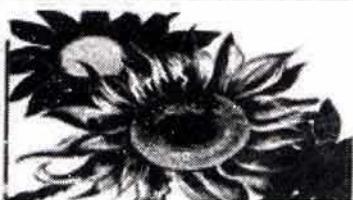
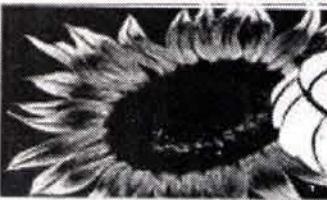
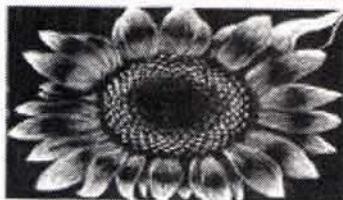


NUKEWATCH QUARTERLY



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

Thousands in UK Demand: “No Son of Trident”

By Nukewatch Staff

Tens of thousands of anti-Trident and anti-war activists marched through London on Feb. 24, demanding that the government not replace its Trident submarine fleet when the current subs retire.

Peace marchers also called for withdrawal of all United Kingdom troops from Iraq and for hands off Iran, Somalia and Syria.

Organizers from the Stop the War coalition said 60,000 people turned out, while police put the number at 10,000.

Last year Prime Minister Tony Blair said, “Our independent nuclear deterrent is the ultimate insurance” and “crucial” to national security. North Korea’s Kim Jong Il couldn’t have put it better.

The UK’s nuclear arsenal is so “independent” that the missiles aboard British Trident subs are purchased from the United States, and their crews are trained in Kings Bay, Georgia. Indeed, the Royal Air Force and Ministry of Defense (MoD) must pay for intelligence gathered by the U.S. at the Menwith Hill spy base. Information is provided to the MoD on a “need to know” basis decided by U.S. overseers. Secretary of State for Defense Jeffrey Hoon has said Britain could no longer wage war on its own due to its dependence on U.S. information — making nonsense of Blair’s claims of independence.

Last December, Blair’s MoD issued a controversial “White Paper” proposing that a new nuclear weapons program be purchased as the Tridents are decommissioned beginning in 2020. (Blair likewise used a broadly discredited White Paper in 2002, which was employed by Gen. Colin Powell and the Bush administration to build support for the U.S. war on Iraq.)

As they walked from London’s Hyde Park to Trafalgar Square, the protesters carried banners, “Nuclear hypocrisy,” “Scrap the White Paper” and “No Son of Trident.” The London rally was paralleled in Glasgow, Scotland where 1,000 people marched. A survey by the organization, YouGov found 76 percent of Scots would rather see money for Trident spent on public services, the *Scotsman* reported. The poll also found two-thirds of the country opposed to the purchase of a system to replace Trident.

Lindsey German of the Stop the War Coalition said to the *Boston Globe* that marchers were also protesting Blair’s plans for a new multi-billion-dollar nuclear missile-defense system.

Even the normally circumspect Mohamed ElBaradei, head of the UN’s nuclear watchdog, said in February that Britain cannot



In London, the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament used the Palace of Westminster and Big Ben to broadcast its demand that Britain’s nuclear missile system be permanently retired.

expect other countries to refrain from acquiring nuclear weapons if it upgrades Trident.

Columnist Mary Riddell noted in the *London Observer* that “ElBaradei is, in effect, accusing the Blair government of hypocrisy and incitement to the bomb-builders of Iran.”

Not one to mince words, Riddell wrote, “It defies belief that Mr. Blair should jostle to join a new arms race and acquire a dangerous weapons system that would cement a client relationship with a U.S. administration that may yet lead the West into collective suicide.”

London’s Indy Media Center reports that anti-nuclear activists and campaigners have been in “overdrive” following issuance of the White Paper.

In Scotland, “Faslane 365” has kept pressure on the Trident submarines’ home port, with rolling blockades of the naval base since October 1, resulting in more than 500 arrests.

Trident Ploughshares activists have joined Block the Builders, the Aldermaston Women’s Peace Camp(ain) and others in carrying out regular actions at the nuclear weapon factories, and have called for a blockade April 10. The coalition says smartly, “The UK’s nuclear weapons system (both the current Trident and the planned successor) is illegal, dangerous, a menace to the environment, a terrible waste of resources and utterly immoral.”

'59 Reactor Meltdown in California Kept Secret

Study of Contamination at Rocket Lab Reveals Evidence of Cancer Link

Editors note: The Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) is a once-busy rocket and reactor test facility 30 miles north of downtown Los Angeles. SSFL continues to operate, serving as a research facility for the Boeing Co. The first commercial nuclear-power reactor inside the United States was built at SSFL. However, it also became home to the first meltdown of a power reactor in the U.S. on July 26, 1959. Nuclear research and most rocket testing has been halted.

Over 10 reactors operated at SSFL, as well as a plutonium fuel fabrication facility, a uranium carbide fuel fabrication facility, and reportedly the largest "Hot Lab" facility in the country at the time. A Hot Lab is used for robotically cutting up irradiated nuclear fuel. The Hot Lab suffered a number of fires involving radioactive releases. In 1957, a Hot Cell fire "got out of control and ... massive contamination" resulted. Another occurred in 1971, involving combustible primary reactor coolant contaminated with mixed fission products.

By Avi Rutschman, Simi Valley Acorn, October 13, 2006

The Santa Susana Field Laboratory Panel, an independent team of researchers and health experts, released a report in October 2006 concluding that toxins and radiation released from the Rocketdyne research facility near Simi Valley could be responsible for hundreds of cancers in the surrounding areas.

The Santa Susana Field Laboratory was built in 1948 by North American Aviation and consists of 2,850 acres in eastern Ventura County. Over the years, it has been used as a test site for experiments involving nuclear reactors, high-powered lasers and rockets.

The report was completed by experts in the fields of reactor accident analysis, atmospheric transport of contaminants, hydrology and geology. The study took five years to complete and was funded by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

"We want to thank the many legislatures that have attended meetings, provided funds and pressured public agencies into action," said Marie Mason, a community activist and longtime resident of the Santa Susana Knolls area in Simi Valley, who helped to form the advisory panel.

The panel originally formed 15 years ago [1991] after a 1959 nuclear [reactor] meltdown that occurred at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory was made public. Concerned about the possibility of facing adverse health affects due to the meltdown, area residents pressured legislators into funding a panel to study the impact of the incident.

"We were fearful of what our families and communities may have been exposed to," said Holly Huff, another community member who pushed for the formation of the panel.

The first study conducted by the panel was performed by UCLA researchers and focused on the adverse health effects the meltdown had on Rocketdyne employees. Completed in 1997, that report indicated workers did indeed suffer a higher rate of lymph system and lung cancers.

Boeing, the current owner of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory, has challenged the validity of the studies, calling into question the scientific methods used by researchers.

"We received a summary of the report [October 12], and we were not given an advance copy to look through and prepare with," said Blythe Jameson, a Boeing spokesperson.

"Based on our preliminary assessment," Jameson said, "we found that the report has significant flaws and that the

claims are baseless without scientific merit and a grave disservice to our employees and the community."

After the UCLA study concluded that laboratory workers had faced adverse health effects because of the meltdown, the panel was given federal and state funds to conduct another study of potential impacts on neighboring communities and their residents.

According to the panel, Boeing was unwilling to disclose a large amount of data concerning the accident and certain operations. This forced the researchers to base some of their studies on models of similar accidents.

"One simply does not know with confidence what accidents and releases have not been disclosed, nor what information about the ones we do know of also has not been revealed," the panel stated in its report.

After five years of research, the panel concluded that between 260 and 1,800 cancer cases were caused by the field laboratory's contamination of surrounding communities. The incident released levels of cesium-137 and iodine-131, radio-nucleotides that act as carcinogens, that surpass the amount of contaminants released during the [1979] Three Mile Island [partial meltdown]. The report also stated that the contaminants have escaped from the Boeing-owned laboratory through groundwater and surface runoff. Jameson said other scientific studies have contradicted those findings.

"There have been several reports done by federal and state agencies, most notably a preliminary site evaluation from the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry in 1999, in which they did not identify a public health hazard to surrounding communities," Jameson said.

The test reactor was contained in a partial pool of liquid sodium and buffered from the surrounding environment by a layer of helium.

The reactor did not have a concrete containment shield, which would explain the high levels of radioactive material that were able to escape during the meltdown.

Dr. Jan Bayea, a physicist who specializes in modeling the movement of radiation through the air, came to the conclusion that between zero and 1,800 cancers, but most likely 260 cancers, were caused by the release of radioactive materials.

"We faced three major difficulties in this study because it was a complex site, not much information was released and we couldn't obtain any meteorological data from Boeing," Bayea said.

According to the panel, Boeing wouldn't release meteorological data from the time period of the 1959 incident, claiming that information is a trade secret.

Jameson insists that Boeing has not tried to hide anything.

"We've shared the meteorological data with the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry, that was then, in turn, turned over to various groups," Jameson said. "It's been shared with various other agencies, most recently at a Department of Energy meeting in May of 2005 where it was shared with the public."

Dr. William Bianchi, a soil physicist, discovered that Boeing's decision to not use a synthetic cap on the burn pit areas has led to additional contamination of groundwater at the site, according to the panel's report.

Boeing attempted to stop the recharge of groundwater with clay soil and with native vegetation, but neither method proved to make the area around the burn pits impermeable.

"The supposed impermeable clay material is not impermeable at all," the report states.

Dr. Ali Tabidian, chair of the Department of Geological Sciences at Cal State Northridge, discovered that perchlorate, a toxic substance found in rocket fuel, did end up in groundwater wells in Simi Valley as a result of surface water runoff.

According to the report, Tabidian said that perchlorate migrated off the laboratory site through surface water runoff, traveled into the Arroyo Simi, then entered the groundwater and wells near the Arroyo.

The study says perchlorate has been discovered in a number of wells surrounding the area.

Boeing has challenged this claim, stating that the perchlorate could have come from Chilean fertilizer, fireworks or road flares.

According to the report, Tabidian feels these are unjustifiable claims because if they were true, perchlorate would be detectable in wells throughout Simi Valley rather than only in the areas surrounding the Arroyo. "Perchlorate is very soluble and travels almost as fast as water. It's a warning, the leading edge of contaminant plume," said Dan Hirsch, co-chair of the panel and a lecturer on nuclear policy at UC Santa Cruz.

Despite their findings, the panel did not recommend an epidemiological study of surrounding communities because of a lack of data provided by Boeing and the high migration of residents into the area throughout the years.

"Doing a health study at this point would be a big gamble; it would be wiser to search for a fingerprint of the contamination release," Bayea said.

"This has been 17 years of unwanted frustration, and in those years our innocence has been lost," Mason said.

The report commissioned by the Santa Susana Field Laboratory Panel can be read online at www.ssflpanel.org.

"There is no evidence of contamination as a result of our current or past operations that has adversely impacted the surrounding communities. We will continue to move forward with the cleanup of the site in a safe and effective manner," Jameson said.

Los Angeles City officials want to require developers to test soil and groundwater for contamination before building within a two-mile radius of the Santa Susana Field Lab and any proposed development must be accompanied by testing.

U.S. Sub and Oil Tanker Collide in Persian Gulf

The nuclear-powered and potentially nuclear-armed submarine *USS Newport News* collided with a Japanese oil tanker near the busy shipping lanes of the Straits of Hormuz January 8.

The bow of the *Newport News* hit the stern of the oil tanker *Mogamikawa* as the vessels were passing just outside the Straits, causing minor damage to the tanker, Japan's Foreign Ministry said. The tanker was able to continue to a nearby port in the United Arab Emirates.

Commander Kevin Aandahl of the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet in Bahrain confirmed that there had been a crash and said there were no injuries. The Navy said the sub's nuclear propulsion reactor was undamaged. Damage to the *Newport News* and the tanker was light, and there was no resulting spill of oil or leak of radiation, according to officials from the U.S. Navy, Japan and the United Arab Emirates.

The Los Angeles Class *Newport News* is able to carry nuclear warheads onboard, but normally they are not carried. It is powered by a single 26-megawatt nuclear reactor. The sub is currently part of the aircraft carrier *USS Eisenhower* strike group which is now with a U.S.-led multinational task force patrolling the Persian Gulf.

Bob Aldridge, director of the Pacific Life Research Center and a former missile design engineer for Lockheed, told Nukewatch March 2 the fast-attack submarine could indeed have had nuclear warheads onboard. "Yes, on Cruise missiles. They keep the option open, without confirming or denying anything. I suspected they were doing that for years," Aldridge said. — *Bellona* (Oslo, Norway), Jan. 9, 2007

Israel's Open (H-bomb) Secret Confirmed

Israel's prime minister Ehud Olmert and U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates both seemed to acknowledge Israel's nuclear arsenal in public statements made late last year. On Dec. 10, Olmert, speaking about Iran on TV news in Germany, asked, "are [they] aspiring to have nuclear weapons, as America, France, Israel, Russia?"

For decades, Israel has refused to say that it has nuclear weapons, even after it imprisoned Mordechai Vanunu, a weapons lab whistle-blower, for 18 years for informing *The Times* of London of his own work on the arsenal.

Testifying in his Senate confirmation hearings, Secretary Gates said about Iran, "They are surrounded by powers with nuclear weapons: Pakistan to the east, the Russians to the north, the Israelis to the west and us in the Persian Gulf."

The reference to the Persian Gulf appears to confirm the presence of nuclear-armed Cruise missiles on U.S. subs currently attached to aircraft carrier battle groups in the Gulf.

Minnesota Reactor Aging Badly

By Bonnie Urfer and John LaForge

MONTICELLO, Minn. — Xcel Energy has spent about \$10 million a year here, to keep its boiling water reactor online. Still, the 37-year-old machine has had a series of accidents.

February 20: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission was notified of the "collapse of cooling tower panels which resulted in a diversion" of secondary cooling water "overland to the discharge canal resulting in the washing of soil and gravel into the canal."

The diverted water eventually reached the Mississippi River. Jan Strasma, the NRC regional spokesperson in Chicago told Nukewatch that no follow-up river water sampling was required. After referring to it as "nonradioactive water," Strasma acknowledged to Nukewatch that the cooling water contains radioactive tritium, strontium-90 and iodine-131 — in amounts allowed under federal regulations.

Strasma said that the "forced draft" cooling panels allow water to cool before being returned to the Mississippi River. The panels had become heavily weighted down with ice and then broke off, Strasma said. He didn't know how many panels were broken or what they weighed. The diversion of cooling water lasted for "about half-a-day," he said.

Tim Donakowski of the Minnesota Health Department, Environmental Monitoring Office, said "a series of cooling tower panels collapsed," but did not know how many. Neither the Health Department nor the NRC was able to tell Nukewatch how much water was spilled into the discharge canal.

January 10: A 35,000-pound turbine control box (20 feet long, 6- feet wide and 6-feet tall) broke from its welds and fell off a steel I-beam inside the reactor building. The 16-ton box fell onto a large steam pipe which in turn caused the opening of four turbine control valves and a decrease in main steam line pressure. The crash forced an automatic reactor shut-down. Intense reactor vibrations over the course of 35 years and initial faulty welding have been blamed for the crash. The reactor had been operating at 90 percent power. Four companies operating reactors of similar design in New York, Massachusetts, Vermont and New Jersey were notified of the accident.

January 10: About 3,000 fish — smallmouth bass, blue gills, catfish, redhouse and black crappie — were killed in the Mississippi River as a result of the automatic shut-down, according to Nuclear Management Co., which operates the Monticello reactor for Exel Energy. Spokeswoman Arline Datu told the press, "Nonradioactive water used to cool the plant is normally discharged into the river creating warm spots. When the discharge stopped, the river water quickly cooled and the fish died of thermal shock. A planned shutdown typically kills around 100 fish." The utility was fined \$5,874, or \$1.95 per fish killed.

January 17: In spite of the Jan. 10 accident caused by the reactor's extreme vibrations, General Electric signed a \$100 million upgrade contract with Exel, to boost power output at Monticello. The contract expects GE to increase power to 120 percent of its originally licensed limit. Last year Xcel won a 20-year operating extension. Can the faulty equipment take it?

