

# Editorial

## Friends Really Are

We know now that a facility being built to store nuclear waste, Yucca Mountain in Nevada, will go forward, even though there will be legal challenge~ along the way. Storing spent fuel rods from nuclear plants all across the country in one depository makes sense for many reasons. In this post September Eleventh Era, terrorists won't have piles of nuclear waste all over the country to target, as closed plants start storing the waste on site.

The closed Maine Yankee nuclear power plant in Wiscasset has been preparing to store its nuclear waste in dry casks for several years and is expected to start moving the waste later this summer. Once again Friends of the Coast Opposing Nuclear Pollution has stepped forward to protect the public with the filing of a petition with the Nuclear Regulatory Agency (NRC). The petition asks that the nuclear waste not be moved "until safer storage alternatives are found and in place."

Because of delays expected in getting the Yucca Mountain facility ready, Friends Of the Coast say that provisions for safe storage for 25 years should be made now. They have suggested two alternatives --first, that the waste be stored in the dome, which is scheduled to be dismantled; or second, that the waste be moved to a military facility.

Maine Yankee officials want the nuclear waste removed as much as anyone else does, but say the first alternative isn't practical because the dome isn't big enough. The second alternative is worth investigating. Friends of the Coast has a long history of protecting the health and safety of the public and we applaud their vigilance.

We hope the NRC takes a serious look at making the storage of this dangerous material as safe as possible, as soon as possible.

-Paula Gibbs