



REIMAGINING THE FUTURE OF ENERGY: THE ACTION-DRIVEN LEADERSHIP OF LIZ MULLER



ABOUT LIZ MULLER

Liz is a serial entrepreneur at the forefront of nuclear energy and environmental innovation. She is the Co-Founder and CEO of Deep Fission, a groundbreaking nuclear energy startup transforming the industry by placing reactors a mile underground.

Previously, she served as CEO of Deep Isolation, a pioneering nuclear waste company, where she now serves as Executive Chairwoman. Liz also founded Berkeley Earth, a nonprofit delivering critical data science on climate change.

A named inventor on multiple patents, Liz was recognized as a Clean Energy Rising Star by Business Insider in 2020. Beyond her professional achievements, she is a published author, backpacker, dance instructor, and proud mother of two, based in the Bay Area.

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In a sector known for complexity, regulation, and long timelines, Liz Muller is doing the unthinkable: making nuclear energy faster, cheaper, and more scalable—starting a mile underground. As the co-founder of Deep Isolation and now CEO of Deep Fission, Liz has built a reputation as an “actionivist”—someone who doesn’t just talk about solving global issues like climate change, but builds real companies to tackle them head-on. Whether it’s rethinking how we handle nuclear waste or redesigning nuclear reactors to drive down cost and construction time, Liz is reshaping what’s possible in the world of clean energy.

From Climate Concern to Nuclear Innovation

Liz’s journey into nuclear energy wasn’t conventional. Raised in a nuclear-free zone in Berkeley, California, and trained in mathematics, mechanics, and global policy, she didn’t follow the typical reactor-to-C-suite pipeline. Yet that outsider lens may be her greatest strength. “I’ve always felt called to take on big problems that everyone agrees should be solved, but no one is actually solving,” Liz shared. That drive led her from climate policy at the OECD to launching Deep Isolation—an award-winning company using oil and gas drilling tech to safely isolate nuclear waste deep underground.

Now, her latest venture, Deep Fission, pushes the boundaries even further: developing small, pressurized water reactors deployed in boreholes—redefining the economics and safety model of nuclear energy entirely.

Underground Reactors: A Game-Changer in Clean Energy

The premise sounds futuristic: instead of massive surface plants, install a 15 MW nuclear reactor a mile underground. But Liz and her team have shown it’s not only feasible—it might be the key to making nuclear scalable and affordable.

With costs of traditional nuclear plants driven largely by above-ground construction, Deep Fission’s design leverages the natural containment and pressure found in deep boreholes, eliminating the need for massive, expensive infrastructure.

The result? Small, modular reactors that can be installed rapidly with lower capital risk. And because they’re underground, the approach introduces significant benefits in safety, security, and land use. “We’re not just reducing cost—we’re changing the paradigm,” Liz explained.



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ABOUT HOST: PHIL ZERINGUE

Phil Zeringue, Vice President of Strategic Partnerships at NuclearN, has dedicated over two decades to driving transformative growth in the nuclear industry. Renowned for his operational rigor, strategic insight, and unwavering commitment to excellence, Phil has established a reputation as a disciplined leader capable of addressing complex organizational challenges with precision and clarity.

With a career spanning engineering, maintenance, project management, and IT, Phil has cultivated a profound technical understanding of the nuclear sector. Over the years, his expertise has evolved into a visionary leadership style that leverages emerging technologies to deliver impactful and sustainable change.

Phil's ability to elevate company performance and inspire teams to transcend expectations has been a hallmark of his career. Through his structured, results-driven approach, he continues to lead initiatives that shape the future of the industry while ensuring meaningful, long-lasting success.

“Great Achievement rests on effective organization, meticulous preparation, and visionary leadership.”

Building the Dream Team and Embracing AI

What makes Liz's leadership distinctive isn't just the science—it's the team. Her knack for attracting top-tier talent from across the nuclear industry is widely recognized. “Every single person on her team is an A-player,” Phil Zeringue noted during their conversation. “That just doesn't happen by accident.”

Part of the draw is Deep Fission's culture of innovation and Liz's early adoption of artificial intelligence across the organization. With Chief AI Officer Stuart Lacey on board, the company is using AI for everything from streamlining regulatory submissions to accelerating engineering design—making it one of the first truly AI-native nuclear ventures.

For Liz, AI isn't a trend—it's a competitive edge. “Our team is empowered to use AI in every role. It's become a central part of how we work and how we think,” she said.

Leading with Purpose—and Humor

Despite the scale of the problems she's solving, Liz brings a grounded, authentic approach to leadership. She jokes about having the “deepest conversations” in nuclear, references to drilling a mile underground, and welcomes AI hallucinations that wrongly describe her as a TED speaker or an avid rock collector with samples from every continent.

But under the wit lies a leader with unshakable conviction. “If you're going to be responsible, you need to have a solution for the waste. If you want nuclear to scale, you have to solve the cost issue. These aren't optional.”

A Message for the Future

Liz Muller is building more than companies—she's building the future of energy. Her message to the next generation of engineers, policymakers, and clean energy advocates is clear: “There's so much that can still be done. If you're driven, if you're passionate, come build with us.”

With her trailblazing approach and growing influence, Liz is making sure nuclear isn't just part of the climate solution—it's a leading force in powering our world.

To watch the full interview, visit nuclearn.ai.