

The Oyster Creek Nuclear Plant should not be relicensed for several reasons. First, our country already has more than 70,000^{P/4S} tons of accumulated waste to dispose of with no truly safe place to store it. The target waste site at Yucca Mountain is not a proven safe storage site. Transporting Oyster Creek's nuclear waste to Yucca Mountain or any other designated waste-storage site would be a security nightmare. A terrorist attack on a truck or train loaded with nuclear waste would threaten citizens far and wide with radioactive cancer-causing poisons.

We should look at the Oyster Creek Nuclear Plant as a nuclear weapon in itself. One suicide plane attack on the facility or a missile launch upon it could have devastating consequences for New Jersey citizens, our soil and our ocean waters.

In making a decision we should be guided by the wisdom of the European Union which recognizes the potential dangers of genetically engineered food and thereby uses the Precautionary Principle: First do no harm and wait long and cautiously before undertaking an environmentally risk-laden experiment. If the same Precautionary Principle had been applied to nuclear energy years ago we would not now be facing this relicensing decision. Based on Chernobyl, Three Mile Island, the age of this facility, and accidents at other less well-known facilities, we must reject the relicensing plan.

In making a possible relicensing plan, we must^{also} be guided by the Native American principle of the Seventh Generation. When the First Americans circled with their elders to make a difficult choice or decision, that decision had to pass the Seventh Generation test which meant if the issue in question would negatively affect the community or the environment generations henceforth, then that issue would be rejected. Some of you may be old enough to recall the public service video clip of the Native American who was sadly observing what we've done by our littering the shoreline with the debris of discarded packaging as a tear rolled down his cheek. *I see his tear again for what I am about to say.*

So, what about the waste products of the nuclear industry that are NOT destined for storage? As some people know depleted uranium may result from reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel. Gary Null, investigative reporter and producer of such nuclear-related documentaries as *Fatal Fallout* and *Friendly Fire: Killing Our Own*, has revealed again and again the horrific dangers of depleted uranium. Thousands of our US Iraq veterans are suffering from Gulf War Syndrome, to say nothing of untold Iraqi citizens. Depleted uranium has contributed to the devastating effects of Gulf War Syndrome. That reprocessed or recycled nuclear waste was placed into the US anti-tank ammunition which upon impact created a cancer-causing dust that filled many GI lungs. The pictures and references I saw on the internet last night confirmed what Gary Null has stated: that he has pictures of Iraqi children born with one eye in the middle of the head, and a child born with a head but no eyes – both attributed to depleted uranium. Considering that the half life of depleted uranium is 4.5 BILLION YEARS, our armed forces have poisoned the soil and nearby waters of Iraq for all time. I leave you with that tragic image of a^{nuclear} system gone awry.

In conclusion, nuclear power plants produce abundant, uncontrollable waste products that have proven to be hazardous to the health of people in its surrounding communities and all mankind; hazardous to the environment of land, sea and air, for current and future generations.

Richard P. Fuller
Coordinator, Green Party of Monmouth County
22 Hazlet Ave., Hazlet, NJ 07730 (732-264-7563)

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