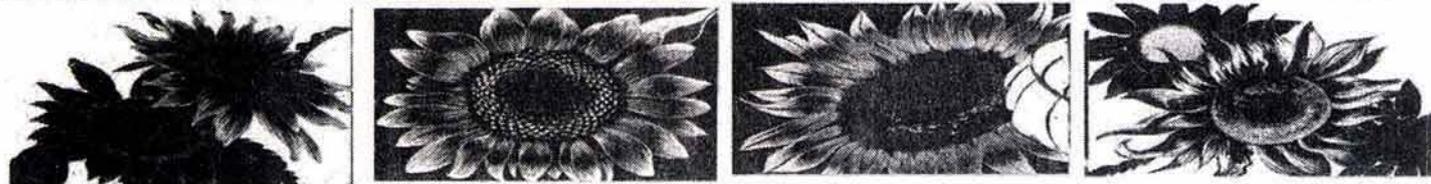


# NUKEWATCH

## QUARTERLY



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

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## Charges Dismissed Following Arbitrary Arrests

DULUTH, Minn. — Nine peace activists who were kept from making a prearranged visit to the office of U.S. Representative James Oberstar, D-Minn., last September 21, and who were subsequently arrested and jailed for refusing to leave the doorway of the Duluth Federal Building, had all trespass charges dismissed at the start of their St. Louis County Court trial February 6. A 10th defendant, Nukewatch staffer Bonnie Urfer, ignored court orders to appear and had a warrant issued for her arrest.

St. Louis County Court Judge Gerald Maher granted the defendants' motion to dismiss the case.

The defendants — Jay Newcomb, Joel Kilgour, Emily Gaarder, Ozone Bhaguan, Kristofer Dubbels, David Boulton and Peter Krause, all of Duluth; Lori Seele of Finland, and Nukewatch staffer John LaForge — had asked for the dismissal, alleging that the police had violated their constitutional rights to free speech and association, peaceful assembly and the redress of grievances.

In a letter to the court, Mr. Oberstar's Staff Assistant Dave Boe said, "I later learned that the officials from the Department of Homeland Security had decided not to allow anyone who they deemed a part of the rally to enter the building, even if they had an appointment."

Duluth City Attorney Bryan Brown said in a prepared statement to the trial court, "There was no violence, no threat of violence, no disrespect to Duluth officers, no threat to public safety or peace." The comment left unanswered

questions as to why the defendants were barred from the building, then arrested, jailed and ordered to trial.

The September 21 "National Strike for Peace Day" incident occurred when Duluth police and Federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents barred some people from entering the Federal Building while allowing others in. The arbitrary and discriminatory conduct of the police officials led to the defendants' two motions to dismiss the charges.

Joel Kilgour who helped arrange the meeting with Oberstar said, "The situation was unacceptable — we were being denied access to our own federal building because of our affiliations (people not identified with the peace rally were freely entering the building). We negotiated with federal and local law enforcement for an hour. Only after it became clear that those negotiations weren't going to result in a reasonable settlement did ten people from the group sit in the doorway."

Arguing for dismissal February 6, LaForge said, "The police unlawfully prohibited our participation in our constitu-

tionally guaranteed right to pursue a redress of grievances. Because individuals not identified by police officers were freely allowed to enter the federal building without harassment or interrogations regarding the nature of their business, the exclusion of the defendants was an arbitrary and unconstitutional violation of our rights."

As the police and ICE agents received no reprimand, some of the defendants are considering a civil suit against the overzealous authorities.



*c. sue sojourner, 2007, Duluth*

**Left to right: John LaForge, Peter Kraus, Ozone Bhaguan, Bonnie Urfer, Joel Kilgour, Emily Gaarder, Lori Seele, Jay Newcomb, Kristofer Dubbels, (not visible) David Boulton, objected to their selective exclusion from Duluth's Federal Building.**

# NATO and Russian Generals Talking Like Terrorists

## Editorial

In Brussels, five top NATO commanders declared January 22 that the alliance's nuclear weapons "must remain in the quiver" of their war plans, even during pre-emptive sneak attacks.

Surprise bombings with indiscriminate weapons are justly called terrorism, and the NATO officials' 150-page analysis reads just like rationalizations of nuclear weapons made by North Korea, India, Pakistan and Israel.

Yet the NATO officials weren't bluffing. Five NATO members in Europe now deploy 480 U.S. nuclear warheads on jet bombers (110 in Britain, 20 in Belgium, 20 in The Netherlands, 150 in Germany, 90 in Italy and 90 in Turkey). The U.S. has another 5,521 on bombers, missiles and submarines, and Britain has 200 of its own.

In the report, "Towards a Grand Strategy for an Uncertain World," the commanders used Orwellian self-contradiction, calling NATO's global nuclear war threat, "the ultimate instrument to prevent the use of weapons of mass destruction."

Ironically, the smallest of NATO's modern nuclear warheads are the size of the U.S. atomic bomb that killed 140,000 people at Hiroshima, Japan, a city President Truman always called a "military target." Of course Al Qaeda and the September 11 bombers called the Twin Towers military targets.

The irony didn't end there. The NATO chiefs asserted in the report that some key threats that NATO faces are, among other things, "the weakening of such organizations such as the United Nations, NATO and the European Union," *The Guardian* reported.

Indeed, it is the United States' go-alone policy of military adventurism — against Iraq in 1991 and 2003, Afghanistan in 2001 and Kosovo in 1999 — that has so diminished the stature of the UN, the EU and NATO itself, at least within the United States.

With all three attacks the NATO Charter was violated, since it allows for military action only if a member state is attacked. U.S./NATO attacks on Kosovo and Iraq in 2003 likewise violated the UN Charter since the Security Council refused to invoke the required articles relating to self-defense.

Strikingly, Russia's top military commander General Yury Baluyevsky said four days before the NATO paper was

released that Moscow is prepared to use nuclear weapons "to defend itself." The general said January 17, "We do not intend to attack anyone, but ... the Armed Forces will be used to protect ... Russia and its allies, including preventative action, and including the use of nuclear weapons."

This alarmingly ignorant talk of thermonuclear destruction committed "defensively" comes in the context of Bush's angry accusations against Iran's civilian nuclear power program. On January 29, Russia completed the delivery to Iran of a total of 82 tons of uranium fuel for its Bushehr light-water power reactor.

Meanwhile the ongoing practice of hyperpower nuclear terrorism remains part-and-parcel of U.S. foreign policy. One 2002 Bush policy paper says the "U.S. ... reserves the right to respond with overwhelming force — including the use of nuclear weapons — to the use of [WMD] against the U.S., our forces abroad and friends and allies." In September that year the White House declared that the U.S. "will not hesitate to act alone, if necessary, to exercise our right of self-defense by acting preemptively."

