

NAGASAKI REMEMBRANCE DAY • AUGUST 2026

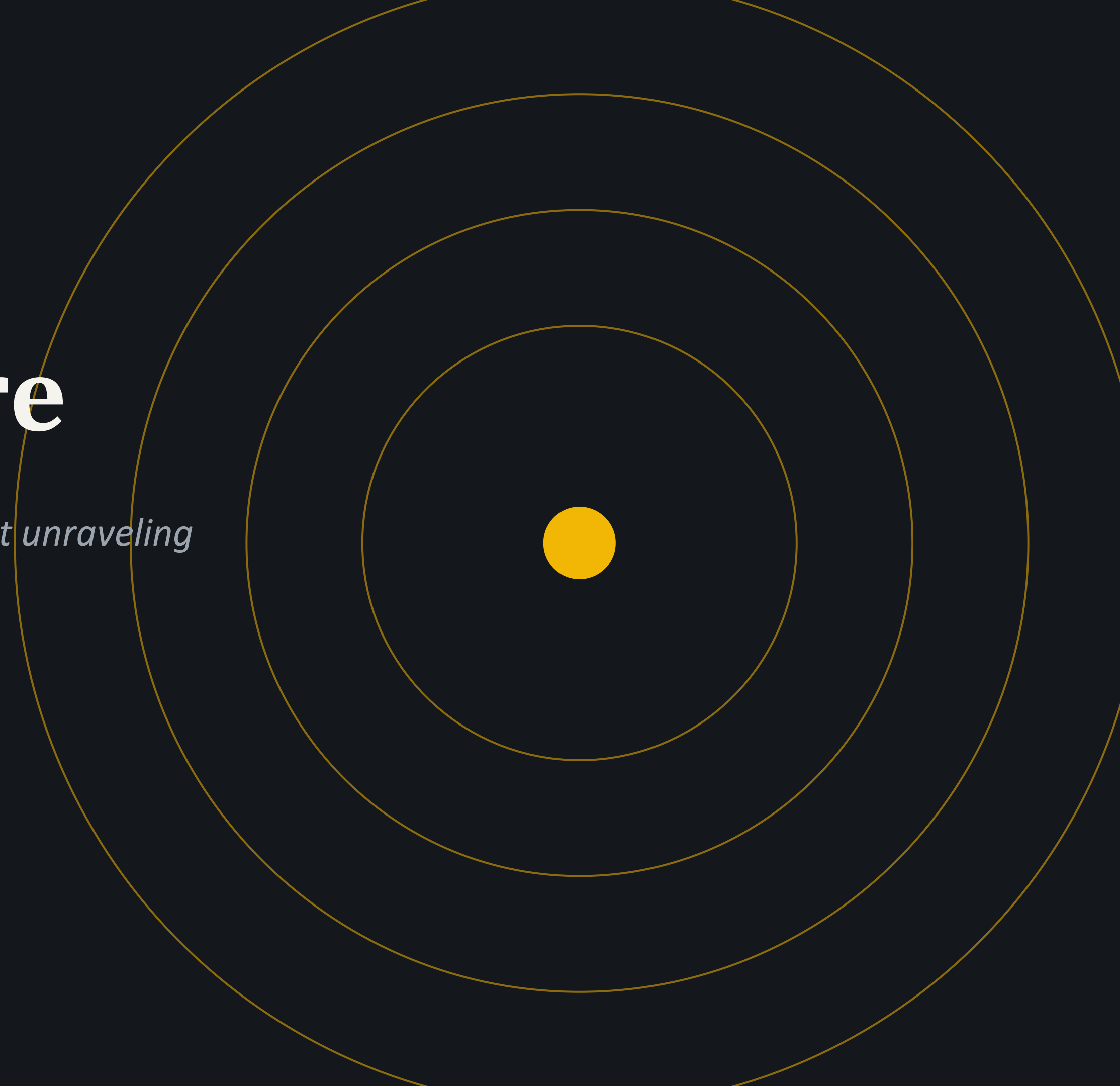
Fueling the Fire

*Data centers, uranium mining, and the quiet unraveling
of Oregon's nuclear moratorium*

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WHY THIS BELONGS IN TONIGHT'S CONVERSATION

One Fuel. One Chain. Two Uses.

1

Mining

Uranium ore comes out of the ground the same way, everywhere.

2

Enrichment

The same facilities and expertise raise uranium to reactor grade -- or weapons grade.

3

Politics

Both industries have always been sold to the public as safe, peaceful, and necessary.

Every nation that has ever built a nuclear weapon did it through infrastructure once described as “civilian.”

