



**Review Article**

# **Nuclear Power's Potential for Carbon Emission Reduction in Chinese Mainland Based on Real Data and Scenario Analysis**

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**To cite this article:**

Yunna Wu, Kaifeng Chen. Nuclear Power's Potential for Carbon Emission Reduction in Chinese Mainland Based on Real Data and Scenario Analysis. *American Journal of Software Engineering and Applications*. Vol. 5, No. 6, 2016, pp. 46-55. doi: 10.11648/j.ajsea.20160506.12

**Received:** November 23, 2016; **Accepted:** December 10, 2016; **Published:** January 16, 2017

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**Abstract:** China's economic growth prompted the increase in carbon emissions for the past years, which has been caught the attention from the government. Actually, a large share of China's carbon emissions is produced by the electricity sector. And that means the electricity sector plays a key role in emission reduction. Carbon emission reductions during 2009 to 2013 have been estimated and calculated in this paper, and nuclear power shows the potential for emission reductions. Then, China's nuclear power potentials for carbon emission reduction from 2015 to 2025 have been predicted and expected under three scenarios. Finally, conclusions show emission reductions under the American scenario is highest. However, only 2% of China's energy is from the atom, which should be paid more attention to. On executive orders and policies, the Chinese Government should provide more and substantial supports for China's nuclear power development.

**Keywords:** China's Nuclear Power, Carbon Emission Reduction, Potential, Scenario Analysis

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## **1. Introduction**

Since 2000, worldwide energy consumption showed growth trend, with an average growth rate of 2.44%, except for negative growth in 2009 (-1.22% compared to 2008). Global primary energy consumption increased by 2.3% in 2013. The total reached 12730.4 Million tons oil equivalent, with a main contribution from China (22.41%), US (17.8%), Russia (5.49%), and India (4.67%) [1]. Meanwhile global carbon emissions were also growing, with an average growth rate of 2.54%, except for negative growth in 2009 (-1.51% compared to 2008). By 2013, global carbon emissions have achieved 35.09 billion tons, with China (27.1%), US (16.9%), India (5.5%), Russia (4.9%) and Japan (4%) as the most producers [1]. Figure 1 shows the corresponding growth of energy consumption and chart carbon emissions. As can be shown in Figure 1, energy consumption and carbon emissions were positively correlated. And China has the highest number of energy consumption and carbon

emissions. Though China's economy has made a rapid development, it also wasted too much resource and polluted environment badly. The efficient use of resources and carbon emissions reduction become problems confronted and concerned by the Chinese government. The Chinese government has made a solemn commitment to cut the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per unit of GDP by 40%-45% by year 2020 off the year 2005 level at the Copenhagen Conference [2]. According to China's 12th Five Year Plan (12-5YP), the goal is to lower CO<sub>2</sub> intensity by 17% by 2015 from the 2010 level [3]. However, it's hard to achieve the goal, given that Chinese carbon emissions continue to grow.

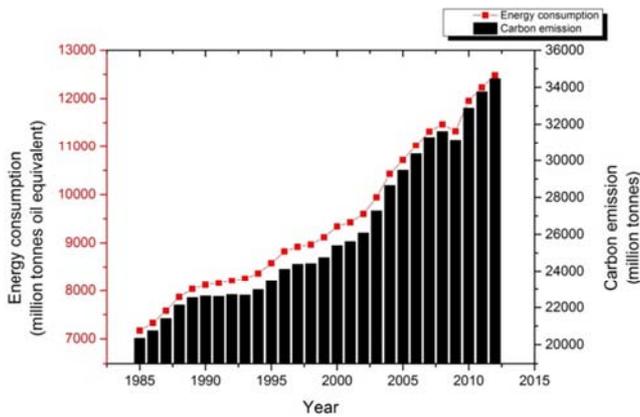


Figure 1. The world's energy consumption and carbon emissions from 183 to 2013.

The power sector consumes a huge amount of fossil fuel with bringing a large amount of greenhouse gas emissions. According to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), electricity is the largest single source of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the nation, accounting for about 38% of total U. S. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in 2012 [4]. In China, the electricity sector consumes approximately 50% of the coal and emits 40% of the CO<sub>2</sub> from fossil fuel combustion [5]. Controlling the carbon emissions in the power sector plays a key role in curbing China's carbon emissions, considering that by 2020 China's carbon emissions will be still mainly affected by the power industry [6]. Power plants in China are mainly thermal, burning fossil fuels, which emit a great deal of pollutants and greenhouse gases. In fact, the annual power generation from coal accounts for more than 70% of the total generating capacity. Thus, in order to reduce carbon emissions from the power industry, the power generation from less coal and more clean energy is needed. Hydroelectric power, reducing environmental pollution, has played a prominent part in the electrification phase of the industrialization process [7]. In spite of rapid development in China, the further development of hydropower is still restricted due to unevenness of precipitation distribution [8] and increased methane and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the lake because of deeper water and slower flowing speed after the emptying of reservoirs [9]. Many issues also exist in popularization of large-scale wind energy and solar energy. For example, wind power grid-connected of wind power turbine [10]. Moreover, wind power plants are located in the places where grid investments are insufficient, electric power construction is lag, the electric energy transmission is difficult. So, as a result, the local consumption demand is satisfied and electric energy is no longer needed. The solar photovoltaic industry faces many problems, such as severe overcapacity of PV, market immaturity, lack of matching network planning and financing difficulties [11]. Worse still, wind power and solar energy quality, including wind speed, blowing rate, the amount of light and radiation intensity, all change with climate variation, which can't ensure grid stability. Other new energy sources, such as geothermal energy [12], biomass energy [13], tidal energy [14], due to

restrictions or imperfections from capital, technology, policy, and other factors, are still in start-up and immature phase, which can't be scaled up to wide use currently.

