

WCO outreachCEm Resource

From: Bettina Barbier [bettina.barbier@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2012 6:13 PM
To: WCO outreach Resource
Subject: No confidence in nuclear power or those who operate plants or waste management.

I have no confidence in the NRC or any other entity to safely handle nuclear waste.

There are too many variables in the realm of possibility of what can happen to stored nuclear materials. Nuclear waste is dangerous, with a proven track record of accidents and mishaps. All the various schemes for storing it have shown themselves to be flawed. People have been made sick and even killed by leaks, and this is basically murder by incompetence. I want to say "too many people," but really, isn't one person too many? How many were slain by incompetent engineers and irresponsible managers at Fukushima Daiichi? How many are yet to sicken or die from as-yet-unknown effects of this terrible accident? How many workers and others living in the environs of other plants or waste sites have experienced health problems from other accidents, leaks and releases? It's time to admit that we don't know what we're doing with nuclear power and waste materials, and stop trying to handle dangerous technologies that we don't have the ability to control.

There are enough new technologies that can provide clean energy and also renew economies with sensible jobs in the energy sector. These new forms of sustainable energy can and should replace nuclear power and dirty fossil fuels. If the city of Cincinnati, and potentially the state of Ohio, can see its way forward to utilizing solar power for all its residential users, then so can the rest of the country using wind, geothermal and other existing alternate technologies. But even fossil fuels, with all their flaws, are better than nuclear with its deadly track record and even worse potential. And face it, the era of fossil fuels is also drawing to a close. And it won't be replaced with nuclear, but rather with clean, sensible alternatives that don't poison the Earth and kill people.

Phase out nuclear power and focus on safely storing those waste materials already in existence. Perhaps one day we'll have the ability to control nuclear materials, but for now, it's so clear that we do not.

Most sincerely,

Bettina Barbier
Northport, NY

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