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(6 July 2017)

Editorial addressed US nuclear waste issues published in Science on June 30, 2017 (1). In addition to the mentioned issues, there is also a potential terrorist threat to the large volumes of radioactive wastes. In Japan, not only terrorist threat, but also natural disasters including earthquakes and tsunami are potential threats to radioactive wastes. Motoko Rich wrote an article entitled "Struggling with Japan's Nuclear Waste, six years after disaster" (2). Although prime minister Abe in Japan mentioned that Fukushima nuclear plant was under control, Japan has had the following problems including 400 tons of contaminated water per day, 3,519 containers of radioactive sludge, 200,400 cubic meters of radioactive rubble, 64,700 cubic meters of discarded protective clothing, branches and logs from 220 acres of deforested land, 3.5 billion gallons of contaminated soil, and 1,573 nuclear fuel rods (2). Do we really need nuclear power plants?

References:

1. Allison Macfarlane, et al., Déjà vu for U.S. nuclear waste, Editorial, Science, Vol. 356, Issue 6345, pp. 1313, June 30, 2017
2. Motoko Rich, Struggling With Japan's Nuclear Waste, Six Years After Disaster, The New York Times, March 11, 2017

Competing Interests: None declared.