Based on the above analysis, hydropower, wind power and solar power fail to be used to curb the haze and carbon emissions. So nuclear is by far the best option for energy structure adjustment and haze governance. Meanwhile, for improving the environment, reducing carbon emissions, energy security and structural adjustment, nuclear has been expected to contribute to that in the worldwide. Many developing countries [15] have begun to focus on expanding nuclear power, such as Thailand will build nuclear power plants with electrical productivity of about 4000MW from 2010 to 2030 [16], Vietnam decides to build 14 nuclear power plants by 2030, and realizes 10% of the total electric power provided by nuclear power in 20 years [17]. After the Fukushima accident, the nuclear power industry has been remaining depressed. However, the Chinese government plans to revive nuclear energy. The "long-term nuclear power development plan (2011-2020)" and "nuclear safety planning (2011-2020)" have been approved by the State Council of China on October 24, 2012, which shows clearly 40 million kilowatts of installed capacity and 20 million kilowatts of installed capacity under construction by 2015, and 58 million kilowatts of installed capacity and 30 million kilowatts of installed capacity under construction by 2020. In short, expansion of nuclear power is important either for environmental protection and economy benefit or energy structure and safety [18].

## 2. The Development of China's Nuclear Power

### 2.1. Development History of China's Nuclear Power

Nuclear power industry originated in nuclear energy for military application [19], which is a great epoch-making event in the history of the world's energy. China has an approximately 70-year-old history of nuclear development. In 1956 the State Council of China began to focus on the peaceful use of atomic energy. The preparation of graphite cooling heap and relative research on nuclear power were implemented in 1958 [20]. Specific and further research on nuclear power, including reactor type, security, operation and location, were carried out during 1977 to 1984. And National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and Ministry of Nuclear Industry were also established during that period [21]. Then China's nuclear power industry got initial development. Qinshan Nuclear Power Plant started construction in 1985, which closed the non-nuclear chapter in mainland China. Advanced international technologies were introduced to build nuclear plants from 1987 to 2003, such as Daya Bay plant (French technology), Qinshan Phase III (Canadian technology) and Tianwan Phase I (Russian technology). However, due to the Chernobyl disaster and poor domestic technology, massive growth of nuclear power in China failed to appear with merely six nuclear power

stations constructed. Fortunately, China's nuclear power industry had a good developing time during 2004 to 2011, with fourteen nuclear-power plants built. Nuclear power in China, by the end of 2011, reached the total installed capacity of 12.55 million KW, with twenty nuclear reactors and fourteen commercial operation units [22]. Given public concerns about safety caused by the Fukushima nuclear disaster, environmental protection and safety performance in

China's nuclear power industry were re-evaluated. And the proposed projects have been languishing, without restart so far.

Despite of late start and slow development, China's nuclear power industry still acquires some achievements during 1985 to 2014. And the corresponding development process has been shown in Figure 2 and Figure 3.

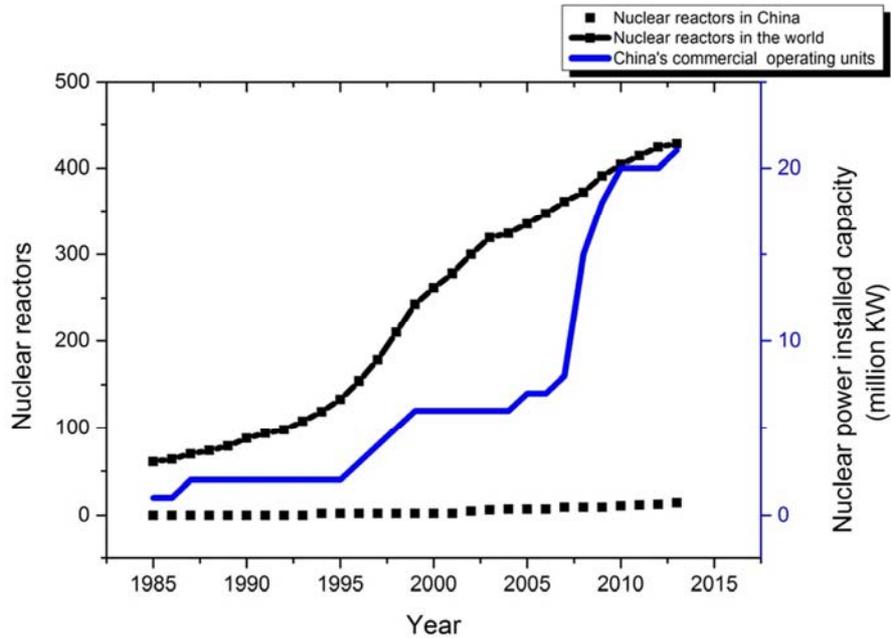


Figure 2. The number of nuclear reactor and commercial operating units in China from 1985 to 2013.

