

NUKEWATCH

PATHFINDER

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News & Information on Nuclear Weapons, Power, Waste & Nonviolent Resistance

'Not guilty'

Third jury acquittal in 15 months targets illegal weapons

By John LaForge

EDINA, Minnesota — Twice in one week, uranium weapons opponents won extraordinary legal victories last December when separate juries returned "not guilty" verdicts in cases of alleged trespass at Alliant Techsystems (ATK), the nation's No. 1 producer of armor-piercing "depleted" uranium (DU) munitions. In January, trespass charges against two additional groups of anti-DU activists were withdrawn by city prosecutors.

In an October 2003 jury trial which also focused on ATK's dirty bombs, 19 defendants were also found not guilty.

The acquittals are extremely rare in U.S. courts, which are heavily biased in favor of private commercial business interests. However, the argument that ATK's toxic and radioactive uranium weapons are outlawed by U.S. treaties and federal law is compelling and easily understood. So much so, that non-lawyers, presenting their defense without expert witnesses, have now won three jury trials in a row involving 27 activist defendants.

The eight participants in the two December '04 trials, myself among them, walked onto ATK's leased property last July during a series of weekly line-crossings at the company's Edina headquarters. A nine-year campaign of vigils and civil resistance by Alliant Action! and other groups has focused on ATK's manufacture of banned weapons.

ATK has been at the center of controversy for more than a decade because the company builds weapons that can't distinguish between combatants and civilians. DU is controversial around the world because of its heavy metal toxicity and emission of alpha radiation. The 1991 Gulf War left over 370 tons of DU littering Iraq and Kuwait. Over 170 tons were used in the 2003 bombardment and occupation.

Many of the nonviolent interventions at ATK involve activists demanding meetings with managers in an attempt to deliver legal warnings. The documents charge that ATK officials could face prosecution for their manufacture of indiscriminate and outlawed weapons. The precedent is postwar Germany where the leaders of I.G. Farben Corp. were tried and convicted at Nuremberg for their manufacture of Zyklon-B, the poison used in the gas chambers.

Farben's executives argued unsuccessfully that their gas had agricultural uses, and that they didn't know what the government was doing with it. In the case of ATK's uranium shells — made of radioactive waste and used only in weapons — the company's 13,700 workers can't even fall back on the discredited "civilian uses" defense.

Abolish DU
Depleted Uranium

Armor-piercing munitions made from nuclear waste, used against Iraq, Afghanistan and the Balkans

Deadly Uranium Weapons

Toxic Indiscriminate
Radioactive Illegal

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As Assistant Edina City Prosecutor Jessica Bierwerth told the jury during pre-holiday trial, "Alliant doesn't make anything you'll be giving your kids for Christmas."

ATK makes cluster bombs, land mines, rocket motors, machine guns and uranium-238 shells referred to as "depleted uranium," or DU, by the military and the Energy Department.

In Minnesota and some other states, trespass statutes provide that if a defendant can show they have a reasonable "claim of right" to be somewhere, even private property, then they can't be convicted of trespassing. To win the not guilty verdicts, we had to present a common-sense argument that cast "reasonable doubt" about whether we had a ~~claim of right~~ ^{claim of right} to be there. We had an appointment with company representatives.

*Collection Laka foundation
(Continued on page*

www.laka.org
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Health & Human Services Dept.: Medical X-rays Cause Cancer

WASHINGTON, DC – Low-dosage medical X-rays have for the first time ever been listed among 246 cancer-causing agents recognized by the federal government.

In its 11th edition of the "Report on Carcinogens," the National Toxicology Program (NTP) of the Department of Health and Human Services has listed medical X-rays, gamma radiation and neutrons as "known human carcinogens." In its press announcement of the newly expanded list, HHS said:

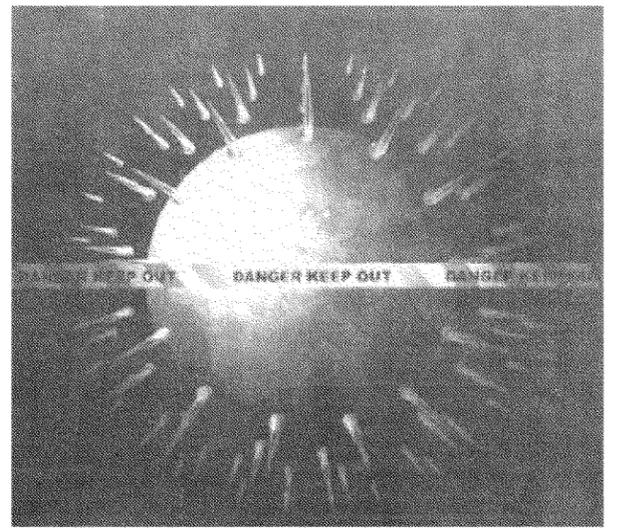
"X-radiation and gamma-radiation are listed in the report as 'known human carcinogens' because human studies show that exposure to these kinds of radiation causes many types of cancer including leukemia and cancers of the thyroid, breast and lung. The risk of developing cancers due to these forms of ionizing radiation depends to some extent on age at the time of exposure. Childhood exposure is linked to an increased risk for leukemia and thyroid cancer. Exposure during reproductive years increases the risk for breast cancer, and exposure later in life increases risk for lung cancer. Exposure to X-radiation and gamma radiation has also been shown to cause cancer of the salivary glands,

stomach, colon, bladder, ovaries, central nervous system and skin.

"Of the total worldwide exposure to X-radiation and gamma-radiation, 55 percent is from low-dose medical diagnosis such as bone, chest and dental X-rays, and 43 percent is from natural sources like radon. Other sources, such as industry, scientific research, military weapons testing, nuclear accidents and nuclear power generation, account for about 2 percent."

The Health Department's announcement comes after years of controversy over the danger of cancer from low doses of radiation. *USA Today* reported Dec. 31, 2002 that the director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Christopher Portier, had raised concerns about the increased use of Computed Tomography (CT) scans, fluoroscopy, breast X-rays in younger women, and medical X-rays exposing the public to increasing levels of radiation. CT scans were especially worrisome, because their use in adults and children has increased sevenfold in the past 10 years. A single CT scan equals 100 chest X-rays.

The full Report on Carcinogens, 11th Edition, is available at the NTP website: <<http://ntp.niehs.nih.gov>>



Graphic by Michael M. von Karkowsky

Send Help!

For the first time in many years, Nukewatch did not meet its fundraising goal in our winter appeal. In order to keep this non-profit peace and anti-nuclear organization alive, we need your financial support. Please send a contribution to Nukewatch today using the enclosed business reply envelope. Thanks!

U.S. Nukes Deployed Across Europe

Defying common sense and majority public opinion in Europe, the United States continues to deploy up to 480 nuclear weapons in six European states: England, Germany, Belgium, Netherlands, Italy and Turkey. The U.S. is the only country in the world that places nuclear warheads in other countries.

Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany and Italy belong to both NATO and the European Union (EU). They are non-nuclear states and yet they carry the burden of U.S. nuclear weapons. The U.S. warheads are all on free-falling H-bombs, so-called B-61s, designed to be dropped from fighter jets. They are U.S.-owned but European pilots are trained to use them, and in time of war the U.S. intends to hand control of the B-61s to the European pilots. The host countries are also members of the NATO Nuclear Planning Group and take part in deciding how these weapons might be targeted.

The *New York Times* said last Feb. 9 that, according to a new report by the Federation of American Scientists, U.S. and allied air forces "regularly rehearse nuclear bombing missions at training ranges in Europe." The FAS report blasted NATO's continued use of nuclear weapons in Europe "when the U.S. has thousands of long-range missiles that could hit any target in a matter of minutes."

Article I of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) obliges signatory states "not to transfer to any recipient whatsoever ... directly, or indirectly; and not in any way to assist, encourage, or induce any non-nuclear weapon state to manufacture or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons."

Article II uses nearly identical language to prohibit non-nuclear states from receiving nuclear weapons. The U.S. and the EU "platforms" all happen to be signatories to the NPT.

NATO's nuclear colonialism therefore appears to violate Articles I and II of the NPT. However, the U.S. and NATO argue that the Treaty does not forbid the deployment of nuclear warheads in countries that are non-nuclear weapon states. This argument is like arguing that the law does not specifically forbid killing someone with a meat axe.

NATO even contends that the NPT is not binding in times of war. This raises the question of what is meant by war. NATO now asserts the legitimate authority to use nuclear weapons against opponents armed with biological or chemical weapons.

The B-61s are militarily useless because they are both obsolete and illegal. NATO officials admit that their sole purpose is political. They are there to bolster the alliance's

policy of shared risks, roles and responsibilities and to maintain a U.S. nuclear presence in Europe. According to NATO's official Strategic Concept, "Nuclear forces based in Europe and committed to NATO provide an essential political and military link between the European and North American members of the Alliance." Other countries with nuclear ambitions could of course use exactly the same rationale and NATO would be the first to protest.

— *For Mother Earth, Belgium*

**The U.S. is now the only state to station nuclear weapons in other countries.*
Following is a list weapons in Europe today:**

RAF Lakenheath (England) A U.S. air force base in eastern England, Lakenheath is used to store between 66 and 110 nuclear weapons.....	110
Kleine Brogel (Belgium) The Belgian air force base at Kleine Brogel can store up to 20 U.S. nuclear weapons.....	20
Volkel (Netherlands) The Volkel air force base stores up to 20 U.S. nuclear weapons.....	20
Buchel (Germany) The German air force base at Buchel stores up to 20 U.S. nuclear weapons.	20
Ramstein (Germany) Ramstein, the largest U.S. military base in Germany, is used to train troops in the handling of nuclear weapons and can store up to 130 U.S. nuclear weapons.....	130**
Ghedi Torre (Italy) The air base can store up to 40 U.S. nuclear weapons.....	40
Aviano (Italy) The Aviano air base in northern Italy stores between 40 and 50 U.S. nuclear weapons.....	50
Incirlik (Turkey) The U.S. air base at Incirlik in central Turkey stores up to 90 U.S. nuclear weapons.....	90
TOTAL _____	480

* Sources: Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, Nov./Dec. 2004, p.76; New York Times, Feb. 9, 2005; For Mother Earth. For a clickable map see: <<http://www.abolition2000europe.org/nukes.php>>

**Twenty of these may have been returned to the U.S.

'Not Guilty'

(Continued from cover)

In 1997, seventy-nine people were found not guilty when they argued that ATK's manufacture of landmines also violated international law and that the act of drawing attention to the company's conduct didn't involve criminal intent.

