

# Transportation of nuclear waste questioned by groups

WASHINGTON (AP) — Tons of high-level radioactive waste would be shipped through Texas if the federal government pursues its plan to open a nuclear storage dump in Nevada, according to a report prepared for Nevada officials fighting the proposal.

Opponents of the proposed Yucca Mountain repository Tuesday released a Nevada state agency's report detailing state-by-state rail and highway routes likely to be used in the shipment of spent nuclear fuel to Nevada.

The study's authors suggest that use of the Nevada repository would require more than 15,600 truck or rail shipments through 43 states over a 30-year period.

In Texas, which has two nuclear power plants, radioactive waste would travel by rail on three corridors, the report said.

One route would stretch from the South Texas Nuclear Project near Bay City north through Houston and Fort Worth and onto Oklahoma. A second route would start at Texas' only other nuclear power plant, Comanche Peak near Glen Rose, and would head west near Abilene and Lubbock and onto New Mexico. The third route, with nuclear cargo originating in Oklahoma, would cut through the Panhandle and near Amarillo before heading west to New Mexico.

The Yucca Mountain repository, located almost 100 miles northwest of Las Vegas, would be de-

signed to hold as much as 70,000 tons of high-level nuclear fuel. The federal government wants the storage site in operation by 2010.

The anti-nuclear groups want Congress to reject an effort to designate Yucca Mountain as the nation's nuclear storage dump and convene a commission to decide what to do next.

"The new Congress should realize that a hasty decision to transport these highly irradiated fuel rods will affect the health and safety of millions of Americans, not just Nevadans," said Michael Marquette, executive director of the Nuclear Information and Resource Service.

Public Citizen, the U.S. Public Interest Research Group, Safe Energy Communication Council and Military Production Network joined Marquette's group in releasing the study.

In a statement Tuesday, the Nuclear Energy Institute defended the industry's 30-year track record as one of virtually unblemished safety in transporting nuclear waste. More than 2,000 shipments have been made in the United States without incident, the institute said. In the seven cases where transportation accidents occurred, the shipment containers weren't breached.

"Anti-nuclear groups like Public Citizen and the Nuclear Information and Resource Service are trying to scare as many people as possible, as soon as possible, before a waste storage facility is even sited," the institute said in a written statement.

# Quake: Bridges, structures collapse despite engineers' plans

Continued from Page 1

sipping water trucked in by the fire department because so many water lines were fractured.

Rikihiro Sumino said he escaped serious injury because his blankets padded him when a dresser fell on his bed.

"I never dreamed we'd get hit by a quake like this here in Kobe," Sumino said. "I figured it would happen in Tokyo, but I never thought it would happen to us."

He added: "You really can't trust those experts. They all said that this wouldn't happen. They said our highways and buildings were safe, not like America. But we've proven them wrong."

Takarazuka, Ashiya and Awaji Island were also damaged in the quake, which occurred a year after a magnitude 6.7 quake killed 61 people in and around the Northridge area north of Los Angeles.

The shaking lasted about 20 seconds and snapped vital lifelines to western Japan, cutting hundreds of miles of rail service that is the transport lifeblood of many workers here and knocking out power and telephones.

Elevated highways collapsed, crushing vehicles underneath. A bus sat perched on the edge of a fallen section of highway.

The devastation shattered Japan's belief that sophisticated engineering would enable its newer buildings and roads to withstand a major quake.

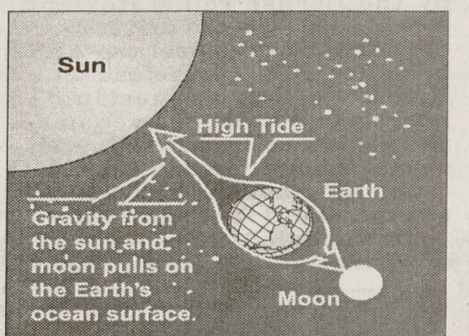
"I think rescue measures have been very slow," said Tokyo University professor Osamu Koide. "I think there was a lack of quake-preventive knowledge."

Following damaging earthquakes in the United States, Japanese experts had confidently predicted that roadways in this country would stand up to even a serious quake. But sections of several major expressways collapsed, as did many modern buildings.