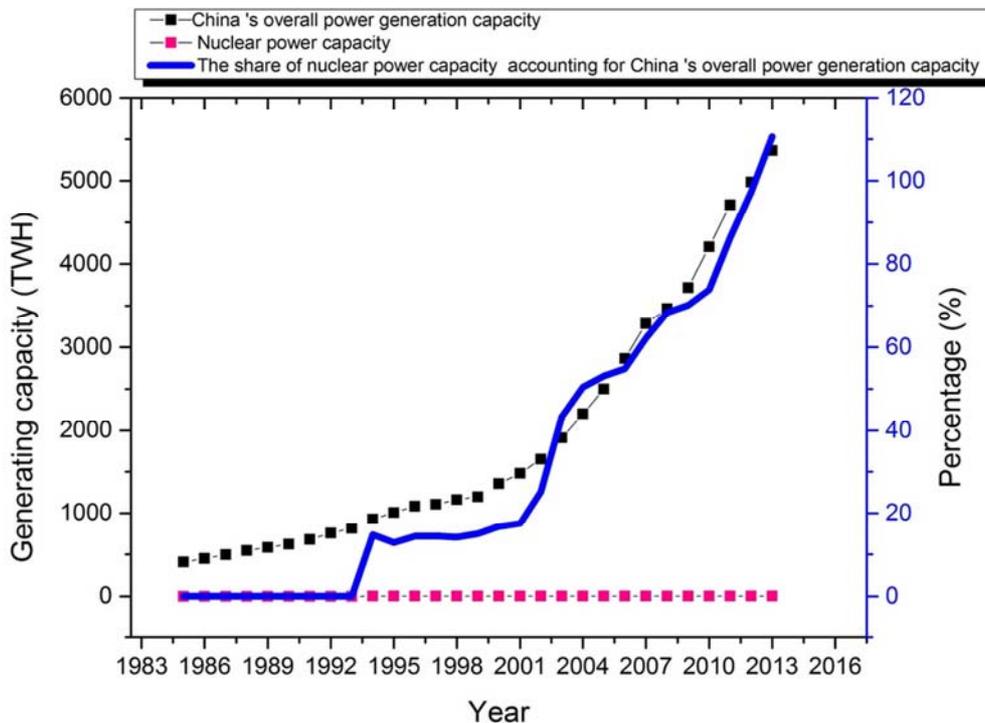


Figure 3. China's nuclear power capacity and the corresponding percentage of the total capacity from 1985 to 2013.

As can be shown in Figure 2, the number of nuclear reactors in China was trending ever-upward. Compared with

the number of nuclear reactors in the world, China's nuclear reactor failed to grow in a sustained way. Some events may

account for that, including the Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident in 1986, the restriction to electric power development by the Chinese government in 1998 and the Fukushima nuclear disaster in 2011.

As can be shown in Figure 3, nuclear generating capacity remained increasing. However, the share of nuclear power generation accounting for China’s total generating capacity was in fluctuations, with two peaks appearing in 1994 and 2004 respectively, one doldrums in 2010. After 2010, nuclear generating capacity began to rise again without a huge rally.

**2.2. The Status Quo of Nuclear Power in China**

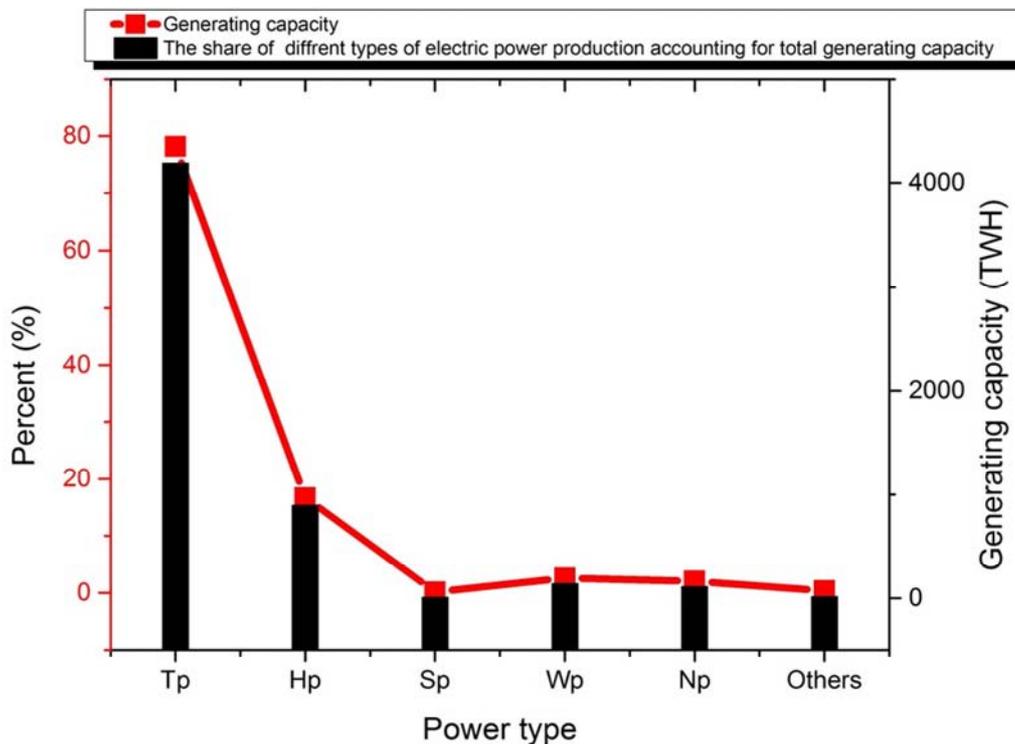
Eleven nuclear power plants, by August 2014, have been built in mainland China, and the number of commercial

operation unit is nineteen sets. Ten nuclear power plants, with a total installed capacity of at least 19.6 million kilowatts, are currently under construction in mainland China, which is shown in Table 1. Nuclear power plants built or under construction are all coastal nuclear power plants. The proposed twenty-seven nuclear power plants in China, inland nuclear power plants accounting for approximately 74.1%, show that great attention has been put on the inland nuclear power plants by the Chinese government. More thermal power in inland and power demand may explain that. At present, nuclear power installed capacity in mainland China has reached 16.42 million kilowatts, the annual generating capacity reaching 110.6TWH in 2013.

