

## Why should Wisconsin be concerned about Nuclear Waste?

In the mid 1980's, before the designation of Yucca Mountain, Nevada, as a federal under-ground nuclear waste site, Wisconsin's Wolf River Batholith (see map) received close scrutiny by the Department of Energy (DOE), and was ranked second for a national high-level radio-active waste site. The Wolf River Batholith underlies much of Waupaca, Portage, Shawano, Marathon, Menom-inee, Langlade and Oconto counties. Truck or rail shipment of radioactive waste from around the country and from our nuclear power plants at Point Beach and Kewaunee would impact the entire state.

Citizens of Nevada have challenged the Yucca Mountain site at every step, and the site is still not operational. Even if Yucca Mountain opens, it will be full by 2037. Federal law requires new exploration for a national site east of the Mississippi in 2007-2010. With 45,000 tons of radioactive waste sitting on site at the nation's nuclear power plants, DOE wants to designate a second site quickly, so the industry can continue generating nuclear waste, and even begin siting and construction of new nuclear plants.

## Has Wisconsin considered this before?

Current Wisconsin law requires that no new nuclear plants be constructed in the state until there is an operational nuclear waste repository, and until they are cost-effective (without the huge taxpayer subsidies the industry has relied upon in the past.) That's thanks to a citizen initiative.

In the mid 1980's hundreds of Tribal, Town and County governments passed resolutions opposing nuclear waste dumping in the state. Combining their voices with the thousands of citizens who signed petitions, called their legislators, and educated themselves and their neighbors, they effectively protected the Wisconsin's water resources from the dangers of nuclear waste disposal.



Now the Department of energy may come back, to look again at Wisconsin's granite bedrock. It's time to stand up again for the lakes and streams of Wisconsin.

For more information, or to schedule a presentation contact: Midwest Treaty Network/Wolf Watershed Education Project, c/o George Rock, 2610 Log Cabin Drive, White Lake, WI 54491 (715)882-4800 email: riverrocks@dwave.net

## Wisconsin: Home of the Bald Eagle, White Tail Deer, Sturgeon, Walleye, Trout....



## and Nuclear Waste?

In the 1980's the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) identified the granite bedrock of the Wolf River Batholith as a possible repository for high-level nuclear waste from nuclear power plants.

The citizens of Wisconsin said, "No, thank-you."

