Introduction:
Following a study abroad in Armenia and involving discussions with US Embassy Armenia personnel about the Metsamor Nuclear Plant, I recognized that energy security as an issue worth greater scrutiny. Though Armenia is only a small nation, we can learn from the issues facing Armenia’s energy security and apply them to the US and other regions around the world.

Historical Timeline:
• 1976: First Unit Activated
• 1980: Second Unit Activated
• 1988: Spitak Earthquake (Magnitude 6.8) & ANPP shutdown
• 1988-1994: First Nagorno-Karabakh War
• 1995: Metsamor Nuclear Plant Restarted
• 2011: National Geographic named Metsamor “the world’s most dangerous nuclear plan.”
• 2011: IAEA declared ANPP safe
• 2015: Lifespan extended from 2017 to 2027
• 2021: Unit Two was annealed

Why is Armenia Energy Vulnerable?
• Nuclear:
  • ANPP’s design is outdated and requires continuous maintenance to remain operable
  • Azerbaijan repeatedly threatens to use covert or direct action to sabotage Metsamor
  • The plant sits near major fault lines susceptible to earthquakes
• Political:
  • Armenia has no proven fossil fuel reserves and relies entirely on Russia for oil and natural gas
  • Azerbaijan and Turkey use political pressure to prevent an Armenian-Iranian pipeline deal

The Way Ahead:
• Journal for Energy Security
• Continue regional security study in the S. Caucasus/Iran in future independent studies