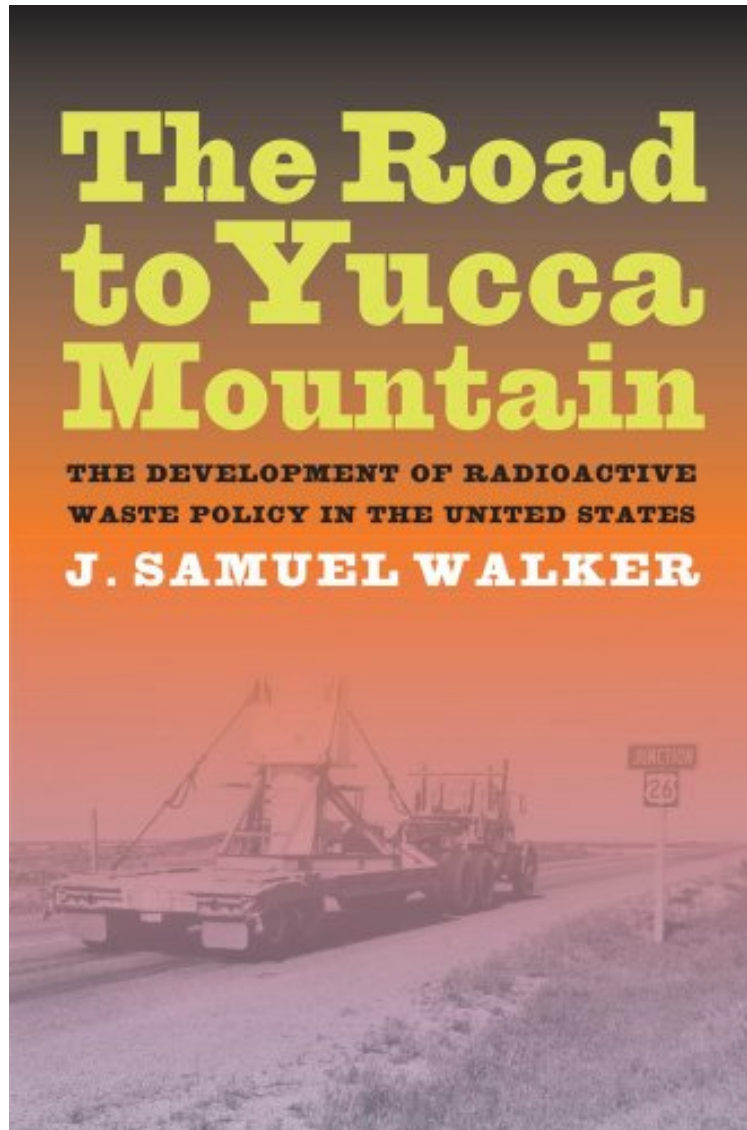


(Mobile book) The Road to Yucca Mountain: The Development of Radioactive Waste Policy in the United States

The Road to Yucca Mountain: The Development of Radioactive Waste Policy in the United States

J. Samuel Walker

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This book is a great source of information for anyone interested in the current U.S. policy on long-term radioactive waste, based upon previous attempts and the political state-of-mind at various time periods in our history. This book is absolutely fascinating and gives a completely unbiased account of all events. "Just the facts, ma'am." I highly recommend this book.
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This is a very fine book by the longstanding historian of Nuclear Regulatory Commission. It investigates in a comprehensive manner the efforts of the United States to deal with radioactive waste, a key bugaboo in the debate over nuclear energy. Walker explores the evolution of how the government has tried to deal with this issue from the time of the Manhattan Project in World War II through the designation in 1987 of Yucca Mountain in Nevada as a waste repository. Walker's focus is on the approach overseen by the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), but goes beyond that to include perspectives outside the government, especially interest groups and protest movements. The growing criticism of these waste programs provides a major engine for moving the story forward, and this is far from a pro-government whitewash. For instance, Walker writes about several embarrassing episodes in this arena. Solidly researched and effectively written, he makes an original and insightful contribution to understanding this important story. Nuclear energy will certainly reemerge in the twenty-first century to help offset energy needs in the United States and this work provides an important record of what has gone before as well as a public policy primer for future leaders. It is certainly appropriate that this book received the Richard W. Leopold Prize of the Organization of American Historians at its 2010 meeting.

In *The Road to Yucca Mountain*, J. Samuel Walker traces the U.S. government's tangled efforts to solve the technical and political problems associated with radioactive waste. From the Manhattan Project through the designation in 1987 of Yucca Mountain in Nevada as a high-level waste repository, Walker thoroughly investigates the approaches adopted by the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC). He explains the growing criticism of the AEC's waste programs, such as the AEC's embarrassing failure in its first serious effort to build a high-level waste repository in a Kansas salt mine. Clearly and accessibly, Walker explains the issues surrounding deep geological disposal and surface storage of high-level waste and spent reactor fuel. He analyzes the equally complex and divisive question of fuel reprocessing. He weaves reliable research with fresh insights about nuclear science, geology, politics, and public administration, making this original and authoritative account an essential guide for understanding the continuing controversy over an illusive and emotional topic.

A valuable account of the history/ongoing issues related to this significant problem. . . . Recommended.