

Clearinghouse Update

From time to time we update our readers on situations which have been described in our *Newsletter*.

The Latest on Temporary Nuclear Waste Storage in Utah

After her talk at the "Role of Nuclear Power" workshop at Washington and Lee University, Lisa Gordon-Hagerty spoke about the interim nuclear waste site permitted by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to the Goshute Native American Tribe on their Utah reservation, as reported in our Winter/Spring 2006 Clearinghouse Update. Although the site has been approved by the NRC, Gordon-Hagerty said, it has not been approved by the Department of Energy (DOE). Thus, she added, utilities storing their spent fuel at this site are not relieved of their responsibility for it, and they have been so informed by DOE. On the other hand, Gordon-Hagerty continued, DOE has not met its legal commitment to take responsibility for nuclear spent fuel (because of delays at Yucca Mountain) and has already lost a \$150 million lawsuit brought against them by nuclear reactor operators. Gordon-Hagerty expressed concern that because of this, Congress would pass new legislation requiring DOE to take responsibility for spent nuclear fuel moved to the site on the Goshute tribal property anyway.

Re-engineering Genetically-engineered Crops

According to a report on NPR's "Morning Edition," Monday, 20 August 2007, thirteen weeds have acquired resistance to Monsanto's Roundup. Some farmers' response has been to spray their crops with other herbicides in addition to Roundup, in order to kill the additional weeds. Monsanto scientists have also acquired rights to re-engineer "Roundup-ready" seed to make them immune to these additional herbicides.