An action outside the U.S. Department of Energy, Monday, October 31, 2011 at 12 noon

Wear a scream mask and a costume. Bring a sign. And be ready to let our leaders know exactly what we think of continued generation of deadly radioactive waste.

In January 2010, the Obama administration created a *Blue Ribbon Commission on America’s Nuclear Future* under the direction of Energy Secretary, Steven Chu. Its mandate? To solve the country’s radioactive waste problem, a challenge unmet anywhere in the world.

Nearly three score and ten years ago, the first cupful of radioactive waste was generated. No solution to this deadliest of all toxic wastes has ever been found. The Three Mile Island, Chernobyl and Fukushima nuclear catastrophes failed to deter an obscenely wealthy and politically powerful nuclear lobby and its Congressional puppets from forging ahead with yet more reactor plans. But still without a solution to the waste.

In July, the *Blue Ribbon Commission*—loaded with hand-picked friends of the nuclear industry like Exelon CEO, John Rowe; former Nuclear Regulatory Commission chairman, Richard Meserve; and long-time Congressional booster, retired Senator Pete Domenici—released its draft report. The public has until October 31, an aptly chosen date, to respond.

Blind to the obvious dangers so dramatically on display at Fukushima, the *Commission* report proclaims fuel pools and waste casks at reactor sites “safe.” And they recommend centralized interim storage — that would launch waste onto roads, rails and waterways to, fundamentally, open-air parking lots with waste casks lined up like bowling pins in plain sight. The most likely target for such deadly dumpsites? Indian reservations.

And, despite the wise cancelation of the Yucca Mountain repository, the *Commission* urges a search for yet another dump site, even though such a place would have to protect all life on Earth from its deadly cargo for a million years!

**THE FIRST SOLUTION TO THE RADIOACTIVE WASTE PROBLEM IS TO STOP MAKING ANY MORE OF IT!!**
Must we say?

I Have A Scream that: if our nation does not rise up and reject dirty, dangerous and expensive atomic power, the legacy we might leave to the future will be a nuclear wasteland.

I Have A Scream that: our little children will inherit the disaster that is nuclear power and its mountains of radioactive waste 70 years high, instead of a bright, clean safe future fueled by renewable energy.

I Have A Scream that: our valleys could become dead zones after reactor meltdowns; our hills and mountains could be excavated for radioactive waste dumps; and the discriminated against and the voiceless will be burdened with the detritus of an industry that has never cleaned up its own mess or paid for its mistakes.

IT NEED NOT BE THIS WAY!

Let your voices — and your screams — be heard on Halloween.

There is a better way than nuclear power. We can and must conserve energy; build and retrofit energy efficient homes and businesses; and swiftly deploy — and on a large scale — clean, and reliable renewable energy now that delivers safe, green jobs.

Please join us, and bring your friends, families, colleagues!

Contact Beyond Nuclear for more information about the rally.

Visit www.BeyondNuclear.org. Email info@beyondnuclear.org. Call 301.270.2209.

SEE YOU THERE!

With thanks to the Washington DC chapter of the German Green Party for use of the I Have A Scream image and idea.