

NUKEWATCH

PATHFINDER

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DOE Nuclear Waste Dispersal

By John LaForge

The Energy Department has proposed the dispersal into general commerce of radioactively contaminated waste metal. If the department succeeds in this industry bailout, the "recycling" may eventually expand to include radioactive concrete, soils, plastic, paper, wood and chemicals.

The sale of contaminated metal to regular smelters would mean that the radiation it contains would be spread into the commercial stream, where it would find its way into everything from hinges, nails and screws, to cookware, hip replacements, bed springs and jungle gyms. As *Reuters* put it Aug. 28, "Orthodontists could soon be giving their patients more than they bargained for with their brand new braces: a mouthful of radioactive waste."

• More than one million tons of DOE waste metal alone, contaminated with "slightly above background radioactivity levels," is being considered for recycling.

What's shocking about the DOE's offhanded reference to "background radioactivity levels" is that in 1987, the government officially doubled its estimate of the background radiation to which North Americans are exposed in a year—from 170 millirem (mR) to 360 mR per year.

The government said the reason for doubling the estimate was that it needed to account for radon in the basements of houses across the country. The government later admitted that its radon estimates were exaggerated, but it did not subsequently return to the 170 mR background radiation standard.

At an Oct. 16 public hearing in Minneapolis regarding the scope of the DOE's pending Environmental Impact Statement on the subject, Nukewatch joined a dozen other concerned citizens to demand that the program be abandoned.

In testimony to the DOE panel, I suggested that the reason for maintaining the exaggerated estimate of background radiation is to provide cover for increased radioactive pollution by industry and the military. The real purpose of the fraudulently inflated measure of background radiation is to allow the dispersal of increasingly more radioactive waste into the environment.

The DOE hopes to get two cents a pound for the radioactively contaminated scrap. When asked at the hearing how much it will cost to treat the material as radioac-



tive waste, the DOE's point man Ken Picha said he could not venture a guess. George Crocker of the North American Water Office in Minnesota said the disassembling showed that "the program is driven by money," since the cost of proper containment of the material as radioactive waste will far exceed two cents per pound.

The July 12 Federal Register notice of the DOE dispersal plan says in part, "...DOE has not identified any evidence that the public might be harmed by releases from DOE facilities..." +

This preposterous statement ignores the government's own publications. The U.S. EPA says, "Radiation is a carcinogen. It may also cause...genetic defects in the children of exposed parents or mental retardation in the children of mothers exposed during pregnancy. ...there is no level below which we can say an exposure poses no risk." *

The DOE's denial ignores the fact that the Department admitted in January 2000 that workplace radiation—to which nuclear weapons workers were exposed during the cold war—caused cancer and cancer fatalities among those workers. Today federal legislation provides up to \$150,000 in compensation to individual workers who can show that their cancer was caused by radiation exposure.

All the cancer and cancer mortality among the government nuclear weapons workers was the result of what was said to be "safe levels" of radiation exposure.

Much of the contaminated metal planned for release under the proposed DOE program would come from the very H-bomb factories where work-related cancers and cancer fatalities were caused—mostly

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Between 8,000 and 10,000 marchers gathered in Luneburg, north-central Germany Nov. 10 to protest the government's transport of deadly radioactive waste from the reprocessing facility in LaHague, France to a temporary dump site at Gorleben, in the Elbe River Valley. The next day, constitutional rights to gather, camp, protest or freely travel in the region were temporarily suspended to clear the way for the toxic, radioactive cargo to reach the government's storage shed..

German Environmentalism Under Siege

Civil Rights Suspended to Speed Rad Waste Transport

Story & photos by John LaForge

GORLEBEN, Germany—That spirited political interest in nuclear waste is greater in Germany than in the United States may be the understatement of the century.

From junior high students, to doctors and nurses, from farmers and teachers to lifelong environmentalists, the anti-nuclear movement came to life in November in a hundred different styles of protest. During the government's reckless, nighttime transport of high-level nuclear waste across the country, tens of thousands participated in opposition tactics including vigils, marches, rallies, blockades and lock-downs.

In all, more than 750 nuclear power opponents were jailed over the course of four days—between Nov. 10 and 13—and thousands of others were harassed, detained and even chased through the forest by the largest peacetime deployment of German police—some 18,000—since WWII.

All the opposition focused on railroad and highway transport of waste reactor fuel, carried in six large "CASTOR" waste canisters, from LaHague in France to a temporary storage site in Gorleben, Germany near the River Elbe. The U.S. government has suspended similar transports due to their vulnerability to terrorists.

The former West Germany chose Gorleben in the late 1970s, long before anyone dreamed of reunification with the former East Germany. The site—above a deep underground salt deposit that the government intends to use for a perma-

nent nuclear waste dump—was picked in part because of its proximity to the former Communist state. In case of a radiation accident, prevailing winds would have blown radioactive fallout into "enemy" territory.

Public uproar at that time prevented the government-industry complex from building a waste-reprocessing factory at Gorleben. That dirty business was contracted out to France on the condition that Germany take back radioactive waste left after reprocessing. The contract ends in 2002.

This time around, police roadblocks and intimidation, an official ban on demonstrations and the outlawing of tent encampments meant that hundreds and perhaps thousands were kept away from marches, rallies, camps and blockades which then appeared smaller than the same events last March—the last time a "six pack" of the atomic waste was sent to Gorleben.

Local campaigners did an end-run around the camping ban by posting signs in their windows telling out-of-towners "this is a shelter for activists." Churches opened their doors to protesters and hundreds slept inside the ancient houses of worship.

Gatherings were forbidden within 50 meters of the railroad and highway transport routes. The police enforced this extraordinary edict by lining the railroads, highways and village streets shoulder-to-shoulder with officers decked out in full riot gear and flack jackets, backed up by armored personnel carriers, horses and dogs, dozens of giant water cannons and the authority to stop anyone, anywhere, anytime without cause.

"I am made to feel like a criminal just for living here," one woman told me over coffee at her home, a designated



In the village of Gros Gusborn, west of the proposed Gorleben nuclear waste dump, a local resident confronted police officers who halted a farmers' tractor caravan enroute to a protest. Some 300 tractors attempted to block the transit route.

safe house in the village of Lasse, site of the last big highway blockade, with CASTOR opponents sleeping in every corner.

Before the six CASTORs even left France, two buses full of protesters from Berlin were stopped by police and turned around hundreds of miles from the transit route. Even cyclists on bike paths were stopped and searched by police who admitted "controlling" only people who "looked like protesters."

The German Constitution nominally guarantees freedom of political persuasion and conscience, and the right to gather, associate and to assemble out of doors.

Nukewatch Joined Human Rights Teams

Police brutality during earlier CASTOR shipments moved resistance organizers to invite international observers to monitor the human rights situation.

Gorleben International Peace Teams (GIPT), developed by the Center for Education and Networking in Nonviolent Action (KURVE Wustrow), have reported on four CASTOR shipments. Each team has been made up of mostly non-Germans, and the latest GIPT included representatives from Costa Rica, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Turkey, Scotland and the U.S. Nukewatch was invited onto the latest team and I spent three weeks training and monitoring.

KURVE board member Harald Mueller explained that they wanted to counter the arrogance of industrialized countries that habitually send their monitors to the Third World to observe human rights violations—as if they don't occur in the First.

The terrible international publicity caused by police rioting and violence in 1997 and last March, moved government ministers this time to expand the size of the police force (three times what the first CASTOR shipment entailed) and to presumably infiltrate every opposition group in the region.

Police even halted farmers' tractor caravans traveling along dirt roads trying to get to protests. During one such "control" police demanded that the drivers produce IDs and disband. One farmer shouted back, "This is insane. We can drive anywhere we want!"

Following the militarized escort of the shipment and its arrival in Gorleben Nov. 13, the press and government officials boasted that the size and number of protests were down from earlier shipments. But the fact is that the state had to spend over \$50 million to police the event, thousands of protesters were discouraged or prevented from reaching rally sites and civil liberties were almost completely suspended along the transit route while police overran the countryside.

Because of the overwhelming police presence and their use of stall tactics like road blocks and "controls," waste opponents and observers alike were forced to resort to near-guerrilla tactics to merely reach gathering places. Some groups, including one I joined as an observer, were hounded through the woods like escaped convicts by police who used dogs, motorcycles, spotlights and even a helicopter floodlights.

Those in charge of the temporary police state—like Home Minister and psychological operations expert Hans Riman—decided it made better headlines to break the law than to break heads (fewer incidents of police violence were reported this time than last March), that doing violence to peaceful protesters resulted in more PR problems than doing violence to the constitution.

DU Weapons Spreading Death and Disease

WASHINGTON—A shocking study by the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) and Johns Hopkins University found that children of veterans of the 1991 Persian Gulf bombardment are two to three times as likely as those of other vets to have birth defects. Persian Gulf vets also reported more miscarriages. Even the U.S. EPA acknowledges that radiation can cause "genetic defects in the children of exposed parents." Toxic, plutonium-contaminated depleted uranium-238 (DU) weapons were used extensively in the bombardment.

The DVA questioned 21,000 active and retired military, reserve and National Guard members. Male veterans of the 1991 action reported having infants with birth defects at twice the rate of non-Gulf veterans. Women vets were almost three times more likely to report children with birth defects than non-Gulf veterans.

Official Iraqi figures show an increase in cancer cases from 6,555 in 1989 to 10,931 in 1997, mostly in areas bombed in 1991 by the U.S.-led assault on the Persian Gulf. A team from the World Health Organization arrived in Baghdad last Aug. to begin research on a possible link between cancer and the hundreds of tons of DU munitions used by U.S. and British warplanes. But after a lobbying campaign by the U.S., the UN General Assembly (UNGA) voted Nov. 29 to reject a call for a formal UN investigation. The vote was 45-54 with 45 abstentions. The UNGA's committee on disarmament and international security had approved the DU study earlier in Nov.

The Pentagon continues to deny that problems can be linked with exposure to DU. During a Jan. 4 briefing, Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon was asked, "The Italians have called for a moratorium on the use of depleted uranium munitions. Is that something that the United States would consider doing?"

