

## Private ISF

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**From:** kepler.k@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 24, 2017 9:28 AM  
**To:** PrivateISF  
**Subject:** Response to RFI on Private Initiatives to Develop Consolidated SNF Storage Facilities

January 24, 2017

U.S. Department of Energy  
Office of Nuclear Energy  
1000 Independence Ave. SW  
Washington, DC 20585

Greetings:

I have been apprised of the matter at hand with respect to potential establishment of interim storage facilities in West Texas and Nevada for high-level nuclear waste from points throughout the United States.

Many nuclear experts and scientists are submitting material to you with professional details that are beyond my expertise to provide. Their consensus is clearly that the proposed facilities are not in the long-term public interest for reasons of safety in transport, public health, economic cost, and future unknown threats ranging from earthquakes to terrorism. I trust you will take those inputs seriously. Many of us have watched Three Mile Island, Chalk River, Chernobyl, Fukushima Daiichi, and other nuclear accidents with concern. I lived for many years in the shadows of Davis Bessie and Fermi 1 and 2, plus Bruce A and B in Canada.

However, I have a personal experience that goes beyond mere theory and alarm. In 1950, while I was in the womb, my mother's physician X-rayed her to determine fetal position. Back then, radiation exposure limits were drastically higher than today and ultrasound technology had not been developed. Doctors do not X-ray fetuses today. However, it was done and I was too young to protest. The long-term result: my mother died of multiple abdominal-area cancers. I am a cancer survivor and need annual screenings at personal expense to watch for new growths and remove those that start. My mother's parents lived to old age without cancer. My brother and two sisters who were not X-rayed in the womb have no cancers. It's statistically much higher than random chance. Gamma radiation kills. The deaths that result are not a fair trade-off for any perceived benefits obtained -- whether medical diagnosis, electricity generation, or weapons of war.

I recognize the creation of nuclear waste has happened and continues today and the dilemma of rectifying the problem has not been solved. We do know, however, the risks from interim storage facilities are dangerous and real. They should not be built. They will endanger human life for many generations to come. Please do not construct them.

Yours truly,

KENNETH KEPLER  
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