

Private ISF

From: R. McDonough <beckymcdonough@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 11:18 AM
To: PrivateISF
Subject: Response to RFI on Private Initiatives to Develop Consolidated SNF Storage Facilities

To Whom It May Concern:

Is this actually being considered? Is there any one of the proposed private entities who would consent to having what can only be called ultra-toxic waste in their backyards? I certainly wouldn't, and neither would you. It's a disgrace to the intelligence of the Department of Energy that such a concept be entertained at all. You're smarter than that.

To quote the salient points others have made:

This proposal invites disaster because the private owners will be cutting costs at every turn to maximize profits. If there was radioactive contamination our land, air, water, and human health could be harmed for millennia.

Private permanent parking lot dumps are high-risk, not only radiologically but also to U.S. taxpayers' wallets. As Kevin Kamps of Beyond Nuclear has said: "By requiring a permanent deep geological repository to be operating before centralized interim storage [whether private or federal government owned/operated], Congress wanted to prevent the very real danger of a de facto permanent parking lot dump -- a high-level radioactive waste storage site that would be designed for the short-term but be there forever. WCS, for example, is a cynical shell game and taxpayers are sure to lose. Congress was right that liability for the costs for storing commercial irradiated nuclear fuel belong with the generators and should not be shifted onto the backs of the American public.

Diane D'Arrigo, radioactive waste project director at Nuclear Information and Resource Service, has said, "Moving irradiated nuclear fuel over roads, rails, and waterways to a supposedly temporary site puts us all at risk and creates only the illusion of a solution."

Karen Hadden, Executive Director of the Texas-based SEED (Sustainable Energy & Economic Development) Coalition, has said, "Due to risks of radioactive contamination from leaks or accidents or potential terrorist actions, nuclear waste should only be moved once, and only when a deep underground permanent repository is in place that could safely isolate the dangerous waste for the million years that it will remain hazardous."

In fact, a coalition of environmental groups, including NRDC, NIRS, Nevada Nuclear Waste Task Force, Citizen Action Coalition of Indiana, and Public Citizen, won a major court victory on July 9, 2004, which ordered EPA back to the drawing board on its proposed Yucca Mountain high-level radioactive waste dump regulatory cut-off at 10,000 years post waste burial. In 2008, EPA's revised regulations acknowledged a one million year hazard associated with irradiated nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste.

Unless you want your children to play in radioactive waste, please ditch this horrifically bad idea.

Thank you for your consideration,

Rebecca McDonough