



WEST VALLEY WASTE WATCH



PURPOSE of Newsletter : To Regularly Review and Summarize Progress or Lack thereof and to Hold Officials Accountable for Restoring the Environment and Protecting Future Generations from the Danger of Radiation due to Nuclear Reprocessing and Burial of Nuclear Waste at West Valley, New York.

West Valley Update -- Public Watchdogs Step up Pressure

Given inadequate progress to stop spreading contamination, continuous site erosion and the impacts of climate change, coupled with federal funding cutbacks, we demand:

We and our elected officials from all levels of government must demand that the Department of Energy (DOE) raise the importance of full cleanup of West Valley in national nuclear waste plans!

1) Action to Stop the radioactive Strontium Plume from entering creeks and traveling off-site via Cattaraugus Creek to Lake Erie

2) The addition of Dr. David Carpenter, a highly qualified radiation biologist and health researcher from the State University at Albany, to the Science Panel overseeing studies on the dangers of leaving buried waste at the site. The studies will determine if the site is EVER cleaned up.



3) Plans to excavate buried nuclear waste from the 2 burial grounds. Significant amounts of plutonium and high level radioactive fuel are very vulnerable to erosion and contamination of the water supply.

4) We and our elected officials from all levels of government must demand that the Department of Energy (DOE) raise the importance of full cleanup of West Valley in national nuclear waste plans! If DOE is not forced to pay attention and clean up this site, it will not do it. Members of Congress, State legislators, Governor Cuomo, Tribal government officials, and local, county and town officials as well as individuals and groups must work together to protect Lake Erie and drinking water for millions of people.

There is No solution for NUCLEAR waste, but the US government and the nuclear industry keep making it.

The US currently has 75,000 tons of high level radioactive fuel from nuclear reactors that needs permanent isolation. By 2050 the US is expected to have 150,000 tons-- which would require two permanent repositories, like the poorly designed one at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, that has been cancelled, due to the likelihood of failure. No developed country anywhere in the world has a permanent repository for high level nuclear waste. A German repository started leaking and now must be fully excavated.

The promise over a half-century ago, by our government, that nuclear waste would be an easy problem to solve, has proven to be false.

The Department of Energy (DOE) main purpose relates to making nuclear weapons. Billions of dollars will be dedicated to overhauling the US nuclear weapons complex, more funds will support new nuclear reactors, and in the absence of a permanent disposal site billions more will be dedicated to temporarily storing nuclear waste. See next section of this newsletter.

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Today there are **NO** credible solutions. However, we keep making more nuclear waste that is dangerous for millions of years.

Plans for Consolidated Interim Storage Sites across the nation

President Obama's Blue Ribbon Commission sought to ensure a nuclear energy future, by giving the illusion there is a solution for nuclear waste. This was "Mission Impossible" as there is no technical solution that will isolate the waste for the millions of years it is dangerous finding a permanent repository had proven to be impossible despite decades of work. With no technical solution in sight, the Blue Ribbon Commission recommended negotiating with host communities to find volunteer sites, willing to house high level nuclear waste indefinitely into the future. One or more consolidated "interim" storage sites are currently planned.



"[W]e should get out of the business of making more nuclear waste"

The plan for Consolidated Interim Storage sites will require transporting High Level Radioactive Waste on our highways, rails and waterways. We call this -- "Mobile Chernobyl" or Fukushima Freeways, named for the nuclear power disasters in Ukraine and Japan. Trains and trucks could transport high level nuclear waste through our region from the entire Northeast to "interim" sites.

Severe Nuclear Disasters Like Fukushima will happen here unless.....

Federal agencies have been grappling with how to handle a severe nuclear disaster in the US since well before the Fukushima nuclear disaster in March 2011. While the Fukushima situation continues to threaten the United States and the globe, we are now more threatened by the actions of our own government. Facing the reality of an aging and dangerous fleet of 103 US reactors and the likelihood of severe accidents in the future, the current plan is to just allow the public to be exposed to unacceptable levels of contamination. Should an accident happen here and it will given the aging fleet of reactors....

What community will volunteer to host a supposedly temporary storage site, when the record of Government promises related to nuclear waste is so dismal?

\$\$\$\$ for Nuclear Waste Cleanup have been a fraction of what is needed. At West Valley the cleanup is getting only half of what the federal Government Accounting Office recommended.

The Achilles Heel of the plan is that hundreds of communities across this country are living with failed promises associated with nuclear waste. Like West Valley, other sites are not cleaned up, but instead leak and spread their contamination. The back end of the nuclear chain-- the waste and its cleanup are never adequately funded. Site Cleanup is an absolutely essential part of producing nuclear weapons and nuclear energy. If it is not going to be funded, we should get out of the business of making more nuclear waste.

The DOE Inspector General recently testified to Congress that the DOE cleanup program should be limited to just a few sites, defunding all the others. In response, Congress members bent on budget cuts could remove West Valley funding.

The Best Budget cut would be to stop the current unsustainable nuclear course we are on--- Stop making more nuclear waste!!

a minimal cleanup will allow people to be exposed to massive doses of radiation-- causing increases in cancer and other radiation-induced health effects.

Rather than phasing out nuclear reactors, as Germany is doing, our government is pursuing a suicidal course of action that jeopardizes us all.

Former Chairman Jaczko of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has recently called for the phase out of all US nuclear reactors because of fundamental design flaws in all the US nuclear power reactors.

In addition the weakening of cleanup standards could impact existing contaminated sites and could result in West Valley never being properly cleaned up.

For more information:

westvalleyaction.org

Citizens' Environmental Coalition www.cectoxic.org

Nuclear Information & Resource Service www.nirs.org

Indigenous Women's Initiatives www.iwinitiatives.org

