

CITIZENS FOR ALTERNATIVES TO CHEMICAL CONTAMINATION

Working to Protect the Environment Since 1978

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Chapter Organizations:

*TriCounty Residents for Alternatives to Chemical Contamination
International Citizens for Alternatives to Chemical Contamination*

At the Quarterly Board of Directors meeting of Great Lakes United, Citizens for Alternatives to Chemical Contamination (CACC) requests that GLU take a public stance in opposition to the siting of dry casks for the storage of high level nuclear power plant waste at the Palisades Nuclear Power Plant on the shores of Lake Michigan. This facility is operated by Consumers Power Company, and is a pressure water reactor. The casks will stand 18 feet high on a concrete pad 150 yards from the shore of Lake Michigan and each will weigh 130 tons when loaded. The projected 25 casks are for storage purposes only, and cannot be transported.

According to Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy, James Watkins, the DOE is not obligated to take spent fuel from commercial reactors if there is no repository available by January 31, 1998. With legal injunctions against further development at the Waste Isolation Pilot Project near Carlsbad, New Mexico, and massive opposition to the Nevada facility, this dry cask storage will become a permanent high level nuclear waste dump on the shores of Lake Michigan. This process is ongoing without any public review, no environmental impact statement, and no cost/benefit analysis.

This proposal sets a dangerous precedent, since permission to load these casks will give the green light to the same activity at Point Beach, Wisconsin, on the other side of Lake Michigan.

Don't Waste Michigan has documented numerous violations of federal law and procedure in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission permitting of this process. Further, they have uncovered a chronic embrittlement problem similar to the type that shut down the Yankee Rowe nuclear power plant last spring. Allowing the siting of dry cask storage at Palisades will create a high-level nuclear waste dump on the shores of Lake Michigan, employing untested casks with negligible surveillance requirements and an inability to be transported off site.

CACC urges GLU to issue a public statement in opposition to this project, addressing Michigan Governor John Engler, the Michigan Legislature and Public Service Commission, and the Council of Great Lakes Governors.