2030 Complex: Resuming the Arms Race

By Paul Vos Benkowski

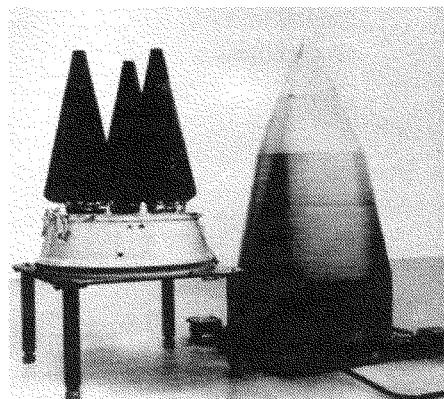
Faced with an aging nuclear weapons stockpile, the Departments of Energy (DOE) and Defense (DOD) have conjured up a plan to streamline the nuclear war industry. They call it the 2030 Complex, so named in hope that the recommended changes be made within the next 25-30 years. As one might expect, the rationale behind the 2030 Complex is flawed, the plan is limited, the science is dodgey and the cost is astronomical.

In 2004, the House Appropriations Committee requested a systematic review of the weapons complex. A task force of the DOE released its response in October 2005, calling it the Consolidated Nuclear Production Plan (CNPP). It will be debated in the upcoming sessions of Congress.

The report is an intensive look at the eight centers of the sprawling U.S. nuclear weapons industry: Los Alamos and Sandia National Laboratories (New Mexico); Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (Calif.); the Y-12 complex (Tenn.); Kansas City Wolf Creek (Missouri); Savannah River Site (South Carolina); Pantex (Texas); and the Nevada Test Site near Las Vegas.

The report's mandate was, "that the Complex will be able to respond to any needed design change in less than 18 months, field a prototype [nuclear warhead] in less than 36 months, go into full production in less than 48 months, and perform an underground test [at the Nevada Test Site] within 18 months." By 2030, the complex would be in "equilibrium," producing and dismantling at a rate of 125 devices per year.

The report's key criticisms were that the U.S. has redundant facilities, security concerns, high costs in maintaining and monitoring the eight sites, excessive competition between the national labs and outdated equipment. The report fails to mention health risks to workers and people who live within 100 miles of these sites, downwinders, or environmental concerns. The main issue



Minuteman III warheads and missile nosecone.

appears to be outdated equipment and bombs that may not destroy sufficiently. With the current threat — both real and imagined — of nuclear proliferation around the world, the U.S. sees its once shiny and new 10,400 nuclear warheads as ratty and old. Something must be done, they reason, because the Complex's only customer, the DOD, cannot be unsatisfied.

The recommendations set forth in the CNPP, or 2030 Complex, are limited to two options: refurbish the old warheads or build new. Unfortunately, complete shutdown of current nuclear weapons production was not presented as an option. That plan is known as the Life Extension Program (LEP).

The shaky science presented by the DOE claims that the plutonium pits at the core of nuclear weapons are deteriorating rapidly, despite being annually certified as safe and reliable by the selfsame DOE. In truth, the plutonium pits have a "life" of 85-100 years according to an independent study completed by JASONs — an independent panel of scientists and engineers that has long advised the U.S. government on nuclear weapons issues. Given that the oldest warheads are less

than 35 years old, the claim of inadequacy falls short. The National Nuclear Security Agency, an internal organ of the DOE, was also quick to point out the expense of maintaining old parts, old machinery, old processes and even old tools in the make-over.

The most appalling but favored option set forth by the 2030 Complex report is the Reliable Replacement Weapons (RRW) plan. In the words of the report, the RRW would make it "easier to produce and maintain a smaller more efficient and less costly Complex," and "build new-design weapons with characteristics deemed more suitable to the current climate." These new weapons may need to be tested and this prospect has raised the ire of some cold war era

heavies: former Secretary of State George Schultz; former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger; former Secretary of Defense William Perry; and former Senator Sam Nunn, D-Georgia, who collectively wrote in the *Wall Street Journal* last month that the time has come, "to achieve ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty ... and ... to secure ratification by other key [countries]." These statesmen know that if the U.S. begins testing nuclear warheads there is nothing to stop other countries from testing as well. One can only hope that the new Congress will see clear to ratify the ban on nuclear testing before tax dollars begin fueling another arms race.

And the cost of the RRW plan? The DOE set the total at \$150 billion until the year 2030 when the project would be complete. After its review of the report, the Government Accounting Office said that this estimate is far too low and has asked for a more accurate account of the costs. Considering that the present 10,400 nuclear weapons on hand have cost the U.S. taxpayers \$3.5 trillion dollars from 1940 to 1995, the price of these new weapons is unfathomable. (As a point of reference, one trillion seconds equals 31,688 years, hence, 3.5 trillion seconds equals 110,908 years, an astronomical number in seconds or dollars.) The \$150 billion for Complex 2030 will be in addition to the \$27 billion spent annually in the upkeep of nuclear warheads.

With the U.S. busy threatening other countries' nuclear ambitions, it will appear deceitful when the 2030 Complex begins manufacturing new nuclear warheads at a rate of 125 per year, harkening back to the cold war era of mass production. This change in policy will be in blatant disregard of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Article VI of the NPT states that the U.S. is "obliged to engage in effectual multilateral efforts leading to nuclear disarmament." It will be difficult to dissuade other countries from increasing their number of nuclear weapons or developing one of its own while the U.S. is manufacturing nuclear warheads at a maddening rate, but the U.S. has never been a much of role model, just a bully.

The third option — the brave one left out of the 2030 Complex plan — is a complete stop to manufacturing or maintaining nuclear weapons and an immediate dismantling of the entire nuclear stockpile. Until as much energy, intelligence and money is devoted to the abolition of these weapons as was devoted to their creation we all live in the shadow of a perilous threat.

Nuclear Missile Testing Galore

By Hans Kristensen

North Korea may have gotten all the attention [with faulty missile tests last summer], but the nuclear-armed states were busily flight-testing ballistic missiles for their nuclear weapons in 2006. Eight countries launched more than 26 ballistic missiles of 23 types in 24 different tests.

Unlike the failed summertime North Korean Taepo Dong 2 launch, most other ballistic missile tests were successful. Russia and India also experienced missile failures, but the United States demonstrated a reliable capability — including the 117th consecutive successful launch of the D-5 Trident submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM).

The ballistic missile testing represents yet another double standard in international security, and suggests that initiatives are needed to both limit proliferating countries from developing ballistic missiles and find ways to curtail the programs of the existing nuclear powers.

The ballistic missile tests involved weapons ranging from 10-warhead intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) down to single-warhead, short-range ballistic missiles. However, most of the tests involved long-range weapons and Russia and France also tested sea-launched missiles (see table).

The Putin government's reaffirmation of the importance of nuclear weapons to Russian national security was tainted some by the failure of two consecutive launches of the Bulava missile, but tests of five other missile types shows that Russia still has working models.

Along with China, Russia's efforts continue to have an influence on U.S. nuclear war planning. The U.S.'s eight Minuteman III and Trident II missiles launched in 2006 were intended to demonstrate a nuclear capability second to none. The first ICBM flight-test signaled the start of the deployment of the W87 warhead on the [500 missiles in the current] Minuteman III arsenal.

China's launch of the long-awaited DF-31 ICBM, and India's attempts to test launch its Agni III, raised new concerns because of the role the weapons likely will play in the

two countries' targeting of each other. But during a visit to India in June 2006, U.S. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Peter Pace downplayed at least the Indian issue, saying other countries in the region also have tested missiles. In a statement that North Korea would probably find useful to use, Gen. Pace explained that "the fact that a country is testing something like a missile is not destabilizing," and as long as it is "designed for defense, and then intended for use for defense, and they have [confidence] in their ability to use those weapons for defense, it is a stabilizing event."

But since all "defensive" ballistic missiles have offensive capabilities, and since no nation plans its defense based on intentions but on the offensive capabilities of potential adversaries, Gen. Pace's explanation seemed disingenuous and out of sync with the warnings about North Korean, Iranian and Chinese missile developments.

The Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) seeks to limit the proliferation of ballistic missiles, but its vision is undercut by the busy ballistic missile launch schedule demonstrated by the nuclear weapon states in 2006. Some MTCR member countries have launched the *International Code of Conduct Against Ballistic Missile Proliferation* in an attempt to establish a norm against ballistic missiles, and have called on all countries to show greater restraint in their own development of missiles capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction and to reduce their existing missile arsenals if possible.

All the nuclear weapons states portray their own nuclear missile developments as stabilizing and fully in compliance with their pledge under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (to pursue nuclear disarmament in good faith). But fast-flying ballistic missiles are inherently destabilizing because their vulnerability to attack may trigger their use early in a conflict. And the missile testing in 2006 suggests that the "good faith" is wearing a little thin.

— Kristensen writes for Strategic Security Blog, a project of the Federation of American Scientists.

Ballistic Missile Tests 2006		
Date	Missile	Remarks
China		
5 Sep	1 DF-31 ICBM	From Wuzhai, impact in Takla Makan Desert.
France		
9 Nov	1 M51 SLBM	From Biscarrosse (CELM facility), impact in South Atlantic.
India		
13 Jun	1 Prithvi I SRBM	From Chandipur, impact in Indian Ocean.
9 Jul	1 Agni III IRBM	From Chandipur. Failed.
20 Nov	1 Prithvi I SRBM	From Chandipur, impact in Indian Ocean.
Iran**		
23 May	1 Shahab 3D MRBM	From Emamshahr.
3 Nov	1 Shahab 3 MRBM	Part of the Great Prophet 2 exercise, as well as "dozens" of Shahab 2, Scud B and other SRBMs.
North Korea***		
4 Jul	1 Taepo Dong 2 ICBM and 6 Scud C and Rodong SRBMs	From Musudan-ri near Kalmo. ICBM failed.
Pakistan		
16 Nov	1 Ghauri MRBM	From Tilla?
29 Nov	1 Haft-4 (Shaheen-I) SRBM	Part of Strategic Missile Group exercise.
9 Dec	1 Haft-3 (Ghaznavi) SRBM	Part of Strategic Missile Group exercise.
Russia		
3 Aug	1 Topol (SS-25) ICBM	From Plesetsk, impact on Kura range.
7 Sep	1 Bulava SLBM	From Dmitry Donskoy (Typhoon) in White Sea. Failed.
9 Sep	1 SS-N-23 SLBM	From K-84 (Delta IV) at North Pole, impact on Kizhara range.
10 Sep	1 SS-N-18 SLBM	From Delta III in Pacific, impact on Kizhara range.
25 Oct	1 Bulava SLBM	From Dmitry Donskoy (Typhoon) in White Sea. Failed.
9 Nov	1 SS-19 ICBM	From Silo in Baykonur, impact on Kura range.
21 Dec	1 SS-18 ICBM	From Orenburg impact on Kura range.
United States		
16 Feb	1 Minuteman III ICBM	From Vandenberg AFB, impact Kwajalein Final W87/Mk-21 SERV test flight.
Mar/Apr	2 Trident II D-5 SLBMs	From SSBN.
4 Apr	1 Minuteman III ICBM	From Vandenberg AFB, impact near Guam. Extended-range, single-warhead flight test.
14 Jun	1 Minuteman III ICBM	From Vandenberg AFB, impact Kwajalein. Three-warhead payload.
20 Jul	1 Minuteman III ICBM	From Vandenberg AFB, impact Kwajalein. Three-warhead flight test. Launched by E-6 TACAMO airborne command post.
21 Nov	2 Trident II D-5 SLBMs	From USS Maryland (SSBN-738) off Florida, impact in South Atlantic.

* Unreported events may add to the list.

** Iran has no nuclear weapons.

*** There is no evidence that North Korea has developed a reentry vehicle for its ballistic missiles.



By John Heid

We must fashion an art of living in the face of the death instinct of culture.
— Albert Camus

At least four times a year I want to duck and cover just like I did in elementary school during the early 1960s. I felt helpless and silly, hiding under my little wooden desk from some invisible deadly force during those air raid drills. Now I feel that vaguely reminiscent gut ache at the *Nukewatch Quarterly* publication time when the waves of nuclear

news that have accumulated in the Nukewatch office over the past months reach high tide. The contents of each current issue seem more devastating than in the previous one. Bad news upon bad, as the nuclear industry's crimes against humanity are reported page by page. A barely formed scab is ripped off my psyche once again. *Quarterly* proofreading week feels like the story lines of "Groundhog Day" and "The Day After" combined.

For this spring issue, John LaForge invited me into the fray with his request for an article addressing my fresh perspectives on nonviolence following a peacemaker training program that I recently completed with Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) in Chicago. My immediate yes to John gave way to much internal hemming and hawing. What to say? John's request lead me beyond simply critiquing an exemplary training program to soul searching my sense of nonviolence in the face of the metastasizing nuclear apparatus and its milieu, the nuclear culture and war without end.

CPT training reinforced my bedrock belief that nonviolence more so than violence is a natural response to conflict. Both are eminently human reactions. In context both are understandable. Ultimately one response is sustainable, the other, violence, is not. Recall Martin Luther King's insight, "The ultimate weakness of violence is that it is a descending spiral, begetting the very thing it seeks to destroy ... returning violence for violence multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars."

The nuclear-military-energy-academic-industrial complex is a classic case study of the nature of systemic violence. One need only have a cursory understanding of the splitting of the atom ideology to recognize the inherently destructive nature of nuclearism, from intention to detonation. Einstein's remark echoes, "Everything has changed with the splitting of the atom, except our way of thinking."

Nonviolence is the constant awareness of the dignity and humanity of oneself and others; it seeks truth and justice; it renounces violence both in method and attitude; it is a courageous acceptance of active love and goodwill as the instrument with which to overcome evil and transform both oneself and others. It is the willingness to undergo suffering rather than inflict it. It excludes retaliation and flight. — Wally Nelson.

Although nonviolence is intrinsic to homo sapiens we continually find ourselves in catchup mode to the perennial dominance of systemic and personal violence. Even our language reflects this delayed reaction phenomenon. Note: the term "nonviolence" itself is a negative of a perceived

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Nonviolent Reinforcement

norm, i.e. violence. Gandhi's term satyagraha (truth force) transforms the concept from a reactive stance to a proactive one. Truth force is, Gandhi added, "lifestyle, not garment."

Engaged nonviolence is redundant. After all, what is nonviolence if it is not engaged? Practice does not make perfect, rather it prepares one to respond to violence with a spirit of transformation, not retaliation. Dr. King noted, "You don't practice nonviolence by attending conferences — you practice it on picket lines." When Arundahti Roy was awarded the Peace Prize by the Sydney Peace Foundation in November 2004 she said, "The bad news is that colorful demonstrations, weekend marches and annual trips to the World Social Forum are not enough. There have to be targeted acts of real civil disobedience with real consequences."

Nonviolence requires vision, discipline, practice and persistence. It is not safe, nor is it fool proof. It is no panacea ... it is merely a path. ... a way out ... a way to ... a way of being. Nonviolence is not static, but rather a dynamic that evolves even as humanity does. Unused, nonviolence atrophies, like human limbs confined to casts. Nonviolence stands in diametric opposition to the death force of nuclearism. The alternative? Again, Dr. King said, "The choice today is no longer between violence and nonviolence. It is either nonviolence or nonexistence."

CPT training consisted of more on-your-feet praxis, (integrating theory and practice) than on-your-butt note taking. In one month's time our training group of 15 engaged in more than one hundred role plays, hassle lines and simulations, as well as two public direct actions in the Chicago area promoting peaceful toys and an end to torture and endless incarceration at Guantanamo. The scenarios were often intense, physical and emotionally charged. I was reminded of films of relentless role plays done by civil rights activists in preparation for lunch counter sit-ins, marches and demonstrations.

CPT sends violence-reduction teams into crisis situations and militarized areas at the invitation of local peace and human rights workers to support local peace efforts. Role plays are essential preparation for engaging nonviolence whether abroad in zones of conflict or domestically at nuclear/military facilities, etc. Our best instincts need exercise and the infusion of imagination that role plays and follow-up engender.

Patriarchy, racism (note Bonnie's article on radioactive contamination on reservations on Page 6) and sexism are woven into the fabric of the nuclear shroud. CPT's training included three days of "Undoing Oppression" workshops. Engaged nonviolence requires that we pull the mask off privilege — racial, cultural and gender-based.

