

RADIOACTIVE WASTE STORAGE CENTRE (CADER) IN TEMASCALAPA, MEXICO

DESCRIBE THE ISSUE

CADER is a temporary storage facility operated by ININ, which receives low- and medium-level radioactive waste generated in non-energy activities in Mexico. Unfortunately, this center has not had enough studies to confirm that it is not risky. In one of the few studies, it was mentioned that the site is not suitable for use for the final disposal of industrial waste, mainly because of its proximity to communities and agricultural areas, in addition, it mentions that it does not comply with the characteristics proposed by the UN: A permanent deposit for waste must be in a site with a minimum stability of 500 years, and where there are no faults, folds or seismic or volcanic activity that affects its capacity. According to this research, there are open fractures at a depth of 150 m below CADER, as well as the presence of groundwater in basaltic rocks at a depth of 300 m.

The main problem lies in the proximity of this center to the Cuautitlán-Pachuca aquifer, which provides water to 47 municipalities that are threatened by possible contamination of this body of water through groundwater.

WHO IS IT IMPACTING MOST?

The primary impact is on rural communities, with Santa Mara Maquixco (1 km), San Juan Teacalco (1.5 km), San Cristóbal Colhuacán (2 km), and San Bartolo Actopan (4.5 km) having the closest populations, representing approximately 33,000 people.

HOW CLOSE TO WHERE YOU LIVE IS THIS INJUSTICE OCCURRING?

Less than 70 km from each team member's house.

IS ANY LOCAL GOVERNMENT OR ORGANIZATION WORKING TO INTERVENE?

Yes, there are two organizations: the People's Front in Defense of Water and Land of Temascalapa and the National Assembly of Environmental Affected (ANAA). There are also mobilizations by the inhabitants of the communities in the area and scientists.

IF THE SOLUTION WERE UP TO YOU, HOW WOULD YOU APPROACH IT? CONSIDER REFERENCING THE ABOVE-MENTIONED ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PRINCIPLES.

To the Government of Mexico, specifically the National Institute for Nuclear Research and the National Commission on Nuclear Safety and Safeguards (CNSNS) to enable them to conduct studies accompanied by specialists, and, if possible, from a regulatory body to confirm that radioactive waste is properly stored and that the facilities are safe. The main problem with this centre is the lack of studies. Also, ensure that the facilities are able to manage this waste on a permanent basis and that they do not pose a risk of contamination for the aquifers of the area or for the health of the inhabitants of surrounding communities.

This is based on the IAEA Safety Standards Collection N° WS-G-6.1 (of which Mexico is a member); in paragraph 6.89 of LONG-TERM STORAGE OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE: "In the event that storage is extended beyond the initial period, it may be necessary to conduct a verification, review or assessment to assess the integrity of the waste packaging".

Also in section 3.4 and 3.5 of GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITIES: 3.4 "The government is responsible for establishing national policies and strategies for the management of radioactive waste and providing the necessary legal framework for their implementation. Waste management policies and strategies should address the types of storage facilities that are appropriate for the national waste inventory. 3.5. "The government should consult stakeholders (i.e., those involved in or affected by waste management activities) on issues related to the formulation of policies and strategies affecting the technological safety of large radioactive waste storage facilities".

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Es un centro de almacenamiento temporal operado por el ININ, que recibe los desechos radiactivos de nivel bajo y medio generados en actividades no energéticas en México, desafortunadamente, el centro no cuenta con condiciones propicias para albergar estos residuos de su proximidad a zonas urbanas.

CEMEN

El riesgo radica en la falta de estudios que analicen la zona o si las instalaciones representan un riesgo. La cercanía del CADER al acuífero...



The ININ operates a temporary storage center that receives low and medium level radioactive waste generated in non-energy activities in Mexico, but unfortunately, the center lacks the conditions to house this waste due to its proximity to urban and agricultural areas.

NUCLEAR CEMETERY (CADER) in Temascalapa, México

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The risk lies in the lack of studies analysing the contamination of the area or whether the facilities pose a health risk. CADER's proximity to the Cuautitlán-Pachuca aquifer could lead to the contamination of thousands of liters of water if there is no proper management of the site, which could affect the well-being of over 33,000 people.

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