

Nuclear Energy/Radioactive Waste: Just the FACTS

"Both nuclear reactors and uranium enrichment facilities must be carefully decommissioned using processes that are occupationally dangerous, and hazardous to the natural environment, expensive, and time-intensive."

-- **Benjamin K. Sovacool, 2009 Nautilus Award Winner, "The Dirty Energy Dilemma"**

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benjamin_K._Sovacool

"Deadly radioactive waste persists from every stage of the cycle, from mining to the final deadly and highly radioactive waste. No country on Earth has yet found a proved method to safely store radioactive waste for the thousands of years required. All of us are aware that mass quantities of the waste generated and stored on site may soon be transported across the U.S., and that it may pass dangerously close to many population centers. For the safety of our children, future generations and our precious environment, we are obligated to deny production of more toxic nuclear waste and to put our resources into clean and renewable energy."

-- **Dr. Lewis Patrie, Chair, WNC Physicians for Social Responsibility** <http://www.wncpsr.org>

"The West Valley, New York reprocessing plant near Buffalo operated for only six years (from 1966 to 1972), but caused so much radioactive contamination of the surrounding environment that it will cost \$5.2 billion in Year 1996 dollars (\$6.8 billion in Year 2007 dollars) to clean up. If not cleaned up, the radioactive contamination on-site will erode into adjacent waterways and flow downstream into Lake Erie and Lake Ontario over the next millennium. During its operations, West Valley had among the highest worker exposures, and worst water contamination, in the U.S. nuclear power industry. West Valley suffered so many accidents (including fires), technical glitches and failures that only one year's worth of projected reprocessing "throughput" was accomplished in six years of operations." --**Kevin Kamps, Beyond Nuclear** <http://www.beyondnuclear.org/about/>

"People living within 16 km (10 miles) of a nuclear power plant should have ready access to KI tablets. These tablets can be obtained from local pharmacies and some public health agencies." -- **Merck & Co. Pharmaceuticals**

<http://www.merckmanuals.com/professional/sec21/ch317/ch317a.html>

Lou Zeller, executive director of the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, an environmental group, told *Mountain Xpress*, "This week's spill is but one in a long series of accidents involving radioactive materials. State and federal agencies routinely issue statements saying, 'no danger,' regardless of the facts. But radioactivity is an invisible and odorless poison, and few people have Geiger counters. So, it's easy to cover up the damage. The bottom line is: There is no safe level of radioactive exposure."

<http://www.mountainx.com/news/2004/0707uranium.php>

The **Church Rock Uranium Mill Spill** occurred in New Mexico, USA, in 1979 when United Nuclear Corporation's Church Rock uranium mill tailings disposal pond breached its dam. Over 1,000 tons of radioactive mill waste and millions of gallons of mine effluent flowed into the Puerco River. Local residents used river water for irrigation and livestock and were not immediately aware of the toxic danger. In terms of the amount of radiation released the accident was comparable in magnitude to the Three Mile Island accident of the same year and has been reported as the largest radioactive accident in U.S. History. (so far....) The contaminated water from the Church Rock spill travelled 80 miles downstream, traveling through Gallup, New Mexico and reaching as far as Navajo, Arizona. The flood backed up sewers, affected nearby aquifers and left stagnating pools on the riverside.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_Rock_uranium_mill_spill

"Exposure to certain high levels of radiation, such as that from high-level radioactive waste, can even cause death. Radiation exposure can also cause cancer, birth defects, and other abnormalities, depending on the time of exposure, amount of radiation, and the decay mechanism. High-level radioactive waste from nuclear reactors can be hazardous for thousands of years."

-- **Susan M. Jablonski, Low-Level Radioactive Waste Specialist** <http://www.pollutionissues.com/Pl-Re/Radioactive-Waste.html>

For more information on what You can Do, to stop more radioactive nuclear waste, contact:

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Send YOUR comments: STOP: THE NUCLEAR WASTE DUMP FROM COMING TO OUR MOUNTAINS

STOP: 10's OF THOUSANDS OF NUCLEAR SHIPMENTS FROM COMING THROUGH ASHEVILLE

TO: BRC@NUCLEAR.ENERGY.GOV