



Accidents Waiting to Happen: Proposed Nuclear Shipments to Yucca Mountain



The Department of Energy’s plan for a nuclear waste dump at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, would involve an unprecedented and risky nuclear transportation scheme. Tens of thousands of high-level radioactive waste shipments would travel through 44 states by road, rail and barge, threatening the health and safety of millions of Americans.

Accidents do happen.

- 453,000 large truck crashes in 1999, including 8,857 hazardous materials shipments¹
- 2,768 train crashes in 1999²
- more than 72 “incidents” since 1949 involving high-level nuclear waste shipments³

Coming soon to a highway near you?

Based on historical accident rates and likely routes to the proposed repository, experts expect hundreds of accidents involving Yucca Mountain shipments over 38 years.⁴

MODE ⁵	SHIPMENTS	SHIPMENT MILES	ACCIDENTS	“INCIDENTS”
“Mostly truck” shipping scenario	108,899	227,916,000	161	2,395
“Mostly train” shipping scenario	22,057	48,180,000	390	858

Mobile Chernobyl

A severe accident resulting in a release of radioactive materials could spell disaster for public health and the environment and cost millions of dollars to clean up. These risks cannot be justified.

OPPOSE risky radioactive waste transport to Yucca Mountain.

¹ *Large Truck Crash Facts, 1999*, Analysis Division, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation (April 2001)

² Federal Railroad Administration Office of Safety, <http://safetydata.fra.dot.gov/officeofsafety/> viewed 3/16/02.

³ *Reported Incidents Involving Spent Nuclear Fuel Shipments, 1949 to Present* Nevada Nuclear Waste Project Office (1996)

⁴ State of Nevada analysis based on historical accident rates for spent nuclear fuel shipments as calculated by SAIC for the Department of Energy in 1990. Analysis for “mostly rail” scenario used maximum rail shipment distances identified in DOE’s final Environmental Impact Statement. Accident rates for proposed barge shipments and heavy-haul trucks are not included. Shipment numbers are from the final Environmental Impact Statement and do not incorporate intermodal transfers in Nevada. Shipment miles are from the final Environmental Impact Statement and include distances within Nevada.

⁵ Transporting nuclear waste to Yucca Mountain would involve some combination of truck and train shipments. The Department of Energy has not announced which mode would be preferred.