

**News from Beyond Nuclear**  
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**Media Statement by Kevin Kamps, Radioactive Waste Specialist, Beyond Nuclear re: U.S. House of Representatives, Subcommittee on the Interior, Energy, and Environment, Hearing on “Examining America’s Nuclear Waste Management and Storage,” September 26, 2017**

Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C.—“The Yucca Mountain, Nevada high-level radioactive waste burial dump, and the Texas/New Mexico *de facto* permanent surface parking lot dumps, are mere illusions of solutions,” said Kevin Kamps, radioactive waste specialist at Beyond Nuclear. “H.R. 3053, the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2017, would actually make the radioactive waste dilemma far worse.

“H.R. 3053 would better be called the Screw Nevada Again bill, as well as the Mobile Chernobyl bill of 2017.

“Yucca in Nevada, Waste Control Specialists in Texas, and Holtec in New Mexico, each violate basic principles of safe, sound radioactive waste management: scientific suitability; environmental justice; and consent-based siting. If highly radioactive waste were ever buried at Yucca, or parked on the Texas/New Mexico border, it would leak massively over time, contaminating vital drinking water supplies.

“The transportation impacts and risks required to ship the irradiated nuclear fuel to these unsuitable dumpsites would be immense. Under current law, 12,145 road and rail casks would be needed, to move 70,000 metric tons of commercial irradiated nuclear fuel from atomic reactors to the Yucca dump in Nevada. The 44 states, plus the District of Columbia and many other major cities that would be traversed, as well as 330 U.S. congressional districts that would be crossed by these shipments, are documented at: <http://www.state.nv.us/nucwaste/whatsnew.htm>.

“But H.R. 3053 would increase the amount of waste to be dumped at Yucca to 110,000 metric tons. The high-risk Mobile Chernobyl, Dirty Bomb on Wheels, Floating Fukushima, and Mobile X-Ray Machine That Can’t Be Turned Off shipment numbers would thus increase by more than 50%, as well.

“The parking lot dumps would involve even more transport risk, with 40,000 metric tons going to Texas, and another 120,000 metric tons going to New Mexico, for a grand total of 160,000 metric tons. Even if this waste ever moved again, some decade or century, that would simply mean a doubling of those transport risks, for no good reason. The motivation for the nuclear power lobbyists is to accelerate by decades the transfer of title, and liability, for the wastes, onto the backs of federal taxpayers.

“The environmental consensus, endorsed by many hundreds of groups in all 50 states, is hardened on-site storage, as close to point of generation as safely possible, as an interim measure. A thousand environmental groups have opposed the Yucca dump over the years and decades, while nearly 500 environmental justice groups have spoken out against the targeting of low-income, people of color communities for parking lot dumps. Of course, it’s well past time to stop making radioactive waste, for which we have no good solutions, after 60 to 75 years of generating commercial and military high-level radioactive wastes, respectively.

“Genuinely safe, clean, reliable and ever more cost effective renewable sources, such as wind and solar, as well as energy efficiency, are the wise carbon-free alternatives to forever deadly radioactive waste.” [-30-]