Again, Arundahti Roy said, "Remember that if the struggle were to resort to violence, it will lose vision, beauty and imagination. Most dangerous of all, it will marginalize and eventually victimize women. And a political struggle that does not have women at the heart of it, above it, below it and within it is no struggle at all."

Nukewatch's bedrock commitment to nonviolence in print and praxis has been invigorating for me. Despite my opening comments regarding the dread of the seasonally bad news about nukes and the apparatus that protects them, the articles covering nonviolent resistance have buoyed me. The criminal incorrigibility of Nukewatch staff from Sam Day to the present cast of characters has given me hope and sustenance.

I believe that spiritual resistance — the ability to stand firm at the center of our convictions when everything around us asks us to concede — that our capacity to face the harsh measures of life, comes from a deep quiet of listening to the land, the river, the rocks. — Terry Tempest Williams

CPT's training has retooled and reinvigorated me for the further engagement on the path of nonviolence ... it has nurtured my "capacity to face the harsh measures of life."

Nuclear Waste Shipment Meets Massive Resistance in Germany

By Skyler Simmons

Protesters across Germany and France disrupted a nuclear waste shipment destined for the small German village of Gorleben for three consecutive days in November. Embracing the principle of a diversity of tactics, the anti-nuclear activists employed everything from locking onto train tracks to knocking down radio towers.

The 175 tons of nuclear waste were being shipped by rail from a nuclear reprocessing plant in France to a concrete storage building in Germany from November 10 – 12. For several years now, such shipments have met intense resistance from farmers, students, environmentalists and anarchists.

This year, the Castor train, as it is called, was blocked before even reaching the German border by residents of the French town of Serquex. From there, it was nothing but trouble for the Castor train and German police as activists set up numerous blockades along the route.

One of the first spots of German resistance was the town of Luchow, where 600 students walked out of school and took to the streets to protest the nuclear waste traveling through their town. At the end of the demonstration, the youths attempted to force their way through the gates of the barracks that police had retreated into. In towns further along the route, farmers drove their tractors onto the tracks to block the train, while others held sit-ins and erected burning barricades. Activists with the group "Robin Wood" strung a traverse line between trees high above the tracks and hung from their feet with banners, effectively blocking the train's route.

The German government responded to the protests by deploying 20,000 police officers along the train's route, many of them to guard the final 12 miles, where the nuclear waste is unloaded and transported by truck to the dump site. In response, many of the protesters put their energy into tying up police by blocking access roads, playing cat and mouse and creating diversions in order to allow others to gain access to the tracks. Scuffles broke out in several towns, with police using pepper spray and batons, and protesters damaging patrol cars and throwing rocks. In one spot, unknown



Indymedia photo

Two hundred farmers joined a November action to prevent nuclear waste from reaching Gorleben, in north-central Germany. The government claims a dump there is temporary, but transporting it is dangerous and expensive.

saboteurs cut down a radio tower used by police for communications.

Resistance to the nuke transports was most intense along the final road route. In Metzingen, police attempted to raid one of the large protest camps but were repelled by a determined counter response of camp residents. From there, protesters blocked the main route of the waste transport trucks. When police began to divert traffic, others joined in and shut down the alternate routes with enormous burning barricades made from hay bales provided by local farmers.

Local residents — worried that their town will become a permanent nuke dump — were prepared, mobilizing 5,000 people. Two hundred farmers on tractors clogged the streets of Gorleben, four large concrete pyramid lockdowns were deployed along the shipping route and hundreds of others engaged in mass sit-ins. Elsewhere in the town, scuffles broke out between cops and protesters and flaming barricades blocked the entrance to the nuclear waste dump. After hours of clearing protesters, often times violently, the police were able to punch a hole through the barricades and deliver the nuclear waste to its temporary holding facility outside of Gorleben.

While the protesters did not stop the transport, they did manage to severely delay its arrival. Many activists, recognizing that they cannot directly overcome the full power of the state, have instead taken the approach of making the nuke transports as costly as possible. Considering that police operations alone cost approximately \$65 million, they did a pretty fair job. And this figure doesn't even take into account the numerous acts of sabotage carried out.

This year's anti-nuke action is being viewed as a warm-up for the 2007 Group of Eight meetings being held in Germany, next summer. Activists have been doing intensive organizing and hope to put their experiences and battle-tested tactics to use in disrupting the meetings of the world's most powerful leaders. — This article appeared in the Jan./Feb. 2007 Earth First! magazine.

What's with the cover?

You must have noticed the newsletter's new name and masthead. After almost 20 years as the *Pathfinder*, and not only because some SUV stole the name, the staff and volunteers agreed on a change and we hope you approve. We will continue to present the generally unwelcomed and under-reported news of nuclearism in all its persistent permutations, as well as information and opinion on positive nonviolent resistance to militarism and human rights abuses. Please support the *Quarterly* and Nukewatch with a financial gift or with documented clippings from your neck of the woods.

— John LaForge, Editor

NUCLEAR SHORTS

Navy, Republicans Guarded by Enslaved Animals

SAN DIEGO, Calif. — The AP reports that the U.S. Navy intends to use dozens of captive dolphins and sea lions to detect and even apprehend waterborne attackers at the Bangor Trident submarine base on Puget Sound near Seattle, Washington.

The base is home to six giant Trident submarines, each of which carries 24 ballistic missiles each with up to eight nuclear warheads. The \$2.2-billion Trident subs are the deadliest nuclear weapons and the most lethal war machines in human history — each one capable of incinerating 192 separate regions. The 375 kiloton warheads are 30 times the power of the 12.5 kiloton Hiroshima bomb.

Yet the Navy claims that this base is somehow "vulnerable to attack by swimmers and scuba divers."

Because of the dolphins' and sea lions' extraordinary sonar abilities, they can detect objects in the water and have been trained to drop a beacon that alerts the base.

The Navy also said that sea lions can carry in their mouths special cuffs attached to long ropes. The animals are trained to clamp the cuff on an intruder's leg and "the individual can then be reeled in for questioning."

Tom LaPuzza of the Marine Mammal Program spokesman told the press that dolphins and sea lions have also been trained to detect underwater mines and that they did so in the Iraqi harbor of Umm Qasr in 2003. LaPuzza also said the enslaved animals were put on patrol in San Diego harbor during the 1996 Republican National Convention.

— AP, *The New York Times*, Feb. 13, 2007

Hot Dog Park

LOS ANGELES, Calif. — The Barrington Recreation Center and dog park in Westwood has become a hot spot for suspected radioactive dumping. Concerned citizens have applied enough pressure on the federal government to force it to test for radiation. The Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA) previously owned the grounds where it operated a hospital, and it has agreed to drill 80-foot wells to test for radiation and other toxic materials. From 1952 to 1968, the VA and researchers from the Univ. of Calif. Los Angeles dumped biomedical waste from radiation experiments in the area, yet no record of what was actually buried have been recovered. Environmental and community activists believe the buried waste includes the charred carcasses of animals used in radiation experiments "and barrels of radioactive tritium" [probably contaminated water]. Shana Boehm, a program analyst at the VA, stated blatantly, "We want to put everyone's fears to rest and reassure everyone that there isn't any danger."

— United Press International, Nov. 30, 2006

"Mini-nuke" War Could Cause Nuclear Winter

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. — Any use of even so-called "mini-nuke"-sized atomic bombs, "could produce a globe-encircling pall of smoke, causing temperatures to fall worldwide and disrupting food production for millions of people."

This is the conclusion of a new study presented at a meeting of the American Geophysical Union here by some of the same scientists who developed the concept of "nuclear winter" in the 1980s.

So-called "mini-nukes" are between 5- and 20-kilotons of force, like the 12.5 kiloton bomb used by the U.S. that incinerated Hiroshima, Japan in 1945. "Catastrophic environmental and societal consequences extending the death toll far beyond the number of people killed directly by bombs," could result from a limited, regional nuclear war — say between India and Pakistan.

Owen Toon, an atmospheric researcher at the University of Colorado, told the on-line journal *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics Discussions* that even a "small" or "regional nuclear war" could cause as much death as was once predicted for a nuclear war between the U.S. and the former Soviet Union. "These results are quite surprising," he said.

Toon and co-author Richard Turco, a professor at the University of California, Los Angeles, say the accumulation of smoke and soot in the atmosphere would remain in the stratosphere for 10 years — even if only 100 fifteen-kiloton H-bombs were detonated.

The 5,000 warheads on today's U.S. missiles and bombs commonly have explosive power between 100 and 455 kilotons — or 8-to-35 times the force of the U.S. atom bomb dropped on Hiroshima.

— Los Angeles Times & St. Paul Pioneer Press, Dec. 12, 2006

More Contamination Found on British Beaches

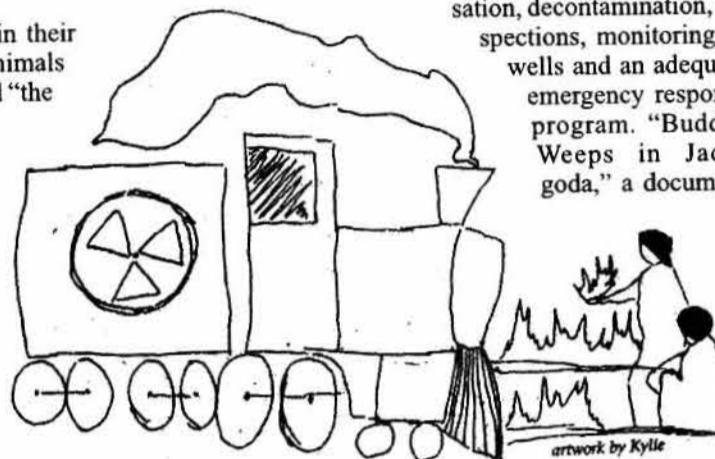
CUMBRIA, England — Radiation and contaminated items have again been found on Aberdeen, Braystones and Sellafield beaches in Britain. The use of new monitoring equipment has turned up what was described only as radioactive "pebble and sand-grain sized" objects on a Sellafield beach. Scotoil, a company that cleans equipment for the oil industry, is blamed for the Aberdeen contamination since it

routinely discharges radioactive waste into the sea. The company is being ordered to stop the radioactive discharges.

— BBC, Dec. 13, 2006; *North-West Evening Mail*, Feb. 13, 2007

Radioactive Discharge Poisons Indian River

JADUGODA, India — A broken pipe carrying radioactive waste from a uranium mill to a holding pond leaked for nine hours into a nearby creek, before people in the village of Dungridih alerted the mill owner, Uranium Company of India (UCIL). Scores of fish and frogs were killed. Drinking, washing and irrigation water has been affected for 100 miles downstream. People in the Jadugoda area, 28 percent of whom are Indigenous, have been increasingly exposed to radiation since British uranium mines opened in 1967. Area residents have requested that UCIL provide safe water for drinking and washing and compensate people who depend on the stream for their livelihood. They are calling for an investigation, public disclosure, compensation, decontamination, inspections, monitoring of wells and an adequate emergency response program. "Buddha Weeps in Jadugoda," a documen-



tary film produced in 2004, focuses on the environmental and health issues facing Indians living and working in the mines. Villagers must cope with radioactive water since mining waste has contaminated the area's groundwater. The people are also exposed to radiation when they eat animals or plants from contaminated areas, according to the film.

Jadugoda.net, Jan. 15, 2007; BBC, May 4, 2006; Tuftsdaily.com, Nov. 19, 2004

Radioactive Trafficking Lost & Found

NEW YORK, New York — The UN International Atomic Energy Agency released its annual Illicit Trafficking Database for 2006, a litany of missing radioactive materials from around the world. There were 149 cases of missing material, some involving the illegal sale and attempted trafficking of sensitive material across international borders. Eighty-five of the cases involved theft, and of those 75 percent of the "hot" materials have never been recovered. The cases in which the materials were recovered involved "natural uranium, depleted uranium, thorium and one case involved highly-enriched uranium." — All Headline News, West Palm Beach, Florida., Feb. 1, 2007

False Data Jeopardizes Japanese Reactors

TOKYO, Japan — Japan's largest utility operator, Tokyo Electric Power Co. (TEPCO), has admitted that it falsified data at its nuclear power reactors for three decades in an attempt to easily pass compulsory government inspections. Technical data was faked, from 1977 to 2002, according to the company's report to the federal Trade and Industry Ministry. TEPCO even faked test operations at a reactor in northern Japan in 1992 when an emergency core cooling system pump failed during a government inspection. Sadly enough, the falsifications have passed the government's three-year statute of limitations and TEPCO will likely avoid punishment. — Mainichi Daily News, Feb. 2, 2007

Contamination at U.S. Nuclear Weapons Laboratory

LOS ALAMOS, New Mexico — The Los Alamos National Lab and the New Mexico State Environmental Department are at odds over the lab's compliance with a historic March 2005 consent order to clean up hazardous waste by 2015.

Four fines have been levied against the lab. In July '06 the lab dumped 20 tons of hazardous waste into a Los Alamos county landfill. A month later the lab failed to notify the public in a timely way of chromium contamination in groundwater. In October 2006, the lab mixed demolition rubble with other waste on Sigma Mesa and failed to clean up an ash pile where classified documents and trash were buried in the 1950s. All fines are currently under negotiation.

Lab spokesman James Rickman, said, "The laboratory takes its environmental responsibilities very seriously and is following the consent order." James Bearzi, chief of the Environmental Department's hazardous waste bureau characterized the nature of pollution in the lab area, "It's quite a cocktail of contaminants in the aquifer up there."

"New Mexico's water resources are so precious, and Los Alamos is just beginning to understand its effects on the groundwater," added Mr. Bearzi. — AP, *Albuquerque Tribune*, Nov. 29, & *New Mexican*, Nov. 28, 2006

Radioactive Parcels Stop Mail at U.S./Canadian Border

TORONTO, Ontario — A Canadian postal truck was stopped and denied entry at the Port Huron crossing in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, after alarms sounded the presence of radioactive materials on board. Fearing that the suspect cargo was going to aid terrorists, U.S. agents searched the truck. They found mail but no radioactive material. The truck was returned to the Gateway postal processing facility in Mississauga from whence it came. A hazardous material handling firm was hired to seek out the radioactive materials. Four parcels were found to be radioactive including three in which stamps were licked by a man undergoing cancer treatment, and one containing medicinal foot patches made of a certain, unnamed chemical.

— Toronto Sun, Nov. 30, 2006

You're So Hot: Is That Uranium in Your Pocket?

TBILISI, Georgia — In late January, Russian national Oleg Khintsagov was arrested for trying to sell 3.5 ounces of highly-enriched uranium-235 at the Russian-Georgian border. The arrest was part of a reverse racial profiling sting operation in which agents posed as Islamist militants. Russian officials speculate that the weapons-grade uranium he carried in plastic bags in his pockets came from the Siberian city of Novosibirsk. Russia's Siberian Hinterland is home to numerous nuclear facilities and vast stockpiles of radioactive materials that have suffered from lax security since the breakup of the Soviet Union. — Reuters, Jan. 26, 2007

National Laboratory & Duratek Fined for Illegal 400,000-gal. Discharge

OAK RIDGE, Tennessee — In federal court in Knoxville December 20, Duratek Federal Services pleaded guilty to discharging up to 400,000 gallons of radioactive waste into Bear Creek. The Oak Ridge National Laboratory contractor was ordered to pay a \$300,000 fine for the September 2002 violation.

During a period of heavy rain, the company should have emptied overflow into a sediment pond as its license requires. Instead, it sent radioactively contaminated water into a drainage ditch which emptied into the creek.

Senior assistant U.S. attorney Guy Blackwell was the lead prosecutor in the case. He said, "Their explanation was, 'We knew we had to get it out of the ponds; We knew it was going to overflow; So we did the best we could under the circumstances.' But that wasn't good enough for us."

Duratek website says that the company can, "cost-effectively and securely handle radioactive materials."

— Channel 6 News, Knoxville, Jan. 3; & *Knoxville News Sentinel*, Jan. 3, 2007



As many as 60,000 people marched in London Feb. 24 demanding that the Trident missile program be permanently retired and that UK troops return from Iraq.