This first-strike nuclear war threat was reaffirmed in September 2005 (even after Bush's 2003 attack on Iraq proved to be founded on mis- or disinformation), when the Pentagon divulged its plans "to preempt an attack by a nation or a terrorist group using weapons of mass destruction," and again in March 2006, when National Security Advisor Stephen Hadley claimed, "The United States must confront threats before they fully materialize"

With the unmasking of the Iraq threat as fiction, Bush's military preemption policy might have been condemned and permanently rejected by an outraged Congress. At the very least, vigorous standards of media and Congressional scrutiny, along with stringent new requirements for verification of White House claims (935 false statements were used by Bush Administration officials to heighten fear of Iraq), might have been demanded and imposed.

Unfortunately, tough and skeptical investigation of White House fear-mongering rhetoric seem unimportant to the Congress, especially in the midst of military occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan and a presidential election cycle.

— John LaForge



The box for the 1983 card game "Nuclear Escalation" says, "Nervous world powers ... inevitably fire on each other with cruise missiles, MX missiles and death from above," and exclaims, "Comic destruction! An easy-to-play humorous game for all ages."

## Bush Wants Outer Space Free of Law, for Combat

By Karl Grossman

It was issued quietly, late 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 U.S., the UK and the USSR — and now ratified by nearly all the world — the treaty sets space aside for peaceful purposes.

But the U.S. became uncomfortable with the treaty in the 1980s during Ronald Reagan's "Star Wars" program. That discomfort was marked in the 1990s by U.S. opposition to efforts (still ongoing) led by Canada, 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 U.S. National Space Policy as issued by Bill Clinton. A front-page article in *The New York Times* last year said the Air Force was "seeking President Bush's approval of a national-security directive that could move the U.S. closer to fielding offensive and defense space weapons." It told of how one "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 Pentagon 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 U.S. "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 "very 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 activity. 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 is an author and journalism professor at the State University of New York. He wrote and narrated the award-winning documentary, "Weapons in Space: The Nuclearization and Weaponization of the Heavens."

## Current U.S. Nuclear Weapons Arsenal, 2007

	total + (spares)
<b>B61</b> — A "dial-a-yield" warhead, ranging between 100 and 500 kilotons, and a special low 10 kiloton yield. The latest version of this is the earth-penetrator B61-11. Along with the B83 (believed to have a yield of between 1 and 2 megatons), approximately 555 are still in deployment on the heavy B-52 and B-2 bombers. This is in addition to another 400 B61-3s.	555 400
<b>W62</b> — Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) warhead. Explosive yield is believed to be 170 kilotons. 300 are still in deployment with 30 "spares." Two or three W62's can be carried on each Minuteman III missile.	150 (30)
<b>W78</b> — Minuteman III ICBM warhead, with 2 - 3 warheads on each missile. 750 are still deployed with 35 "spares." Yield believed to be around 335 kilotons.	750 (35)
<b>W80/SLCM</b> — 150-kiloton warhead for sea-launched cruise missiles from ships and subs (Submarine-Launched Cruise Missile). 100 are deployed on submarines with 50 "spars."	100
<b>W80/ALCM</b> Is also adapted for air-launch on B-2 and B-52 bombers (Air Launched Cruise Missile). 1400 warheads deployed with 30 "spares." Yield is believed to be around 150 kilotons.	1400 (50)
<b>W76</b> — A Mark-4 Trident I missile warhead. Each Trident submarine can carry 24 missiles with eight warheads each. Yield of the W-76 is believed to be around 100 kt. 1632 and 80 "spares" are deployed.	1632 (80)
<b>W88</b> — Mark-5 Trident II missile warhead. Yield is 455 kilotons. Each Trident carries up to 24 Trident II missiles with up to eight independently targeted W88's each. 384 still in deployment with 20 "spares." The W88 is considered to be the U.S.'s most advanced nuclear weapon; its plutonium pit is the first scheduled for resumed stockpile pit production.	384 (20)
<b>NUCLEAR WARHEAD GRAND TOTAL:</b>	<b>5521 (215)</b>

Source: *The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, Jan./Feb. 2007, p. 90. [thebulletin.org](http://thebulletin.org)

## As Secret U.S. Expenditures Soar, U.S. Admiral Derides China's Secrecy

U.S. Admiral Timothy Keating, visiting China January 15, complained that Beijing "must be more open about its rapid military buildup." The U.S. commander in the Pacific, was politely rebuffed by General Chen Bingde, the Chief of China's General Staff, who pointed out that the U.S. "far surpassed" China's military capacity. "We don't have the ability to make you afraid of us," Bingde said.

Today, just the United States' *secret* military and intelligence budgets are reportedly double China's entire military spending. Publicly accountable U.S. military spending outpaces China's about 23-to-one.

In March 2005, China said its military budget was \$29.9 billion. By comparison, the House and Senate this January approved \$696 billion for the Pentagon. This unfathomable sum amounts to \$1.9 billion a day. An additional \$275 million-a-day is spent on the U.S. occupation of Iraq, according to the National Priorities Project. (There are 133,000 U.S. troops and 196,000 U.S. contractors/mercenaries now in Iraq.)

The Pentagon's funding request for 2007 included about \$30.1 billion in "classified" spending, according to Steven Kosiak of the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments. "In real (inflation-adjusted) terms, the \$30.1 billion ... included more classified acquisition funding than any other defense budget since FY

year 1988," Kosiak said.

*USA Today* reported November 9, 2005, that the secret budget increased almost 48 percent between 2001 and 2005 — from \$18.2 billion to \$26.9 billion — according to the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments. "Neither Congress nor the executive branch regularly produces reports on oversight of classified spending. ... Without such investigations, it's impossible to know whether, or to what extent, the classified 'black budget' is being abused," *USA Today* reported.

In 2006, Congress authorized \$43.5 billion, in addition to the military's secret funding, to operate the nations' 16 "intelligence" agencies. "Just to put this into perspective," *CounterPunch* noted, "\$40 billion is an amount much bigger than the budgets of nearly all the states in the U.S., and most of the countries of the world."

In his 1991 book *Blank Check*, Tim Weiner found that appropriations for secret research projects were made with no accountability to either Congress or the Secretary of Defense. Never having been published, the secret budgets are a violation of Art. 1, Sec. 9 of the Constitution, Weiner argued. Growing from the secret nuclear bomb-building Manhattan Project, "black ops" have become, according to Weiner, "a full-blown parallel government," that he says is "at work in diverting funds illegally, creating military units outside the chain of command and conducting covert wars."

# NUCLEAR SHORTS

## Workers Sickened by Radiation Leak on Oil Rig

VUNG TAU CITY, Vietnam — About 173 seashore oil rig workers were hospitalized after a device that produces X-rays to inspect welding joints was dropped and contaminated the area. At least 28 of the contaminated workers vomited and suffered headaches, nausea and breathing problems. The company that owns the device, Alpha Co. Ltd., said they thought it had been dropped at 11:40 a.m. about 20 meters from the near-shore rig, known as Bunga Orkid D, off Ha Luu Port in southern Vietnam.

