

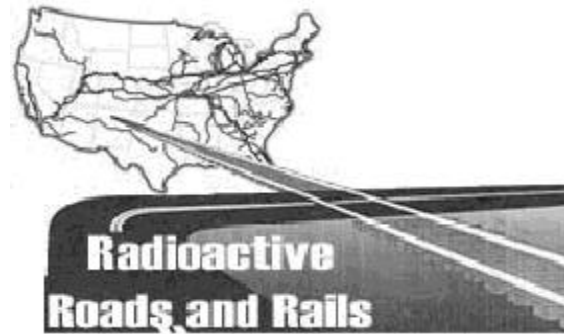


For more information, contact:

Public Citizen's Critical Mass
Energy and Environment Program
215 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20003
www.citizen.org/cmep
202-546-4996
202-547-7392 (fax)

OR

Nuclear Information
Resource Service
1424 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC
www.nirs.org
202-328-0002
202-468-2183 (fax)



Get the Facts on PROPERTY VALUES and Nuclear Waste Transportation!

Why will nuclear waste be travelling through my state?

Yucca Mountain is the only site being considered by the Department of Energy (DOE) as a “permanent disposal” site for the United States’ highly radioactive nuclear waste. This spent nuclear fuel and high-level waste is currently located at 77 sites across the country and would have to be transported by truck or rail to Yucca Mountain if that site is approved as a nuclear dump.

Several thousand shipments of nuclear waste would travel through 43 states—past the homes of 50 million Americans for 25 years. Experience has shown that property values decline significantly along nuclear waste routes. Using the Department of Energy’s own data, it can be

estimated that between 70 and 310 accidents and over 1000 incidents would occur during the nuclear waste shipping campaign if trucks are used as the preferred mode, and between 50 and 260 accidents and over 250 incidents if trains are used as the preferred mode. The Department of Energy also estimates that a severe accident in a rural area releasing a small amount of radiation would contaminate 42 square miles for well over one year. A similar accident in an urban area would have devastating consequences to the economy and public health.



Disclosure Laws Require Buyers To Be Told If Property Is On A Transportation Route

Most states require that potential property buyers be informed if the property for sale is located on a potential nuclear waste transportation route. This means that even if nuclear waste isn't already traveling past your home, your property value may decrease. Residents should not be "stuck" with property that they cannot sell along a nuclear waste transportation route.

<p>Other lawsuits similar to the Komis case include a class action lawsuit by 50,000 Coloradans against Rockwell International for \$550 million in reduced property values, and lawsuits by neighbors of the Oak Ridge plant in Tennessee, the Hanford plant in Washington, and the Mound plant in Ohio. In 1990, the community around the Fernald plant in Ohio received \$78 million from the government.</p>							

Many Jurisdictions Are Officially Opposed to Nuclear Waste Transportation through Their Communities!

These include Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties, and the city of Santa Barbara, CA; Denver, CO, St. Louis, MO; Philadelphia, Bucks County, and Falls Township, PA; Mt. Rainier, Takoma Park and Greenbelt, MD; Marshall and Anson Counties and the town of Wadesboro, NC; Decatur, GA; Amherst, MA, Beacon, NY and more.

Sante Fe vs. Komis—The Court Awards Property Damages

In 1992, the New Mexico Supreme Court upheld a jury decision to award John and Lemonia Komis \$337,815 in damages for perceived loss due to public perception of fear. The Komis property was located along a Waste Isolation Pilot Project (WIPP) nuclear waste transportation route, and the case proved that property values do indeed decline because people are afraid of the dangers associated with nuclear waste transportation.

In the case decision, the court referenced a public opinion survey conducted by Zia Research Associates, Inc., which showed that 71% of the respondents believed that residential property value would decrease because of its location near a WIPP route.

The Court also stated in its decision that "Whether the transportation of hazardous nuclear materials actually is or is not safe is irrelevant; the issue is whether public perception of those dangers has a depressing effect on the value of the property not taken." In other words, your property value may decrease simply because people are afraid of the possible consequences of nuclear waste transportation!

Get your local government to pass a resolution Opposing Nuclear Waste Transportation through your community?

WHEREAS, according to documentation provided by the State of Nevada which indicates that radioactive waste may be transported through [this jurisdiction] as early as 2006 should Senate Bill 1287 or similar legislation be enacted by the U.S. Congress;

and WHEREAS, [this jurisdiction] does not have adequately trained emergency response personnel or equipment to cope with a radiological disaster that could occur as a result of radioactive waste transportation through [this jurisdiction];

and WHEREAS, the federal government, under the bills listed above, would limit funding to [this jurisdiction] for training of emergency response personnel and for purchase of necessary equipment to cope with a radiological emergency;

and WHEREAS, property values are likely to fall, attraction of new business is likely to fail, and improvement of the communities [our community] may become difficult if not impossible should radioactive waste be transported through [this jurisdiction];

and WHEREAS, this radioactive waste is to be transported to an "interim" site in Nevada, and thus does little or nothing to solve our nation's radioactive waste problem;

and WHEREAS, we generally oppose radioactive waste transportation through [this jurisdiction];

BE IT RESOLVED, that [this jurisdiction] is on record as opposing any and all legislation which would require radioactive waste transportation near or through [this jurisdiction];

and BE IT RESOLVED, that [this jurisdiction] supports creation of an independent presidential commission to re-examine our nation's radioactive waste policy;

and BE IT RESOLVED, that [this jurisdiction] will carry this resolution to all of our elected local, state, and federal officials, and to the President of the United States.

Shipments Will Be Frequent and Will Occur for Many Years

Depending on where you live, as many as 3-5 shipments per week could roll past your home for 25 years. Because most of the nuclear waste is located in the East and Yucca Mountain is in the West, many communities will be exposed to large amounts and frequent shipments of nuclear waste throughout the entire shipping campaign.

The Department of Energy reports that the region of impact for public health and safety along transportation routes is 800 meters (.5 mile) on either side of the center line of transportation rights-of-way for non-accident conditions, and 80 kilometers (50 miles) for accident conditions.



Insurance Does Not Cover Radiological Incidents

Neither homeowners insurance nor health insurance covers problems caused by radiological accidents. Check your policy! It will explicitly state that you will not be covered if your damage or illness is caused by a nuclear accident.