RESOURCES noted in this issue

* Bellona USA, P.O. Box 42090, Washington D.C. 20015, Phone: (202) 390-9344; Email: <info@bellona.no>

* Center for Food Safety, 660 Penn. Av. SE, #302; Washington, DC 20003; Phone: (202) 547-9359; Email: office@centerforfoodsafety.org; Web: centerforfoodsafety.org

* Earthjustice Hawaii, 223 South King Street, Suite 400 Honolulu, HI 96813, Phone: (808) 599-2436; Email: honoluluoffice@earthjustice.org; Web: earthjustice.org

* Faslane-365, Valley Farmhouse, E. Runton, Cromer, Norfolk NR27 9PN, England, Email: info@faslane365.org; Web: faslane365.org

* Federation of American Scientists, 1717 K St. NW; #209, Washington, DC 20036; Phone: (202) 546-3300; Web: fas.org

* Food and Water Watch, 1400 16th Street NW, Suite 225, Washington, DC 20036; Phone: (202) 797-6550; Email: foodandwater@fwwatch.org

* Greenpeace, Otto Heldringstraat 5, 1066 AZ Amsterdam, The Netherlands, Phone: +31 20 7182000; Email: supporter.services@int.greenpeace.org; Web: greenpeace.org/international

* Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, 16159 Clear Creek Rd, Poulsbo, WA 98370; Phone: (360) 779-4672; Email: info@gzcenter.org

* ICBUW, Int'l Coalition to Ban Uranium Weapons, Web: bandepleteduranium.org

* Public Citizen, 1600 20th St. NW, Washington, DC 20009; Phone: (202) 588-1000; Web: citizen.org



Photo by U.S. Attorney, Bismarck, ND

Blood and graffiti on Minuteman III missile silo E-9 near Whiteside, North Dakota, June 2, 2006

Disarmament Activist Released from Prison

DULUTH, Minnesota — A U.S. Army veteran and member of Duluth's Loaves & Fishes Catholic Worker Community was released from the Duluth Federal Prison Camp February 16 after finishing an eight-month sentence for symbolically disarming a nuclear missile silo in North Dakota.

Michael Walli, 57, was among a group of three who poured blood and used household hammers to "turn swords into plowshares" at a Minuteman III nuclear missile silo 100 miles north of Bismarck.

Dressed as clowns, Walli, Fr. Carl Kabat, 72, a Catholic priest from St. Louis, Missouri and Greg Boertje-Obed, 52, also of Loaves & Fishes, broke the lock off the fence surrounding the unguarded silo site, hung banners ("Weapon of Mass Destruction Here!") and painted "Stop Nuclear Terrorism Here" etc., on the silo cover. They then poured some of their own blood on equipment and hammered on the heavy concrete lid.

The three were tried and convicted in federal district court in Bismarck, North Dakota, September 15, 2006. Facing up to 10 years in prison and/or \$250,000 in fines, Walli was ordered to serve eight months and pay \$17,000 restitution. U.S. District Judge Daniel Hovland said at sentencing, "I hope you propagate a means that is law abiding in the future; funnel your energy and compassion to positive things. If you do this again you'll get the high-end sentence."

The judge's reference was to federal guidelines limiting federal court's options in imposing sentences.

Fr. Kabat was sentenced to 15 months, Boertje-Obed to 12 months, and each were ordered to pay \$17,000 restitution.

North Dakota has 150 Minuteman III missiles which are kept on alert status and staffed by Minot Air Force Base personnel. The missiles are deployed in a semi-circle around Minot, North Dakota. Another 350 Minuteman missiles are spread across parts of Colorado, Nebraska, Wyoming and Montana.

Meanwhile, fellow Minuteman III disarmer Greg Boertje-Obed was plucked from the Duluth prison camp grounds and placed in "the hole" — a group of solitary cells attached to the prison officers' headquarters where inmates are usually sent for misconduct.

Greg was told that the level of his conviction was such that he had been improperly placed in a minimum security "camp." He has since been shipped to the medium-security prison in Sandstone, Minnesota. While in segregation, both the warden and captain visited him to explain that their higher-ups in Washington, DC had changed their minds about Greg's security designation. No fault of Greg's, but he had to endure the ordeal of lost contact with family and a prison transfer.

For the last four months of his year-&-a-day sentence, Greg will be in the more severely regulated Sandstone Federal Correctional Institution. Write Greg C/O #08052-016, FCI Sandstone, P.O. Box 1000, Sandstone, MN 55072.

Iraq Contractors Steal Billions, Bush Wants Additional \$100 Billion for War, Cuts for Poor

WASHINGTON — About \$10 billion have been "squandered" in Iraq by contractor fraud and overcharges and billions more are at risk. The government's top auditors in Iraq found "nearly triple the amount of waste [in Feb.] that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) estimated last fall," the AP reported.

"There is no accountability," said the GAO's David Walker. Stuart Bowen, special inspector general for Iraq reconstruction, William Reed, the director of the Defense Contract Audit Agency, and Walker all testified Feb. 15 before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. They said military and State Department officials condoned or allowed gross overcharges, repeated work delays and payments for work never done.

Ten days earlier *The Guardian* reported that Bush "is proposing to slash medical care for the poor and elderly to meet the soaring cost of the Iraq war."

Bush has requested an extra \$100 billion for the Iraq and Afghanistan wars for 2007; this on top of \$70 billion

already allocated this year by Congress and \$141.7 billion requested for next year.

The *Guardian* said, "The huge rise in military spending is paid for by a squeeze on domestic programs, including \$66 billion in cuts over five years to Medicare, the health care scheme for the elderly, \$12 billion from the Medicaid health care plan for the poor" and 39 other programs.

Prior to the 2003 invasion, the Pentagon's estimate of the war's total cost was \$50 billion. White House advisor Lawrence Lindsey was fired after he suggested the total cost would be \$200 billion. If Bush's supplemental \$100 billion is approved by Congress, it "would take the spending on Iraq beyond the \$614 billion cost at today's prices of the 13-year Vietnam conflict," the *Guardian* reported.

Over \$4 billion of the squandered money was in the form of cold cash sent by the U.S. Federal Reserve to Baghdad in December 2003 and June 2004. The money was stacked aboard military planes on wooden pallets weighing a total of 363 tons, lawmakers said February 6.

Greenhouse Hype

By Paul Vos Benkowski

The call for concern about global warming has been a voice in the wilderness for many years, but it has reached the edge of the woods and is now being heard by many who previously shrugged off the alarm. Even our oil-powered President Bush is alarmed enough to mention renewable energy in his recent State of the Union Address, as well as our need to search out alternative sources of power. One can no longer argue with the sentiment that our earth is in danger, however, the solutions put forth by the President, energy companies, pundits and scientists all include a most troubling answer to the problem of global warming and the increase of greenhouse gases, and that is nuclear energy. It is often slipped in the list of "green energies" like solar, wind and geothermal yet it is by far the most dangerous source of energy on the planet today and tomorrow and thousands of years into the future and until the sham of "safe nuclear energy" is exposed it will continue its cancerous rampage on the earth.

The true cost of nuclear energy runs much higher than the price per kilowatt hour when one takes into consideration mining, processing and transportation of uranium, the cost of running a nuclear power reactor (fueled as it is with fossil fuels) and the endless prospect of waste removal and management. Yet the growing threat of global warming has won over previously obstinate fossil fuel backers and has also paired up some bizarre bedfellows all clamoring for an answer to the warming problem, including the National Association of Evangelicals who warned that "God will judge us for destroying the creation" as well as leaders in the energy industry: Duke Energy runs seven nuclear reactors in the Carolinas; Pacific Gas & Electric runs the Diablo Canyon nuclear reactor; and General Electric, one of the premier builders of reactors. Suddenly climate change has become a rallying point for nuclear energy and the industry has been quick to jump on the bandwagon with a fresh outlook on the tired rhetoric of nuclear power.

Including nuclear energy in the list of "Green Energies" is an egregious lie as it is neither renewable nor sustainable like solar, wind or geothermal. The waste produced is volatile and permanent. Scientists have begun reprocessing nuclear waste only to produce more waste in a liquid form that still needs to be dealt with in a manner no one has figured out. The claim that nuclear energy is sustainable is pure fabrication because uranium is a finite resource, according to the

World Nuclear Association's *Uranium Fact Sheet* there are only 50-60 years left in the world's supply of uranium if used at its present rate. This fact has also led to a six-fold increase in the cost of uranium since 2001. Unfortunately this increase in cost and demand will lead to a resurgence of uranium exploration and mining at a cost greater than currency, see Bonnie Urfer's article "No Racism! No Uranium" in this issue for a deeper analysis of the emotional costs of uranium mining.

One of the claims being presented for nuclear power as a viable green energy is that nuclear reactors do not produce carbon dioxide which causes global warming yet the vast infrastructure necessary to produce nuclear energy uses an enormous amount of fossil fuels and coal which are the main source of greenhouse gases. As well as sucking vast amounts of energy from the grid, reactors are also a major consumer of water: from uranium mining that involves dewatering the mine with 16-17 billion liters of water per year with subsequent harmful impact on groundwater and surface water; to the pools used to cool irradiated fuel rods that



to it is as "green energy."

It is not only the construction of nuclear reactors that warrants the exorbitant cost but the decommissioning and the liability as well. These costs are routinely passed on to the taxpayers. For instance, in the coming years many reactors will reach the end of their lifetimes and will be shut down. A case in point is the Yankee Rowe reactor in Massachusetts, whose decommissioning cost was expected to be \$120 million but actually grew to \$450 million. According to a Government Accounting Office report from 2003 the cost of decommissioning all the reactors in the U.S. could be as high as \$33 billion. The liability cost of running a nuclear reactor also carries a heavy price tag for U.S. taxpayers, as per the Price-Anderson Act which limits the amount of damages the nuclear industry is responsible for if there is an accident; presently this limit is set at \$9.1 billion. In case of a full blown nuclear meltdown this \$9.1 billion would cover only an estimated 2 percent of the damages leaving the other 98 percent to the taxpayers, according to federal research into the Three Mile Island accident in 1979. If it were not for this subsidy the costs of insuring a nuclear reactor would be prohibitively high and the cost of nuclear power would reflect this increase, revealing the true cost of nuclear power.

It is in the final stage of the nuclear process that the myth of "green nukes" is most soundly rebuked — the nuclear waste stage, one that is ever present and without resolution. With radioactive waste from a nuclear reactor remaining deadly for a staggering 300,000 years, the costs of transporting, storing and monitoring the material will be passed from generation to generation — all for a few years of cheap electricity.

As the discussion of greenhouse gas and global warming accelerates the nuclear industry and the present administration are wont to look for a quick fix to the present energy situation and they are not afraid to lay claim to suspect science to back up their plans. What they are looking for is a silver bullet but what they are slow to embrace is a change in the national attitude toward the sources of our energy. When Vice President Dick Cheney is quoted as saying, "Conservation may be a sign of personal virtue, but it is not a sufficient basis for a sound, comprehensive energy policy," one cannot help but suspect that the current administration has no real desire to explore other safe, true green energy sources and will continue to push for nuclear energy as a viable alternative, despite the compelling evidence to the contrary.

Uranium Mining = Racism

By Bonnie Urfer and John Heid

The Rio Puerco flows along the southern boundary of the Navajo reservation, which spans the New Mexico-Arizona border. On July 16, 1979, eleven hundred tons of radioactive mill waste and ninety million gallons of contaminated liquid washed down the dry river bed. Every well for 50 miles downstream was contaminated. The water in one of every four wells on Navajo land is now radioactive. Native Americans lived in at least 70 houses made with radioactive materials. This is part and parcel of a history and policy of destroying Indian lands and lives.

For over a half century, uranium mining for the nuclear weapons and power industries has contaminated homes, schools, playgrounds and food on tribal land. In some cases the mining companies provided radioactive dirt for constructing buildings.

Between 1945 and 1988 thirteen million tons of uranium ore were taken from Navajo lands and used in nuclear weapons production. More than 15,000 people worked in the mines and mills of the southwest alone. Lung disease has claimed the lives of 400 Navajo miners formerly employed in the 1,100 uranium mines on tribal lands in the Four Corners. At the end of the arms race, 1,000 mines and four processing mills shut down on tribal lands.

Uranium miners were never warned of the dangers inherent in their jobs. They walked in radioactive mud, drank water running in the mine and contaminated their families by bringing radioactive dust home on their clothes. During the Cold War, miners often worked around the clock.

Eighty nine abandoned open-pit uranium mines in the northwestern South Dakota Cave Hills area are currently managed by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). Studies by the Forest Service show that one mine alone has 1400 millirems (mR) per hour of exposed radiation, a level that is 120,000 times higher than normal background readings of 100 mR year. There are no warning signs posted for the general public anywhere near this site. Water from the abandoned uranium mines at Cave Hills empties into the Grand River which flows directly through the Standing Rock Indian Reservation. Residents from three villages that are located on the Grand River use this flowage for drinking.

Water runoff from the Slim Buttes abandoned uranium mine empties into the Moreau River which flows through the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation. Four villages are located on the Moreau River. Both the Moreau and the Grand Rivers empty into the Missouri River which empties into the Mississippi River. Only after the public raised concern about these mines did the USFS and the Environmental Protection Agency pay for a single study at one mine.

The southern Black Hills also contain many abandoned uranium mines. Nuclear radiation near Edgemont, South Dakota has polluted the underground water of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation according to a study completed in 1980 by Women of All Red Nations. In 1972 President Richard Nixon signed an executive order for the four state region to be a "National Sacrifice Area" for the mining and production of uranium.

Thirty years of uranium mining at Laguna Pueblo in New Mexico have resulted in elevated cancer rates, miscarriages, deformities, developmental disabilities, asthma, allergies and bronchitis within the Laguna community. High concentrations of uranium arsenic and other heavy metals have been found in one out of five drinking-water sources. Across the reservation sandy mill tailings and chunks of ore squared off by blasting were left unattended at old mines and mills, free for the taking. They were fashioned into bread ovens, cisterns, foundations, fireplaces, floors and walls.

Between 1984 and 1995, the Department of Energy (DOE) focused on the contamination problem on Indian land. The agency spent \$240 million to cover tailing piles at old uranium mills. Today, however, radioactive debris is scattered around these largely unattended mine sites. Surface caps have been eroded by weather. Runoff from seasonal rains washes through the abandoned mines. Children play in the tailings piles. Native people and their livestock continue to inhale radioactive dust borne aloft by desert winds.

In 1990 Congress apologized to native miners and gave compensation of \$150,000 to qualified workers. The compensation law for uranium miners applies to workers in only five states: Colorado, Arizona, Utah, Wyoming and New Mexico. The compensation period covers January 1, 1947 to December 31, 1971. In order to be eligible for the maximum \$150,000, miners or their heirs must have compiled medical documentation of the miner contracting lung cancer or certain non-malignant respiratory diseases after having been exposed to 200 or more working level months (WLM) of radiation. A WLM is a defined measurement of worker exposure to alpha radiation from airborne radon daughters. These are radioactive decay products of uranium. 200 WLMs represents very high exposure. In 1972 Federal mine safety regulations limited worker exposure to 4 WLMs per year based on the reasoning that over a career of thirty years a miner would be limited to an exposure of 120 working level months. So, to be eligible for compensation the early miners must have been exposed

to considerably more radiation than current miners are allowed to receive in their entire lifetimes in the mines. A miner could reach the 200 WLM in four to six years. In some instances with intense exposure, the compensation level could be inhaled in one year. Only about 500 out of 3,000 Navajo miners who registered for payments were granted compensation.

Uranium prices have increased to more than \$60 per pound up from \$7 per pound just six years ago. Skulking mining companies are once again plaguing Navajo communities across a 27,000 square mile area of Arizona, New Mexico and Utah. The Black Hills are also being targeted by the mining industry. People in South Dakota are trying to prevent the drilling of 155 new uranium holes in the Black Hills. Mineral rights, claims and applications for permits are in the works in multiple states. A Texas-based company, Hydro Resources, Inc. holds a Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) license to mine in and around Crownpoint, a crossroads town of 3,000 Navajos that sits on the largest known undeveloped uranium deposit in the U.S. Church Rock, New Mexico is targeted for mining to begin in 2008. The two locations could potentially produce 42 million pounds of uranium and \$2.5 billion for the mining companies.

Mining companies extend every assurance that their new and improved "in-situ" techniques will not create the same kind of on-going environmental poisoning, damage and deadly contamination as still exists from past extraction, but six years of pumping were required to return water in one Wyoming in-situ leach mine to the state's safe drinking water standards. Uranium Resources, Inc. (URI) has not been as successful at a mine site south of Corpus Christi, Texas.