The leaking device was not found until 2:30 in the afternoon, after which 400 people within 1 kilometer were hastily evacuated. Following their hospitalization, the exposed workers were sent to the Da Lat Institute of Nuclear Research for further examinations.

— *International Herald Tribune & VietNam Net Bridge*, Dec. 30, & *Maritime Law Firm News.com*, Dec. 31, 2007

## Texas-Sized Radioactive Waste Problems

HOUSTON — If you need a place to stash your radioactive waste, Texas may be able to help. The state has more than 60 low-level radioactive waste dumps and more radioactivity comes to the surface at gas and oil extraction operations every day. The oil industry uses millions of gallons of water and chemicals to blast shale containing natural gas. In the process, radium 226 & 228 surfaces and crystallizes. Licensed decontaminators collect the radioactive material and dump it. Since January 2005, 140 such sites have been scoured. Radiation is the most toxic waste generated by gas and oil extraction as it concentrates on equipment. In October 2006, the clean-up company Lotus performed emergency decontamination around a leaking vessel at Devon's North Tarrant saltwater disposal well in Saginaw. Lotus removed about 105 barrels of radioactive residue. The largest decontamination to date occurred at Key Energy Services' Chico storage yard. Houston-based Soloco, another licensed decontamination firm, cleaned up more than 40 different tanks. Workers in Panola County have cleaned up several thousand barrels of hot waste from 24 different sites in the past two years. Operators must pay upward of \$300 a barrel for disposal. Each cubic foot of low-level radioactive waste costs between \$350 and \$500 to ship and manage at a waste management facility.

— *Dallas Morning News*, Nov. 11, 2007; Texas Environmental Profiles, Chapter 6, Radioactive Wastes, State Summary

## Westward Ho for 60-Year-Old Bomb Waste

CARLSBAD, New Mexico — The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant is set to receive 50 shipments of Manhattan Project radioactive waste generated 60 years ago at Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The Manhattan Project produced the two atomic bombs that the U.S. used to incinerate Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan in 1945. The 92.6 cubic meters of alpha-emitting radiation, and 550 cubic meters of dangerous beta- and gamma-emitting radiation waste will travel Interstates 59 and 20 to the deep underground dumpsite. The DOE claims no accidents or radiation leaks have resulted from shipments to WIPP. However, during a two-week-long Truck Watch, Nukewatch staff measured radiation emanating from a truck headed to WIPP in the summer of 2003 (Fall 2003 *Pathfinder*).

— *Huntsville Times*, Jan. 15, 2008; Nuclear Safety Council

## Tennessee Not Volunteering for Dump Sites

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. — State legislators are considering two bills that would prohibit the processing or dumping of nuclear materials anywhere in the Volunteer State. The bill before the House was introduced by Democrat Donna Rowland of Murfreesboro. Republican Jim Tracy of Shelbyville introduced an identical bill for the state Senate. What started as a local resolution against nuclear dumping in Rutherford County has now grown to a statewide initiative. Concerns about nuclear dumping have escalated since a waste site near Barnwell, South Carolina will be closing this July. Even though the law may be enacted, federal agencies would still be allowed to process nuclear materials on site. County Attorney Jim Cope said, "Any state law that passed could be overruled by federal law." — *The Murfreesboro Daily News Journal, The Tennessean*, Jan. 18, 2008

## Costing 30 Times Cleanup Estimate, Site Still Dirty

MIAMISBURG, Ohio — As of November, clean-up work at the DOE's Mound facility ground to a halt over who would pay the cost of completing the project. What had been estimated at \$30 million, rose to \$1 billion, as workers repeatedly uncovered more hazardous waste than anticipated. Radioactive thorium, uranium and plutonium, plus volatile organic compounds have been discovered from H-bomb trigger and detonator manufacturing conducted between 1949 and 1996. Most of the hazardous waste has been shipped to the Energy Solutions dump in Utah. The DOE intends to leave the rest of the contamination on site. The Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corporation was hoping to begin an industrial park on the restored site, but those plans may be on hold.

— *Dayton Daily News & Akron Beacon Journal*, Nov. 18, 2007

## Security Breach at South African Nuclear Site

PRETORIA, South Africa — Shortly after midnight on November 8, 2007, four armed men broke into the Pelindaba nuclear facility 18 miles west of Pretoria. According to the South African Nuclear Energy Corp., a state-owned group that runs Pelindaba, the four men deactivated several layers of security in order to spend close to 45 minutes inside, where hundreds of kilos of weapons-grade uranium are stored. Though their images were captured on closed-circuit televisions, they were not detected by security officers because nobody was monitoring the cameras at the time of the break-in. The men were unable to break into the high security vault where the uranium is kept. Instead they stole



MAY 1974 - THERMOS NUCLEAR WAR (IS NARROWLY AVOIDED!)

a computer which they dropped when confronted on their way out. No one was arrested for the break-in. Not only is this the latest in a long series of break-ins and attempted break-ins at the site, but the very same evening another group of intruders tried unsuccessfully to force their way into the site. In response to the attack, the South African Nuclear Energy Corporation has suspended six guards and pledged further investigation into the security of

South Africa's nuclear materials.

— *Washington Post & New York Times*, Dec. 20, 2007

## Tritium Contamination Called a Positive

PLYMOUTH, Mass. — Radioactive tritium has been discovered in monitoring wells on the grounds of the Pilgrim nuclear reactor on the heavily populated eastern coast of Massachusetts. Entergy Corporation and the NRC claim tritium levels are of no concern. The *Boston Globe* reported Pilgrim spokesman, David Tarantino as saying that, "the discovery of small amounts of tritium can be looked at as a positive — an indication that more serious contaminants are not present in the ground water and that the wells were properly placed."

Entergy installed four wells as a result of tritium leaks discovered at more than one-quarter of all operating reactors. Opponents of Pilgrim have been asking for a full hearing to address radioactive contamination pending a 20-year operating relicensing review process. Pilgrim sits directly on the Atlantic Coast and the radioactive hydrogen may spread into Cape Cod Bay. — *Boston Globe*, Dec. 20, 2007

## Davis-Besse Cracked

OAK HARBOR, Ohio — First Energy Nuclear Operating Co. made note of a leak and crack, on January 4, in a decay heat removal system weld at the infamous Davis-Besse reactor near Toledo, Ohio. The company and the NRC called it, "A leak too small to measure," and classified it as a "non-emergency." Davis-Besse is in the midst of a refueling shutdown. In 2002, the reactor was shut down for two years following the discovery and complete replacement of its acid-eaten vessel head — the top of the core.