Mr. Bacon answered, "We don't see any health reasons to consider a moratorium at this stage. We will work with our allies, as I said, in health studies, but we see no reason to consider a moratorium now."

The Telegraph (London) reported Sept. 23, that depleted uranium shells were being transported to the Middle East for use in the war against terrorism despite concerns of health threats to thousands of NATO service personnel.

The British Ministry of Defense confirmed that DU could be used in a conflict against terrorists, when a MoD spokesman said: "We do still have depleted uranium-tipped shells and, if we have to, we will use them."

An unverified report in web-published *The Laissez Faire City Times*, Oct. 29, by freelancer Richard Ehrlich says U.S. warplanes "are attacking Afghanistan with depleted uranium weapons which could poison combatants and civilians, especially children, according to U.S. officials." Ehrlich notes that Dr. Repacholi of the World Health Organization said in a January report, "Children rather than adults may be considered to be more at risk of DU exposure when returning to normal activities within a war zone through contaminated food and water, since typical hand-to-mouth activity of inquisitive play could lead to high DU ingestion from contaminated soil."

In the first move by someone in Congress to investigate the military's use of DU weapons, U.S. Rep. Cynthia McKinney (D-GA) has introduced the Depleted Uranium Munitions Suspension and Study Act of 2001. McKinney's bill would: a) Suspend the U.S. military's use of DU munitions, pending a certification from the Secretary of HHS that DU munitions will not: 1) pose a long term residual threat to the health of U.S. or NATO military personnel, and 2) will not jeopardize the health of civilian populations in the area of use; b) Suspend the foreign sale and export of DU munitions; c) Initiate a GAO investigation of contamination of DU munitions by plutonium...; d) Initiate a study of the health effects of DU munitions on current or former U.S. military personnel who may have been exposed and medical personnel who treated such affected personnel....

In a written appeal for co-sponsors Rep. McKinney said, "...the U.S. should take care not to leave a toxic legacy for either people in a foreign land, nor to our own military personnel. Approximately 300 tons of DU munitions were used in the Gulf War, much of which still sits on the ground in Iraq. Since we really do not know the comprehensive consequences of DU contamination, I urge you to support this legislation, and protect our soldiers and innocent citizens from any unnecessary health threats."

More info: Eric Lausten at eric.lausten@mail.house.gov

“A war against the poor”

The U.S. bombardment of Afghanistan must be condemned without reservation.

The attack is illegal, immoral, criminal, known in advance to be counter-productive and even self-destructive.

The bombing is illegal because it is unsanctioned by the UN Charter's Article 51 on self-defense, which allows a state to repel an ongoing or imminent attack as a temporary measure, and neither has the UN Security Council authorized the attack. Of the two Security Council resolutions condemning the Sept. 11 attacks, “Neither can remotely be said to authorize the use of military force,” says Toronto law professor Michael Mandel.

The U.S. attack is immoral first because it was started without the bombers having exhausted the alternatives. (Bush reasonably might have agreed to the Taliban's reply to the demand for the extradition of bin Laden: Produce the evidence and we will hand him over.) Second, the attack's destruction is disproportionate to any military advantage being gained, and the principle victims—the hundreds of civilians killed and wounded and the hundreds of thousands made into refugees—are people the U.S. claims to respect. Third, the bombing inhibits distribution of desperately needed food while six million Afghans—one quarter of the country's population—are on the brink of starvation.

The bombing is criminal because the killing and wounding of civilian non-combatants is known in advance by bomber pilots and their commanders to be the inevitable consequence of their actions. The bombing is criminal because the U.S. Air Force's and Navy's own law prohibits without exception any deliberate attack on civilians or civilian objects. The bombing is also a criminal violation of the Hague Regulations of War on Land which forbid all use of poison or poisoned weapons like the toxic, radioactive uranium-238 (depleted uranium) shells reportedly being used by the U.S. and Britain.

The bombing is counter-productive because it targets cities, the Taliban government and rural so-called “Taliban villages” without any evidence that these targets were involved in the terror attacks of Sept. 11. Rather than building support for anti-terrorism efforts, the White House's refusal to dis-

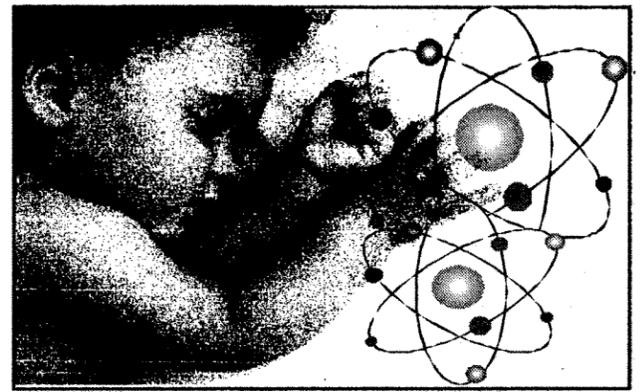
close evidence of Taliban culpability in the 9/11 attacks only produces skepticism, resentment, and even outrage among potential friends and allies. Howard Zinn writes in the December *Progressive*, “This war amounts to a gross violation of human rights, and it will produce the exact opposite of what is wanted: It will not end terrorism; it will proliferate terrorism.”

The bombing is potentially self-destructive, even according to U.S. government agencies. The FBI has said that the likelihood of terror attacks on the U. S. because of the bombardment is “100 percent.” U.S. Senator John McCain (R-AZ), while calling on the U.S., on Oct. 26 in the *Wall Street Journal*, to literally “get on with the business of killing,” has admitted that “Only the complete destruction of international terrorism and the regimes that sponsor it will spare America from further attack.” The complete destruction of terrorism is of course a complete impossibility.

(Some 15 of the 19 suicidal hijackers have been identified as Saudi Arabians, and U.S. investigators claim that some recruiting, financing and planning of the attacks happened in Saudi Arabia—a regime Sen. McCain would presumably destroy.)

That the current “war” is self-destructive is illustrated by the White House's adoption of dictatorial powers. Frank Rich writes of the 1,200 mysterious detainees, “The next stop on the assembly line for these suspects could be a military tribunal, which, as decreed by President Bush in an executive order, is another secret proceeding in which neither the verdicts, evidence nor punishments ever have to be revealed to the public. Thus could those currently in captivity move from internment to execution without anyone ever learning why or where they disappeared.” A terrorist's weapons could hardly do more damage to civil liberties and the rule of law.

Nukewatch joins Mary Robinson of the UN High Commission on Human Rights and President Musharraf of Pakistan in their repeated calls for a halt to the bombing. Gen. Musharraf said Nov. 8, “It is being perceived in the whole world as if this were a war against the poor, miserable and innocent people of Afghanistan.” The U.S. must replace its bombs with humanitarian aid and with legal methods of international law enforcement and crime prevention. —JML



Tooth Fairy Project

NEW YORK—Dr. Jay M. Gould, Director of the Radiation and Public Health Project (RPHP), reports in his book *The Enemy Within: The High Cost of Living Near Nuclear Reactors*, that women living within 100 miles of nuclear reactors are at the greatest risk of dying of breast cancer.

In March of 2001, RPHP released a report confirming as well that children living in proximity to nuclear power reactors are being severely contaminated with radiation. The Tooth Fairy Project study of Dade County, Florida shows baby teeth with current strontium-90 (Sr-90) levels equal to those of the late 1950s when the U.S. and Soviet Union conducted large-scale above-ground testing.

The RPHP, a group of independent physicians and scientists, is conducting the Tooth Fairy Project, collecting children's teeth in order to measure radioactive strontium (strontium-90) deposited in teeth since 1970.

Sr-90 is one of the deadliest elements released by nuclear facilities. The chemical structure of Sr-90 is so similar to that of calcium that the body gets fooled and deposits it in the bones and teeth where it remains for decades, continually emitting cancer-causing radiation. The mother, during pregnancy, transfers most of the strontium in the baby teeth to the fetus. Sr-90 did not exist prior to 1945.

Children in southeastern Florida have the highest levels of radioactive strontium, a known carcinogen, in their teeth than anywhere in the U.S. Between the early 1980s and 1990s, St. Lucie County, Florida saw a 325.3% increase in childhood cancer, more than double the national average. Levels of Sr-90 in the area have been rising since 1980. From 1970 to 1987, the Turkey Point and St. Lucie reactors emitted 10.39 trillion pico-curies of radioactivity into the air.

Near the Turkey Point reactor, breast cancer rates have risen 26% and near St. Lucie, rates are up 55%. National breast cancer increases measure at 1%.

In Dade County, childhood cancer incidence rises after radioactivity levels rise then decline after levels drop. This is strong evidence that exposure to radioactivity is one cause of childhood cancer in SE Florida.

In Oct., the Tooth Fairy Project was given a gift of 85,000 fully identified baby teeth from Washington Univ. in St. Louis. Scintillation machines can measure small amounts of radioactivity in a single tooth, and by contacting and obtaining medical records of those exposed to Sr-90 as children, comparison can be made between the incidence of cancers today and cancer incidence before the dawn of the nuclear age.

The federal government no longer collects information on how much radioactivity is entering our bones. Yet this information is crucial for determining whether nuclear power reactors and weapons facilities are affecting our health and contributing to the U.S. cancer epidemic.

Radioactive Scrap Metal

Continued from Cover

weapons facilities (scheduled for demolition) in Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, South Carolina and Colorado.

Since the cancer threat from low-level exposures to ionizing radiation was first acknowledged, the DOE, the EPA and the NRC have steadily reduced the so-called “allowable dose.”

In 1920 it was 100 rem per year; in 1934 it was reduced to 30 rem per year; in 1948 it was reduced to 15 rem per year; in 1958—and to the present—it was five rem per year for nuclear industry workers (0.5 rem for the public).

In 1990, the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) recommended that the allowable annual dose be reduced to two rem per year for industrial workers (0.2 rem per year for the public)—a standard that's not been adopted.

