# Concrete Thermal Energy Storage and Pumped Heat Variant

Bright Energy Storage Technologies

# Thermal Energy Storage (TES)-Enabled New Options for Nuclear Power

- Reduce or delay reactor rebuild costs by running the existing steam turbines /generators with half of the existing reactors
- New, dispatchable capacity without building new reactors or same peak capacity with fewer reactors, with high flexibility
- Make non-GHG emitting nuclear plants a vital part of renewable power integration
- Enable the next generation of flexible nuclear energy to provide zero carbon firming of renewable assets



## Bright's TES Technology

- Patented high performance concrete and steel tube systems
- Designed to operate at up to 600° C
- Low cost, modular, factory built, stacked and configured on site
- Configurable for every thermal generation design
- Two TES designs
  Thermally charged with steam
  Thermally charged with CT exhaust / heated air



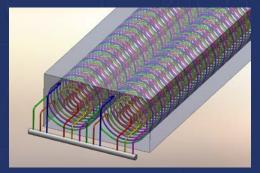
### **TES Module Details**







Gas Charged TES block



Steam Charged TES block



**TES Block Placement** 

# **TES Charge and Discharge**

- Boiler steam or hot gas, depending on application, flows in one direction through the TES, heating the concrete
- Charging process creates a thermocline, highest temperature at charging inlet
- Water pumped in opposite direction to discharge, resultant steam exits TES at ~hot end temperature, delivering consistent high quality steam
   Charging – steam or hot gas

Charging – steam or hot gas Discharging – water to steam

Exhaust/Return Feed Water		Charging Energy
		Steam
	Up to	
	Fully Charged	

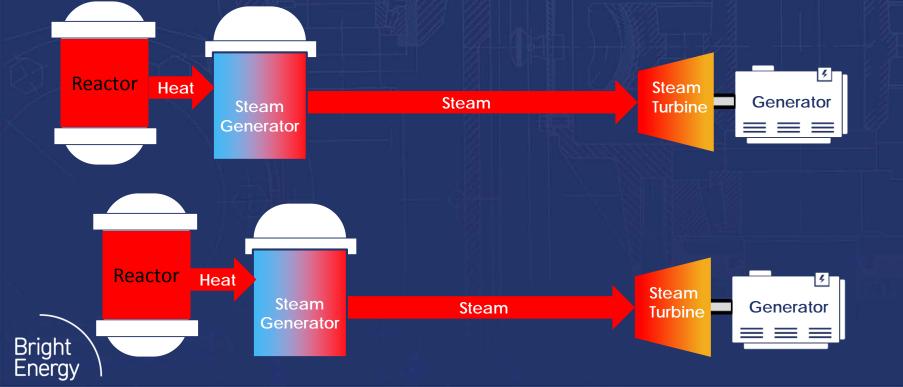
## Industry and DOE Funded Bright TES Test Program

- Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI)
  - Currently funding Bright study of TES materials and assembly adequacy to application
  - Industry funders are Southern Company, Tri-State, and Salt River Project
- \$5 million DOE FOA Award June, 2019
  - Awarded to Bright Energy, EPRI, Southern Company team
  - o Grant to build and test 10 MWh<sub>e</sub> Pilot at working generation plant
- Bright seeking an additional pilot/test opportunity
  - Nuclear, perhaps at INL?
  - o Geothermal in CA, perhaps with California Energy Commission funding
  - o Other TBD

