

WCO outreach CEm Resource

From: William Whitaker [wwhitak@boisestate.edu]
Sent: Sunday, February 26, 2012 7:27 PM
To: WCO outreach Resource
Subject: nuclear waste storage

I am writing as an Oregon grandfather who wants to leave a safe and sustainable world to all our grandchildren. I am also the husband of a woman who grew up "downwind" of the Hanford nuclear facility.

Current on-site storage in indoor pools is not safe, secure, or protective of human health and the environment. Fukushima Daiichi has shown that pools can boil or drain dry, sparking a catastrophic radioactive fire, releasing up to 100% of the hazardous Cesium-137 in decades worth of the piled up irradiated nuclear fuel densely crammed into pools. Several storage pools in the U.S. have simply sprung leaks over the decades, unleashing radioactively contaminated water into soil, groundwater, and surface water. As documented in a report by Alvarez et al., NRC commissioned studies themselves have admitted that a pool fire could cause around 25,000 latent cancer fatalities downwind (2001), or even 54,000 to 143,000 latent cancer fatalities downwind, 2,000 to 7,000 square kilometers [770 to 2,700 sq. miles] of agricultural land condemned, and economic costs due to evacuation of \$117 to 566 billion [\$158 to 765 billion in 2010 dollars, when adjusted for inflation] (1997).

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