

Below, there is a template letter that you can send to your local city, county or tribal council members, asking them to designate your city, county or tribal community a "Nuclear-Waste Free Zone." Copy and paste the letter, print it out, print multiple copies if you can, and ask other community members to send them, along with a sample resolution. There are examples of council resolutions at <http://www.nirs.org/radwaste/hlwtransport/sampleresolutionopposingnucwastetrans.htm> . Direct your council members to these sample council resolutions. If we can mobilize a sufficient number of communities along the transportation routes, we can keep the spent fuel where it is. The display of signs from Step 1 will let council members know there is support for this resolution.

Dear City Council Member, (address to an actual person's name)

In March 2007, legislation was presented in Congress to accelerate the development of the proposed high-level nuclear waste dump at Yucca Mountain Nevada. While Senator Harry Reid, in his capacity as Senate Majority Leader has said that "Yucca Mountain is dead," until legislation is changed, Yucca Mountain continues to be the designated "final repository" for the nation's high level nuclear waste.

The Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Project has been riddled by allegations of falsification of hydrology data, by conflicting opinions about the geologic suitability, and controversy about the illegal use of Western Shoshone land that has been ruled on by the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. There are conflicting accounts of whether transportation routes have been finalized, and whether local communities have been consulted in the routing plans. While statute requires that local emergency response personnel be trained in dealing with radiological emergencies, as yet, not only has no training taken place, there is no curriculum, and no funding for curriculum or training.

Many nuclear power plants have started storing waste on site, in Hardened On-Site Storage. Former Admiral Skip Bowman, of the Nuclear Energy Institute, a pro-nuclear advocacy group, has come out in favor of on-site storage. The primary objection of power companies is the considerable amount they have paid into the Nuclear Waste Fund.

It is time to pressure elected officials in Washington from the local level on up to abandon this expensive, illegal and dangerous project. While there are legislative proposals being made at the national level to advocate for on-site storage, make whole the power companies, and give local communities more say in the re-licensing of nuclear power plants, at the local level we can do this by resolving not to allow high-level nuclear waste pass through our community. Such resolutions have been passed by numerous communities. A list is available at <http://www.nirs.org/radwaste/hlwtransport/mobilechernobyl.htm> . Please introduce a resolution to the council designating our community a "Nuclear-Waste Free Zone." I have included a sample resolution for your guidance.

Sincerely,
Your name

Sample Resolution Opposing Nuclear Waste Transportation Through Your Community

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WHEREAS, according to documentation provided by the U.S. Department of Energy which indicates that high-level radioactive waste may be transported through [this jurisdiction] as early as 2017 should the national repository be opened at Yucca Mountain, Nevada;

and WHEREAS, high-level nuclear waste shipments could pass through this jurisdiction as early as 2009 should the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission approve a private, nuclear industry initiated "interim storage site" for high-level atomic waste on the Skull Valley

Goshutes Indian Reservation in Utah;

and WHEREAS federal studies have shown that Yucca Mountain, Nevada and Skull Valley, Utah are not suitable geologic locations for high-level nuclear waste storage or burial due to earthquake activity, water infiltration, environmental justice, and other scientific and societal reasons;

and WHEREAS, [this jurisdiction] does not have adequately trained emergency response personnel or equipment to cope with a radiological disaster that could occur as a result of high-level radioactive waste transportation through [this jurisdiction];

and WHEREAS, the federal government, under the Yucca Mountain Project, would limit funding to [this jurisdiction] for training of emergency response personnel and for purchase of necessary equipment to cope with a radiological emergency;

and WHEREAS, property values are likely to fall, attraction of new business is likely to decrease, and improvement of our community [or communities] may become difficult if not impossible should high-level radioactive waste be transported through [this jurisdiction] and WHEREAS, nuclear reactors across the nation will continue to generate and store high-level nuclear waste on-site for decades into the future, and the Yucca Mountain transportation program would take 25 to 40 years to complete, providing no near-term relief from accident or terrorist risks at reactor sites nationwide;

and WHEREAS, each shipment of high-level nuclear waste through urban population centers and agricultural areas would be at risk of terrorist attack or severe accident;

and WHEREAS, we generally oppose radioactive waste transportation through [this jurisdiction];

so BE IT RESOLVED, that [this jurisdiction] is on record as opposing any and all radioactive waste transportation near or through [this jurisdiction] bound for Yucca Mountain, Nevada or Skull Valley, Utah;

and BE IT RESOLVED, that [this jurisdiction] supports the creation of an independent presidential commission to re-examine our nation's radioactive waste policy;

and BE IT RESOLVED, that [this jurisdiction] will carry this resolution to all of our elected local, state, and federal officials, and to the President of the United States