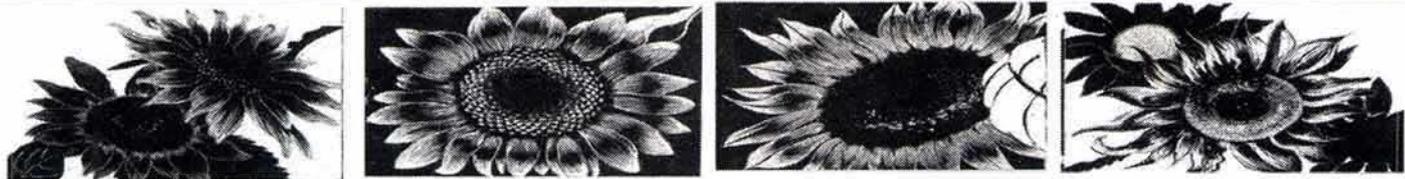


NUKEWATCH

QUARTERLY



News & Information on Nuclear Weapons, Power, Waste & Nonviolent Resistance
A publication of the Progressive Foundation — Summer 2007

Train Watch Alerts Nation to Radioactive Transport

By Bonnie Urfer

The La Crosse Boiling Water Reactor ought to be a poster child for the anti-nuclear movement. It was shut down 20 years ago because it was too expensive to operate, and its price tag has been going up ever since. The simple math of its short, costly history should be a lesson to today's potential investors who want to believe in a nuclear resurgence promoted by the White House and the Energy Department.

I spent a lot of the month of May at the La Crosse reactor, on the shore and in the flood plain of the Mississippi River, 18 miles south of La Crosse.

As it was shut down April 30, 1987, Dairyland Power Cooperative is in the process of dismantling the facility. For 20 years the company has had to monitor the cooling pool that stores the reactor's waste fuel. Dairyland would like to move the thermally and radioactively hot rods to "dry cask storage" outdoors.

A group of us visited the defunct reactor May 4 and met with site manager Roger Christians. Beginning on May 19, I started a full-time "Train Watch" to alert the public to preparations the company was making for shipping the reactor core (or reactor pressure vessel) to Barnwell, South Carolina for shallow burial.

The core is the innermost section of a nuclear power reactor — the heavy steel vessel used to contain the deadly uranium chain reaction that produces heat, radiation and radioactive waste in the generation of electricity.

In order to gain entrance to the site for our May 4 tour, Gail Vaughn, Kay Turner, Guy Wolf, Andrew Gilbert, George Nygaard and I submitted our names for review and approval. Gail and I commented as we crossed onto the property, that it was our first time walking on to a reactor site without being arrested.

A huge opening had been cut into the side of the containment structure for removal of the 10-foot diameter by 40-foot tall core. Workers then built giant sliding doors for the opening. That the operation is huge was testified to by the name "Bigge" on the contractor's equipment built especially for the job at Genoa. Bigge moved the Connecticut Yankee reactor core as well.

Mr. Christians walked with us to see where the cut-out slabs of concrete lay covered with black tarps labeled with wee little radiation symbols. Being in such close proximity with the reactor



Photo by Bonnie Urfer

The radioactive core of the La Crosse, Wisconsin, Boiling Water Reactor was lowered May 20 onto a special rail car near the Mississippi River, a popular fishing spot, for shipment to South

for its 20 years of operation, the cement had become radioactively contaminated. Still, Christians told us we could safely sit on them all day. Yet, our Geiger counter ticked its highest reading when we stood next to this waste which is set for shipment to the Energy Solutions, Inc. dump in Utah, 70 miles west of Salt Lake City.

Energy Solutions, Inc. coincidentally owns and runs the Barnwell, South Carolina dumpsite, a series of trenches which has been seriously contaminated by radioactive waste shipped in from reactors around the country. Barnwell is closing to all but three states in June 2008.

The 310-ton reactor core had been filled with cement, moved outdoors with cranes and placed inside an engineered garbage can. Trackside preparations involved a giant centipede-like flatbed trailer with 16 independent hydraulic axels, and an oversized 20-axel railcar for the slow trip to Barnwell.

The La Crosse reactor was a small, 50-megawatt facility. (Average commercial reactors produce 1000 Mw.) The U.S. Atomic Energy Commission built it in 1967. Christians told us that Allis-Chalmers, the original owner, paid \$1 for whole thing. Federal taxpayers carried the rest of the cost of the test reactor's

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A "No More Nukes in Our Name" hunger strike was joined by 44 students and others on California campuses. The strike culminated in a protest and 13 arrests at a May 17 Board of Regents "more nukes" meeting (above) in San Francisco.

U. Calif. Hunger Strike Against the Bomb

BERKELEY, Calif. — More than 40 students and alumni at three University of California campuses began a hunger strike May 8 calling for the U. to get out of the nuclear war biz. Activists fasted in the run-up to their presence at a May 17 UC Board of Regents meeting in San Francisco. Thirteen people were arrested there for disrupting the Regents' discussion of the "Report on the National Nuclear Security Administration Vision for the Nuclear Weapons Complex of 2030." The university system has been designing, engineering and manufacturing nuclear weapons for 60 years, as operators of the Los Alamos National Laboratory (in New Mexico) and the UC's Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

The fast ended after activists secured a meeting with the Regents and received news that the UC Santa Barbara faculty senate will, on June 8, produce a resolution to support some of the goals of the strikers.

The principled nonviolent resistance came in response to the U.S. Nuclear Weapons Council's recent announcement that the Livermore lab would design the first new hydrogen bomb since the end of the Cold War in 1990. The fasters objected as well to the planned resumption of plutonium core manufacturing *en masse* at Los Alamos in 2008. These programs are the first step in Bush Administration plans to revamp the entire nuclear weapons complex, under the auspices of the DOE's "Complex 2030."

Student governments at several campuses have passed resolutions opposing the UC's ties to nuclear weapons labs, and more are considering similar resolutions. The multi-campus Coalition to Demilitarize the UC has worked on several fronts to sever ties to the nuclear war system, including writing letters, generating petitions and speaking at Regent's meetings. In November, they undertook an act of nonviolent civil resistance, disrupting a Regent's meeting during its discussion of their nuclear weapons labs.

"There has never been a more critical time for the UC Regents to take a principled stand against the U.S.'s nuclear weapons programs," says Will Parrish, a UC Santa Cruz alumnus who pledged to go without solid food until the Regents meet the demand for severance. "They could cast the UC's enormous political and intellectual weight on the side of international law and morality," Parrish said.

Nuclear weapons development has been banned under the 1968 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

According to UC Santa Barbara student Ellen McClure, "The university should not be involved in any way with the production of weapons of mass destruction. The UC's involvement has done nothing to make the research at the labs more transparent or less deadly."

The hunger strike and civil resistance arrests represent the culmination of over five years of organizing and protesting by UC students.

Plutonium Reprocessing Plan to Waste Billions

The Bush Administration's so-called Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (waste reprocessing, waste management and disposal) has a projected price tag of \$500 billion. Plenty of federal money is being promised to contractors at nuclear weapons facilities under the wide-ranging proposal that Bush claims will reduce the danger of weaponizing the waste from nuclear power. GNEP would also "develop and deploy advanced reactors to burn up some of the nastier parts of the recycled fuel," according to the *Knoxville News*.

It will take between 10 and 150 years for the envisioned but untested GNEP technology to be made workable, according to the National Academy of Sciences.

Anyone who thinks the reprocessing, dubbed "recycling" by Bush, is going to be clean — chopping up waste fuel rods, chemically dissolving the fuel, separating radioactive elements in 50-year-old facilities — hasn't been paying attention. The process leaves millions of gallons of liquid high-level waste.

"With a liability in excess of \$100 billion, and after 25 years, the Department of Energy has treated less than one percent of the radioactivity in [military] high-level wastes for geological disposal," says Robert Alvarez, director of the nuclear policy project at the Institute for Policy Studies. High-level radioactive waste steadily accumulates at reactors across the country and

Report Finds Nuclear Weapons Materials Released to Landfills

Market Opened for Reuse and Recycling

Nuclear Information and Resource Service

TAKOMA PARK, MD — Radioactive waste materials are being sent from nuclear weapons facilities to regular landfills and could get into commercial metal recycling operations, according to a report released by Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS).

The report, "Out of Control — On Purpose: DOE's Dispersal of Radioactive Waste into Landfills and Consumer Products," was commissioned to discover if and how the Department of Energy releases radioactive wastes from nuclear weapon production sites.

The report's authors, led by Diane D'Arrigo, NIRS' Radioactive Waste Project Director, investigated the DOE's national headquarters and seven federal weapons sites: Oak Ridge, Tennessee; Rocky Flats, Colorado; Los Alamos, New Mexico; Mound and Fernald, Ohio; West Valley, New York and Paducah, Kentucky.

"People around ordinary landfills will be shocked to learn that radioactive contamination from nuclear weapons production is ending up there, either directly released by DOE or via brokers and processors," D'Arrigo said. "Just as ominous, the DOE allows and encourages sale and donation of some radioactively contaminated materials," she said.

The NIRS report tracked the laws, DOE guidances and technical justifications that the agency uses to rationalize allowing radioactive scrap, concrete, asphalt, plastic, wood, chemicals, soil, etc. out to landfills, commercial businesses and recreation areas — places unprepared to handle radioactivity. Applauding DOE's ban on recycling of radioactive metal from nuclear weapons, the report cautions that there are dangerous loopholes in the regulation.

"DOE is ignoring public opposition to unnecessary exposures and releasing radioactivity even though the U.S. Congress revoked such release policies," said Mary Olson, director of the NIRS Southeast office and a co-author of

the report. "DOE is using its own internal guidance to allow radioactive weapons wastes [get] out of control, claiming the doses to people will be 'acceptable' even though they are not enforced or tracked."

Under the current system, the DOE and other nuclear waste generators release materials directly, sell them at auction or through exchanges or send their waste to processors who can then release it from radioactive controls to landfills, to recyclers or for reuse.

The report found that the state of Tennessee is a leader in licensing processors that can release radioactive materials for the nuclear waste generators.

"Tennessee is serving as a funnel to bring in nuclear weapons and power waste from around the country to disperse into the landfills and recycling without public knowledge," D'Arrigo said.

The waste is processed by state-licensed companies and in some cases "redefined" as "special" then released to regular landfills. This free release also opens up the potential for radioactive materials to enter the metal recycling stream and be made into household items (nails, door handles, jungle gyms) or built into roads, schools and hospitals.

"As long as DOE and other nuclear waste generators can slip their contamination out — letting it get 'out of control' — on purpose — there is really no limit to the amount of additional radiation exposure members of the public could receive," D'Arrigo concluded. "Only an informed, outraged public can force DOE and agreeable states to shift the goal from dispersal to isolation of radioactive waste."

A copy of the full report can be found on the NIRS web site at: <http://www.nirs.org/radwaste/outofcontrol/outofcontrol.htm>

The report's authors and contributors include Diane D'Arrigo, NIRS' Radioactive Waste Project Director, Mary Olson, Director, NIRS Southeast Office, Cindy Folkers, NIRS, Health and Environment Project and Dr. Marvin Resnikoff, Radioactive Waste Management Associates.

