PRESENTER BIOS



Robert Alvarez is an Associate Fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies. He served as senior policy adviser to the Energy Department's secretary and deputy assistant secretary for national security and the environment from 1993 to 1999. During this tenure, he led teams in North Korea to establish control of nuclear weapons materials. He also coordinated the Energy Department's nuclear material strategic planning and established the department's first asset management program. Before joining the Energy Department, Alvarez served for five years as a senior investigator for the US Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs, chaired by Sen. John Glenn, and as one of the Senate's primary staff experts on the US nuclear weapons program. In 1975, Alvarez helped found and direct the Environmental Policy Institute, a respected national public interest organization.



Don Hancock is Director of the Nuclear Waste Program at Southwest Research and Information Center in Albuquerque, NM, where he has worked since 1975. He has been actively involved in the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in New Mexico and nuclear waste issues nationwide, including consulting with state, tribes, and citizen groups on repository and consolidated storage sites, testifying before Congress and state legislative committees, and writing articles.



Diane D'Arrigo is the Radioactive Waste Project Director at Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS). She has degrees in chemistry and environmental studies and work history in analytical and organic chemistry with a focus on the pollutants in the Great Lakes. She has also worked as a community organizer and researcher at public interest and environmental groups. She has closely tracked nuclear waste issues for decades, including high level and so-called "low-level" commercial and weapons waste. She has repeatedly challenged state, national and international moves to deregulate nuclear waste that would allow it to be made into everyday household items and be dumped as regular trash.