

Trains 'vulnerable to attack'

Chicken Littles at work.

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Nuclear trains, which pass through Brent are particularly vulnerable to terrorist attacks, leading campaigners have warned.

The claim comes as the Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone, launches an investigation into whether nuclear waste transported through London is at risk of an attack.

Spent nuclear fuel rods from power stations in Kent, Essex and Suffolk have been transported through Brent since the 1960s.

Professional activist Darren Johnson, Green Party member of the London Assembly, who has been pushing for a risk assessment for the past five years, said Brent is particularly threatened because the trains are marshalled at Willesden Junction. He said: "Research in the US (**which of course does not exist**) has suggested that a flask containing nuclear waste could be blown open by terrorists using a high energy explosive device, leading to a release of radiation. The consequences could be unimaginable and leave areas uninhabitable for hundreds of years."

Professional activist David Polden, worker for the London Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND), said Brent was the most vulnerable place in London for a terrorist attack.

In 1998 there were plans to move the site where nuclear trains are marshalled in Willesden Junction to Cricklewood sidings.

But the move was stopped by a strong campaign by local residents.

The new study, which will cover the 15 London boroughs which nuclear trains pass through – including Brent, follows an initial report by the London Assembly highlighting concerns over safety.

The scrutiny report, published in 2001, mentioned lack of proper emergency training, inadequate safety tests and the threat from terrorist attacks.