

MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release:

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**NEW STUDY BY ECONOMISTS & SCIENTISTS REVEALS TRUE COSTS OF
NUCLEAR WASTE CLEANUP; ONSITE BURIED WASTE CAN COST BILLIONS WHILE
ENDANGERING PUBLIC HEALTH FOR TENS OF THOUSANDS OF YEARS.**

*Ground-breaking State-Funded Study Has Startling New Information on Economic,
Environmental and Public Health Consequences of Buried Nuclear Waste; Has National
Implications for Proposed Reprocessing Facilities and Reactors.*

WHAT: National Media Conference Call with study authors, experts and activists to discuss implications of new study, *The Real Costs of Cleaning Up Nuclear Waste*.

WHEN: Tuesday, December 2, 2008, 12:00 PM (EST)

WHERE: Dial 877-233-4763. Passcode: 55 36 535#

SPEAKERS: *William Steinhurst*, Synapse Energy Economics; *Professor Michael Wilson*, SUNY Fredonia; *Judith Einach*, Coalition on West Valley Nuclear Wastes; *Diane D'Arrigo*, Nuclear Information & Resource Service; *Barbara Warren*, Citizens' Environmental Coalition; and *Anne Rabe*, Center for Health, Environment & Justice

A first-ever study is being released on the long-term cleanup costs for the West Valley nuclear waste site, located south of Buffalo, NY. West Valley represents a failed experiment: the country's only commercial reprocessing facility closed as an economic failure in 1976. This new Full Cost Accounting Study compares the costs of digging up radioactive waste versus leaving buried waste onsite for the first 1,000 years. (The wastes will be dangerously radioactive for tens of thousands of years). Funded by the state of New York, the study was conducted by Synapse Energy Economics, Tufts University, SUNY Fredonia and Radioactive Waste Management Assoc. The study reveals onsite buried waste at the West Valley site is both high risk and expensive. Cleanup costs range from \$10 billion to \$27 billion or more. This is the first time a full cost accounting approach has been applied to a waste site cleanup project.

The federal government and industry are currently considering the construction of similar reprocessing facilities in KY, IL, NM, OH, SC, TN and WA, as well as nuclear reactors in several states. National environmental groups recommend that the expensive cleanup costs at West Valley be factored into these proposals and urge reinvesting energy dollars into green energy that does not create expensive nuclear waste. **To view embargoed report, contact CHEJ or NIRS.**