

**PRESENTATION TO THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON AMERICA'S  
NUCLEAR FUTURE  
By Dr. Roger Kasperson**

As the National Research Council has repeatedly advised the Federal Government and Congress, the "biggest challenges to waste disposal programs are societal in nature." Four fundamental problems face the Commission in the design and implementation of a new program: (1) disposing of spent fuel and HLW is a deep uncertainty problem, (2) effective public involvement and collaboration will be required at all stages of the disposal process, (3) fairness in process and results will be essential but difficult to achieve, and (4) the process must move forward under conditions of high social distrust.

This presentation explores the substantive, rich findings of several decades of social and behavioral research. Much is known. The presenter summarizes in the depth allowed by the brevity of the panel schedule the nature of the four issues identified above and some principal implications of the accomplished research for Commission considerations of program design and related implications. The presentation concludes with principal criteria to guide new program and regulatory system initiatives and processes.