

Physics Department Seminar

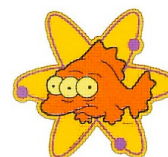
Friday May 1st, 2009

11:00am in PhSc 108

“Nuclear Waste and You!”

Mr. Alan Hans

Physics Major
CSU Chico



The energy produced by the breaking down of the atom is a very poor kind of thing. Anyone who expects a source of power from the transformation of these atoms is talking moonshine."

-Ernest Rutherford

Abstract:

Rising fossil fuel prices, increasing cost-to-benefit ratios, and escalating greenhouse gas pollutants are some of the most obvious forces motivating a societal shift toward alternative energy sources. As fossil fuels become more costly, our country might once again consider nuclear energy as a viable energy source. In 1958 the first ever nuclear power plant began generating power in Pennsylvania. Currently there are 129 nuclear power plants in 39 states, contributing approximately 20 percent of the country's power needs. One issue with nuclear power has always been with the waste produced. This has kept nuclear energy from being utilized more extensively. This talk will examine several aspects of nuclear waste. What is it? How does it pose a threat? And, finally, what steps can be taken to address these concerns?