News Group Says US. Nuclear Sub Collision With Tanker Caused Radiation Leak

On Jan. 7, 2007, the 360-foot, nuclear-powered U.S. submarine *Newport News* smashed into the giant Japanese oil tanker *Mogamigawa* in the narrow Straits of Hormuz in Iranian territorial waters. The 300,000-ton 1,040-foot tanker was fully loaded and drawing 65 feet of water as it passed over the submarine.

According to the military watchdog website GlobalSecurity.org, the *Newport News*, with a crew of 127, is equipped with 12 Tomahawk cruise missiles. Each missile can carry a 200-kiloton nuclear warhead (192 times the explosive power of the 12.5-kiloton Hiroshima bomb).

Initial reports of the crash said damage to the *Los Angeles Class* fast attack submarine was "light" or "not substantial" and that no damage at all was done to the sub's propulsion reactor or weapons systems. U.S. and Japanese government agencies rolled out their usual assurances. Japan's Foreign Ministry told the Kyodo News Agency Jan. 9, that the submarine's bow had collided with the stern of the tanker and, "There was no leakage of radioactive material in the collision."

However, by April 15, news accounts of the sub's return to Norfolk, Virginia said it had "heavy damage," and on April 25, UPI reported the sub "sustained significant damage." The Fars News Agency said, "Following the collision and when the submarine was transferred to a port in Bahrain to undergo



The nuclear weapons-capable U.S. submarine *Newport News* (above) was heavily damaged when it smashed into a 300,000-ton oil tanker in the Straits of Hormuz near Iran.

repair work, chemical and radioactive materials started leaking into the Persian Gulf waters." The Fars News Agency is an Iranian news group based in Tehran which Reuters and CNN have called "semi-official."

On a Navy web log, a retired Navy officer described the seriousness of the crash this way: "The screw from the ship walked its way down the [starboard] side of the sub damaging shutter doors and cut through the hull and bulkhead" — an account that has not been independently verified. The Kawasaki Kisen Company, which owns the *Mogamigawa*, reported that its hull and propellers were damaged.

The crash was blamed on the "venturi" effect in which cruising heavy vessels create a suction or draft. The effect drew "the submerged submarine into the tanker as it overtook the sub," said *Navy Times*. — JL

A Few Recent Nuclear-Powered Accidents at Sea

September 6, 2005

A fire onboard the Russian nuclear-powered attack submarine *Danil Moskovsky* killed two crewmen and shutdown the vessel's reactor, but the Russian Navy claimed there was no serious threat of nuclear contamination.

September 5, 2005

The Groton, Connecticut-based submarine *Philadelphia* collided with the Turkish cargo ship *Yaso Aysen*.

January 8, 2005

The U.S. fast-attack sub *San Francisco*, moving at top speed, crashed into an undersea mountain 500 feet below the surface. Chief Petty Officer Danny Hager said of the collision, which hurled men through the air, "There was so much blood on the instruments and on the control room floor that the place looked like a slaughterhouse."

July 2004

The aircraft carrier *John F. Kennedy* collided with and destroyed a small sailboat known as a dhow in the Persian Gulf, leaving no survivors on the traditional Arab craft. The Navy relieved the *Kennedy's* commander.

February 9, 2001

The nuclear-powered U.S. submarine *Greenville* sank the Japanese fisheries training ship *Ehime Maru* during the subs rapid ascent off the coast of Hawaii, killing nine people including four teenage students.

Bush Opens Outer Space to Combat

By Karl Grossman

It was issued quietly at 5 p.m. on the Friday before the long Columbus Day weekend, a release seemingly designed to get little notice. But what it involved deserves major attention: a new U.S. National Space Policy that could set the stage for the heavens being turned into a battleground.

For decades, the Outer Space Treaty of 1967 has shaped how nations approach space. Developed by the United States, United Kingdom and Soviet Union — and now ratified essentially by all the world's countries — the landmark agreement sets space aside for peaceful purposes.

But the United States became uncomfortable with the treaty in the 1980s during President Ronald Reagan's "Star Wars" program. That discomfort was marked in the 1990s by U.S. opposition to efforts (still ongoing) led by Canada — and including Russia and China — to ban all weapons in space; the treaty only bans weapons of mass destruction.

There were bellicose declarations in the 1990s, too, from the U.S. Space Command speaking of "dominating the space dimension of military operations to protect U.S. interests and investment."

Moreover, as George W. Bush took office, a commission chaired by his defense secretary-to-be, Donald Rumsfeld, spoke of how "in the coming period the U.S. will conduct operations to, from, in, and through space to support its national interests."

Then the Bush administration began revising the U.S. National Space Policy as issued by President Bill Clinton. A front-page, lead article in *The New York Times* last year reported that the U.S. Air Force was "seeking President Bush's approval of a national-security directive that could move the United States closer to fielding offensive and defense space weapons." It told of how one "Air Force space program, nicknamed Rods from God, aims to hurl cylinders of tungsten, titanium or uranium from the edge of space to destroy targets on the ground striking at speeds of about 7,200 miles an hour with the force of a small nuclear weapon."

The new policy does not explicitly declare the United States will now move ahead with such space weapons — but it opens the door.

"Freedom of action in space is as important to the United States as air power and sea power," it asserts in its

introduction. Under "National Security Space Guidelines," it says, "United States national security is critically dependent upon space capabilities, and this dependence will grow." So the United States will "develop and deploy space capabilities that sustain U.S. advantage."

Also, the 10-page policy says the United States "will oppose the development of new legal regimes or other restrictions that seek to prohibit or limit U.S. access to or use of space."

Further, the policy authorizes the use of nuclear power overhead to "enhance space exploration or operational capabilities ... The use of space nuclear power systems shall be consistent with U.S. national and homeland security, and foreign policy interests."

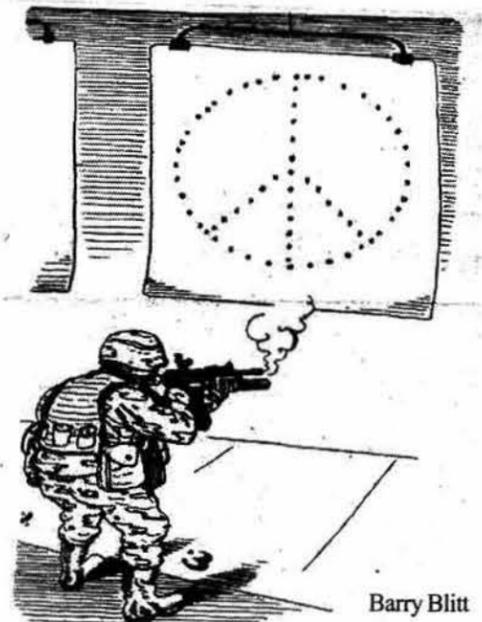
Bruce Gagnon, coordinator of the Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space, speaks of the document's "provocative language ... This is the kind of talk that will create a new arms race in space, clearly just what the military-industrial complex wants." And, he says, "Bush's new space policy enshrines the rejection of an international treaty to ban weapons in space."

The vision of the Outer Space Treaty — to set aside space as a global commons and to prevent the armed conflict that has marked human history on Earth from extending into the heavens — would be altered by the new U.S. policy.

The United States sees its potential military supremacy in space — and seeks to take advantage of this. But that's similar to the U.S. attitude in 1945 when we had the atomic bomb and no one else did. It will not take long if space is opened up to war for other nations, notably Russia and China, to meet the United States in kind. We still have an opportunity now to adhere to and strengthen the Outer Space Treaty and, with verification, continue to keep space for peaceful purposes.

Or we can turn the heavens into a war zone and a place for nuclear power and weapons. We are at a crossroads. The policy must not be slipped through quietly. The people of the United States must have a voice and there should be wide public discussion on this fateful decision.

— *Karl Grossman, journalism professor at the State University of New York, wrote and narrated the award-winning TV documentary: "Weapons in Space: The Nuclearization and Weaponization of the Heavens."*



Barry Blitt

Abandoned Missile Launch Site Named for the Gipper?

BISMARCK, North Dakota — Ronald Reagan, who said pollution came mainly from trees, quipped that he had outlawed the Soviet Union and would begin bombing in 5 minutes, and whose cold war administration increased the U.S. nuclear arsenal by 17,000 new warheads, may have an abandoned Minuteman III missile silo and Launch Control Center named in his honor.

On April 19, North Dakota Senate Republicans inserted \$250,000 for a "Ronald Reagan Peace Through Strength Missile Silo Historic Site" in the State Historical Society's budget. Merl Paaverud of the Historical Society said, "When we get people out there to the launch control center, and they go down 45 feet into the ground, their eyes really open up. Part of it is the mystery of what it looks like and what went on down there."

Indeed, the underground launch center — 2 1/2 miles east of Cooperstown — once had control of 10 Minuteman III missiles, each with three 375-kiloton warheads. The Air Force operators had charge of explosive forces equal to 900 Hiroshima bombs, enough power to kill 126 million people.

Uranium Weapons Update ... Belgium, Maine, California, Hawaii, Oregon ...

Belgium Bans Uranium Weapons and Armor

On March 22, Belgium became the first country in the world to ban munitions and armor that contain depleted uranium (DU), the toxic, radioactive waste metal used in armor-piercing munitions and armor plate. The ban was adopted by Parliament with unanimous support from across the political spectrum. Although Belgium does not produce or use DU, Brussels is home to the NATO headquarters. NATO forces have repeatedly used DU in war zones, and U.S. shipments of the weapons often travel through Belgium's port at Antwerp. Acknowledging the Precautionary Principle, the deputies agreed that the manufacture, use, storage, sale, acquisition, supply and transit of these conventional weapon systems should be prohibited. The Belgian Coalition to Stop Uranium Weapons and the International Coalition to Ban Uranium Weapons initiated the effort.

Human Lung Tissue Study Finds DU Cancer Risk

If inhaled, the gas-like uranium-238 that is dispersed when DU shells smash and burn causes substantial damage to DNA, and could cause cancer, according to new research.

In the first study of DU's effects on human lung cells, researchers found that inhalation of DU's toxic, radioactive metallic fumes might cause lung cancer. As the *Guardian* reported May 8, "The study adds to growing evidence that DU causes health problems on battlefields long after hostilities have ceased." Causing such delayed-effect casualties is a crime of war long prohibited by treaty law.

Toxicologist John Pierce Wise, Sr. and colleagues at the U. of Southern Maine in Portland exposed human lung tissue to particles of uranium oxide typically found in DU dust.

"These data suggest that exposure to particulate DU may pose a significant risk and could possibly result in lung cancer," the team wrote in the May 21 issue of *Chemical Research in Toxicology*.

Livermore Lab Seeks Permit to Explode Tons of DU

If its permit application is approved, the Lawrence Livermore National Lab in California intends to increase the amount of test DU it explodes outdoors.

Over 4 tons of radioactive DU and other toxic heavy metals could be exploded in military tests near Tracy, 21 miles east of Livermore, Calif. in the San Joaquin Valley.

The lab already conducts up to 100 test blasts annually in which an undisclosed amount of DU is used "routinely," according to a February letter sent to Tracy residents by a Livermore site manager. The watchdog group Tri-Valley Communities Against a Radioactive Environment is working to see that the permit is denied.

