



The purpose of a repository

I am writing regarding the comment about “throwing away spent fuel in Yucca Mountain” made in a letter in the February 2026 issue of *Nuclear News*. It should be noted that the facility was/is named the Yucca Mountain Repository, similar to the United States Bullion Repository at Fort Knox. Repositories, as opposed to disposal sites, are places where things of value are protected. The value of the energy remaining in spent fuel was fully appreciated at the time. As one who worked on the project at its end, I can assure you that, although required by regulation to prove safety for 10,000 and 1 million years following closure, the expectation among many working on the project was that the material would be recovered for further usage no later than 200 or 300 years after closure. For those looking for detail on the design, I suggest an Internet search for “Yucca Mountain

License Application” and “Yucca Mountain License Application SER.”

Getting information from sources that are required to defend their statements and anticipate having to ward off challenges in legal arenas—rather than relying on mainstream media memes and politically driven statements—tends to provide a firmer basis for understanding. Psychic pain still recurs when I remember how engineered titanium containers protected by titanium drip shields, emplaced and backfilled in drifts beneath a mountain in the Mojave Desert and protected from moisture for 1,000 years by rock temperature were portrayed in mainstream media as rusted-out 55-gallon drums heaped in an open-air pit.

*Ed Murphy
Milford, Ohio*



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