

Comment on Question 5 of “NWMO Answers Questions on the Draft Study Report”  
Mary Lou Harley  
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For the NWMO website item: NWMO Answers Questions on the Draft Study Report; under “How hazardous is used fuel to humans and the environment and for how long?” I draw your attention to the fact that **half of your answer is missing** for the response.

The **chemical toxicity** of the waste is not presented! Please provide this section of your answer and flag its addition in the ‘what’s new...’ section of the website.

In the material that is presented on the radiological hazard, one paragraph needs revision:  
“The health risk will diminish with time. After 1 million years of decay, the radioactivity in used fuel approaches that of a natural uranium ore body deep in the ground. Nevertheless, there is a small but remaining hazard to humans and the environment beyond that time.”

In this paragraph, you need to clarify that it is health risk with respect to radioactivity only that you are addressing. Also, the remaining hazard from radiation after 1 million years should not be classified as small, particularly for internal exposure; and it should not be implied that the radioactivity of a natural uranium body is a measure of safety. I ask that you revise this paragraph, and offer for your consideration:

The health risk from radiation will diminish with time. After 1 million years of decay, the radioactivity in used fuel approaches that of a natural uranium ore body, i.e. the waste remains a persistent radiation hazard to humans and the environment beyond that time.