



# Citizens Awareness Network

## Our Legacy: A Scientifically Sound and Environmentally Just Solution

*The nuclear industry and federal government have committed to create a solution for high-level nuclear waste (HLNW) disposal; no acceptable solution exists. Federal legislation mandated a repository; Nevada was targeted. Billions were expended to establish Yucca Mountain. This boondoggle failed due to site unsuitability, corruption, inadequate safeguards, and Nevada's opposition.*

### Are Parking Lot Dumps for High-Level Radioactive Waste a Solution?

With the geologic repository at Yucca Mountain stalled, dangerous HLNW is piling up at (closed and operating) reactor sites. The nuclear industry is pressing Congress to establish an interim storage policy—basically the creation of “parking lot dumps” for 80 thousand tons of high-level nuclear waste stranded across the country.

Interim sites won't meet the strict environmental standards that plagued Yucca Mountain. The communities routinely targeted for “disposal” sites—like those selected for reactor operation—are poor, rural, people of color, or Native American. These targeted communities don't want nuclear waste in their backyard. Given the abysmal record of leaks and inadequate environmental protections, their fears are reasonable.

### MOVE IT ONCE, DO IT RIGHT!

The “Interim Consolidated Storage Act” amends the “Nuclear Waste Policy Act” to permit the shipment and temporary storage of HLNW at above ground sites. Transporting HLNW is a massive and dangerous undertaking requiring decades. The risk to communities along the transport routes is unprecedented from accidents as well as acts of malice. And it would be repeated when a permanent site is approved and built. Transport of HLNW should happen only once to a permanent site to limit the dangers.

The proposed “parking lot dump” is a cynical, shortsighted plan by a desperate industry to make its waste problem disappear. The dangers for host communities are enormous and can't be ignored by reactor communities, now saddled with the waste. States and reactor communities fear the industry and federal government will abandon this waste and not seek solutions to remove it as quickly as possible. Therefore, reactor and waste communities must work together to advocate for scientifically sound and environmentally just solutions to ensure the defeat of the industry's drive to eliminate its waste problem.



### Sacrifice Communities

The question of how reactors operate and corporations dispose of waste involves moral issues—the right to a clean environment, the right to protect a community's interests as well as the right to environmental justice.

Citizens Awareness Network confronts these issues as a contaminated community. We are citizens living in the contamination pathways of reactors. Our working, poor, rural community is host to two nuclear reactors with HLNW dumps. We are a sacrificed community suffering a thirty-year history of denial, ignorance, intimidation and an epidemic of disease created by exposure to nuclear waste. This experience forced us to confront our moral dilemma in addressing nuclear power, its waste stream and what is acceptable and unacceptable.



### It is unacceptable to:

- force people to choose between immediate economic survival and the sacrifice of future generations.
- contaminate the water, earth, and air of another community to clean our community up.
- engage in environmental racism by targeting vulnerable communities for nuclear waste disposal.
- sustain the deception that nuclear pollution is an acceptable by-product of energy production and the health and safety of communities in nuclear pathways as irrelevant.

### Citizens Awareness Network Supports:

- the expansion of renewable energy solutions to replace nuclear power. Nuclear power is not carbon neutral, nor is it renewable or clean.
- the halt of the production and the shipment of radioactive waste off-site for interim solutions. The industry's solutions support opportunism and maintain an illusory fallacy—reactors, clean when operating, are now dirty and dangerous if waste remains on-site.
- the hardening of HLNW at reactor sites until there is a permanent solution for the waste crisis.
- the creation of an independent review of waste. The democratic process is the best guardian for an environmentally safe solution to be developed.
- the classification of nuclear sites as superfund sites. Provide funding to communities for education, medical training, monitoring, and other protective services.



### Green Policy for Waste

A Green Policy on radioactive waste is necessary to protect the environment. It must be driven by the concerns of ordinary citizens working to protect their children and future generations from contamination.