*Table 1. Nuclear power plants under construction in mainland China.*

Serial number	Nuclear power plant	The number of units	Rated power (MW)	Start date	Technology source	The type of reactor
1	Fuqing phase 1	2	1000	Nov.21.2008	France	PWR
2	Qinshan Extension	2	1100	Dec.26.2008-	China	PWR
3	Sanmen phase 1	2	1250	Feb.26.2008	America	PWR
4	Taishan phase 1	2	1750	Dec.21.2009-	France	PWR
5	Haiyang phase 1	2	1250	Dec.28.2009-	America	PWR
6	Shidao bay phase 1	1	200	Apr.01.2008	China	HTR
7	Changjiang phase 1	2	650	Apr.25.2010	China	PWR
8	Fangchenggang phase 1	2	1000	Mar.28.2009	China	PWR
9	Xudabu phase 1	2	1000	Mar.01.2010	Unknown	PWR
10	National demonstration	Unknown	1400	Jan.01.2010	China	PWR

Its share of the total generating capacity is very small, despite of the increasing installed capacity and annual energy production of nuclear power in China, with the maximum only 2.29% in 2003 and only 2.06% in 2013. The proportion of all kinds of energy and corresponding generating capacity in mainland China in 2013 has been shown in Figure 4.



*Figure 4. The proportion of all kinds of energy and corresponding generating capacity in mainland China in 2013.*

As can be shown in Figure 4 (note: Tp refers to Thermal power, Hp refers to Hydroelectric power, Sp refers to Solar

power, Wp refers to Wind power, Np refers to Nuclear power), nuclear power’s share is weaker than wind power’s,

with the thermal power topping the list, followed by the hydropower. Some factors listed as follows may explain that. (1) Rich coal resources, mature construction and transform technology can reduce the generation cost in a thermal power station; (2) With abundance of water resources and lower technology barrier compared with nuclear power's, the Chinese government put more money and energy into the hydropower stations which also can prevent drought and flood; (3) Wind power grew at 8 percent a year during 2006 to 2011, thanks to the promulgation of the "Renewable Energy law" which present the cost compensation for renewable energy sources.

In spite of a huge gap in generating capacity, nuclear power in mainland China has a great potentiality and good perspective. The reasons for that are listed as follows. (1) According to Wei [23], vice president of the China electricity council, coal-fired power plants will not add by the 2030, which means added new electricity demands has to be met by other energies; (2) The thermal power in China is facing dual challenges to reduce carbon emissions and to lower the cost having climbed to 1.0302 CNY/kwh [24]; (3) The broad

development of hydropower in China left less available water resources. And the ecological damage during hydropower construction and the rising cost hinder jointly sustainable development of the hydropower [25]; (4) Given core technologies relying on imports, development program not matching with power system planning, the solar and wind power fail to supply stable and sufficient electric power; (5) Due to the lack of reasonable industry planning and policies support, and lag of technologies, China's geothermal resources [12] and bioenergy [13] won't achieve massive growth. Consequently, it's urgent and necessary to develop nuclear power.

### 2.3. China's Development Policies of Nuclear Power

The Chinese government attaches great importance to the development of nuclear power, guiding and adjusting the policies according to the practical situations. In order to regulate and promote the development of the nuclear power industry, the government introduced many policies and regulations since 2003, which is shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Industry policies for China's nuclear energy.

Year	Name of Act or Norms	Goal or Contents
2003	Radioactive Pollution Control Act of the PRC	Prevention of radioactive pollution and promoting the development and peaceful use of nuclear energy
2005	Interim Provisions to promote industrial restructuring Suggestions on Accelerating the development of the equipment manufacturing industry	Actively developing nuclear power. Development of clean and efficient power generation equipment, including million kilowatt nuclear power unit.
2006	The nuclear industry's Eleventh Five-year Plan National Nuclear Emergency work "Eleventh Five-Year Plan" PWR nuclear power plant construction standards "Eleventh Five-Year Plan"	Improving independence ability greatly and nuclear fuel cycle production capacity and speeding up the radioactive waste management and nuclear facilities decommissioning. Establishing emergency management system and improving the ability to dispose of emergencies. Guiding and coordinating the relevant units to carry out nuclear research and preparation standards, establishing a standard system of PWR nuclear power plants to meet China's development needs.
2007	Notification on the Exemption of nuclear power plant sites in urban land use tax of the State Administration of Taxation "Long-term nuclear power development plan (2005-2020)"	Except for the lands for nuclear island, conventional island, auxiliary workshop and communication facilities (not including underground line land), life and office space, exempting all the other urban land. use tax; cutting in half the tax rate of the land under construction. Realizing the leap-forward development of nuclear power technology and narrowing the gap between China's with the world advanced level.
2008	Opinions on Strengthening uranium exploration work Notice on the issues related tax policy in nuclear power industry "Nuclear safety and radioactive pollution prevention" Twelfth Five-Year Plan "and the 2020 vision"	Promoting comprehensive, balanced and sustainable development of uranium geology exploration. Nuclear power plants will enjoy 15 years of front-end retreat VAT policy, the highest proportion reaching 75% rebate. Maintaining the international advanced level of nuclear safety; improving the ability to prevent the nuclear security and radioactive pollutions.
2012	"Nuclear Security Plan (2011-2020)" "Long-term nuclear power development plan (2011-2020)"	Safety on nuclear power production and nuclear power management. Only a few coastal nuclear power stations after full argument project can be built, but not including the inland nuclear power projects; improving the barriers to entry
2014	"China's nuclear safety regulatory reform proposal" "China's nuclear industry norms"	Reforming the existing nuclear safety regulatory system and strengthening nuclear safety regulation ability. Strengthening industry self-discipline and good faith, promoting the development of nuclear power enterprise safety and efficiency

