuclear facilities would provide a steady stream of employment opportunities for tradespeople, such as electricians and construction workers, boosting local employment rates and fostering workforce development. Additionally, the presence of nuclear energy could pave the way for partnerships with academic institutions, potentially leading to the establishment of university research centers focused on nuclear technology and energy innovation. This would not only provide direct educational benefits but also position Northwest Colorado as a strategic hub for nuclear and energy-related industries. Overall, adopting nuclear energy could strategically transform Northwest Colorado into a pivotal area for the energy sector, driving economic growth, and promoting sustainable energy development. Finally, it is critical we support the adoption of passenger rail to support these future commuters in the Yampa Valley, as well as to Denver.

Table 18 (continued):

What is the main reason for your opinion (regarding their opinion on nuclear power in NW Colorado)?

I served in the Navy for almost 30 years and spent most of my career on nuclear powered submarines.
knowledge
Reasonably priced and reliable energy is a keystone component of every developed nation. There has never been a nuclear accident in the US (Goldsboro B-52 crash was probably the closest, but nothing to do with a reactor. Three-mile is the poster child, but even with a series of unrelated mishaps the reactor was returned to a safe state.) Never in history has technological advances gone backwards: more efficient (gas/nuclear/coal power plant) to less efficient (wind/solar). The developed world is wasting trillions of dollars on less efficient technology, that can be a part of our power grid, but will never be the majority of it. Gas and nuclear or efficient, reliable, inexpensive. They are also clean - even comparted to solar and wind. Solar panels are not clean to produce and solar/wind systems alone would require enormous battery fields, that are not clear to produce or to dispose of. Keep our two coal plants and add additional methane recapture. If not, convert them to gas. Nuclear is a nice conversation piece but, short of Northwest Coloradans actually experiencing a few winters with little to no electricity, it will never get passed. The city council of Steamboat recently banned snowmelt systems (there are no green energy alternatives so their vote is a ban) because gas boilers are an existential threat (a "luxury we do not need"). The debate is not around reliable, safe, and inexpensive energy. I wish it were, b/c there are many great alternatives. The debate is about how to rid the world of fossil fuels. Any reasonable estimate shows that the world will use a larger amount of fossil fuels in 2050 that it does today. I love that you are trying to educate people on nuclear, but if the goal is reliable, safe and inexpensive energy, the exercise is a waste of time and resources.
I still have some research to do. I'm not 100% convinced but this survey has helped raise questions and also answered them
It is a clean alternative to fossil,fuels
Jobs, security, clean, long-term solution. Key concern is long-term storage of waste. On-site storage is a problem that opposition will harp on.
Nuclear is the most efficient means to produce electricity. NW Colorado need to replace what it s removing (coal) versus relying on the grid
The old NIMBY---don't want nuclear in my backyard. While I know all the logical arguments, the fact remains that there is no decent way to get rid of the waste---it seems short-sighted to invest in electricity production that has long-term waste implications...and dangerous waste at that. I don't want waste that will impact the lives of all living things. There will always be an accident at some point. Also...I'm not sure what the objective of this survey is, but some of the questions are written so poorly that you won't get accurate information out. For example, you included the word "safe" with waste---are you trying to convince me of that? That is my issue with nuclear, but my most logical choice of answers would indicate to you that I know it is safe---I don't, even though I chose that answer.
you cannot shut down the coal plants- they are a reliable, safe source of power and have provided jobs in Northwest Colorad for Decades, When they are shut down, Be prepared for major black-brown outs. The wind does not provide enough power so supply the entire grid (The grid does need to be upgraded), the sun does not always shine. my observation on the above is common sense. Thank you for your Time .
We require a diverse, clean, affordable, safe and reliable energy generation mix. Nuclear is a must to supply sufficient base load generation and ensure we have sufficient non variable generation capacity. Wind, solar and battery are important but cannot meet all the electric demand for all hours of the day.
I do not believe this is a neutral survey. I believe it is provided by and for the people backing nuclear power plants. If this was that perfect we would have been using it all along.
There is NO reason to stop using coal fired power plants and operating coal mines in northwest Colorado. The power plants in NW Colorado should be providing power for NW Colorado and not somewhere else in Colorado. The governor should work on other communities providing their own power, which could be nuclear.
Accidents happen, and when they happen we're all in danger as are our homes and families.
Clean, creates jobs and is simple
Sustainable and good for climate
High cost, not renewable, and you call tell me over and over it's safe but the risks are too high if something malfunctions and the waste is never safe. I care about the families in this community.
all of the above previously selected
I don't want nuclear power in or even near my community and house
Reliable
It's scary
It is needed for survival of the economy here.
The survey was the WORST. It kept jumping in the screen, you couldn't for sure check your answers. This is NOT a good way of getting public opinion. Face to face, you cowards. If this is your idea of getting imput, you're fools.

Table 18 (continued):

What is the main reason for your opinion (regarding their opinion on nuclear power in NW Colorado)?

