

Submitter: Dave McCoy

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB2215

In the late 1970s in Oregon, I was an intervener before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in opposition to the expansion of spent fuel pool storage at the Trojan Nuclear reactor. The Commission refused to allow questions about the dangers of extended storage of spent fuel. The Commission claimed that Yucca Mountain would receive the waste in 5 years. The Commission refused to consider information kept secret by the Oregon State Geologist that I obtained that showed Trojan could experience an earthquake twice what it was built to withstand. The Trojan Control building was discovered to have been built like Swiss cheese. Trojan's spent fuel is still next to the Columbia River.

I later moved to Idaho. As an attorney, I challenged two nuclear waste incinerators operating at the Idaho National Laboratory without Federal permits. That resulted in shutdown of the incinerators that were spewing Mercury and atomic waste about Idaho.

I have been in Albuquerque New Mexico for the last 17 years as Executive Director for Citizen Action New Mexico. Our Organization has challenged the Sandia National Laboratories Mixed Waste Landfill that is leaking radioactive and hazardous waste toward Albuquerque's sole source aquifer along with a 24 million gallon contamination from Kirtland Air Force Base of jet fuel and Aviation gas. Piles of uranium mine tailings have caused cancer and Native peoples. Los Alamos National Laboratories has contaminated the environment, workers and the public. We have uncompensated Downwinders with cancer from the first explosion of a nuclear weapon at Alamogordo.

Federal law requires a permanent repository for nuclear waste before any interim storage sites can be developed. That requirement doesn't seem to bother the Holtech Corporation and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission that plan to place 80 million metric tons of nuclear reactor waste from around the country in Southern New Mexico near Carlsbad. That so called "temporary storage" would require 10,000 trips. Long-lived radionuclides would actually become permanent on the earth's surface in the middle of the oil producing Permian Basin and the highest phosphorus production area in the United States. The NM governor, the legislature and most of the public are adamantly opposed to that de facto dump. It's probably being bandied about in Oregon as a solution just like Yucca Mountain was 50 years ago. It's not going to happen because the necessary permits for use of New Mexico resources such as water and electricity will be denied.

