ENERGY POLICY: THE NUCLEAR OPTION/DATA ESSAY

OPINION ON NUCLEAR POWER IN FRANCE

Editor's Note: Without any domestic supply of oil or significant coal, France sees a need to use nuclear energy to generate electricity. It gets 70% of its electricity from nuclear power, more than any other country. But French public opinion is hardly enthusiastic about nuclear power. The political left, and women, are notably less supportive than are the right, and men.

Question: Do you think a serious nuclear accident is possible in France?

45% No
33% Yes
12% Not Sure
7%

Question: Would you be in favor of completely stopping use of nuclear power plants [in France]?

43% No
45% Yes
12% Not Sure

Percent saying yes—France should stop using nuclear power plants

By Gender

Women: 52%
Men: 34%

By Political Self-Description

Left: 48%
Neither Left nor Right: 44%
Right: 33%

By Political Party Preference

Greens: 50%
Socialists: 47%
UDF or RPR*: 31%

Note: Surveys by Brulé Ville Associés, France, April 13-14, 1990.
*Union for French Democracy or Rally for the Republic.