The Tracy Press reported that Army munitions director Col. Jim Naughton told a 2003 press briefing on DU, "The Iraqis tell us, 'Terrible things happened to our people because you used it [DU] last time.' Why do they want it to go away? They want it to go away because we kicked the crap out of them." The use of hundreds of tons of DU by U.S. and UK

forces in their 1991 bombardment is blamed by Iraqi doctors and others for the sharp increase in cancer and birth abnormalities across southern Iraq.

U.S. Military on Oahu Island Lied About DU

Some Hawaii residents are calling for Governor Linda Lingle to sign a bill requiring tests for DU in the soil near Schofield Barracks on Oahu Island.

In 2006, a company conducting clean up operations at the barracks on Oahu discovered DU used in the early 1960s. Prior to that the Army had denied any use of DU in Hawaii.

A public relations officer for the U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii, told *Hawaii Today*, "Army policy prohibits the use of depleted uranium ammunition in training." But Cory Harden, a Mountain View resident who supports the new law is skeptical. "They

haven't told us the truth in the past, so why should we believe them now?" Harden said, adding that the Army denied it used DU until it was discovered on Oahu.

DU Testing for Oregon's National Guard Veterans

Oregon's House of Representatives on May 3 unanimously passed HB 2832-A, which orders the state's Director of Veterans Affairs to assist returning veterans in obtaining screenings and treatment for DU contamination.

The bill also creates a task force to study the effects of DU and Gulf War Syndrome. A tandem measure passed out of committee in the state Senate and a floor vote is pending.

Similar testing mandates have become law in Connecticut and Louisiana and are being considered in Minnesota.

Train Watch Alerts Nation (Continued from cover)

construction. Dairyland Power Cooperative took over in the early 70s.

Decommissioning the reactor will cost at least \$84.6 million, according to Dairyland, an amount that already exceeds the available public funds (\$72.2 million) set aside for the project. The site isn't expected to be nuclear free, if ever, until 2026. Dairyland's member-owners pay \$5.5 million a year



Photo by George Nygaard

From left: Gail Vaughn, Andrew Gilbert, Bonnie Urfer, Guy Wolf and Kay Turner in front of the shut-down La Crosse Boiling Water Reactor May 4. Contaminated parts of the defunct reactor are being shipped to private dumps across the country.

for security, maintenance and monitoring of the waste, all without benefit of electricity. The lesson? The price of nuclear power is unlimited and incalculable.

Dairyland plans to store its waste fuel on-site. Mr. Christians was not concerned about the potential flooding of the prospective dry cask storage site. He explaining that the five or six casks needed for the fuel rods would be raised on gravel pads.

In 1993, the Mississippi rose 49.6 feet above normal and six feet above the old record set in 1973. The river remained at flood stage for over two months. Flood water disabled a major water facility in Iowa and left 200,000 people in Des Moines without drinking water. Transportation and industry along the Mississippi was disrupted for months. Damages to river transportation in the region was the worst ever incurred in the U.S. Over 1,000 of the 1,300 levees designed to hold back flood waters failed. Over 70,000 people were displaced by the floods. Nearly 50,000 homes were damaged or destroyed and 52 people died. Over 12,000 square miles of productive farmland were rendered useless. Damage was estimated between \$15-20 billion. If Dairyland and the NRC could control the rain and water, gravel pads alongside the Mississippi might work to keep the waste fuel storage casks dry.

I asked Roger Christians, "If you knew then what you know now about nuclear power, would Dairyland have made the decision [to buy the system for \$1] in the first place?"

He said, "No."

From May 19 to the 24th, I was just up the road from the reactor with cameras, binoculars and a phone, reporting on the preparations for shipment to Barnwell while John LaForge alerted the press from the office. I was relieved by Jim Johnson, a volunteer from Des Moines, Iowa. Jim stayed for four days and still the reactor core hadn't moved. Finally, on May 31, the shipment left for South Carolina. Although Dairyland claims the package is low-level waste, its time line and route were kept just as secret as if it were high-level waste.

Asked about the interior and exterior curie count (radiation levels), the company refused to say. Spokesperson Deb Mirasola only told Nukewatch that the levels were within NRC limits.

Now that the reactor is bound for Barnwell, it's South Carolina's water table that will indefinitely be threatened by Wisconsin's use of nuclear power. Utah is next.

— *John LaForge helped with research for this article.*

NUCLEAR SHORTS

15,000 Radioactive Sources Retrieved

LOS ALAMOS, New Mexico — More than 15,000 radioactive substances have been collected from businesses and universities no longer using them. "Sources containing radioactive plutonium, americium, californium, cesium, cobalt, iridium, radium, and strontium have been recovered from medical, educational, agricultural, research and industrial facilities throughout the nation," the National Nuclear Security Administration said. With the Los Alamos National Laboratory in charge, the NNSA took several years to gather the isotopes. The Energy Department said the program was to secure radioactive waste that could have been utilized to make a "dirty bomb."

— KOB.com TV news, Albuquerque, May 7, & the AP & UPI, May 8, 2007

Europeans Want Action on '68 H-bomb Accident

BRUSSELS, Belgium — Voting 544-24 on May 10, the European Parliament called upon Denmark to take action regarding the health consequences of the Jan. 21, 1968 crash of a U.S. B-52 bomber carrying four nuclear bombs. The wintery crash happened near Thule Air Base in Greenland and two of the H-bombs dispersed several kilos of plutonium. Area residents and the U.S. Air Force, with the use of dogs and sleds, volunteered to help in the immediate cleanup. Plutonium contaminated the area of the crash site and was spread by high winds and water over an extensive area. While the U.S. has monitored its Air Force clean-up crew over the years, no such service was offered to the Danish and Greenlanders.

If sufficiently convinced, the European Parliament's Petitions Commission can instigate legal proceedings at the European Court of Justice, the results of which would be legally binding.

In 1966, another U.S. bomber crashed on Spain's coast and released similar amounts of radiation. Spain subsequently banned U.S. flights carrying nuclear weapons over their territory. — *European Parliament*, Issue 729; BBC "On This Day," May 12, 2007

Highly Enriched Uranium Spill in Tennessee

ERIN, Tenn. — The Nuclear Fuel Services facility here spilled nine gallons of highly radioactive enriched liquid uranium last year, an accident that the NRC revealed only recently. A faulty pipe allowed the radioactive material to leak into a "glovebox" then onto the floor and into an elevator pit. The material did not go critical but the NRC report says, "The total volume of the transfer would have been more than enough for criticality in the glovebox or the elevator pit." Criticality is a chain reaction releasing heat and large amounts of neutron radiation. It can start in a body of material containing a critical mass of uranium-235 or other fissile elements. The highly enriched uranium is used in nuclear reactors and weapons. Nuclear Fuel Services was not fined. The company filled the elevator shaft with concrete to contain the radiation. The NRC failed to inform the public or congress claiming security concerns.

— *The Tennessean*, May 7, 8 & 9, 2007; U.S. Federal Register: Report to Congress on Abnormal Occurrences, Fiscal Year 2006

Atomic Refuge Makes for Hot Wildlife

Denver, Colo. — The 6,240-acre Rocky Flats complex 10 miles NW of Denver was an integral part of the U.S. nuclear weapons industry from 1952 to 1989, manufacturing about 70,000 plutonium bomb "triggers." It was shut down after the FBI raided its offices for evidence of environmental crimes. A federal jury convicted the operators but an \$18.5 million plea bargain buried the details. Today, the DOE is responsible for 1,313 acres, and the other 4,927 is to be transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and become the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge. Pity the wildlife.

When the site was in production and during the \$7 billion, 10-year-long "clean-up," millions of gallons of water moved through the site's sewage system and was discharged directly into natural surface waterways, like South Walnut Creek. Now radiation monitors there show high levels of uranium. Scott Surovchak, a Rocky Flats site manager, said the reason is precisely because Rocky Flats is going natural, although he acknowledged there was major leakage of contaminants. Without the high-volume water flow of old, he said, typical stream flows have gone from hundreds of gallons per minute to a gallon a minute. More of the water flowing through streams is from groundwater, which contains more natural uranium, he said. — *The Daily Camera*, May 8; *Denver Post* & *Rocky Mountain News*, May 6, 2007

Heavy Metal Slag Heap Leak

OXNARD, Calif. — Public access to a popular Oxnard beach has been closed after soil in a nearby wetlands was found to be contaminated with radioactive thorium. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) believes the radioactive waste came from a slag heap at a metal recycling facility formerly run by Halaco Engineering. Concerned that the contaminated soil could be kicked up and inhaled, the EPA has erected a chain-link fence, posted signs and drained a nearby canal. Thorium-232 has a radioactive half-life of about 14 billion years. Inhalation of it can increase the risk of developing lung, pancreatic and bone cancer. Of further concern is the

accumulation of metals in the waste piles which cover about 28 acres. The runoff from the slag heap has already spread to neighboring wetlands, according to the EPA.

— *Ventura County Star*, March 6, 2007

The Few, the Proud, the Toxic

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — The San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board rejected the latest plan by the Marine Corps' Camp Pendleton to shore up a dilapidated hazardous landfill. Water officials have now gone on record stating that the landfill should be closed permanently because problems at the site may be beyond fixing. In 1999, the landfill was expanded but shoddy construction has allowed hundreds of thousands of gallons of hazardous waste, radioactive materials and heavy metals to "gush" from the site the *North County Times* said. Citizens and state regulators are worried the runoff could poison drinking water wells and aquifers that are within miles of the site. Camp Pendleton's proposal



for repairing the failed landfill included replacing its damaged liner, but the Water Quality Board complained of the plan's "very significant deficiencies in the level of technical information" which "fails to comply with minimum requirements." The Marines have been ordered to either develop a viable repair plan or close the landfill indefinitely. — *The Escondido North County Times*, Feb. 28, 2007

Nuclear Nightmares on the High Seas

MOSCOW, Russia — A long-planned if ill-conceived floating nuclear reactor is presently under construction at the Sevmash fabrication plant in Severodvinsk on the White Sea coast. Addressing environmental concerns, the Russian Atomic Agency announced, "This plant is much safer than atomic energy stations on the ground." This veiled reference to own its 1986 Chernobyl catastrophe was less than reassuring. The RAA's Sergei Kiriyenko even mentioned the August 2000 sinking of the Russian submarine *Kursk* in which 118 sailors perished. "After the boat was raised, specialists proved that the reactor could be put into use at that very moment." Such bravado is characteristic of the RAA which has signed an agreement with the Sevmash shipyard for six additional floating reactors. Russia's pretext for the project is to bring power to some of its most remote areas, but it may also sell the floating reactor concept to other countries.

— *Associated Press*, April 15, 2007

Streets Paved With ... Well, Radium

DENVER, Colo. — Some of the streets in Denver's Capital Hill neighborhood are being torn up this summer because radioactive materials were found in the asphalt. In the area of 9th Ave. and Corona Street crews will work for months to remove radium-contaminated asphalt. This is the second time in four years that certain sections of the city's streets will be shut down, torn up and replaced. Radium was used as filler for asphalt in the early 1900s. Small businesses that rely on street parking for customers are concerned about the loss of commerce during the reconstruction work. Phase two of the asphalt decontamination project will move on to York Street, between 13th and 16th Avenues later in the summer. Leaders in Adams County have filed a lawsuit to prevent radioactive materials from the Denver Radium Streets plan to be dumped at its Deer Trail repository. County residents fear the waste will cause irreparable harm by finding its way to groundwater. — *CBS News*, Denver, April 18, 2007

Paiute Tribe Blocks One Yucca Dump Rail Route

LAS VEGAS, Nevada — The Energy Department's hopes to transport nuclear waste to Yucca Mountain down a western Nevada corridor were dealt a possibly fatal blow April 17 when the Walker River Paiute Tribe withdrew its cooperation on a railroad route through its reservation. The tribal council passed a resolution removing the tribe from a federal environmental impact study of a rail segment for shipments of waste reactor

fuel along the outskirts of its sovereign lands north of Walker Lake. The Walker River Paiutes faced growing pressures from their membership and from neighboring communities that were becoming increasingly vocal in opposition to the possibility of high-level nuclear waste accidents in Nevada.

