

GNEP – WHAT WERE THEY THINKING?...

...lots of good intentions; few good plans

GNEP – A Threat to Illinois ...

LOCAL/ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS:

- GNEP increases the threat from accidents and terrorist attacks. The proposed GE Morris Operation facility is only 9 minutes flight time from the world's busiest airport at O'Hare Field -- of great significance in a post-9/11 world.
- GNEP would make Illinois a de facto permanent HLRW storage depot and reprocessing center for the region and possibly the nation (given how Congress works; also the National Energy Policy of 2005 gives DOE some preeminent powers to site regional waste holding facilities in the absence of a permanent deep-geological perpetual storage facility even over the objections of local governors and mayors; and preempts ANY state or local laws on the matter. Gov. Blagojevich signed a letter with 16 other governors in opposition to this plan last November.)
- Current inadequacies exist regarding the emergency response community ability to handle the expected increases in transport accidents involving spent fuel or the new types of wastes created by reprocessing, most of which (fission products) are shorter lived and much more intensely radioactive than Pu or U. Most local emergency responders are volunteers, not always adequately equipped or trained.
- Given the current levels of congestion and disrepair of Illinois road and rail network, it is right to question the adequacy of the road/rail network in the area around the GNEP sites to safely handle the increased traffic of potential "mobile Chernobyl" shipments required by such a facility.
- The former Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety has historically pledged to provide full escort services for every HLRW shipment into-through-out of Illinois; who will pick up the costs for these escorts?
- DOE and independent investigators and researchers need to fully examine the potential effects on ground and surface waters, and on local wells from such a facility.
- Given the potential effects of recent seismic activity in the Morris area (magnitude 4.5 earthquake of 2004 may have done damage at the Dresden nuke), seismic activity effects needs to be thoroughly investigated.
- Effects on the local economy in terms of traffic disruptions; stigma of radioactive contamination of local agricultural products (think: "Illinois -- the Belarus of the Midwest!"); and effects on property values of such a facility need to be taken into account. This is even more significant in case of an accident.

GNEP – Waste and Proliferation Nightmare...

NATIONAL/POLICY ISSUES:

- "Reprocessing" is really nothing more than a policy mask, a Trojan Horse disguise for the continuation or expansion of a nuclear weapons infrastructure. To speak of it as "recycling" is simply greenwashing, manipulating the public to make believe it is more acceptable.
- Any reprocessing increases the likelihood of nuclear materials proliferation, diversion and nuclear terrorism.

- GNEP is yet another example of US foreign policy hypocrisy: "Don't do as we do, Iran; do as we **say!**" It erodes our credibility and prestige in foreign affairs and negotiations.
- GNEP makes it EASIER for terrorists to actually get at and divert the kinds of materials they would not have access too in normal irradiated-spent fuel elements. Such material can be for use locally as dirty bombs; or diverted elsewhere for potential manufacture of small nuclear devices.
- The only nuclear engineer we ever had as a US President -- Jimmy Carter -- discontinued reprocessing fearing it would increase the likelihood of nuclear proliferation internationally. History has proven him correct (see below). His expertise and credentials in this arena far exceed those of the current President.
- The MIT 2003 report on the future of nuclear power specifically rejected reprocessing, advocated a "once through" fuel cycle, and advocated deep geological repository disposal of irradiated reactor fuel. What does DOE know that the MIT doesn't?
- GNEP diverts resources from and lessens political pressure to complete a deep-geological repository for the permanent disposal of high-level radioactive wastes like the type attempted (but poorly and unacceptably implemented) at Yucca Mountain.
- Historically reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel from commercial reactors has led to the desire for or actual construction of nuclear weapons programs: India/Pakistan; Israel; China/Taiwan; South Africa. And now the "newbies": North Korea, Iran, Iraq (previously). It has led to environmental pollution in every nation it has been used (France, England, Russia). It has been tried three time in the US and has failed as a technology each time. With this track record it is foolhardy to invest \$200+ billion on a fourth attempt when other more worthwhile energy programs go unfunded or underfunded.

For More Information on GNEP:

Public Citizen Documents on GNEP:

http://www.citizen.org/cmep/energy_enviro_nuclear/nuclear_power_plants/nukewaste/reprocessing/articles.cfm?ID=16089

NIRS website section on reprocessing:

<http://www.nirs.org/radwaste/reprocessing/reprocesshome.htm>

Union of Concerned Scientists on GNEP:

http://www.ucsusa.org/assets/documents/global_security/Microsoft-Word-INMM2006paper719.pdf

http://www.ucsusa.org/global_security/nuclear_terrorism/comment-on-doe-gnep-eis.html

Register your opposition to GNEP with:

Sen. Richard Durbin

Washington:

332 Senate Dirksen Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202)224-2152; (202)228-0400 fax

Chicago:

Kluczynski Federal Building, 38th floor
Chicago, IL 60604
(312)353-4952; (312)

Sen. (and presidential candidate) Barack Obama

Washington:

B40-B Senate Dirksen Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202)224-2854; (202)228-5417 fax

Chicago:

Kluczynski Federal Building, 39th floor
Chicago, IL 60604
(312)886-3506; (312)886-3514 fax

Contact:

Nuclear Energy Information Service
3411 W. Diversey #16, Chicago IL 60647 (773)342-7650
www.neis.org neis@neis.org