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Subject: : Conservation

Topic: : Hydro Fracking Trouble in Wyoming County

Re: Hydro Fracking Trouble in Wyoming County

Author: : pcray1231

Date: : 2013/4/23 8:37:47

URL:

Less than 0.01% of nuclear waste is stored in pools. But it is the high grade stuff that is. And this is the material that is perfectly good fuel, could be used as such, with ALL of the resulting "waste" being far less dangerous. i.e. we took it out of the reactor before it was "done", so it's still reacting. We simply choose not to use it, not for commercial or technical reasons, but for geopolitical ones.

The water is more for heat than it is for radiation. Underwater, they are placed in a honeycomb structure of, typically, boronated stainless steel which attenuates thermal neutrons, and prevents the reaction from reaching criticality. The water does absorb some of the lower energy radiations, but it's mostly about keeping them cool. After a number of years, when the reaction slows enough, they can be removed from the pools and stored in dry casks, again made of boronated stainless.

The reason we don't recycle our fuel further is fair enough, and the only valid reason against nuclear. Proliferation. We take it out of the reactor prior to any weapons grade material being created. During the cold war (Carter admin), we made the call not to do this on the commercial level. Thus all weapons grade material is made only at national labs and can be controlled more closely. It's also a bad example for rogue countries like Iran, who CLAIM to want nuclear for peaceful purposes only. An attempt to separate power production from weapons production, in the idea that they can do one without being able to do the other.