Jack Nordby, the Hennepin County judge who presided in the 1997 case, also presided over a December trial. Judge Nordby's rulings on the admissibility of certain evidence allowed us to sow "reasonable doubt" in the minds of the jury regarding our intent. For example, the jury was able to review video tape of birth abnormalities, possibly caused by uranium poisoning, filmed by defendant Mike Miles inside Iraqi children's hospitals.

DU Munitions Fail Tests of Lawful Weaponry

Steve Clemens of Minneapolis, a self-taught international law expert who was part of the December 10 trial group, wrote of his acquittal, "We founded our defense arguments on the work of international law experts like Karen Parker, represented ourselves without lawyers, and testified that DU clearly fails four legal tests, any one of which would make the weapons illegal."

Dr. Parker's four-point test of a weapon's legal status is based on the laws of war found in binding international treaties. The defendants in both cases were allowed to present to the juries copies of Article VI of the U.S. Constitution — "the supremacy clause" — which establishes treaties ratified by the Senate as "the supreme law of the land."

Taken together, the Geneva Conventions, the Hague Regulations and the Nuremberg Charter form the basis of Dr. Parker's test: 1) Weapons must be limited to the war zone — DU, when it burns through hard targets, aerosolizes into radioactive particles which can be spread by the wind for miles (the territorial test);

2) Weapons must not continue to kill long after a war has ended — DU has a radioactive half-life of 4.5 billion years and continues to impact the civilian population for eons (the temporal test);

3) Weapons must not be unduly inhumane — the cancer, birth defects and genetic damage linked to the inhalation or ingestion of radioactive DU particles clearly impact both combatants and civilians (the humaneness test); and

4) Weapons may not cause long-term damage to the natural environment — DU particles can contaminate the air, water and soil indefinitely, unless they are removed, permanently secured and guarded in protective storage facilities (the environmental test).

Contaminated DU Site Evaluated for Cleanup

BOSTON — A site near Concord, Mass., that was used to research and manufacture low-level radioactive substances, including depleted uranium, is being excavated to study contamination and clean-up options. As many as 60 drums of waste will be dug up, the contents investigated and properly secured, and the soil around the drums sampled for contamination. Once the contents of the drums are confirmed, various disposal methods will be evaluated.

From 1958 to the present, operators at the site, Nuclear Metals, Inc., used depleted uranium, beryllium and other hazardous substances. Depleted uranium munitions were manufactured there from the 1970's to 1999. From 1958 to 1985, wastes contaminated with depleted uranium were disposed of in an unlined earthen basin.

The cleanup is part of a June 2003 agreement between the Environmental Protection Agency and Nuclear Metals. The responsible parties will pay for the study, which will cost between \$8 and \$10 million. The site was added to the list of the country's most hazardous waste sites, called Superfund, in 2001.

— EPA Press Releases, Dec. 7, 2004

Rep. Markey: New Study Suggests Infant Mortality Associated With Radiation From Reactors

U.S. Representative Questions NRC on Health Risks of Living Near Reactors

Washington, DC — Rep. Edward Markey, D-Massachusetts, a senior member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, the panel which oversees nuclear power regulation, released a letter Feb. 18, 2005 he sent to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regarding health risks for communities close to nuclear reactors. A new study by Dr. Ernest Sternglass of the University of Pittsburgh suggests that infant mortality increased significantly in 2002, after operating capacity at 104 nuclear power stations reached its highest level.

"The nuclear industry and the NRC have automatically dismissed all studies that link increased cancer risk to exposure to low levels of radiation," Rep. Markey said. "The reality is that the data suggest that we should be taking this potential linkage much more seriously."

Rep. Markey's letter to the NRC was motivated by the ordeals of the Sauer family, former residents of Minooka, Illinois, which is located close to the three Dresden power reactors. The family recently relocated because of concerns about the health impacts associated with living near the Dresden site, which were heightened because of their daughter's brain cancer.

In June 2003, the NRC was presented with data obtained from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) that indicate that in Grundy County between 1995-99, the infant mortality rate doubled and there has been a nearly 400% increase in pediatric cancer. In the same period, there has

been a 38% increase in cancer among those aged 28-44 years old (while the same statistic for all of Illinois decreased by 8%). Moreover, other statistics show that the incidence of leukemia was 50% higher in men and 100% higher in women in Grundy County than it was in the rest of Illinois. In its responses to the Sauers, NRC personnel ignored these statistics and instead cited a 1990 National Cancer Institute study entitled "Cancer in Populations Living Near Nuclear Facilities," which has numerous flaws in design, since, as the authors themselves stated, the limitations in the study were accepted so that, "it could be completed in a time frame that was relatively short for a survey of such magnitude."

In addition to the Sauer case, Rep. Markey's office has been made aware of additional studies and data:

- On Feb. 18, Dr. Ernest Sternglass released data at the American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting in Washington, DC indicating a spike in infant mortality that occurred in 2002, coming after operating capacity at 104 U.S. reactors reached its highest levels, and increased at the highest rate, between 1997 and 2001. His work also refers to a scientific paper indicating that low level radiation exposure during pregnancy is directly related to low birth weight which — in addition to infant mortality — has been implicated in numerous chronic diseases, including autism, asthma, cognitive dysfunction, rheumatoid arthritis, anemia, obesity, heart disease and cancer.

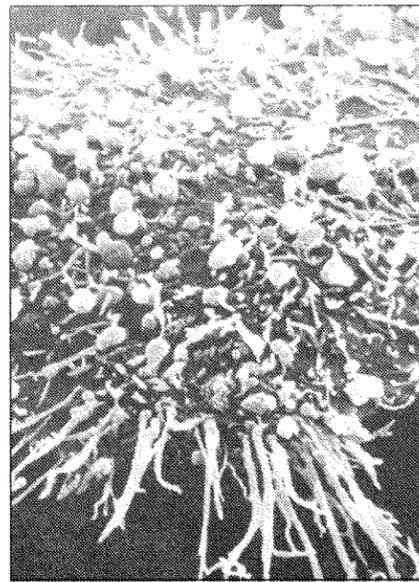
- A 2003 article by Joseph Mangano *et al* in *Archives of Environmental Health* found elevated levels of childhood cancers in populations living within 30 miles of nuclear

reactors between 1988-1997. For example, in Plymouth County, Mass. (near the Pilgrim Power reactor), there was found to be a 14.6 percent increase in the numbers of childhood cancers as compared to the rest of the country. And in Essex County, Mass.

and Rockingham County, New Hampshire (near the Seabrook Power reactor), there was found to be a 24.8% increase in the number of childhood cancer mortalities.

Rep. Markey's letter concluded, "The NRC needs to study — not summarily dismiss — the connection between serious health risks and radiation released from nuclear reactors. I am urging the agency to investigate these risks and I will continue to closely monitor the NRC's progress."

For a copy of Rep. Markey's letter to the NRC please see www.house.gov/markey



A magnified breast-cancer cell. (Source: Time, May 28, 2001)

Tsunami Hit Reactor Site 61 Dead, 300 Missing

By John LaForge

"All governments lie. Nothing they say should be believed."
— I.F. Stone

CHENNAI, India — The Kalpakkam power reactor and uranium reprocessing complex on India's southeast coast was slammed by the Dec. 26 tsunami. "Protection walls on the seashore simply disappeared without a trace," the Indo-Asian News Service (IANS) reported.

India's National Security Advisor, J.N. Dixit, acknowledged from New Delhi that 61 people, including 31 reactor site workers, died from the crushing water. According to the government, one reactor was already shut off, and the other was shut down immediately when its cooling water intake ducts were overwhelmed. The second power reactor was restarted seven days after the disaster.

In a Jan. 2 story for the news service *Truthout.org*, J. Sri Raman wrote, "At least 60 lives were reported lost in the employees' township and some 250 in the rest of the area. The toll, unofficially much higher, has kept mounting since then."

Many of the victims were simply carried away by giant waves from inside the nearly 500 houses destroyed in the sprawling town. According to the South Asian Community Center for Education and Research more than 1,000 houses were damaged at Kalpakkam.

United Press International (UPI) also reported the allegation by the reactor's Casual Contract Laborers' Federation that 300 workers were missing from the Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor site, a part of the Kalpakkam facility whose foundation pit was flooded by the tsunami.

Not many workers are willing to return to the nuclear reactor site, fearing it may not be safe, UPI's Harbaksh Singh Nanda wrote Jan. 25. Workers' unions at Kalpakkam plan to file a law suit charging there is "a serious lack of qualified technical personnel at critical positions of the ... reactors" and that the shortage compromises the safety of the reactors and the public, IANS reported.

Spin control in high gear

Soon after the inundation, government authorities hastily got their story together, and a Dec. 28 wire report from the capitol included the standard nuclear power lullaby, "Allaying fears, the government today said that the nuclear power plant in Kalpakkam in [the state of] Tamil Nadu was 'safe' in the wake of the tsunami disaster and there was no threat of radiation."

The gravity of the accident was evident from the fact that the government's highest officials held an emergency meeting December 28, presided over by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh himself.

National Security Advisor Dixit immediately emerged from the meeting and told reporters, "There has been inaccurate speculation on the effect of tsunami tidal waves on Kalpakkam. The basic facilities of the reactor are safe and unaffected in any manner. Both units are safe and there is no danger of any radiation." Dixit added that the Prime Minister has asked for daily briefings on the situation.

Raman's *Truthout* report notes that, significantly, not a word was said about the reprocessing site and its central waste management facility in particular, or the test reactor, "the most crucially radioactivity-linked components of the complex. India's nuclear establishment is not known for innocent or accidental omissions in statements of this kind."

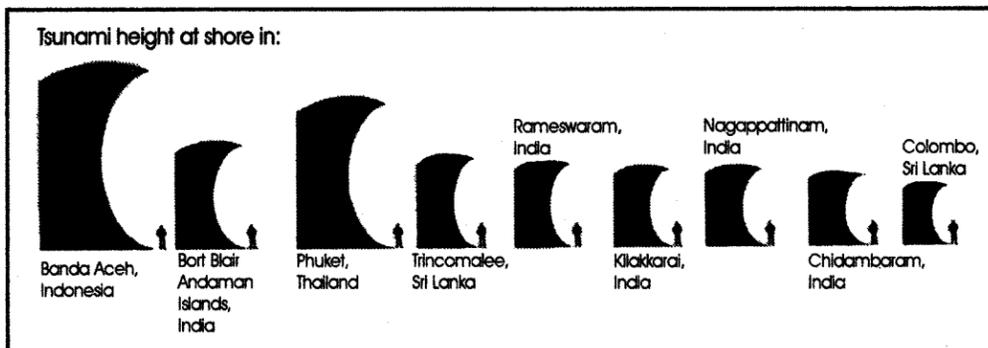
The potential for a radiation disaster at Kalpakkam is enormous because the facility includes two pressurized heavy water reactors and a test reactor, a waste reprocessing facility, an under-construction prototype fast breeder reactor or PFBR, and a military tritium extraction program.

