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| Autore | Shrader-Frechette K. S. |
| Titolo | Burying Uncertainty : Risk and the Case Against Geological Disposal of Nuclear Waste / / K. S. Shrader-Frechette |
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| Descrizione fisica | 1 online resource (363 p.) |
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| Soggetti | Radioactive waste disposal in the ground - Environmental aspects<br>Radioactive waste disposal in the ground - Risk assessment |
| Lingua di pubblicazione | Inglese |
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| Note generali | Includes index. |
| Nota di contenuto | Front matter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Preface -- 1. The Riddle of Nuclear Waste -- 2. Understanding the Origins of the Problem -- 3. Reliance on Value Judgments in Repository Risk Assessment -- 4. Subjective Estimates of Repository Risks -- 5. Subjective Evaluations of Repository Risks -- 6. Problematic Inferences in in Assessing Repository Risks -- 7. Uncertainty: An Obstacle to Geological Disposal -- 8. Equity: An Obstacle to Geological Disposal -- 9. .An Alternative to Permanent Geological Disposal -- Notes -- Index of Names -- Index of Subjects |
| Sommario/riassunto | Shrader-Frechette looks at current U.S. government policy regarding the nation's high-level radioactive waste both scientifically and ethically. What should be done with our nation's high-level radioactive waste, which will remain hazardous for thousands of years? This is one of the most pressing problems faced by the nuclear power industry, and current U.S. government policy is to bury "radwastes" in specially designed deep repositories. K. S. Shrader-Frechette argues that this policy is profoundly misguided on both scientific and ethical grounds. Scientifically-because we cannot trust the precision of 10,000-year |

predictions that promise containment of the waste. Ethically-because geological disposal ignores the rights of present and future generations to equal treatment, due process, and free informed consent. Shrader-Frechette focuses her argument on the world's first proposed high-level radioactive waste facility at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. Analyzing a mass of technical literature, she demonstrates the weaknesses in the professional risk-assessors' arguments that claim the site is sufficiently safe for such a plan. We should postpone the question of geological disposal for at least a century and use monitored, retrievable, above-ground storage of the waste until then. Her message regarding radwaste is clear: what you can't see can hurt you.