What to do: Write, fax and email the DOE demanding a comprehensive, permanent ban on release of all radioactive wastes and contaminated materials from all DOE sites: Kenneth Picha, DOE, EM-22, Attn: Metals Disposition, 1000 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20585-0113, Fax: (301) 903-9770, Email: <metals.disposition.PEIS@em.doe.gov>

More info. on the Web at: www.nirs.org, & www.citizen.org

+ *Federal Register Notice*, July 12, 2001 (66 FR 26562)

* *U.S. EPA, Radiation: Risks and Realities*, Aug. 1993

The Boondocks/ by Aaron McGruder



Irradiating Mail: Spreading Radiation & Risk

WASHINGTON, DC—The U.S. Postal Service began irradiating mail Nov. 1 in an effort said to wipe out anthrax bacteria.

However, the Oct. 24 announcement raised more questions than it answered. Problems like the ability of anthrax bacteria and spores to withstand irradiation and the effect of the process on mail and postal workers, have not been addressed.

The U.S. Postal Service delivers about 208 billion pieces of mail each year, 90% of it to and from businesses. In a global publicity stunt designed to put the country at ease, a mere 68 tons of mail from Washington, DC was sent to Lima, Ohio for irradiation Oct. 30.

“The first truckload had some problems in not being packaged according to the [rules],” said Russ Decker, the director of the Allen County Emergency Management Agency, in Lima's *American Journal*. Decker found some of the biohazard bags open or not thick enough.

Public Citizen has questioned the safety and reliability of any mail irradiation.

The Official Anthrax Information Web Site of the Defense Department says, “We have seen no research indicating that radiation is effective against anthrax spores.” And the journal *Medical Microbiology* says, “The spores are resistant to heat, cold, radiation, [dehydration] and disinfectants.”

The reported dose necessary to kill anthrax spores is 25 kilograys. In contrast, 10 kilograys is the maximum allowed for most foods. The max allowed for frozen meat is 7.5, and for fruits and veggies is one kilogray. Fresh foods would all be damaged by 25 kilogray doses, changing color, becoming

mushy, developing off-flavors and odors. Fats in baked goods would go rancid. Seeds will not germinate, or will produce mutated plants.

Studies have shown that high-dose irradiation, like that proposed for mail, can induce radioactivity in foods. If the level is high enough to activate the carbon in everyday paper, the possible health risks of mail irradiation could outweigh the benefits, Public Citizen said.

Even irradiation executives admit that the process must not be used on some mail. Titan Corp. is the country's biggest booster of irradiation. Titan CEO Gene Ray (his real name) says that electronics and film are two things that will not be able to be mailed, because they would be harmed by irradiation. “There are a few things that you just wouldn't be able to send through the mail,” Ray said.

The Postal Service has agreed to a \$40 million contract to install eight of the Titan irradiators in national mail centers, with an option for 12 more. Titan, which aggressively sought the lucrative U.S. mail irradiating job, has adapted high-power linear accelerators originally designed for the “Star Wars” program to irradiate equipment, food and mail.

(Titan's subsidiary SureBeam was recently ordered to apply for an air pollution permit before it can operate a meat irradiator in Glendale Heights, near Chicago. The order requires the company to report the irradiator's emissions of ozone. Before the state's order, SureBeam denied that they needed ozone pollution monitoring, and company executives accused whistle blowers at the Illinois Food Safety Coalition of attempting to “terrorize” local residents. Ozone can cause permanent lung damage, reduce lung capacity, aggravate asthma and heart disease and impair the immune system.)

NUCLEAR SHORTS

NRC & GAO Slam Yucca Mt. Dump Plan

WASHINGTON, DC—The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the General Accounting Office (GAO) have published serious criticisms of the DOE's plan for a nuclear waste dump at Yucca Mountain, Nevada.

The DOE issued 40 pages of guidelines in the Federal Register Nov. 14, claiming Yucca Mt. is capable of containing radiation—from more than 78,000 tons of high-level nuclear waste—for 10,000 years. The NRC must approve the plan before any waste is shipped to Nevada.

NRC Chairman Richard Meserve issued a critique the same day with 47 areas of concern, ranging from how fast water flows through the mountain to what could happen if a volcano erupts through the buried waste containers.

Nevada Gov. Kenny Guinn said the state would file a challenge to the plan in the U.S. Court of Appeals. U.S. Rep. Jim Gibbons (R-NV) said the DOE report is missing crucial studies, including an assessment of terrorism threats and the transportation risks of shipping nuclear waste cross-country. Although the DOE has established safety criteria for a repository since 1984, Gov. Guinn said the department has never fairly compared them with Yucca Mt. because the site would be disqualified. "The department's response is the issuance of new regulations in an attempt to ensure that the site would pass," Guinn said. "Changing the rules to fit the site has been the hallmark of this entire program."

The GAO report, which was leaked to the press just as the DOE was expected to recommend approval, urges the White House to indefinitely postpone its decision. The report says that Bechtel SAIC Co.—the general contractor on the project—recently told DOE that there are still "nearly 300 separate" unresolved issues needing consideration, and that "it does not yet have all of the technical information needed for a recommendation." Joe Davis, a DOE spokesman, said, "We don't agree."

—Washington Post, Nov. 30 & Las Vegas Sun, Nov. 15, 2001

Soviet Plutonium Factory Still Causing Cancer?

MOSCOW—The Soviet Union covered up two nuclear accidents that happened decades ago at an H-bomb factory in Siberia, say Russian scientists who've dated stray radioactive waste from a local river. By keeping the accidents secret the Soviets placed thousands of downstream people at risk of cancer.

Krasnoyarsk-26 was one of the Soviet Union's three big secret atomic bomb complexes. Two reactors, closed down in 1992 and 1993, discharged their highly radioactive primary cooling water directly into the Yenisei River, which flows into the Kara Sea, then on into the Arctic Ocean.

Alexander Bolsunovsky from the Russian government's Institute of Biophysics uncovered 12 "hot particles" of reactor waste that turned up along the banks of the Yenisei between 1994 and 1999. These highly radioactive fragments, containing cesium, plutonium, strontium and other fission products, were up to 330 kilometers away from the reactors.

Bolsunovsky has now estimated the age of the fragments by analyzing the ratio of two isotopes, cesium-137 and cesium-134, which decay at different rates. He concludes that eight pieces were formed around 30 years ago, and four 20 years ago, suggesting they came from two separate accidents.

Levels of contamination over the past 30 years could have been high enough to cause the excess cancer local doctors have reported in riverside communities, Bolsunovsky told *New Scientist*. Villagers still face a risk today. Spending a few hours within a meter of the material could mean extraordinary radiation doses. —*New Scientist*, Oct. 27, 2001

Birth Defects Near British Production Reactor

LONDON—Birth defects around a factory in Britain that makes radioactive materials are 20% higher than the average for the broader area, a government study says.

Environmentalists blame radioactive emissions from the Cardiff plant for harming babies. The facility is run by Nycomed Amersham to make isotopes for the pharmaceutical industry.

The local health authority Bro Taf commissioned the Small Area Health Statistics Unit at Imperial College, London, to investigate infant health within a 7.5-kilometer radius of the site. Its Nov. report showed that 907 babies were born with congenital deformities between 1983 and 1998, 20% more than you would expect in this part of Wales.

Max Wallis of Friends of the Earth Cymru says this is "dynamite" because it vindicates environmentalists' claims. A report in 1999 linked aerial emissions of radioactive tritium from the Nycomed facility with an increase in infant mortality.

But Bro Taf and Nycomed Amersham rejected the study's results. The statistically significant excess in birth defects was in families living between two and 7.5 kilometers away—

and the excess is in comparison with birth defect figures for Wales that are incomplete, they say.

Tritium and carbon-14 emitted from the facility can be detected in fruit and vegetables grown locally, and concentrations of tritium in flounder from the Severn Estuary doubled between 1999 and 2000. The Food Standards Agency says that, excluding fish eaters, children aged one to two get the largest dose in the local population, particularly from carbon-14 in cow's milk. —*New Scientist*, Nov. 17, 2001

A Reactor in the Basement?

TOKYO—How would you like to live atop a nuclear reactor? Government researchers are developing just such an item made to operate in the basement of an apartment building.

The Rapid-L reactor was conceived as a powerhouse for colonies on the Moon. And the scientists, loony or not, say that at six meters high and two meters wide, the 200-kilowatt Rapid-L could easily fit into the basement of an office or apartment complex.

"In the future it will be quite difficult to construct large nuclear power [reactors] because of site restrictions," says Mitsuru Kambe, head of the research team at Japan's Central Research Institute of Electrical Power Industry (CRIEPI). "To relieve peak loads in the near future, I believe small, modular reactors located in urban areas such as Tokyo Bay will be effective," he says.

Unlike most nuclear reactors, the Rapid-L has no control rods to regulate the reaction. Instead, it uses reservoirs of molten lithium-6—an isotope that is effective at absorbing neutrons. The lithium acts as a liquid control rod.

The Rapid-L would be cooled by molten sodium and run at about 530 °C (954° F). Kambe's main concern now is to test the reactor's long-term durability. Japan's worst reactor accidents involved liquid sodium leaks at Monju.

Malcolm Grimston, at the Royal Institute of International Affairs, is skeptical. "If the Japanese public won't now accept big reactors for safety reasons, then you have to wonder what the response would be building lots of small reactors in the middle of cities," says Grimston. —*New Scientist*, Aug. 25, 2001

Terror Threat Halts DOE Rad Waste Transports

WASHINGTON, DC—The DOE has suspended a planned transcontinental shipment of high-level atomic waste due to concern about possible terrorist attacks. A nuclear waste train had been set to move 125 highly radioactive nuclear fuel assemblies from West Valley, NY through 10 states to Idaho.

"Actions speak louder than words, so although the DOE will not admit it publicly, it's clear the West Valley shipment was suspended due to terrorism and security concerns," said Kevin Kamps of Nuclear Information & Resource Service.

Due to concerns about potential terrorist attacks, DOE Secretary Spencer Abraham suspended federal nuclear waste shipments Sept. 12. But Spencer began lifting that suspension a couple weeks later.

The DOE renewed its suspension Oct. 7 due to potential reprisals in response to the U.S. bombing of Afghanistan. Orders were sent explicitly suspending the West Valley shipment until next spring.

DOE studies show that 50 million North Americans in 45 States live within a half mile of projected highway and train routes to planned federal nuclear dumpsites.

