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These articles really got our attention!
Had commentary on brotherly love?

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What Utahns Can Do to Stop the Nuclear Waste Parade

BY STEVE ERICKSON

Twenty years ago, the people of Utah were united in opposition to a project that threatened everything we stand for, even our very existence — the MX missile deployment in the West Desert. Because we routed a resounding, collective "No!", the MX shell-game scheme was scrapped.

It will take the same collective, persistent, informed, and committed effort to defeat Private Fuel Storage's proposed high level nuclear waste facility on the Skull Valley Goshute Reservation.

While reasonable people can disagree over the size and nature of the risks this project poses, how those risks are assessed, and what "acceptable risk," it should be understood that the project's impacts upon the state — even without a catastrophic release of radiation — are nearly all negative. Nor can it be fairly said that the process of evaluating the PFS deal to date has been credible or open to public participation.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the other three agencies that have approval power over the project have already, for all intents and purposes, caved to PFS and the nuclear industry. That could come as no surprise. The NRC has "never actually denied a license application [requested by the industry], except in one case

for failure to consider environmental justice issues," according to testimony from the Nevada Governor's Office. After all, the NRC is the son of the AEC, the Atomic Energy Commission, which Utahns know deliberately and knowingly subjected all Americans downwind of atmospheric nuclear tests to radiation exposures and lied about it for decades. Like the AEC, the NRC represents and promotes the industry with far more vigor than it regulates it.

Of all the potential negative impacts this project may have on Utah, among the worst will be the effect on our image, how the rest of the world views us, and how we view ourselves. Will our motto in 2022 be "The World's Waste is Welcome Here"? If the PFS facility is permitted, and if a proposal by Envirocare to take the hottest "low level" radioactive wastes from all over the nation is approved by the Legislature and the governor next winter, then Utah will be a one-stop, full-service dumping ground for every variety of rad waste there is! Is this how we want to sell our "Pretty Great State"? Is this the legacy we wish to leave future generations of this land, this people?

What can Utahns do — what can

you do — to keep this nuclear dump proposal from becoming a reality? First, learn about the issue.

You might start with the Downwinders Web site (www.downwinders.org) and its links to information. Talk to your family, your friends, neighbors, and co-workers. Seek guidance from your spiritual leaders. Contact your congressmen (Sens. Orrin Hatch and Bob Bennett have been conspicuously silent on this issue). Make this an election-year issue — ask the candidates what they will do to stop PFS. Write a letter to the editor. Join an organization working to stop this project. Encourage organizations to which you already belong to take a stand in opposition.

Sign a petition that just says no (available on the Downwinders Web site). Contribute to Downwinders. Get involved!

Participate in the only public process left. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the PFS scheme has been issued. But the NRC has printed limited copies (Utah state government received just three — count 'em — copies of the document!). Written comments are due September 21.

Write the NRC, ask for a copy of the DEIS, demand that copies be made available to all who request

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them, tell the NRC that the comment deadline must be extended another 60 days, insist that more public hearings be held in Utah as well as in the cities where the fuel originates and cities along transportation routes. (Write the Office of the Chief Information Officer, Reproduction and Distribution Services, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington D.C. 20555-0001, and comment the NRC Web site: www.nrc.gov/NRC/NUREGS).

It is not too late. Like MX, the deal is mostly about money politics, not sound science or smart policy. This project, MX, can be stopped. Utahns, the choice is yours: act now or later.

Steve Erickson is with Downwinders, a research and educational foundation established in Salt Lake City in 1978.

Please have mercy on the poor, battered people of Utah — "downwinders" wasn't bad enough, now the 49 states have decided to send us to death with their lethal playthings. Please think or rethink this situation over. Utah is rampant with cancer — all around us — here, next door, across the street — Now brain cancer is taking over. We don't need another death sentence.

Sincerely, ADM03

Marguerite Hatch
ER105 - 03
Add Scott Flanders

Public Again Raises Concerns About Goshute Nuke Storage

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Even if it posed no health hazard to Utah residents, a nuclear waste storage facility planned for the Goshute Indian Reservation would hurt the state's image and economy, according to several people who spoke out against the plan at a public hearing Monday in Salt Lake City.

"Property values and home sales will drop," said Dina Scheifl, a real estate agent who was one of about 35 people to speak at the hearing organized by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. "It will likely stigmatize our produce, our dairy and our other agricultural products, as well as our raw land."

The hearing was the last opportunity for the public to comment in person on a draft environmental impact statement for the plan.

The Goshutes want to build the high-level nuclear fuel storage site on their reservation in Skull Valley, about 45 miles southwest of Salt Lake City. The site would hold

up to 40,000 tons of spent fuel from many of the nation's power plants.

Tribal leaders have signed a lease agreement with Private Fuel Storage, a consortium of eight electric utilities in the East, Midwest and California.

"The utilities and the Department of Energy are taking unfair advantage of the Goshutes, and the Goshutes are just desperate enough to accept it," Salt Lake Mayor Rocky Anderson said.

Anderson said the communities where trainloads of spent nuclear fuel would pass through will need to be trained and equipped in case of potential accidents, but it is unclear who will cover the costs. The state estimates the cost of cleanup for a catastrophic accident between \$14 billion and \$320 billion.

But Scott Northard of PFS said there was little likelihood of such an accident: "In over 30 years and more than 3,000 spent fuel shipments, we've had no major injuries or fatalities, and no catastrophic incidents."