— *World Nuclear News*, Jan. 9, 2008

## Routine Fish Kills Caused by Oyster Creek Mishaps

LACEY TOWNSHIP, New Jersey — For the next three months, Oyster Creek, the oldest reactor in the country, will reduce its power output by 8 percent rather than run the risk of another widespread fish kill. One week prior to this announcement, operators manually shut down the reactor after a pump failed during maintenance and more than 5,300 fish died due to the drop in water temperature. A few days later vibrations in the turbine control valves forced operators to reduce power enough to stop the shaking. The extent of the fish kill is nothing new to Oyster Creek. Just three years ago more than 6,000 fish were killed during a shut down, resulting in a \$1 million fine. Oyster Creek operator AmerGen Energy Co. is presently seeking NRC approval for a 20-year license renewal that would keep the reactor operating until 2029. — *Newsday & The Courier-Post*, Jan. 3, 2008

## Corrosion Causes More British Shutdowns

ENGLAND — Partial inspections of reactors at Heysham A-1 and Hartlepool-2 in the fall of 2007 uncovered corroded wiring (wire wrapped around concrete and steel structures containing boilers) at both units forcing the shutdown of four reactors. The corrosion occurred on a part of the reactor pressure boundary, described by Platts, (an energy information company) as, "sitting like giant plugs on top of each pressure vessel." Four units have been shutdown indefinitely pending further assessment. After shutdown, the loss to British Energy for the crumbling wiring could be close to \$2 billion. The company will have to pay higher costs to purchase electricity to make up for the reactor closures, plus the costs of investigation and repair. BE is contracted to provide a percentage of power at a fixed rate at a time when energy costs have risen. A 2002 bail-out saved

the company from collapse. British reactors are crumbling faster than they can be repaired.

— *Platts & Bloomberg*, Nov. 7, 2007; *Yorkshire Post*, Jan. 18, & *The Times*, London, Jan. 19, 2008

## Scottish Parliament Says Nuclear Power Won't Help

SCOTLAND — On January 17, 2008, the Scottish Parliament voted against any new construction of nuclear reactors. The parliament welcomes the Scottish government's position that new nuclear reactors are not necessary to meet renewable electricity targets or carbon emissions targets and are not wanted in Scotland." Scotland, with its sparse population and lengthy coastlines, has long been home to many of Britain's nuclear reactors. Renewable energy generation capacity already exceeds that of nuclear in Scotland. In 2006, overall electricity generation increased by nearly a tenth, while electricity generated from nuclear power decreased by a quarter. John Swinney, the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth stated proudly, "Our agenda is clear — Scotland does not want or need new nuclear power. We have massive potential for alternative clean, green energy. And nuclear will not only come at a cost to the development of new technologies, it will hit consumers in the pocket."

— *The Scotsman*, Jan. 18, 2008

## Nuclear War's Bedside Manner

LOMALINDA, Calif. — Andrew Pollack in the *New York Times* put it this way: "There is a new nuclear arms race under way — in hospitals." Yes, and the patients are being targeted.

Particle accelerators are being used in some major hospitals because, as Jerry Slater, the head of radiation medicine at Loma Linda University Medical Center says, "Every X-ray beam I use puts most of the dose where I don't want it."

So instead, new atomic particle accelerators that shoot protons, machines once used only in nuclear weapons programs, are being used as a weapon against cancer at \$50,000 per patient. The practice is experimental, expensive and spreading fast even though, as Dr. Theodore Lawrence, chair of radiation oncology at the Univ. of Michigan has said, "There are no solid clinical data that protons are better," than the routine X-ray treatments commonly used to attack cancer cells.

In an otherwise glowing report about the giant 222-ton, \$125 million machines — the world's most expensive medical devices — a few salient facts about the down side of nuclear medicine were pointed out. "... children are especially sensitive to the side effects of radiation," the *Times* reporter acknowledged.

Buildings housing the massive machines have walls "up to 18-feet thick." The report neglected to mention why, and James Cox, chief of radiation oncology at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, which opened a \$125 million proton accelerator last year, assured readers that, "If they built one across the street I wouldn't worry about it."

— *New York Times*, Dec. 26, 2007

## Found Sleeping on the Job, Exelon's Team of Wackenhut Nuclear Reactor Guards is Fired

CHICAGO — Exelon Corp. said it would dismiss its team of Wackenhut Corp. guards and replace them with an in-house security force at its 17 reactors — located at 10 different sites in Illinois, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Videotapes showed the guards sleeping on the job in Pennsylvania. Exelon is based just outside Chicago.

— *New York Times*, Dec. 15, 2007

## Resources

- \* **Abalone Alliance**, 2940 16th Street #310, San Francisco, CA 94103; Phone: (415) 861-0592; Email: [abalone@energy-net.org](mailto:abalone@energy-net.org); Web: [www.energynet.org](http://www.energynet.org)
- \* **AlliantACTION**, Email: [alliantaction@circlevision.org](mailto:alliantaction@circlevision.org); Web: [www.alliantaction.org/home.html](http://www.alliantaction.org/home.html)
- \* **Greenpeace**, 702 H Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20001; Phone: (202) 462-1177; Email: [info@wdc.greenpeace.org](mailto:info@wdc.greenpeace.org); Web: [www.greenpeace.org/usa/](http://www.greenpeace.org/usa/)
- \* **Citizens Utility Board**, 16 N. Carroll St., Suite 530, Madison, WI 53703; Phone: (608) 251-3322; Email: [staff@wiscub.org](mailto:staff@wiscub.org); Web: [www.wiscub.org](http://www.wiscub.org)
- \* **The League of Women Voters**, 122 State St. Suite 201A, Madison, WI 53703; Phone: (608) 256-0827; Email: [lwwisconsin@lwwwi.org](mailto:lwwisconsin@lwwwi.org); Web: [www.lwwwi.org](http://www.lwwwi.org)
- \* **Physicians for Social Responsibility Madison**, Phone: (608) 232-9945; Web: [www.psrwisconsin.org](http://www.psrwisconsin.org)
- \* **Renew Wisconsin**, 222 South Hamilton St., Madison, WI 53703; Phone: (608) 255-4044; Email: [mvickerman@renewwisconsin.org](mailto:mvickerman@renewwisconsin.org); Web: [www.renewwisconsin.org](http://www.renewwisconsin.org)
- \* **John Muir Chapter Sierra Club**, 222 S. Hamilton St. #1, Madison, WI 53703; Phone: (608) 256-0565; Email: [john.muir.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:john.muir.chapter@sierraclub.org); Web: [www.wisconsin.sierraclub.org](http://www.wisconsin.sierraclub.org)
- \* **Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters**, 133 S. Butler St. #320, Madison, WI 53703 Phone: (608) 661-0845; Email: [info@conservationvoters.org](mailto:info@conservationvoters.org); Web: [www.conservationvoters.org](http://www.conservationvoters.org)
- \* **Wisconsin Public Interest Research Group**, 122 State St. Ste 309, Madison, WI 53703; Phone: (608) 251-9501; Email: [info@wispirg.org](mailto:info@wispirg.org); Web: [www.wispirg.org](http://www.wispirg.org)
- \* **Wisconsin Network for Peace & Justice**, 122 State Street, Suite 402, Madison, WI 53703; Phone: (608) 250-9240; Email: [info@wnpj.org](mailto:info@wnpj.org); Web: [www.wnpj.org](http://www.wnpj.org)





# Spy Catches Spies Selling Secrets

By Bonnie Urfer

Lies, deception, secrecy and cover-ups have been the mainstay of the nuclear industry in the U.S. since before the Manhattan Project brought us the first atomic bombs. Today, corrupt individuals in the FBI, U.S. Defense and State Departments are involved in trading nuclear secrets for money, drugs and political gain, according to Sibel Edmonds who worked for the FBI as a Turkish language translator intercepting international conversations before becoming a whistleblower. Edmonds was fired in 2002 after hearing evidence of money laundering, drug imports, attempts to acquire nuclear and conventional weapons technology and treason.

