



Covers That Glow In The Dark!

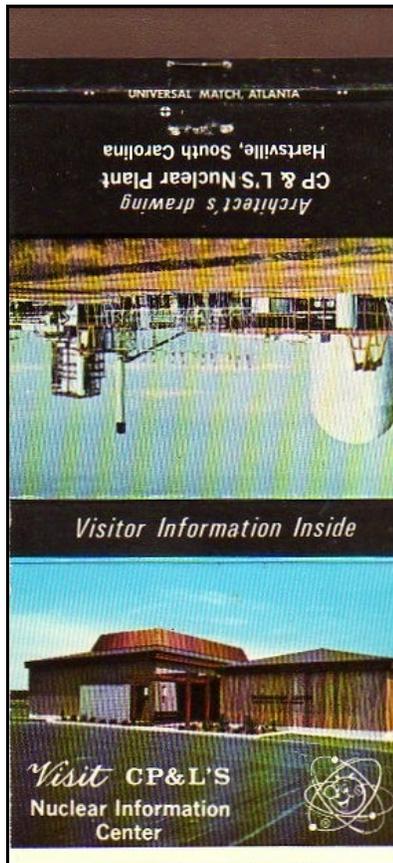
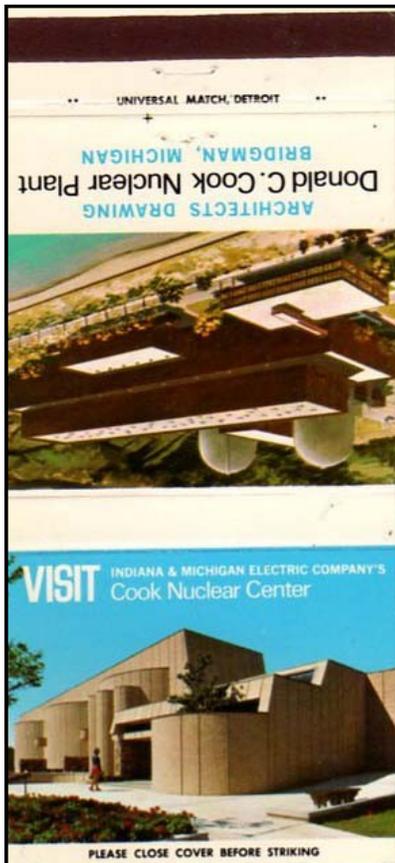
...Nuclear Power Plants as a Small Category!

Now, here's a category with some "oompf!" It's got a high-interest value, the covers are uncommon, it's a controversial topic, it's an *unusual* topic, and with events such as Three-Mile Island and Chernobyl, most people (collectors and non-collectors alike), can identify with it. (at least if you tend to lean to the older side...*that's us!*)

As of 2011, which is the latest I could get stats for, there were currently 65 nuclear power plants in operation in the United States + some 440 others operating around the world + those that were in operation but have since closed down (we used to have one here, right down the road from Sacramento, Rancho Seco, that closed down years ago, for example). That gives the collector some 500+ locations globally to work with, at least initially. How many of those actually were pictured on matchcovers...I have no idea, but I have three, all Matchoramas, [two pictured here] among my own covers, and I don't even collect Nuclear Power Plants. I would be surprised if there were many other covers in this category, though.

On the other hand, as I remember, the nuclear industry in the 1970s-1980s was actively trying to convince the public that such reactors presented no threat, and, judging from my experience with Rancho Seco, I would assume most, if not all, of these plants had some type of Visitors Center, and that would seem to be a logical place to have found this type of matchbook.

I did check with some other collectors some years ago on this subject and found some others: Rich



Greene, NJ, reported that he had a CP & L (similar to the one pictured below. Also, William DeWit, Canada, had a 5-cover, 40-strike set from British Nuclear Fuels Ltd: 1) Head Office, 2) Uranium Enrichment Plant, 3) Nuclear Fuel Center, 4) Calder Hall Power Station, and 5) Chapelcross Nuclear Power Station.

Most of the current nuclear power plants are in foreign countries. France's power, for example, has been mostly nuclear for many years now. Has anyone found any foreign issues?

Anyone else have any Nuclear Plant covers? There must be at least a few more out there. This makes a pretty nifty small collection.

Anyone have any from Chernobyl?!!