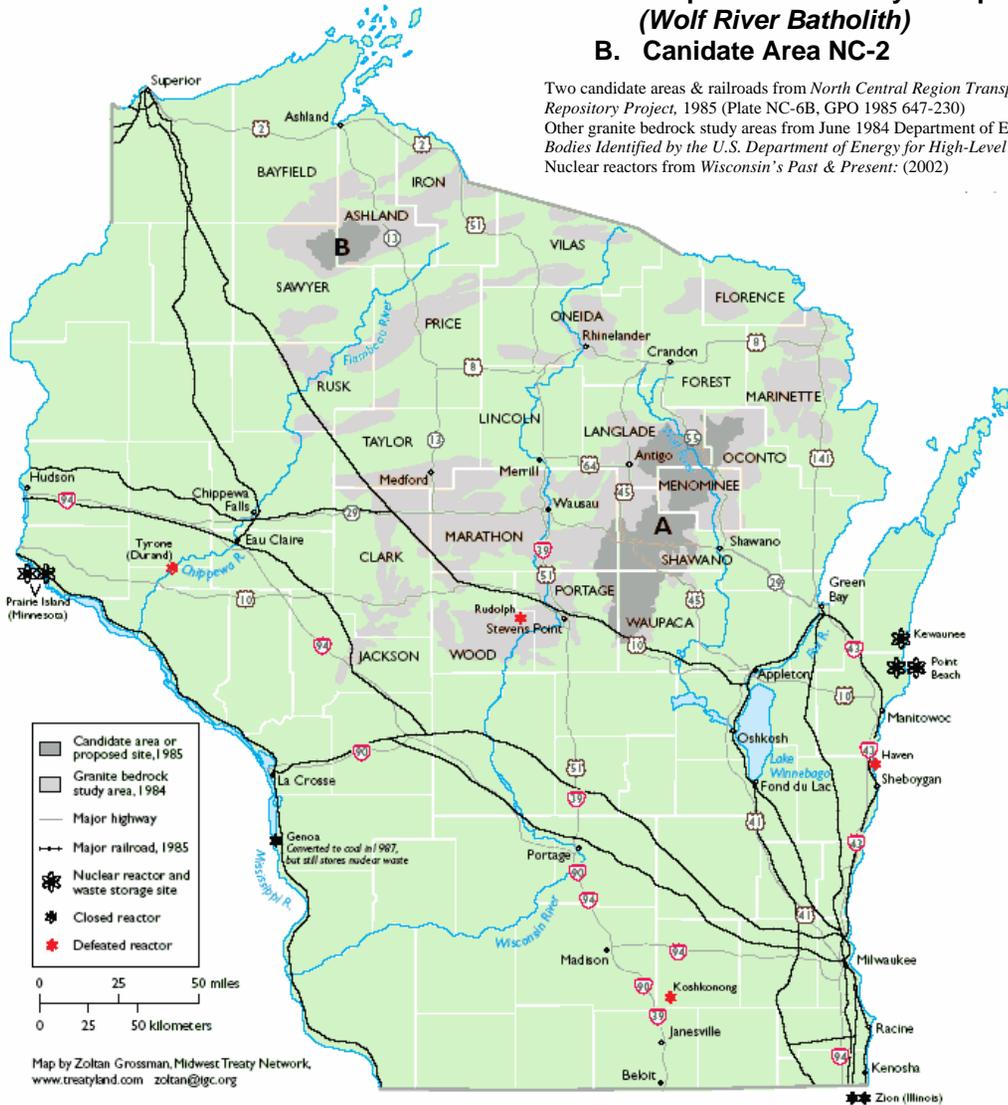
But the DOE has yet to get a nuclear waste repository up and running, and the deadly waste continues to pile up at nuclear power plants. Now the federal government wants to subsidize construction of more nuclear power plants. Will Wisconsin become a nuclear dumpsite in the next round? It's time to become informed about radioactive waste and energy policy. And stand up to the DOE and the nuclear industry.

# POSSIBLE NUCLEAR WASTE SITES & ROUTES

- A. Proposed Potentially Acceptable Site NC-3  
(Wolf River Batholith)
- B. Candidate Area NC-2

Two candidate areas & railroads from *North Central Region Transportation Network Map Crystalline Repository Project*, 1985 (Plate NC-6B, GPO 1985 647-230)  
 Other granite bedrock study areas from June 1984 Department of Energy map: *Areas and Rock Bodies Identified by the U.S. Department of Energy for High-Level Radioactive Waste Evaluation*.  
 Nuclear reactors from *Wisconsin's Past & Present*: (2002)

**Related Links:**  
 Midwest Treaty Network:  
[www.treatyland.com/](http://www.treatyland.com/)  
 Wisconsin's Nuclear Watch Dog (WNWD):  
[www.wnwd.org/](http://www.wnwd.org/)  
 Prairie Island Coalition:  
[www.mtn.org/pic](http://www.mtn.org/pic)  
 Radioactive Waste info:  
[www.radwaste.org/](http://www.radwaste.org/)



If nuclear power plants continue to generate high-level radioactive waste, the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository in Nevada will be full by 2037. The U.S. Department of Energy must choose a second site in 2007. When the Nevada dump was chosen in the mid-1980s, the second favored site was the Wolf River Batholith in NE Wisconsin. Yet its granite bedrock can crack, and in our wet region, water could then reach the hot waste. The high-level radioactive waste would be transported to the huge underground nuclear repository on roads and rails Through out Wisconsin.

## What is Nuclear Waste, and why worry about it?

U.S. nuclear power reactors produce about 60,000 tons of radioactive waste each year. This waste contains nearly 200 newly created dangerous radioactive products. These include Strontium-90, which remains dangerous for hundreds of years. Strontium-90 mimics calcium, and finds its way into milk, wheat, green leafy vegetables and the bones of growing children and wildlife. Another radioactive isotope, Plutonium, remains dangerously radioactive for 250,000 years.

The DOE claims storage of this waste in granite bedrock would be safe. But over the thousands of years required, granite can crack. This would allow the groundwater of Wisconsin, an irreplaceable resource, to carry radioactivity away from the storagesite and into our aquifers and rivers, contaminating our drinking and recreational waters for future generations.