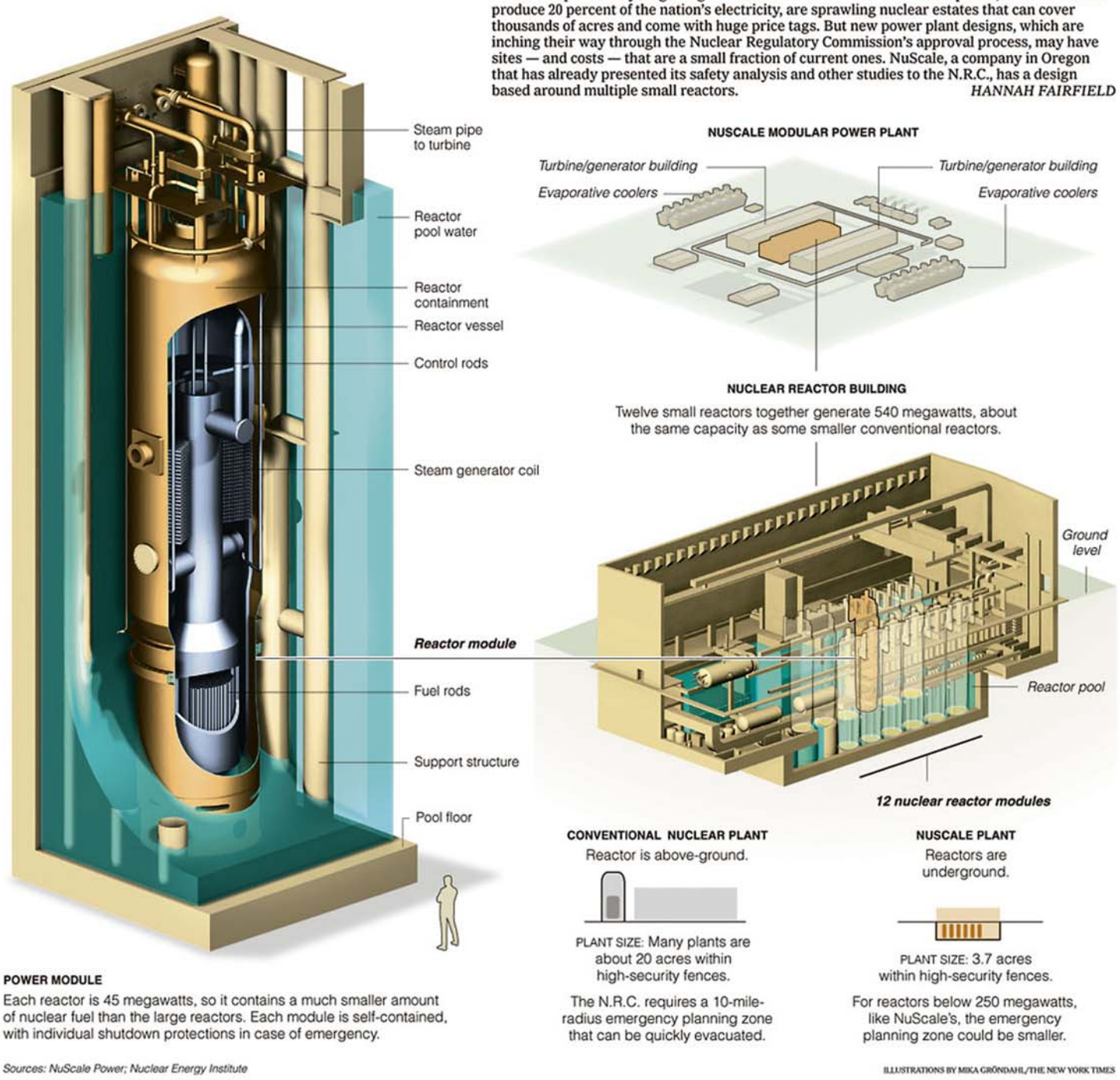
The New York Times

SCIENCE ILLUSTRATED | **A New Scale for Nuclear Power**

Nuclear plants may be getting a lot smaller in the future. Traditional plants, like the 104 that produce 20 percent of the nation's electricity, are sprawling nuclear estates that can cover thousands of acres and come with huge price tags. But new power plant designs, which are inching their way through the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's approval process, may have sites — and costs — that are a small fraction of current ones. NuScale, a company in Oregon that has already presented its safety analysis and other studies to the N.R.C., has a design based around multiple small reactors.

HANNAH FAIRFIELD



POWER MODULE

Each reactor is 45 megawatts, so it contains a much smaller amount of nuclear fuel than the large reactors. Each module is self-contained, with individual shutdown protections in case of emergency.

Sources: NuScale Power; Nuclear Energy Institute

ILLUSTRATIONS BY MIKA GRÖNDAHL/THE NEW YORK TIMES

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