Oregon Said No -- in 1980

53%

to 47%

Ballot Measure 7
passed one year after
Three Mile Island

1

No new nuclear reactor may be licensed in Oregon unless the U.S. has a permanent national repository for high-level radioactive waste.

2

AND unless Oregon voters themselves approve the specific project at the ballot box.

45 years later: the U.S. still has no national waste repository. By law, nothing has changed.

WHERE THE NEW PRESSURE IS COMING FROM

AI's Bottomless Appetite for Power

Oregon — especially the Columbia River Gorge and Umatilla County — has seen an explosion of hyperscale data center construction over the last several years, driven by the AI boom. A single AI data center campus can draw as much electricity as a small city.

New legislative proposal for a 3-year moratorium on new large data centers — citing energy, water, and farmland strain.



data center footprint, rising

Betting on “Small” Reactors

Google + Kairos Power

Ordered 6–7 small modular reactors, ~500 MW total, for data center power.

Amazon + Talen Energy

\$20B investment tied to new SMNRs at an existing Pennsylvania nuclear site.

Microsoft

Built an internal team dedicated to a global SMNR strategy for its cloud business.

2

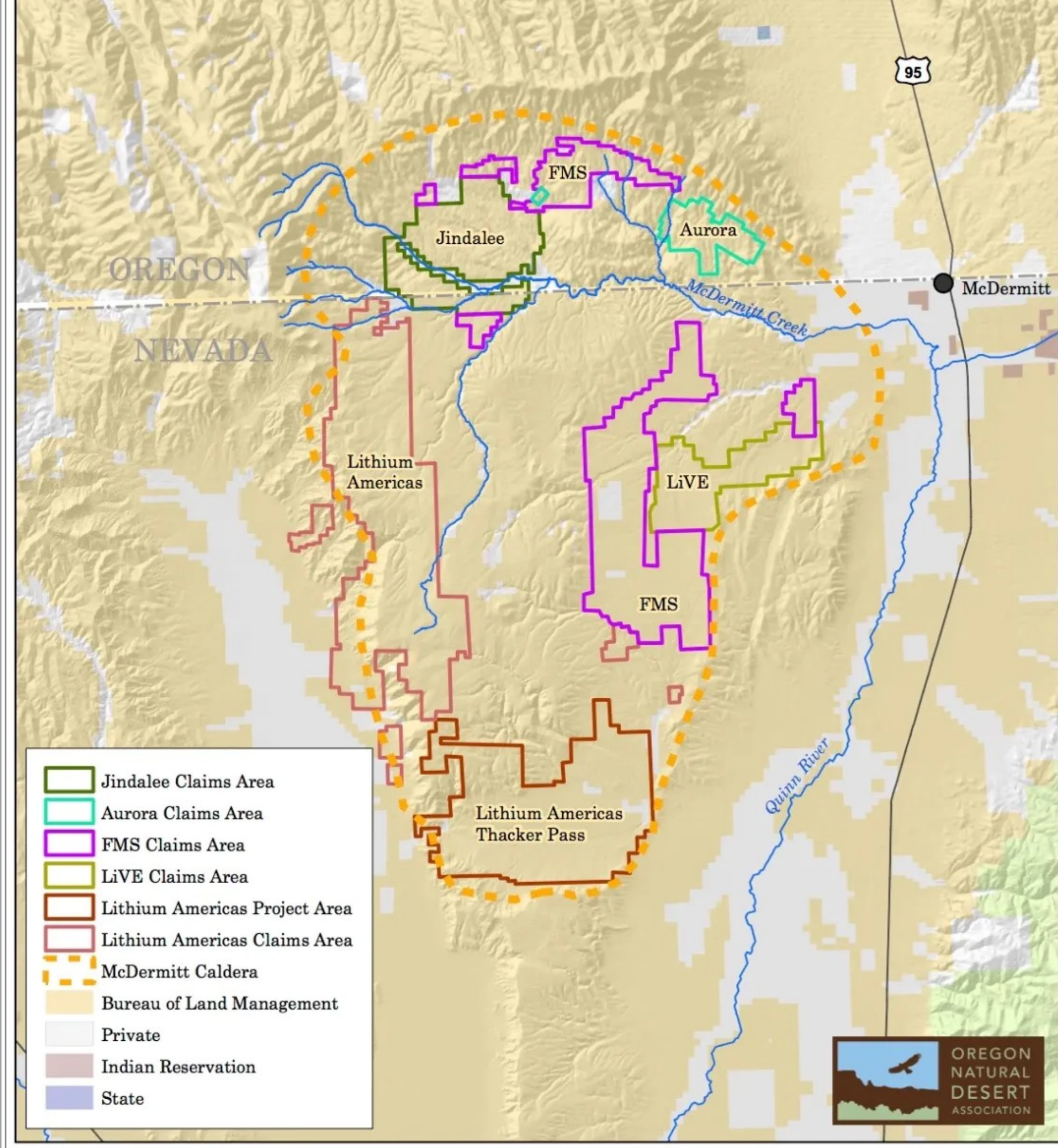
SMRs operating worldwide as of 2026 —
both overseas, both underperforming.