In a Sept. 21 response to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the NRC admitted, "the capacity of shipping casks to withstand such a [large aircraft] crash has not been analyzed." —Nuclear Information & Resource Service, Oct. 22, 2001.

Military Sees Win-Win in Alaska

KODIAK, Alaska—Congress is authorizing \$8 billion for development of a missile test range in Narrow Cape, Alaska. Over the last few months, such places as Kodiak and Delta Junction—a remote highway crossroads near the abandoned Ft. Greely Army base—have become hubs of military activity. In fact, work has quietly been underway for several years to capitalize on Kodiak's strategic location for testing missiles.

Bulldozers are ripping out trees and environmental groups are worried about the potential for rocket fuel poisoning of marine wildlife as well as the cumulative effects of decades of hazardous military waste dumping in Alaska.

A coalition of environmental groups has filed suit demanding new environmental studies before more work on the anti-ballistic missile program gets underway. The government predictably found there would be "no significant impact" on the environment from occasional launches at the Kodiak facility. But that never presumed that Kodiak would become a missile test range.

Fifteen thousand people live on the island and most in the town of Kodiak, 40 miles from Ft. Greely. Residents are

excited that their \$9 million share of the Star Wars budget will get them a bowling alley and maybe some teachers.

—*Los Angeles Times*, Oct. 27, 2001

Food Irradiation Slammed by EC

BRUSSELS—The European Commission (EC) has delayed action on a proposal that would legalize the irradiation of several classes of food including herbs, dried fruit, cereal flakes, shrimp, frog legs, and certain chicken and egg products. The now-tabled proposal would override bans and tight restrictions on irradiated food that exist in a majority of the European Union's 15 nations.

EC officials reported that "consumer organizations are either totally against additional authorizations or would like to see this [irradiation] technique applied as restrictively as possible."

A major repercussion of the decision is that the UN Codex Alimentarius Commission has been moved to delay a proposal of its own that would significantly weaken international food irradiation standards. —Public Citizen, Nov. 20, 2001

Bush, Putin Vow to Slash Warheads

WASHINGTON—Presidents Bush and Putin vowed Nov. 13 at the Crawford Summit to cut their nuclear arsenals by two-thirds. During the next 10 years, Bush said, the U.S. will slash the number of nuclear warheads, now at approximately 7,000, to between 1,700 and 2,200. Several hours later Putin pledged the same. Russia's arsenal now stands at 5,858 warheads. Putin wants both nations to reduce to 1,500.

In a joint statement the two presidents said, "Neither country regards the other as an enemy or threat." President Bush has been using reductions in nuclear arsenals as a bargaining chip to gain Russian assent to dumping the ABM Treaty. U.S. withdrawal from the treaty would be viewed throughout the world as a symbol of U.S. arrogance and unilateralism. Bush and Putin agreed to begin negotiations on revisions to the treaty.

Some Pentagon officials say that 2,500 warheads is as low as the U.S. arsenal should go. If the total force were too small, the bombers would have no choice but to hit cities in retaliation for an attack, they say. The ability to attack hardened military targets requires more weapons than are needed to target populated areas.

Arms control advocates have criticized Bush's plan because it doesn't commit to the destruction of the warheads. —*Agence France Press*, Nov. 17, *Washington Post*, Nov. 15, & *LA Times*, Nov. 14, 2001

Navy's Project ELF at War?

CLAM LAKE, Wis.—Three days before the U.S. bombardment of Afghanistan began, midwest papers reported, "If American submarines patrolling waters of the Middle East get ordered to action, it's likely that message, or at least part of it, will come by way of Clam Lake in northern Wisconsin."

—*Duluth News Tribune*, Oct. 4, 2001

RESOURCES

- * **CircleVision**, Web: www.circlevision.org
- * **Gorleben International Peace Team**, Langestr 10, 29462 Wustrow, Germany; Phone: (011) 49-58-439-8710; Email: gandib@yahoo.com
- * **Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action**, 16159 Clear Creek Road, Poulsbo, WA 98370; Phone: (360) 377-2586; Email: info@gzcenter.org; Web: www.gzcenter.org/
- * **Illinois Food Safety Coalition**, Phone: (312) 670-2801; Email: info@illinoisfoodsafety.org; Web: www.illinoisfoodsafety.org
- * **LCO Health Center**, 13380 W Trepania Rd., Hayward, WI 54843, Phone: (715) 634-4795
- * **Native America Calling**, PO Box 40164, Albuquerque, NM 87196; Phone: (505) 277-7999; Email: native@unm.edu; Web: nativecalling.org
- * **New Scientist**, Boston Office, Suite 290, 275 Washington Street, Newton, MA 02458; Phone: (617) 558-4939; Email: michelle.soucy@newscientist.com
- * **North American Water Office**, PO Box 174, Lake Elmo, MN 55042; Phone: (651) 770-3861; Email: gwilco@mtn.org; Web: www.nawo.org
- * **Nuclear Energy Information Service**, PO Box 1637, Evanston, IL 60204-1637; Phone: (847) 869-7650; Email: neis@forward.net; Web: www.neis.org
- * **Public Citizen**, Critical Mass Energy & Environment Program, 215 Pennsylvania Ave. SE, Washington, DC 20003; Phone: (202) 454-5123; Web: www.citizen.org/cmep
- * **Radiation and Public Health Project**, PO Box 60, Unionville, NY 10988; Phone: (305) 532-5565; Email: jbrown@icanect.net; Web: www.radiation.org
- * **War Resisters League**, 339 Lafayette St., New York, NY 10012; Phone: (212) 228-0450; Email: wrl@igc.apc.org
- * **Wisc. Network for Peace & Justice**, PO Box 1174, Madison, WI 53701, (608) 250-9240, Email: bblock@peacenet.org

ELF Confronted by Tribes, Congress, Editors and Community

Revocation & Return to Prison Possible for 'Silence Trident' Disarmers

Bonnie Urfer and Michael Sprong are facing increased pressure to pay court-ordered restitution after being convicted of criminal damage to the ELF system. In June 2000, the pair sawed down three of the thousands of heavy poles that suspend the ELF antenna in Wisconsin, shutting it down for 24 hours.

While both have finished prison sentences—Bonnie six months, and Michael two—they were each ordered to pay a total of \$7,492: \$2,952 to the ELF station, and \$4,567 to Manufacturing Technology, Inc. of Ft. Walton Beach, Florida, which operates the ELF station for the Navy.

As we go to press, Bonnie faces a Dec. 12 revocation hearing in Madison, at which the U.S. Magistrate Stephen Crocker will have to decide whether her refusal to pay should be punished with more prison time. For nonpayment, Bonnie faces a maximum of one year in the federal prison system.

In a Nov. 20 conversation with her probation officer Bonnie said that giving money to the Navy "would make me feel like a killer."

She said, "I can't pretend that paying restitution isn't a bloody business, especially now with the government bombing even more."

Federal Appeal Filed in Silence Trident Convictions

An appeal is underway in federal court challenging the Feb. 2001 "Silence Trident" conviction.

At trial in Madison, Wisc., Federal Magistrate Stephen Crocker granted the government's Motion in Limine. The ruling excluded testimony about everything related to international law, nuclear weapons, first-strike, Trident, civil disobedience, motive or intent. In addition, defendants were not allowed to use necessity or crime prevention as a defense. "Good faith reliance on the advice of counsel" was the only defense allowed the two activists but Anabel Dwyer, the attorney whose counsel was sought, was not allowed to present evidence on humanitarian law or the law of war.

The jury was instructed that, "although the reasonableness of the advice given is a factor you may consider, your focus must be on whether the defendants...honestly believed that what they were doing was legal," and "although there is no applicable privilege under international law or United States law to injure the ELF system...the actual existence or nonexistence of the privilege is not an issue that you must decide."

Attorneys Margaret Danielson and John Bachman have filed an appeal on behalf of Urfer and Sprong based on four points: 1) The jury should not have been instructed that it could consider the reasonableness of Attorney Dwyer's advice. A jury, by definition, is not competent to judge such. 2) Given that the jury was allowed to decide "reasonableness," it should then have been allowed to hear evidence by defendants, experts and counsel, as to the reasons for the advice given. 3) Defendants should have been allowed to testify about the basis for their beliefs. Without an explanation, their attempt to prevent the crime of planning or preparation and waging nuclear war would seem ludicrous. 4) The jury should not have been instructed that there is "no applicable privilege under international or U.S. law." The instruction told the jury that counsel's advice was unreasonable when in fact it is held by jurists and experts around the world.

Federal Judge John Shabaz affirmed the conviction in the Western District of Wisc. on Sept. 28 and a consolidated defendant-appellee brief is due for the Seventh U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago by December 21.

Federal Charges are Brought Against Wisc. Line-Crossers

Three ELF resisters who crossed onto the Wisconsin site last October have been summoned to federal court December 11 for an arraignment. It's the first time in 28 years of protest that federal charges have come down from the Wisconsin facility.

For their Oct. 7 line-crossing, Roberta Thurston, Don Timmerman and John Heid will be testing new waters as they face a charge of criminal "trespass on national forest land" in violation of 18 USC 1863. All three activists are former Catholic Worker homeless shelter providers.

Previous police protection of the secluded ELF site has always involved Ashland County Deputies issuing county ordinance violation citations.

(Longtime peace activist Tom Hastings was once charged

federally for an action at the Michigan ELF transmitter. The judge in that case condemned nuclear weapons and gave Tom "time served.")

In the recent case, the three were given a "United States District Court Violation Notice" by U.S. Forest Service wardens. The wardens are regular witnesses to ELF demonstrations but have never before issued complaints. So unfamiliar were the USFS officers with the anti-war activists, resister John Heid reports, that the man writing out his citation was shaking with nervousness.

Lac Courte Oreilles Hearings on Project ELF

The Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO) band of Lake Superior Ojibwa has jumped headlong into the worldwide controversy over the health and environmental effects of electromagnetic pollution.

LCO joined with the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute in September in sponsoring a series of public hearings on the health and environmental impact of the electromagnetic radiation generated by the Navy's Project ELF.

Part of the LCO reservation near Hayward, Wisc. is impacted by ELF pollution.

Over 100 people attended the Ashland hearing, the first of five held throughout the impacted region of Northern Wisconsin.

