

# Making the World Safe for Gambling . . . and Other Issues

One of the arguments the state of Nevada is raising against the siting of the spent fuel/high-level waste repository at Yucca Mountain is the fear that the location of this repository only 90-odd miles from Las Vegas will decrease the number of people who come to the city to gamble (is that a *bad* thing?) (see "Headlines," page 6). Seriously, I don't mean to denigrate the very important tourist income that Nevada counts on. However, I think Las Vegas could be buried up to the tip of its phoney Eiffel Tower in snakes, giant squids, and green slime, and the gamblers would still trek there in throngs. Given the fact that the former nuclear weapons testing grounds at the Nevada Test Site, a similar distance from Las Vegas, appeared to deter no one from visiting the city, we doubt that a repository at Yucca Mountain will have much impact . . . unless Nevada *wants* to deter them by talking about how dangerous it might be.

**Low-Level Waste.** This issue's cover stories deal with low-level waste. The first story, by Ramesh Dayal, outlines the extensive activities the International Atomic Energy Agency conducts in this area, and also discusses some of the emerging issues that are expected to dominate future work (see page 11). Mr. Dayal also serves as a member of this magazine's Editorial Advisory Board, and we want to thank him here in print, for all the world to see, for his fine efforts on the magazine's behalf. Many of the articles we print from international sources result solely from his hard work.

Our other article on LLW deals with the attempts the Republic of Korea has made to find a site to build a facility for disposal of its low- and

intermediate-level waste (see page 20). Dr. Yean Hong Choi does a fine job of describing that country's many attempts, and many failures, to find a site and offers some suggestions for improving the process in the future.

**Timeliness.** As a bimonthly magazine, *Radwaste Solutions* cannot often feature breaking news. Rather, we try to present material that is, instead, timeless. Still, once in a while it's nice to be able to cover a continuing story in real time. Such is the case in this issue with two articles.

As I write this editorial, the world has just watched in horror as a small plane crashed into a Milan office building, resulting in three deaths and dozens of injuries. City authorities are uncertain if this event was a tragic accident or a suicidal act of desperation. Regardless of which it turns out to be, we've seen once again the devastation caused by a plane impact. How appropriate, then, that we are able to present "MADness and Spent Fuel Cask Safety," by Charles W. Pennington and Michael McGough of NAC International (page 25), which looks at what might happen should a plane crash into one of their spent-fuel storage canisters.

Our other timely article, "Stumping for Yucca Mountain," by Janenne Harrington (a regular contributor from Big Rock Point), focuses on what individual people, communities, and even states are doing to convince members of Congress to support Yucca Mountain (page 46). If this summer's vote on Yucca Mountain succeeds, it will be due in part to the efforts of people like Charlevoix County, Mich., resident and county commissioner Don Smith. Thanks, Don (and all your counterparts), for your efforts.—*Nancy J. Zacha*



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