— *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, April 18, 2007

Drilling for Trouble in the Wrong Places

PARACHUTE, Colo. — Project Rulison was part of the U.S. government's quaintly named Plowshare Project — an effort to invent non-military uses for nuclear weapons. In 1969, the former Atomic Energy Commission detonated a 43-kiloton H-bomb 8,426 feet underground "to free natural gas." Natural gas was released, but it was so radioactive as a result of the blast that not a single cubic foot was ever sold. The Colorado River is 4.8 miles north of the bomb test site.

Today local residents are worried that exploratory drilling for natural gas will release radioactive pollutants to the air, ground water and surface water. Long-term management of the area, on the northern slope of Battlement Mesa, was turned over last fall to the DOE Office of Legacy Management. But the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission oversees the state's oil and gas industry, including drilling permits. The DOE prohibits drilling 6,000 feet below the surface and within a 40-acre zone around the blast site but the state commission sets its own boundaries.

What was once a 3-mile posted buffer zone around the site is now considered "arbitrary," and the Houston-based Presco drilling company has moved within a half mile of the blast site. Landowners have organized Project Rulison, hired lawyers and a consultant, created a web site about the drilling, circulated petitions and are filing a lawsuit to prevent test well drilling inside the buffer zone. "We're not against drilling," said local resident Ruth Weldon, "but I don't understand why they have to drill in this one area. Why drill on top of a nuclear blast site?"

As the web site notes, the DOE has warned that underground contaminants are "expected to include radioactive fission products, plutonium, uranium, and tritium, with the gaseous radionuclides being the most mobile in the environment; ...the extent of the subsurface hazard has yet to be defined." — *Associated Press*, May 5, 2007

Japan's Nuclear Power Deceptions

TOKYO, Japan — The Tokyo Electric Power Co. (TEPCO) has found that additional data at its nuclear reactors was falsified. Six newly-disclosed crimes involve illegal reactor mishaps that were omitted from trial records reported to the government's Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency. The violations include misrepresenting a broken diesel generator that is a critical part of the emergency reactor core cooling system, entering thermal output numbers that were well below the actual output, not reporting an automatic shutdown due to abnormal conditions and numerous safety violations. Getting to the heart of Japan's corrupt nuclear industry has been an ongoing bureaucratic obstacle course, with few answers, many roadblocks and dangerous consequences.

— *NIRS, The Nuclear Monitor*, March 19, 2007

North Korea Invites Weapons Inspectors

NORTH KOREA — North Korea's Atomic Energy Department director Ri Je-son said the government would allow international nuclear inspectors into the country as soon as the U.S. releases \$25 million in funds frozen in a Macau bank. The invitation came in response to a request by the International Atomic Energy Agency to send inspectors to verify the agreed-upon shutdown of a reactor and plutonium reprocessing facility. The agreement gave North Korea 60 days to shut down the nuclear programs in exchange for energy and economic assistance. North Korea says the \$25 million has been earmarked for education and humanitarian purposes. — *AP*, March 19, & *New York Times*, April 21, 2007

Resources in this issue

- * **Don't Waste South Carolina**, Carolina Peace Resource Center, PO Box 7933 Columbia, SC 29202, Phone: (803) 755-6929; Web: dontwastesc.com
- * **Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space**, PO Box 652, Brunswick, ME 04011, Phone: (207) 443-9502, Email: globalnet@mindspring.com; Web: space4peace.org
- * **International Coalition to Ban Uranium Weapons**, Bridge 5 Mill, 22a Beswick St., Ancoats, Manchester, UK M4 7HR, Phone: +44 (0)161 273 8293 / 8283, Web: icbuw.org; Email: info@bandepleteduranium.org
- * **Nuclear Information & Resource Service (NIRS)**, 6930 Carroll Avenue, Suite 340, Takoma Park, MD 20912, Phone: (301) 270-6477, Email: nirsnet@nirs.org, Web: www.nirs.org
- * **Project Rulison**, P.O. Box 308, Parachute, CO 81635, Phone: (970) 285-7722, Web: projectrulison.com, Email: projectrulison@hotmail.com
- * **Radioactive Waste Management Associates**, 526 West 26th St., Room 517, New York, NY 10001, Phone: (212) 620-0526, Email: radwaste@rwma.com, Web: www.rwma.com
- * **Snake River Alliance**, 350 N 9th St., #B10, Boise, Idaho 83702, Phone (208) 344-9161, Email: sra@snakeriveralliance.org, Web: www.snakeriveralliance.org
- * **Tri-Valley CAREs**, 2582 Old First St., Livermore, CA 94551, Phone: (925) 443-7148, Email: marylia@trivalleycares.org, Web: www.trivalleycares.org

Resuscitated Browns Ferry Shuttered Again

Storied Alabama Reactor Restarted After 22-year Shutdown

By John LaForge

At a cost of at least \$1.8 billion, the federal government's Tennessee Valley Authority restarted the long-shutdown Browns Ferry Unit 1 on May 22, twenty years after a series of accidents and inept management forced it to close. May 24, it was shut down again due to a hydraulic leak.

Browns Ferry, with three reactors 10 miles from Decatur, Alabama, has been haunted by safety lapses and mismanagement since its startup in 1974.

In 1975, a 7 1/2 hour, \$150 million fire wrecked Unit 1's emergency core cooling system, crucial remote control circuits and caused the water level in the core to drop sharply. Cooling "was only restored when workers resorted to equipment that was not designed for emergency cooling systems," wrote Helen Caldicott in *Nuclear Power is Not the Answer*.

The reactor reopened but in 1985 TVA shuttered all three because of additional accidents and mismanagement. Unit 2 was restarted in 1991 and Unit 3 restarted in 1995.

Unit 1's 5-year, multi-billion-dollar rehab work included replacing a bewildering 150 miles of electric cables and 6 miles of giant pipe. While the nuclear industry is looking to the Browns Ferry restart as a showcase for a reactor construction boom, the enormous cost of the TVA project — and its hasty shutdown — will give pause to potential investors.

Craig Beasley, of TVA, told *The New York Times* the exact cost of the rehabilitation would not be known for some time, but would "probably" not be "much more" than \$1.8 billion.

New Reactor Construction Eyed in Wisconsin

MADISON — After two failed attempts, a committee of leading Wisconsin lawmakers on May 10 approved a proposal to repeal statutory roadblocks to nuclear reactor construction that have been in place since 1983.

Wisconsin law now requires that a federal dump be accepting high-level waste fuel before new reactors may be built. Twenty-four years since the Wisconsin statute became law, and 50 years since experts began studying the problem, the U.S. has no such a dump. (Neither has a government anywhere in the world opened a permanent repository.)

The law also requires that the cost of reactor construction, operation, decommissioning and waste disposal be "economically advantageous" compared with "feasible alternatives." (Since neither of these conditions can be met, the law is often erroneously called a "moratorium.")

Repeal sponsor Rep. Phil Montgomery, R-Green Bay, has said the current law's restrictions "are so out of line with reality that you could never meet them."

The Wisconsin Legislative Council — using the familiar canard that nuclear power is "green" — voted to recommend repeal to the full legislature. The measure must still pass Senate and Assembly utility committees as well as both full houses and the Governor's desk to become law. Governor James Doyle once promised to veto any such repeal bill.

The *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel* said editorially Feb. 21, 2004, "the country's best minds are working on the waste issue." If true, this unsubstantiated claim is evidence that the nuclear waste problem (containment) is so complex and vast, that 50 years of research by "the country's best minds" has failed to find an answer.

Gas-powered generators currently cost 1/3 to 1/5 that of new nuclear reactors. None of the alternatives to nuclear power need disaster evacuation plans, endless waste management or tax-payer-funded accident insurance.

Nukewatch worked with other groups against the repeal proposal and provided lawmakers with a heavy packet of

Indian Point 1, 2 and 3's Explosion and Leaks

BUCHANAN, New York — An explosion and fire in a truck-sized transformer across the street from the reactor building led to a shutdown of Indian Point 3 April 6. Reporters in the Lower Hudson Online newsroom received a message headlined, "Buchanan explosion, Indian Point nuclear power plant," and some scrambled for their potassium iodide pills.

On April 2, 123 of 150 new emergency sirens failed a test run. Entergy had already been fined \$130,000 for siren failures. The next day, a water pump malfunction and low water levels in steam generators shut down Indian Point 3 for nearly a month.

Scientists have been trying to locate the source of tritium and strontium-90 leaks to the Hudson River and groundwater. Entergy is responsible for an ongoing radiation leak found in August 2005. Indian Point 1's cooling pool — shut down since 1974 — is the probable source for the strontium-90 leak. A new underground contamination was reported on April 23 at IP 3 coming from pipes 4 to 5 feet underground.

On May 10, investigators discovered contamination in Buchanan's city sewer system. The NRC found that IP workers fear retribution for raising safety concerns. The company has applied for license extensions for both IP reactors.

One week previous to the explosion, workers replaced 97 of 193 fuel bundles in the core. Buchanan Mayor Dan O'Neill said he was not concerned about the fact that the fire had taken place. Indian Point is located 35 miles from New York City. — *Journal News*, April 6, 7, 10 & 23, May 10 & 11; *Associated Press*, May 11; & *The Hinesberg Journal*, May 11 & 12, 2007

Early TVA estimates of the cost of building Browns Ferry were laughably understated. Predicted to cost about \$313 million, the first two reactors eventually cost \$500 million. *The New York Times* said this was "about \$2 billion in today's dollars." With the \$1.8 billion bill for refurbishing Unit 1, Browns Ferry's \$4 billion price tag is reason enough for today's utility investors to be skeptical of joining the pro-nuclear band wagon.

The 1975 fire was sparked by workmen using a candle inside a room full of cables directly under the control room. The destruction of critical cable systems forced the revamping of similarly situated electrical setups at reactors nationwide. The Browns Ferry emergency is considered the second most serious commercial reactor accident after the 1979 meltdown at Three Mile Island.

About the hydraulic leak that caused the May 24 shutdown, David Lochbaum, a former TVA employee now with the Union of Concerned Scientists, told *The Huntsville Times*, "It seems inconsistent with having spent all that money to get the plant to start up, but, to be fair, it is not uncommon."

In fact it is all too common that reactors are shutdown for unsafe operations.

background information. Dozens of studies show how nuclear power cannot help slow global warming, and we provided legislators with four recent reports. (These and more are available online under Wisconsin's Nuclear Debate, at www.nukewatch.com)

Wisconsin Green Party Co-chair Ron Hardy said May 9, "Nuclear energy is neither economically nor environmentally sustainable. Our current Wisconsin law has basic reasonable criteria with which to evaluate whether to build more nuclear power plants. Clearly no proposed reactor could currently meet those criteria."

