

Private ISF

From: slama.cody@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2017 9:29 PM
To: PrivateISF
Subject: Response to RFI on Private Initiatives to Develop Consolidated SNF Storage Facilities

Dear Department of Energy,

I am writing, in response to the public comment period for private incentives for high-level radioactive waste interim storage facilities, to express that I absolutely do not consent to high-level nuclear waste (HLNW) being stored or transported near me. As a resident of New Mexico (NM) I have lived with a nuclear legacy that has contaminated the land, air, and water. This has resulted in increased risk of cancer for my family and friends. The reason I do not consent to storing high-level radioactive waste, in NM or its borders is because this will increase the risk of cancer in the area.

One primary reason why the DOE shouldn't consider the interim storage of HLNW is because there is currently no permanent repository. The Nuclear Waste Policy Act, including its amendments, does not allow for the temporary storage of HLNW without a permanent repository. I am concerned about an interim storage being built before a permanent repository is ready because of the chance of a permanent repository never being built and the interim storage becoming a permanent resting place for the countries HLNW.

Another concern of mine is the transportation of HLNW. This waste is considered the most dangerous waste on the planet because of its high levels of radioactivity. Thus, it would be in the best interest of the nation not to put this waste in a risky situation such as on the roads or railways. Many people would be at risk if an accident did occur and the cleanup cost would be outrageous.

Lastly, I would like to express the environmental injustice of bringing this waste to NM or near our borders. NM has been targeted for a potential interim storage facilities because it is a poor state and because it has a largely Hispanic population. Our state has never had a nuclear power plant to develop HLNW and it would be an outrage for us to have to store the HLNW that the rest of the nation has created. As I stated earlier our state has enough nuclear waste to deal with as a result of nuclear weapons. The repository WIPP has already had an unforeseen accident in 2014, which resulted in the facility and surrounding area to be contaminated by radioactive materials.

In conclusion, it would be best for the DOE to not support interim storage because it is against the law and because it will be an environmental injustice. The risks involved in transporting this waste will include most of the nation. Currently the solution is to keep the waste where it is (exceptions to be made for waste in dangerous areas such as San Onofre in which case the waste should be moved to a safer area close by). Keeping the waste where it is will allow time for a permanent repository to be found and for the storage containers to become more robust before transportation.

Best wishes,

Cody Slama