



Nuclear Information and Resource Service

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Honorable Representative
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
c/o Energy Staff

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Dear Representative:

Did you know that *your* state and neighboring states will be impacted by high level radioactive waste shipments if H.R. 3053 The Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2017 becomes law? Before you vote, please review the maps and multi-group letter outlining the basis for opposition to H.R. 3053 of 50 national, regional, state and local safe energy advocacy organizations. Attached are maps of the expected shipping routes across the US and your state. Some city maps are also provided. Each shipment has immense amounts of hundreds of radionuclides including more radioactive cesium (a radioactive muscle-seeker that affect our hearts, especially children's') than was released from the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

Thousands of shipments of high level radioactive waste (irradiated or 'spent' nuclear fuel) could move across the country, possibly twice, passing through 44 states and the District of Columbia, if H.R. 3053 becomes law. The routes go through 87%--386 of the 435 Congressional districts plus D.C., right through Capitol Hill, by Union Station alongside the Metro tracks.

The waste is intensely radioactive, the hottest part of the nuclear power and weapons fuel chain and the containers are **not** designed to meet severe real road, rail and nautical conditions (such as heat, depth, pressure, length of stress under realistic accident scenarios). Although there have been some nuclear shipments historically, **H.R. 3053 would launch many thousands of shipments** on a declining infrastructure, an unprecedented campaign that would last for multiple decades, just for the waste already generated.

Transport containers cannot shield the massive radioactivity completely so radioactivity is constantly being emitted even with accidents or breaches. Accidents or deliberate sabotage could

release enormous amounts of radioactivity. Consequences to the community impacted could be highly significant despite claims to the contrary, based on calculations of harm to the whole US population from the whole program.

The bill resumes licensing of the cancelled **Yucca Mountain** proposed site which, amidst volcanoes, earthquake zones and hydrology, cannot isolate the waste. It directs the Department of Energy Secretary to enter into **MRS Agreements** for Consolidated supposedly “Interim” Storage/Monitored Retrievable Storage, which have been **illegal since 1990**, and it **removes the previously required “linkage”** to an operating permanent repository that would help prevent the site from becoming de-facto permanent. For both types of sites, it does away with environmental regulations and protections, public processes, state authority and constitutional rights. Environmental justice and Native American sovereignty are ignored as are transportation risks and the rights of all of us along the transport corridors. **It does nothing to better secure and isolate the waste**, wherever it is.

This packet contains

- A National Map of Shipments with a Chart listing the number of road and rail shipments likely through each state. (Barge shipments on oceans, Great Lakes, bays and rivers are not included on these maps but would occur.)
- A State Map and for some states, major City Maps
- Letter from 50 organizations opposing H.R. 3053

If Congress changes the existing Nuclear Waste Policy Act, it should move forward, not backwards repeating past mistakes such as forced licensing of a cancelled site and reviving the defeated, unsuccessful “interim” storage program that expired in 1990. It should mandate hardened storage and local authority (rather than preemption) to protect communities and resources where waste is located.

Sincerely,

Tim Judson
Executive Director

References: <https://www.nirs.org/campaigns/dont-waste-america/stop-nuclear-waste-transport/>