



## WHERE DO THE CANDIDATES AND OUR ELECTED LEADERS STAND ON RADIOACTIVE WASTE?

The Vermont Yankee nuclear power facility, just 15 miles north of Greenfield in southeastern Vermont, shuttered in 2014. But the story isn't over! In 40 years of operation, Vermont Yankee created a serious amount of atomic waste. Now, more than 1,600 tons of the most highly radioactive waste sits in 58 casks out in the open near the banks of the Connecticut River. Neither Vermont nor the federal government knows what to do with it. Yet release of the radiation from these casks would leave our region uninhabitable for decades. Vermont isn't alone with this problem; it's the same at all reactor sites around the country.

The nuclear industry and politicians in Congress are pushing to send this waste to "temporary" Consolidated Interim Storage (CIS) sites in majority-Latino communities in the Southwest. CIS is environmental racism, pure and simple. This is an area that already carries a heavy burden of nuclear contamination, from nuclear warhead testing to uranium mining. People there don't believe the move will be temporary and don't want the waste.

**We all want the waste from Vermont Yankee gone, but we need to think about where it would go. Do we want "our" waste to contaminate someone else's home?**

In March 2021, Governor Baker signed into law the Next-Generation Roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy. It is now within the state's purview to ensure that lower-income and BIPOC communities in Massachusetts do not disproportionately suffer the effects of environmental pollution, degradation, or abuse. **Should this standard of environmental justice end at the border?! We need to let our elected officials and candidates running for office know that plans for Consolidated Interim Storage are contrary to the Commonwealth's values.**

### ASK THEM WHERE THEY STAND!

- Are they aware of Consolidated Interim Storage plans? What do they think about them? Will they stand for environmental justice in Congress?
- Why isn't there more government and industry investment in developing a permanent waste solution?
- With its waste problem, why is nuclear promoted as a "green" solution to climate change?

### MAKE SURE THEY KNOW YOU'RE CONCERNED AND WATCHING!

**And let us know what you learn.**

The candidates' contact information is on the CAN website. Type [nukebusters.org](http://nukebusters.org) into your browser. The link to the information will be clearly visible on the landing page.

**For CAN's contact information and more resources, please look on the back.**

The Citizens Awareness Network (CAN) has been working for 40 years to end the use of nuclear power and promote responsible stewardship of nuclear waste. **CAN wants the waste at Vermont Yankee to stay put** until a scientifically sound, environmentally just, permanent solution is found. **But we don't want it out in the open**, vulnerable to aerial or ground attack. **It needs to be "hardened"** by covering the waste casks with earth (berming) or enclosing them in hardened buildings. Then **move it ONCE to a final destination** that its neighbors agree to host!

**Citizens Awareness Network** Is a grassroots environmental organization working in New England to end the use of nuclear power and promote responsible stewardship of radioactive waste. It is a member of the National Nuclear Waste Coalition (<https://radioactivewastecoalition.org>)

**Citizens Awareness Network:**

- **Tells the truth** about the risks of nuclear power and its roots in the dangers of radiation as well as the lack of regulation of a profit-driven industry.
- **Calls for intensive research now** into scientifically sound means of permanently isolating nuclear waste from the biotic world.
- **Stands for environmental justice.**
- **Promotes nuclear-free and carbon-free means of sustainable energy production.** Nuclear is not a “bridge fuel” to address climate change. It is a dirty, toxic, dangerous, incredibly expensive way to generate electricity, whether it be with Small Nuclear Reactors, the big “conventional” fission reactors, thorium, fusion, etc.

**Contact information:**

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(413) 339-4374

<http://www.nukebusters.org>

email at: <http://nukebusters.org/contact.shtml>

**GET INFORMED!**

- **National Radioactive Waste Coalition**, <https://radioactivewastecoalition.org>
- **Nuclear Information and Resource Service**, <https://nirs.org>
- **Beyond Nuclear**, <https://beyondnuclear.org>
- **Citizens Awareness Network**, <http://nukebusters.org>