Tritium is radioactive hydrogen, or "H," used in thermonuclear weapons. Paul Gunter of the Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS) in Washington reports that Kalpakkam "put the 'H' in India's H-bomb."

Uranium reprocessing and tritium production — always done in secret for the military — are notoriously dirty engineering problems. They involve gigantic, mechanically remote handling of waste fuel that is too radioactive to manipulate manually. The reprocessing and the tritium extraction all have to be done underneath millions of gallons of cooling water, which in turn becomes highly contaminated waste.

Both heavy water reactors are relatively small: 170 and 220 megawatts, compared to Wisconsin's pair of 520 MeW reactors at Point Beach on Lake Michigan.

Whether the official declaration of "allaying fears" worked to dampen the panic in the state of Tamil Nadu is very hard to confirm. As *Truthout's* Raman noted skeptically, "The [government's] incomplete and almost instantaneous post-tsunami report preemptorily ruled out any damage to



The graphic above illustrates the height of the tsunami in various locations as it struck land. (Source: *New York Times*)

the complex. Even more emphatically, it denied any radioactive leak. However, the official report acknowledged the havoc in the entire Kalpakkam area."

The UPI's Jan. 25 report said, "Although India claims that its nuclear reactors ... withstood the tsunami lashes, workers and local residents around the Kalpakkam nuclear facility are feeling insecure and unsafe after the facility was deluged."

Dozens of questions are left unanswered by the minister's announcement. Paul Gunter said he wanted to know, "Were the reactors inundated? Was there a loss of power to the site that would shutdown heat removal from the extremely hot waste fuel? Was there radioactive waste stored above ground that was smashed and dispersed?"

Kalpakkam's projects involve tons of solid radioactive waste fuel and millions of gallons of liquid wastes. Because of secretive nuclear weapons programs on site, government assurances that there is "no danger" are especially unreliable.

As J. Sri Raman noted in his report, "No one can easily dent the disaster-proof secrecy that surrounds any nuclear program. We have to wait for a full report on the damage. And, we may only wait in vain."

NRC Tightens Security Rules for Frequently Stolen Portable Radioactive Gauges

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is getting tough, slamming a nuclear barn door after the radiation has escaped.

The agency is tightening its regulation of portable gauges that contain radioactive cesium and Americium. The gauges are typically used to test the density and moisture content at construction sites.

Because a record number of the gauges have been lost or stolen from construction sites, the NRC has established the tighter controls.

The new regulation will require two separate lock systems, or "independent physical controls" for the gauges when they are not in use or under constant surveillance by the license holder.

The NRC says there are about 22,000 to 25,000 of these gauges in use in the United States. The gauges are encased in stainless steel and called "sealed sources."

However, the companies that sell them also sell "leak test kits" as required by law.

The NRC's Regulatory Analysis (RA) for the rule change says that a typical gauge contains 8 to 10 millicuries of cesium-137 that produces gamma radiation, and 40 to 50 millicuries of americium-241 a "neutron source." The gamma radiation is for measuring density, and the neutron radiation measures moisture content.

The NRC said in its January 15 press release that about 50 such gauges are reported stolen each year, with the

recovery rate less than 50 percent. The RA acknowledges that 450 gauges were stolen since 1990.

The NRC said that the missing gauges pose "a potential radiation hazard," and "environmental concern if abandoned, inadvertently recycled or used inappropriately." Indeed, neutrons are among the most biologically destructive of the fission products that come out of nuclear reactors.

Even with over 25 of these gauges going missing every year, the NRC sees no pattern to the slippage that might suggest 'dirty bomb' skullduggery. The NRC is increasing this security requirement based on health and safety considerations rather than common defense and security concerns.

Many of the gauges are produced by Troxler Inc., in North Carolina, which calls itself the leader in construction test equipment. Troxler's web site explains how users of its gauges can conduct their own leak tests. Such tests are required every 6 months.

A two-control system might be a locked storage facility inside a separate secured area in a warehouse, or inside a locked van and secured to the vehicle with a steel cable. NRC-approved safe storage in a pickup truck — from which most of the stolen gauges were taken — include a locked, non-removable box and further securing the box with a steel cable or chain. That oughta do it!

Menacing Reactors

Reactor Revival Budget

WASHINGTON — In the midst of proposed federal budget cuts to vital social and educational programs, renewable energy programs, and environmental cleanup of radioactive sites, the Bush administration is pushing an increase in funds for nuclear reactor development and technologies. In the proposed Fiscal Year 2006 budget, the DOE's Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology division allotment is \$511, a \$25 million increase over last year's amount. A short breakdown includes the following:

- \$70 million for the "Advanced fuel cycle initiative," to promote reprocessing of high-level radioactive waste. Reprocessing results in large-scale liquid and gaseous releases to air, water and soil.
- \$56 million for "Nuclear Power 2010" to pave the way for site permits and construction and operating licenses for the first new reactors in three decades.
- \$45 million for the Generation IV nuclear energy systems initiative — research and development of an "advanced" or "next-generation" nuclear reactor.
- \$24 million for "university reactor infrastructure and education assistance," or outreach to 35 universities to encourage the next generation of nuclear engineers.
- \$20 million, a 124 percent increase, for the "nuclear hydrogen initiative," related to the \$1.1 billion hydrogen-generating reactor that was proposed in last year's energy bill. The reactor would be built at DOE's Idaho National Environmental Engineering Lab, completely at taxpayer expense.

— *Nuclear Information and Resource Service*, Washington DC, February 9, 2005

Cracking Reactors in Britain

LONDON — British Energy could be forced to close some of its aging nuclear reactors due to cracking inside the core. The problem is centered on the splitting of graphite bricks which are used to slow the speed of neutrons. All eight of the company's advanced gas cooled reactors, or AGRs, are affected by the cracking. Such a move would throw Britain's energy supply into disarray because British Energy generates more than 20 percent of the country's electricity.

— *The Guardian*, Dec. 2, 2004

China Heads Toward Reactor Boom

DAYA BAY, China — The demand for electricity in China is growing rapidly, and the country has embarked on an ambitious nuclear energy program to keep up with the demand. China currently has eight nuclear reactors in operation, supplying less than 2 percent of its energy. The plan is to build two reactors a year between now and 2020. In five years, planners predict a quadrupling of nuclear output to 16 billion kilowatt hours.

"We don't have a very good plan for dealing with spent fuel and we don't have very good emergency plans for dealing with catastrophe," said Wang Yi, a nuclear energy expert at

the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing. Despite the risks, there is little opposition. The public, currently dealing with power cutbacks and outages in major cities, is likely to support any effort that produces more electricity. Energy demand is growing so fast, however, that even if the national plan is fulfilled by 2020, nuclear power would still contribute less than 4 percent of the country's electricity.

— *New York Times*, January 15, 2005



New Study Finds 40 Percent Cancer Increase in Belarus

MINSK, Belarus — In November 2004, the *Swiss Medical Weekly* published findings by researchers at the Clinical Institute of Radiation Medicine and Endocrinology Research in Minsk, Belarus. The findings show that between 1990 and 2000, cancer rates rose by 40 percent in Belarus. The researchers compared the cancer rates before the Chernobyl catastrophe of April 1986 with rates after the accident. Belarus has had a national Cancer Registry since 1973.

Dr. Chris Busby of the Low Level Radiation Campaign, a British based organization that researches the effects of low-level radiation, predicted in 2001 that cancer would increase by 125 percent over the lifetimes of the exposed population. This stands in stark contrast to the prediction of the United Nations, which in 2000 made the following statement, "Apart from the substantial increase in thyroid cancer after childhood exposure observed in Belarus, the

unexpectedly shifted speed. The pumps increase the rate at which water flows through the reactor to increase the efficiency and power level.

- **Jan. 24, Fermi II Nuclear Power station, Newport, Michigan:** The reactor was shut down manually when water began leaking into the containment vessel at a rate of about 50 gallons per minute.
- **Jan. 26, Davis-Besse Nuclear Station, Oak Harbor, Ohio:** Ice buildup inside the reactor's cooling tower damaged some tiles that slow the rate of water flow and help cool the water. The reactor was already shut down for routine maintenance when the damage occurred. Davis-Besse is the site of the most extensive corrosion ever found at a U.S. nuclear reactor.
- **Feb. 3, Fermi II:** Fermi II's restart was halted when operators detected another leak in the plant's radioactive containment area. The site operator, Detroit Edison, shut down the reactor in order to fix the leak and begin the restart process. The reactor was operating at 12 percent capacity when the steam leak was discovered.
- **Feb. 7, Fermi II:** A stuck steam drain isolation valve caused a radiation release inside the containment building. The problem occurred while the reactor was at 90 percent capacity, on its second attempt to achieve full power since it was shutdown Jan. 24 due to a leak.
- **Feb. 14, San Onofre:** Unit 2 was shut down due to a faulty water valve. It was later discovered that the valve was missing some parts. The valve helps direct water to cool various pumps connected to the reactor.
- **Feb. 20, Kewaunee Nuclear Power Station, Kewaunee, Wisc.:** The reactor was shut down after workers detected a possible weakness in the auxiliary feed-water system.

Russian Federation and Ukraine there is no evidence of a major public health impact related to ionizing radiation 14 years after the Chernobyl accident. No increases in overall cancer incidence or mortality that could be associated with radiation exposure have been observed.... Generally positive prospects for the future health of most individuals should prevail." (U.N. Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation)

— Low Level Radiation Campaign, Britain, Dec. 1, 2004

Nuclear Power Boosts: A Dangerous Move for Aging Reactors

BRATTLEBORO, VT — As part of the industry's push to squeeze more electricity out of aging nuclear reactors, the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station has asked the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for permission to boost the reactor's power by 20 percent. Up until 1998, requests for power boosts were relatively small, increasing power by less than 6 or 7 percent. Since that time, however, the NRC has approved 12 power boosts above that level, and it is expected to rule on 15 more requests in the next four years.

