



NUCLEAR SECURITY COALITION

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Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility
C-10 Foundation
Cape Downwinders
Citizens Awareness Network
Citizens Campaign for the Environment
Citizens' Environmental Coalition
Citizens' Regulatory Commission
Citizens Resistance at Fermi II
Clean Water Action
Connecticut Coalition Against Millstone
Earth Care
EFMR Monitoring
Environmental Coalition on Nuclear Power
Finger Lakes Citizens for the Environment
Georgians Against Nuclear Energy
Greenpeace
Heart of America Northwest
Independent Environmental Conservation & Activism Network
Institute for Resource and Security Studies
Justice Through Peace Initiative
Kids Against Pollution
Lakeshore Environmental Action
Massachusetts Citizens Awareness Network
Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group
Nebraskans for Peace
New England Coalition on Nuclear Pollution
New Jersey Public Interest Research Group
North American Water Office
New York Public Interest Research Group
North Carolina Waste Awareness & Reduction Network
Nuclear Energy Information Service
Nuclear Free Vermont
Nuclear Information & Resource Service
People's Environmental Network of New York
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Pilgrim Watch
Plymouth County Nuclear Information Committee
Public Citizen
Riverkeeper
San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace
Sierra Club
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
Syracuse Peace Council
Three Mile Island Alert
Union of Concerned Scientists
UNPLUG Salem
Vermont Citizens Awareness Network

NEWS RELEASE

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Statement by Nuclear Security Coalition on Release of National Academy Sciences Study

Today, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) released a declassified study which finds that pools storing highly radioactive waste at the nation's nuclear power plants are vulnerable to terrorist attack. Congress commissioned the study over a year ago, but its release has been held up since last summer by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), which disagrees with NAS's findings. The coalition issued the following statement today after reviewing the declassified version of the NAS study:

“The release of NAS's study puts to rest any doubts about the danger we all face: nuclear waste at our nation's nuclear power plants is vulnerable to attack. We applaud the Academy for its scientific integrity and its perseverance in seeing to it that these important findings are made public.

“As with the release of the 9/11 Commission Report, today's release of the NAS study demands action. It is not enough to know the danger. Congress must pass legislation that gets waste out of overcrowded pools. NAS also points out that current dry storage is not without its own vulnerabilities and must be improved.

“Since August 10, 2004, the coalition has focused a petition to the NRC on the vulnerability of nuclear waste storage pools elevated to unprotected roof tops in 32 nuclear power stations around the country. A pre-9/11 NRC study identifies that 32 GE Boiling Water Mark I and Mark II reactors' ‘secondary containments generally do not appear to have any significant structures that might reduce the likelihood of aircraft penetration,’ potentially resulting in the drain-down of the protective water shield around the nuclear waste and a catastrophic nuclear fire.

“The unsuitability of Yucca Mountain and growing opposition to a proposed dump site in Utah make it clear that nuclear waste will remain at reactor sites for decades to come, if not in perpetuity. Congress must go the next step and require the deployment of more secure on-site storage systems.”

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The Nuclear Security Coalition is a national group of 47 public interest organizations advocating for improved security at nuclear power plants.