On April 29, 2005 Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr., signed into tribal law the Diné Natural Resources Protection Act (DNRPA) of 2005, outlawing uranium mining on or near Navajo land. The act states, "No person shall engage in uranium mining and processing on any sites within Navajo Indian Country." Eastern Navajo Diné Against Uranium Mining — Concerned Citizens of T'iistsooz-Nideeshgizh (ENDAUM-CCT) is working to stop proposed mines through community education, interaction with Navajo Nation leaders, and a seven-year-long legal challenge of the mines' federal license. A URI company license application has been appealed by the tribe. Tribal members have visited representatives in Washington and at the United Nations and citizens have marched in opposition to proposed mining. The work of the Southwest Research and Information Center (SRIC), ENDAUM-CCT and their law firms — the New Mexico Environmental Law Center (NMELC) and the Harmon-Curran firm in Washington, D.C. — have erected major roadblocks to the proposed mining, but the license has not been terminated.

On March 30, 1992 the Havasupai lost an important legal battle when the Supreme Court refused to hear their appeal of a court decision that allowed Energy Fuels Nuclear (EFN) to open Canyon Mine, located 8 miles from the Grand Canyon's south entrance. Energy Fuels Nuclear Canyon Mine shaft is built over the natural springs that feed Havasu Creek, the only source of water for the Havasupai People. The Havasupai wrestled with the federal government and the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality over the issuance of a water quality permit for the mine. They challenged the Environmental Impact Statement prepared by the U.S. Forest Service fearing that surface and ground water and a major aquifer would be contaminated. Although EFN plans to install a monitoring wall, the Havasupai contend that detecting contamination after it has reached the water will be too late.

The Ute Tribe in Utah won a victory when the DOE refused to allow the dumping of 2.6 million cubic yards of uranium tailings up hill from reservation land at White Mesa. Cedar Mesa and White Mesa are known for their superb archaeological treasures. The uranium dirt would have been shipped to the Energy Fuels Ltd. site via 110,000 truck loads over three years.

The Indigenous Uranium Forum (IUF), founded by native peoples including Australian Aborigines and North Americans, held the First Global Radiation Victims Conference in New York City in 1987. Five years later, on September 19, 1992, indigenous peoples from around the world issued a global ban on uranium mining on native lands.

The Indigenous World Uranium Summit held November 30-December 2, 2006 on the Navajo Nation in Window Rock, Arizona brought together Australian aborigines and villagers from India, Africa and Pacific Islanders as well as indigenous peoples of North America. A declaration to take action to halt the cancer, birth defects and deaths from uranium mining and nuclear industries on native lands was signed. The summit concluded with the following recommendations:

1. No more exploitation of lands and people by uranium mining, nuclear-power generation, nuclear testing, and radioactive waste dumping.
2. Clean up and restore all homelands.
3. End the secrecy and fully disclose all information about nuclear industry and its dangers.
4. Provide full and fair compensation for damage to peoples, families, and communities, cultures and economies, homelands, water, air and all living things.



Shiprock, New Mexico, is contaminated with radiation from uranium shipments and mill tailings.

5. Provide independent and objective monitoring of human health and the well-being of all living things affected by the nuclear chain.

The communiqué also reported the vision of native peoples for the future:

1. In view of the unity of humanity and the world, we appeal on behalf of future generations to use sustainable, renewable, and life-enhancing energy alternatives.

2. We call on the whole world, in particular leaders and scientists, to share in our vision for peace, harmony, and respect for life.

Australian Nuclear Waste Shipped to U.S.

Under the cover of darkness on December 17, 2006, police and firefighters with helicopter support escorted 10 trucks carrying irradiated nuclear fuel rods from the Lucas Heights reactor via secret routes through the streets of suburban Sydney. The containers were bound for the U.S. for reprocessing.

A spokesman for the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organization said, "We can't inform people of the timing or route of the shipment for security reasons..." Local councils and media were notified via mail a few weeks in advance, but the route remained a secret to be determined by the police.

Greenpeace mounted a protest to the covert operation which campaigner Steve Campbell says highlights the issue of nuclear waste. "We're here to warn the Australian community that if the government pushes through with its plans to build nuclear reactors around Australia, that it's going to mean a massive escalation in this kind of dangerous nuclear waste transport through Australian communities."

The shipment coincided with an agreement between BHP Billiton and Taipower whereby Australia will begin shipping uranium to Taiwan. A bilateral agreement between Canberra and Washington created an indirect sales arrangement through the U.S.

Germany Sends Uranium to Russia

Under tight security measures 268 kg (590 lbs) of fresh highly enriched uranium fuel (HEU) and 58 kg (128 lbs) of fresh low-enriched uranium fuel (LEU) were airlifted from the German federal state of Saxony to a reprocessing center at Podolsk outside Moscow on December 18, 2006. This is the largest return shipment of HEU to Russia to date under an International Atomic Energy Agency Technical Cooperation project, entitled "Repatriation, Management and Disposition of Fresh and/or Spent Nuclear Fuel from Research Reactors."

More than half of all the operational research reactors worldwide — 132 out of 244 — are still fueled with HEU, a high risk material that can also be used in the making of a nuclear explosive device.

Saxony's Science Minister Eva Marie Stange said the fuel return would save her budget •1 million a year. "This joint operation means more money to be spent for more useful purposes instead of securing old nuclear burden," she said.

The purported goal of the project is to dissuade other countries from pursuing weapons-development programs. The plan is to mix the HEU with low-grade uranium — part of an international program to prevent nuclear materials from falling into the wrong hands.

• Anti-nuclear protesters forced a convoy carrying the uranium to take a detour on its way to the Dresden airport.

New Nuclear Sub for U.S.

"This is a magnificent ship. It's the ship we need in the Navy," exclaimed Adm. Kirkland H. Donald, director of naval nuclear propulsion after the *USS Hawaii* successfully completed sea trials on December 3, 2006.

The *USS Hawaii* is the third of 30 Virginia class nuclear-powered attack submarines planned by the Navy. It was built jointly by Electric Boat and Northrop Grumman Newport News in record time, less than six months.

Virginia-class submarines are the Navy's first major combatant ships designed for what it calls the post-cold war security environment. John P. Casey, president of General Dynamics Electric Boat boasted vaguely, "They are specifically designed to incorporate emergent technologies as threats change." — John Heid, a Nukewatch volunteer, lives at Anathoth Community Farm.

Rotten Reactors

Explosion at Diablo Canyon

SAN LUIS OBISPO, Calif. — At Diablo Canyon December 12, 2006, a cooling water circulation pump exploded and caught fire and forced its operators to shut down one of the two reactors. Pacific Gas and Electric said a faulty surge capacitor caused the accident. The explosion occurred two days after the same reactor was shut down when a faulty sensor incorrectly indicated that another water circulation pump was operating improperly and overheating. Diablo Canyon has four 12,000-volt cooling-water circulation pumps that collectively circulate nearly 2 billion gallons of seawater through the reactors every day.

— *San Luis Obispo Tribune*, Dec. 13 & 14, 2006

"There's nothing unusual" About Accidents: Operator
GÄVLE, Sweden — The Forsmark reactors, 100 kilometers north of Stockholm, continue to experience problems. A "damning" internal report about safety at Forsmark was made public six months after last summer's near-meltdown, when Sweden's electrical grid failed. Forsmark-1 immediately shutdown when two of four backup generators, which supply power to the reactor's cooling system, malfunctioned. The report said a culture of lax security had developed on site leading to a series of "potentially fatal accidents" that included a nitrogen gas leak, improper handling of live electrical wires and even failed sobriety tests among staff.

On February 8, Forsmark's Managing Director, Lars Fagerberg resigned after the Swedish Nuclear Power Inspectorate (SNPI) condemned his failure to conduct required testing in reactors 1 & 2. The failures caused the shutdown of both reactors in a "category one" mishap that forbids a restart without formal SNPI permission. Reactor 3 must also be thoroughly inspected before it can operate.

Forsmark 1 was shut down again December 16 due to a problem with a valve in the steam turbine.

At Forsmark 3, a damaged fuel rod needed replacing in December. Claes-Inge Andersson, spokesman for the reactors' operator, said, "There's nothing unusual about this. This type of damage happens when, for example, maintenance work is carried out and a foreign object comes into contact with water in the reactor."

— *The Local* (Stockholm), Feb. 3, 10, 14, 16 & 22, 2007; *International Herald Tribune*, Dec. 17 & 22, 2006

Fire and Cooling Water Leaks at Ringhals

VARBERG, Sweden — The Ringhals 2 reactor was shut down February 16, 2007, for a bigger-than-normal leak from the reactor's primary cooling system (12 liters per hour instead of the usual six). The four-reactor complex, 300 miles southwest of Stockholm, is the largest in Sweden. In November, an explosion in an electrical transformer caused a fire at Ringhals 3, forcing a week-long shutdown. The complex has been plagued with radiation leaks for years. Problems at Sweden's reactors have been frequent enough to move the UN International Atomic Energy Agency to conduct inspections.

Happily, in 1981 Sweden began the process of phasing-out nuclear energy in favor of biofuels and hydropower.

— *Physorg.com*, Feb. 16, 2007; *The Local* (Stockholm), Nov. 15, 2006

Broken & Missing Waste Fuel Rod Leads to Fine

BAXLEY, Georgia — Southern Nuclear Operating Company Inc., owner and operator of the Hatch reactor north of Baxley, Georgia, has been fined \$104,000 by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for losing 18 inches of a highly radioactive waste fuel rod. According to the NRC, Southern Nuclear failed to keep records for tracking waste fuel segments for a 23 year period between 1981 and 2004. The NRC conducted a physical inventory between November 2005 and July 2006. A 2005 NRC report states that the deadly fuel rod segment is either in an unidentified location in the reactor cooling pool or has been shipped off-site to a low-level radioactive waste site. In the process of doing the 7-month visual search, inspectors dropped a 4½ inch fuel segment into the pool and it has not been recovered. "Because of extensive radiological and security measures in place, NRC officials said it is highly unlikely that the material is in an uncontrolled location or that it poses any risk to the public." — *Earth Times*, Dec. 30, 2006; NRC Event Number 42135, Nov. 10, 2005

Contamination Surrounds Indian Point Reactor

BUCHANAN, New York — Entergy's Indian Point reactor, located 24 miles north of the New York City on the Hudson River is responsible for contaminating groundwater and the Hudson. Reactor 2 sprang a leak in its waste fuel cooling pool that was discovered in August of 2005. Tritium, strontium-90 and "other radionuclides characteristic of spent fuel pool water" have been detected beneath the reactors according to the NRC. Strontium-90, with a half-life of 29 years, is an extremely hazardous "bone-seeking" radioisotope and has been identified in 1/4 of the area's fish.

Local residents don't know how much radiation they are being exposed to since the NRC didn't require immediate notification, saying in its report, "[this] was not an event that was considered by the licensee to be related to the health and safety of the public or on-site personnel, or protection of the environment."

Two separate tests showed different levels of groundwater contamination. Lisa Rainwater, director of the environmental group Indian Point Campaign for the Riverkeeper in Tarrytown, called the findings "bad news on top of bad news." Repair to the reactor necessitates filling barrels with radioactive waste for shipment to a landfill.

One or more of the Unit 1 Fuel and Equipment Storage pools (six interconnected concrete pools and a water storage pool) have been known to be leaking "for several years," says the NRC question-and-answer webpage, with assurances that the radioactive waste is always collected and disposed of properly. A September 2005 attempt to increase the water level in one of the waste fuel cooling pools failed when the water moved inadvertently to an adjacent "cask disassembly pool," passing through the crumbling pipe and concrete system at a rate of 500 gallons-per-day.

The NRC stated, "Since there are no drinking water wells on site and local communities receive their drinking water from surface reservoirs, there are no dose impacts from groundwater contamination." The claim is that less strontium-90 is spilled outside the reactor than the utility is allowed to dump anyway. "Years of sampling and thousands of analyses have shown that Indian Point does not pose a health risk to the public."

Indian Point's No. 3 reactor had a dramatic drop of intake cooling water from the Hudson February 5.

Legislation was introduced by U.S. representatives from New York that would require a 10 million dollar Independent Safety Assessment at Indian Point within six months. A new siren system is being installed but will not be working until April. The old system, still in operation, has repeatedly failed over the past couple of years. Twenty million people, 8 percent of the U.S. population, live within 50 miles of Indian Point. — *Journal News*, Feb. 16, 2007 & Nov. 22, 2006; NRC new release, March 21, 2006 & <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/plant-specific-items/indian-point/faq.html>; *Environmental News Service*, Feb. 5, & *Westport News*, Feb. 16, 2007

Potassium Iodide Dispensed for Use In Radiation Disaster

MINNESOTA — One hundred and thirty thousand people who live within 10 miles of reactors at Monticello and Prairie Island should have received their vouchers for free potassium iodide tablets; the pills offer some protection against thyroid gland damage in the event of a massive release of iodine-131. Vouchers can be redeemed for two doses per person at six Target store pharmacies. Four of the stores are near the Monticello reactors, about 50 miles northwest of Minneapolis/St. Paul; two are close to the Prairie Island site near Red Wing, Minnesota is the 22nd state to dispense the potassium tablets. They are supposed to be taken before being exposed, but the Minnesota Department of Health advises residents to wait for their direction before taking the medication.

— *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, Jan. 2 & 3, 2007; Minnesota Department of Health, Oct. 6, 2006

Oyster Creek Reactor Versus Endangered Sea Turtles

LACEY, New Jersey — AmerGen Energy's Oyster Creek reactors have contaminated soil and leaves of plants near the reactor with cesium-137. Contamination with the isotope is extremely dangerous, but reactor officials said the amounts detected "pose no health or safety threat to people or wildlife." However, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, NRC, DOE and Department of Health & Human Services all agree that any exposure, no matter how small, is dangerous.

Oyster Creek owners have applied for a 20-year license extension that, if granted, would legally allow them to kill up to five endangered sea turtles per year (with its water intake system). Compounding the absurdity of operating Oyster Creek in spite of its contamination record, some workers have been trained to rescue turtles using mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. According to the National Marine Fisheries Service Report, the deaths of five turtles each year would not jeopardize the species. Oyster Creek was responsible for massive fish kills in 1972, 1985, 1995, 2000 and 2002. Still, every day the reactor pulls 1.4 billion gallons of water from Barnegat Bay into its cooling system. The cold water is sucked up the Forked River, but it is returned to Oyster Creek at 110° F. — *Asbury Park Press Online*, Feb. 10, 2007, Nov. 30 & Dec. 16, 2006; & *New Jersey Public Interest Research Group's Clean Water Advocate*, Oct. 25, 2005

Reactor Removed, Waste Remains, "Contamination Inevitable"

HADDAM, Connecticut — Although the reactor core and several buildings have been removed, the Connecticut



The reactor core from Connecticut Yankee was shipped south by barge along the East Coast. Above, the core is being off-loaded for burial in Barnwell, South Carolina.

Yankee site is today left with more than 1,000 highly radioactive waste fuel rods stored in dry casks. A nine-member commission will monitor the dry casks and serve as liaisons to community, state and federal regulators. Connecticut Yankee stopped producing electricity in 1996. The 820-ton reactor core was removed and shipped to Barnwell, South Carolina and the reactor pressure vessel went to Energy Solutions (a dump operator) in Clive, Utah. Contamination that occurred during dismantling of the reactor was trivialized by Richard Feigenbaum, Connecticut Yankee's executive vice president, who said, "Some low-level contamination is inevitable." A nuclear reactor "that has operated as long and produced as many kilowatts as Connecticut Yankee is going to have contamination," Feigenbaum quipped. Connecticut rate payers paid \$427 million to dismantle and partially clean-up the site. NRC license termination is expected this summer.

U.S. Federal Judge James Merow awarded Connecticut Yankee \$34.1 million for the government's failure to remove the high-level waste fuel rods from the site.

— *Hartford Courant*, Dec. 3; & AP, Oct. 4, 2006

Vermont Yankee Hauling Contaminated Equipment

RUTLAND, Vermont — Entergy's Vermont Yankee employees transported a radioactive "control rod crusher" to the Susquehanna reactor in August 2006 with radiation levels four times what is allowed under the already lax U.S. Department of Transportation limits. The crusher receives prolonged exposure to high levels of radioactivity while it is in use. NRC Administrator Samuel Collins wrote to the owner Entergy Vermont Nuclear, "The actual condition ... had the potential to adversely affect personnel who would normally receive the package or respond to an [accident] involving the package since responders could have a reasonable expectation that the package conformed with DOT radiation limits." A flatbed truck was used for transport.