Nukewatch wrote in a press statement, "With the Kewaunee reactor making headlines for poisoning nearby groundwater with radioactive tritium, the legislature should be moving to shut down nuclear reactors, not adding to our pollution problems."

California Rejects Move to Lift Reactor Building Ban

In California, which has an outright ban on new reactor construction, an identical effort to repeal the ban died in committee April 16.

No federal nuclear waste dump has been tested or opened, and the Yucca Mountain, Nevada project is so riddled with earthquake faults, water infiltration and scientific corruption that it will likely never be approved. On Feb. 7, Ed McGaffigan Jr., the longest serving member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, said about the roadblocks at Yucca, "It may be time to stop digging There is no chance Yucca can go forward under current statutes."

Average-sized reactors each create about 1 ton of high-level nuclear waste ("spent fuel") every two weeks.

Take Action: In Wisconsin, tell lawmakers to vote against any repeal of requirements for new reactors (the Montgomery bill). Legislative hotline: 800-362-9472.

Kewaunee Emergency Backup Power Failure

GREEN BAY, Wisc. — The NRC issued a serious failure finding to operators of the Kewaunee reactor in Wisconsin after finding they failed to promptly evaluate a problem with diesel generators that supply electric power to the reactor during emergencies or accidents.

The "yellow" failure notice is second only to a "red" grade notice and denotes a high level of "safety significance," according to the NRC's four-point scale. Dominion Resources, the site's operator, was told by the NRC that the failure was of "substantial importance to safety."

Tests revealed that the reactor, 30 miles from Green Bay, had an inoperable backup diesel generator for 51 days.

— Reuters, April 10, 2007

Smoked by Grass

NEW JERSEY — Marsh grass forced a shut down on May 1, of the Salem Unit 1, 18 miles south of Wilmington, Delaware. It was the second time in a week that nature thwarted Salem's pair of reactor operations. The heavy, seaweed-like grass clogged a rotating screen designed to keep flotsam and jetsam out of the cooling water intake system. The reactor sucks in trillions of gallons of water each year. On May 24, Unit 2 of Salem shut down due to a leak of condensed liquids from non-radioactive steam used to turn the generators. The reactor also contaminated Salem's storm sewer system with hydrazine. The toxic chemical is used in nuclear power systems to control corrosion. — *The Press of Atlantic City*, May 2, & *The Wilmington, Delaware News Journal*, April 30 & May 25, 2007



Eight large windmills at Steel Winds a former "brownfield" at the Bethlehem Steel site south of Buffalo, NY can power 7,000 homes. The 27 that are planned can light 23,625.

S. Carolina Says 'No More'

South Carolina legislators voted on May 23 to close the Barnwell low-level radioactive waste dump to all but three states in June 2008, killing a measure that would have kept the dump open until 2023. Nuclear utilities across the country have to find another place to bury their nuclear waste. After June 2008, only waste from New Jersey, Connecticut and SC will be allowed into Barnwell. The three states formed a waste "compact" which has already paid the county \$10.5 million in tipping fees. After '08, the county will lose the \$2 million in annual tax revenue. Utilities not in the compact have one year left to ship to the Barnwell site, so there will likely be a 12-month rush of additional transports.

Barnwell is a community of 20,000 people that supports the dump site in spite of tritium contamination. In 1999, a total of 13,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil was removed from the grounds of the St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church.

Barnwell's owners have been accepting radioactive waste for 30 years. Since 1971, the site has taken in about 28 million cubic feet of waste. Only about 1 million cubic feet remains for the compact's waste, and SC plans to build more reactors which would exacerbate its own problems.

The dump opened as a disposal site for lightly contaminated radioactive material, such as hospital gloves and gowns. Today, it is the only commercial site in the U.S. that takes the most dangerously radioactive forms of "low-level" nuclear waste. On May 31, the entire core of Wisconsin's defunct La Crosse Boiling Water Reactor was shipped to Barnwell.

The Conservation Voters of South Carolina worked overtime to close the dump. Dump operator, Energy Solutions is not giving up and has employed 10 lobbyists to repeal the shut down amendment.

— Don't Waste South Carolina, May 2; *The Barnwell People Sentinel*, May 23; *The Rock Hill Herald*, March 29, 2007

New Study Charts Reactor Accidents Since Chernobyl

BRUSSELS — Green Party members of the European Parliament released a study of radiation accidents that have taken place since the 1986 Chernobyl disaster. Researchers at the Union of Concerned Scientists in Washington, DC, and institutes in Germany, France and Austria conducted the study titled, *Residual Risk: An Account of Events in Nuclear Power Plants Since the Chernobyl Accident in 1986*. Research coordinator Mycle Schneider in Paris, said in releasing the report, "In the course of the last 20 years, the world has lived with the illusion that it is possible to make nuclear reactors safe. In reality, every day countless incidents occur in nuclear reactors and, since Chernobyl, catastrophe has on several occasions only narrowly been avoided." A copy of the report would be a nice gift for your state and federal legislators! — *The 116-page account can be found at: http://www.greens-efa.org/cms/topics/dokbin/181/181995.residual_risk@fr.pdf*

Braidwood's Unregulated Spills

JOLIET, Illinois — Two separate spills containing radioactive tritium occurred at Braidwood, 20 miles southwest of Joliet, Ill. in May. About 5 gallons of tritium-laced water leaked from a crack in a steel storage container. Exelon personnel did not know when the leak occurred but company spokesman Bob Osgood, said it happened when a tank that held radioactive garbage collected rain water and was then jostled causing the spill. In a second incident, 1,500 gallons of contaminated water "lapped over the edge" of a retention basin May 23, when high winds hit the area. The water tested at 75,000 picocuries per liter, well above what is considered a safe level. Workers placed sandbags around the contaminated water. Exelon has acknowledged leaking millions of gallons of tritium for decades after the discovery of tritium in an area pond. The company is required to report all spills within 24 hours.

— Joliet, Ill. *Herald News*, May 6 & 25, 2007

On the Up Side: New Reactor on Hold

RALEIGH, North Carolina — Progress Energy will delay building a new nuclear reactor at the Shearon Harris nuclear site and instead push customers to use less electricity.

Robert McGehee, chief executive of the Raleigh utility, said May 30 that the company will devote the next two years to testing whether its 1.2 million customers in the state are willing to commit to energy efficiency.

Progress will develop an energy efficiency program to save 2,000 megawatts of electricity, equivalent to the capacity of several power plants.

Last year Progress and Duke were among a small group of utilities leading the way to win federal licenses for the nation's first new nuclear reactors in three decades. Duke is still committed to licensing two reactors in South Carolina, and Progress is on track to seek two in Florida.

— *The Raleigh, NC, News & Observer*, May 31, 2007

The Sham of Nuclear Power & Patrick Moore

By Harvey Wasserman

Vermont, like too many other places with nuclear reactors, was recently disgraced by an industry-sponsored visit from Patrick Moore, who claims to be a "founder" of Greenpeace, and who is out selling nuclear power as a "green" technology.

The two claims are roughly equal in the baldness of their falsehood.

But the impact of the lies about Vermont Yankee — like so many other reactors — are far more serious. Vermont is now at a crossroads in its energy and environmental future. The reactor is old and infirm. Every day it operates heightens the odds of a major accident.

In a world beset by terror, there is no more vulnerable target than an aged reactor like Vermont Yankee. Its core is laden with built up radiation accumulated over the decades. Its grounds are stacked with supremely radioactive spent fuel. Its elderly core and containment are among the most fragile that exist.

Despite industry claims, VY's high-level nuclear waste is going nowhere. Nuclear Regulatory Commissioner Edward McGaffigan has told the *New York Times* he believes the Yucca Mountain waste repository cannot open for at least another 17-20 years, if ever. At current production levels, it will by then require yet another repository at least that size to handle the spent fuel that will by then be stacked at reactors like VY. In short: the dry casks stacked at Vermont Yankee

comprise what amounts to a permanent high-level nuke dump, on the shores of the Connecticut River.

The Better Business Bureau recently recommended that the Nuclear Energy Institute withdraw its advertising that claims atomic reactors are clean and nonpolluting. The NEI is an industry front group. The BBB says that reactors cause thermal pollution in their outtake pipes and cooling towers, and also create substantial amounts of greenhouse gases in uranium production. In short, the Better Business Bureau has punctured the industry's claim that Vermont Yankee and other reactors are any kind of solution for climate chaos. The idea that VY is a "green" facility is utter nonsense.

Indeed, all nuclear power reactors produce huge quantities of global warming gases as they are wrapped up in the mining of the uranium ore that goes into the fuel, and in the milling of that ore into fuel rods. The American West is littered with gargantuan piles of mill tailings that pour thousands of curies of radioactive radon into the atmosphere.

Fabricating fuel rods is one of the most electricity-intensive industries on earth, consuming millions of tons of coal in the process, emitting untold quantities of greenhouse gases. The radioactive emissions from the reactors themselves also unbalance the atmosphere, and the heat they dump into the air and water directly heats the planet.

The alleged "renaissance" of nuclear power is nothing more than heavily funded industry hype. Wall Street financiers are not lining up to invest in these dinosaurs, and numerous

utility executives have publicly doubted the wisdom of building them.

One reason is the explosive take-off of the renewable energy industry. Wind power is now substantially cheaper than nukes. The production of photovoltaic cells, which convert sunlight directly to electricity, can barely meet demand. Investments in biofuels such as ethanol and biodiesel are soaring, as are those in the cheapest form of recovered energy, increased efficiency. Shutting VY would open the state to the revolution that is reshaping the future. Keeping it open locks Vermont into a sorry past.

Nuclear power is a 50-year experiment that has failed. Extending the operations of VY will only leave the state with more radioactive waste, a Connecticut River increasingly threatened by heat and radioactive emissions and an increasingly radioactive relic despoiling the region. Nukes cannot compete in the market, and would all cease to operate overnight if the huge subsidy of federal liability insurance was removed.

It is fitting, therefore, that the industry has insulted Vermont by sending in a spokesman of the caliber of Patrick Moore. Moore has claimed for years to be a founder of Greenpeace, an exaggeration of his actual role. Moore sailed on the first Greenpeace campaign, but he did not actually found the organization. According to Dorothy Stowe, an American Quaker, who immigrated to Canada in 1966 and founded Greenpeace with her husband Irving Stowe and other Canadian pacifists and ecologists, "Technically, Patrick Moore cannot be described as a founder of Greenpeace. He was there in early stages with a lot of others. But what he is doing now is unconscionable."

In *Greenpeace: How a Group of Ecologists, Journalists, and Visionaries Changed the World*, author Rex Weyler writes, "Greenpeace was founded by Dorothy and Irving Stowe, Marie and Jim Bohlen, and journalists Ben Metcalfe, Dorothy Metcalfe, and Bob Hunter. This group organized the first campaign to sail a boat into the U.S. nuclear weapon test zone on Amchitka Island in the Bering Sea.

"Canadian ecologist and carpenter Bill Darnell coined the name 'Greenpeace' in February 1970. A year later, Moore wrote to the organization, applying for a crew position on the boat and was accepted."

