

## Leshinskie, Anthony

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**From:** Ann Darling <AADEJD@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 31, 2022 3:42 PM  
**To:** PSD - NDCAP  
**Subject:** following up on today's Federal Nuclear Waste Policy Committee meeting

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Hello folks. As usual, I sat in on the FNWPC today. For some reason, I was unable to unmute myself or take down my hand once raised. I managed to get a comment into the chat but then was unable to write another one with a clarification. I have no idea what was going on, but I do note that Schuyler Gould was able to speak. So perhaps it was something on my end. Sigh.

The conversation was about the Committee's views on the DOE NFI around consent-based siting. My comment was about the role of a permanent repository in making it possible to give truly informed consent to an interim facility. If I were considering the pros and cons of hosting an interim storage facility in my community, I would want to know how long the HLNW would be nearby. No one can answer that question. This is what makes so many people distrustful and afraid, especially considering DoE's and NRC's track records. The longer this dangerous, toxic HLNW sits anywhere, the more likely that problems will arise. Casks become embrittled. Rivers flood more often now and with greater destruction. Things will happen that we can't foresee.

It has always struck me that a lot of the conflict about nuclear power stems from different approaches to risk. Some people are willing to take a risk, even if it will have disastrous consequences, if the chances of it occurring are small. Others are not willing to take the risk of something catastrophic happening, no matter how unlikely. (You all know where I stand on that continuum!)

Another point of divergence is the degree to which people believe that technology can keep us safe. There are double and triple redundancies in safety systems at nuclear power facilities. Can't we be assured that we're safe? Here's the thing: very bad things have happened with nuclear power and nuclear waste already. Human-designed and -operated systems do fail.

Following on that, in my observation over the years, the NRC has not figured out that local people may not be experts on nuclear technology, but they ARE experts on what they want and need for their community. We deserve transparent, unbiased information, respect, and a meaningful role in decision-making. Vermont has led the nation on how to do citizen-centered governance. How can we apply what we know to the work of the NDCAP as a model for the country?

I wasn't going to say so much. But there you have it.  
Thanks again for listening,  
Ann Darling