

National Radioactive Waste Coalition Opposes Consolidated Interim Storage (CIS)

and determines that keeping radioactive waste on-site is the least risky option.

The waste should be transported only once - from the reactor sites to an environmentally just and scientifically sound site for permanent isolation.

Over 80,000 metric tons of radioactive waste have piled up at nuclear power plants across the United States, and there is still no responsible solution for storing and isolating this waste for the next million years.

The intent of CIS facilities is to transport and temporarily store high level radioactive waste from across the country. At some point in the future, the plan is to move this waste a second time to a currently non-existent permanent repository. The nuclear industry's plan poses a real threat for all of us.

○ CIS is unjust and immoral; it violates the principles of environmental justice.

Environmental justice is the concept that major polluting projects should not have a disproportionate impact on people of color and working poor communities. Too often, nuclear waste dumps, toxic incinerators, nuclear reactors, and other such facilities are located in communities with few resources and little political clout. Too often, the communities targeted are working poor, people of color, and Indigenous Peoples.

Presently there are two proposed facilities - Southwestern Texas: Andrews County (Interim Storage Partners/Waste Control Specialists) and Southeastern New Mexico: Lea County (Holtec International). Both proposed sites are in working poor Hispanic communities. Neither New Mexico nor Texas consent to the proposed CIS facilities in their communities. These proposals are clear examples of environmental racism.

○ Transporting irradiated nuclear waste by rail, truck, and barge is dangerous. If CIS is implemented, it would involve a decades-long process of transporting over 100,000 shipments of nuclear waste through 44 states and the District of Columbia.

- The waste would go through major cities including Atlanta, Chicago, Houston, St. Louis, and the Los Angeles and San Diego areas. Most shipments would travel over 1,000 miles, risking the health and safety of communities along the way.
- Despite heavy shielding, the transportation casks constantly emit some radiation which would expose drivers, crew, and anyone nearby, and increase the incidents of cancers and other health problems.
- Our infrastructure isn't prepared to handle thousands of shipments without risk of derailments, bridge collapses, traffic accidents, and contamination of waterways.
- An accident or attack on a nuclear waste shipment could release large amounts of radiation, causing the affected area to be uninhabitable for decades, exposing the community to nuclear contamination and costing billions of dollars in damages and cleanup.



○ **CIS is illegal.** Congress amended the Nuclear Waste Policy Act in 1987. It states that no interim storage is permitted unless and until a permanent repository has been identified and approved by Congress. The nuclear industry is attempting to circumvent the law by seeking congressional approval for CIS.

radioactivewastecoalition.org

Nuclear energy is **NOT** a climate solution.

Fact #1: Nuclear energy has a large carbon footprint.

- Uranium mining, milling, plant construction, fuel enrichment, waste storage are energy intensive.
- Decommissioning is a carbon-intensive process as equipment and buildings are dismantled and transported to disposal sites over a period of 60 years or longer.

Fact #2: Nuclear energy is not clean. It is toxic and dangerous.

- Radiation is routinely released into the air and water as part of operations.
- Accidents happen: Three Mile Island. Chernobyl. Fukushima.
- There is no safe, just, permanent solution for the isolation of over 80,000 metric tons of high-level radioactive waste for the million years that it will remain lethal.
- Nuclear facilities are vulnerable targets of terrorism.

Fact #3: Nuclear energy is not reliable in a climate disrupted world; its demands on water are not compatible with a warming planet.

- Under global warming conditions, water is fast becoming a precious commodity. Reactors consume billions of gallons of water daily and return heated water which undermines our waterways and destroys aquatic life.
- During droughts and heatwaves, the warmer water requires nuclear plants to power down or even shut down altogether.
- Water levels are rising. Many of the nuclear plants located along waterways will eventually become submerged, making the plants inoperable and the stored radioactive waste even more vulnerable.

Fact #4: Nuclear energy is too expensive.

- Nuclear energy is at least three times as expensive to produce as solar or wind, and the price of renewables continues to drop while the cost for nuclear continues to rise.
- The nuclear industry is able to survive only because of huge tax-payer subsidies.

Fact #5: Nuclear energy impedes the development of renewable energy sources.

- An efficient, responsive, and flexible grid is required to respond to energy demands. Nuclear cannot adapt to changing demands.
- The nuclear industry draws needed resources away from renewable energy expansion.

Fact #6: Given the climate crisis, we can't wait.

- We need to move rapidly to an efficient, low-cost, sustainable energy system.
- Nuclear takes 10-20 years to complete. Solar and wind projects take just 2 to 5 years to come on-line.

