Risk as Mobiliser:
Nuclear Power in India and Implications for Risk Governance

Madras Atomic Power Station I & II and India’s first Fast Breeder Reactor at Kalpakkam, 70km from Chennai. Taken 27/04/12
THE PROBLEM: RISK AS MONSTER OR MOBILISER?
Risk as Monster

23 May 2013, Russian-built VVER reactor goes live in Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu, as thousands of villagers head to the beach in protest.

12 Sept 2012 Anti-nuclear protest turns violent in Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu, as government deploys special forces against civilians.

Sources: First Post 12 September 2012; The Hindu, 23 May 2013
Risk as Mobiliser

Judges

Former Military

Former nuclear employees

Scientists from other fields

NGOs, Grassroots Organisations, Rural Communities

Boosted Momentum

Pressure on Institutions

New Knowledge
REPORT OF THE

PEOPLE’S MOVEMENT AGAINST NUCLEAR ENERGY
(PMANE) EXPERT COMMITTEE
ON
SAFETY, FEASIBILITY AND ALTERNATIVES TO
KUDANKULAM NUCLEAR POWER PLANT (KKNPP)

12th December 2011

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT
ON SAFETY OF
KUDANKULAM NUCLEAR POWER PROJECT
AND IMPACT OF ITS OPERATIONS ON SURROUNDINGS

BY
EXPERT GROUP CONSTITUTED BY GOI

31 JANUARY 2012
Risk as Mobiliser

Boosted
Momentum

Pressure on
Institutions

New Knowledge,
Shifted discourse

Judges

Former
Military

NGOs, Grassroots
Organisations, Rural
Communities

Former
nuclear
employees

Scientists
from other
fields
Re-framing the Question

“Are the risks of nuclear power an acceptable tradeoff for the benefits of economic development and energy security?”

“How can the shared interests of “development” and “security” be achieved for the relevant stakeholders? What role does/can nuclear power play in these strategies?”
A Smart Regulation Approach

Creating a Context of Shared Interests Through Project Design

- Identify key stakeholders
- Identify needs
- Collect local knowledge
- Identify synergies
- Make modifications
- Assign specific roles
- Platform for raising alarms

Co-regulation and Deliberative Risk Governance
References (selected)


Thank you

• Email: Catherine.wong@jcu.edu.au
• I can also be found on:
  • https://twitter.com/cmlwong
  • https://jamescook.academia.edu/CatherineMeiLingWong
• Join Environment, Risk and Society on Google: https://groups.google.com/forum/?hl=en-GB#!forum/environment-risk-and-society