EVERY SESSION, ANOTHER ATTEMPT

The Assault on the Moratorium

SB 215	SB 216	HB 2410	HB 4046
Repeal the moratorium — send it to a public vote	Repeal the moratorium — no public vote at all	Carve out a reactor exemption for Umatilla County	Direct the state to study nuclear “feasibility”

None have passed — yet. But notice the pattern: new attempts, every single session.



HOW THE NARRATIVE IS BUILT

Manufacturing a “Nuclear Renaissance”



It's not organic — it's a narrative built to make new mining look inevitable. Which brings us to a place most Oregonians have never heard of.

McDermitt Caldera: The Aurora Uranium Project

37M lbs

estimated uranium — potentially the largest
deposit in the U.S.

7,500 acres

of mineral rights acquired by Eagle Nuclear Energy

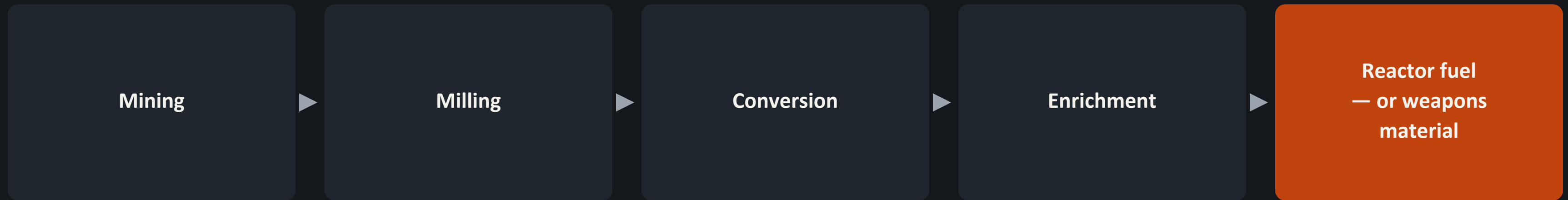
20–30 yrs

projected mine life if fully permitted

This caldera sits beside land already at the center of the Thacker Pass lithium mine fight — opposed for years by the Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribe over sacred land, water, and a historic massacre site. Now uranium is being added to that same landscape.

THE PART THAT CONNECTS BACK TO TONIGHT

From Ore to Warhead



The Trump administration's own executive orders invoke the Defense Production Act to rebuild America's domestic uranium and enrichment supply chain explicitly framed as national security. Every new mine, every new enrichment facility, and every relaxed safeguard expands that chain, and the number of hands that touch it, both here and through the same global market abroad.

This is exactly the sprawl Daniel Ellsberg spent his life warning us about.

AND THE GUARDRAILS ARE COMING DOWN

Washington DC Is Cutting the Guardrails

Executive Order 14300 — signed May 23, 2025

- 1 Hard deadlines that squeeze NRC review timelines for new reactors and mines
- 2 Fixed caps on the fees the NRC can charge for licensing review
- 3 A directive to reconsider decades-old radiation safety standards — including the linear no-threshold model
- 4 A DOE pilot program letting 11+ new reactor designs bypass NRC review entirely

Less oversight, arriving at the exact moment mining and reactor proposals accelerate.

Connect the Dots

1

AI data centers drive massive new power demand

2

That demand justifies small modular reactors

3

SNMR hype feeds a national “nuclear renaissance” story

4

The story provides cover for new uranium mining — McDermitt Caldera

5

Federal regulators are told to move faster, ask fewer questions

6

All of it presses on Oregon's 45-year-old moratorium

YOUR TURN

What You Can Do

1

Contact Governor Kotek

Use her office's online comment form. Ask her to publicly oppose moratorium repeal and fast-tracking the Aurora mine.

2

Testify in Salem

Bills like SB 215 / SB 216 will likely return. Public testimony has stopped them before.

3

Submit public comments

When BLM, Oregon DOGAMI, and the NRC open comment windows on the Aurora Uranium Project, use them.

4

Back the data center moratorium

Support the 3-year pause four Oregon legislators plan to bring in the 2027 session.

5

Join a coalition

Columbia Riverkeeper and Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility are organizing on this now.

**The moratorium held for 45 years
because people refused to look away.**

It will only hold as long as we keep watching.

Thank you.