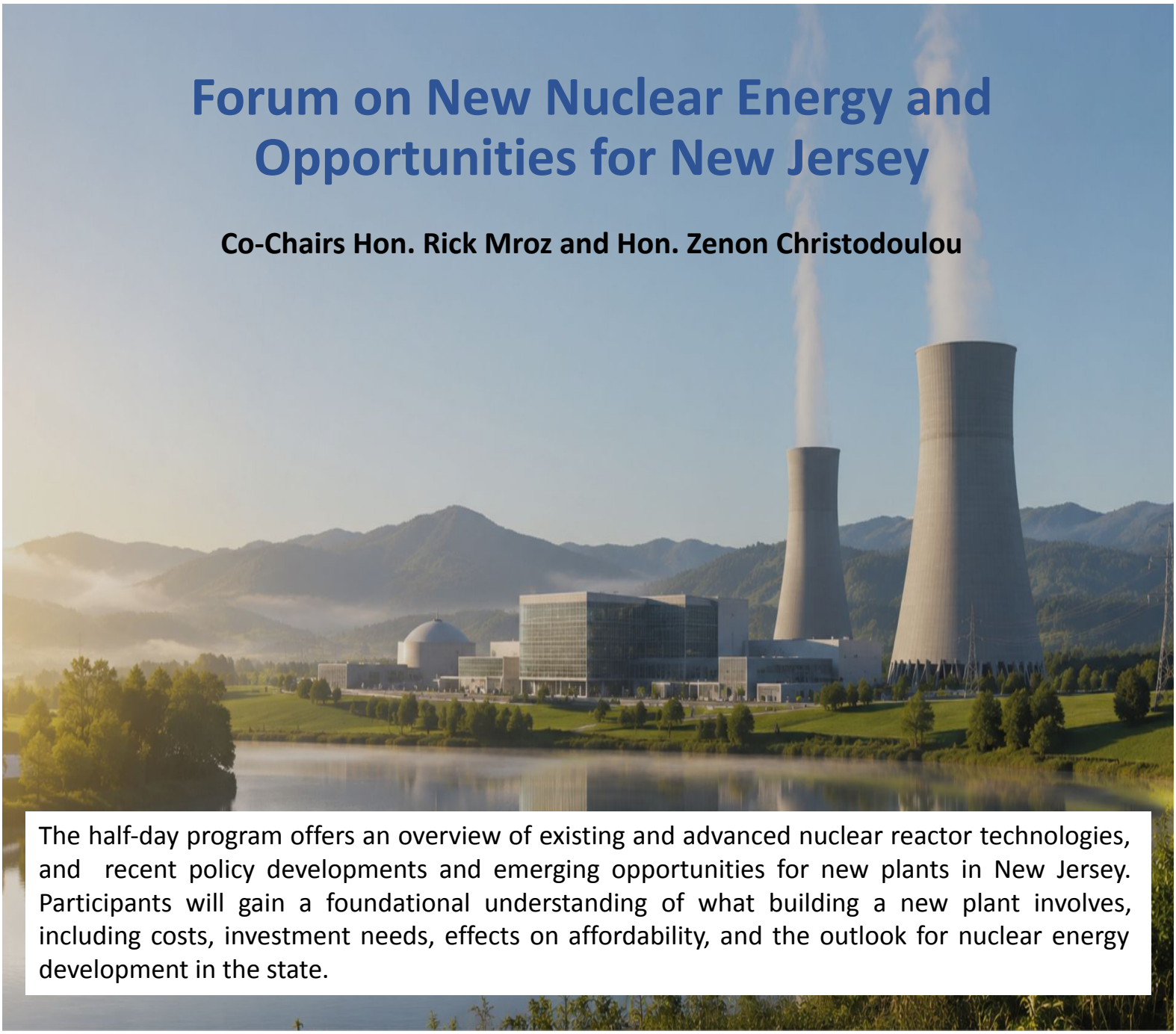
Clean Energy and Sustainability Analytics Center

MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY

Forum on New Nuclear Energy and Opportunities for New Jersey

Co-Chairs Hon. Rick Mroz and Hon. Zenon Christodoulou



The half-day program offers an overview of existing and advanced nuclear reactor technologies, and recent policy developments and emerging opportunities for new plants in New Jersey. Participants will gain a foundational understanding of what building a new plant involves, including costs, investment needs, effects on affordability, and the outlook for nuclear energy development in the state.

