

From: Shirley Vaughn <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 10:38 PM
To: WCS_CISFEIS Resource
Subject: [External_Sender] Interim storage of nuclear waste

office of administration,

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Mail Stop: TWFN-7-A60M

Attn: Program Management, Announcements and Editing Staff

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Washington, DC 20555-0001

RE: Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), Docket No. 72-1050; NRC-2016-0231 Interim Storage Project's license application to construct and operate a Consolidated Interim Storage Facility (CISF) for spent nuclear fuel (SNF) and Greater-Than Class C (GTCC) waste.

I am among the faith leaders from many religious traditions and diverse communities who believe in stewardship of our planet. As Pope Francis stated in his 2015 encyclical, "As faith leaders we take seriously the responsibility to help discern what is equitable, just, and for the common good of Our Common Home."

I am greatly concerned about potential risks that could affect our communities, future generations, and the wonderful place that we call home.

A dangerous Consolidated Interim Storage project is proposed by Waste Control Specialists (WCS) and Orano, together known as Interim Storage Partners (ISP). They want to import 40,000 tons of high-level radioactive waste from nuclear reactors around the country and store it above ground in Andrews, Texas for decades. A similar project proposed by Holtec would store over 173,000 tons of this deadly waste at a site between Hobbs and Carlsbad, New Mexico.

Exposure to unshielded spent nuclear fuel rods is lethal. It would be unjust to transport the nation's high-level radioactive waste and dump it on communities of color in the Southwest.

Millions of people living along rail lines and near ports would be at risk during decades of transport. Children and future generations would be put at risk from accidents, canister cracks or sabotage. Potential contamination could lead to cancers, genetic damage, birth defects and even deaths.

The Southwest is a region of earthquakes, intense storms, tornadoes, extreme temperatures and wind-swept wildfires. A Southern Methodist University study reports that a 4,000 square-mile area in West Texas is sinking and uplifting, forming new sinkholes. This is not a good place to send nuclear waste.

The proposed radioactive waste storage site in Texas sits near the Ogallala aquifer, the nation's largest . It provides fresh water to wildlife and millions of people. The water and soils used by ranchers, farmers, dairies and industries in eight states must be protected.

We must all care for creation, serving as good stewards of this planet. Dangerous nuclear reactor waste must remain isolated for a million years in order to protect all living things, but Consolidated Interim Storage would create huge health and safety risks, by failing to get this waste into viable permanent disposal.

It is our responsibility to speak out when lives and communities are threatened. Therefore, I urge that Consolidated Interim Storage License Applications be denied, and that less risky, viable, permanent solutions be pursued that can isolate this waste from living things.

Please act to protect creation and the people of our communities.

Thank you,

Shirley Vaughn
shirley.vaughn@outlook.com
4707 Broadway St
San Antonio, Texas 78209

Federal Register Notice: 85FR27447
Comment Number: 2039

Mail Envelope Properties (5f0e6c0ab9d01_869c3ff015428bb014158eb)

Subject: [External_Sender] Interim storage of nuclear waste
Sent Date: 7/14/2020 10:38:02 PM
Received Date: 7/14/2020 10:38:08 PM
From: Shirley Vaughn

Created By: info@sg.actionnetwork.org

Recipients:

Post Office: ip-10-0-0-69.mail

Files	Size	Date & Time
MESSAGE	3360	7/14/2020 10:38:08 PM

Options
Priority: Standard
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Expiration Date:
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