While so far the boosts have been granted with little controversy, nuclear safety advocates and the state of Vermont itself have expressed concern about the Vermont Yankee request. "These plants were designed for 40 years, and we've seen indications the older they get, the more problems they have," said Paul Blanch, a nuclear engineer and whistleblower who revealed major safety lapses at Connecticut's Millstone plant in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Blanch is consulting the New England Coalition on Nuclear Pollution, a Brattleboro antinuclear group, on this issue.

By applying for NRC permission for existing units to work harder and longer, owners have been able to increase the output of the nation's 103 decaying systems the equivalent of 24 new reactors.

A team of NRC inspectors, who assessed the safety of Vermont Yankee with regard to the power boost, found eight problems at the reactor that were described as having "very low safety significance." Ray Shadis, of the New England Coalition, questioned the report. "Our suspicion is that this report is being finessed, bent, folded, stapled and mutilated in order to fit the agenda of giving the licensee whatever it wants." The NRC will make a final decision in the coming months.

— *Brattleboro Reformer*, Nov. 7, 2004; *Vermont Guardian*, Dec. 17, 2004; *Boston Globe*, Oct. 12, 2004.

Alaskan Town Possible Site for Mini Nuclear Reactor Experiment

GALENA, Alaska — This small Alaskan town, population 700, could become the site of an experimental mini nuclear power reactor. On Feb. 1, local community leaders met with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and representatives of Toshiba, initiators of the project who will build the reactor. Approval of the plan would give Toshiba an opportunity to test its new reactor design, which they call 4S for "super safe, small and simple." It will generate about 10 megawatts of power, roughly one percent of a typical reactor's capacity.

Locals in Galena, an Athabaskan village, 540 miles northwest of Anchorage on the Yukon River, seem to welcome the plan. They have to pay three times the national average for their diesel generated electricity. An air force base uses most of the town's electricity. Neighboring villages are not as eager to support the project. One tribe, part of the Yukon River Intertribal Watershed Council, an organization of 58 tribal governments, is trying to enact a ban on transportation of radioactive material on the river, which would doom the plan. Antinuclear activists point out that it is no coincidence that Toshiba has chosen a remote, sparsely inhabited region, where it is more likely to get a license.

— *New York Times*, Feb. 3 & *New Scientist*, Feb. 15, 2005

Reactor Accidents and Shutdowns

As U.S. nuclear reactors approach the end of an initial 40 year period during which they are permitted to operate, the aging dinosaurs are plagued with more problems. The past few months have seen leaks, cracks and other malfunctions resulting in shutdowns at reactors throughout the country. Below is an abridged chronological list of shutdowns and other incidents.

- **November, San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Calif.:** Cracks were discovered in the water heater of Unit 3 during a routine 55 day refueling that began on Sept. 26. The heaters keep the reactor's coolant at a constant 2,200 pounds per square inch and make sure the water inside the core does not boil. It will cost nearly \$7 million to replace the heaters. The reactor's two steam generators are also cracking, forcing plant officials to propose replacing them at an estimated cost of \$600 million.
- **Dec. 6, V.C. Summer Nuclear Reactor, Jenkinsville, Georgia:** The unit was shutdown when a steam leak was discovered by a reactor worker.
- **Dec. 3, Salem Nuclear Generating Station, Salem, N.J.:** The two Salem reactors were shut down due to an oil spill from a damaged tanker on the Delaware River. The oil had spread dangerously close to the unit's water intake valves. On Dec. 7, Salem 1 sprang a leak from a heat exchanger. Workers stopped the leak by tightening some seals on the equipment.
- The station's Hope Creek reactor was shut down October 10, 2004 when a pipe broke and radioactive steam burst into the turbine building. While the unit was off-line, engineers discovered problems with the "B" recirculation pump. Despite controversy surrounding the deteriorating pump, Hope Creek officials chose to bring the reactor back on-line.
- **Jan. 6, Perry Nuclear Power Reactor, Perry, Ohio:** The unit was shut down after two recirculation pumps

Fact sheet now available:

Deadly Deceit: The Myths and Truths of Nuclear Power

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Join the movement to oppose new nuclear reactors! Help spread the truth about nuclear energy production.

Contact Nukewatch if you are interested in receiving a copy of this fact sheet for reproduction.

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Missile Defense Fails Again

Michelle Ciarrocca, Arms Trade Resource Center
Updated by Molly Mechtenberg-Berrigan

On February 13, the Bush administration's missile defense system suffered its third straight failure when an interceptor rocket shut down on the launch pad, leaving the target rocket to crash in the Pacific Ocean. The interceptor missile was to hit a mock ICBM fired from Kodiak, Alaska. Fifteen minutes after the target launch, the interceptor was supposed to go up from the Marshall Islands, but was a dud. The \$85 million flop followed a similar Dec. 15 failure. In that test, the target missile launched but the interceptor did not.

The recent tests were the first in two years. In December 2002, the interceptor failed to separate from its booster rocket, missing its target by hundreds of miles. Officials were quick to brush that failure off, saying the malfunction had nothing to do with the advanced missile technology. Missile Defense Agency spokesman Richard Lehner claimed that separating boosters from their payloads is something the U.S. has been doing successfully for 50 years. However, the same problem occurred during an intercept test in July 2000.

In the nine tests of the ground-based system, it has failed four times and serious technical challenges remain. No test has been launched in anything but ideal weather and none has worked at night. In addition to the recent test failures and the inability to test the actual interceptors with the overall system, necessary radar and satellite networks are not complete. The Pentagon's Missile Defense Agency has demonstrated no capability to distinguish realistic decoys from warheads in the weightless environment of space, an essential requirement for the success of ground- and sea-based elements of the system. A General Accounting Office report in April 2004 notes, "testing in 2003 did little to demonstrate the predicted effectiveness of the system's capability to defeat ballistic missiles..." The report continues, "none of the components of the defensive capability have yet to be flight tested in their fielded configuration."

Pentagon Budget Requests for 2006

The Bush administration is requesting \$419.3 billion for the Pentagon in Fiscal Year 2006, which begins Oct. 1, 2005. This 4.8 percent increase does not include funding for nuclear weapons activities of the Department of Energy, nor the costs of ongoing military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Pentagon continues to fund military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan through special supplemental spending packages. It received \$64 billion in 2003; \$66 billion in 2004; and \$25 billion so far in 2005. The administration has requested an additional \$75 billion for the remainder of 2005. The request does not come without criticism. "Congress cannot continue to write blank checks," stated a coalition of 35 moderate and conservative Democrats.

\$8.8 billion is requested for missile defense in FY '06. Missile defense continues to receive more funding than any other weapons program in the annual Pentagon budget. This total does not include \$757 million for the SBIRS-High satellite program.

Other notable items requested in the FY '06 budget include a \$2.6 billion request for the purchase of one SSN "Virginia" class nuclear attack submarine; \$5 billion for the continued development of the F-25 Joint Strike Fighter and \$4.3 billion for 25 F/A 22 "Raptor" fighters; a 3.1 percent increase in base pay, which has risen 25 percent since 2001; and \$9.5 billion for activities related to homeland security.

Department of Energy Budget Requests for FY '06

While the total DOE budget decreased roughly 2 percent from last year, funding for the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) rose by \$233 million. Key funding requests include:

- The nuclear nonproliferation budget request increased by 15.1 percent. The bulk of this money would go to eliminating weapons-grade plutonium production in Russia.
- \$348 million is requested for life extension programs for the B61, W76 and W80 warheads.
- \$9.4 million for the "Reliable Replacement Warhead," a program envisioned by the NNSA as culminating in the "full-scale engineering development" of new prototype warheads.
- The administration is reducing support for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization. The request of \$14.35 million is a 25 percent reduction in the U.S. annual contribution to the organization.
- Despite the cancellation of funding for the Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator in Congress last year, the administration is once again requesting funds to "study" the weapon. Four million is requested in the DOE budget; another \$4.5 million is requested in the Air Force budget.

Test results notwithstanding, missile defense remains a central tenet of Bush II's national security strategy. Early on, Bush directed the Pentagon to begin fielding initial missile defense capabilities in 2004 - 2005. According to the Pentagon, the initial system will have "limited capability" and will be built at Ft. Greely, Alaska, which was previously designated as a site for testing purposes. Six interceptors have been installed, and another 10 interceptors could be added in 2005. The Pentagon says it will be employing an "evolutionary approach to the development of missile defenses over time," and it envisions a layered system comprising ground-based and sea-based interceptors alongside upgraded versions of the short-range Patriot missile.

Even before the added spending proposed by the Bush administration is taken into account, missile defense is already one of the most expensive military programs in history. The Pentagon has spent close to \$100 billion on missile defense projects since President Reagan's 1983 "Star Wars" speech. The last budget submitted by the Clinton administration allocated \$4.8 billion for missile defense. Bush has requested \$10.2 billion for the project in his 2005 fiscal year budget, and another \$50 billion is expected to be spent over the next five years to continue development and testing. Despite Bush's more than 100 percent increase in funding, the resulting multilayered system is no more workable than previous systems.

Meanwhile, in February, the government of Canada decided that it will refuse to participate with the Pentagon in the planned missile defense system. After the test failure in December, Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin said that he did not believe the U.S. ballistic missile shield would succeed in shooting down incoming missiles. The decision means that Canada will not put any money into building the missile shield and it will not allow the U.S. to station interceptors, underground cables or scattered warning stations on Canadian territory.

- Once again, there is a budget request to increase the state of readiness at the Nevada Test Site to an 18 month posture. Despite Congress' discouragement last year regarding a new Modern Pit Facility, the administration is pushing for a new building with a budget request of \$7.68 million. The administration envisions a capacity to produce around 125 pits per year.

StratCom Told to Foil WMD Using WMD

By Jerry Mechtenberg-Berrigan

In early February, the Pentagon ordered the U.S. Strategic Command, or StratCom, to plot military options to the alleged threat posed by weapons of mass destruction (WMD) in the hands of terrorist groups or rogue states. The directive came amid the rhetorical firestorm Washington is whipping up regarding Iran's nuclear reactor program.

StratCom, at Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha, Nebraska, has orchestrated most of the U.S. nuclear warfighting apparatus since the 1950s. Since 2001, the Pentagon has centralized many other operations at StratCom, including space warfare and missile defense.