Seems preferable to wind, solar, hydro, or any other options
Clean and cheap and reliable
Nuclear Energy has received bad publicity. BBC has even admitted it. Its cleaner, more reliable and more efficient than the alternatives. The navy has been using it for years. Present the facts not the scare tactics. Smoking cigarette has more radiation than a nuclear plant!
Very important to use nuclear for our energy requirements. We have infrastructure in place in NW Colorado. Nuclear energy is safe. US Navy has been using nuclear reactors for 50 years. My daughter is in US Navy, currently getting her PHD at MIT. We discuss the pros and cons of nuclear energy all the time.
I like having energy available at my house.
Cheap and reliable
We need jobs for our local economy and e need a reliable, non expensive form of energy we can afford and isn't hideous to look at and takes up enormous areas of land.
New technologies, energy independence
If people will accept it, it's better than oil/gas/coal and more dependable than solar/wind. It will take a tremendous educational campaign to shift the long-held beliefs of Boomers and GenX who were terrorized by the very idea of nuclear energy for decades.
need more info about waste, mining of uranium-not renewable, possible accidents, high cost to build
Nuclear is simply the most efficient source of clean energy that does not have the environmental downsides of solar panels and wind turbines.
It is efficient, safe and cost effective
We have coal under our feet & it is clean !!!
Well practiced technology. Main issue has been cost overruns for new facilities.
I feel like a lot of people in the valley already suffer from sicknesses due to the power plant that has been here for years
We need clean, affordable energy in NW CO and we need jobs that are being lost due to the coming shutdown of the Hayden and Craig power plants
I would support it if a nuclear plant was built in Moffat county to replace the dissolution of our coal plant and replace the jobs that are being lost in our community. Otherwise, I could give a shit.
Coal
I need to hear more about design and safety. I remember when we shut down the Platteville nuclear plant and I lived near Rocky Flats growing up.
I believe that wind and solar are not reliable and are too expensive.
Since the state government has chosen to shut down clean, reliable coal generation, consumers need an alternate choice for the inexpensive, reliable energy that nuclear energy can provide. Also, the jobs that will be eliminated by closing the coal generated power plants could be replaced with the building and operation of nuclear power plants. "Renewable" energy is not reliable or realistic.
We need clean, reliable, and affordable energy. We also need good-paying jobs that don't require a college degree to keep people in this area.
With the idiots in Washington mandating the reduction of Coal powered plants, there has to be something that will take it's place. Wind and Solar won't make up for it in the climate that is NW Colorado.
Nuclear energy techonolgy has been proven over time that it is safe, clean, reliable, affordable and effecient.
Not having enough verified and unbiased information
Nuclear power would be beneficial to Northwest CO.
Energy independence
Loss of local jobs and non reliable electricity at this time. Additionally YVEA should be disbanded… yes not directly related but they can not be trusted to deliver any power
Smaller footprint, reliability,low cost, environmental, jobs
Concerns that the State and neighboring communities would be opposed. The high costs and the time needed to build such a facility seems beyond our reach and would not aid in keeping the economy strong during any gap years.
Comfortable with nuke power.

Table 18 (continued):

What is the main reason for your opinion (regarding their opinion on nuclear power in NW Colorado)?

I believe I know and understand the facts.
We need it
I believe that next GEN nuclear power is safe, leads to energy independence, will be more affordable in the long run. With the transmission lines and workforce already in place, as well as the water rights needed for cooling ,Northwest Colorado is an ideal location for next generation nuclear power.
Economic Sustainability and vitality. Transmission lines are already here to be used.
Power needs to come from somewhere. Wind and solar aren't consistent. They also provide their own pollution/waste and harm to the environment.
Replace coal dependency
It's safe and reliable. Current course of wind and solar are not reliable or good for the environment
Wind and Solar are not reliable and create waste.
Viable alternative
We need reliable safe American energy
Job creation
We need reliable, safe, economically viable source of electricity to provide for our rapidly growing energy needs. Even in NW Colorado.
Regulations continue to be cut for rich politicians. I do not trust the Supreme Court to protect us agains the rich in the pocket of politicians. Accidents have happened at nuclear plants in the past with devastating consequences. I will never be pro nuclear power.
I believe it's a far better clean energy source than wind or solar. It doesn't cover the environment we want to protect and is far more efficient.
I don't know
Proven to be safe and effective and clean. It has been tested throughout the US
Job opportunity and reliable source of electricity
Takes the places of unsightly and large use of land for windmills and solar panels
Clean, effective, efficient
Coal is going away unfortunately and we need a viable replacement as wind/solar won't do it.
NW colorado has the infrastructure, land and labor from the current coal plants to easily transition to nuclear. Filling that tax base will be extremely hard with current plans. A smaller reactor should be safer, and cheaper/faster to build. we dont need to provide more energy/economic impact than the current coal plants do, but we should replace to a similar level
It seems like a reasonable location given the presence of existing transmission lines. The lack of existing trained workers will be a challenge.
To provide jobs and power, seeing how coal is SOoooooo BADddddddd.(sarcasm) wind power is a JOKE… go to Wyoming and look at my friends the democrats ruining the environment.
Waste disposal issues. Also these types of facilities can be targets for terrorists and during conflicts.
It is reliable and can keep the grid stable.
I think it is the best solution. It makes us have independence from china. All sorts of benefits
I have lived near multiple nuclear power plants that were troublesome or never opened despite huge investment and energy users were expected to pay for failed experiment. I will move if one is built in NW Colorado.
I work for YVEA and am extremely concerned with the Craig and Hayden plants closing and going with an "green" energy broker to purchase power off the grid which ultimately the members will end up paying for.
Reliable, efficient, clean energy
I saw the movie about nuclear energy and it makes sense. This is a great opportunity for Moffat County.