CELS 120, Center for Environmental Sciences
Montclair State University
Montclair, New Jersey, 07043
October 8, 2026

Agenda

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9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	**Registration and Coffee**
10:00 AM – 10:30 AM	**Opening Session**

Welcome Remarks
Pankaj Lal, Founding Director,
Clean Energy and Sustainability Analytics Center- Introduction to CESAC

Introduction and Overview of the Seminar
Rick Mroz, Sr. Director, Strategy & Regulatory Affairs, Archer Public Affairs
Dr. Zenon Christodoulou, Commissioner Emeritus, CESAC

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	**Panel 1: Nuclear Energy 2026: Technology, Markets, and Deployment Reality**

Moderator:
Rick Mroz, Archer Public Affairs
Presenters:
NEI - Kati Austgen
Clear Path - Niko Murray
USNIC
Constellation
X-Energy
Fusion Association / Princeton Plasma Lab

This session will provide an overview of the existing nuclear fleet and how industry is extending the life of these long-term generation units, including efforts to restart deactivated plants. The discussion will then cover advanced nuclear technologies, including fuel types, generation technologies, and the range of sizes and fabrication techniques used in both large reactors and small modular reactors. Presenters will also identify new nuclear builds currently under way across the United States.

Topics include:
- Current U.S. nuclear fleet and license renewals
- Existing fleet restarts, including Three Mile Island (TMI)
- Advanced reactor technologies
- Which advanced reactor is being built, and where

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11:30 AM – 12:30 PM	**Panel 2:** Financing New Nuclear and How Investment Decisions Are Made

Moderator:
Zenon Christodoulou, Commissioner Emeritus, CESAC
Presenters:
USDOE EDF - Jonah Ury
Finance Community/Bankers
Developers – like the Nuclear Generation companies
Developer/Operators like NextEra or Brookfield

This session will survey anticipated costs for new nuclear plants and will discuss first-of-a-kind (FOAK) and nth-of-a-kind (NOAK) projects, federal funding, and the state policies and programs needed to support new builds. The presenters will also discuss risk management and milestones for investment decisions as projects are developed.
Topics include:
- Capital cost drivers (construction, financing, supply chain, labor)
- Operating cost drivers (fuel cycle, O&M, regulatory compliance)
- FOAK projects and budget concerns, and how NOAK curves change the math
- The role of risk allocation among ratepayers, developers, and federal support
- Federal financing tools: Loan Program Office and Energy Dominance Finance Office

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM	**Lunch**

1:00 PM – 1:30 PM	**Keynote Address: View from the Sherrill Administration**

Presenters:
Colin Emerle, Sherrill Administration
The Sherrill Administration has taken a bold step to evaluate new nuclear build in New Jersey. This new effort will need to address many policy drivers and financial conditions to Support new building opportunities in the state. Senior officials from the Sherrill Administration will discuss the Governor's policy position and the specifics of the evaluation process. They will also address how to support new nuclear build and structure a program authorized under the NJ Power Act, legislation signed by Governor Sherrill in July 2026.
Topics include:
- Process and timetable for the program at the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) and the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA)
- Issues the Administration will evaluate
- Anticipated proposals
- Whether additional legislation or funding is needed

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1:30 PM – 2:30 PM	**Panel 4: Specifics of Potential Projects for New Nuclear in New Jersey**

Moderator:
Assemblyman Wayne DeAngelo, Chairman, ATU
Presenters:
PSEG – Charles McFeaters, Chief Nuclear Officer or other
Holtec – Pat O'Brien or Rick Springman
Thea Energy or Princeton Plasma Labs (TBD)

This session will provide insights and perspectives of future owners and operators for new build in New Jersey. PSEG owns and operates Salem and Hope Creek and has one site that could be for new build at Salem. Holtec controls Oyster Creek site and could re-develop the site with the company's small modular generation technology. The company representatives will hear more about the potential of these efforts and what development and investment milestones are needed for the new build.
Topics include:

- Specific opportunities at Oyster Creek and Salem
- Other siting opportunities
- Fusion energy opportunities
- Implications for state-based energy supply
- Potential opportunity for workforce development

2:30 PM – 3:00 PM	**Concluding Remarks**

Dr. Upendra Chivukula, Senior Advisor, CESAC