



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

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TO: Mr. Robert E. Browning, Director
FROM: Paul T. Prestholt, Sr. On-Site Licensing Representative
DATE: October 9, 1986
SUBJECT: Newspaper Articles

Please find enclosed two articles that appeared in our local newspaper that are of interest.

FTP:nan

WM Record File

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WM Project

Docket No.

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Texas official slams nuke waste shipment plan

HOUSTON (UPI) — Texas Agriculture Commissioner Jim Hightower Wednesday criticized a federal Department of Energy plan to ship high-level nuclear waste through the Port of Houston and move it across the state by truck or rail.

The DOE is considering the plan, regardless of where an underground nuclear waste repository is eventually built.

A Texas Panhandle site near Hereford in agriculturally-rich

Deaf Smith County was designated in May as one of three finalists for the dump.

The other sites are in Nevada and Washington state.

"The only thing crazier than dumping highly-radioactive waste through productive farmland and valuable underground water supplies is routing the stuff through downtown Houston with its population of 2 million people," said Hightower.

"But that's exactly what DOE is considering."

Rep. Al Luna, D-Houston, chairman of the House Science and Technology Committee, said he was concerned about the danger to transportation workers and the integrity of the Port of Houston.

"We need more work in the Port of Houston, but I don't think that's the kind of work we want," he said. "We need to fight any plan which routes the nuclear trash of the entire Eastern seaboard through our critically important port."

Hightower and Luna made their comments prior to a public hearing on the issue by the House Subcommittee on Hazardous Materials Transportation.

Luna said the DOE plan calls for the shipment by barge of wastes from about 70 nuclear power plants in the Eastern United States to the Port of Houston. Then it would be shipped by truck or rail to the repository.

Nuclear waste facility fees may finance high technology

HENDERSON (UPI) — The Nevada Commission on Economic Development approved a plan Wednesday that would finance new technology in the state through surcharges collected at the low-level nuclear waste dump in Beatty.

The plan calls for the commission to meet with Gov. Richard Bryan to draft legislation earmarking revenues from the dump for technological development.

The proposal will then be brought for consideration by the state Legislature, which convenes in Carson City in January.

The commission, chaired by Lt. Gov. Robert Cashell, met at the Henderson Convention Center.

Nevada collects about \$2.2 million annually in surcharges from other states that use the Beatty site, located 90 miles north of Las Vegas. The site is scheduled to remain open until 1992.

A commission spokeswoman

said bills designating the revenues for other uses are also expected to be introduced.

Currently, surcharges paid by Beatty's operator, USEcology, go into Nevada's general fund, state Human Resources Director Jerry Griepentrog said.

"We very well may need some of those funds to pay for closure of that site, but at this time we don't know what that cost would be," Griepentrog said.

The state began collecting the surcharge in July, after Congress approved tougher rules for states without plans for burying low-level radioactive wastes. There are no legislative rules attached to the surcharge and monies collected go to the general fund, Griepentrog said, since Congress enacted the surcharge after the 1985 Legislature adjourned.

Nevada also has \$2.5 million in its perpetual care fund for the Beatty site.