Edmonds says that nuclear weapons secrets are at the core of a Turkish- and Israeli-run network that includes U.S. and British officials who have had them stolen. The secrets were then sold on the black market to countries such as Pakistan, Israel and Saudi Arabia. From there, the nuclear proliferation data may have been passed on for profit to Iran, Libya, North Korea and even Al Qaeda. The American-Turkish Council in Washington has been used as a drop-off point. Edmonds alleges that: a PhD student at Los Alamos, New Mexico provided information; a network of "moles" exists throughout the U.S. nuclear weapons complex; and U.S. officials have been bribed for nuclear secrets including a specific \$250,000 sale of information originating from an Alabama Air Force Base. Abdul Qadeer Khan, Pakistan's premier nuclear scientist, is suspected of receiving stolen information and subsequently selling it to Iran, North Korea and Libya. He may have obtained bomb parts from U.S. and British companies.

For the past five years Edmonds has been gagged by U.S. courts and faces prosecution and prison time for saying too much. She said, "This gag [order] was invoked not to protect sensitive diplomatic relations but criminal activities involving U.S. officials who were endangering U.S. national security." Edmonds has provided information to the U.S. Congress, the Inspector General of the Justice Department and the 9/11 Commission with no subsequent action by the U.S. government. The London *Sunday Times* reported her allegations, as did news sources in Israel, Europe, India, Pakistan, Turkey and Japan, but no media in the U.S. has reported the story.

The scandal covers more than two decades. Edmonds is not the only informer that has been gagged and blacklisted. Richard Barlow, an intelligence analyst working for then Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney in 1989, uncovered Pakistan's nuclear program but the information was ignored. According to an article in *Mother Jones* from January 2002, the information would have stopped the sale of \$1.4 billion

in F-16 fighter jets to Pakistan's government in Islamabad. Douglas Feith, a former lobbyist for Turkey, is under investigation for lying and providing false intelligence in the lead-up to the war against Iraq. Edmonds also alleges that Feith was involved in the selling of secrets.

Daniel Ellsberg, who leaked the secret Pentagon Papers, writes that Representative Henry Waxman, Senator Patrick Leahy and Senator Chuck Grassley have squelched Edmonds' testimony along with crucial documentation proving some of her statements.

According to *The London Guardian*, Atif Amin, who worked as a senior customs investigator in Britain, has been slapped with a gag rule and threatened with prosecution for exposing the international smuggling ring. On December 5 Amin's house was searched by investigators from the Independent Police Complaints Commission and Hampshire police. Amin headed Operation Akin, which investigated Abdul Qadeer Khan and Libya's nuclear program and secrets sales. He was ordered to drop his investigation by the CIA and M16, Britain's intelligence agency.

## Uranium Fuel Site Residents Say No More

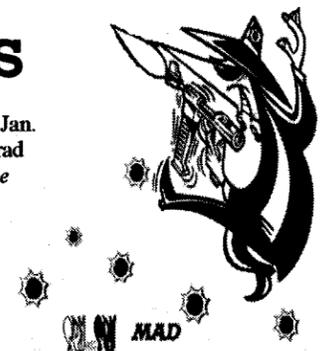
Residents of Unicoi County in Tennessee near Erwin want a public hearing on whether to increase weapons-grade uranium-23 storage at a Nuclear Fuel Services (NFS) operation in Erwin. The factory makes reactor fuel for the U.S. Navy and converts or "downblends" surplus uranium into commercial reactor fuel for the Tennessee Valley Authority. The NRC approved NFS for additional weapons-grade uranium storage on November 23.

According to the NRC, storage of enriched U-235 poses no problem at the site since no one is using or drinking the groundwater that has already become poisoned from half a century of nuclear work at the site. The groundwater is contaminated with plutonium and other toxins. In 2003, NFS had to pay a \$60,000 fine for lack of accounting of Special Nuclear Materials.

The owner of Impact Plastics Inc. and Preston Tool and Mold Inc. of Erwin, Tennessee has filed suit against NFS over potential cancer-causing contaminants found in a 13-acre plume of groundwater under his business.

In March 2006, NFS failed to report a nine-gallon leak of highly enriched uranium for a year. The NRC admitted that only luck prevented workers from being exposed to a deadly dose of radiation from the spill. Criticality was possible when the enriched uranium leaked from a filter glovebox (enclosed container with flexible gloves) and down an elevator pit.

Sources: *The Sunday Times*, Jan. 6, 19 & 20; Daniel Ellsberg, Brad Blog Op-Ed, Jan. 20, *The Huffington Post*, Jan. 21 & 22, & *Indy Media*, Jan. 22, 2008; *60 Minutes*, Aug. 2004 & Oct. 2002; *The Guardian*, Dec. 19, 2007; *The Nation*, Sept. 6, 2006; *Mother Jones*, Feb. 2002



## Hot Reactor Fuel Again Found Dumped at Hanford

By Bonnie Urfer

Workers at the Hanford Reservation, the 560-square-mile nuclear weapons site in eastern Washington, didn't know what they would find while excavating 600,000 tons of radioactive garbage from 39 pits called "618-7 Burial Ground" created between 1960 and 1973. They didn't expect to find used reactor fuel, the deadliest nuclear waste there is. Yet they recovered 16 whole or partial fuel "slugs."

Digging began in 2004, in a place called "300 Area", where fuel for Hanford's nine reactors was produced and subsequent plutonium and tritium for nuclear weapons was manufactured. Few records exist that document what was dumped and where, since material in the pits was not ever expected to be retrieved.

Employees had to prepare for encountering a long list of potential hazards including hundreds of barrels of radioactive metals stored in liquids to prevent fire, drums of depleted uranium chips or shavings, zircaloy or beryllium scrap, thorium nitrate solution or thorium oxide, chemical solvents, oil, and chromium-contaminated soil. Workers have dug up highly radioactive instrument wires that had been lowered into reactor cores to determine temperature, thousands of feet of piping and thousands of tons of



The Hanford Reservation in eastern Washington is the most radioactively contaminated place in the country. "Clean up" operations continue to cause environmental degradation and endanger the lives of workers exposed to radiation during excavation of decades-old dumps including the one pictured.

laboratory glassware, construction debris and radioactive reactor hardware. They've also removed a ton of mercury.

