

"Space Disposal of Nuclear Waste: The Time Has Come"

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--- ABSTRACT ---

A proposal is made that the radioactive nuclear waste material be launched into space. The radioactive component of the spent nuclear fuel will be collected through reprocessing of the spent fuel, and will be packed inside a high strength metal casing. This package will be launched into space into either one of the lunar Lagrangian points L4 or L5, or to the planet Venus. The casing will be designed and tested to withstand the accidental reentry and inadvertent impact. The technology for carrying out such a project has been developed by the U.S. prior to 1980, but was not accepted for several reasons. Today, the situation is different: the space disposal of nuclear waste is economically viable, safe, and is urgently needed.

Keywords: Launch system, nuclear waste disposal, reentry

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