After two years of studying the existing literature on ELF and cancer, the LCO Health Center, under the direction of its Department of Defense Initiative coordinator Dan Peterson, requested \$2.7 million from the Navy for seven new studies

of the health and environmental affects of ELF's health and environmental impact. The Navy refused and the hearings were organized then to gather public opinion on the question of whether new studies are warranted.

LCO's initial investigation has again raised serious questions about the operation of the giant transmitter.

Why hasn't a comprehensive cancer study of NW Wisconsin been completed by the Navy or federal government? Has operation of Project ELF affected the Tribe's rights to hunt, fish and gather within the Ceded Territory? Do the ELF antennae pose a safety risk to hunters, fishers, or gatherers and other users of the National Forest? Should the Navy's planned upgrade of the ELF system be allowed before health questions are answered?

The Health Center's actions were endorsed by LCO's Tribal Governing Board that resolved on Feb. 7, 2001 that the "Navy provide adequate funding" to "complete necessary research and health management that will ensure that continued operation of Project ELF will protect tribal treaty and cultural resources and not affect or impact the health of the LCO Community."

The case against ELF pollution was bolstered in August when the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) unanimously concluded that extremely-low frequency electromagnetic fields are possible human carcinogens. IARC is the world's most influential authority on what may cause cancer. News of the IARC's alarming decision was not reported in the United States.

"ELF puts everybody in harms way"

By Jeanne Larson, Cable, Wisc., excerpted from testimony made Sept. 25, 2001

For 28 years, Project ELF has left me uneasy.

Twenty-eight years, because that's how long I've lived with it (or its predecessors) as a neighbor—first in Solon Springs, now in Cable. Uneasy for two reasons: 1) Because no one honestly knows if ELF is safe for those of us who live here; and 2) Because ELF is tied to nuclear weapons and nuclear weapons make the entire world unsafe, no matter where you live.

Two weeks ago today, our country was attacked. Is it appropriate at a time like this to question Project ELF—a project of the U.S. Defense Department? Don't I care about the crews in our submarines that would be put in harm's way without a signal system like ELF?

Nuclear weapons put everybody in harm's way. They are what endanger the submarine crews along with the rest of us.

If the recent terrorist attacks prove anything they prove the last thing the world needs now is more violence and more sickening terror. There are 18 Trident subs in operation that ELF sends signals to. The missiles on just one Trident are

capable of killing 49 million people—8,000 times more victims than at the World Trade Center.

That's terror. That's a scheme of terror plotted in part at Project ELF in my backyard. A scheme of terror with innocent civilians as the target. Nuclear arms and their deployment systems are on a suicidal mission and we're all on board.

The subject of these hearings is the health and environmental effects of Project ELF, not its mission. They can't be separated. Nuclear arms pose the biggest threat to public health that has ever come along.

To really protect those submarine crews, we will stand behind those who know more about this than I in calling for the elimination of nuclear weapons from the face of the earth.

Former commander of the U.S. Strategic Air Command, Gen. George L. Butler, has declared nuclear weapons "morally indefensible" and has called for their abolition. On December 5, 1996, 62 retired generals and admirals from around the world called for the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Believing with all my mind and all my heart that nuclear weapons are evil and dangerous there is nothing patriotic about keeping quiet about the link in the nuclear weapons system that is at my back door, Project ELF. To love one's country means to care. To care about one's country means to speak up when you see it headed for terrifying danger.

What about other effects of ELF on the health of those of us who live too close to it for comfort?

For 28 years I have read everything I could find on the subject of ELF's health effects—hoping for assurance. My file on ELF and human health is at least a foot and a half thick. Believe me, the assurance is not there.

Does ELF cause cancer? Cancer doesn't come with a tag that says, "caused by ELF." So of course the Navy can say there is no proof that ELF causes cancer. There is no proof that it doesn't, either.

Exposure to ELF is classified as a possible carcinogen (or probable, depending on the report). We know that rates of certain cancers in our region are the highest in our nation. Add to that findings that exposure to ELF may accelerate the rate of cell growth.

To locate Project ELF with its possible carcinogenic effects where cancer rates are known to be extremely high is not right. We, who live in a high cancer region, of all people, ought to be protected by our government from exposure to additional risk factors such as exposure to ELF.

You would think that we could trust the Defense Department of all government agencies to defend us from harm. Their record, however, is not good. Look at the cancer rates downwind of nuclear test sites in the southwest. Look at the Vietnam vets suffering from exposure to Agent Orange.

By the Navy's own admission, ELF affects the electrical environment far beyond the transmitter site—all around Lake Namakagon, all around Lost Land Lake.

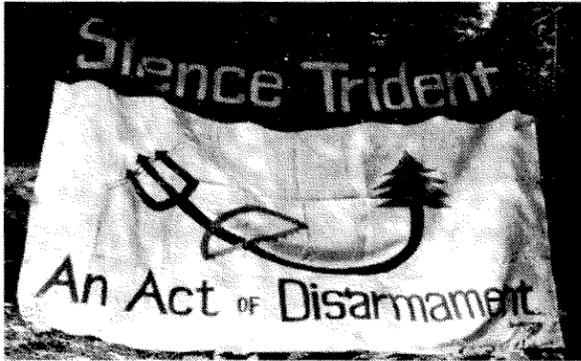
The human body is an extremely complex electrical instrument. If you place a sensitive electrical instrument in an environment that has been electrically altered, common sense tells you there will be an effect. The body and the brain rely on intricate electrical signals to function. If stray voltage from ELF has an effect on metal fences, what effect from ELF do you get in the human body and brain at the cellular level?

The answer is nobody knows. Would you care to expose yourself to find out? I wouldn't. But no one asked me. I am being exposed without my consent. I'm an unwilling subject of a human health experiment. Which—by the standards of scientific and medical experimentation—is not ethical.

The July 10, 2000 *Ashland Daily Press* had an article on the front page entitled, "Stray voltage effect on humans isn't well known." Quoting from that article: "Wisconsin farmers have complained for years about the harmful effects of stray voltage, but little has been known about how it may affect people. At its worst, some say, stray voltage cripples, maims or even kills cows and other animals. Many think what happens to cows also happens to humans. No specific research has been done, but there is increasing debate and mounting evidence that points to a possible link between stray voltage and human health. Dr. Henry Anderson, chief medical officer of Occupational and Environmental Health in Wisconsin, said he is not aware of any specific studies looking at stray voltage and its effect on humans. 'We're a long ways from being able to document something at this point,' Anderson said. But a review of public and private documents and dozens of interviews with farmers, medical experts, state and utility officials shows Wisconsin farmers have complained about fatigue, aches and even more serious ailments for years."

The additional studies proposed by the tribe must be done. To summarize: Is ELF safe? The jury is still out. But I don't like the odds.

Is ELF necessary? Not for national security. Nuclear weapons contribute more to national insecurity.





(l-r) Don Timmerman, John Heid and Roberta Thurston leave the ELF site Oct. 7 after being charged with federal criminal trespass on national forest land. After 18 years of local prosecution, they are the first ELF resisters in Wisconsin to face federal charges.

Water on the Rock

Resistance Wears Away ELF Prosecution

By John LaForge

Anti-nuclear weapons protesters claimed partial victory in a long struggle against the nuclear Navy and its Project ELF submarine transmitter in October.

Ashland County District Attorney Michael Gableman moved to dismiss trespass charges against four of us the day before our Sept. 26 jury trial. After more than 18 years of hearing identical charges, the court dismissed these. The Oct. 7 protest at ELF resulted for the first time in federal trespass charges, and court will be in Madison, Dec. 11.

Over the years, the cost to Ashland County of prosecuting scores of ELF objectors has run to tens of thousands of

dollars. Just since 1999, the court jailed four of us for 60 days each, spending \$14,400 trying to collect a mere \$848 in fines. In 1995, the County spent \$29,700 keeping three of us in jail 180 days apiece. All this punishment was for non-payment of parking ticket-level forfeitures or "contempt of court."

The District Attorney's surrender will save the county plenty of money and time, and the county has spent a lot to scare off the protests. In 1994, when Mike Miles, Bonnie Urfer and I were in jail for nonpayment, we discovered that the "county ordinance" on trespass that we'd been convicted of violating *did not exist*. We were hastily released from jail. The county then adopted a state statute as a local ordinance, allowing the suspension of driving privileges for nonpayment. This saved the county the cost of jailing ELF protesters. But two years ago, the state legislature rescinded the license suspension provision (for non-traffic offenses) and the burden was back on the county.

So how does the dismissal of local charges amount to a victory? Our nonviolent endurance of the consequences of dissent—prosecution, trial, fines, license suspension, jail—like water on the rock, finally wore away the stone. As with dozens of nonviolent campaigns in U.S. history—from womens' suffrage and the eight-hour workday, to civil rights and an end to the Vietnam War—people have paid the price of disobedience rather than cooperate with official misconduct. The long struggle against nuclear weapons is a part of this honorable tradition. The case against nuclear terrorism is better argued in federal court, where Trident subs—and their 80,000 Hiroshimas-waiting-to-happen—can be confronted with federal statutes against genocide and poison weapons.

Civil disobedience didn't come easily to the anti-ELF campaign. It was taken up only after regular channels of opposition were exhausted. The height of conventional resistance came in 1984 when U.S. District Judge Barbara Crabb agreed with the original Stop Project ELF and the State Attorney General, and halted ELF construction in *Wisconsin v. Weinberger*. Judge Crabb found that electromagnetic pollution (EMP) from the transmitter should be studied more seriously before ELF went on line. Crabb's injunction was vacated by a Federal Appeals Court which ruled that the former Soviet threat was more dangerous than the risk of cancer from

Five Years With No License to Drive

By Steve Clark

I was arrested on trespass charges at Project ELF in 1995 and again in 1996. Like many others who were arrested for acts of conscience at this communication site for nuclear war, I chose not to pay the fines. In retaliation, the State of Wisconsin revoked my driver's license for five years. Although I could have gotten my license back at any time by paying the fines, I decided to "do the time."

