

WASTE CONFIDENCE in a nutshell

Mary Olson

11:58 AM (11 minutes ago), 7/11/13

Hi -- I have bcc'd the two (DC + Grassroots) working groups -- if you are on both, sorry for duplicate posts... your feedback on this perhaps over-simplified set of statements appreciated...

WASTE LEGISLATION in a nutshell:

From the One-Page Summary of S 1240 -- the Nuclear Waste Administration Act of 2013

"The integrated storage and repository system established by this legislation will expand opportunities for nuclear power to supply carbon-free energy, and will provide long-term protection of public health and safety from both commercial and defense high-level waste."

This bill is about enabling the expansion of nuclear power by providing the appearance of a waste program -- with zero insurance that it will deliver what should be ALL of our goals: permanent isolation of radioactivity from the Biosphere / human environment.

WASTE CONFIDENCE in a nutshell:

The court removed the NRC's ability/authority to take any license action that expands production of irradiated fuel rods. This includes granting a COL for a new reactor, or extending the license for an operable reactor, and may also include other decisions such as a re-start or an up-rate (less clear).

WHAT WE WANT in a nutshell:

What could be a unifying statement from all of us is that UNLESS and UNTIL permanent isolation of the existing waste from the biosphere has been demonstrated, there should be no confidence in licensing waste production, and NRC should not have authority to do so.

Therefore, meaningful legislation from Congress should mandate a program that will indentify means to deliver permanent isolation and not squander resources on expanding waste management infrastructure that will not deliver isolation.

This is pretty hard-line - -but it is not antithetical to the circumstances we face...what do you think? Of course there are chapters of information under both of these... but the folks turning out for the coming public participation opportunities need to "get" a clear picture. Is this over simplified?

Links to RESOURCES on both congress and NRC actions coming tomorrow.

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NIRS functions as a networking / information clearing house on nuclear energy and its radioactive waste. Working for a non-nuclear energy policy since 1978.