The drums' contents have the potential to ignite when exposed to oxygen at certain temperatures. Blast shields were set in place and one barrel at a time was placed behind them by employees wearing full radiation gear and air respirators. No more than four barrels were excavated at a time. At the same time the drums were exposed, leaking contents were mixed with a fixative to prevent airborne contamination. Nearby, loads of sand were piled high in case of spontaneous fire.

Most of the radioactive waste will be repackaged and reburied further from the Columbia River, which forms the eastern boundary of the site and is a drinking water source for Portland, Oregon. The DOE has promised that the burial ground cleanup will be completed by December 2008. The process involves three pits, two of which are 650 feet long, 100 feet wide and 20 to 25 feet deep.

Excavation of the pits is considered high-risk due to the proximity of the Columbia River and the town of Richland. Employees developed innovative remote techniques for sorting radioactive material while limiting radiation exposure. Waste has been sorted using backhoes and other heavy machinery equipped with monitors to detect chemical fumes and radiation.

In February 2002, Bechtel Corporation's "Environmental Restoration" employees unearthed 11 fuel elements near the F Reactor dump site. At the time, adjacent 6,400-square-foot water basins served to collect discharged irradiated fuel elements, contaminated shielding and material such as fuel baskets and various reactor hardware.

Four defunct reactors at Hanford have been prepared for the 75-year wait for demolition and disposal. "Cocooning" the reactors involves sealing all exterior openings to prevent animals, vegetation, water or humans from coming in contact with high radiation levels in the core. Eighty percent of the reactor is demolished during cocooning with the exception of an inner 3-foot-thick wall surrounding the core.

— *Tri-City Herald*, Jan. 10, & 17, Associated Press, Jan. 17, 2008

## Nuclear Weapons' Waste Shell Game

By Paul Vos Benkowski

FERNALD, Ohio — Eighteen miles northwest of Cincinnati, Ohio sits the Fernald Preserve. It is a 1,050-acre environmental center teeming with wildlife, forested areas, wetlands and prairie grass that is being touted as a "nuclear waste cleanup success." Yet the barbed wired fences remain, as do the radioactive warning signs, and the football field sized mound of waste can't be hidden. The Fernald facility began enriching uranium-238 for the military in 1952. Production stopped in July 1989 and by December of that year the site was added to the EPA's Superfund list and a shell game of nuclear waste clean up began.

At a cost of \$44 billion, contaminated soil and debris were shipped off-site, production plant structures and associated components were shipped out, and altogether over 31 million tons of nuclear waste were taken away. While this is seen by some as a Superfund success story it does not answer the question that plagues the nuclear industry: What about the waste? The people of Ohio may be happy that Fernald's waste is no longer in their back yard, but the citizens of Hamilton County in West Texas are fighting the burial of said waste near their community. The fight in Texas has been going on since Fernald's concrete casks arrived after similar fights in Utah and New Mexico. Texans are worried their state is going to become the nation's nuclear dumping ground especially while the doomed Yucca Mountain plan flounders.

The main fear concerning burial of the casks is that the clay under the site has not been proven safe and that rains and high winds may release the material. Not surprisingly, these were the same fears citizens near the Fernald site expressed.

The Fernald facility is located over the Great Miami Aquifer, one of the largest sole-source aquifers in the nation. An on-site water treatment plant has run continuously since 1993 and has filtered 7,800 pounds of uranium from the water, yet EPA-monitored private wells off-site have detected uranium concentrations higher than what is allowed in drinking water. One well, less than a mile from the site, was found to have more than twice the concentration allowed when it was checked in 2006. The EPA hopes to lower the uranium level in nearby drinking wells by the year 2026.

Cold comfort at best for the people living around Fernald and a harbinger of future problems for the people of West Texas currently fighting against a similar fate. And if they win an injunction against the burial then the nuclear waste shell game will move on to another site and another unsuspecting community will have to fight for their safety.

## Uranium Weapons

**Manchester, England** — The International Coalition to Ban Uranium Weapons scored a major victory at the UN General Assembly Dec. 5, when 136 countries voted in favor of spotlighting health concerns over the use of depleted uranium (DU). The passage of the resolution obliges member states and NGOs to submit information on DU to the Secretary General, who will in turn produce a report.

**Edina, Minnesota** — AlliantACTION! members, who watchdog the U.S.'s largest uranium munitions builder, Alliant Techsystems, celebrated the dismissal of all recent charges against activists who have tried to meet with company officials. Even critical stockholders have been arrested simply by trying to attend the annual meeting. The activists intend to hound the weapons merchants as they move their world HQ to another suburb of Minneapolis.

**Colonia, New York** — The federal government and National Lead (NL) Industries told workers for decades that the radioactive pollution they produced was not a serious health hazard. But January's *Science of the Total Environment* reports that 23 years after uranium munitions production ceased, all the workers tested still carry uranium contamination. So did 20 percent of people tested who lived for at least 10 years near the NL factory while it operated. The findings shocked researchers Professor Randall Parrish of Leicester Univ. in Britain and David Carpenter of Albany Univ. in New York. Considering the length of time that the weapon's dust stays in the body, the use of uranium munitions by the U.S. military, says Carpenter, "could constitute a war crime."

**The Hague** — Nukewatch staffer John LaForge joined an expert panel presenting DU information, February 14, to the Dutch Parliament's Standing Committee for Defense in the Hague, The Netherlands.

## Lake Superior's Red Cliff Band Produces Barrel Dump Work Plan

Honeywell Waste Dumped in the '50s and '60s



The Environmental Department at the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, near Bayfield, Wisconsin, has produced a "Work Plan," detailing its investigation and prospective removal of at least 1,440 barrels of military waste that were dumped in Lake Superior along the North Shore outside Duluth.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dumped the 55-gallon drums of Honeywell Corp.'s weapons waste between 1957 and 1962. Some of the barrels have been shown to contain toxic materials including PCB, benzene, barium, lead, chromium and cadmium. Harald Maynard, a submarine captain who investigated one dump site, testified that his Geiger counter registered radiation coming from a submerged barrel and the tether that secured his sub to a surface ship.

A 1985 EPA assessment said some of the barrels are "within one mile" of Duluth's drinking water intake pipe.

Red Cliff's 1,509-page report and proposal includes a comprehensive review of the hazards posed by the chemicals known to be in some of the barrels.

Laura Armagost of Red Cliff's Environmental Department reports that the Band has produced several dozen copies of the plan in CD form for the public and the press. It says, "The purpose of this project is to determine if the barrels deposited in Lake Superior ... pose a threat to human or ecological health."

The engineering firm EMR of Duluth produced the work plan for the Red Cliff Band under the Corps of Engineers' Native American Lands Environmental Mitigation Program. The plan is not yet funded, although the Duluth News Tribune reported Feb. 5, 2008 that Red Cliff expects to win a \$603,000 grant through the Native American Lands Environmental Mitigation Program this October.

