

N-Waste Puts NC At Risk

NEVADA SENATOR REID BLASTS FEDERAL PLAN

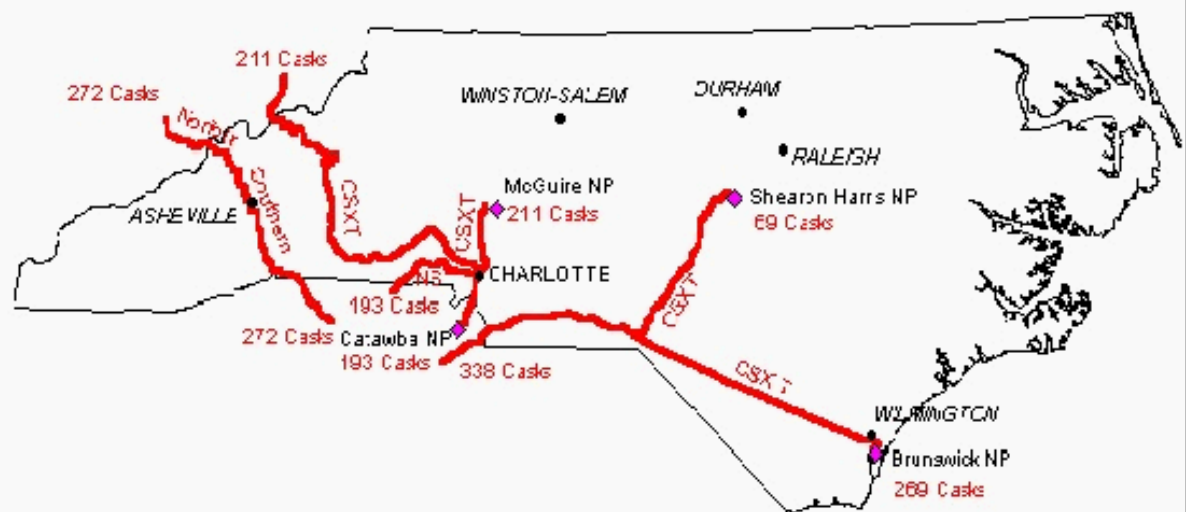
In a Senate floor speech Thursday Reid said the crash in a Baltimore tunnel near Camden Yards baseball park should slow the “mad clamor by the nuclear power industry to send nuclear waste somewhere. They don't care where it goes, but they have focused on Nevada for the present time. And I think everyone needs to recognize that transporting dangerous materials is very difficult,” he said. “The leaking hydrochloric acid in Baltimore is nothing compared to the high-level radioactive waste proposed for the Yucca Mountain site 100 miles northwest of Las Vegas. A speck the size of a pinpoint would kill a person. And we're talking about transporting some 70,000 tons of it across America.” Reid told his fellow senators that an estimated 60 million people would be within 1 mile of the truck and rail routes proposed to ship waste to Yucca Mountain. “What we should do with nuclear waste is leave it where it is,” he said.

Reported in *Counterpunch*, July 22, 2001

The Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League opposes the Yucca Mountain dump.

In 1995 Nevada published a study, “High-Level Nuclear Waste Shipping Route Maps to Yucca Mountain and Shipment Number Estimates.” The map above is from that study and shows rail and highway routes which would be used to transport high level nuclear waste across North Carolina to Nevada. More information can be found at the Nevada Nuclear Waste Project Office website at <http://www.state.nv.us/nucwaste>

<http://www.state.nv.us/nucwaste/states/northcar.htm>



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HIGH LEVEL NUCLEAR WASTE SHIPMENTS

RADIOACTIVE AND DEADLY

“A person standing one yard away from an unshielded, 10 year old fuel assembly would receive a lethal dose of radiation (500 rem) in less than three minutes and would incur significant damage in within seconds.” *

CANNOT BE MADE SAFE

“The surface dose rate of spent fuel is so great (10,000 rem/hour or more) that shipping containers with enough shielding to completely contain all emissions are too heavy to transport economically. Consequently, NRC regulations allow a certain amount of neutron and gamma radiation to be emitted from shipping casks during routine operations and transport.”*

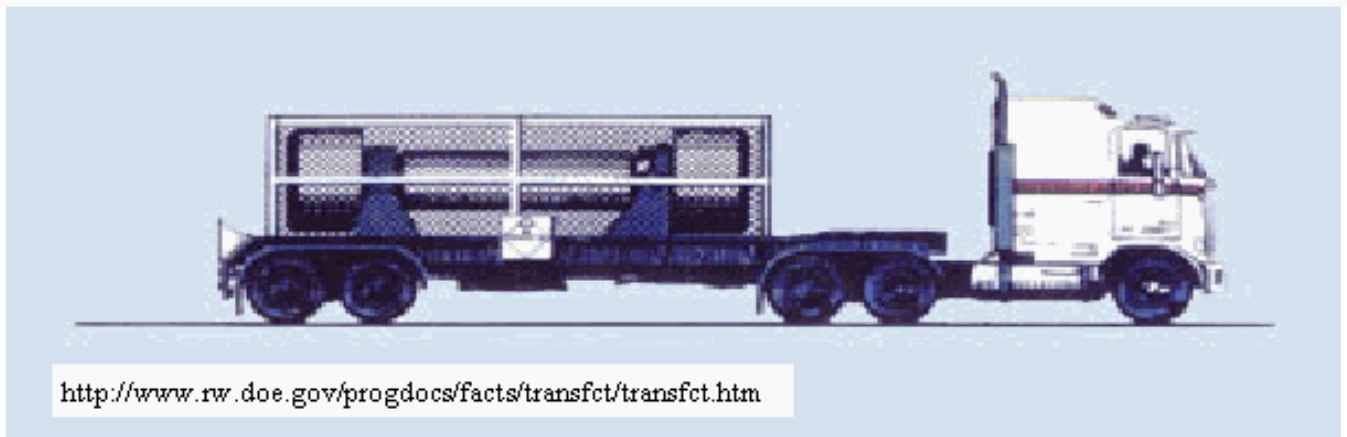
*Information from: A Report By The Nevada Agency for Nuclear Projects
<http://www.state.nv.us/nucwaste/news2001/nul1313.pdf>

PUBLIC RADIATION EXPOSURE WITHOUT AN ACCIDENT

Even without a transport accident, people are exposed to ionizing radiation from nuclear waste shipments. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission permits the following radiation dose to the public:

1,000 millirem (1 rem) per hour at the cask surface
10 millirem per hour six feet from cask surface

nuclear waste shipping cask



<http://www.rw.doe.gov/progdocs/facts/transfct/transfct.htm>

If the United States Department of Energy builds a nuclear waste dump at Yucca Mountain in Nevada, approximately 96,300 shipments of high-level nuclear waste would be transported from 77 sites in 35 states. The DOE would use waste transport cannisters, called casks, for both highway and railway shipments (pictured above). Fully loaded truck casks can weigh up to 26 tons. Loaded rail casks can weigh as much as 150 tons. According to Public Citizen, the number of accidents expected to occur during this time is between 210 and 354.