
Safety, Security, and Savings

Recommendations from communities
across the US nuclear weapons complex
to enhance safety and security while saving billions

ALLIANCE FOR NUCLEAR ACCOUNTABILITY

Nuclear Waste and Cleanup

- Priority One: Cleanup
- Whither the Waste?
- Forever WIPP?
- RECOMMENDATIONS

Nuclear Waste and Cleanup: Prioritize Cleanup

- 75 years of weapons production at 16 sites
- Threat to rivers, aquifers, community health
- Cost (est at \$512 billion) grows with deferral
- Current funding levels (\$7-8 billion) fail to meet legal obligations

The US Nuclear Weapons Complex



Nuclear Waste and Cleanup: Prioritize Cleanup

- In FY 2021, nuclear weapons spending was increased by 25% while the President's cleanup budget request was slashed by as much as 40% at some large sites. The final cleanup appropriation was actually increased. This shows the importance of lobbying!
- The end result? Millions spent to babysit dangerous waste sites instead of cleaning them up and getting them off the books. Expensive long-term obligations are wiped off the books, and the public and environment are spared the ongoing threat of waste leaking off-site.
- The cleanup we want is cleanup that removes and treats contamination—it's a win/win.

Nuclear Waste and Cleanup: Cleanup Obligations

- Inadequate funding often results in DOE missing milestones in its cleanup agreements with states. This results in fines, agreement revisions, and increased risks from delayed cleanup.
- Recently, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) filed a complaint against DOE to terminate a 2016 Consent Order at Los Alamos National Lab for failing to make progress on cleanup of contamination. NMED stated that DOE's cleanup plan for 2021 "was inadequate due to a lack of substantive and appropriate cleanup targets for coming years."
- Congress should require DOE to request the funding necessary to meet its obligations. We deserve timely and protective cleanup.

Nuclear Waste Prioritize Cleanup - Asks

- Congress must invest in comprehensive cleanup that defines success by its isolation of chemical and radio- active hazards to protect future generations.
- DOE must rescind the 2019 high-level waste interpretation (relabeling).
- Congress must provide funding to effectively meet all legal agreements *and* require effective oversight of contractor performance.

Make Cleanup a Priority - Rescind HLW Reinterpretation

- High-Level Waste (HLW) is waste resulting from reprocessing spent nuclear fuel, permanent isolation is required by federal law.
- Hanford has 56 million gallons of high-level waste in 177 aging underground tanks.
- Hanford requirement for HLW is immobilization in glass and deep geological repository.
- DOE reinterpretation allows DOE to reclassify HLW on its own
- Issues: lack of oversight, increased risks
- Ask: Rescind the Department of Energy's federal register notice reinterpretation of HLW

ALLIANCE FOR NUCLEAR ACCOUNTABILITY

Consolidated Interim Storage Facilities



- Holtec International/Eddy Lea Energy Alliance, southeastern New Mexico, up to 173,600 metric tons
- Interim Storage Partners at Waste Control Specialists in Andrews County, West Texas, up to 40,000 metric tons
- NRC licensing nearly complete; federal court appeals underway; Congressional battles ahead

Yucca Mountain/Transport Risks

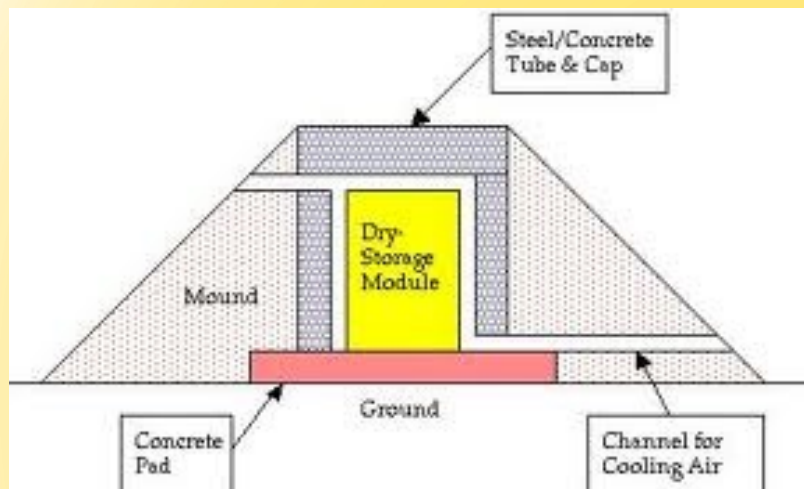


Biden administration says Yucca is off the table

Western Shoshone treaty rights; State of NV non-consent

Road, rail, and waterway shipping risks through 44 states + D.C.

Hardened On-Site Storage (HOSS)

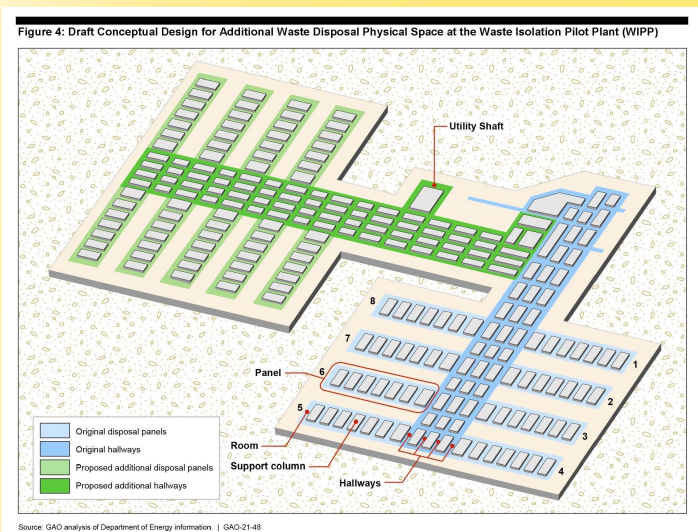


Statement of Principles for Safeguarding Nuclear Waste at Reactors, endorsed by 200+ groups, representing all 50 states

Expedited transfer from pools to dry casks to avert catastrophic fires

Dry cask storage, as close to point of origin as safely possible, requiring quality design/fabrication, to prevent accidents, deter attacks, forestall degradation

Nuclear Waste and Cleanup: Forever WIPP?



- Waste Isolation Pilot Plant – New Mexico
- Only deep geologic nuclear waste repository in the world
- 1992 Land Withdrawal Act
 - > social, political, and legal contract
 - > Department of Energy and New Mexicans

Nuclear Waste and Cleanup: Forever WIPP?



- 2014: Fire and radiation release incidents
- New plan: 61.5 metric tons of Plutonium
- Double size of underground disposal area
- 97% of commenters, and state of NM, oppose
- State permit: waste disposal ends in 2024

Nuclear Waste and Cleanup: Whither the Waste?

BAD IDEAS

- Yucca Mountain
- Consolidated “Interim” Storage
- Do nothing now

BETTER IDEAS

- Hardened On-Site Storage (HOSS)
- Public process to inform new legislation/solutions

Nuclear Waste and Cleanup

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Stop funding new WIPP shaft
- Fund cleanup now to meet legal obligations
- Rescind 2019 High-Level waste interpretation
- No funding for Consolidated Interim Storage or Yucca
- Store waste safely on site: Hardened On-Site Storage