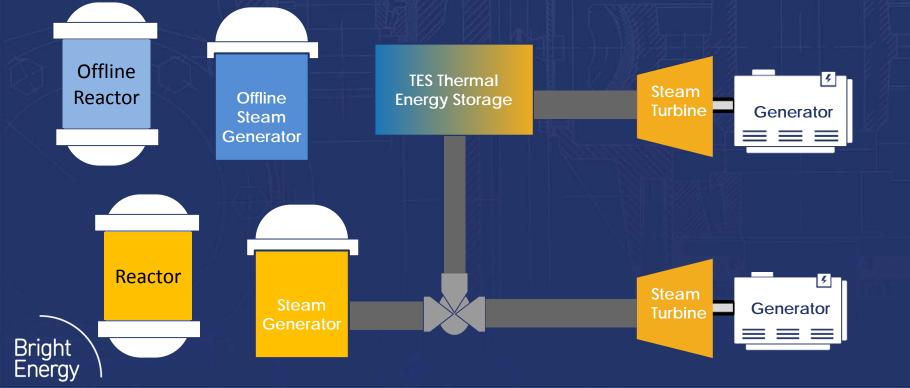


### FlexNuke - Same Peak Output with Fewer Reactors

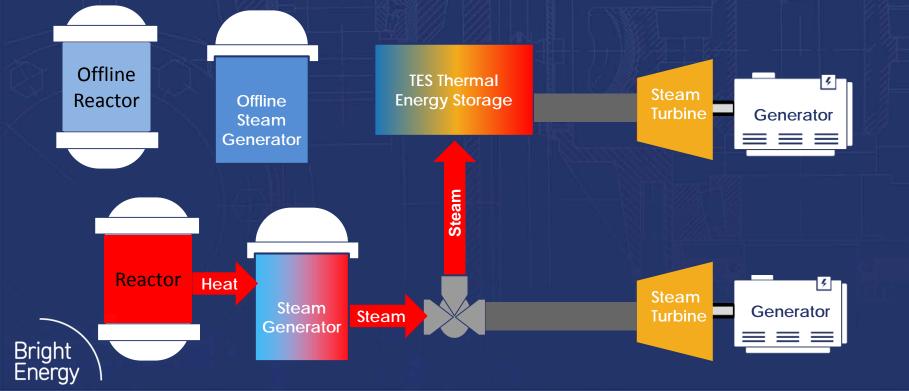
**Existing Nuclear steam plant** 



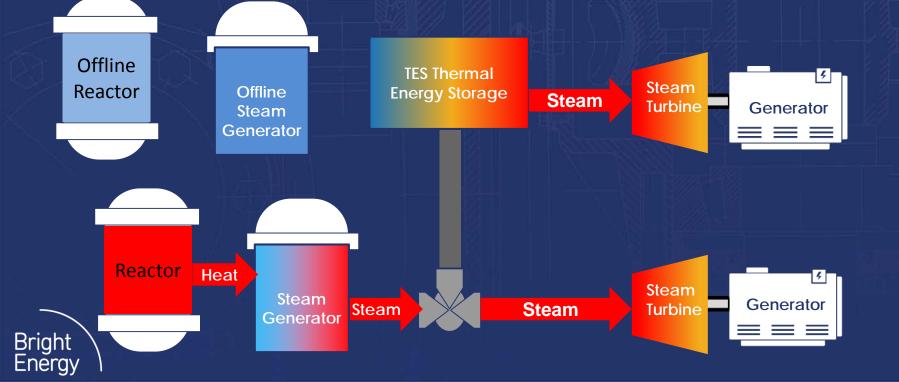
FlexNuke – Same Peak Output with Fewer Reactors Add TES, diverter valve and take one reactor offline



# FlexNuke – Same Peak Output with Fewer Reactors Charge TES with zero electricity output

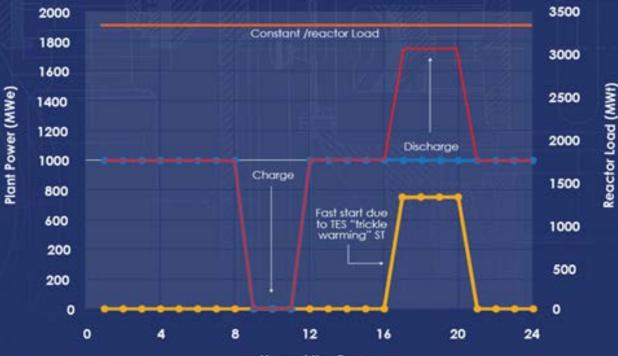


FlexNuke - Same Peak Output with Fewer Reactors Discharge at nearly original power of two reactors



### FlexNuke - Convert Baseload to Load Following Peaker

### Example Day of Nuclear Peaker with TES



Total Power

← Unit 1

🔶 Unit 2

— Reactor Load



Hour of the Day

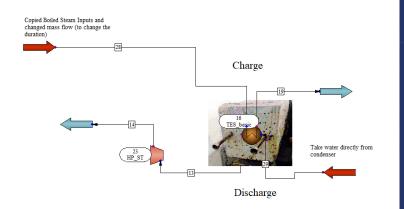
## Baseline TES Configuration, \$278/kW and \$62/kWh

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#### **FlexNuke Basic**

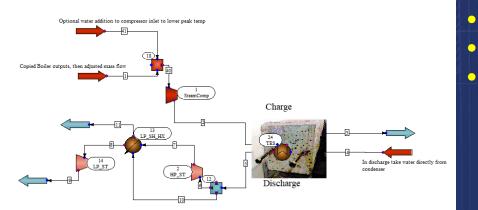


- \$278/kW + \$62/kWh Total Project Cost
  - 71% estimated RTE
  - 4 hour discharge
  - 2.9 hour charge
    - We can vary this ratio of charge/discharge to just about whatever we want by varying the ST we purchase for discharge.
- 62 bar charge pressure
- 20 bar discharge pressure
- Assumed \$200/kW ST designed for 20 bar discharge



## Pumped Steam Variant - \$375/kW + \$62/kWh

#### **FlexNuke with Steam Compressor**



- \$375/kW + \$62/kWh Total Project Cost
- 58% estimated RTE
- 4 hour discharge
- 5.3 hour charge

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- We could change the charge/discharge time/power ratio be changing the discharge ST we buy. Going with a higher power ST will require more charge time, but will lower the cost of the compressor in terms of \$/kW
- 155 bar charge pressure
- 62 bar discharge pressure
- Assumed \$200/kW ST designed for 62 bar discharge



### **TES Performance**

### Thermal energy losses

- Less than 1% energy loss per day
- Estimated heat-to-heat efficiency >92%, fuel to electric efficiency depends on steam turbine

### Ramping and Steam Quality

- TES can ramp steam output in less than minute "hot end" of TES blocks always delivers high quality steam after feedwater fed into cold end
- "Discharged" defined by when hot end of TES no longer at adequate temperature to deliver requisite steam quality

### Maintenance - ruptured steam tube embedded in concrete

- ID tube(s) during routine maintenance, cut, crimp/weld and abandon in place
- 75,000 steam tubes, loss of a small number has marginal impact on system performance

### Bright Energy Background

- Angel-backed startup based in Arvada, CO, founded in 2010, 15 employees
- Several themes common in development concepts
  - Low capital costs per kW/kWh, high efficiency, low cost heat exchangers and heat storage media, re-use of existing capital equipment
  - Must be competitive against operating costs of incumbent generation equipment, not just better than competing storage systems

### Sustainable advantages

- Lowest cost solutions with 25+ year lifetime
- Proprietary technology
- Strategic relationships with the industry, EPCs and Concrete Fabricators

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