## When the earth quakes

The Kobe earthquake is the most devastating of a series of quakes that began in Japan Dec. 28. What makes Japan rumble so furiously?

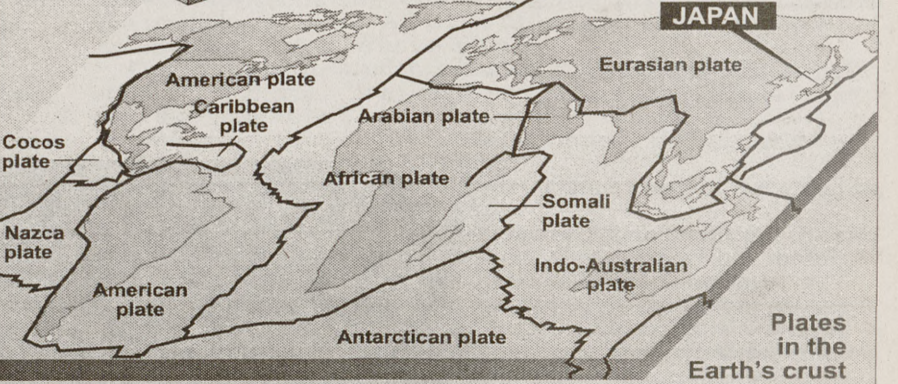
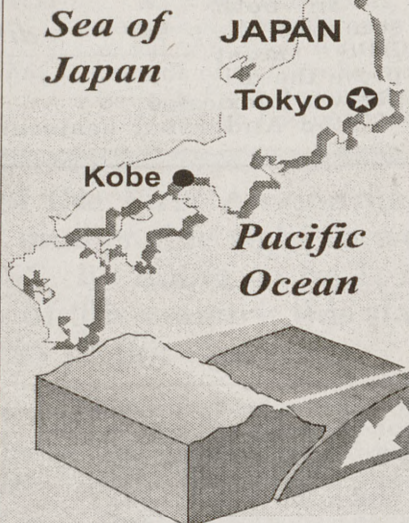
The Iben Browning Theory... Factors of proximity and alignment of the sun and the moon produce high tidal forces on the Earth's surface.



...or internal factors... Seismologists believe earthquakes depend on the internal processes of the earth, not the external processes of the sun and the moon.

...like the thrust fault

Scientists know the earthquakes around Japan occurred near an area where one plate is plunging beneath another. The descending plate is consumed by the earth's interior and is recycled.



The earth's crust is divided into several plates. Almost all the world's seismic activity occurs near or along plate boundaries. These plates, floating on soft, hot rock, move relative to one another, building pressure and tension. Sometimes, the plates slip, releasing tension and causing severe earthquakes.

AP Graphic

# Dog digs up nine buried puppies

OAKLAND PARK, Fla. (AP) — A dog owner who didn't want a litter of nine puppies allegedly buried them alive, but their mother rescued them the next day, digging them out of their 2-foot-deep grave.

All nine survived, and the veterinarian caring for the mother and squirming, sightless puppies has received 25 adoption offers.

The owner admitted burying the puppies because he didn't want them, said sheriff's Sgt. Sherry Schlueter. "He doesn't believe in spaying or neutering, but he does believe in burying his dogs alive and

killing them." The puppies were born Sunday and were buried in a brown paper bag a short time later. The owner "tamped down the earth with a shovel," Schlueter said.

The puppies' mother, Sheba, was apparently watching the burial. When Sheba got off her chain Monday, she unearthed her puppies as a neighbor watched. The neighbor, realizing the puppies had been buried alive, called police.

"They were a little dehydrated, and they all had a lot of sand in them," said Dr. Cindi Bossart, a veterinarian now caring for mother and pups.

Six of the nine puppies "are really, really bright and alert. Three of them are a little bit behind the rest of them," she said. "The fact that they're even here today is a real miracle."

Prosecutors will decide whether to file charges. The owner could be charged with aggravated animal abuse.

The puppies are a Rottweiler-chow-Labrador mix, and most are black and tan.

The mother "obviously knew what was going on and what happened," Schlueter said. "This dog is really quite a hero as far as I'm concerned."

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