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Statement by Gail Snyder, Nuclear Energy Information Service Board Member
at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Meeting on Waste Confidence
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The residents of Illinois did not agree to become the nation's nuclear waste dump but slowly and ever so quietly over time the residents of Illinois have come to live with the largest amount of high level radioactive nuclear energy waste of any state in the country.

If the NRC's draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement and rule are adopted all nuclear facilities will officially become permanent nuclear waste dumps.

Discovering that no real individual environmental impact study has been done as to how 30+ years of nuclear waste will impact an area makes the current situation even more unacceptable. Even more shocking is the government and nuclear industry's current plan -- to plan that the waste may end up staying on-site forever. The courts realized the NRC's, and I would add the DOE's, unrealistic handling of the nation's nuclear energy waste and are forcing them to face reality which unfortunately is not accomplished in the NRC's Draft GEIS and Rule.

In the movie Pandora's promise, what I believe to be the most important statement in the movie, is made by Pro-Nuclear Mark Lynas, while touring the nuclear disaster area in Fukushima, Japan, he says "this was not supposed to happen to a reactor".

All the things that are not supposed to happen are exactly the problem with storing nuclear waste. In fact this is something the nuclear industry operators, investors, governments and

their agencies that facilitate nuclear energy as well as companies that build nuclear reactors are concerned about. They know, things that aren't supposed to happen--do happen. They also know this risk creates great liability.

So just like the stockpiling of nuclear energy waste the slow quiet stockpiling of risk and liability has been put upon the public unbeknownst to them. The public is carrying a large portion of the liability and risk for the nuclear industry. This is happening on a global scale. Last week the U.S. Department of Energy's Secretary Moniz went to Japan to offer help at Fukushima as long as Japan signs on to the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage removing the liability for nuclear construction companies and other nuclear vendors from nuclear accidents. If you think the same will not apply here in the U.S. think again.

As all those involved in facilitating nuclear power seek to extend the time the nuclear waste stays in our communities they also seek to reduce their own liability and responsibility to the public. Worse yet is they seek to silence us by including this generic environmental impact statement into the reactor licensing effectively preventing the public from raising concerns and being able to question the storage of nuclear waste forever on-site at individual nuclear facilities in their communities.

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