The plan has three phases. (1) Using so-called side scan survey and sector scan surveys, at least 16 different barrel dumps need to be located and characterized. (2) Water and sediment sampling to determine contamination levels and to perform human health and ecological risk assessments in accordance with the EPA guidelines for Superfund Sites. (3) Recover and somehow dispose of the barrels.

The Final Draft Work Plan two-CD set is available from: Red Cliff Environmental Department  
88385 Pike Road, Hwy 13  
Bayfield, WI 54814

Continued from back page

## Fracture the Good Order

On April 3, 2006 the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) proposed a regulation imposing severe restrictions on the ability of persons in bureau custody to communicate with the outside world. The regulation can be applied to persons who have not been convicted or even charged with any act of terrorism, or any crime at all. Prisoners thus designated by a BOP warden without the need of external review can only communicate with immediate family members with these limits. One 6-page letter per week. One 15 minute phone call per month and one 1 hour visit per month. (For more details see [multiracial.com/site/content/view/1110-49](http://multiracial.com/site/content/view/1110-49))

This regulation is unprecedented in its scope and for what it's worth, patently unconstitutional. Look for the term "domestic terrorist" to insinuate itself into the judicial lexicon and to be applied to nonviolent activists.

Nonviolence both threatens and confounds the status quo of blow for blow by refusing to play by the system's rules. Nonviolence does not cast the next stone for empire or against it. Nonviolence breaks the fatally flawed, albeit time-honored eye-for-an-eye mentality by non cooperation, by dissent, by active, creative, passionate action, by disarming and being disarmed, by rejecting privilege, by refusing to hate the hater, by withdrawing consent, energy and money from the dominant hierarchy. Nonviolence seeks to break the "downward spiral of violence." (MLK)

As the spring issue of the *Nukewatch Quarterly* goes to print I am reminded of this, the 40th anniversary of Dr. King's assassination. Here's a case in point. Dr. King's "Beyond Vietnam" speech crossed a threshold that the U.S. government could not tolerate. He was assassinated with the combined efforts of the FBI, CIA, Memphis police, Mafia intermediaries and a U.S. Army Special Forces Sniper Team. (To view a transcript of the wrongful death civil trial and conviction held in Memphis in November-December 1999, see [thekingcenter.com](http://thekingcenter.com).) The State could not abide his clarion, persuasive nonviolence. Yet, it was Dr. King's heart that was stopped in its track, not the vision as Rev. C.T. Vivian evidences.

Aung San Suu Kyi, Nobel Peace Prize laureate from Burma, captures in eleven words what I have tried to express in hundreds. "There will be change because all the military have are guns."

— John Heid lives, works and writes *Through the Prism of Nonviolence at the Winona, Minn. Catholic Worker.*

## Germany Says Childhood Leukemia Increases Near Operating Reactors

By John LaForge

Increased numbers of cancers near operating reactors and among workers inside the reactors are raising alarms around the world.

Most recently, a major study funded by the government of Germany found that the risk that children under 5 years of age will contract leukemia increases the closer they live to a nuclear power reactor. The study was conducted by the German Childhood Cancer Registry (GCCR) in Mainz carried out on behalf of Germany's Federal Office for Radiation Protection (BfS).

The German investigation found that in the 24-year study period from 1980 to 2003, within a radius of 5 kilometers around German reactors, 37 children contracted leukemia. On the statistical average, 17 cases would be expected. About 20 cases may be attributed to the fact that they live within this radius.

On its website, BfS and GCCR emphasize the high quality of the study. "The study shows that the risk for children under 5 years of age to contract leukemia increases the closer they live to a nuclear power plant," said Professor Maria Blettner, who headed the study. Blettner called the report an essential component in answering questions about health effects in the vicinity of reactors, which have been discussed for about 30 years, since it applied a new approach which is epidemiologically more ambitious than previous studies.

The study's authors said their report does not claim that increased cancers can be attributed to radiation emitted from the reactors. "The additional radiation exposure of the population required for this explanation would have to be about 1,000 to 10,000 times higher than has been observed," the authors said.

However, neither can radiation as a cause be ruled out. Currently, the authors said, there are no plausible explanations for the determined effect, which has shown an altogether consistent picture with little fluctuation over the period of 24 years under investigation.

But there are — according to Dr. Chris Busby, author of *Wings of Death: Nuclear Pollution and Human Health* and member of the European Committee on Radiation Risk (ECRR). Busby and others charge that the cancer-causing power of low dose radiation is far greater than currently acknowledged. In October 2004, the ECRR declared that low-doses may be up to 10 times deadlier than is currently estimated.

Busby and fellow ECRR member Richard Bramhall, vigorously dissented from this majority finding. They issued a minority report showing that internal low doses of radiation are at least 100 times more harmful than previously estimated.

## Enviro' Groups Agree: No Nukes

The industrialists' yarn that nuclear power is a "bridge" of electricity production that produces "emission-free energy" until the world replaces fossil fuel, is a public relations ploy that has snowed a lot of people concerned about climate change.

While Michael Mariotte, Director of the Nuclear Information and Resource Center, points out that "Nuclear power is the most expensive way to make minor emissions cuts," the Nuclear Energy Institute gave the PR firm Hill & Knowlton \$8 million, to "reframe the issue" of nuclear power by creating a group called the "Clean and Safe Energy Coalition."

Josh Dorner of the Sierra Club told *Earth Island Journal* (EIJ), "The industry is putting lipstick on a pig here." EIJ reports that the most famous of the industry's tricks was to hire former Greenpeace worker Patrick Moore and pay him to shill for nuclear power. Others who have become nuclear advocates as a response to climate change include Whole Earth Catalogue founder Stewart Brand, author Jared Diamond and Gaia-theory advocate James Lovelock.

As Hill & Knowlton manufactures a faux "debate," EIJ reports, "There is a striking unanimity among the leading environmental organizations that nuclear power does not represent a smart way to address climate change."

The Union of Concerned Scientists ([ucusa.org](http://ucusa.org)) sums up the position of the environmental movement: "There are faster, safer and significantly cheaper ways to meet our energy needs. Nuclear power is not a current solution for global warming."

Hundreds of groups are fighting against nuclear power.

Check out the information available from:

- \* Sierra Club <[sierraclub.org](http://sierraclub.org)>
- \* Greenpeace <[greenpeace.org](http://greenpeace.org)>
- \* The National Wildlife Federation <[nwf.org](http://nwf.org)>
- \* Natural Resources Defense Council <[nrdc.org](http://nrdc.org)>
- \* Institute for Environmental & Energy Research <[ieer.org](http://ieer.org)>
- \* Nuclear Policy Research Institute <[npri.org](http://npri.org)>
- \* Alliance for Nuclear Accountability <[ananuclear.org](http://ananuclear.org)>
- \* Nuclear Information and Resource Service <[nirs.org](http://nirs.org)>
- \* Rocky Mountain Institute <[rmi.org](http://rmi.org)>
- \* Friends of the Earth <[foe.org](http://foe.org)>
- \* Earth First! <[earthfirst.org](http://earthfirst.org)>



Childhood leukemia has increased fivefold since the early 1900s. Scientists generally blame pesticides or other chemicals in the environment as the main causes.

