Three County Towns To Consider Barring Radioactive Waste

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The Northwest Nuclear-Free Zone Committee is holding three meetings this coming week in Litchfield County, two of which will decide whether or not Kent and Cornwall will ban low-level radioactive waste from their respective towns.

Tonight at the Kent Town Hall at 7:30, an informational meeting will be held on a proposed radioactive waste ordinance and zoning regulations designed to prohibit the "disposal, storage and transport" of such waste within the town.

The ordinance says that no radioactive waste shall be transported through town, "except in clearly marked vehicles and with advance notice to town officials of times and routes of transit."

At 8 p.m. tonight, a special town meeting will be held in Kent to vote on the ordinance. Attending will be Charlene LaVoie, an environmental lawyer from Winsted who helped draft that town's radioactive waste resolution, in addition to this similar one for Kent. Also on hand will be a representative from the Connecticut Fund for the Environment.

This coming Wednesday, June 5 at 7:30 p.m., the Winsted Area Nuclear Freeze Group will sponsor an informational meeting on the growing nuclear-free zone movement with guests from the Northwest Nuclear-Free Zone Committee. The meeting will take place at Northwest Connecticut Community College in Winsted, in the second floor auditorium.

And one week from tonight, at 8 p.m., Cornwall residents will consider a nuclear-free zone ordinance at a special town meeting at the Cornwall Consolidated School. More than 100 people in that town have signed a petition calling for the vote, according to the committee.

Presently, Salisbury is the only town in Connecticut which is formally declared as a "nuclear-free zone." Winsted, East Lyme and New Haven have similar resolutions in place to what will be considered as an ordinance in Kent.