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Carlos Navarro

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Texas Water Commission Rejects Construction Of Nuclear Waste Dump Near U.S.-mexico Border

by Carlos Navarro

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On June 30, the Texas Water Commission (TWC) rejected a request submitted by a private company for construction of a low-level nuclear waste dump near Spofford, Texas, 20 miles from the Rio Grande. Representatives from environmental groups and communities on both sides of the border, as well as the government from the state of Coahuila, lobbied against construction of the dump. The dump, a disposal site for mineral wastes and other radioactive materials, was to have been located near the border communities of Del Rio and Eagle Pass in Texas, and Ciudad Acuna and Piedras Negras in Coahuila. At a hearing on June 30, TWC president John Hall explained that the request was denied because the company that proposed construction of the dump, Texcor, failed to demonstrate in a clear and irrevocable manner that the dump would have no negative impact on the environment and health of border communities. Attorneys for Texcor said an appeal of the decision was being considered. Meantime, on July 5, Coahuila Gov. Eliseo Mendoza Berrueto promised his state will join a similar fight to prevent the Waste Management Corp. from building a chemical waste dump near Dryden, Texas. Mendoza said the site proposed by Waste Management is located near a geological fault, which has led to concern about potential leakage into the Rio Grande and into aquifers used to supply water to communities in Texas and in northern Mexico. (Sources: El Financiero International, 07/04/93, 07/11/93; Notimex, 06/30/93, 07/05/93)

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