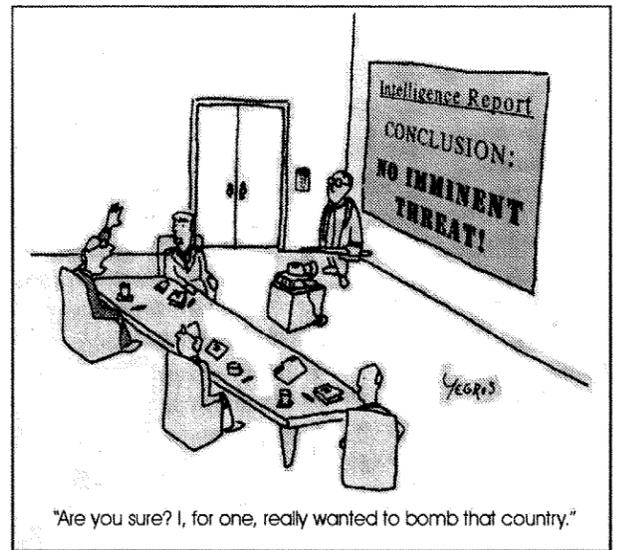
The new StratCom office will assess what the military must do to "dissuade, deter and prevent" nations or groups from acquiring WMD, and the base becomes the "single DOD focal point to integrate and synchronize" a violent U.S. response, according to the February memo by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

Since 9/11, the Bush administration has repeatedly presented to the American people a scenario wherein a hostile state or terrorist group attacks the United States with WMD. In 2003, the Administration fabricated evidence that former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein possessed weapons of mass destruction as a pretext for the U.S.-led invasion.

Nebraska Senator Ben Nelson said that the additional mission "puts our community on the front lines in support of the war on terror."

Indeed, weapons of mass destruction are as nebulous an enemy as "terror" itself. WMDs are difficult to get at militarily because they have no signature and are easy to disperse or hide, said Greg Mello of the Los Alamos Study Group. "The Bush administration looks to military options, [but] the best way to deal with the threat is diplomatically, by the use of cooperative security agreements, economic incentives and disincentives, and the rule of law."

While StratCom's leader, Marine Corps General James Cartwright, deals with the details of reorganizing Strategic Command to accommodate the new mission, the Bush administration continues to lay the ideological groundwork for an unprovoked attack against Iran. If and when such an attack takes place, it will have been conceived at StratCom.



Reprinted from the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists

Redesigning the Bomb

By Molly Mechtenberg-Berrigan

There is no doubt about it — the Bush administration loves the Bomb. Whether advancing "mini-nukes" and "bunker busters," proposing a new "modern pit facility" to build hundreds more triggers for nuclear warheads, or spending millions of dollars refurbishing and maintaining the current arsenal, the Bush administration has consistently backed the Bomb. Therefore, it is no great surprise that the nation's three nuclear weapons laboratories have been quietly commissioned by the administration to design new nuclear bombs.

In February, the *New York Times* reported that scientists at the three weapons labs, Los Alamos, Livermore and Sandia, have begun designing a new generation of nuclear arms to replace the existing stockpile. The bombs are meant to be sturdier, more reliable and longer-lasting. "The goal," says National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) policy planning director John R. Harvey, "is to see if we can make smarter, cheaper and more easily manufactured designs that we can readily certify as safe and reliable for the indefinite future — and do so without nuclear testing."

According to the Pentagon, the current arsenal of 10,000 warheads is getting too old to be dependable. The U.S., in accordance with the international treaty banning the testing of nuclear weapons, has prevented the NNSA from assessing the reliability of the existing stockpile since 1992. However, the NNSA controls the debate on the aging effects of nuclear weapons. Of particular concern is the aging of plutonium-239, the core isotope used in nuclear bombs. In December 2000, Raymond Jeanios, professor of geophysics at UC Berkeley, published an article entitled "Science-Based Stockpile Stewardship" in *Physics Today*. In the article he says, "Pu [plutonium] exhibits good crystalline order even after decades of aging... Pu samples not only retain long-range order but actually get closer to the idea crystal structure with increasing age... The high explosive used in U.S. weapons has been found to improve systematically with age in key measures of performance.... Indeed, there is now consensus among specialists that the Pu pits in the U.S. stockpile are stable over periods of at least 50-60 years, with the most recent studies suggesting a far longer period."

While voices outside the industry contend that the current arsenal is perfectly functional, government nuclear weapons experts maintain that it would be cheaper to design replacement warheads. The fundamental shift in design to larger and more robust warheads reverts to the older style of nuclear explosives, bombs which the *NY Times* calls "huge and trustworthy."

The new program would start small, with fewer than 100 full- and part-time designers and other experts and a \$9 million budget. The NNSA's Dr. Harvey explains that innovative ideas will be explored, such as using more uranium than plutonium, and seeking easier manufacturing techniques and avoiding hazardous and hard-to-find materials. The likelihood that such bombs can be developed without a return to testing is doubtful and even Dr. Harvey admits that "there's no guarantees in this business" [sic]. The Bush administration's budget request to increase the state of readiness at the Nevada Test Site hints at a the possible resumption of nuclear testing.

With or without testing, the program risks the start of a new arms race. The world is currently tiptoeing delicately around the issue of nuclear weapons, and a move to build new nukes on the part of the U.S. would be seen as aggressive and hypocritical. However, it appears that the Bush administration has taken on the project with the religious zeal that it demonstrates in almost everything it does. "What we're looking at now is a long-term vision," Dr. Harvey explains. "We're trying to flesh this out and understand the path we need to be on, and to work with Congress to get a consensus."

NUCLEAR SHORTS

Nuclear Workers' Comp

WASHINGTON In October, Congress voted to move control of the Department of Energy's (DOE) nuclear worker compensation program to the Labor Department. The DOE squandered nearly \$100 million on the program in the past four years while handing out benefits to only 100 of the 25,000 claimants who filed.

The hand over of the program will likely speed the process by which thousands of survivors of poisoned nuclear weapons workers should receive lump-sum payments of \$125,000. Workers who are still living will have to wait to receive checks until compensation details are worked out. However, all DOE cases will be reviewed by the Labor Department, including those deemed ineligible. Congress also decided that the federal government, not contractors who ran the nuclear weapons sites, must pay the bills.

In other nuclear compensation news, the Bikini Islanders who were forced into exile by U.S. nuclear tests are benefiting from international scuba diving expeditions that are exploring the fleet of World War II vessels lying on the seabed. The Bikini Atoll dive program raised approximately \$200,000 this past year. Half of the money is paid directly to 3,470 people from Bikini. The other half is used to provide supplemental food for displaced islanders living nearby. The 1946 bomb tests sent more than a dozen warships and submarines to the bottom of the 170-foot lagoon, including the aircraft carrier the *USS Saratoga*. — *Agence France-Presse*, Dec. 5, 2004; AP, Jan. 11, 2005

U.S. Nuclear Sub Runs Aground, Again

WASHINGTON — One crew member was killed and 24 injured when the nuclear powered fast attack submarine *USS San Francisco* ran aground Jan. 8, 350 miles south of Guam. The sub was traveling at high speed, 35 mph, en route to Australia, when its nose cone containing the sonar dome smashed into a rock formation.

The sub's commander, Kevin Mooney, was reassigned to shore duty pending an investigation of the crash. The Navy maintains that there was no damage to the sub's nuclear reactor or weapon system. The *San Francisco* is a *Los Angeles* class sub that carries dozens of Tomahawk cruise missiles. There were 137 crew members aboard.

The nuclear navy has a history of running aground. In Nov. 2003, the *USS Hartford* hit the seafloor in the Mediterranean. In August 2001, the *USS Greenville*, which had previously hit and sank a Japanese fishing boat killing nine people, ran aground off the coast of Saipan, in the Mariana Islands of Micronesia.

—United Press International, Jan. 12, 2005

Rocky Flats "Cleanup"

ROCKY FLATS, Colorado — In December, one of the most radioactive sites in the country was demolished. Building 707, one of 800 structures at the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons complex, 15 miles from Denver, assembled the triggers for more than 70,000 nuclear warheads beginning in 1952. The building contained an assembly line of 377 gloveboxes, the stainless steel enclosures with heavy lead-lined gloves inside that were meant to protect workers from the deadly radioactive materials they handled. Sometimes workers were exposed to radiation when sharp metal objects inside the glovebox punctured the gloves. Occasionally the plutonium shavings spontaneously ignited inside the box.

Federal officials now admit that radiation exposure from Rocky Flats is resulting in more cancer among workers than previously thought. The *Rocky Mountain News* reported on Feb. 28, that 29 percent of the cancers reported by former workers were caused by workplace radiation. Previously it was estimated that 1 to 10 percent of cancer cases were caused by radiation. Former Rocky Flats workers believe the new figures are still too low.

Gloveboxes are not a tool of the past. The Flanders Corp., in Aiken County, Georgia, is currently hiring as many as 800 people to make gloveboxes for the nuclear industry. The company will reach full employment if the federal government builds a mixed-oxide fuel facility at the Savannah River Site in Georgia.

— *Denver Post*, Dec. 9, & AP, Dec. 8, 2004; United Press International, Feb. 28, 2005

China Launches New Class of Nuclear Submarines

WASHINGTON, DC — China has launched the first submarine in a new class of nuclear-powered and nuclear-armed subs designed to fire intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs).

Called "Type 094," it will be China's first submarine capable of launching nuclear weapons that could reach the U.S. from the country's home waters, according to a Pentagon official who spoke under condition of anonymity.

China has also been developing a new class of submarine-launched ballistic missile, called the JL-2, which is expected to have a range in excess of 4,600 miles. The Type 094 subs would carry these new missiles, but it is not clear whether any are ready for deployment. China has had only one submarine capable of launching nuclear missiles, called Type 092, and in 2001 the Pentagon announced that it was not operational. Its missiles could fly up to 600 miles.

China is also modernizing its land-based nuclear missile force, replacing its estimated 20 ICBMs with more modern versions. In a report on its military issued last May, the Pentagon said China's cache of ICBMs could increase to 30 by next year and to 60 by 2010. The U.S., France, Russia, Britain, and possibly Israel and Pakistan have submarines capable of firing ballistic missiles with nuclear warheads.

— *The Guardian & The Pakistan Times*, Dec. 3, 2004

Truckloads of Nuclear Trash

OAK RIDGE, Tenn. — An accelerated cleanup of the K-25 uranium enrichment complex here could mean 125 daily truckloads of radioactive scrap going into the government's on-site nuclear landfill. The pace could continue over three years. John Owsley, the state's environmental oversight director in Oak Ridge, says the traffic volume would be about one truck every five minutes.