Moore wrote his letter on March 16, 1971, two years after the group was founded, describing himself as a graduate student "in the field of resource ecology." Moore was not a founder of Greenpeace. Founders don't write letters applying to join. After the Stowes, Metcalfes and Bob Hunter left the organization, Moore briefly served as president, from 1977 to 1979. Former members recall that his bullyism nearly scuttled the organization. He launched an internal lawsuit against his rivals in other Greenpeace offices, was replaced as president in 1979 and was eventually drummed out of the organization as a troublemaker.

According to Steve Sawyer, who still works with Greenpeace in Amsterdam, "Moore harbored hopes of regaining his throne. Those hopes were dashed when he was chucked off the board in 1985." Moore started a fish farm, but did not succeed. He then did public relations for the Canadian forestry industry, absurdly defending massive clearcuts as an ecologically viable logging practice.

In a newspaper column in 1993, authentic Greenpeace founder Bob Hunter, called Moore "The Judas of the ecology movement." According to Hunter, Moore "burned off his old buddies because of his hubris. He was always a Green Tory at heart."

Moore says he is the "head scientist" of his public relations firm, but has never published a peer-reviewed scientific study. Moore exaggerates his role in Greenpeace and his credentials as a scientist to serve as a public relations hack for hire.

Moore now gets big money defending the indefensible, posing as a reformed environmentalist who has seen the light ... any light he is paid to see. He has hyped genetically modified crops, PVCs and brominated flame retardants. He has soft-pedaled dioxins and toxic mine tailings dumped by Newmont mines into Indonesia bays.

Now he wants to sell Vermont on its nuclear reactor. In exchange for a paycheck, he portrays Three Mile Island as a "success story." But if a meltdown turned Vermont Yankee into a TMI-type, billion-dollar liability, would he pitch in his pitchman's paychecks to help you underwrite this "success?"

Years ago, when he worked for Greenpeace, Moore wrote: "Nuclear power plants are, next to nuclear warheads themselves, the most dangerous devices ... ever created. Their construction and proliferation is the most irresponsible, in fact the most criminal, act ever to have taken place on this planet."

Greenpeace agrees. The "revival" of nuke power is hype being perpetrated by phony experts. Wall Street is not exactly lining up to invest in a failed technology with 50 years of proven failure. Vermont Yankee must be shut, dismantled and buried. Closing it now will narrow the burden of its permanent waste dump and open the door on the booming revolution in the real energy of the future: renewables and efficiency.

Harvey Wasserman, senior advisor to Greenpeace USA since 1990, is author of "Solartopia: Our Green-Powered Earth, A.D. 2030." This article was written, with research help from past and current Greenpeace associates, for the Brattleboro Reformer.

Major Security Breach at Palisades Reactor Critics Urge Congressional Investigation

By Kevin Kamps, NIRS

TAKOMA PARK, MD — A story appearing in the June edition of *Esquire* magazine that reveals a major security breach at the Palisades nuclear power reactor in Covert, Michigan, confirms that reactor security around the country is grossly inadequate according to specialists in the field.

Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS) and its allies today called on the U.S. Congress to investigate the security breach at Palisades. The *Esquire* story, entitled "Mercenary," details how the head of Palisades security — William E. Clark — had largely fabricated his background, experience and security credentials presenting himself as an expert on armed deterrence. Clark has since resigned his position.

"Mercenary" reveals that officials at Palisades failed to detect false assertions in Clark's resume that claimed he had high-level security clearance from the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD). Clark also passed a Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)-regulated background check. He was hired by the reactor's previous owner, Consumers Energy Company, and operator, Nuclear Management Company, a year and a half ago, but was kept on by the new owner and operator, Entergy, since it acquired Palisades one month ago.

What's disturbing is not only that Palisades hired an individual who claimed to be an experienced assassin, but apparently no one tried to verify his false claim to have DOD clearance. This lapse has serious implications for security at all 103 reactors across the country. It begs the question as to what would have happened if a terrorist had decided to fake a resume rather than fly a plane, and earned a top-level security job at a nuclear power reactor.

The article describes how Clark convinced NRC officials, as well as FBI and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) agents, to support and even join his "Viper team," a supposedly "elite strike force" he set up at Palisades. According to *Esquire*, FBI agents and NRC officials attended a "Viper team" presentation by Clark hosted at DHS headquarters in Washington, D.C. The federal officials

reportedly considered establishing Clark's "Viper teams" at nuclear reactors across the U.S.

"If what *Esquire* says about Clark is true, I surely hope Entergy and Consumers have formally notified the NRC, FBI and DHS of the revelations by now," said Terry Lodge, an attorney based in Toledo, OH who represents citizens in public interventions against Palisades. "Apparently a journalist can do a much better background check than Entergy and Consumers security officials. Entergy has also had security problems at the Indian Point reactors near New York City. The NRC must reconsider whether Entergy can guarantee the safe operation of Palisades, and 100 percent protection of the high-level radioactive waste still stored at Big Rock Point in northern Michigan," Lodge said.

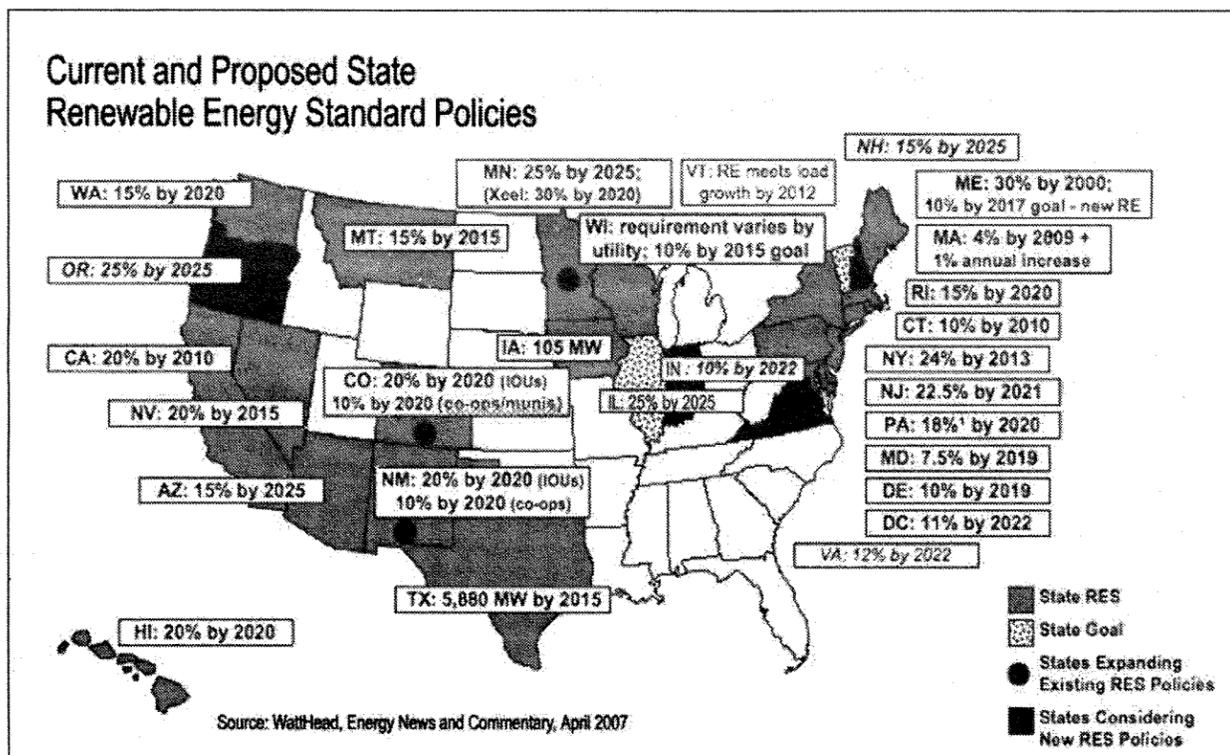
Despite the NRC claim that the 9/11 attacks prompted a "top to bottom" security review, it did not detect Clark's deceptions or even check up on the man's erratic behaviors described in the article.

Palisades' reactor and waste storage facilities hold potentially catastrophic amounts of radioactivity, at continual risk of release into the environment due to accident or attack. This incident of industrial fraud clearly shows that the private companies and government agencies that are supposed to protect public health, safety, security, and the environment are incapable of doing so.

NIRS has called upon Congress to investigate the failures at NRC, FBI, DHS and the nuclear utilities involved at Palisades and to explore whether similar problems exist within security programs at other reactor sites across the country. Based on the information revealed by *Esquire*, NIRS will also re-apply to the NRC for public hearings on allegations of security-related problems at Palisades and Big Rock, hearings that were previously denied.

The *Esquire* article can be found at <esquire.com/features/mercenary0607>

— Kevin Kamps is the nuclear waste specialist at Nuclear Information and Resource Service in Tacoma, MD.



“Divine Strake” Sunk by Skeptics

By Paul Vos Benkowski

A voice in the wilderness grew to a forest of voices, strong enough to stop a bomb and embolden the resolve of citizens' right to speak out against the reckless nature of an arms race that should have been stopped years ago. Concerned citizens, anti-nuclear activists and even elected officials spoke out, campaigned, petitioned, collected signatures and staged various protest actions to sound the alarm against the dangers of a giant and pointless bomb test. Its cancellation serves as an important reminder that people have the power to protect themselves, that people have the power to change, that people have the power.

The proposed test was bizarrely named Divine Strake, one of a series of projects under the Hard and Deeply Buried Target Defeat programs run by the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) at the Nevada Test Site (NTS). Divine Strake is a 700-ton Bunker Buster, some 50 times larger than the biggest known conventional weapon in the U.S. arsenal. The stated purpose of the test was to study ground shock effects on deeply buried tunnel structures. Of secondary interest was the air blast produced by a buried charge as well as its affect on local terrain. This secondary interest was uppermost in the minds of folks living near the Nevada Test Site, as well as the hundreds of thousands living downwind, as the proposed test would kick up over 60 years worth of settled radioactive fallout. While the prospect was abhorrent to many, James Tegenia, a director at the Pentagon, waxed nostalgic saying, “I don't want to sound glib here, but it is the first time in Nevada that you'll see a mushroom cloud over Las Vegas since we stopped testing nuclear weapons.”



Behind the flag of the Western Shoshone Nation, protesters moved down the road towards the Nevada Test Site gate, May 28, 2006 photo courtesy of DisarmamentActivist.org

St. George, Utah is 175 miles from the NTS with a 60-year history of suffering at the hands of the bomb builders. From the Trinity Test on July 16, 1945, to June of 1992 when the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty was ratified by the UN General Assembly, if not the United States. Citizens of St. George were sickened by the score when most of the testing was done above ground. It was not until 1957 that the U.S. went underground after the infamous “Dirty Harry” shot in May of 1953. That was only the beginning of the long struggle against nuclear testing in the contaminated deserts of Nevada.

When “Divine Strake” was scheduled for June 2, 2006, the movement began campaigning against it, sighting decades of radioactive dust that would surely be unsettled and dispersed by the winds. Under the pretext of concern for public opinion, the NNSA set up discussion meetings in St. George (the town closest to the NTS) and Salt Lake City, Utah, and Las Vegas, Nevada. In spite of being billed as a public hearing, the agency arranged 23 information stations where PR officers were ready to answer or refer questions or concerns.

