

# Foes see risk to site from N-shipments

By DOUGLAS TURNER  
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WASHINGTON — Anti-nuclear groups announced Tuesday they oppose a Senate bill that would create a temporary storage vault in Nevada for high-level waste from nuclear power plants.

That, they warned, will trigger thousands of hazardous shipments of canisters through urban areas including, Buffalo, Dunkirk and other upstate New York cities.

The Ralph Nader organization Public Citizen released maps showing that the shipments would travel by truck on interstate highways from the FitzPatrick power plant near Oswego and the Ginna plant near Rochester. One route, according to the maps, is the Thruway through the Buffalo area.

According to the report by Public Citizen and four allied groups, 6,217 truckloads and 9,421 rail shipments through 43 states from California to Vermont and Florida would be made over three decades. In upstate New York, the rail shipments would travel on Conrail tracks paralleling the Thruway.

Angie McBrien, spokeswoman for the Nuclear Energy Institute, an interest group financed by the nuclear industry, said the maps were created by Public Citizen and its supporters.

"There has been no announcement (by the government) as to what the shipment routes will be," she said. "They're trying to scare people."

Joan Claybook, president of Public Citizen, said urban communities all along these routes would be in danger of exposure to nuclear contamination if Congress adopts legislation proposed by Sen. Bennett Johnston, D-La.

Johnston's bill would designate Yucca Mountain, Nev., as a temporary storage site for spent fuel from nuclear generating stations. The legislation would use Yucca until the Energy Department designated a permanent site.

Yucca had once been the favorite to become that burial place, but a 1992 earthquake with a magnitude of 5.2 might have upset those plans. Erik Olds, spokesman for the Energy Department's on-site study team, said the department has "absolutely not" made a final decision on Yucca.

Under Johnston's bill, spent fuel rods from reactors would be sent to Nevada in three years.

The other groups involved in the protest are the Military Production Network, Nuclear Information and Research Service, Safe Energy Communication Council and U.S. Public Interest Research Group.

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