MIT reacts to Nixon

Nixon proposes easing AEC reactor standards

By Storm Kaufman

President Nixon has proposed that the lead time for the construction of nuclear power plants be reduced to six years from the present nine to ten. The idea is to speed nuclear energy's replacement of oil and coal.

Presently, only a quarter of the US energy demand is in the form of electricity, and reactors have been used to produce only electricity. It is still uncertain whether nuclear power can really be made to replace much of the nation's fossil fuel consumption.