But there was no public forum for interested parties to learn from open testimony or criticism, leaving the hundreds who attended the meeting with nothing more to do than file a complaint and listen to a NNSA marketing pitch about how Divine Strake is an important tool against the threat of foreign underground bunkers. Danielle Endres, who studies the public meeting process at the University of Utah, said “It's a stacked deck ... stacked against public participation. And in general it's a stacked deck for a decision that's already been made.” When the NNSA finally welcomed input from the public it was met with an deluge of over 10,000 condemnations of the test.

In another attempt to stop the test, a lawsuit was filed on behalf of the Western Shoshone Nation — upon whose land the NTS site was built — the Winnemucca Indian Tribe and a group of Utah Downwinders, among others, asking for documents proving Divine Strake would be safe. The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection's Leo Drozdoff said in a letter to the NTS operator that it must provide Nevada with emissions models for the blast and assurances the test would not violate state or federal air standards. Western Shoshone said the test would be in direct violation of the recent decision of the U.N. Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, in the decision made public March 10, the U.S. agreed to “freeze, desist and stop” actions and threats against the Western Shoshone. Western Shoshone Defense Project community organizer Larson Bill said: “Hopefully this will be a true beginning to an end of this type of testing and nuclear buildups — for the Western Shoshone and all humanity.” The county commissioners from Washington County in Nevada, as well as commissioners from St. George and nearby Springdale formally opposed the federal government's plan for non-nuclear testing at the NTS.

Local and state officials began a concerted effort to halt the test as well. County commissioners in Washington County, home to the NTS and the city councils from the nearby towns of St. George and Springdale each drafted declarations “strongly opposing” Divine Strake and any related testing at

the NTS. “The city of St. George has a unique history due to its proximity to the Nevada nuclear-test site during the atomic age,” according to the city's statement issued last Thursday. “Thousands of early deaths of those living in southern Utah and the surrounding areas have been attributed to nuclear testing during the 1950s and 1960s. Many St. George residents and others have suffered incalculable loss as a result of radioactive-fallout exposure from detonations at the [NTS].”

Then on February 22, 2007 the Defense Department cancelled the proposed test citing the need to “look at alternative methods that obviate the need for this type of large scale test.” The prospect of a mushroom cloud at some 10,000 feet above the ground fizzled under the voices of reason. Utah governor Jon Huntsman met with Sam Bodman, the secretary of Energy who credited the people of Nevada and Utah for stopping the Divine Strake test. Governor Jon Huntsman said, “It had everything to do with the voices that spoke out very passionately and emotionally from our state. That absolutely carried the day and that shouldn't be forgotten by anybody.”

In an equally successful campaign against dangerous bomb tests Lawrence Livermore Labs in California had their permits for increasing its open air explosions canceled by the San Joaquin Air Pollution Control District. Livermore Labs is located at the Alameda-San Joaquin county line between the cities of Livermore and Tracy. In November, Livermore was given permission to expand testing from 1,000 pounds of TNT per year up to 8,000 pounds annually and up to 350 pounds in a single day. The tests were related to the Department of Energy's Stockpile

Stewardship, a program to maintain the nation's nuclear weapons. The tests would help scientists understand the effects of aging on the explosives used to detonate nuclear weapons. In petitioning for the expansion, Livermore Labs withheld information pertaining to the nature of the tests. While the tests would not involve nuclear explosions they could contain depleted uranium, making the aged weaponry essentially a “dirty bomb”. Public pressure, exposure and concern forced the Pollution Control District to cancel the permits and Livermore was forced to cancel three 350 pound outdoor tests planned over the next 18 months.

Besides being on the EPA's “Superfund” list of most contaminated sites in the country, Livermore is also home to a growing community. Nearby Tracy, Calif. has a residential development in the works just 1 mile from the fence-line of Site 300, where Livermore conducts open-air explosions. Locals have had windows blown out of their homes by the blasts. Prior to the last round of testing, Livermore did not need permits because it claimed the blasts were at a low volume and yield. Yet their recent application for greater autonomy was at first accepted until nearby residents, activists and concerned citizens rallied to alert the Pollution Control District to the true dangers of such tests. To its credit, the district rescinded the permits.

Albert Einstein once stated, “You cannot prevent and prepare for war at the same.” As the bloodthirsty quest for new and more efficient killing machines seems to have no end, it is the right and the responsibility of the people, as displayed by conscientious folks around the Nevada Test Site and the Livermore Lab, to speak out against further proliferation and to seek peaceful diplomatic methods in dealing with other nations.

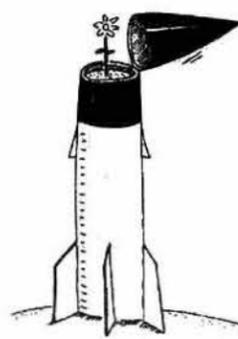
Second of Three WMD Here! Minuteman III Missile Disarmers Released

On May 4, radical Christian pacifist Greg Boertje-Obed finished a federal prison sentence imposed for the damage he and two others did to a Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile silo in North Dakota in June 2006.

Boertje-Obed, Michael Walli and Fr. Carl Kabat, dressed as clowns, broke the lock off a fence surrounding the unguarded silo site, hung banners, painted slogans and used household hammers to “disarm” the launch silo. Over 100 such “Plowshares” disarmament actions have taken place since 1980, with the activists arguing in court that nuclear weapons are illegal, immoral and suicidal.

Michael Walli was released Feb. 16 after having served eight months. Boertje-Obed was sentenced to 12.

Fr. Carl Kabat, who was sentenced to 15 months, is due to be released sometime in July. All three refused to pay any of the \$17,000 court-ordered restitution.



A new ionizing radiation warning symbol, showing the traditional radiation sign emanating rays, skull and cross bones and a fleeing figure, has been introduced by the IAEA and is meant to supplement the familiar yellow trefoil.



Additional Radiation Warning Placard Unveiled by IAEA

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) have issued a new sign to supplement the traditional yellow radiation warning sign. The new symbol has a red background and depicts a skull and crossbones and a person running away from “rays.” Proponents of the new placard say it relays a clearer message than the black-on-yellow three-cornered trefoil which “has no intuitive meaning and little recognition beyond those educated in its significance,” according to an IAEA press statement.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) does not yet require the symbol to be used on radioactive sources in the United States.

Eleven countries participated in a five-year project that tested comprehension of the image among different population groups, mixed ages and varying educational backgrounds. The Gallup Institute polled a total of 1,650 individuals in Brazil, Mexico, Morocco, Kenya, Saudi Arabia, China, India, Thailand, Poland, Ukraine and the United States.

The IAEA began developing the new symbol in response to reports of injuries and deaths caused by unrecognized radiation hazards. The sign is to be placed as close to a sealed source as possible and only inside the package containing the source — not placed where the general public could see it. It is not intended to scare the public, the IAEA says, and is not to be used in public areas, or on doors, trucks or shipping containers.

The symbol is intended for IAEA Category 1, 2 and 3 sources defined as dangerous sources capable of causing death or serious injury, including food irradiators, teletherapy machines for cancer treatment and industrial radiography units. The symbol is to be placed on the device housing the source, as a warning not to dismantle the device or to get any closer. It will not be visible under normal use, only if someone attempts to disassemble the device.

— IAEA Staff Report, Feb. 15, 2007

Troubled International Nuclear Reactors

While the world works its way through its oil reserves, the nuclear industry has honed its “safe and reliable” pitch to a sharp mantra that governments from England to China have memorized. And although the nuclear messiahs spend millions promoting a new reactor boom, news of nuclear accidents at today's reactors comes in from around the world.

- In Japan, Feb. 26, five Kansai Electric Power Co. (KEPCO) workers were formally charged with professional negligence in the notorious Mihama-3 reactor accident. On Aug. 9, 2004, five KEPCO workers were burned to death and six others injured by high-pressure steam that exploded through a corroded pipe. The indicted workers are accused of knowingly allowing the use of decrepit pipes that had never been inspected in the 28-year life of the reactor.

Since the 2004 accident, pipe thickness tests failed at 66 locations in ten of KEPCO's 11 reactors. Of these, 79 percent were in five aging reactors which have been operating for over 30 years.

- In 1988, an earthquake in Metsamor, Armenia forced the closure of its nuclear reactor. But, citing an energy shortage, the Armenia reactor was reopened in 1993 despite its 1970s-era technology being woefully out of date. Presently the Turkish Atomic Energy Agency has detected a dangerous increase in radioactive leakage from the decrepit reactor, it is located in an earthquake zone and it is just kilometers from two major Armenian cities.

- Around 520 gallons of radioactive water escaped from Czechoslovakia's troubled Temelin nuclear reactor in March when a tap was left open by mistake. Temelin has a long history of reactor trouble and is a bone of contention for neighboring Austrians as the reactor is just 25 miles from the Czech-Austrian border.

- Bowing to pressure from the European Union (EU), Bulgaria has agreed to shut down four of the six reactors at the Kozloduy Nuclear Power Station, 124 miles north of Sofia, after years of repeated accidents.

- The EU's Petten reactor in The Netherlands, which runs on weapons grade Highly-Enriched Uranium, produces isotopes for medical use. It was shut down recently following the discovery of a small leak of cooling water. On Jan. 25, a report from the Dutch Nuclear Physics Authority concluded that internal safety specifications were not followed, not mentioned in procedural lists and insufficiently known to managers.

Irradiation is Not "Pasturization" - Contact the FDA

By Bonnie Urfer

Pasteurization, n. a method of destroying or checking bacteria in milk, beer, etc. by heating the liquid to 142 - 145 degrees for thirty minutes.

Deception, n. deceiving or being deceived. 2. something deceiving, as an illusion, or meant to deceive, as a fraud.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has proposed confusing and inaccurate ID language for irradiated foods, labeling it "pasteurized." Irradiated food currently requires that all single-ingredient products sold in stores be labeled: "treated with irradiation" and carry the "radura" symbol. (The radura symbol is itself deceptive since it resembles a flower and the EPA symbol.) Using a claim made by the nuclear industry, the FDA says the word "pasteurized" provides more useful information to consumers. The agency wants the use of the word "irradiated" and the radura symbol only for food that undergoes a change in taste, texture, shelf-life or smell.

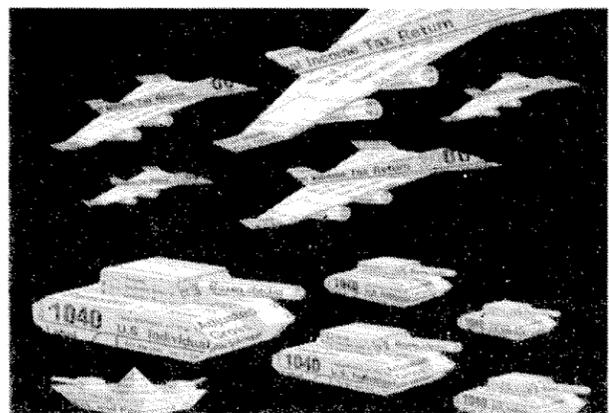
"This move by FDA would deny consumers clear information about whether they are buying food that has been exposed to high doses of ionizing radiation," stated Wenonah Hauter, Executive Director of Food & Water Watch.

