

EagleRockCEM Resource

From: John Hurd [azure@whidbey.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 03, 2009 1:10 PM
To: EagleRockEIS Resource
Subject: No to "enrichment" Toxic death

Dear Sirs:

Re: Areva, the giant nuclear corporation owned by the French government, which wants to build a uranium enrichment plant in eastern Idaho called the Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility.

As a physician, I must speak out and condemn this idea for public health reasons (among others) in the context of radioactive isotopes with half lives of *thousands* of years (in some cases 10s of thousands). Simply put, for instance, plutonium is thalidomide forever.

1) Waste disposal and storage

Enrichment plants produce waste called depleted uranium (DU) hexafluoride, a particularly difficult-to-manage nuclear waste. DU becomes more radioactive over time, and will be most dangerous one million years from now. What are the environmental risks Idaho will face by housing depleted uranium indefinitely?

2) Areva's environmental and human rights record

Areva is not a good neighbor. Areva runs a reprocessing plant in La Hague, France. That single facility pours one million gallons of radioactive liquid into the English Channel each year and has contaminated the seas all the way to the Arctic Circle. How can we be assured its Idaho operation will be more responsible?

3) Proliferation threats from uranium

Uranium enrichment can lead to nuclear bomb making. The only difference between the uranium in nuclear reactor fuel and the uranium in nuclear bombs is the degree of enrichment. What will be the impact of having this technology in Idaho?

Sincerely,
John Hurd, D.C.
Clinton WA

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