The road to Yucca Mountain: The development of radioactive waste policy in the United States.

Disciplines  >  Health  >  Health Care Policy
In *The Road to Yucca Mountain*, J. Samuel Walker traces the U.S. government's tangled efforts to solve the technical and political problems associated with radioactive waste. From the Manhattan Project through the designation in 1987 of Yucca Mountain in Nevada as a high-level waste repository, Walker thoroughly investigates the approaches adopted by the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC). He explains the growing criticism of the AEC's waste programs, such as the AEC's embarrassing failure in its first serious effort to build a high-level waste repository in a Kansas salt mine. Clearly and accessibly, Walker explains the issues surrounding deep geological disposal and surface storage of high-level waste and spent reactor fuel. He analyzes the equally complex and divisive question of fuel “reprocessing.” He weaves reliable research with fresh insights about nuclear science,
geology, politics, and public administration, making this original and authoritative account an essential guide for understanding the continuing controversy over an illusive and emotional topic.

About the Author


Reviews

“A valuable account of the history/ongoing issues related to this significant problem. . . . Recommended.”—Choice

“[Walker’s] synthesis provides no easy answers to the problem of nuclear waste disposal, but rather explains in detail why the problem has remained unsolved for more than sixty years. . . . An excellent resource for anyone looking to know more about why the United States does not yet have a satisfactory nuclear waste disposal system.”—Enterprise & Society

“Engaging, concise, and disturbing. . . . [Walker] translates the issue of nuclear waste history into a contemporary topic to be discussed and understood as we approach a new nuclear power revival.”—Metascience

“Walker’s history of U.S. nuclear waste management provides a clear reminder of the potential pitfalls of disposal of this material...to ignore these is to invite failure yet again.”—Journal Of American History

“No author could more expertly exhume the bones of this institutional history than Walker.”—Metascience

“Walker has demonstrated that there is an important place for public history in the scholarly arena. . . . The monograph is well-researched, objective, and informative.”—Technology And Culture
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Awards

Richard W. Leopold Prize, Organization of American Historians

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nuclear accident, it follows directly from the laws of conservation that the redistribution of the budget uses the analysis of foreign experience, thus a kind of connection with the darkness of the unconscious is carried out.

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