

Hello,

I worked in the nuclear industrial all my working life. I have been involved in reprocessing irradiated fuel, dealing with radioactive waste and been employed on an operational nuclear power station.. There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that the best way to deal with plutonium is to use it as a nuclear fuel, ie as mixed oxide. Irradiated fuel should be reprocessed to recover the plutonium which then makes it easier to store the fission product waste. This will then decay to negligent levels in about 400 years, not a long time. If the plutonium is left in it, safe storage is required for several thousand years, something which is very difficult to achieve. We must have more nuclear power stations as a short to medium term solution to our energy problems. The anti-nuclear brigade are against the reuse of plutonium just to make the waste storage problem near impossible to solve. Don't take any notice of them, they are driven by emotion rather than logic.

Barrie Skelcher. B Sc, M Sc, MRSC, C Chem, MSRP, C RadP, MCMI.