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RULES AND DIRECTIVES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, DC 20540

Submitter Information

Name: HJ JAMES

General Comment

Our country needs to avoid radioactive waste wrecks. We need refuse to allow the unwise transport, storage, and disposal schemes for irradiated nuclear fuel such as the proposed dump at Yucca Mountain. Such schemes clearly offload nuclear utilities' liabilities for onto the public.

Transporting high-level radioactive waste (HLRW) by truck, train, and barge, through 45 states and the District of Columbia, to the unsuitable Yucca Mountain, Nevada site would take unnecessary risks, and violate consent-based and environmental justice principles. Yucca is the worst site ever studied for HLRW waste disposal. Yucca is an earthquake and volcanic zone. If this nuclear waste is ever buried there, it will leak into the groundwater, creating a large nuclear sacrifice zone downstream. Further, Nevada has not consented to being railroaded into becoming this country's radioactive waste dump.

Risks of transporting HLRW by truck, train, and barge include long-lasting, high-temperature fires, as NAS acknowledged in 2006, which could breach shipping containers and release disastrous amounts of hazardous radioactivity in heavily populated areas. Barge shipments risk radioactive contamination of vital drinking water supplies and the food chain, and even deadly nuclear criticality accidents if submerged. NAS also emphasized that risks of terrorist attack on shipments need to be addressed.

We should phase out nuclear power, stop the generation of HLRW, and replace the electricity and jobs with renewables and efficiency. For the HLRW that already exists, 200 groups representing all 50 states have been advocating HOSS for well over a decade. Vulnerable pools need to be emptied into quality dry casks that are built to last, safeguarded against accidents and natural disasters, and fortified against attacks.

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