Brazil's Angra 3 nuclear reactor: a political undertaking, not a common good

By Susan D'Agostino

This October meteor ...

A bad barrel, not just a few bad apples.

By Tara Burchmore, Tom Spence, Ali Ahmad

The decision to resume construction of the third Brazilian reactor was made by President Jair Bolsonaro (fourth from right) and major players in Brazil’s nuclear sector at the 2019 inauguration of uranium-enrichment centrifuges that supply fuel for the Angra nuclear reactors.

The combination of high costs, doubtful political intentions, and better energy alternatives associated with the nuclear project.

It is imperative to examine who will benefit from the project, particularly in light of the environmental impacts and the country’s uranium enrichment and fuel cycle technology. But this factor alone Bolsonaro’s commitment results in part from his close ties to Brazil’s Navy, which is otherwise relatively marginal in the country’s political system.

Analysts suggest that this combined system could supply all the electricity the population demands, making any expansion of the nuclear industry sector unnecessary and costly.

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But the reality of Bolsonaro’s reign as president has not lived up to his campaign promises. Bolsonaro even invited Federal Judge Sérgio Moro, one of Lava Jato’s main prosecutors, to his inauguration ceremony in January.

The anti-corruption probe is part of a broader trend that has seen a revival in the fight against corruption, the result of the nation’s political landscape. Bolsonaro has been accused of accepting kickbacks for private interests, and his initial decision to suspend the Angra 3 project under the threat of criminal prosecution.

President Jair Bolsonaro’s commitment to the project results in part from his close ties to Brazil’s Navy, which is otherwise relatively marginal in the country’s political system. But this factor alone is not enough to explain his support for the project, as the country’s uranium enrichment and fuel cycle technology are relatively small.

The project has been controversial since its inception, with concerns raised about the environmental impacts and the country’s uranium enrichment and fuel cycle technology. But this factor alone is not enough to explain Bolsonaro’s support for the project, as the country’s uranium enrichment and fuel cycle technology are relatively small.

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President Jair Bolsonaro’s decision to suspend the Angra 3 project was made in May 2021, the same month a federal judge ordered the suspension of the project due to corruption concerns. The decision was made by the government, but it was also a response to the country’s uranium enrichment and fuel cycle technology.

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