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## EDITORIAL

# A wiser Obama endorses nuclear

**V**iewers here should have had little trouble recognizing the best part of President Barack Obama's well-delivered and occasionally surprising State of the Union speech Wednesday night.

It came about 20 minutes into the 70-minute oration, as the president turned his attention to energy:

"... no area is more ripe for ... innovation than energy," the president declared. "You can see the results of last year's investment in clean energy – in the North Carolina company that will create 1,200 jobs nationwide helping to make advanced batteries; or in the California business that will put 1,000 people to work making solar panels.

"But to create more of these clean energy jobs, we need more production, more efficiency, more incentives. That means building a new generation of safe, clean nuclear power plants in this country."

"... safe, clean nuclear power ..."

We know, Mr. President. Welcome aboard.

"Safe, clean nuclear power" has been a significant component of our region's prosperity since 1973, when what was then called Pennsylvania Power & Light Co. announced that it had purchased enough land east of Berwick to build two reactors.

A decade of construction and almost 30 years of exemplary operation have made what is now PPL's Susquehanna power plant a huge asset, while making the Berwick area a major contributor to the nation's energy independence.

All of that could get even better with construction of another reactor at Susquehanna, if the right political and economic conditions prevail.

Judging by the president's own words, the winds at last are shifting in our favor.

There were several moments in the speech Wednesday that revealed Obama as a rookie president who has been learning on the job that he cannot govern from the edge. With his endorsement of "safe, clean nuclear power," he dramatically distanced himself from the "green" fringe of his political base.

Sure enough, the "greenies" instantly exploded with rage. MoveOn.org, the leftist political group that helped propel Obama into the White House, had enlisted some 10,000 of its members to react instantly, pro or con, to the president's first State of the Union speech, as it was being given. (Thus has technology made our political discourse even more inane.)

The results of this techno-knee jerk poll produced what MoveOn judged to be six high and four low points, with Obama's reference to "safe, clean nuclear power" sending the emote-o-meter plunging to its lowest point.

If that bunch thinks it's wrong, you know it's right.

Right for our region.

Right for America.