The landfill was opened a couple of years ago to take a broad range of radioactively contaminated rubbish from the Energy Department's cleanup operations at Oak Ridge. A special road is being constructed so that trucks can go directly from K-25 to the landfill several miles away without clogging public highways. The nuclear trash ranges from old cars to motor wiring. Some of it has been at the sprawling weapons site since the 1950s, but most came in the 1960s and '70s when the uranium-enrichment facilities were upgraded.

— Associated Press, Dec. 28, 2004

Super Rich to Avoid Radiation on Vacation

CHICAGO — Two private companies have teamed up to build the first luxury recreational vehicle (RV) that it says will fend off nuclear radiation. Parliament Coach Corp., based in Clearwater, Florida, has partnered with Homeland Defense Vehicles to offer consumers a luxury motor coach that can protect occupants against ionizing radiation from dirty bombs as well as biological and chemical attacks. "Many people enjoy the RV life style, but we also live in an era when people have some level of fear about terrorism," explains Parliament executive Harvey Mitchell. Occupants could live for several days in the custom-built motor coach. The RVs will cost from \$1.2 to \$2 million. For an additional \$100,000, there is the option of a "positive air pressure" filtration system to ensure that the air you are breathing is radiation-free. The RV was introduced Jan. 26 at the Super RV show in Tampa.

— Reuters, Jan. 21, 2005

The Effectiveness of Nonviolent Direct Action

WASHINGTON — A study of the green movement between 1960 and 1994 concludes that nonviolent direct action is more likely to influence environmental policy than schmoozing on Capitol Hill. The study compares the number of bills passed by Congress with tactics employed by green groups in the same year. Jon Agnone, a sociologist at the University of Washington, Seattle, found that sit-ins, rallies and boycotts were highly effective at seeing new environmental laws passed. Each protest raised the number of pro-environment bills enacted by 2.2 per cent.

"If you make a big enough disturbance than people have to recognize what you are doing," Agnone concluded. John Passacantando, executive director of Greenpeace USA, agrees, "We know that unless a politician feels real pressure, or a chief executive senses a threat to his market, everything else is just talk." — *New Scientist*, August 28, 2004

Vieques Added to Superfund List

NEW YORK — The Environmental Protection Agency has announced that the military bombing range on the island of Vieques, Puerto Rico, will be added to the Superfund list of the nation's most hazardous waste sites. One hundred years of U.S. navy operations and bombing sprees on the eastern end of the island left land and water contaminated with mercury, lead, copper, magnesium, lithium, perchlorate, TNT, napalm, depleted uranium, PCBs, solvents and pesticides. The navy ceased operations on Vieques May 1, 2003, after more than a year of civilian protests involving hundreds of arrests.

The superfund listing does not include the island of Culebra, which was used by the U.S. for military exercises between 1902 and 1975. The cleanup of Culebra depends on an agreement between the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the Army Corps of Engineers, which is currently responsible for former military sites on the island.

— Environment News Service, ens-newswire.com, Feb. 9, 2005

INEL to Make Plutonium Batteries for Space

IDAHO — The Department of Energy announced in November that the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory would begin production of plutonium-238 for use in batteries to power deep-space probes. NASA intends to rely increasingly on plutonium-based Radioisotope Power Systems (RPS) to power instruments aboard its deep space probes for decades.

The batteries that use Pu-238 are assembled in Idaho, at Argonne National Laboratory, West. But production and isolation of the plutonium is currently done at national laboratories in South Carolina, Tennessee, and New Mexico, and the highly radioactive isotope is then shipped to Idaho.

The DOE is concerned about cost and security problems of moving plutonium 8,000 miles. The DOE wants to consolidate all nuclear RPS production at a single DOE site.

Plutonium-238 is a different from weapons-grade plutonium-239, but the difference of one electron notwithstanding, plutonium is perhaps the most dangerous, toxic, and carcinogenic substance on earth.

In a town meeting in Idaho Falls in early December, opinions regarding the plan varied. "Aren't you giving Idaho the dirty part of it?" asked Paul Bacca, a former nuclear worker at Argonne, West. But Nick Nichols, an amateur astronomer and former INEL communications manager was less worried. "When I heard the DOE wanted to move the plutonium-238 program to Idaho, I said 'Whoopie!' because I knew exactly what those [plutonium batteries] did."

The Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space has excellent materials to help stop this rush to nuclearize space exploration. See resources.

— Pocatello, *Idaho State Journal*, Dec. 3, 2004; Casper, *Wyoming Tribune*, Dec. 9, 2004

Anti-nuclear Groups Bid for Management of Los Alamos Weapons Lab

NEW MEXICO — Two anti-nuclear organizations have announced their intention to make a bid for management of the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico. If chosen, Tri-Valley Communities Against a Radioactive Environment and Nuclear Watch of New Mexico (the *other* Nukewatch), will redirect the nuclear weapons research facility from weapons to the study of climate change, alternative energy sources and environmental clean-up of the surrounding land. The DOE has opened the contract to competition after 60-years of management by the University of California. Security lapses by UC led the DOE to search for new managers. — *Nature*, Feb. 27, 2005

Cockles Contaminated by Sellafield's Plutonium

BRITAIN — Morecambe Bay cockles harvested off the coast of Sellafield are contaminated by plutonium released from this nuclear waste reprocessing site. UN scientists are set to issue new contamination limits this year and the European Union has said it may adopt the scientists' guidelines. If the new standards are imposed, importation of the cockles into Europe will be banned. — *Northwest Evening Mail*, Jan. 24, 2005

Halliburton's Radioactive Shipment Lost in Mail

WASHINGTON, DC — Halliburton Co., the infamous oil services company and military contractor in Iraq and elsewhere, lost track of a shipment of radioactive material in October but didn't alert the government until the second week of February. The material, two sources of the isotope americium, used in oil well exploration, was being shipped from Russia to Houston. The NRC was notified of the missing americium on Feb. 8. After an intense search it was found at a freight facility in Boston Feb. 9. (See report on stolen radioactive gauges p. 2.)

Rep. Edward Markey, D-Mass., said the incident and Halliburton's malfeasance highlights inadequate security rules involving nuclear materials. The shipment was classified as having potential to cause permanent injury if handled improperly. Depending on the material, government regulations require notification either immediately or within 30 days. Wendy Hall, spokeswoman for Halliburton, blamed the company's shipper, whom she says never alerted the company that the material was missing. — Associated Press, Feb. 11, 2005

RESOURCES

- * **AlliantACTION!**, (651) 388-4814; email: alliantaction@circlevision.org; web: circlevision.org
- * **Arms Trade Resource Center**, 66 Fifth Ave., 9th Fl., New York, NY 10011; (212) 229-5808; web: worldpolicy.org; email: hartung@newschool.edu
- * **For Mother Earth**, Maria Hendrikaplein 5, 9000 Gent, Belgium; email: international@motherearth.org; web: www.motherearth.org
- * **Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space**, P.O. Box 652, Brunswick, ME 04011; (207) 279-0517; web: space4peace.org; email: globalnet@mindspring.com
- * **Greenpeace**, 702 H Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20001; (202) 462-1177; web: greenpeaceusa.org
- * **Institute for Energy and Environmental Research**, 6935 Laurel Ave., Suite 201, Takoma Park, Maryland 20912; (301) 270-5500; web: ieer.org; email: ieer@ieer.org
- * **Low Level Radiation Campaign**, The Knoll, Montpellier Park, Llandrindod Wells, Powys, LD1 5LW, Britain, newsletter: *Radioactive Times*, email: bramhall@llrc.org; web: llrc.org/du/duframes.htm
- * **Los Alamos Study Group**, 2901 Summit Place NE, Albuquerque, NM 87106; (505) 265-1200; email: gmello@lasg.org; web: www.lasg.org
- * **Nuclear Information and Resource Service**, 1424 16th Street NW, #404, Washington, DC 20036; (202) 328-0002; web: nirs.org; email: nirsnet@nirs.org
- * **Tri-Valley CAREs**, 2582 Old First St., Livermore, CA 94551; (925) 443-7148; web: trivalleycares.org
- * **War Resisters League**, 339 Lafayette St., New York, NY 10012; (212) 228-0450, email: wrl@warresisters.org; web: warresisters.org

Yucca Dumping Delayed

By Bonnie Urfer

Nevada has been targeted as the dumping ground for radioactively and thermally hot waste fuel rods extracted from commercial nuclear reactors.

Opponents of the Yucca Mountain site considered a July 2004 federal ruling a narrow victory when a court ordered tougher safety standards. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia voided the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 10,000-year containment period for the repository, calling it inadequate. (See Fall '04 *Pathfinder*.) The EPA must rewrite a 4-million page, 45-volume license application. Despite the obstacles, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and Department of Energy (DOE) still hope to have Yucca Mountain licensed by the end of 2005.

The EPA wants scientists to declare that Yucca is safe. The National Academy of Scientists (NAS) has been studying computer models trying to determine what will happen in the future, say 10,000 to 100,000 years from now, with casks corroding and leaking their deadly content. NAS, which set stricter standards than the NRC, calls the exercise absurd. Henry Pollack, a geophysics professor at the University of Michigan, told representatives at secret meetings with the NRC and EPA, "Unanswered questions should not lead to policy paralysis." In other words, dump now and deal with surprises later. Leonard Konikow, a hydrogeologist with the U.S. Geological Survey said, "You hope it is not a catastrophic surprise."

Yucca Mountain, 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas, is destined to become the most radioactive place on earth. Nuclear reactors that have been running for 30+ years and supply about 20% of the nation's electricity, are responsible for creating vast amounts of irradiated fuel rods that will be delivered to tunnels below the mountain. All parties agree that the 3 billion curies and 77,000 tons of radiation slated for burial at Yucca will contaminate the surroundings; the only issues are When? and How badly? Daniel Wilkins, assistant general manager of the Yucca Mt. program, estimates

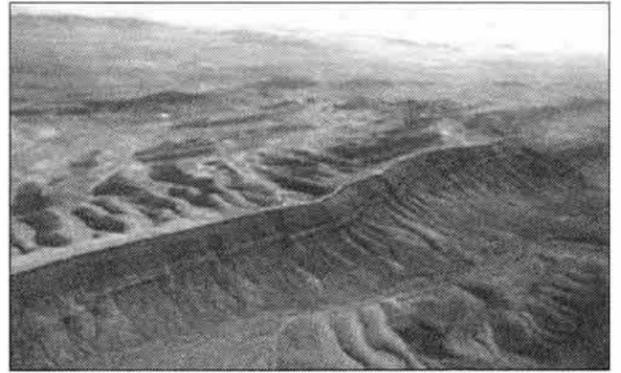
the first "package," containing between 21 and 44 fuel assemblies, will fail in about 10,000 years. "After that we're relying on the mountain to contain the waste," he said.