Vermont Yankee has been given a favorable recommendation for a 20-year license extension in spite of its dodgy safety and repeated NRC rule violations. The final Environmental Impact Statement for relicensing is due in August of this year. — *Rutland Herald*, Dec. 21; *Vermont Guardian*, Dec. 20; *Brattleboro Reformer*, Nov. 20; NRC Report No. I-06-065, Dec. 20; & AP, Nov. 24, 2006

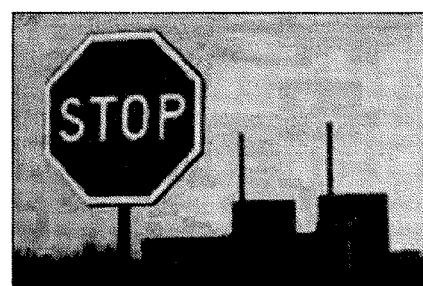
Palo Verde Voted Most Dangerous

PHOENIX, Arizona — Palo Verde is the largest nuclear power facility in the U.S. and it is rated one of the most unsafe. The site is 50 miles west of downtown Phoenix. The Palo Verde reactors have had within the past two years: leaking oil seals in coolant pumps; problems with an emergency cooling system pipe used to flood the reactor in an emergency; staff violations of technical requirements during dangerous reactor restarts; ineffective communication and poor interaction between engineers and operations workers; a poor "corrective action" program to identify, report and solve problems; and inadequate back-up battery testing.

For 12 years, operators incorrectly mixed chemicals used to control corrosion in pipes used in emergency spray ponds and the waste fuel cooling pools. The bad mix caused heat exchangers to become clogged, degrading their needed reliability during an emergency. Another reactor had a failed emergency diesel generator which is needed for backup power. The generators are critically important, as they provide electricity to cooling water pumps, valves and control rooms if the main electrical supply fails. Palo Verde experienced eleven power outages in 2005.

The NRC has ordered extra oversight of the reactor and a survey of Palo Verde's employees to determine if they feel free and safe to raise safety concerns and has added an additional 2,500 hours of inspection time plus additional teams of inspectors. Operators completed some major repairs, including installing new steam generators and fixed a vibrating pipe that sapped Unit 1's output for the first six months of 2006.

Palo Verde is owned by a consortium of seven utilities in Arizona, Texas, California and New Mexico with Arizona Public Service, a subsidiary of Pinnacle West Capital Corp. operating the reactors for the owners. The utilities want the Arizona Corporation Commission to approve higher electricity bills so it can recover upwards of \$44.6 million in outage-related costs. Owners want to build two more reactors at the site. — *Arizona Daily Sun*, Feb. 23; Jan. 10; *Reuters*, Feb. 2, 7 & 12; and Nuclear Regulatory Commission Report, Feb. 22, 2007. *The Arizona Republic*, Sept. 4 & Dec. 27, 2006; and AP, Feb. 20 & 22, 2007 & May 18, 2006.



Minnesota Department of Health advises residents to wait for their direction before taking the medication.

— *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, Jan. 2 & 3, 2007; Minnesota Department of Health, Oct. 6, 2006

Nuclear Reactors: Building Blocks for H-Bombs

By Jeremy M. Maxand

The federal government launched two initiatives in 2006 that will squander taxpayers' money, incite other nuclear bombmakers around the world and endanger the environment right here at home. The two plans' nearly simultaneous appearance demonstrates once again the unbreakable link between nuclear bombs and nuclear power.

In April the Department of Energy told Congress, "We seek an ability to design, develop, certify and begin production of refurbished or replacement warheads within 48 months of a decision to begin engineering development. These time lines would restore us to a level of capability comparable to what we had during the Cold War." To accomplish this dangerous return to Cold War-era production levels, the DOE wants to build Complex 2030, or "Bombplex," which would overhaul the U.S. nuclear weapons complex.

Earlier in the year, the Bush administration unveiled the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership. GNEP is a scheme to revive the stagnant nuclear power industry. Some countries (most with nuclear bombs already) would supply and fuel nuclear reactors for other countries. Once the fuel is irradiated (and therefore contains weapons ingredients) it would be sent back to the suppliers for storage and eventual reprocessing, restarting the cycle.

Bombplex exemplifies a nuclear posture grounded on preemption rather than the deterrence that ostensibly justified our nuclear arsenal for more than 50 years. It would allow the government to build at least 125 more "usable" nuclear bombs every year. The steady stream of new weapons would start with the "Reliable Replacement Warhead." DOE partially justifies RRW by alleging that, as it ages, plutonium in weapons irradiates itself, becoming less "reliable." But scientists at the leading U.S. weapons lab, which the Snake River Alliance and other groups met with, have proven this allegation false, showing consistently that plutonium weapons are good to blow for 100 years or more. If the RRW or its follow-on bombs are produced, they could be tested at the Nevada Test Site, which would lead to a new generation of Downwinders.

How much would Bombplex cost? The DOE admits it wants to spend \$150 billion, and the U.S. Government Accountability office says taxpayers would likely pay much more.

The economic cost pales in comparison to the toll this new Manhattan Project would take on global security. Building new nuclear weapons sends exactly the wrong

message to a world desperate for diplomacy and disarmament.

Proponents have touted GNEP as a way to control the nuclear materials proliferation our own actions provoke.

But it would have the opposite effect because the linchpin of the proposal is reprocessing. Reprocessing is the must-take step between a nuclear reactor and a nuclear bomb. It extracts weapons material from irradiated reactor fuel, making it available to bombmakers.

GNEP would generate vast quantities of pollution, which Idaho is already familiar with. Fifty-two reactors were built at the Idaho National Laboratory, the largest concentration anywhere in the world.

Even so, INL's reprocessing complex was the site's single most significant source of radioactive air pollution.

Only reprocessing produces high-level waste, which contains 99 per cent of the radioactivity in nuclear weapons waste. The soil around the HLW tank farm at INL is so contaminated the DOE and its regulators have decided it's too dangerous for workers to clean it up.

Past reprocessing has already polluted the Snake River Aquifer, Idaho's lifeblood. But the billions of taxpayer dollars GNEPers are banking on has tempted two corporate



proposals to build a new dirty, dangerous reactor-reprocessing complex above our aquifer.

Idahoans who value sane public spending, a stable world and our beautiful state should oppose this new dangerous proposal and stand up for clean and renewable energy.

Jeremy M. Maxand is the executive director of the Snake River Alliance, Idaho's nuclear watchdog.

Troubling Safety Concerns at Pantex Weapons Plant

By Paul Vos Benkowski

AMARILLO, Texas — The Pantex nuclear facility sits on a 25-square-mile plot of desolate desert in the Texas Panhandle. Nuclear weapons were formerly constructed here and today the same weapons are serviced or dismantled. With deteriorating conditions at the 40-year-old facility, electrical failures, a leaky roof and overworked employees, it is not surprising that in November 2005, a W56 warhead nearly detonated because an unsafe amount of pressure was applied while it was being disassembled. The weapon involved has a destructive power 100 times that which was dropped on Hiroshima. This incident and others would have gone unnoticed if it were not for an anonymous letter sent by Pantex employees complaining that the long hours worked in order to increase productivity are causing hazardous conditions at the plant.

Since the end of the cold war, funds have been funneled away from Pantex leaving the 3,000-plus employees to work under grave conditions. By 2000, the leaks in the roof were so bad that employees had to cover bombs with plastic sheets

when it rained. In the summer of 2004, a power overload tripped transformers, causing a facility-wide blackout; last July another electrical failure occurred when rats chewed through wiring; and in August a storm swept over the site and left standing water in weapons production areas. Over the years, the DOE has levied fines totaling nearly \$234,000 against operator BWX Technologies.

The workload at Pantex is likely to increase in coming years due to the Moscow Treaty of 2002 in which the U.S. agreed to scale back the number of nuclear warheads. As it stands, about 4,000 surplus nuclear warheads need to be dismantled at the site. According to Matthew Bunn, a Harvard University nuclear weapons expert, at the present rate it could take Pantex until 2050 to accomplish this daunting task. Exacerbating the situation is the order from the Bush Administration for Pantex to increase dismantlement by 50 percent this year, hence the push by management for the employees to work extended hours and for the facility to fall into such a dangerous state of disrepair.

Enough Money Wasted on Nuclear Power

By Michele Boyd

Just how much taxpayer money does the federal government have to squander before it realizes that it is chasing a nuclear power mirage? Apparently, more than a billion dollars in fiscal year 2008 alone. The Bush administration's budget request for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) proposes to waste another \$1.3 billion for programs to revive the nuclear industry, restart nuclear waste reprocessing in the U.S., and resuscitate the failed Yucca Mountain nuclear waste dump.

Among the many subsidies for the 50-year-old nuclear industry in the Bush administration's budget:

* \$4 billion in proposed loan guarantees for nuclear and coal plants in FY 2008, compared to a \$5 billion cap for biofuels, electricity transmission and the vast array of renewable energies. The DOE set these amounts, but according to the budget request, has yet to evaluate the financial risks for U.S. taxpayers. A 2003 estimate by the Congressional Budget Office concluded that the risk of loan default for a new nuclear reactor would be "well above 50 percent."

* \$802 million for nuclear power research and development, a 38 percent increase from the FY 2007 request (the pending FY 2007 Continuing Resolution does not provide full funding). More than \$1.4 billion has been spent on nuclear power research and development since 2001. Yet it is unlikely that we will see any new reactors before 2017 — if ever. Meanwhile, significant efficiency measures and renewable energy could be implemented in the next few years if federal policies supported them.

* \$114 million for the Nuclear Power 2010 program, which pays the nuclear industry half the cost of new construction applications and licensing new designs. More than \$251 million has been appropriated for this program since 2001. The DOE has granted \$260 million to a consortium of utilities and manufacturing companies, called NuStart for just one construction and operation license application.

* \$36.1 million for developing designs for the "next generation" of nuclear reactors. More than \$200 million has been spent on the program since 2001. According to the DOE, these designs will cost between \$610 million and \$1 billion. None of these designs is part of any of the new reactor proposals.

New reactors would also mean more radioactive waste, but the Bush administration budget has no solutions:

* \$405 million in 2008 for the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP), a program to promote reprocessing. This is a \$285 million increase from the 2007 budget. Reprocessing is expensive and the most polluting part of

the nuclear cycle. It also would threaten U.S. national security by producing highly radioactive plutonium that is vulnerable to theft. More than \$586 million has been appropriated for reprocessing research since 2001. But according to the National Academy of Sciences, a full-scale reprocessing and plutonium fuel program for the waste that we have today would cost at least \$100 billion (1997 dollars). There is significant skepticism in Congress about the partnership.

* \$494.5 million for the proposed high-level waste repository at Yucca Mountain in Nevada, a \$49 million increase for the program. Despite claims by the DOE that its priority is to submit a "high quality" license application to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in June 2008, the DOE is in the conceptual stage of redesigning the site facilities and operations once again. The Government Accountability Office released a report last week concluding that more than \$25 million will be spent to find falsified data and replace key modeling programs for the site. Approximately \$9 billion has been wasted on this program already. Retiring Nuclear Regulatory Commissioner Edward

McGaffigan recently stated that the project "has been beset by bad law, bad regulatory policy, bad science policy, bad personnel policy, bad budget policy throughout its history."

In comparison to lavish funding for the mature nuclear industry, the administration proposes to keep solar funding flat, to cut wind and weatherization budgets and to eliminate geothermal funding. As with past Bush administration budgets, the real solutions for combating climate change and meeting energy needs — renewables and efficiency — get the very, very short end of the budget stick.

The 2008 federal budget released by George Bush on February 5 includes whopping increases for nuclear power — and cuts for renewable energy and energy efficiency programs needed to address the climate crisis. It's time to stop wasting more of our tax dollars on ineffective, dangerous and unnecessary nuclear power programs. We need to redirect those funds where they will help most: for solar power, energy efficiency, wind power, geothermal and so on.

Michele Boyd is Legislative Director for Public Citizen's Energy Program.

Truck Carrying Fuel-Grade Uranium Crashes

The Risks Are All Acceptable, Acceptable To Whom?

— Charlie King

Shortly before 9 p.m. December 21, 2006, a flat bed truck carrying 6,000 lbs of fuel-grade uranium dioxide overturned when its driver failed to negotiate an exit ramp on I-40 in Johnson County, North Carolina. Several hundred emergency responders were called to the scene of the single vehicle accident. East-bound interstate traffic was diverted for six hours and an exit ramp was closed overnight. Two cranes were required to hoist the truck right side up.

Lt. E. Mark Dalton of the North Carolina State Patrol was the first law enforcement officer on the scene. He declared the accident site an exclusion zone despite claiming that there had been no breach of the container. Press was denied access to the area. Thus, there was minimal local media coverage and scant national attention given to this nuclear incident.

Lee Cox of the North Carolina Department of Environmental Health (NCDEH) confirmed that the truck was carrying high-level powdered uranium from a reactor in Kurihama, Japan and therefore not within the jurisdictional control of North Carolina — per an agreement with the NRC.

However, in the absence of NCR personnel, NCDEH officials needed to act at the accident scene as the lead agency responsible for the safety of local residents and the environment.

Global Nuclear Fuel/General Electric, of Wilmington, North Carolina, the licensee charged with securing these materials, confirmed the truck was carrying reactor-grade uranium fuel in powdered form. However, AP reported the cargo was low-grade uranium.

Donnie Lester of Tri-State Motor Company, the transporter, acknowledged the truck's cargo originated overseas and had been picked up at the Portsmouth Marine Terminal in Virginia. The truck was en route to Wilmington for reprocessing when the accident occurred. A NCDEH phone operator reported that the uninjured driver placed a phone call to Portsmouth, Ohio, site of the gaseous diffusion plant, immediately after the accident. However, AP reported the cargo's destination was the GE plant in Wilmington.

Since 1971 there have been 3,500 accidents involving the transport of radioactive material.

"There's no threat to the public," assured Highway Patrol spokesman, Lt. Everett Clendenin. "It's a low-grade uranium."

— Houston Chronicle.com, Dec. 22; & The News & Observer (Greensburg, NC), Dec. 22, 2006.



Jill Gibbon

Conviction, Commitment & Conscience: “GZ3” Found Guilty, Sentenced

Editor's note: Brian Watson, of the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action wrote a longer version of the following letter after his conviction on a disorderly conduct charge stemming from a peaceful August 6, 2006 protest at the Trident submarine base near Seattle.

Being declared “guilty” was a first for me and the other defendants, Carol Ann Barrows and Shirley Morrison. I don’t even remember how many times I’ve been arrested in nonviolent direct actions. Probably 12 or more? I’d been charged and put on trial before, in 1999, but was acquitted. That experience gave me a great deal of insight into the trial process and how to go about defending myself in court again in this trial.

Renewable Energy and Sustainable Living Fair

Join us for the 18th annual Renewable Energy and Sustainable Living Fair June 15-17, 2007. The Fair will be held at the ReNew the Earth Institute, 7558 Deer Road in Custer, Wisconsin

**Keynote Speaker:
Helen Caldicott
Friday, June 15, 1:00 p.m.**

The Renewable Energy and Sustainable Living Fair is the world’s largest renewable energy educational event of its kind. The Fair features hundreds of workshops, speakers and exhibits all emphasizing clean energy & sustainable living and is fun for the whole family. All activities and parking are FREE with paid admission. Mass transit and/or rideshare to the Fair is available.

Special sets of workshops for children, educators, renters and women are offered as well as a Clean Energy Car Show, where you can learn how to reduce your reliance on foreign fuel. Volunteer online – register online, schedule of events online.

the-mrea.org
(Visit the Nukewatch booth
and attend our workshop:
Nuclear Power is Not the Answer)

What I couldn’t have prepared for was the feeling of disbelief, bewilderment and, yes, even shame when Judge Riehl read the verdicts. For awhile, I just couldn’t believe it. *How could the jury have possibly reached this verdict?* Acceptance of it started to come over me, which then gave me the space needed to reflect on some of the things that we could have done better, as well as what the prosecuting attorney, Kevin Hull, did well.

