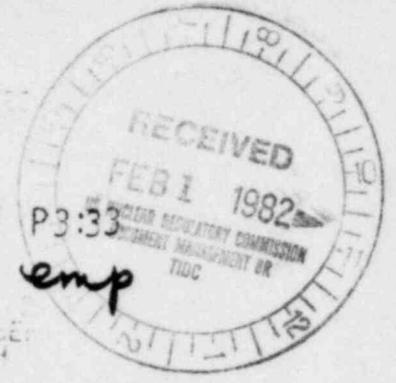


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'82 JAN 27 P3:33

21 January 1982

Dr. Nunzio Palladino, Chairman  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20555

Mr. Chairman: Re: San Onofre

It is hardly surprising that those who play god by authorizing emulation of the sun's fission/fusion/radiation process to victimize this and whatever generations may follow, have no hesitancy in appointing themselves diviners of the behavior of earthquakes, too.

The government's persistent attitude of "the people, the environment and the future be damned" is pathological - whether for your province, nuclear energy, or its "mother" nuclear weaponry.

Thank goodness, we are old and had no children, but I fear for everyone who is forced to exist during this "silent" phase of the nuclear war - all are sitting ducks for accident, mishap, error - if not by design - for insuperable catastrophes in regions or worldwide.

What consummate arrogance is it that leads you to continue to inflict this torture when you do not know how to safely clean up the horrendous mass of wastes or dispose of the facilities that made them?

What exactly can you do to dispose of that sloppily repaired, early-aged Unit I that menaces the region and makes the operation of its companions more of the short-sighted goddom from which you suffer?

When I say "you", I include all experts, academics, policy-makers, fund-providing legislators and entrepreneurs who succumbed to nuclear-addiction - here where the exploitation of the technology began after World War II and in all countries that joined in the mad game out of fear and/or pride.

Sincerely - more in despair than in hope...

*Leone Hayes*  
(Mrs.) Leone Hayes  
5416 Candlelight Drive  
La Jolla, Ca. 92037

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LA April 1978

12-87-

Reminder

# Moratorium Recommended on Nuclear Plant Licensing

## House Panel Says Means Must First Be Found to Dispose of Radioactive Materials Safely

WASHINGTON (AP)—The House Government Operations Committee recommended in a report released Monday that further federal licensing of nuclear power plants be suspended until a solution is found for disposing of radioactive nuclear waste.

Further, the committee recommended that the Department of Energy develop a federal system for handling nuclear wastes with the bills paid by utilities and their customers.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which licenses nuclear power plants, should develop a set of waste disposal estimates for utilities, then managers and customers to consider before building a nuclear plant, the panel said.

The committee said the cost of dismantling a nuclear power plant reactor after its useful life of 30 to 40 years could be as high as \$1 billion per plant, and the costs should be reflected in utility bills.

The report said there are several attractive alternatives to nuclear power, including solar power, which could become economically competitive in five years with increased federal support.

The national inventory of spent nuclear fuel and liquids and radioactive clothing and equipment is burgeoning, yet there is no demonstrated technology for permanently and safely disposing of this waste, the report found.

Several nuclear energy specialists who testified at hearings did contend

safe waste storage is possible.

Republicans on the panel issued a statement calling the licensing moratorium recommendation "totally irresponsible," because the Carter Administration is moving to solve any problems that may exist.

"There are regions of the country which have no alternative but nuclear energy for development," the committee Republicans said, adding that the report adds up to nothing more than a "repository for every anti nuclear argument that has ever been made."

The committee's recommendations have no effect unless legislation is eventually drafted and passed by Congress.

Approval of the report came on a vote of 23 to 14, with three Democrats and 11 Republicans dissenting.

There are geologic stumbling blocks to burying atomic refuse underground, and continued expansion of nuclear power hinges on a solution to radioactive waste disposal, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Waste is accumulating in temporary storage facilities across the country, but the survey indicated the problem is to isolate refuse from the environment for up to hundreds of thousands of years. An Energy Department report said it would be at least 10 years before a permanent nuclear waste disposal system could be operative.

after 30-  
years  
another

10 years

17 years  
11??

12-78 guess

The persisting enchantment with this "marvel" technology blinds people to the ever present and long term hazards for which no solutions have been devised.

Agreement on the disposal problem by  
U. S. Geological Survey  
General Accounting Office  
House Operations Committee  
California Energy Commission  
Calif. Assembly Committee for  
Land, Resources, and Energy

cannot be ignored. They function for the good of the country, with concern for the consequences of technologies and practices, something much neglected in our hasty drive for "progress".

Costs paid as TAXES in the past and presently and NOT included in the highly propagandized "competitive" unit charge to customers - a gross deception... that has gone on for 20+ years.