In those five years I quit my job with the Ice Age Trail (extensive traveling was required), rediscovered the power of the bicycle, and developed a home-based nonprofit organization. Still, despite my best efforts, I failed miserably at trying to prove that even a "soccer dad" living in rural Wisconsin could get by without driving. I couldn't even prove that a conscientious driver need not worry about the lack of a license. *Stuff happens.*

So why did I do it? Certainly paying a \$200 fine would have been far simpler and in the long run, less costly. Three reasons kept me from taking the easy route: First, I did not want to cooperate with a judicial system that protected the guilty (Project ELF) and persecuted the innocent (citizens upholding the Nuremberg Principles). Second, I wanted to be in solidarity (although minuscule in comparison) with those who had truly endured hardships for acts of civil disobedience (at least I had my freedom and health). And finally, I hoped it would make me a better person (more on this later).

These were the reasons that sustained me, but there was one unforeseen consequence that some might argue was the most important of all. *It forced me to talk about Project ELF.*

Unfortunately, such talk wasn't during the most ideal conditions. It invariably followed being stopped by a patrol officer for some minor offense. Of course after each time, the consequences grew worse. In fact, I was taken into custody after both the third and fourth offense and had to post bail! It was especially humiliating to see my name printed in the local newspaper's sheriff's report. I was sure people would assume I lost my license because of drunk driving. However, these situations provided both the incentive and opportunity to discuss Project ELF.

Board members and co-workers of the Ice Age Park & Trail Foundation were amazingly supportive of my decision not to pay ELF fines, and at one point an attorney on the board wondered if I couldn't get my license back as a matter of civil rights. It didn't make sense to him (nor to most people) that a person could lose their right to drive for a non-traffic offense.

I had a lot of time to think about this argument while biking to traffic court in Stevens Point. I wanted to demonstrate just how difficult life without a license in northern Wisconsin was, since mass transit does not exist. The Judge seemed neither impressed nor interested in the fact that I had pedaled 225 miles to make an appearance in his court but he did give me a chance to talk about both Project ELF and our limited and unjust transportation system. However, my suggestion of donating the amount of the fine to a nonprofit working on increasing transportation options went nowhere and I left feeling rather frustrated and \$180 poorer.

But by far the most difficult experience happened in southwestern Wisconsin about a year after I left the Ice Age Trail position. A major engineering consulting firm in Madison had solicited my involvement to develop a comprehensive bike plan for Grant County. Our joint proposal landed us an interview and so I found myself once again driving illegally across the state. Since this was a \$50,000 project, I was feeling a lot of pressure to deliver the best presentation possible. Three others from the firm would be meeting me at the interview site. Well, just eleven miles away, an unmarked police car flashed for me to pull over. Although I was sure I wasn't speeding, and although he was just going to issue a

warning, as soon as he discovered I had no driver's license I knew I was in trouble.

He drove me to the jail while I explained to him as politely as I could the circumstances. He was unmoved. I pleaded with him to let me do the interview and be processed later, as an entire company with 250 employees was counting on me, not to mention all bicyclists and potential bicyclists in Grant County. He seemed to enjoy my increasing level of frustration, and told me that bail, in this case couldn't be posted, and that I couldn't be released until a judge heard the case, since it was my third arrest. After taking my finger prints and mug shot they finally allowed me to make a phone call.

"Steve, where the hell are you? We can't wait much longer to make our presentation..."

"The Grant County Jail? Don't mess with me, Steve, where are you really?"

Twenty minutes later I was released and was able to deliver the speech I had worked on perfecting. I always use a lot of hand motions when I talk, and this day proved to be no exception. But for some reason the selection committee seemed more focused on my hands than usual. It wasn't until the other team members took me to lunch that I found out why...black-tipped fingers, all ten of them! One of them was able to laugh at the situation, the other two were pretty upset. I felt lousy.

Grant County selected the competing firm to do the plan. And to this day I haven't heard from the consultants whom I had worked so hard to impress. But I am sure of one thing: They will never forget the day they had to get a fellow consultant out of jail in order to make a presentation. All because of that stupid Project ELF....

I have lots more stories I could tell. Besides frustration, the one other common thread running through all the stories is a feeling of *ambivalence*.

While I questioned the fairness or constitutionality of the penalty—*why should a person lose their driving privileges for something non-traffic related*—I also understood that as a motorist, I was and am part of the problem. Certainly our dependence on foreign resources (especially oil) is a prime reason why our government still holds the world hostage with nuclear weapons. And, it would be hard to say which human invention has caused more death and damage, cars or war. I do know that more Americans have been killed by cars than all the wars ever fought by Americans (including the one that brought us independence). So, *Why shouldn't I be willing to give up an inherently violent and environmentally destructive life-style choice?* When I looked at the big picture, and considered those in other countries who have risked their lives or even people in this country who have spent years in prison for a more equitable, just and sane world, not driving seemed like a small sacrifice to make. I was ready to quit the Ice Age Trail job anyway. It paid too well, meaning I was supporting things like Project ELF with my tax dollars.

So did it make me a better person? Well, yes, to the extent that it reduced my driving habit by 90% or more. The bicycle became even more of a friend than ever, allowing me to discover its usefulness even in the middle of winter. And I also found that when I did drive, I was certainly more careful. It really did force me to become a better driver. I used to argue how the roads would be so much safer if only everyone lost their license....

Four months ago I became eligible to get my license back...Two months ago I decided to take the time to make it happen. Written test, eye test, and finally a road test—I passed them all and paid the \$50 reinstatement fee.

I was glad to have passed, but it was no cause for celebration. Ambivalence still rules.

Social justice activist Steve Clark is the director of Bike Farm and tries to live a simple life in Cushing, Wisc.



the transmitter's EMP. The Appeals Court left unanswered Judge Crabb's serious questions about ELF's health effects.

With the collapse of the USSR, the Navy lost its only rationale for the ELF system, and Judge Crabb's warnings about EMP and cancer loomed large. Concerns about the danger of ELF emissions are again the focus of serious investigation in Wisconsin, thanks to the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe's proposed studies and the June 2001 finding by the International Agency for Research on Cancer that EMP is a "possible human carcinogen."

With no Cold War and no nuclear-armed enemies, ELF is an easy target for homeless shelter providers, hospital workers, teachers and environmentalists. Tangible threats to national security—poverty, pollution, lack of health care, underfunded schools—are getting inadequate attention, while care and money are lavished on redundant war machinery.

Says who? Navy spokesman Richard Williamson told talk radio's *Native America Calling* host Harlan Makasato on Oct. 3, "ELF is not a bonafide military target and there are other means to communicate with the submarines."

And U.S. Senator Russ Feingold (D-WI) said Oct. 7, 2001, "Taxpayers should not continue to be asked to pay \$14 million a year for a submarine beeper system that is a relic of the Cold War and a component of a particular nuclear strategy that is no longer relevant to our most pressing security concerns." Sen. Feingold is the sponsor of the ELF Termination Act, Senate Bill 112, which would mothball the system.

It goes without saying after Sept. 11 that submarines don't deter or protect us from terrorists.

With ELF being confronted by the tribes, by Congress, by newspaper editors and by local communities, perhaps, as the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* has suggested, "It's time to give Project ELF a dignified retirement."

A version of this opinion appeared in the Ashland Daily Press, Oct. 20, 2001 *Nukewatch Pathfinder - 5*



Photo by Bonnie Urfer

Tom Bottelene, activist and organizer with CircleVision in Minnesota before a banner at the October 12 demonstration at the country's largest weapons merchant, Lockheed-Martin. The worldwide day of protest against U.S. star wars plans for space saw actions in 109 cities in 19 nations. Lockheed sent its workers home for the day.

Weapons Giant is Object of Star Wars Protest

EAGAN, Minn.—At a loud and busy intersection of two 6-lane highways, 30 stalwart peace activists maintained a 19-hour picket October 12 and 13, focused on Lockheed Martin, the largest weapons contractor in the United States.

Because of advanced publicity about the protest, Lockheed Martin issued an internal memo to the whole staff telling them to stay home Friday. The only company personnel to read our banners ("Land, Sea & Space: Lockheed Make\$ a Killing," "Keep Space for Peace") were the security guards. They kept their own vigil and only threatened us with arrest when we tried erecting a tent against the pending rain.

The demonstration was one of over 100 around the world held jointly to protest the militarization and weaponization of outer space. The Air Force's Space Command calls itself the "Master of Space," a motto it's emblazoned above the entrance to the 50th Space Wing in Colorado. U.S. Space Command's own document "Vision For 2020" describes its

hopes to control the world's resources using weapons that will wage war "to, from, in and through space," and "deny others the use of space."

Lockheed Martin did \$25 billion in net sales in 1999. From 1992 to 1997, about 40 companies were gobbled up by three giants and Lockheed Martin (L-M) is the granddaddy of them all, with \$30 billion in assets and 147,000 employees in 30 countries. In those five years L-M bought up Honeywell Electro-optics, Good Year Aerospace, Xerox Defense-Aerospace Division, Ford Aerospace, LTV Missile Business, Sperry-Unisys Defense, IBM Federal Systems, General Dynamics-Fort Worth, Martin Marietta, General Electric Aerospace and General Dynamics-Space Business.

Among other things, L-M sells jet warplanes, military communications systems, submarine-launched missiles, attack submarine computer systems—and political influence.

L-M Vice President Bruce Jackson was a finance chair of the G.W. Bush for President campaign. Lynne Cheney, wife of millionaire Vice President Dick Cheney, served on L-M's Board of Directors from 1994 through Jan. of 2001. For her sage counsel she received \$120,000 in annual compensation—pocket change in the Cheney family's 1999 earnings of \$26.7 million.

At the Eagan site, L-M "designs and manufactures militarized, ruggedized and commercial off-the-shelf defense computer systems for airborne, surface, undersea and ground [warfare] applications," according to the company website.

In October, L-M beat Boeing Company in a fight for the richest weapons contract in history: the 20-year-long, \$200 billion order to build at least 3,000 Joint Strike Fighters. (In the Senate, Wisconsin's Russ Feingold led the unsuccessful fight to cancel the needless program.) The supersonic jet war plane, said to be capable of vertical, helicopter-like landings, is to be used by the Air Force, the Navy, the Marines and the British Royal Navy and Air Force.