I don’t think I felt as bad, though, as our defense attorney Michael Stowell. I know how much he gave of himself and I know he felt a great sense of responsibility for the verdict. I remember Michael looking at me with the same shock I had in my own eyes and saying “I’m sorry.” To say the verdict was not Michael’s fault is an understatement. Who knows why this jury decided to convict us? As I’ve said to friends who’ve asked, “I think the jury missed the boat.” We’ll attempt to contact the members of the jury to try to find out what they were thinking during their deliberations so we can learn from this experience and be better prepared next time this happens, which it will.

The next phase of the trial is sentencing Feb. 22 in District Court in Port Orchard, Washington. Since we were each convicted on two counts of disorderly conduct, we are each facing the possibility of up to six months in jail and \$2,000 in fines. That is a sobering prospect and, in the immediate aftermath of the trial, it was something that I feared.

After reflection, though, I am considering the sentence we will be given as I’ve considered the trial — as a gift. This is not to say that I am “accepting” my punishment. On the contrary, what it means is that *I am making a deliberate choice* about how I think of what is to come. If I think about my possible sentence as a loss, then that is what it will be. If I choose, however, to think about my possible sentence as a gift, it liberates me ... to continue the work of resisting Trident and abolishing nuclear weapons. When the threat of jail or fines loses its sting, what is standing in our way? When the punishment is greeted with the joy of a gift, we are set free to close the Bangor base with our very selves. Suddenly, the thing which was meant to punish and deter is transformed into a call, an invitation, to live fully and freely and responsibly.

This is the beauty of nonviolence: it doesn’t create winners and losers. It transforms everyone it touches. The very idea of “winning” and “losing” simply disappears.

In my testimony on the stand, I said that the “punishment” for our complicity in the maintenance and deployment of nuclear weapons is something we were already experiencing. To quote theologian William Sloane Coffin, “We are punished not so much *for* as *by* our sins.” We go about our normal, ordinary lives oblivious to the suffering we are living under in this world bristling with nuclear weapons. But the suffering is there and it is a punishment that exacts a toll on all people, everywhere. Some people suffer the effects of the radioactive by-products of nuclear weapons. Other people suffer from living in holes — called missile silos — and in metal cans under the ocean — called Trident submarines — waiting to be told when to push the button. ... We all suffer because of the vast waste of resources — money, labor and talent — that is poured into the nuclear weapons enterprise. We all suffer the most, though, because we all live with some awareness that nuclear weapons threaten the very possibility of tomorrow. Imagine what that has done to our collective spirit?

If I have to go to jail to show how we are all prisoners in this nuclear world, I will do it with gladness. If I am not sent to jail, I will work to educate and motivate people to take some kind of action to abolish nuclear weapons. Regardless of the sentence, the work will go on and the number of people demanding nuclear abolition will increase.

Many of you are considering what actions you will take now that you know about Trident and our nuclear-armed world.

I want to say, and say it clearly, that ... [r]isking arrest and going to trial is only one way to take action. For those of you considering this, I encourage you to do the necessary discernment so you are prepared for it. I’ve found it to be one of the most fulfilling experiences of my life when I know that I’ve placed my body, my whole self, at exactly the place it needs to be. But for those of you who feel called to do something else, don’t worry.

I sign off ... with these words from William Sloane Coffin’s book *Credo*, “We must say Yes to what we can, and No to what we must. We must see that when a government betrays the ideals of a country, it is an act of loyalty to oppose the government. We must take the road less traveled and be more concerned with our country saving its soul than with it losing face.”

Washington State District Judge James Riehl sentenced each of the three peace activists to a fine of \$2,000, with \$1,500 suspended, for a total of \$500 to be paid individually. The three demonstrators were also each given a 180 day sentence, 178 days were suspended, and two years unsupervised probation. The three activists served two days in jail in August 2006.

Mammograms Offer No Health Benefits Whichever, Doctors Conclude

By David Gutierrez

An increasing number of doctors are contesting the claim that annual mammograms decrease a woman’s risk of dying from breast cancer.

Danish researcher Dr. Peter Gotzsche first made this claim in a study published in the British medical journal *The Lancet* in October 2006. Gotzsche re-analyzed studies originally done on the benefits of mammograms and found them unconvincing.

Since then, other doctors have begun to assert that in addition to failing to offer protection, mammograms — which involve exposing patients to radiation — may actually increase women’s risk of cancer.

“The latest evidence shifts the balance towards harm and away from benefits,” said Dr. Michael Baum of University College in London.

According to Canadian columnist Dr. W. Gifford-Jones, women between the ages of 40 and 49 who have regular mammograms are twice as likely to die from breast cancer as women who are not screened.

“Experts say you have to screen 2,000 women for 10 years for one benefit,” he wrote recently.

Gifford-Jones also points to other risks, from the physical to the psychological. According to some authorities, the squeezing of women’s breasts during mammograms may rupture blood vessels, causing cancer to spread to other parts of the body and actually increase a patient’s risk of death.

He also pointed to the trauma suffered by women who receive false positives from their mammograms, and to the dangerous sense of security felt by those who receive false negatives.

Studies show that mammograms fail to detect cancer 30 percent of the time in women aged 40 to 49. In addition, it can take eight years before a breast tumor is large enough to detect, by which time the cancer could have spread to other parts of the body.

“Mammograms actually harm far more women than they help,” said Mike Adams, author of “The Healing Power of Sunlight and Vitamin D,” a free report that teaches prevention strategies for breast and prostate cancer. “They are used more

as a recruiting tool to ensnare women into a system of medical control based on false diagnosis and fear tactics. Most women then give in to chemotherapy, surgery or radiation treatments that may ultimately harm them or even kill them.” (See: newstarget.com/021608.html, Feb. 14, 2007)

Breast Cancer Screening Harms 10 Women for Every One it Helps

By Jessica Fraser

A new study by researchers from the Nordic Cochrane Centre in Denmark found that mammograms may harm ten times as many women as they help.

The researchers examined the benefits and negative effects of seven breast cancer screening programs on 500,000 women in the United States, Canada, Scotland and Sweden. The study’s authors found that for every 2,000 women who received mammograms over a 10-year period, only one would have her life prolonged, but 10 would endure unnecessary and potentially harmful treatments.

The researchers found that although overall screening lowered breast cancer mortality by roughly 15 percent, it also increased the number of mastectomies by 20 percent and boosted the likelihood of radiation treatment.

However, the UK’s National Health Service (NHS) breast screening program — which provides free mammograms for women over the age of 50 every three years — cited different statistics in defending its program. An NHS statement said the Department of Health’s advisory committee on breast cancer screening had conducted its own evaluation of the program, and found that screening prolonged the lives of five women out of every 2,000 over a 10-year period.

Julietta Patnick, director of the NHS screening programs, said in a statement that screening actually led to a reduced number of mastectomies, and that 1,400 lives were

saved every year by the program. Patnick also said that the benefits of mammograms “far outweigh the risks.”

However, opponents of breast cancer screening — which can produce false positives and subject women to harmful, unnecessary treatments — argue that women are not being informed of the possible negative effects of screening.

Dr. Peter Gotzsche, director of the Nordic Cochrane Centre said a study by researchers at the center examined letters and leaflets — including ones from the NHS inviting women to undergo mammograms — was biased toward possible benefits, and made no mention of the dangers of the procedure.

Gotzsche said Patnick’s statement about screening reducing the number of mastectomies was “misleading,” and said he was “amazed” at how emotional people were when informed of the possible negative effects of breast cancer screening.

“Some people get offended if you start questioning the balance between benefits and harms,” he said. “They just don’t want it discussed. This is an awkward position. It is wrong to not inform women about the harms.”

Longtime mammogram critic Professor Michael Baum said politics were to blame for breast cancer screening not being held to the same scrutiny as breast cancer drugs. Baum also said the breast cancer treatment industry would “lose a hell of a lot of face if [the government] began questioning the value of screening.”

Consumer advocate Mike Adams ... criticized the “fear-based” marketing used to attract women to screenings.

“The evidence is now quite clear that breast cancer screening is harming 10 times as many women as it helps,” Adams said. “It’s time to start questioning the corporatization of the breast cancer industry, and whether we should be shifting our priorities to breast cancer prevention rather than treatment with harmful chemicals.” (See: newstarget.com/020829.html, Oct. 19, 2006)

Jessica Fraser and David Gutierrez wrote these stories for the independent, noncommercial online news magazine NewsTarget.com.

Scotland & England, an Anti-Nuclear “Jolly”

By John LaForge

In December, I was invited to be part of a panel discussion on uranium weapons in the British House of Commons, and in February I put on my best second-hand coat and tie to speak in Committee Room 12 of the “Mother of Parliaments.” It was a heady experience, even if the turnout was light and I didn’t get to harrumph and jeer with the Members of Parliament (MP) in their famously contentious surroundings.

Rae Street of the Campaign Against Depleted Uranium (CADU) sent the invitation and saw to it that I had plane fare and a busy tour of anti-war England and Scotland. Rae is a Vice Chair of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, UK and a friend who’s been Nukewatch’s guest at anti-Trident/ELF events in Wisconsin and Minnesota.

The occasion was CADU’s Parliament Lobby Day Feb. 7, focused on informing MPs about uranium weapons and their environmental, medical, ethical and legal consequences — all in pursuit of an international ban.

Before the London meetings, I took the opportunity to meet activists at Britain’s giant Trident submarine base in Scotland, the U.S. spy base at Menwith Hill, and speak in a pair of college classes in Leeds. Friends there called my trip a “jolly.”

After a scenic day-long train trip to Scotland, I met “Faslane-365” organizers Anna-Linnéa Lundberg and Adam Conway. They are coordinating dozens of affinity groups — from London-based clergy, to Finnish students, to the

Clandestine Insurgent Rebel Clown Army — in a 365-day-long series of rolling nonviolent blockades demanding, “No Trident Replacement.”

(The UK government is expected to approve on March 14 a proposal to spend up to \$76 billion on a new ballistic missile submarine system.)

On Feb. 2, Anna, Jane Tallents, a founder of the British anti-Trident campaign and Angie Zelter, a Right Livelihood Award winner, led me on a sunny walking tour of the base’s perimeter. Talking the whole while, they explained how nuclear warheads produced in England are placed atop Trident missiles that are *produced in the U.S.* Indeed, the British Tridents must sail to “the States” to pick up their treaty-busting missiles and have their crews trained at Kings Bay, Georgia.

The police later ordered us to stop walking. We continued and they politely frisked, arrested and detained the women but let me out at the main gate. I was left free to stroll to the nearby Faslane Peace Camp, split some stove wood (as if I were back home), and enjoy a spot of tea with a few long-term peacecampers. The women were released after a few hours with charges pending as usual.

After another day-long ride back south that included seven train changes, I met Rae Street for a Chernobyl Children’s Project fund-raiser.

Rae and peace activist Pat Sanchez showed me the U.S. spy base at Menwith Hill, the world’s largest electronic

surveillance operation, a few hours north of London. Along with the stalwart anti-war agitators Helen John and Sylvia Boyes, we got a good look at the base strewn as it is with 30 huge geodesic globes that cover as many satellite dishes.

Menwith Hill’s 4,000 U.S. military personnel were awarded wartime service medals for their part in the 1991 and the 2003 U.S. bombardments of Iraq, even though the base is 2,100 miles from Baghdad. Both attacks were partially, if inaccurately, directed by satellites.

(The spy base is run by the unregulated National Security Agency or NSA, and it snoops on communications worldwide, relaying information to NSA headquarters in Ft. Meade, Maryland. The agency was set up by presidential decree without any debate in the U.S. Congress, and until a few years ago even its existence was a secret. NSA’s charter, budget and any mention of its duties are still classified.) Helen John delivered me to Leeds, where Metropolitan University lecturers Dave Webb and Steve Wright introduced me to students from their Global Ethics course. I spoke about the “not guilty” verdicts we won in DU trespass cases in Minnesota, and about how we have to risk jail in order to put the weapons makers on trial.

Back in London for the lobbying effort, I was hosted by Janet Shapiro, an activist with Radical Statistics (radstats.org.uk). Over morning tea, the kitchen radio reported that in Malaysia, an International Tribunal had put Bush and Blair on trial in absentia for waging indiscriminate military aggression against Afghanistan and Iraq.

Using the Underground trains to get to city center and Parliament, especially for someone who’s lived in the country for 28 years, seemed like a carnival ride.

Standing before Big Ben and the spectacular Westminster Palace — parts of which were built in 1097 — it struck me how the weapons we struggle to abolish have developed at a speed far beyond our evolving means of political redress. A new batch of war crimes are already alleged before society has tracked down the last perpetrators of unprovoked military aggression.

With today’s uranium weapons and bunker busters, white phosphorus and fuel-air explosives; with our thermobaric, napalm, cluster and hydrogen bombs, the prospect is that the environmental and medical consequences of modern war will be killing friend and enemy alike even after the House of Commons is another 1010 years old.

Greenpeace Ship Seized at “No Trident Replacement!” Action

FASLANE, Scotland — The Greenpeace ship *Arctic Sunrise* and its crew were seized Feb. 23 by British military police and detained at the Faslane naval base near Helensburgh, Scotland where the UK’s nuclear submarines are berthed. The 162-foot, 949-ton *Arctic Sunrise* sailed to the submarine base along with a flotilla of small craft intent on raising awareness of Britain’s plans to replace the decrepit, retiring Trident fleet. Britain has four Trident subs: HMS *Vanguard*, HMS *Vengeance*, and, uh, *Vainglorious*, *Venereal* or *Vicious* or something. Anyway they all start with V (for verboten).

Activists using Greenpeace motorized inflatables from the ship were arrested after they crossed into the security zone and hung banners on the floating fence that surrounds the submarine pier area.

Greenpeace reports that 20 MPs stormed the ship and smashed their way onto the bridge shortly after 5 p.m., following a day-long stand-off. The police cut the anchor

chain and towed the ship into the submarine base. All onboard were arrested and held in custody until the 26th when they were expected to appear at court in Dumbarton. A motion congratulating the Greenpeace action was lodged in the Scottish Parliament.

Greenpeace campaigner Louise Edge, onboard *Arctic Sunrise*, said: “We’re blockading the base because these nuclear armed submarines pose a threat to the security of the world, not least by encouraging other countries to go nuclear in the future. Tony Blair is playing a dangerous game by saying to countries like North Korea that nuclear weapons are necessary for national defence, that the UK doesn’t care about its international legal obligations, and that nuclear proliferation is the way forward. He is sending a message to the world that might be welcomed in the capital of North Korea but will be widely condemned by people who want to end nuclear proliferation.” (See [Faslane 365.org](http://Faslane365.org) for update)

Uranium Weapons Updates

By John LaForge

European Parliament Passes Fourth Resolution Calling for DU Ban

The European Parliament (EP) has again adopted a resolution calling upon the European Union to “work hard to ... stop the use of (depleted) uranium warheads ...” [used by U.S. forces in Iraq].

On the anniversary of last year’s historic European Parliament vote for a moratorium leading to a ban on uranium weapons, the EP adopted its fourth such measure, which asks European Union member states “to ensure that the scope of Protocol III to the CCW [Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons] on incendiary weapons is expanded in order to ... stop the use of (depleted) uranium warheads.”

Last year’s vote for a ban came after two other resolutions calling for a moratorium.

The November resolution calls for Protocol III of the 1980 CCW to be expanded to include depleted uranium. Protocol III places limits on the use of incendiary weapons — currently defined as any weapon which is primarily designed to set fire to objects or to cause burn injuries to persons through the action of flame, heat, or combination thereof, produced by a chemical reaction of a substance delivered on the target. Incendiary weapons can take the form of flame throwers, improvised mines, shells, rockets, grenades, mines, bombs and other containers of flammable substances.

International humanitarian law specialists were surprised by the vote, because kinetic energy penetrators like DU were not included in the original CCW treaty, as it was decided that DU has only a secondary incendiary effect, rather than a primary one.

At press time, observers are awaiting clarification from Members of European Parliament on what real measures the EP intends to take to put teeth into the resolution. Challenging Protocol III to prohibit uranium weapons may prove to be a valuable new legal front in the fight against uranium weapons.

