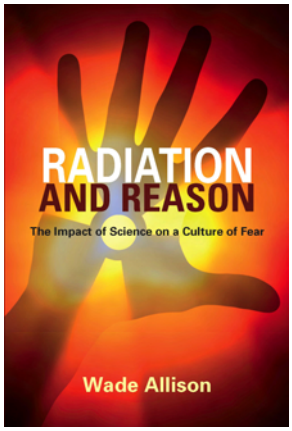
~ P R E S S  R E L E A S E ~




*"I have no axe to grind, I have no links with the nuclear industry, I just want to see the truth out there. So many people have been under a misapprehension for so long."*

# A NEW VOICE OF REASON ENTERS THE NUCLEAR DEBATE

For more than half a century the view that radiation represents an extreme hazard has been accepted. A new book by Oxford physicist, Professor Wade Allison, challenges this view. In ***Radiation and Reason: The Impact of Science on a Culture of Fear***, Professor Allison posits that radiation is about a thousand times less hazardous than is suggested by current safety standards. For many this will come as a surprise.

This book is based on recent scientific data that is now established, and it brings good news – but are the people of the world ready to re-examine past assumptions in the light of current science? Professor Allison thinks it is important that they do, because, without nuclear energy, the future for mankind looks bleak. Four facts illustrate the need for a new understanding.

- The radiation levels in the nuclear waste storage hall at **Sellafield**, UK are so low that anyone would have to stay there for a million hours to receive the same dose that any patient on a course of radiotherapy treatment receives to their healthy tissue in a single day.
- The radiation dose experienced by the survivors of the **Hiroshima** and **Nagasaki** bombs caused 0.6% to die of radiation-induced cancer between 1950 and 2000, that is about 1/20 of the chance of dying of cancer anyway and less than the chance of being killed on US highways in that period.
- The wildlife at **Chernobyl** today is reported to be thriving, despite being radioactive.
- The mortality of **UK** radiation workers before age 85 from all cancers is 15-20% lower than comparable groups.

The case for a complete change in attitude towards radiation safety is unrelated to the effects of climate change. But the realisation that radiation and nuclear energy are much safer than is usually supposed is of extreme importance to the current discussion of alternatives to fossil fuels and their relative costs.

Speaking about why he has now decided to challenge the status quo, Professor Allison says, **"**This book is an expedition into the "no-go" area of radiation and nuclear physics. The reader who joins this expedition need bring no special scientific skills, just an open mind and a readiness to think in the light of the evidence."

Climate change is no idle threat, and no other book aimed at a wide audience has asked significant questions about radiation and why there is apprehension of the nuclear option as an alternative to fossil fuels. Journalists may hasten to label the matter as controversial, but in reality it is a question of misunderstandings between three groups of people -

- the scientists close to the matter who now widely accept the truth (many of whom are quite vocal about it in the scientific literature);
- the authorities responsible for safety who have worked hard for fifty years to remove all risks from radiation (which is what society, mistakenly in retrospect, asked them to do, and which they have done rather successfully);
- the press and general public who have never been told the truth.

This book is intended to be a reconciliation between these views, a first step in understanding and re-education firmly based in the science.

**Author available for interview/comment**

**Review copies available on request**

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