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Comment on Risks of Dumping Nuclear Waste in Yucca Mountain

If any accident occurs because of terrorist activity (like bin Laden, Okhlohoma types), such as accidents during transportation, earthquake, volcano or meteorite it will be extremely dangerous to the health, welfare and lives of people in Nevada (and other states) and their posterity. The president or those who support for the deposit in Nevada will never stay in Nevada when the waste is stored here because of the extreme risks involved. They want to sacrifice the people here for their health and safety. Many residents plan to move out of the state if the waste is dumped here.

There are about 300 scientific questions yet to be answered. Why can't they wait till we find answers? Why they hurry to dump before we get the answers? What is the very purpose of searching for the answers? Is it not to find the risks involved among others in the dumping? One obvious reason for the undue hurry is that if any answer shows the extreme dangers involved the whole program will have to be scuttled. The supporters want to avoid such a chance. Once it is dumped we cannot undo it.

77,000 tons of nuclear waste (a speck of it can kill a person) is being transported at the rate of twelve truck loads of waste a day through land and water for about 30 years (12x365x30 = 131400 loads) through many many states. We hear warnings every day of possible terrorist attacks; terrorists will use all opportunity to cause accidents and spray nuclear waste to endanger lives and property of as many people as possible.

Is it not better to keep the waste where they are now? Even when the waste is removed they still have the active nuclear reactors which continue to produce wastes and thus they still face the risk as before. Is it not better to keep the wastes there till facilities are constructed to convert the waste to useful materials and less harmful wastes?

Nevada already has the maximum number of cases of thyroid cancer compared to other states, an after-effect of nuclear testing in Nevada desert. How much can be the additional effect, on the air and water, of 77,000 tons of the wastes (if and when accidents occur due to terrorist attacks, earthquakes, volcano, meteorite etc) to the health, property and lives of the people and their posterity?

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