



The Myth of Nuclear Deterrence and the Nuclear Power Connection

A Syllogism

By Dr. Richard Lawson

1. If the consequences of the failure of a system are infinite, then it is rational to use that system if, and only if, the chances of its failure are zero.
2. The consequences of failure of the system of nuclear deterrence for our world civilization and for Gaia are infinite. Life, including human life, would probably survive, but our civilization, with its abilities and its values, would not.
3. The chances of failure of the nuclear deterrence system are greater than zero.
4. Therefore the nuclear deterrence system must be abandoned.
5. For deterrence to be abandoned, it is necessary that the materials for making nuclear weapons should not be produced.
6. This precludes the use of breeder reactor technology, and indeed, conventional nuclear power.

Dr. Richard Lawson, 2004. From the essay "Is Nuclear Power the Answer to Global Warming? Found at: <http://www.greenhealth.org.uk/Nuclear.htm>

www.beyondnuclear.org