"Radioactive Pollution Control Act of the PRC", National Nuclear Emergency work "Eleventh Five-Year Plan" and "China's nuclear safety regulatory reform proposal" focus on safety regulations and specifications, which shows the Chinese government's emphasis on plant security. "Interim Provisions to promote industrial restructuring" points out it's

necessary to develop actively nuclear power. "Suggestions on accelerating the development of the equipment manufacturing industry", PWR nuclear power plant construction standards "Eleventh Five-Year Plan" and "Opinions on strengthening uranium exploration work" regulate the standard system of the equipment, raw materials

and construction process in nuclear power industry respectively. However, detailed orders are lacking. “Notification on the Exemption of nuclear power plant sites in urban land use tax of the State Administration of Taxation” and “Notice on the issues related tax policy in nuclear power industry” regulate tax breaks and subsidies, which is substantial support for the nuclear power industry.

For the development goals of China's nuclear power, the corresponding outlook has been presented in different stages of planning. The goal in the “nuclear industry’s Eleventh Five-year Plan” is to improve significantly the scientific research level to meet the economic construction and national security. The goal in the "Long-term nuclear power development plan (2005-2020)" is to ensure installed capacity of 40 million KW, annual power generation of 260-280 TWH, added installed capacity of 23 million KW and installed capacity of 18 million KW under construction by

the end of 2020. The goal in the "Long-term nuclear power development plan (2011-2020)" is to ensure installed capacity of 40 million KW and installed capacity of 20 million KW under construction by 2015, installed capacity of 58 million KW and installed capacity of 30 million KW under construction by 2020.

### 3. Status Quo and Contribution of China’s Nuclear Carbon Emissions

#### 3.1. Status Quo of China's Carbon Emissions

China's rapid economic growth consumed a huge number of energy fuel and further brought soaring carbon emissions. Carbon emissions in china from 2000 to 2013 are shown in Figure 5.

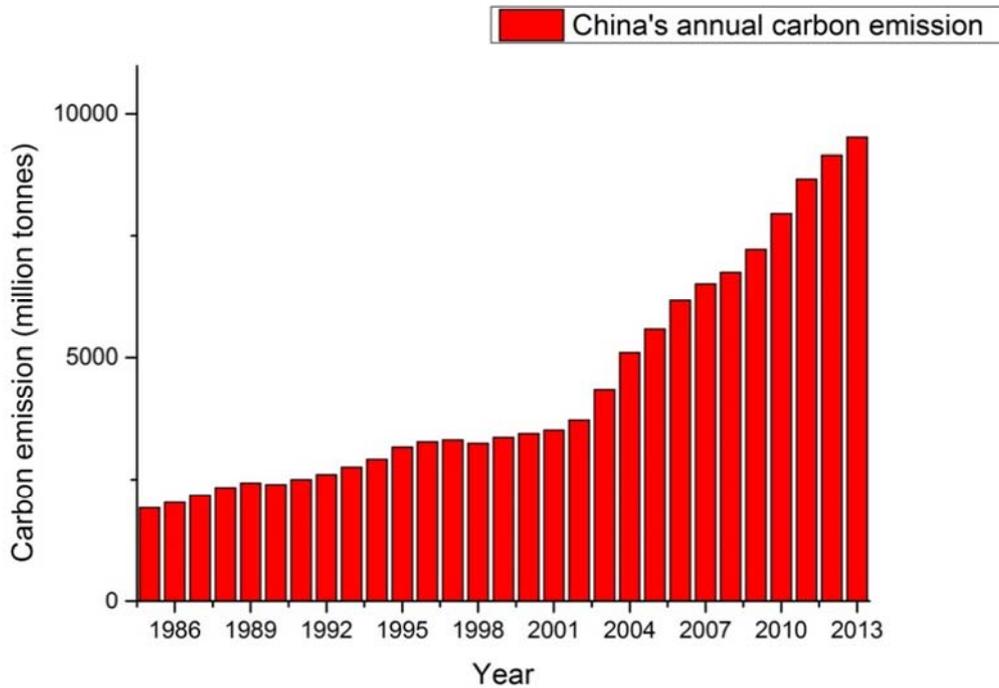


Figure 5. Carbon emissions in china from 2000 to 2013.