From:  
OLKSABSTLEUNG  
Vienna 9-23-78

Dr. Helmut Rauch, Prof. of Nuclear Physics at Vienna Technical School, and lecturer at the Inst. for Experimental Physics and Austrian University Dept. of Atomic Studies, said that if as much money had been spent on the benign replenishable energies as has been spent on nuclear, the energy needs would have easily been met.  
The Austrians voted NOT to use nuclear 11-5-78 in the world's first national referendum.

# Atom Waste Study Requires Thinking Eons Into Future

By G. G. LaBELLE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON—The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is wrestling with questions that would test the imagination of science-fiction writers in an effort to overcome a very real problem: disposal of deadly atomic waste.

In 1,000 years, will today's "remote" dump site still be remote?

Will future prospectors hunger

*'We are sitting in a very thin slice of time,' Ahearne says uneasily.*

for the now-worthless minerals that contain them, exposing the long-hidden nuclear wastes?

Will society even remember where the atomic junk is stockpiled?

In 50,000 or 100,000 years, could a shift of the earth, or a trend in the climate fostering erosion, help the wastes escape? How will an unsuspecting and perhaps radically different society cope?

Enter Joseph Hendrie, John Ahearne, Victor Gilinsky and Peter Bradford. The four NRC commissioners, who usually talk in terms of slicing weeks from licensing hearings for nuclear plants, suddenly are speaking of eons and pondering just how long society as we know it will exist.

## Looking Far Ahead

"We are sitting in a very thin slice of time," Ahearne says uneasily. "We are trying to predict what will happen in tens of thousands of years."

The commission is trying to set rules to license repositories for the extremely long-lived wastes of a nuclear industry not yet a quarter century old. Their musings recently at one of a continuing series of meetings on the subject pointed up anew the notorious dangers of prediction.

Chairman Hendrie noted that you could bury the wastes in granite only to have granite become a valuable mineral 1,000 years hence. That might have prospectors of the future inadvertently setting free to-

day's dangerous wastes into tomorrow's unsuspecting societies.

Or cities not even imagined could arise above dump sites chosen for their very remoteness.

"Muttering about population density in 1985 doesn't make any sense when you're talking about where cities will be located in two millennia," Hendrie said.

## Shortage of Space

He concluded: "You're just going to have to live with human intrusion," arguing that standards must be set now for burying the wastes of nuclear plants already running out of storage space and producing more spent fuel each year.

The Union of Concerned Scientists has estimated that using water to reduce to safe levels the commercial atomic wastes produced just through 1979 would require 5,000 years of the annual flow of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers.

The toxic life of the various wastes are from hundreds of years up to what seems almost infinite. ~~has been estimated, for example, that plutonium 239 will remain toxic to some degree for 245,000 years.~~

With figures like that, no wonder Hendrie was asking whether there will be "societal memory" and "continuity of human institutions" to

*Geologists would have to look 2 million years into the past.*

even keep track of where the waste is buried. He suggested "vigorous archiving and monumenting and marking" as the best way.

Obviously, deciding the locations of the repositories will be a delicate political problem. Just setting technical design standards is complicated enough.

John B. Martin, head of the commission's division of waste management, is helping write rules that would have geologists looking 2 million years into the past to ensure the stability of sites.

Please see WASTE, Page 25

Continued from Second Page

Martin envisions the repositories as being about three square miles each, located 990 feet below the earth's surface. The first repository might be started in the mid-1990s and sealed 25 years later.

Each repository will have an engineered part—the containers, or perhaps containers within containers within containers, that will hold the wastes themselves. Then there will be the geologic setting—the hole in the ground that will be sealed to prevent leakage.

The standards the commission is discussing now would have the engineered section containing the waste completely for 1,000 years. The repository would have to be located so that ground water could not carry the wastes to the outside for 1,000 years. Martin says that "after 1,000 years most of the hazard has disappeared."

"Theoretically it never disappears completely. It just gets smaller and smaller," he said.

Martin's comment points up another problem. Some argue against rules that are too specific, fearing they would mean no repository could ever be licensed because there would be no way to show the criteria were being met.

Hendrie said at the last meeting that he had heard such complaints from "some of the package people who are afraid they will not be able to prove their container will be able to contain all the radionuclides for 1,000 years."

The chairman said he feared "formulating a rule with the best of intentions that then becomes an impossible barrier . . . a maze from which there is no escape."

Commissioner Bradford said, however, that a lack of tough standards was "almost an invitation to sloppiness," but Ahearne said simply: "Rigorous proof will never be achieved."

Bradford said he was afraid the commission would construct "a four-lane highway" to a license. "You could drive this far enough so that any hole in the ground is better than no hole in the ground," he said.

Hendrie did not argue for "any hole in the ground,"

but he did say:

"Putting the stuff in the ground is better than leaving it lying around for a thousand years . . . I am absolutely convinced that the durable course for mankind is to start tucking this stuff away."

1-21-82  
Reminder