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In the News Today... August 12, 2004

President Bush is campaigning today in Nevada, a key swing state that he won four years ago, the Associated Press reports. But he faces political fallout from his unpopular decision to put a nuclear waste dump in the state. 8/12; <http://www.nytimes.com> . The Las Vegas Review-Journal notes that Bush will comment on Yucca Mountain during his stop in Las Vegas. 8/12; <http://reviewjournal.com> . And Bush's spokesman yesterday defended the Yucca Mountain decision as "sound science." 8/11; <http://www.whitehouse.gov> .

Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry said Wednesday he would do everything possible to halt the Yucca Mountain waste repository if he's elected, including withdrawing any license application submitted by the Bush administration to the NRC, reports the Las Vegas Review-Journal. 8/12; <http://reviewjournal.com> .

The Review-Journal says Nevada officials will be in court January 10 to plead their case for more federal money to challenge the Yucca Mountain Project. 8/11; <http://reviewjournal.com> .

The Food and Drug Administration yesterday approved two drugs to treat people who are exposed to plutonium or the other types of radioactive materials that could be used in a terror attack, opening the way for mass distribution of the drugs, Reuters reports. 8/11; <http://www.reuters.com> . The Newark, N.J., Star-Ledger also reports. 8/12; <http://www.nj.com> .

Pennsylvania authorities began distributing potassium iodide pills to residents near the state's nuclear power plants, showing that anxiety is still high nearly three years after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, according to reports in The Citizens' Voice and the Philadelphia Inquirer. 8/12; <http://www.zwire.com> , and 8/12; <http://www.philly.com> .

A new book addresses the "national security and health issue" of how to detoxify your body of the effects from radiation and radioactive exposure. The publisher's press release cites this week's fatal nuclear plant accident in Japan, even though no radiation was involved in that incident. 8/11; <http://www.prweb.com> .

The Asbury Park Press reports that the owner of the Oyster Creek nuclear plant asked the NRC for permission to operate beyond the expiration of the plant's license if its application for renewal is still pending. Local officials urged the NRC to deny the request.

8/12; <http://www.app.com> .

Nebraska declined an offer from the Ponca Tribe to host a low-level nuclear waste dump on its land, the A.P. reports. 8/12; <http://www.ljword.com> .

Federal officials rebuffed a request by Connecticut's governor to impose a no-fly zone over the Millstone nuclear plant, according to the Manchester Journal-Inquirer. 8/11; <http://www.zwire.com> .

The North Adams (Mass.) Transcript reports on a petition by activist groups to the NRC to increase security for spent fuel pools at boiling-water reactor plants. 8/11; <http://www.thetranscript.com> .

Workers at the Hanford nuclear reservation have begun draining sodium from the Fast Flux Test Facility, another blow for groups that hoped to save the one-of-a-kind reactor from demolition, A.P. reports. 8/11; <http://seattletimes.nwsources.com> .

The New England Coalition says this week's fatal nuclear plant accident in Japan should be a lesson for operators of the Vermont Yankee plant and federal regulators. 8/10; no web site given.

The Department of Energy completed its first shipment returning nuclear fuel to the United States, according to a DOE statement. 8/11; <http://releases.usnewswire.com> .

A Connecticut nuclear engineer has become enmeshed in a federal terrorism probe because of his support of an Islamic Web site, according to the A.P. 8/12; <http://www.guardian.co.uk> .

Admissions of ignored safety warnings and terrifying accounts of the burst of superheated steam that killed four people at the Mihama plant have put Japan's nuclear power industry on the defensive, the Los Angeles Times reports. 8/12; <http://www.latimes.com> . A.P. also reports. 8/12; <http://www.ajc.com> .

In the wake of the Japanese nuclear plant accident, a top official of the China National Nuclear Corporation assures the People's Daily that China's nuclear industry is safe. 8/12; <http://english.peopledaily.com> .

The governor of Fukui province says plutonium thermal use and fast-breeder reactor projects in the prefecture should be frozen until the safety of nuclear facilities is ensured, reports the Mainichi Daily News. 8/12; <http://mdn.mainichi.co.jp> .

The man who oversaw Saddam Hussein's nuclear program says Iraq abandoned efforts to develop nuclear weapons in 1991 and had no usable weapons of mass destruction when U.S. forces invaded last year, according to Reuters. 8/12; <http://www.nytimes.com> .

The Washington Post runs a lengthy examination of its coverage of the Iraq WMD story in the run-up to last year's invasion, concluding that it did not give proper prominence to evidence contradicting President Bush's claims about Saddam Hussein's weapons programs. 8/12, p. A1; <http://www.washingtonpost.com> .