



## **Protect Our Lives, Land and Water From Radioactive Waste Risks**

- WHEREAS,** Andrews County in Texas and Eddy and Lea Counties in NM are targeted for forty years or more of storage for the nation's most dangerous nuclear reactor waste, which could lead to dangerous de facto permanent dumps, and importing high-level radioactive waste would put millions of people at risk for financial and health impacts from potential accidents or incidents; and
- WHEREAS,** transporting high-level radioactive waste for the purpose of consolidated storage would unnecessarily increase risks of accidents or terrorism activity, and the waste would likely travel through the San Antonio region, where major military bases are located; and
- WHEREAS,** high-level radioactive waste should remain secured at or near the site of generation and be transported only once, when a scientifically viable permanent disposal site becomes available; and
- WHEREAS,** high-level radioactive waste consists of irradiated (spent) fuel from nuclear power reactors and/or weapons production that includes uranium, plutonium and other radioactive elements that must be isolated for thousands of years or longer. The waste on a single train car would likely contain as much plutonium as was in the bomb dropped on Nagasaki; and
- WHEREAS,** exposure to radioactivity is known to lead to birth defects, genetic damage, and cancers and unshielded exposure to high-level radioactive waste could give a lethal dose; and
- WHEREAS,** our lives, land and aquifers must be protected from radioactive contamination which could result from accidents, radiation releases or leaks, or terrorist actions during the thousands of high-level radioactive waste shipments that would occur for a period of 24 years if consolidated storage is licensed; and
- WHEREAS,** an accident releasing only a small amount of radioactivity could contaminate a 42-square mile area. A DOE study found that cleanup could cost \$620 million in a rural area and \$9.5 billion in the most heavily contaminated square mile of a large city; and
- WHEREAS,** small communities with largely Hispanic populations and few resources to fight back are being targeted to host the radioactive waste dumps, an example of extreme environmental injustice; and
- WHEREAS,** many states have previously rejected consolidated high-level radioactive waste storage or disposal, and Texas farmers and ranchers concerned about the Ogallala Aquifer defeated a proposed Deaf Smith County nuclear disposal site in the 1980's.