

**COMMITTEE TO BRIDGE THE GAP**

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**STATEMENT OF DANIEL HIRSCH, PRESIDENT, COMMITTEE TO BRIDGE THE GAP, ON  
THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES WARD VALLEY REPORT**

There is a massive disconnect between the study's recommendations and its conclusions. It criticizes US Ecology's data as severely inadequate and recommends new measurements, then, without waiting for the results, says everything is probably okay. That's not the scientific method. It is mere guesswork.

The Academy panel concluded that there were numerous pathways to the Colorado River but said that the concentration of plutonium entering the river would be below permissible levels. However, the panel based that conclusion on the absurd assumption that only a few ounces of plutonium would be dumped at Ward Valley, when the License Application predicts 120 pounds and US Ecology already dumped that much at two of its other sites. If the same calculation were performed using US Ecology's own plutonium figures, concentrations in excess of permissible levels would result.

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