

Vote AGAINST bills that would dump HIGH-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE on Texas and New Mexico

Radioactive Waste Proposals

Waste Control Specialists (WCS) and its partner Orano are known together as Interim Storage Partners – or ISP. They want to dump 40,000 tons of the hottest of all radioactive waste on Texas, spent fuel rods from nuclear reactors around the country that would be stored above ground in thin steel canisters with cement around them.

Their license application is for storage for 40 years but anticipates seeking extensions for even longer. With a timeframe this long, it's hard to believe the waste would ever leave, which is dangerous because the site isn't designed for permanent isolation.

WCS hopes to be licensed by 2020 and have construction and preoperational testing complete by April of 2022. This dangerous waste would sit above ground in dry casks, exposed to extreme desert temperatures, wildfires, lightning, storms and flooding - potentially forever.

Holtec also proposes a Consolidated Interim Storage Facility for high-level radioactive waste near Carlsbad, New Mexico, which would take 176,000 tons of this deadly waste.

House:

Oppose H.R. 2699, Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2019, by Rep. McNerney

This bill was passed by the House Energy and Commerce Committee, but must still go to the Natural Resources, Armed Services, and Budget and Rules Committees. It would allow licensing of dangerous Consolidated Interim Storage facilities. Thousands of cross-country rail shipments of high-level radioactive waste would result, going through 75% of Congressional districts by rail. Some shipment by barges and trucks would occur.. The waste would be dumped on a largely LatinoX region, a massive environmental injustice.

Oppose H.R. 3136 – Storage and Transportation of Residual and Excess Nuclear Fuel Act of 2019 by Rep. Matsui –was referred to Energy & Commerce Committee

***We oppose the \$25 million in the House Energy Appropriations for FY 2020 that could go for Consolidated Interim Storage Facilities.** This money should go instead to hardened on-site storage of high-level radioactive waste (HOSS) at or near the nuclear reactor site where was waste was generated.

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Please VOTE NO on bad bills and block funding of Consolidated Interim Storage!

Senate:

Oppose S. 1234, the Nuclear Waste Administration Act of 2019 by Sen. Murkowski. This bill was heard in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Oppose S. 2917, Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2019 by Sen. Barasso

S. 2470 Senate Energy Appropriations Bills – Section 306 should be removed and remain out of the bill. It included \$10 million for interim storage, which should instead be used for hardened on-site storage at or near reactor sites.

How Dangerous is This Waste?

High-level nuclear reactor waste is one of the most dangerous substances on Earth. Exposure to unshielded nuclear reactor is lethal. Radioactive accidents or leaks can lead to water contamination, and remediation could cost taxpayers billions of dollars. One radioactive railway could destroy lives and livelihoods, impacting our water supplies, ranching, agriculture, the oil industry, and tourism.

Transportation risks would be created across the country. If NRC approves the license, thousands of rail cars of deadly radioactive waste would move across the nation for over 20 years, creating risks from accidents, leaks and terrorist actions. Overweight railcars weighing up to 210 tons or more would carry this radioactive waste, but many tracks are only designed for 143 tons per rail car. **Each rail car would carry as much plutonium as was in the bomb dropped on Nagasaki.**

High-level radioactive waste needs to be isolated from living things for a million years, and deep underground disposal is needed for this reason. **Storing it above ground in extreme desert temperatures for decades will only lead to dangerous cracks and leaks, and won't help get the nation closer to a viable permanent site. It would only create more risks nationwide. More robust storage containers and systems are needed at existing reactor sites. There should be no transport until a viable permanent repository is in place to isolate the waste from living things.**

WE DON'T WANT THIS DEADLY WASTE in Texas or New Mexico!

- Resolutions opposing consolidated interim storage of this waste and its transport through local communities have been passed by **Bexar, Dallas, Nueces, El Paso and Midland Counties and the cities of San Antonio, Midland and Denton, as well as the Midland Chamber of Commerce.**
- Over **46,000 comments were submitted to NRC opposing the WCS high-level radioactive waste storage project.** Legal opposition includes SEED Coalition, Public Citizen, Sierra Club and a group of oil and gas companies.
- Oil and gas industry representatives, including Fasken Oil and Ranch and a group of royalty owners have expressed concern about potential water and oilfield contamination and have

Likely Routes for Transport of High-Level Radioactive Waste to Texas

Nuclear Reactors West of Texas: 6
Nuclear Waste in Metric Tons of Uranium: 6,070

Nuclear Reactors East of Texas: 90
Nuclear Waste in Metric Tons of Uranium: 63,410

Sources:
Nuclear Energy Institute, "US State by State Used Fuel and Payments to the Nuclear Waste Fund"
US Energy Information Administration, "Nuclear Reactor Operational Status Tables"