As can be shown in Figure 5, carbon emissions in china have risen from 3429.9 million tons in 2000 to 9524.3 million tons in 2013, with continuous rising and an average carbon emissions growth of 7.84 percent a year. From the perspective of the growth rate, it sustained the growth during 2000 to 2004, with the peak appearing in 2004 when it reached 17.44%. The reasons for that are listed as follows. Firstly, since 1998, in response to the Asian economic crisis, the Chinese government implemented a proactive fiscal policy to expand domestic demand, which brought economic recovery in 2000 and 2001. Then, the Chinese government established the long-term policy of stimulating domestic demand and Implemented expansionary fiscal policies, which contributed to fully stimulating economic growth and to increasing further carbon emissions [26]. However, the decoupling between GDP and carbon emissions happened

during 2005 to 2008 [27], which showed GDP growth was rising with the decreasing rate of carbon emissions at the same time. Some key factors, including energy consumption structure adjustment and rising energy efficiency brought by improving energy saving technology and the upgrading industrial structure, can explain that. And since 2008, the decoupling disappeared. Moreover, China’s carbon emissions growth rate declined rapidly from 10.25% in 2010 to 3.91% in 2013, which benefited from the Eleventh Five-year Plan [28] and the "twelfth five-year" plan for energy efficiency and emission reduction [29]. Given the rapid declines of carbon emissions growth rate and in-depth and detailed emissions reduction measures, it’s the best time to further reduce the carbon emissions by building more nuclear plants, which will eventually realize the carbon reduction target put forward at Copenhagen.

### 3.2. The Contribution of China's Nuclear Power Carbon Reduction

A large share of China's carbon emissions is produced by the electricity sector. The proportion of carbon emissions produced by the power sector was 48.3%, with the manufacturing sector accounting for 33.2%, the transportation 6.9% and others 11.5% in 2009 [30]. Due to the most carbon emissions from the electric power, it is the critical point of reducing carbon emissions. Typically, nuclear power is considered to be zero emissions from nuclear power, but carbon emissions still exist in the whole life cycle, such as the production and transportation of nuclear fuel and the construction of nuclear chain. Nevertheless, the Greenhouse Gases Emission Factor (GGEF) for nuclear power chain of China is 13.7 g equivalent CO<sub>2</sub> (kWeh)<sup>-1</sup>, with GGEF for hydropower 107.6 g equivalent CO<sub>2</sub> (kWeh)<sup>-1</sup>, GGEF for thermal power about 1300 g equivalent CO<sub>2</sub> (kWeh)<sup>-1</sup> [31]. We can draw a conclusion that the potential for carbon reduction of nuclear power is still great.

In order to calculate the carbon reductions from China's nuclear power, ACM0002 algorithm in literature [32] is adopted in this paper. ACM0002 can be described as formula (1).

$$\begin{cases} NER_i = NEG_i * EF_i \\ EF_i = \omega_{OM} * EF_{OM,i} + \omega_{BM} * EF_{BM,i} \\ \omega_{OM} + \omega_{BM} = 1 \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

Where  $NER_i$  is the CO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction of nuclear power generating units in the  $i$ th year,  $NEG_i$  is the generated electrical energy of nuclear power generating units in the  $i$ th year,  $EF_i$  is the nuclear power generating units instead of grid electricity baseline emission factor,  $EF_{OM,i}$  is the OM emission factor,  $EF_{BM,i}$  is the BM emission factor.  $\omega_{OM}$  and

$\omega_{BM}$  are weights, and the default is 0.5.

$$\begin{cases} EF_{grid,OM,simply,i} = \frac{\sum_m FC_{m,i} \cdot NCV_{m,i} \cdot EF_{CO_2,m,i}}{EG_i} \\ EF_{grid,BM,i} = \frac{\sum_n EG_{n,i} \cdot EF_{EL,n,i}}{\sum_n EG_{n,i}} \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

Where  $EF_{grid,OM,simply,i}$  is the simple operating margin CO<sub>2</sub> emission factor in the  $i$ th year,  $FC_{m,i}$  is the consumption of  $m$  which is the fuel in power system in the  $i$ th year,  $NCV_{m,i}$  is the net heating value of  $m$  which is the fuel in power system in the  $i$ th year,  $EF_{CO_2,m,i}$  is the CO<sub>2</sub> emission factor of  $m$  which is the fuel in power system in the  $i$ th year,  $EG_i$  is the electric quantity that power systems provide to the grid in the  $i$ th year,  $m$  is the whole fossil fuel consumed in the grid,  $I$  is the last three years of data,  $EF_{grid,BM,i}$  is the BM emission factor in the  $i$  year,  $EF_{EL,n,i}$  is the emission factor of the  $n$  sample unit in the  $i$ th year, is the electric quantity that the  $n$  sample unit provides to the grid in the  $i$ th year.

According to NDRC (National Development and Reform Commission), Chinese regional grid baseline emission factor (2009-2013) can be available. Related data are listed in table 3. North China power grid includes Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei, Shanxi, Shandong and Inner Mongolia; Northeast China power grid includes Liaoning, Jilin and Heilongjiang; East China power grid includes Shanghai, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Anhui and Fujian; Central China power grid includes Henan, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangxi, Sichuan and Chongqing; Northwest China power grid includes Shanxi, Gansu, Qinghai, Ningxia and Xinjiang; Before 2009, China Southern Power Grid includes Guangdong, Guangxi, Yunnan and Guizhou, then Hainan power grid are added to China Southern Power Grid. The Tibet Autonomous Region, Hong Kong SAR, Macao SAR and Taiwan Province are excluded.

Table 3. Chinese OM emission factor (2009-2013).