Nevada has hit a brick wall in dealing with the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste, a buffer panel which reports to the NRC and DOE on nuclear issues. The NRC and DOE have not answered Nevada's call to be present in meetings addressing concerns and problems with Yucca Mountain. State nuclear waste attorney Martin Malsch filed a Freedom of Information request to get documents generated at secret meetings. Nevada has filed nine lawsuits against the federal government. The state has won two, lost three, seen one "tableted" (Yucca's environmental impact statement), and the remaining three have yet to be settled.

In the face of official secrecy and widespread contamination at DOE and NRC sites, federal proponents are in need of public confidence in their Yucca plan. Sometimes it can be bought, and the DOE is trying to entice Nevada and its citizens by allotting \$3.5 million for the state and \$7 million to be divided among 10 affected counties if Yucca is licensed.

Congress allotted \$577 million of an \$880 million request in the White House budget for Yucca in 2005. Opponents consider any cut in congressional funding a victory as any delay is useful and budget cuts signify a lack of confidence in a given program. The Bush administration is asking for \$651 million for Yucca Mt. for 2006. The DOE plans to seek legislation that would grant it authority in fiscal 2007, without approval from Congress, to tap into the electric ratepayer fund set up to build the Yucca Mt. dump. But Nevada lawmakers have defeated similar efforts in the past and vow to do so again.

Perhaps the most absurd footnote of all regarding nuclear power is that the current Bush budget also adds \$56 million for a program to promote construction of new reactors — new nuclear waste generators that is.



An ariel view of Yucca Mountain located 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas, NV

Irradiated Food Update

By Bonnie Urfer



The question of whether or not to serve irradiated food in school lunches has given school districts the opportunity to examine what healthy food means. The issue has driven decision-makers to completely different conclusions.

In Seattle, Washington, the school district unanimously passed a comprehensive bill designed to give students healthy beverage and food choices. The bill includes a ban on food high in sugar and fat and prohibits contracts with beverage companies. The school district aims to improve food quality by using fresh, locally grown, organic, unprocessed, non-genetically modified and non-irradiated food.

Other states, such as California, now under the leadership of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, have a long way to go in understanding what constitutes healthy policy for children rather than prioritizing political partisanship. The governor vetoed AB 1988, a bill that would have mandated parental notification before feeding children irradiated food. Enacting the law would not have cost the schools anything but would have ensured labeling of the controversial meats. On the bright side, six California school districts have banned irradiated food.

Last year, Texas, Minnesota, and Nebraska had enough requests to place an order for irradiated meat with the USDA, but the price was too high and there were enough safety concerns that the states didn't follow through with burger orders. Irradiated ground beef sells from 40 to 80 cents more per pound than ordinary burger at a time when school funding has been drastically cut by the federal government.

One of the day-care facilities that backed out of an irradiated meat deal is the Offutt Air Force Base Child Development Center in Nebraska. "We canceled the order because we didn't know enough about irradiated beef," said Senior Airman Vanessa Walsh, spokeswoman for the 55th Wing at Offutt Air Force Base. Bennington Public Schools in Nebraska ordered 820 pounds of irradiated beef because local school board members hoped the zapped meat could prevent food poisoning, but the price turned out to be too high.

Texas is the only state expected to feed irradiated beef to children this year.

A diet of irradiated food has not been proven safe to eat. Meat is zapped with the equivalent of 1 billion chest X-rays. There are no long-term, comprehensive research studies on the health effects of consuming irradiated food. Recent research has shown that one class of chemicals created by irradiation, alkylcyclobutanones, have been linked to the promotion of colon cancer in rats and genetic damage in human cells. Public Citizen called for a ban on food irradiation when this report surfaced.

The USDA, the Food and Drug Administration, the United Nation's World Health Organization and the American Medical Association have concluded that irradiated beef is safe, but on the basis of only four dated and flawed studies. Many cattle growers and meat processing facilities advocate irradiation which is said to kill most meat-borne pathogens. Cleaning up feed lots and slaughter systems would be cheaper.

"Temporary" Waste Site Permanently Threatens Goshute Reservation in Utah

raging in Nevada.

Fuel Storage, Inc. (PFS), a consortium of eight utility companies, is eager to rid itself of deadly radioactive waste now stored in cooling pools and dry casks at reactor sites mainly in the Midwest. The consortium has been working for eight years to see its waste moved to the Goshute, Skull Valley Indian Reservation in Utah, 50 miles southwest of Salt Lake City. PFS wants the open-air storage area up and running by 2007.

If approved, some 44,000 tons or about 4,000 casks of irradiated fuel rods would stand under the path of an Air Force jet training route. A military nerve gas storage facility is just to the east of the reservation, and a coal-fired power station is to the south. Seven thousand overflights of F-16s from the Hill Air Force Base and the Utah Test and Training Range (UTTR) buzz the Goshute Reservation every year. It's one of the busiest bombing ranges in the country. A stray missile struck a scientific research station on the reservation in the 1990s, and the Genesis satellite crashed into the UTTR last September.

On Feb. 24, a panel of administrative law judges, the Atomic Safety Licensing Board, concluded that concrete casks containing the irradiated fuel rods could withstand a direct hit from a crashing jet. That ruling opens the door for a decision by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to grant a license for the facility, though that will certainly begin more legal battles. The chance of an F-16 making a direct hit on a cask was said to be one-in-a-million.

On March 10, 2003, the ASLB blocked the dump proposal because of the dangers posed by the jet crash risks. The ASLB said at the time that it would reconsider its decision if PFS could convince the Air Force to reroute its flights, or the company could prove that the waste casks could withstand an F-16 crash.

Utah Governor Jon Huntsman, Jr. and Republican Senator Orrin Hatch have vowed to continue fighting the proposal. Commenting on the decision, Sen. Hatch uttered what could be the understatement of the nuclear age, "There seems to be a bias within the NRC in favor of the nuclear industry." A dump deal made in 2002 between George Bush II and Utah's two Republican senators, Hatch and Bob Bennett, now seems threatened. Bush signed a pledge — in exchange for votes from the senators in favor of dumping on Nevada — to block use of federal funds for building, maintaining or transporting nuclear waste to Goshute.

Challenges open to Utah include an appeal based on the 2-1 decision by the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, a U.S. Supreme Court challenge, a Bureau of Indian Affairs suit, and pushing the Bureau of Land Management to refuse authorization of shipments to Skull Valley.



The placement of the high-level radioactive waste on Goshute land is being promoted as "temporary" — 40 years of temporary — in the hopes that Yucca Mountain would finally be licensed. But with Yucca Mountain set to accept a maximum of 63,000 metric tons of waste, existing radioactive garbage exceeds the dump's capacity. Utah is already being considered the *defacto* "spill-over" site. Critics who lambaste the "temporary" label for Goshute, point to the Department of Energy's Standard Contract for Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel. Its terms currently forbid any transfer of proposed Goshute waste to Yucca Mt., and require the DOE to accept only "uncanistered" waste fuel directly from reactor sites.

The Goshute tribe has about 120 members and few resources. The tiny tribe stands to gain \$3 billion if the storage deal is finalized.

The next step is for five NRC commissioners to review the ASLB's recommendation, decide on final approval — and for Utah and allied opponents to keep up the good fight.

NUKEWATCH PATHFINDER

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Implausible North Korean Threat No Basis for BMD

By John LaForge

The White House and the Pentagon want us to believe that "evil" North Korea poses a threat to South Korea, Japan, even the United States. Like Iraq's usefully nonexistent weapons of mass destruction, an alleged threat becomes "common knowledge" if repeated often enough.

Whether there is anything "evil" about withholding food aid from North Korean famine victims is another question. (See sidebar)

Nearly every official government statement made about the ballistic missile defense (BMD) mentions a "given" threat posed by North Korea. The purported danger that this tiny, isolated and impoverished country of 24 million people poses is said to be from medium-range missiles and political instability.

The colossal magnitude, breadth and depth of U.S. military power never seems to enter into polite discussions of North Korea's fledgling nuclear weapon or missile capabilities. Like a vacuum that is destroyed by even a hint of air, any mention of the United States' overwhelming superiority, or the recent use of it against weak and impoverished states, is somehow taboo.

A dusty headline was brushed off this past February and major papers like the *New York Times* reported that "North Koreans Say They Hold Nuclear Arms," and that the declaration was made "publicly for the first time."

Well, no. North Korea made exactly the same announcement Nov. 17, 2002, and the *Times* trumpeted it then as "the first time that North Korea has publicly acknowledged having nuclear arms." In fact, the North has made similar claims at least ten times since 2003, according to Chung Dong Young, South Korea's minister of unification.

It is hard to tell which is more alarming, North Korea's self-aggrandizement, the weapons merchants who want to sell the public useless antiballistic missiles, or the newspapers that increase circulation with news of unverified threats.

Hawks in the White House, the State Department, Congress and the Pentagon continue to use the most drastic and frightening language about North Korea, always to help justify billions of tax dollars being spent on missile defense systems. Five years ago the Minneapolis *StarTribune* reported without attribution of any kind that U.S. military planners view North Korea as "the world's most dangerous state and reason enough for a U.S. missile defense system."

What a difference five years makes. Now that those most dangerous superpowers Iraq and Afghanistan have been invaded, looted, and sold off, North Korea-bashing is popular again. Pentagon chief Donald Rumsfeld said Feb. 10, "One has to worry about weapons of that power in the hands of leadership of that nature. I don't think that anyone would characterize the leadership in that country as being restrained." He should know.

Frank Gaffney, formerly of the Pentagon but now with the right-wing Center for Security Policy, has said that of all the missile threats now facing the U.S., North Korea's "is probably the highest."

Gaffney was responding to the Federation of American Scientists' disclosure of detailed satellite images that show North Korea's supposed missile launch site at Rodong to be "barely worthy of note." The base has been characterized by military hawks as "menacing."

