

Comments to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
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The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is essentially proposing dealing with the problem of "low-level" nuclear waste—an unnaturally-concentrated radioactive substance that should never have been created in the first place—by redistributing it in manufactured materials and ordinary landfills.

This odd ending to the nuclear-waste shell game is basically a case of smashing the game and the table it's played on. It's an "I give up—you're about to reveal how the game is played" move of transparent expediency and desperation. Metaphorically, it says "The gains in quality of life made possible by using nuclear materials were only borrowed." Biophysically, it represents a degradation of the environment and the quality of life, metaphysically it shows a sinister corruption of the protective, social spirit of life. The move may be consistent with the goals and desires of a few of the growth- and prosperity-minded members of our society, but it doesn't represent the will of the better-balanced social and ecological thinkers of the United States of America.

It doesn't represent the true best interests of the citizenry. Those will only be represented when nuclear waste, low-level or high-level, is no longer being created. For that amount that's already created, these interests will be best and most honorably represented if those who benefited disproportionately from its creation pay the bulk of the cost to store it safely until it is no longer dangerous.

This is a social problem, but the cost of its solution belongs in largest share to the nuclear industry. An apology from the policy-making community is also in order and would evoke a constructive response from the people of the United States.

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