Ironically, the Pentagon is now testing pilotless jets in the bombing of Afghanistan, machines that it says will make piloted jet fighters obsolete. Glen Buchan of the Rand Corporation said recently, "We see no future fighters with humans in them."

Trident Commander Puts "Smiley face" on Bomb

Editor's note: Only five weeks before the events of Sept. 11 proved the nuclear emperor has no clothes, the Navy's Atlantic Fleet commander gushed enthusiasm for nuclear war plans and his unreconstructed Cold War mentality.

"This system works. If the president decides to use it, it's not going to be one of these 'Well, you pushed the button and nothing happened' things," Rear Admiral Gerald L. Talbot told the *Camden County Tribune*, which covers the King's Bay sub base in Georgia, home to 10 Trident submarines.

Adm. Talbot is responsible for Trident operations in the Navy's Atlantic Fleet. After a summer orientation aboard "Looking Glass"—the Pentagon's flying command center for

Nuclear Reactors Never Safe

By David A. Kraft

The Sept. 11 World Trade Center attack should make it abundantly clear that it's time to begin the orderly, planned phase-out of nuclear power. Indeed, when three members of Congress and six state legislators from New York call for closure of the Indian Point reactors near New York, the people of Illinois—the most nuclear-reliant state in the nation with 14 reactors and spent fuel pools—should be asking serious questions about their own security.

Sept. 11 has transformed nuclear reactors from being mere electrical generators of dubious safety into potential terrorist targets—World Trade Centers with 1,000 Hiroshimas worth of radiation inside. The alleged benefits of the electricity we receive from nuclear power must now be compared to the now very real and potentially catastrophic costs emanating from their vulnerability as lucrative terrorist targets.

The "unthinkable" must now be thought. The best and brightest minds of the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the nuclear industry, who for years assuaged the public's fears about terrorist attacks at reactors by maintaining that the very idea was "not a credible threat," are now left at best scrambling to beef up reactor security.

At worst, they are inventing new ways to placate the public's now legitimate concerns about reactor vulnerability.

The NRC deserves severe criticism and congressional investigation for its historic mishandling of reactor security.

It knew of these vulnerabilities for years, yet did not require the nuclear industry to change reactor design to make them resistant to airliner or conventional terrorist assaults.

The NRC actively ignored warnings from credible security analysts who urged greater reactor security measures be taken, whitewashed demonstrated failures of reactor security tests, and, finally, was willing to allow the industry to evaluate itself in this area.

If we are truly at war, those presiding over this irresponsible regulatory inaction should be indicted for treason. Because the NRC finds itself in a position requiring cover-up for past inaction—and has begun doing so by limiting the bulk of its web site to public scrutiny—its future pronouncements and actions should not be accepted at face value as credible—by the public or Congress—without additional independent analysis.

Current belated attempts to improve reactor security are laudable and necessary but, regrettably, are insufficient. While a National Guard presence is certainly warranted, and will prevent some kinds of land and water terrorist assaults, it will not thwart an airliner attack from the skies, even with the Draconian measure of installing anti-aircraft weaponry at reactors, as has been done in France. The first few "accidental" shoot-downs of commercial or private aircraft will be unacceptable to the public. The first "successful" terrorist attack using commercial aircraft will render further debate meaningless.

If ever there were a time to begin the methodical phase-out of nuclear power, that time is now. Yet despite the great hazard that continued operation of these reactors represents, President Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney propose a national energy plan that calls for building 150 new terrorist targets. While the Nuclear Energy Information Service has sent these concerns to the entire Illinois congressional delegation, not one has replied to our concerns and recommendations to date.

These very real public concerns about an equally real, demonstrated threat are being met with a thunderous round of indifference by those with the power to make needed changes. If this legitimate concern raised by reactor insecurity isn't translated by elected officials this year into a radical change in energy policy away from nuclear power, they should expect to defend their inaction on the campaign trail next year.

Dave Kraft is Director of the Nuclear Energy Information Service in Evanston, IL. This piece appeared Nov. 27 in the Chicago Tribune.

Nukewatch's Urfer: Peacemaker of the Year

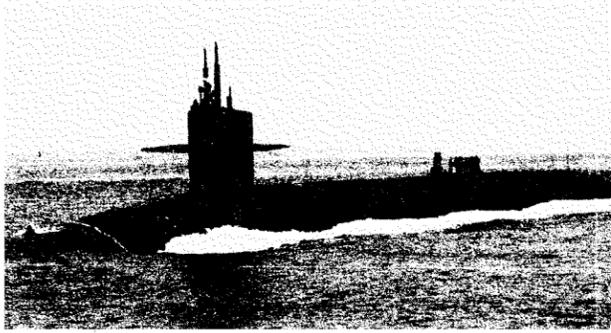
By Steve Pearson

Nukewatch co-director Bonnie Urfer is a recipient of one of three "Peacemaker of the Year" awards for 2001. The awards are conferred each October by the Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice, a statewide coalition based in Madison. Urfer was recognized for her anti-nuclear activism that most recently took the form of a disarmament action at the Navy's Project ELF and landed her in federal prison for six months. She currently faces an extension of that sentence for her refusal to pay restitution costs totaling \$7,492.

Urfer dates her activism back to the early 1980's when she met the late activist and reporter Sam Day at the offices of the *Progressive* magazine in Madison. Since that time she has been arrested some seventy times and has spent over three and a half years behind bars. In 1986, she started working at Nukewatch in Madison and 10 years later she headed north to the Anathoth Community farm near Luck with the offices of Nukewatch in tow.

Since that time, she has balanced her organizing work with stints in jail and prison. She fully expects to be sentenced to an additional year in prison when she stands before Judge Stephen Crocker Dec. 12 for the unpaid restitution. By doing the time, she hopes to bring closure to this chapter of her activism. "Getting off probation is my first priority," Urfer says, "The U.S. is bombing and I'm supposed to stay home."

When her lawyer suggested a plea that would give a portion of her restitution to a veteran's group in exchange for her freedom, she reconsidered—but only briefly. "I can't abide the thought of following the orders of an unjust government," she says. It's this steadfast commitment to principle and her unwavering commitment to a nuclear-free future that make Urfer a hero for our times and the logical choice for this year's Peacemaker of the Year award.



CALENDAR

Peace demonstrations are taking place all across the country and around the world and are too numerous to mention in our calendar space. We encourage you to participate in demanding an end to bombing and war.

Schedules with events and alternative news stories are available on-line at:

Peace.Protest.Net: <http://pax.protest.net/>
 MN Cispes: www.angelfire.com/mn/cispes
 Antiwar 1 Choice: www.anti-war.org/
 Altnet: www.altnet.org
 Action LA Affinity Group: www.peacenowar.net
 Indy Media: IndyMedia.Org
 War Resisters League: warresisters.org
 Citizens for Legitimate Government: www.legitgov.org/action.html
 Student Peace Action Network: www.peace-action.org/span.html

JANUARY

15 - Day of Resistance to Lockheed Martin, Valley Forge, PA: Noon, Mall & Goddard Boulevards (behind the King of Prussia Mall), for a rally and nonviolent civil disobedience (call by January 10 if you wish to participate in CD). **Contact:** Brandywine Peace Community, P.O. Box 81, Swarthmore, PA 19081; Phone: (610) 544-1818; Email: brandywine@juno.com; Web: geocities.com/brandywinepeace/index.htm

19, 20 & 21 - STOP PROJECT ELF in northern Wisconsin: Join us for a weekend of workshops and resistance at Anathoth Community Farm and Project ELF in the Chequamegon National Forest. **Contact:** Nukewatch, P.O. Box 649, Luck, WI 54853; Phone: (715) 472-4185; Email: nukewatch@lakeland.ws

21 - Make it a Day of Nonviolent Resistance: Memory & Commitment at Lockheed Martin with Brandywine Peace Community in Pennsylvania. Noontime Bell-Tolling. **Contact:** Brandywine Peace Community (See Jan. 15, above.)

26 - Earth Celebrations, Visions For the Earth: Winter Pageant For Peace. Celebrate Gardens, Community, City, & Earth in New York City. Artists invited to attend workshops on Wednesday evenings 6-9 p.m. & Saturdays 12:30-4:30 p.m. Puppeteers, costume designers, dancers, singers, performers, musicians, lighting designers, technical & sound production, 7:00-9:00 p.m. **Contact:** Earth Celebrations, 638 East 6th St., New York, NY 10009; Phone: (212) 777-7969; Web: earthcelebrations.com

26-27 - 5th Annual National Conference on Organized Resistance: American University, Washington, D.C. NCOR explores current issues affecting activists today. **Contact:** CASJ, 4400 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Wash. D.C. 20016; Phone: (202) 885-3333; Web: organizedresistance.org

MARCH

24-29 - Nevada Desert Experience Peace Walk from Las Vegas to the Nevada Test Site. **Contact:** Nevada Desert Experience, Phone: (702) 646-4814; Email: nde@peacenet.org

MAY

10-11 - MOTHERS' DAY WEEKEND: Friday & Saturday events to STOP Project ELF. Join in the largest gathering of the year at Anathoth Community Farm and Project ELF. **Contact:** Nukewatch (See Jan. 19, above.)

AUGUST

3-10 - Nonviolent Resistance - Stories and Strategies, War Resisters' International, 23rd Triennial conference at Dublin City University in Ireland. Theme groups, plenaries, workshops, youth program. **Contact:** War Resisters International, Triennial 2002, 5 Caledonian Road, London N1 9DX, Britain; Web: wri-irg.org

Why We Are Suing the U.S. Navy

By Glen Milner

SEATTLE—In March 2001, a coalition of three peace and two environmental groups filed a 60-day notice stating their intent to sue the Navy regarding the Trident II (D-5) missile upgrade at Naval Submarine Base Bangor. The Navy never responded to our concerns and instead chose to push ahead with its \$6.5 billion upgrade. Our lawsuit was filed by attorney David Mann, of Bricklin and Gendler, in June 2001.

Our environmental suit goes beyond the Navy's failure to consult with fish and wildlife agencies or to prepare an environmental impact statement analyzing the impacts of bringing the more powerful Trident D-5 missile to Bangor. We are also challenging the Navy for failing to address the environmental impact of an accidental detonation or explosion involving Trident D-5 missile components.