Confronted with the extremely detailed photographic proof that the Rodong site lacked railroad links, fuel tanks, propellant storage and even staff housing, Gaffney changed the subject. "There's lots of evidence they're getting help from China and the Russians. That's a whole different problem," he said.

Empty Tunnels, Empty Threats

Twelve years ago the CIA concluded that even by 2008, North Korea's missile capability was unlikely to materialize. *The New Yorker* magazine noted last October that the U.S. missile defense system is designed to attack only ICBMs and, "North Korea has not tested a long-range missile since its last test failed, six years ago."

On May 27, 1999, U.S. inspectors were finally allowed access to a secret tunnel said by the famously objective U.S. intelligence community to hold a nuclear weapons program. The tunnel was empty.

It's an old saw that post-Cold War administrations are desperate to manufacture threats that can then be used to rationalize the military budget, its weapons purchases and the war system.

In February of 2002, a *New York Times* reporter called North Korea "a highly militarized, ultra-nationalistic government that seeks to inculcate religious worship of Mr. Kim." With today's Pentagon budget larger than the military spending of the rest of the world combined, with the commercial news highlighting only the deaths of U.S. citizens, and with the religious fundamentalists claiming that the President talks with and is inspired by God, calling another country militarized and nationalistic is the epitome of psychological "projection."

U.S. allies have not been taken in by the White House's self-serving propaganda. Britain, France, Italy and Germany — every member of the European Union except Ireland — as well as Canada, New Zealand and Australia have established formal diplomatic relations with North Korea.

Criticizing the White House's pattern exaggeration, French President Jacques Chirac has said, "The threat from North Korean missiles is sometimes mentioned. Quite honestly, it isn't persuasive."

Former Secretary of State Madeline Albright returned from unprecedented talks in the capital Pyongyang declaring that North Korea's President Kim Jong Il's was "reasonable."

Even South Korea — often said by Bush and Co. to be at risk of attack from the North — has formally objected to the BMD program. Four years ago, former President Kim Dae Jung joined Russian President Putin in declaring that the 1972 Antiballistic Missile Treaty — which BMD programs violate — should be "preserved and strengthened." Bush II voided U.S. adherence to the treaty the following year.

Presidents Kim and Putin further criticized the U.S., diplomatically griping that the Start II Treaty and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban, both of which have been ratified by Russia, remain unenforceable because of U.S. non-ratification.

Real Military Threats Embarrassing, Ignored

While manufactured threats help fund unnecessary weapons programs and lend psychological support to the war system, real military threats to health and the environment are treated with disinterest even if they are posed by friends or institutions that public policy can influence.

The U.S. announced in 2000 that the amount of plutonium dumped into unlined military radioactive landfills was ten times greater than it had earlier estimated. The Energy Department acknowledged that two-thirds of these dumps, in 27 states, are incapable of being decontaminated.

In Nov. 2000, a joint Russian-U.S. team declared that "staggering" levels of radioactive contamination — "the worst ever found" — are spreading from the Tomsk nuclear weapons complex in Siberia.

U.S. & Japan Said To Have Used "Food As a Weapon"

While the Bush White House holds up North Korea as a threat to the world, the country has suffered what's been called one of the great famines of the 20th century. Over two million North Koreans, or ten percent of the population, starved to death between 1994 and 1998 when floods and droughts devastated the country's agricultural system.

Private relief organizations and international observers have charged that large food donors including Japan and the United States have used food as a weapon in their on-again, off-again shipments of emergency aid. Relief efforts by some appear at least to have been deliberately inadequate, raising the question of what a real "axis of evil" would look like.

An alarming 1998 headline in the *New York Times* spoke to the severity of the crisis, "North Korea Says Its Food Is Nearly Gone." An accompanying article on the same page declared, "U.S. Won't Send Aid." The report said the U.S. "urged other countries to contribute."

As recently as March 5, 2003, the UN's World Food Program (WFP) said an additional 325,000 tons of food was needed that year because of "a sharp slide in donations."

On August 1999, the Ohio Democratic Representative Tony Hall, a longtime advocate on hunger issues, said, "The Japanese are sitting on a tremendous amount of food which they are using as a weapon while millions of people are starving."

Andrew Natsios, author of *The Politics of Famine* in North Korea, and a former vice president of the relief agency World Vision, said the North Korean famine has become "one of the great famines of the 20th century."

"We now know that more than 10 percent of the population starved to death," said Mr. Natsios, who served as George Bush's emergency aid coordinator in the Horn of Africa during food crises in Somalia and Ethiopia.

In September of 1997 Natsios urged Washington to push Japan to give more food aid.

Congressman Hall visited North Korea in May 1997 and came away staggered. He said, "We should be pushing South Korea and Japan to do more, and we shouldn't wait for them. In my opinion they are using food as a weapon." (Emphasis added.) At the time a fifth of the population, 4.7 million North Koreans, were reported to be in danger of starvation without massive food aid.

In August 1999, aid experts estimated that between two and three million people, mainly old people and children, died during the worst years of the famine, from 1995 to 1998.

Still, the crisis hadn't been alleviated.

* Dec. 5, 2002: Food emergency worsens as donations dwindle. (A Japanese charity sent *dog biscuits* as food aid.)

* Dec. 2002: The UN food program requested 512,000 tons, but pledges totaled only 33,000 — all from Europe. In spite of the shortfall, Japan, which was reportedly "angered" that year by North Korea's admission of kidnapping Japanese citizens, told the UN it had no plans to send more food. At the same time, the United States said it would "not send additional shipments this month to keep feeding stations open."

* Nov. 21, 2002: The WFP said it urgently needed more food to feed "millions of North Koreans," because of falling contributions from big donors.

* July 28, 2001: "North Koreans face increasing starvation and disease as a result of another record drought" and are in

In October 2003, the *USS Hartford*, a nuclear powered Fast Attack submarine, ran aground in the Mediterranean Sea off Sardinia, Italy. The sub's captain and commander were fired. Greens in Italy's Parliament complained, "Our country denuclearized nearly 20 years ago. ... It is unacceptable that, thanks to American troops, the nuclear risks should be reintroduced."

In March 1998, two U.S. nuclear powered submarines, the fast attack *San Juan* and the Trident *Kentucky*, collided off Long Island, risking a radiation accident unlike anything seen in the U.S. since Three Mile Island. In May 2000, the reactor aboard the British attack submarine *HMS Tireless* suffered a near meltdown and spewed radioactive cooling water into the Mediterranean for a week. Towed into the ironically named "British protectorate" of Gibraltar, an experimental reactor repair job put the whole Mediterranean at risk of a radiation disaster.

In August 2000, the Russian sub *Kursk* sank in the Barents Sea killing its entire crew. The *Kursk's* two improperly shutdown reactors are 350 feet from the ocean's surface. Like six nuclear-powered subs before it (two U.S. and four Russian), the *Kursk* will for decades spread long-lived radioactive cooling water and fission products.

The United States' accident-prone nuclear weapons systems, and our mountains of radioactive waste are no fiction; they haven't been manufactured from disproved Pentagon propaganda. Nuclear reactors and waste truly pose imminent and long-term security, environmental and health risks, not just to North Americans but to the whole world.

The Congress should listen to the 49 retired generals and admirals who last spring called on President Bush to shelve missile defense and move the funds to the protection of nuclear facilities and the defense of U.S. ports and borders.

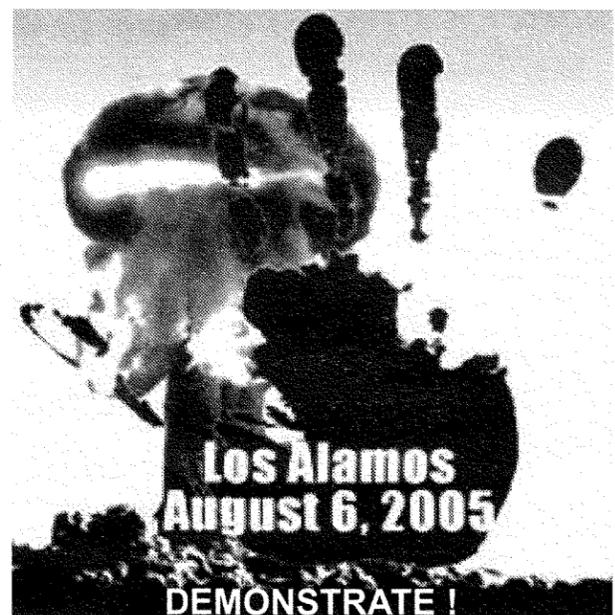
need of immediate food aid the UN's WFP and the Food and Agriculture Organization said.

* January 29, 2000: "Food aid to victims of North Korea's famine is dwindling", according to the UN's WFP.

* Aug. 26, 1999: While North Korea planned to test fire a new long-range missile, the U.S. had threatened to end its assistance — 83% of all aid. (The test was cancelled.)

In 2001, the World Health Organization said that the death rate among North Koreans was more than 40 percent higher than in 1994 when the country was devastated by a series of floods and famine. Starvation and disease were hitting women, children and people who were malnourished the hardest, with malaria, tuberculosis and childhood diseases taking a terrible toll.

The WFP's executive director Catherine Bertini said as late as 2001 that the famine had resulted in "the stunted growth of an entire generation of children" and that people were still starving. -- JL



On the 60th anniversary of the U.S. crimes at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, individuals, non-profits, churches and businesses are urged to participate.

At Los Alamos, groups will be able to express themselves uniquely while finding common cause in a clear endorsement of nuclear disarmament and rejection of the militarism so badly deforming U.S. society and policy today. The Los Alamos Study Group seeks help with this demo.

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April 1981

Several hundred environmental and anti-nuclear activists gather at the Clam Lake ELF facility for the first of what would become scores of protests at the facility.

September 30, 2004

ELF is taken offline; activists gather at the site to confirm the shutdown.

May 7, 2005

ELF Shutdown Celebration

Join generations of activists who took part in the Campaign to Stop Project ELF to remember the struggle and celebrate the victory!

Time: Saturday evening, 7 - 10 p.m.

Place: Northland College campus, Ellis Ave., Ashland, Wisc.

Keynote speaker: Kathy Kelly, Voices in the Wilderness

ELF plowshares activists and long-time resisters

Musicians: Sara Thomsen, Terrence Smith & Wild Thyme Band, Relative Minor

Food and drink: Hors d'ouerves, dessert, coffee, tea and other beverages

For more information contact: Nukewatch, (715) 472-4185; nukewatch@lakeland.ws

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