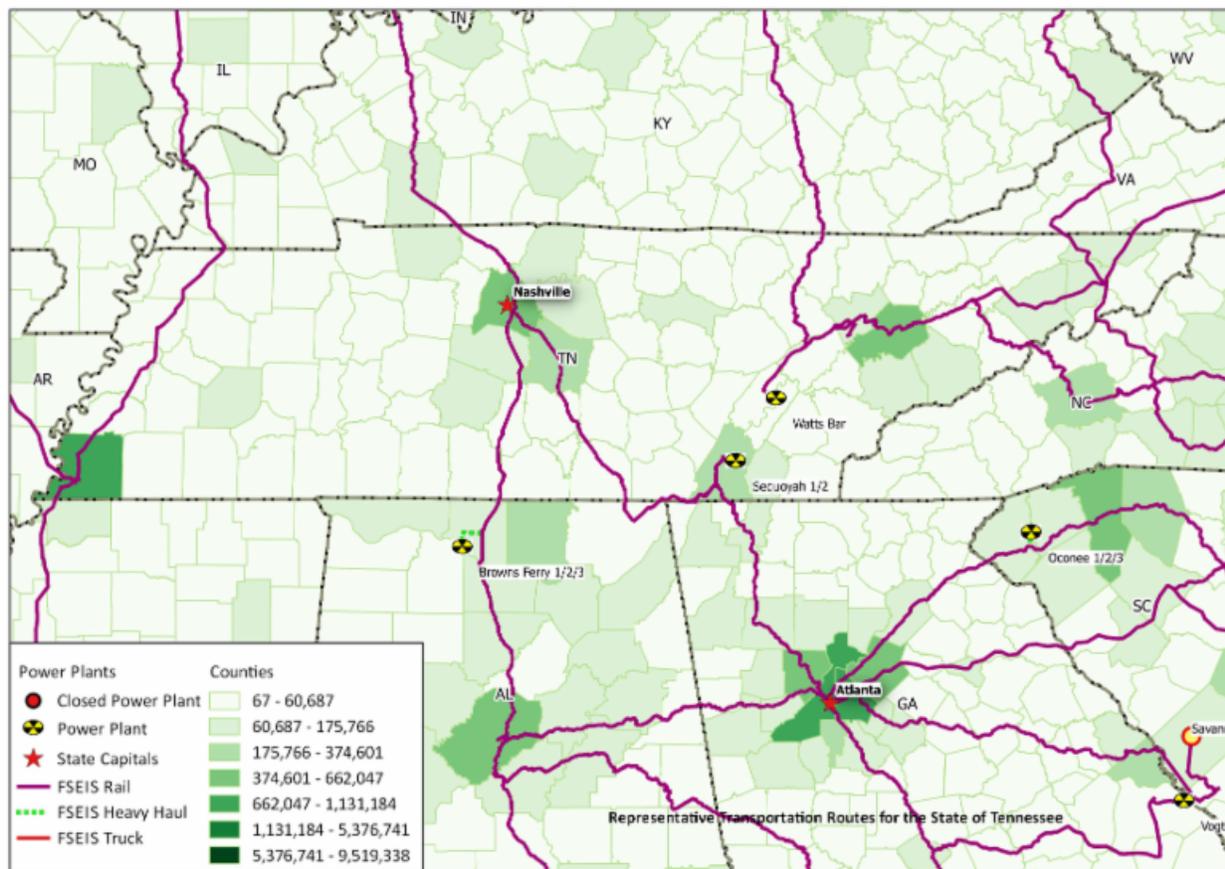


View map of rad-waste routes in TN: [Click here](#)



Radioactive Waste Routes Identified Across Tennessee New Map Shows Tennessee Communities Affected by Transport of Radioactive Nuclear Waste Shipments

*** Expert Tele-Briefing Today: 2:00 p.m. Eastern/1:00 p.m. Central ***

**For Immediate Release
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Nashville, TN -- Thousands of nuclear waste shipments would be transported through communities across Tennessee if plans for the country's first nuclear waste repository in Nevada move forward. Today, the Tennessee Environmental Council released a [map detailing likely routes](#) radioactive shipments would use. The group encourages Tennessee residents to weigh in with Congress about the dangers.