The D-5 missile weighs 130,000 lbs. compared to 73,000 lbs. for the Trident I (C-4) missile, currently deployed at Bangor. The rocket propellant alone in the 24 D-5 missiles on one Trident submarine has a net explosive weight equal to 3.7 million pounds of TNT. The environmental threat of these conventional explosives, in addition to the 192 nuclear warheads deployed on each of the Bangor-based submarines, has never been addressed.

On October 26, we received the first formal response to our lawsuit from U.S. Attorney Brian C. Kipnis, assigned to the defense of the Navy. A Motion for Dismissal was filed with the court, arguing the Navy's "neither confirm nor deny" policy for nuclear weapons should apply to the Endangered Species Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. The Navy is asking the court to give an internal Department of Defense (DOD) policy standing over federal law. Even though the Bangor base is the last active nuclear weapons depot on the West Coast and the place of deployment for approximately 1,760 nuclear warheads (and the Trident missile system is obviously a nuclear weapon), the Navy is asking we forget that a nuclear environmental threat exists.

DOD Directive 5230.16 explains that its "neither confirm nor deny" policy protects the effectiveness of nuclear

deterrence and contributes to the security of nuclear weapons. The same directive gives a predetermined statement to be issued in the case of a nuclear accident involving the release of radioactive material. The directive states, "Radioactive material in the form of dust may be scattered as a result of the accident. The dust poses little risk to health unless taken into the body by breathing or swallowing, although it is unlikely that any person would inhale or swallow an amount that would cause illness." The same directive states that short-term exposure to plutonium outside the body poses "a negligible health risk."

A potential accident addressed in our lawsuit involves nuclear shipments to and from the Bangor base and during the handling, loading and unloading of Trident D-5 missiles. An accident at the Explosives Handling Wharf could cause the detonation of explosive propellant in the D-5 missile and spread plutonium across the whole of Puget Sound.

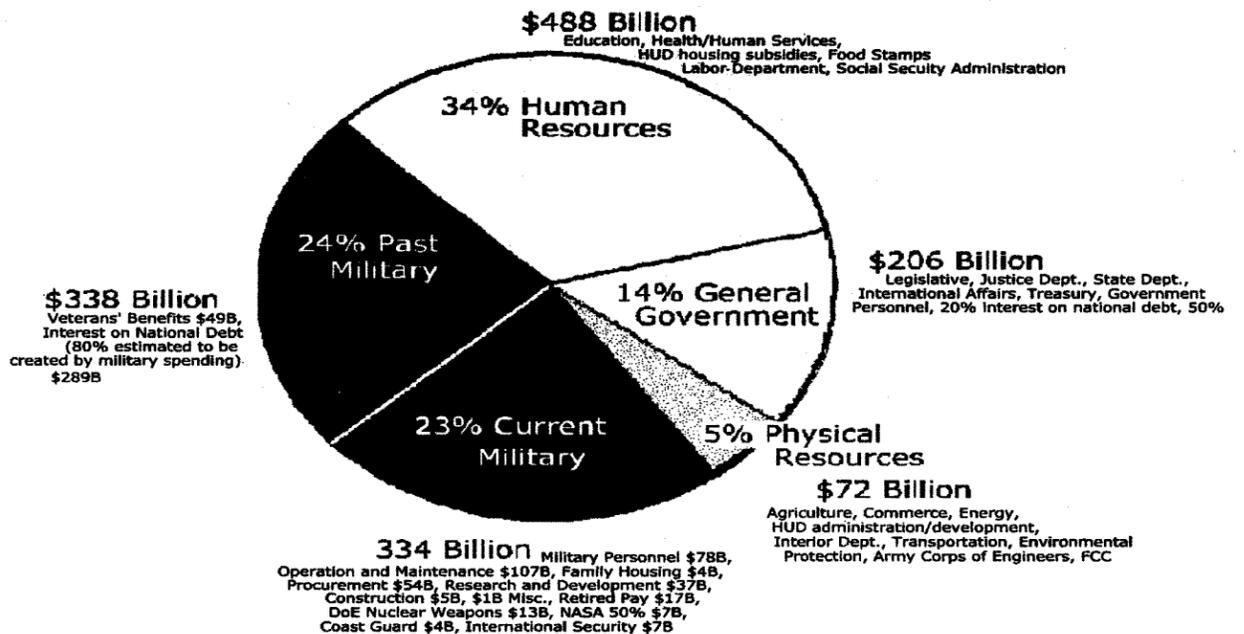
The Navy has already demonstrated a capacity for disaster at Bangor and at the Explosives Handling Wharf. In February 2000, two weeks before the salmon migration period, a containment platform collapsed and fell 70 feet, dumping 6,000 lbs. of toxic waste into Hood Canal. Over 5,000 lbs. spread into endangered salmon habitat. Early internal Navy communications expressed more concern that the media might find out about the accident than about damage to the environment.

Our lawsuit maintains that the Navy's strategy of secrecy does little to alleviate the danger involved with Trident weapons components on the base. The public deserves a full disclosure of the environmental threat of the Trident D-5 missile upgrade. Until then, the court should declare the D-5 missile upgrade at Bangor in violation of the Endangered Species Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. The work at the base should stop.

Glen Milner lives in Seattle, is an activist, musician and member of the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action in Poulsbo, Wash.

Where Your Income Tax Money Really Goes

Total Federal Funds Outlays \$1,438 Billion



Source: War Resisters League



The Pathfinder is the quarterly newsletter of Nukewatch, a project of The Progressive Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 1979 by Samuel H. Day, Jr.

Nukewatch educates and organizes to nonviolently promote an environment free of the nuclear industry, militarism and weapons of mass destruction.

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Write us. Letters and articles are welcome.

The Pathfinder submission deadlines: Nov. 15, Feb. 15, May 15, Aug. 15.

Suggested subscription donation: \$25/yr.

The Progressive Foundation Nukewatch

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A Praxis of Pacifism

By Beth Preheim

Since the events of September 11, I have heard and read several pundits denounce pacifism as an immoral stance in this time of war. As the dominant culture once again embraces death and destruction in a tit for tat, pacifists brace themselves for the onslaught of derision.

Attacking pacifists is an old trick of the state. Hermann Goering, a high-ranking Nazi official, put it bluntly: "Why of course the people don't want war. Why should some poor slob on the farm want to risk his life in a war when the best he can get out of it is to come back to his farm in one piece? Naturally the common people don't want war: neither in Russia, nor England, nor for that matter in Germany. That is understood. But after all, it is the leaders of the country who determine the policy, and it is always a simple matter to drag the people along, whether it is a democracy, or a fascist dictatorship, or a parliament, or a communist dictatorship. Voice or no voice, the people can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders. That is easy. All you have to do is tell them they are being attacked and denounce the pacifists for lack of patriotism and exposing the country to danger. It works the same in any country."

For those who put pacifism into practice through nonviolent direct action, condemnation is nothing new. However, one never really gets used to criticism by family, friends and neighbors. Even well-meaning questions often come with underlying assumptions: Actions are ineffective; time in jail is wasted time; and it's better to contact a congressional representative and let the democratic process work.

My husband and I sometimes find it as difficult to speak up in our own hometown as it is to face off in confrontation with the might of the federal government—although both are necessary. Even after an action and its aftermath have passed, the witness affects our relationships with those closest to us. Often we struggle to avoid sounding defensive or self-righteous.

As a support person for the Silence Trident disarmament action, I've had a lot of explaining to do. I live in a rural region of South Dakota marked by both political and social conservatism. The couple thousand Mennonites in the area have paved the way for the pacifist position, but not necessarily the activist one, especially not one that carries a charge of destruction of federal property. Naturally, we lack the anonymity of an urban setting. Each person I encounter—at the store, the bank, at work—knows about Silence Trident, though most opinions go unspoken.

Although I personally found Michael and Bonnie's concrete message and strategy to be morally compelling as well as valid under the rule of law, I doubted my ability to convince my neighbors. To their credit and to my surprise, I found support from hundreds of people—some that disagreed with the politics, but

supported us personally, and some who agreed wholeheartedly and even bemoaned their own "lack of courage."

I hope that these reactions came from trust built on personal relationships. I knew that when Michael and I moved here 15 years ago, we were likely to be characterized as naïve misguided peaceniks. But we came to South Dakota armed with knowledge from some powerful traditions—an Anabaptist heritage, organizing skills from groups like the War Resisters League, and experience in Catholic Worker communities.

We had to synthesize what we had learned and then put it into practice in our particular locale. Over time, we gradually saw the power of transformation when we engaged in service to the wider community. We volunteered in small, decentralized projects with regular folks. We did it, not to spread our own agenda, which would have been disingenuous as well as transparent, but instead to join people in building a peaceful community. The ensuing personal relationships complement acts of resistance.

Michael and I participate in the arts, music, go to fund-raisers, and organize on local issues like limiting damage from corporate agriculture and promoting justice in the workplace. We care for the elderly, teach at the local school and provide health care. Above all, we learned that just staying put was most valued. When it is all said and done, our choice to

live long-term in rural America makes all the difference to our neighbors. We may always stay on the ideological margins; but we are not alienated.

So in this context we hang on to our commitment to refrain from killing no matter the cost—a tough sell even in the best of times. As Catholic Worker Ammon Henacy said, "Being a pacifist between wars is like being a vegetarian between meals." Now it really counts. So we search for ways to speak and act for justice. And the day-to-day work remains the same: to work at home to build community with people who are different from us. In the process, we are ourselves transformed and can continue to disarm our own hearts. Even if it turns ever so slowly, it's still a revolution.

I'll close with a quote from historian Howard Zinn, one which has sustained me through the waxing and waning of peace in our times: "I began to realize, no pitifully small picket line, no poorly attended meeting, no tossing out of an idea to an audience or even to an individual should be scorned as insignificant. The power of a bold idea uttered publicly in defiance of dominant opinion cannot be easily measured. Those special people who speak out in such a way as to shake up not only the self-assurance of their enemies, but the complacency of their friends, are precious catalysts for change."

Beth Preheim has spent the last several years doing support work for the Silence Trident Disarmament action. She and her husband Michael Sprong live in South Dakota.

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