Consumers have largely rejected irradiated food. Studies show irradiation at least destroys vitamins and at worst promotes cancer. Irradiated foods can lose from 2 to 95 percent of their vitamins. Irradiation can destroy up to 80 percent of the vitamin A in eggs, up to 95 percent of the vitamin A and lutein in green beans, up to 50 percent of the vitamin A and lutein in broccoli and 40 percent of the beta-carotene in orange juice. Irradiation also doubles the amount of trans fats in beef. Irradiation is an unacceptable replacement for cleaning up slaughterhouses and work places.

SureBeam, a major irradiation company, went bankrupt in 2004. Three additional irradiators in Sioux City, Iowa, Chicago and Los Angeles sit idle waiting for a market. One chief executive at Sadex, an irradiator waiting for business in California, contaminated spinach with E coli, irradiated it and then ate it hoping to enjoy a comeback after recent E coli outbreaks.

The FDA has only approved irradiation for fruits and vegetables in order to destroy plant pests, not for killing pathogen contamination. Irradiation does not work on all food. Tomatoes go mushy if exposed, lettuce wilts and strawberries turn color and melt.

The U.S. National Center for Policy Analysis estimates that irradiation costs about five cents per pound for meat and poultry products. Roughly 50 irradiation facilities operate in the U.S.



"T-Day" by Christoph Nieman, The New Yorker, April 9, 2007

Just as the Democratic-controlled Congress came under attack by liberals for approving another \$100 billion for U.S. wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, *The New Yorker* magazine ran this cover art, boldly reminding taxpayers of their own culpability.

Civilians killed, "more or less"

After a Dec. 12, 2005 speech, George W. Bush in answer to a question estimated civilian Iraqi deaths, saying "30,000, more or less, have died as a result of the initial incursion and the ongoing violence against Iraqis."

A team of U.S. and Iraqi researchers from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health estimated that 655,000 more Iraqis have died since the March 2003 bombardment and occupation than would have died if the invasion had not been launched. About 601,000 died by violence, the rest from diseases and other causes, they reported in the British medical journal *The Lancet*.

Estimates of Iraqi Dead

28,000 — United Nations, Jan. 2006 - Oct. 2006

30,000 — George Bush, Dec. 12, 2005

52,000 — Iraq Body Count, Mar. 2003 - Dec. 2006

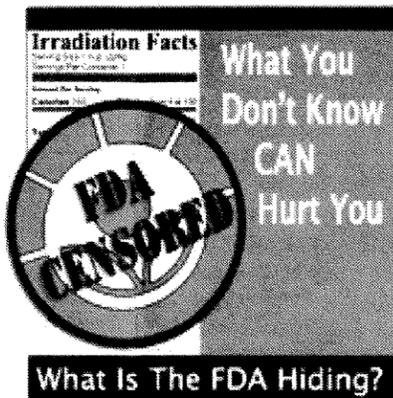
150,000 — Iraqi Health Minister, Mar. 2003 - Nov. 2006

601,000 — Johns Hopkins, *Lancet*, Mar. 2003 - July 2006

— Sources: Amanda Cox/*New York Times*, Jan. 1, 2007; White House press release, Dec. 12, 2005

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 allows companies to petition the agency to use additional alternate terms other than "irradiated," but no businesses have done so.

Take action: Let the FDA know how you feel about food irradiation and labeling. A 1984 FDA proposal to allow irradiated foods to go unlabeled garnered the agency more than 5,000 comments. Two years later, it reversed course and published a final rule that required the small number of FDA-regulated foods treated with radiation to bear identifying labels,



2007 War Funding Facts

In May, the so-called Democratic-controlled Congress approved the Bush administration's \$99.7 billion proposal for additional fiscal year 2007 funds for U.S. wars of occupation in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Associated Press and *The Wall Street Journal* published this breakdown (in billions):

\$ 41.5	for "ongoing military operations"
\$ 26.7	for "repairing and replacing equipment"
\$ 10	for body armor
\$ 9.8	to "train & equip Afghan and Iraqi forces"
\$ 2.5	to "combat roadside bombs"
\$ 2.7	for "intelligence activities"
\$ 6.5	for "miscellaneous"

In September 2006, Congress approved an additional \$70 billion for FY 2007. The new funds put 2007 spending at \$170 billion, \$60 billion more than the Bush administration had predicted and \$50 billion more than was spent in 2006.

The FY 2007 military budget is \$436.6 billion. The two wars' \$170 billion is separate and additional.

Who Gets the Money?

MILITARY CONTRACTS, FISCAL 2005 (in billions)

Lockheed Martin	\$19.45
Boeing	\$18.32
Northrop Grumman	\$13.51
General Dynamics	\$10.64
Raytheon	\$ 9.11
Halliburton	\$ 5.83
BAE Systems	\$ 5.58
United Technologies	\$ 5.02
L-3 Communications	\$ 4.71
Computer Sciences	\$ 2.83

(Sources: Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice, Defense Department via *New York Times*)

General Strike For Peace Sept 21, 2007

If Congress cannot or will not stop the war, the people must.

On September 21, 2007

we will not work and we will not shop.

We will demonstrate against war.

Show your support for peace.

Don't work. Don't shop.

The war machine can operate in the face of a certain amount of dissent. However, its power to do so is limited. There is a point at which sufficient solidarity among the people can cause the machine to grind to a halt. Our goal is to get sufficient participation in the Sept. 21, 2007 general strike to raise the level of dissent beyond that at which the war system can continue to operate. Then we will strike again Oct. 19, 2007 and again Nov. 16, 2007. In December we will strike for two days — the 21st and the 22nd. Imagine Dec. 22, 2007 as an utter failure for corporations dependent on holiday gift shopping.

We can make it happen. We can stop war. However, to do so requires participation. If you are ready to commit to striking, tell us. If you are willing to help us organize or have suggestions as to how people can join in, contact us. If you are willing to help support the effort financially, donate. If you want to become a listed supporter, let us know. If you have questions, ask.

Contact: <generalstrikeforpeace.com>

including the radiation symbol. Comments on the FDA proposed ruling must be received by July 3, 2007.

The proposed revisions to the rules on labeling can be found on the FDA's website: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments. Fax: 301-827-6870. Mail: Division of Dockets Management (HFA-305), FDA, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852

Jury Unanimous: British B-52 Disarmers Not Guilty of Sabotage

BRISTOL, England — A jury in Bristol Crown Court agreed unanimously May 22 that Oxford peace activists Philip Pritchard and Toby Olditch were not guilty of conspiring to cause criminal damage to U.S. B-52 bombers at a British airbase in Gloucestershire.

The two successfully argued that they were acting to prevent war crimes and crimes of violence against the people of Iraq when they acted March 18, 2006 to disable the B-52s and keep them from attacking. The warplanes were stationed at the Royal Air Force Base at Fairford.

The activists carried nuts and bolts that they used to gum up the bombers' turbines. During the trial even the prosecution accepted that delaying the bombers would have prevented civilian casualties, as it would have allowed those fleeing cities more time to escape, the Oxford Support Group reported.

It was the second trial for the alleged offence; the first having ended in a hung jury in Oct. 2006. — www.B52Two.org

Renewable Energy & 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, Custer, Wisconsin.

Keynote Speaker: Helen Caldicott

author of *Nuclear Madness*,
If You Love This Planet and
The New Nuclear Danger

Friday, June 15, 1:00 p.m.
the-mrea.org

Visit the Nukewatch booth
and attend our workshop:
Why Nuclear Power is Not the Answer
Friday 10:00 & Sunday 11:00.

NUKEWATCH QUARTERLY



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Nukewatch Quarterly submission deadlines:
Nov. 1, Feb. 1, May 1 & Aug. 1.
Suggested subscription/membership: \$25/yr.

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THE WAY OUT

Statement of the Brussels Tribunal and the International Anti-Occupation Network

If the U.S. military declare that the Iraq war is a failure; if the only solution they can come up with is walling in the Iraqi population; if millions are forced into exile; if hundreds of civilians are killed every day: it's time for peace-loving people to raise their voices. Enough is enough. No more half-hearted solutions. The only Way is Out. Now. The Iraqis don't want foreign occupation. Please consider signing the statement "The Way Out," written after the 2006 Congressional elections, and providing the only possible roadmap for peace in Iraq. We need as many signatures as possible from all over the world, to send to the global media, to the international human rights bodies, to the governments of the occupying countries and to the United Nations.

Endorse this statement online:

www.petitiononline.com/wayout/petition.html

U.S. forces must negotiate an immediate withdrawal with the Iraqi resistance. The American people must hold their leaders responsible for the crime of aggressive war.

In the November 2006 congressional elections, the American people expressed their clear rejection of the Bush administration's war in Iraq. However, a broad movement of opinion is needed to force U.S. leaders to heed the will of their own people and, still more, the people of Iraq.

U.S. military leaders admit that their invasion and occupation of Iraq have produced "chaos". The logical conclusion is that the U.S. presence itself, based on criminal aggression and multiple crimes against humanity, is responsible for such chaos, and that to bring about stability, the United States should withdraw immediately.

However, U.S. leaders continue to claim that they must remain in Iraq in order to achieve "stability". To this end, they speak of creating an American-trained puppet Iraqi army to fight the resistance, and of enticing foreign powers to aid in ending the resistance.

This implies fostering both civil war and more foreign intervention, attempting to take from the Iraqi people the sovereign right of deciding their own future.

Meanwhile, Iraq is being destroyed. The infrastructure has been ruined. People are dying in the hundreds of thousands or fleeing abroad. It is urgent to end this massive crime and return Iraq to its own people.

To this end, we call on world public opinion to make two demands:

Negotiate with the Resistance!

The United States invasion was a clear violation of international law. These principles cannot be negated by the fact that the United States was able to use its immense influence to persuade the UN Security Council to recognize its presence, as being requested by a government that is nothing but a Washington-installed puppet regime.

Instead of negotiating with neighboring regional powers in the hope of bringing the resistance under foreign control, the United States should negotiate directly with the resistance itself.

Punish the crimes!

We support all efforts by the American people to initiate a thorough investigation of all the officials, from the highest level on down, who deliberately spun a web of lies and deceptions in order to create the pretext for the criminal invasion of Iraq. We believe that such an investigation would provide ample grounds

for the impeachment of both President George W. Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney.

Such a repudiation of criminal leadership would be a first step toward full reconciliation with the martyred people of Iraq, setting the stage for a peace agreement including reparations to the war-torn country.

We fully recognize that, despite the recent U.S. election results, these demands require a strong mobilization of world public opinion and reactivation of the peace movement, notably in the United States.

More info: info@brusselstribunal.org

Anathoth Community Farm

(home to Nukewatch)

is celebrating it's 20th anniversary with a music festival fundraiser for a new educational center

July 7 & 8, 2007

Enjoy music - food & drinks - displays - tours - workshops and camping.

Come for a day or the entire weekend.

Help support this hard working, peace and justice-focused, educational alternative eco-village.

Information about Anathoth and the music can be found at anathothcommunityfarm.org

the World Music Festival will feature

Buckwheat Zydeco

Devon Evans (formerly with Bob Marley)

Natty Nation (reggae)

Savage Aural Hotbed (industrial percussion)

Woody McBride, aka DJ ESP (techno dance)

Bedlam (Irish)

Nama Rupa (psychedelic swamp reggae)

Floydian Slip (jam/rock) and

Command Zulu - the Anathoth Community band (political techno folk)

Call Nukewatch for more info:

(715) 472-4185 or (715) 472-8797

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www.laka.org

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