Chinese OM emission factor ( $EF_{grid,OM,simply,i}$ ) and BM emission factor ( $EF_{grid,BM,i}$ ) (tCO <sub>2</sub> /MWh)					
Region	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
North China Power grid	(1.0069, 0.7802)	(0.9914, 0.7495)	(0.9803, 0.6426)	(1.0021, 0.5940)	(1.0302, 0.5777)
Northeast China Power grid	(1.1293, 0.7242)	(1.1109, 0.7086)	(1.0852, 0.5978)	(1.0935, 0.6104)	(1.1120, 0.6117)
East China power grid	(0.8825, 0.6826)	(0.8592, 0.6789)	(0.8367, 0.6622)	(0.8244, 0.6889)	(0.8100, 0.7125)
Central China Power grid	(1.1255, 0.5802)	(1.0871, 0.4543)	(1.0297, 0.4191)	(0.9944, 0.4733)	(0.9779, 0.4990)
Northwest China Power grid	(1.0246, 0.6433)	(0.9947, 0.6878)	(1.0001, 0.5851)	(0.9913, 0.5398)	(0.9720, 0.5115)
China Southern Power Grid	(0.9987, 0.5772)	(0.9762, 0.4506)	(0.9489, 0.3157)	(0.9344, 0.3791)	(0.9223, 0.3769)
Hainan power grid	(0.8154, 0.7297)	(0.7972, 0.7328)	--	--	--

Thus, we can obtain the EF (the nuclear power generating units instead of grid electricity baseline emission factor). In order to calculate the electricity generated by nuclear plants in regional power grid, appropriate method is applied in this paper.

$$E_i = IC_i * H_i \quad (3)$$

Where  $E_i$  is the electricity generated by nuclear plants in

regional power grid in the  $i$ th year,  $IC_i$  is the installed capacity in regional power grid in the  $i$ th year,  $H_i$  is the available hours in the  $i$ th year.

According to literature [33], this paper assumes  $H_i = 0.5 * (7772 + 7841)$ . Then the electricity generated by nuclear plants and CO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction in corresponding regional power grid can be calculated which are shown in table 4.

**Table 4.** The electricity generated by nuclear plants and CO2 emission reduction in corresponding regional power grid (2009-2013).

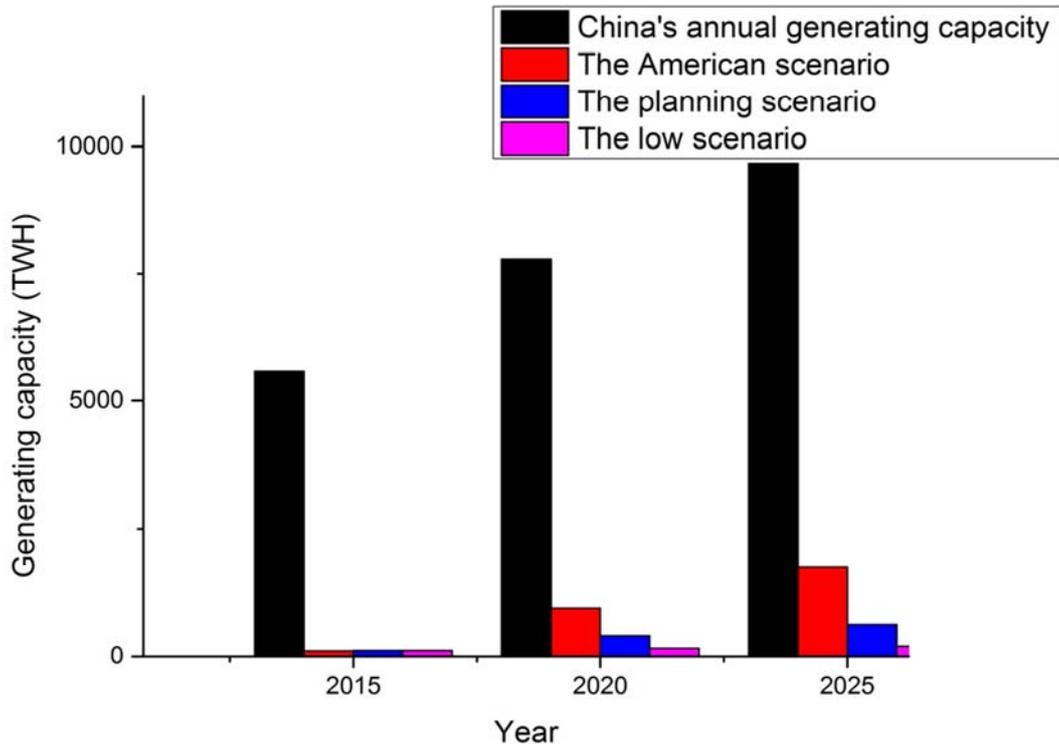
The electricity generated by nuclear plants ( $E_i$ ) (TWh) and CO2 emission reductions ( $NER_i$ )( Million tons) in corresponding regional power grid					
Region	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
North China Power grid	(0, 0)	(0, 0)	(0.81318, 0.65985)	(1.95163, 1.55749)	(1.95163, 1.56901)
Northeast China Power grid	(0, 0)	(0, 0)	(0, 0)	(0, 0)	(4.55379, 3.92469)
East China power grid	(40.40644, 31.62006)	(41.25215, 31.72496)	(45.48067, 34.08549)	(49.28634, 37.29251)	(55.10869, 41.95149)
Central China Power grid	(0, 0)	(0, 0)	(0, 0)	(0, 0)	(0, 0)
Northwest China Power grid	(0, 0)	(0, 0)	(0, 0)	(0, 0)	(0, 0)
China Southern Power Grid	(30.82006, 24.28467)	(32.77169, 23.37932)	(43.83090, 27.71428)	(46.43306, 30.49491)	(46.43306, 30.16292)
Hainan Power grid	(0, 0)	(0, 0)	-	-	-
Sum (TWH, million tons)	(71.22651, 55.90473)	(74.02384, 55.10429)	(90.12474, 62.45962)	(97.67102, 69.34492)	(108.04716, 77.6081)

