

Guiding Principles for Humane and Equitable Nuclear Waste Policy

These six principles apply to federal policy and legislation on the nuclear power fuel chain radioactive waste.

- 1. Stop Making Nuclear Waste**
- 2. Prioritize Human Health and Environmental Protection**
- 3. Acknowledge and Combat Environmental Racism and Injustice**
- 4. Stop Subsidizing the Sources of Nuclear Waste**
- 5. Protect and Support Communities Already Adversely Affected**
- 6. Communities Must Have the First and Last Word**

1. Stop Making Nuclear Waste

Nuclear Energy has created a vast Nuclear Waste Legacy, which has contaminated and continues to contaminate our environment, threatening public health now and for many generations into the future. After more than 70 years, the nuclear industry and the government still have not developed a safe, equitable, and cost-effective way to prevent the adverse and intergenerational effects of nuclear waste. We cannot continue adding to this intractable problem; we must stop making nuclear waste by stopping/preventing new sources of nuclear waste and discontinuing existing sources.

2. Prioritize Human Health and Environmental Protection

Our country's nuclear waste decision-making policy must protect public health and safety and the environment, not nuclear industry profits and subsidies. The foundations of nuclear waste policy must therefore be grounded in environmental and public health principles; racial, gender, and intergenerational justice and equity; sound science; and independent regulation and oversight.

3. Acknowledge and Combat Environmental Racism and Injustice

For decades, Indigenous peoples, communities of color, and working-class communities across our country have been forced to bear the burdens of the nuclear industry. Imposing these burdens on these communities is a result of systemic racism and environmental injustice. Nuclear waste policy must advance environmental justice and equity, honor tribal treaties, and protect Indigenous Peoples' rights.

4. Stop Subsidizing the Sources of Nuclear Waste

We must stop subsidizing the private corporations that create nuclear waste and instead give communities the resources they need to address and remediate the adverse impacts caused by the waste. This is one of the most important means of dismantling the inequities that exist between the nuclear industry and the people who bear the burdens of nuclear waste.

5. Protect and Support Communities Already Adversely Affected

The nuclear industry has left communities across our country with economic dependence and generations of nuclear waste and no solutions for safe and effective treatment, transport, or storage. We must invest in solutions and provide direct resources to protect the communities that have already been asked to bear too much of the burden by storing the nuclear industry's waste. Additionally, transportation of nuclear waste is inherently dangerous to communities all along the shipment routes, and should be done once, at most, only once as safely as possible.

6. Communities Must Have the First and Last Word

Top-down and corporate decision-making regarding new nuclear waste siting has failed for decades, putting corporate interests ahead of democracy, justice, equity, and sound science. Decisions about new nuclear waste storage and transportation must begin and end with the communities that will be adversely affected by a proposed decision. Community-centric decisions will be founded in the confidence that those most directly affected can best protect the interests of community members.

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