



Authorial statement of article withdrawal

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To cite this article: Andrew Lawrence, Benjamin Sovacool & Andrew Stirling (2016) Authorial statement of article withdrawal, *Climate Policy*, 16:5, ri-rii, DOI: [10.1080/14693062.2016.1260249](https://doi.org/10.1080/14693062.2016.1260249)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14693062.2016.1260249>



Published online: 25 Nov 2016.



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■ Retraction

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Lawrence, A., Sovacool, B., & Stirling, A. (2016). Nuclear energy and path dependence in Europe's 'Energy union': Coherence or continued divergence? *Climate Policy*, 16(5), 622–641, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14693062.2016.1179616>. Version of Record published online 1 July 2016.

It is with great regret that we, the authors, have withdrawn this article from publication in *Climate Policy*.

The grounds for this are that it has come to our attention that two serious errors were committed by the first author (AL) on this paper. The second (BS) and third (AS) authors entirely failed to identify and correct these errors prior to publication. Of course, all three authors share joint responsibility for this paper, and apologize to readers of *Climate Policy* for our omission of oversight.

Together, the errors have the effect of invalidating this particular analysis concerning the relative performance of nuclear-committed European countries in wider climate change.

As per guidance from the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), we detail here the roles of the different authors of this paper. AL, a mid-career academic political scientist, conducted the quantitative analysis. AL initially contacted BS and asked him to help frame the paper as a whole. BS later invited AS to contribute a focus on the specific issue of technological lock-in.

The first error in the paper was a mistake by AL in the transcription of data from source material. This detracted from, but did not invalidate, the paper's published conclusions. On being informed of this error by a commentary from a reader, BS confirmed this, double checked other aspects of the analysis, and promptly sent a Corrigendum to *Climate Policy* editors on 05 October 2016.

In these exchanges, BS and AS developed concerns over the validity of AL's initial analysis. So, at the first opportunity when returning from travel, AS reproduced the analysis in its entirety on 20 October 2016.

This full re-analysis confirmed that a second error had been committed by AL. This mistake had also been identified in a blog, but had remained unnoticed by BS and AS until that point. This error involved the mistaken calculation of percentage emissions reductions with respect to an earlier date in the time series, rather than the stated baseline. Together with the first error, this had the combined effect of invalidating key findings of this paper, concerning the relative performance of nuclear-committed European countries.

With this diagnosis of a second more serious error thereby confirmed, BS and AS referred themselves that same day (20 October 2016) to an internal process at the University of Sussex, to investigate the circumstances of these two errors. All three authors informed the Editors of *Climate Policy* on the

following day, 21 October 2016. The Editors responded on 24 October 2016, and invited us to submit a formal statement, which we did within 24 hours.

We stand ready to co-operate fully in any onward process that might be necessary to clarify the circumstances of these errors or mitigate their effects.

We can only conclude by apologizing very sincerely once again for the failures on our own parts, that have led to this very unfortunate situation.

We note the Editors and Publishers, Taylor & Francis and Climate Strategies, of *Climate Policy* published the article in good faith, based on warranties we made regarding originality and provenance.

The article will remain online, digitally watermarked as retracted.

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November 2016