According to table 4, carbon emission reductions (2009-2013) from nuclear power plants account for 0.77%, 0.69%, 0.72%, 0.76% and 0.81% of total carbon emissions respectively. According to the data from Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center (CDIAC) and Ministry of Environmental Protection of People's Republic of China (MEPPRC), carbon emissions from fossil fuels in China from 2009 to 2013 are 2097.685 million tons, 2259.856 million tons, 2522.260 million tons, 2749.794 million tons, 2952.528 million tons respectively. Thus, only from the perspective of fossil fuel, nuclear power contributed to 2.65%, 2.43%, 2.48%, 2.53%, 2.61% of fossil fuel emissions reductions in China only with 1.89%, 1.76%, 1.83%, 1.95%, 2.06% of total electricity generation during 2009 to 2013.

#### 4. Scenario Analysis of China’s Nuclear Potential to Reduce Emissions

In this paper, the baseline scenario of China’s power generation capacity in “Energy Strategy Report (2009)” by

the National Energy Board [34] is set for standards-based, which avoids the predicted risk brought by low solution and high one. About China's nuclear power development scenario analysis, this paper set the American scenario, planning scenario and low scenario. The American scenario is in accordance with nuclear power development speed and planning in US. In this scenario, the nuclear power generating capacity will realize 2% in 2015 and 12% in 2020 respectively of China’s total power generation in the corresponding year, and 18% in 2025. The planning scenario is in accordance with "long-term nuclear power development plan (2011-2020)". In this scenario, China’s nuclear power will reach the total installed capacity of 58GW and the total installed capacity of 30GW under construction in 2020, and the total installed capacity of 90 GW in 2020. The low scenario refers to nuclear power developing with the current proportion (2.06% in 2013) of China's total electricity generation. Consequently, China's nuclear power generating capacity in the future under the three scenarios can be obtained, which is shown in Figure 6.



**Figure 6.** China's nuclear power generating capacity in the future under the three scenarios.

Thus, China's nuclear power reduction potential under the three different scenarios from 2015 to 2025 can be obtained based on the average OM and the EM during 2009 to 2013, which is shown in table 5.

**Table 5.** China's nuclear power reduction potential under the three different scenarios.

Time (Year)	Scenario	Nuclear power generation (TWh)	The CO2 emission reductions (Million tons)
2013	Status quo	108.05	77.61
	American scenario	111.8	87.65
2015	Planning scenario	115.2	90.32
	Low scenario	115.15	90.28
	American scenario	934.8	732.87
2020	Planning scenario	403.96	316.70
	Low scenario	160.47	125.81
	American scenario	1740.6	1364.61
2025	Planning scenario	626.83	491.43
	Low scenario	199.2	156.17

By the analysis of China's nuclear power reduction potential under three scenarios, the American scenario gives a huge amount of carbon dioxide reduction. The CO2 reduction in American scenario estimated to be approximately 2.78 times and 8.74 times respectively as compared to the Planning scenario and Low Speed scenario by 2025.

## 5. Suggestions

Attention should be paid to that the development of nuclear power can reduce the CO2 emissions in China greatly. It's the best time for China to promote nuclear power, given that the growth rate of carbon emissions in China remains decreasing from 2010. Undoubtedly, the Chinese Government plays a decisive role in promoting nuclear power. However, the Chinese government is deterred by the accident at the Fukushima nuclear facility in Japan to push along to the new stage of nuclear power development. In short, the suggestions for nuclear power should be made positively listed as follows: (1) Currently the Chinese Government should restart nuclear energy explicitly and confidently; (2) The Chinese Government should make a bold and adequate development plan for nuclear power, including more planning for inland nuclear power stations and greater Installed capacity; (3) The Chinese Government should provide direct substantive support for nuclear power development, including improving the ability of public perception for nuclear power and acceptability, accommodating relocated households better, providing higher fund subsidy, and so on.

## 6. Conclusion

The development of nuclear power and the corresponding potential for reducing CO2 emissions in China have been discussed in this paper. Based on the above analysis, the conclusions could be summarized as follows: (1) the carbon reduction potential of China's nuclear power is great, reaching 1364.61 million tons carbon reduction in 2025 under the American scenario. However, the development of China's nuclear power is very slow, and is in a sign of hesitation; (2) hydroelectric power, wind power and solar

power generation fail to reduce the carbon substantially and remarkably, due to limited potential and their peculiarity; (3) inadequate plan and support for the development of China's nuclear power are rather obvious. The latest "Long-term nuclear power development plan (2011-2020)" shows that China's nuclear power will reach installed capacity of 58 million KW and installed capacity of 30 million KW under construction by 2020, which is so few compared with China's total power generation in 2020.

## Acknowledgements

Project supported by the Fundamental Research Funds for the Central Universities (No.2015XS27), the National Nature Science Foundation of China (No.71271085).

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