Charges Dismissed Against DU Protesters

On October 2, 2006, Edina, Minnesota police arrested 78 nonviolent activists at the front door of the country’s biggest uranium weapons builder Alliant Techsystems (ATK). The group had attempted to deliver to Dan Murphy, ATK’s CEO, a subpoena requiring his appearance to face allegations of crimes against humanity. On Feb. 1, forty of the 78 appeared in court to stand trial on misdemeanor trespass charges. But the group did not make its case that morning. The charges were dismissed against 76 of the 78 defendants. Two defendants retained their right to appeal and will join an appeal, lodged last year by activist Bob Burns, challenging the legitimacy of the Edina City ordinance. The new rule was hurriedly adopted following four “not guilty” verdicts delivered by juries in identical trespass cases. The new law denies the right to a jury.

Aerojet’s DU Weapons Production Targeted by CPT

By Bob Nichols

In Jonesborough, Tennessee, the Chicago-based Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) conducted a 10-day prayer vigil at the Aerojet Ordnance mill, producers of weaponized uranium penetrators for use by the U.S. Military worldwide.

CPT members also organized a vigil at Alliant Techsystems in Rocket Center, West Virginia. CPT members interspersed the vigil with local meetings to provide information on the production and use of radiological weapons.

A CPT representative stated, “Alliant Techsystems’ annual corporate statement on expenses and profits proclaims proudly the weapons factory had manufactured 18 million uranium tank penetrator rods for the U.S. military. At slightly more than 10 pounds of radioactive uranium apiece, that is more than 190 million pounds of weaponized uranium, a genocidal weapon.”

The spokesman added, “Using the same calculation method that the British Atomic Energy Authority employed in their 1990 projection of potential DU consequences in Iraq, the estimated 95,400 tons of DU produced by Alliant could result in as many as 954 million cancers within the next 10 years. That is unacceptable.”

CPT has called for: 1) Alliant Tech/ABL, Rocket Center, West Virginia, to stop all DU manufacturing and shipping; 2) All world militaries to stop using DU; 3) All military personnel to refuse to load or use DU ammunition; 4) The U.S. military and all DU producers to join with BAE Systems of Britain and the British military as they have stopped DU weapons production and stopped its use in warfare and training; and 5) The U.S. Army and Air Force to follow the lead of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps which have stopped their use of DU.

— Bob Nichols, a correspondent for the San Francisco Bay View, wrote a longer version of this report for CPT.

World Uranium Summit Promises Resistance

In their “Declaration of the Indigenous World Uranium Summit,” delivered from Window Rock, Navajo Nation Dec. 2, 2006, the people gathered pledged to rid the world of the evils of the nuclear industry. The final communiqué said in part, “We ... will enunciate specific plans of action at the tribal, local, national and international levels to support Native resistance to the nuclear fuel chain. And we will pursue legal and political redress for all past, current and future impacts of the nuclear fuel chain on Indigenous Peoples and their resources.”

DU “Killing Italian Troops”

Italian soldiers who served in the peacekeeping corps in Bosnia and Kosovo are still dying following exposure to DU, the BBC has reported.

Troops who served as peacekeepers in the 1990s believe their cancers and other radiation-related illnesses stem from extended exposure to DU.

NATO officials say the United States fired about 11,000 munitions containing DU during the bombardment in Bosnia in 1995 and 30,000 DU munitions during its 1999 shelling of Kosovo. A soldiers’ association says 50 veterans have died and another 200 are seriously ill, primarily with cancer.

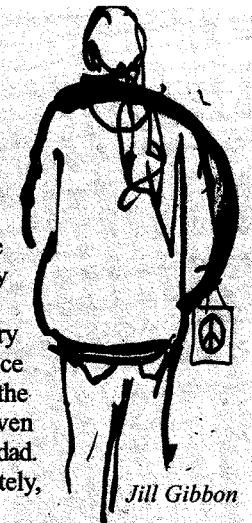
The Italians who served in Bosnia and Kosovo were involved in the clean-up of battlefields and came into close contact with exploded and dispersed DU.

The Italian soldiers’ organization ANAVAF (Association National Attending Victims Enlisted in the Armed Forces), says many of those who have died or are ill have contracted cancers and other serious illnesses that they believe developed because they were exposed to DU for a lengthy period of time.

In 2002, the Italian military published a report compiled by independent scientists which found that an excessive number of Italian Balkan peacekeepers were suffering from a cancer called Hodgkin’s disease.

Like in the U.S., a number of children fathered by the soldiers have been born with disabilities. ANAVAF claims that a number of children, offspring of troops who served for lengthy period in the Balkans, were born with birth defects. There are similar reports from soldiers’ associations in Belgium, Spain, Portugal and the Netherlands.

Both the U.S. and Britain acknowledge that dust from DU can be dangerous if inhaled but they insist the danger is short-lived and localized.



Jill Gibbon

Plutonium in DU Weapons, a Chronology

*If it has been through a reactor,
it does change our idea
on depleted uranium.*

— Dr. Michael Repacholi,
World Health Organization

Editor's note: The U.S. acknowledged as early as 2000 that its DU munitions are spiked with plutonium, neptunium and americium — highly radioactive "transuranic" (heavier than uranium) fission wastes from nuclear reactors. The health consequences are fearsome; transuramics are far more radioactive than the uranium-238 that makes up conventional DU munitions.

What follows is an unscientific chronology of some news coverage of the unfolding crisis of "dirty DU."

DOE Assistant Secretary David Michaels, January 20, 2000

DU "contains a trace amount of plutonium," Michaels said. "Recycled uranium, which came straight from one of our production sites, e.g. Hanford [Reservation, in Richland, Washington], would routinely contain transuramics at a very low level...." Michaels wrote. "We have initiated a project to characterize the level of transuramics in the various depleted uranium inventories," he said.

New York Times, January 7, 2001

Dr. Asaf Durakovic, a retired U.S. Army Col. who has studied veterans of the 1991 Persian Gulf war, found uranium-236 in 67 percent of the sick veterans he examined.

British biologist Dr. Roger Coghill said at a London conference that "one single particle of depleted uranium lodged in a lymph node can devastate the entire immune system."

New York Times, January 9, 2001

The Pentagon's "hazard awareness" memo issued July 1, 1999 by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, warned military personnel entering Kosovo against touching spent ammunition, suggesting the use of protective masks and skin covering while in contaminated areas, and recommending follow-up health assessments.

New York Times, January 17, 2001

Scientists and nuclear experts in Europe have said there are indications that some depleted uranium used in antitank rounds was "dirty," or contaminated.

"U-236 is created in a nuclear reactor," said French nuclear physicist, Monique Sené. "It comes from nuclear fuel and, most likely, from recycling nuclear waste. There is no other known source."

Nukewatch Has a Word in the House of Commons

Nukewatch staffer John LaForge spoke about the role of industry and public protest in the controversy over uranium weapons in a committee room of the House of Commons. Below are his remarks, abbreviated for space.

It is an honor to speak with you in this magnificent place, especially since civil discussion and debate in the United States are being drowned out by the roar of mercenary armies sent abroad and stadiums full of screaming sports fans at home.

All of us come to our position here with a grim understanding of the grave consequences of what our governments are doing with radioactive waste: Its weaponization, and use as such, is a ghastly violation of treaties the so-called civilized world has promised to obey.

I've been asked to speak to the role of industry in this scandal and a bit about our work against it in the states. Simply put, industry's role is to obscure its criminal conspiracy to prepare wars in violation of international treaty law, all the while securing contracts for more production. Industry does this by touting the positive effects of uranium weapons, masking the actual contents of its shells, ignoring their effects, ridiculing peace activists, and contributing to the re-election of DU-friendly members of congress.

A spokesperson for Alliant Techsystems, (ATK) the U.S.'s biggest depleted uranium ammunition (DU) producer, has said that DU protesters at its Minnesota headquarters have "no impact on any decision this company makes." Yet the company has removed all mention of DU from its websites. And after critics broadcast the startling images widely, the company also removed photos of its haphazard clean-up operations at a contaminated DU production site.

ATK has produced over 15 million 30-mm shells for the U.S. Air Force and over one million 120-mm rounds for use in U.S. tanks and howitzers. Last February, the U.S. Army placed a \$38 million order for its DU tank rounds. These days, descriptions of its DU munitions use the words "high density penetrator."

New York Times, January 18, 2001

NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson said, "traces of highly radioactive elements such as plutonium ... were not relevant to soldiers' health because of their minute quantities."

Reuters, January 21, 2001

The United States finally confirmed media reports and a Swiss laboratory finding that the 'low-risk' material held minute traces of highly toxic plutonium and highly radioactive uranium-236.

On January 18, Defense Department spokesman Kenneth Bacon said plutonium was detected a year ago and a nuclear facility was shut down for 90 days. "As you know, we discovered some stray elements ... in depleted uranium ..." Bacon said. "They consisted of plutonium, neptunium and americium. Now these are very, very small amounts..."

Scientists say that inhaling one millionth of an ounce of plutonium can cause a fatal cancer.

New York Times, January 29, 2001

"This cannot be conventional depleted uranium," said Monique Sené, a physicist who is prominent in France's large atomic research establishment, when asked about Dr. Durakovic's findings. "The ratios he found do not exist in nature. This contains nuclear waste."

Pierre Roussel, a physicist at France's National Center for Scientific Research in Paris, said, "The problem is that this isotope [U-236] can only be produced in a reactor, where it is accompanied by far more radioactive elements."

Experts in nuclear medicine in Britain, France and the U.S. said in interviews that they questioned the idea that there was no danger because experiments on animals had shown that uranium particles could get into the bloodstream, organs and bone, where they could deliver low-level radiation.

Madison, Wisc. Capital Times, February 3, 2001

But now the Pentagon says shells used in the 1999 Kosovo conflict were tainted with traces of plutonium, neptunium and americium — by-products of nuclear reactors that are much more radioactive than depleted uranium.

"If it has been through a reactor, it does change our idea on depleted uranium," said Dr. Michael Repacholi, a World Health Organization radiation expert. "It all depends on the amounts."

(Malcolm Grimston, a senior fellow specializing in chemical and nuclear studies at the Royal Institute of International Affairs in London, said, "You need to redo the calculations.") — USA Today, June 25, 2001

On February 1, 2001, NATO Secretary-General Lord Robertson reiterated NATO's position that Balkans peacekeepers have not been shown to suffer health damage from DU ammunition. U.S. officials have said the shells contained mere traces of plutonium, not enough to cause harm.

Robert Alvarez, The Nation, April 9, 2001

Over the past half-century, 700,000 metric tons of DU ... was produced at three government-owned enrichment plants in Oak Ridge, Tennessee; Paducah, Kentucky; and Portsmouth, Ohio.

Some 150,000 tons of uranium, containing plutonium-239 and larger amounts of equally dangerous neptunium-237, were recycled from nuclear weapons production reactors and processed at the three gaseous-diffusion plants.

USA Today, June 25, 2001

Much of it is fouled with traces of plutonium and other dangerous radioisotopes. Robert Alvarez, an Energy Department policy advisor from 1993 to 1999 says, "They really don't have reasonable estimates of how much [contamination] was in a lot of this recycled uranium." It could have "relatively high levels," he said.

Seattle Times, January 9, 2003

The Pentagon revealed two years ago that some DU munitions were contaminated with more highly radioactive substances, such as plutonium.

Journal of Environmental Radioactivity, No. 64 (2003)

Our data show the depleted nature of the uranium and confirm the presence of trace amounts of plutonium in the penetrator.

Institute for Environmental & Energy Research, Science for Democratic Action, February 2003

DU derived from recycled uranium (i.e., uranium that has been irradiated in a reactor) contains small amounts of some fission products (notably technetium-99) and some transuranic radionuclides (like americium-241 and plutonium). These may cause a significant contribution to the total dose to workers during processing of the DU into metal. Most of these impurities would be removed during processing and therefore, in general, tend not [to] be present in significant amounts (relative to total uranium radioactivity) in finished munitions. (See: Rosalie Bertell, "Host Response to Depleted Uranium," Nov. 2001; www.iicph.org/docs/host_response_to_du.htm)

U.S. Senator Russ Feingold, D-Wisc., Dec. 8, 2004

"The [Dept. of Defense] acknowledged that stocks of depleted uranium munitions have been contaminated with plutonium and other radioactive materials which are extremely toxic and carcinogenic."

New York Times, Feb. 10, 2005

The U.S. Energy Department has about 700,000 tons of DU, still mixed with fluorine and much of it in decaying metal canisters, in Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee.

Citizen Action

It is so easy to prove the outlaw status of these poison weapons, that after a perfect record of being convicted in every protest case I've been part of for 28 years, a jury found me and three friends "not guilty" of trespass at ATK. Our case was the fourth "not guilty" jury verdict there in four years. Over 100 campaigners have been similarly acquitted after showing the juries that weapons made with radioactive waste are illegal to produce.

We explained the Nuremberg Principles and how they forbid the planning and preparation of wars that would violate other treaties. The Tribunal declared, "International law, as such, binds every citizen, just as does ordinary municipal law." We showed that the building of weapons — the use of which is known in advance to be illegal — is itself a criminal act. We showed that citizens are rightfully allowed to interfere with such offences — known as inchoate crimes.

Juries — when allowed to hear all of the relevant evidence — have agreed that our demand to talk with company officials was an attempt at crime prevention. Not only was our arrest that day unlawful, but prosecutors have been educated: they can consider bringing charges against the real criminals.

— For a detailed review of the Lobby Day presentations see: www.CADU.org



Photo courtesy of CADU

John LaForge, standing, in the British Parliament Feb. 7, along with, L-to-R: scientist Dr. Ian Fairlie, UK Member of the European Parliament Dr. Caroline Lucas, CADU staffer Rae Street, Member of Parliament Jeremy Corbyn, and Ria Verjauw of the Int'l Coalition to Ban Uranium Weapons in Belgium.

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Help Stop the Hawaiian Food Irradiator

Food irradiation creates unusual chemicals in food called 2-ACBs which may promote tumor growth and cause cellular and genetic damage. Food irradiation also depletes food of vitamins and nutrients. Because commercial irradiated food must be labeled, many consumers choose to avoid it and in most trial markets it has been an utter failure.

Many of us across the U.S. like to see Hawaiian mangos and papayas in our local stores, but at what price? If a Hawaiian produce export company has its way, the cost will include a fruit irradiation facility in Honolulu.

The facility would use cobalt-60, a gamma radiation emitter, to irradiate produce for export. Not only would the irradiator be built adjacent to an airport, with its incumbent risk of plane crashes and terrorist threats, but the site is also in a tsunami evacuation zone near two military bases. Earthjustice Hawaii challenged the proposal on behalf of a local grassroots group and was able to ensure that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) conduct an environmental assessment (EIS) of the proposal.

After the EIS determined that the irradiator would pose "no significant impact," citizen groups declared it insufficient, pointing out that it minimizes several serious concerns and relies almost exclusively on information supplied by the project's prospective operator. No independent research or modeling was done. The EIS ignored the risk of an airplane crash on the facility and the effect of losing control of radioactive material.

The *Honolulu Advertiser* editorialized against the flawed environmental assessment, and its failure to consider alternative sites, noting, "There's nothing gained by either side in an environmental dispute when laws aimed at providing a full analysis of the facts are marginally observed."

Since the 1960s, there have been dozens of incidents at irradiation facilities, some of which were "cleaned up" with taxpayer money. Radioactive water has been flushed into the public sewer system; radioactive waste has been thrown into the garbage; facilities have caught fire; equipment has malfunctioned; Workers have lost limbs and, in several cases, their lives. Company executives have been charged with cover-ups and even sentenced to federal prison. See: www.w.citizen.org/documents/accidentsfactsheet.pdf for more info.

A 1979 accident in Honolulu at the Hawaiian Developmental Irradiator at Fort Armstrong, cost taxpayers \$500,000 to clean up. Nearly 50 tons of steel, 250 cubic feet of concrete and 1,100 cubic feet of soil were removed and taken to a nuclear waste dump in Washington state, the Hanford Reservation, one of the most polluted places on Earth. That irradiator was shut down in 1980 and the remaining cobalt-60 was shipped to the University of Hawaii. Why do it again?

Please write: Public comments should be submitted to the Chief, Rules Review and Directives Branch, Mail Stop T6-D59, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20585-0001. Send email comments to NRCREP@nrc.gov or by fax to (301) 415-5397, Attention: Matthew Blevins.