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***Nuclear Implosions: The Rise and Fall of the Washington Public Power Supply System.* By Daniel Pope. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008. xx, 282 pp. \$85.00, ISBN 978-0-521-40253-8.)**

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In 1957, a public agency called the Washington Public Power Supply System (WPPSS) was formed to oversee that state's energy needs. It forwarded ambitious plans for a series of five nuclear plants in Washington State, but construction delays and legal wrangles followed. Financial chaos unfolded in the 1980s when the WPPSS defaulted on its municipal bond scheme. Only one of the planned nuclear plants opened; the others were mothballed or cancelled. In *Nuclear Implosions*, the historian Daniel Pope of the University of Oregon provides the first detailed study of the controversy.

Given the historic importance of hydropower to the Pacific Northwest, a nuclear scheme hardly seemed an obvious direction to take. However, New Deal projects along the Columbia River, most notably the Grand Coulee Dam, promoted the idea that any large-scale, publicly overseen energy project could fuel economic growth....

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