DIABLO CANYON’S RADIOACTIVE WASTE

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OCTOBER 20, 2017
What is radioactive waste?

“Radioactive (or nuclear) waste is a byproduct from nuclear reactors, fuel processing plants, hospitals and research facilities. Radioactive waste is also generated while decommissioning and dismantling nuclear reactors and other nuclear facilities.” -- NRC
Nuclear Fuel Pellet and Fuel Rod Assembly Commercial Nuclear Power Reactor
IODINE-131  ½ life: 8 days
TRITIUM    ½ life: 23 years
STRONTIUM-90  ½ life: 29 years
CESIUM-137  ½ life: 30 years
PLUTONIUM-239  ½ life: 24,000 years
What makes this waste so dangerous?
“Spent” fuel pool at Diablo Canyon
“SPENT” FUEL POOL AT DIABLO CANYON
SPREAD OF RADIOACTIVITY FROM A HYPOTHETICAL FIRE
Current practice is to move fuel to dry storage when reactor storage pools become filled.
TRANSFER OF SPENT FUEL FROM POOL TO DRY CASK STORAGE
DRY CASK STORAGE AT DIABLO CANYON
DRY CASK STORAGE AT SAN ONOFRE

Nuclear waste storage site under construction, inches above watertable, 100 feet from the ocean!
HOSS – HARDENED ON-SITE STORAGE
MRS – MONITORED RETREIVABLE STORAGE

Transport and storage casks in the interim storage facility of Gorleben

Photo: GNS
RADIOACTIVE WASTE ACROSS AMERICA

*NUCLEAR SITE* could include operating nuclear power reactors, materials facilities, or sites undergoing decommissioning (safely removing a facility or site from service and reducing residuals of radioactivity to a level that permits the license to be terminated).

Source: www.nrc.gov/info-finder/reactor

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WHERE WILL THE WASTE GO?

IS THERE A FINAL ANSWER?

Yucca Mountain, Nevada