According to the map, highly radioactive waste-fuel from 30 nuclear reactors at 16 power plants in eight states plus the Savannah River Site would pass through Tennessee by rail. Each shipment would contain several times more radioactive material than the Hiroshima bomb blast released, with 20 to 50 tons of irradiated fuel assemblies in each canister. Department of Energy studies completed in the 1990s confirmed that accidents in transporting the waste to Yucca Mountain would be a certainty, due to the large number of shipments that would be required. The shipments would also be vulnerable to attack or sabotage along the hundreds or thousands of miles that each cask would travel.

The shipments would pass through West, Middle and East Tennessee along multiple routes from reactors in Alabama, Louisiana, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia and Tennessee. The waste from 21 reactors in 6 states would come through the Radnor Yard in Nashville.

"Are Nashville and Tennessee ready for mass transportation of nuclear waste?" says Don Safer, Board Member of the Tennessee Environmental Council. "Have first responders been trained to handle a rad waste accident? We have all witnessed horrible oil train derailments and explosions in recent months. An accident involving tons of nuclear waste could force thousands of people to evacuate their homes, schools, and businesses and radioactively-contaminate dozens of square miles," Mr. Safer concludes.

Some in Congress want to force a nuclear waste dump to open in Nevada, over President Obama's and the state's objections as well as that of the Western Shoshone Nation. The president has defunded the proposed Yucca Mountain repository since 2010, effectively abandoning the controversial project, while Nevada believes the site is not suitable for storing nuclear waste and opposes the project. Nevada controls land and water rights the federal government would need to complete the project. To overcome that obstacle, Congress would need to enact a law overriding the state's rights. Doing so would then open the door for the nuclear waste shipments to begin.

"It is in the best interests of Tennessee and our nation that Congress support the people of Nevada and abandon Yucca Mountain," says John McFadden PhD, CEO of the Tennessee Environmental Council. "We support safeguarding Tennessee communities from radioactive waste while we seek more sound solutions to nuclear waste. The best long term solution is to rely on cleaner renewables and energy efficiency, since we can't sell a kilowatt hour of nuclear power for what it costs to produce it," says McFadden.

The Tennessee Environmental Council is calling on Governor Haslam and local officials in Tennessee communities affected by the transport of nuclear waste to oppose Yucca Mountain and ensure transportation of nuclear waste only occurs when there is a scientifically proven, environmentally sound, and socially responsible long-term management plan. The nuclear waste problem can never truly be resolved until nuclear power plants are permanently shut down and stop generating radioactive material. New reactors would only exacerbate the problem: more dump sites would need to be created, and the transportation of lethal atomic waste would have to continue indefinitely.

"Abandoning the Yucca Mountain project is a step in the right direction," says McFadden. "Until then, the waste can be stored more securely where it is now, without putting it on our roads and railways, traveling through our communities," says McFadden.

Large-scale nuclear waste transport would also occur if, as some in Congress advocate, a "centralized interim storage" site for high-level radioactive waste were created. In that case, the waste would either have to move twice (once to the interim site, and then to a permanent site), thus doubling the risks or the "interim" site would become a de facto permanent waste dump--without going through the necessary scientific characterization.

Join us TODAY (10/27) for a Tele-Briefing with national experts, Dr Fred Dilger of Black Mountain Research, author of the nuclear transport maps, and Dr Marvin Resnikoff of Radioactive Waste Management Associates who has done extensive work on nuclear waste containers, shipments and accident risks.

Tele-Briefing is today 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Eastern)

Call: 605-562-3140 and enter code: 723281#

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