**But first:** If we close our eyes maybe it will all go away…

We have 65,000 metric tons of commercial radioactive waste stored at 104 operating reactors and another 10 that are closed (plus 4 major nuclear weapons sites).

After two years of review, a federal blue ribbon commission has issued a report urging creation of an independent Federal Corporation to find a publically acceptable, and scientifically suitable, place to store spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste.

The corporation would have complete authority over almost $25 billion in funds for the repository that has been raised through a tax on electricity. The tax contributes about $750 million per year to the program.
Our prior solution to this problem was to store radioactive waste in Yucca Mountain located in Nevada 90 miles from Las Vegas.

- $12 billion of your taxes and 30 years have been devoted to the study of Yucca Mountain.

More than 5 miles of exploratory tunnels have been created to study the geology of the Mountain.
Under the 1982 Nuclear Waste Policy Act, a repository was supposed to be operating by 1998. A process was established to pick a site.

In 1987 Congress amended the law so that Yucca Mountain was the only site that could qualify. The amended law as nicknamed the “Screw Nevada Bill”.

Nevada has delayed implementation through a series of challenges.

By law Yucca Mountain is to be developed, but we can’t enforce the law.

President Obama decided not to seek a construction permit, effectively blocking Yucca Mountain.
Maintenance costs and competition with cheap natural gas are shutting down nuclear plants.

- Shuttered nuclear reactors are scattered across the U.S.

- It costs over $400 million to retire a reactor and to remove the low level radioactive material.

- Spent fuel and other more radioactive wastes are kept on site in casks resting on a cement slab waiting for construction of a national high-level storage facility.
So we are back to square one.

• The goal now is to find an interim site so that waste can be moved away from reactor and weapon sites.
• Selection of the interim storage site could take 10 years.
• Selection of a permanent site could take 20 or more years.
• Whatever site is picked, waste handling and transportation of wastes will be a crucial link in the scheme.

Murphy’s Law applies.