Busby told Nukewatch that the German authors were in error by not naming reactor emissions as a cause of leukemia. "For internal irradiation from the kinds of material emitted by nuclear sites (particles and DNA binding isotopes like uranium and strontium-90), there are very high doses affecting very small regions of tissue," he said. "A radioactive decay close to the foetus ... will deposit huge amounts of energy into a tiny mass and the dose will be enormous, although the average dose to the mother, the dose calculated and used by the authors of the report, will be tiny."

When the ECRR's 2004 report was published, the media reported that its findings might help to explain the clusters of childhood leukemia cases near Sellafield and other reactors in Britain.

Those reports were cited by the German study's authors as well. They wrote, "For instance, in 1987 and 1989 British studies reported a statistically significant increase of childhood leukemia within a radius of 10 miles around nuclear facilities in England and Wales. In 1992, an analogously performed ecological study of the German Childhood Cancer Registry (GCCR) for the period from 1980 to 1990 observed a statistically significant increased incidence rate for leukemia among children below 5 years of age within the 5-km-zone around the sites."

The newest report noted that "Since a statistically significant increase in leukemia occurred in the vicinity of the Krümmel [reactor], a second ecological study was published in 1997.

The strength of this third report's evidence, the authors say, "significantly stands out from the two preceding ecological studies. For the first time no incidence rates in certain regions were compared, but exact data on the distance of the home from a reactor."

## The Cold War Warmed Over

By Paul Vos Benkowski

MOSCOW, WASHINGTON D.C. — In a strategic move harkening back to Cold War era posturing, Russia's military has commissioned a batch of intercontinental nuclear ballistic missiles that can penetrate any prospective missile shield. The U.S. is planning just such a missile shield to defend prospective defense sites in Poland and the Czech Republic. Reminiscent of earlier days of paranoia between the two superpowers, the U.S. insists on building the sites in Eastern Europe to defend against possible missile strikes from "rogue nations" (read Iran) and Russia has responded by threatening to deploy short range missiles to nearby Belarus. A recent joint ballistic missile test between the U.S. and Japan has done little to assuage Russia's fear of U.S. encroachment.

The U.S. plans to build a defense radar base in the Czech Republic and a missile defense base, housing 10 anti-missile rockets in Poland. Russia has made no secret of its intention to target these two sites if the U.S. builds there. The Russian General in charge of ballistic missiles, Nikolai Solovtsov, states, "If the Americans signed a treaty with us that they would only deploy 10 anti-missiles in Poland and one radar in the Czech Republic and will never put anything else there, then we could deal with this. However they won't sign, they just tell us verbally, 'We won't threaten you'."

Russia has suspended the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty, which allows for free movement of troops, tanks, aircraft and other heavy weapons across the continent. This along with Russia's recent (December) shipment of enriched uranium to Iran's Bushehr nuclear reactor has done little to appease the U.S. And Russia is building the nuclear reactor in Iran that has fueled Bush administration suspicions that Iran is developing an atomic weapons program under the guise of civilian energy production. This back and forth between the U.S. and Russia has not only affected the two countries' relations but has also spurred members of NATO, mainly Lord Peter Inge, UK and General John Shalikashvili, U.S. to introduce reform that would allow member countries to launch pre-emptive nuclear attacks to ward off the use of weapons of mass destruction by its enemies. With the seemingly endless proliferation of nuclear weapons and nations' willingness to use them as idle threats compound, one can only hope that the unimaginable escalation that would follow a nuclear strike would deter the rash horrific move.

# Nuclear Power: Throwing Gas on the Fire of Global Warming

By Nukewatch Staff

Under the guise of "reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the nuclear industry is getting a greenwash from all sides of the political spectrum.

With this 4-page pull-out, we offer some counter-spin to the outlandish and unsubstantiated sugar-coating coming from the same people that brought us radiation disasters at Windscale (UK), Chelyabinsk (Russia), Three Mile Island (U.S.), Chernobyl (Ukraine), Monju and Tokaimura (Japan).

In the case of state laws limiting construction of new nuclear reactors, governments are under siege.

While a bill to repeal Wisconsin's current requirements appears to be dead for now, the industry is spending millions to weaken or abolish all state licensing requirements.

Most recently, Republican Governor Tim Pawlenty, has called for rescinding Minnesota's "moratorium," even after his hand-picked energy task force recommended its retention. In California, a similar attempt was stopped in April 2007. But industry lobbyists remain eager to site the most dangerous machines on earth in the most earthquake-prone state in the union.

Most state restrictions on new reactors are based on the unsolved dilemma of waste fuel. Nuclear power remains the only industry in the world that, 1) is allowed to produce deadly wastes that have no place to be stored, 2) requires massive civil evacuation plans before startup, and 3) is given welfare disaster insurance paid for by tax subsidies.

Even after 50 years, scientists are stumped by the earthquake faults that crisscross Yucca Mountain, Nevada, and perplexed by the water that runs through it — the only spot the government is currently considering for such a dump.



The nuclear disaster at Chernobyl has produced the biggest group of cancers ever from a single incident, with children being the most vulnerable to leukemia and thyroid cancer. Thyroid cancer in children is 100 times normal.

## Fewer Nukes, Better Health

\* According to a 25-year-long study published Dec. 10, 2007 and conducted by the *German Childhood Cancer Registry* (GCCR) and the Federal Office for Radiation Protection, the risk that children under 5 years of age will contract leukemia increases the closer they live to a nuclear power reactor. This new study is "the first study to show reliable results," the GCCR announced. (See p. 4)

\* According to research by the Medical University of South Carolina published in the *European Journal of Cancer Care*, July 2007, leukemia incidence in children and rates of premature death are elevated near nuclear facilities. Leukemia incidence was increased 14 to 21 percent in children up to age 9, and 7 to 10 percent for those up to age 25.

\* A study in the *International Journal of Health Services* for March 2006, shows that near the reactors in Brookhaven, New York, Indian Point, New York and Oyster Creek, New Jersey, strontium-90 contamination (as calculated by the amounts found in baby teeth) might be a factor in early childhood cancer. With several hundred teeth and cancer cases used near each reactor, the findings are highly significant. The findings suggest a cause-and-effect link between radioactivity from reactors and cancer in local children.

\* According to the *Archives of Environmental Health* for January 2002, local infant mortality and childhood cancer rates dropped dramatically following the closure of eight U.S. nuclear reactors. Infant mortality rates showed a 17.4 percent drop in the two years following the reactors' closure in counties lying up to 40 miles downwind of reactors.

\* In September 1998, the former owners of Nuclear Fuel Services in Apollo, Penn. (Atlantic Richfield, Co. and Babcock & Wilcox), were ordered to pay \$36.5 million in damages to cancer victims or their survivors who proved that their illnesses were caused by the companies' negligence. The factory, which produced uranium fuel for propulsion reactors aboard U.S. missile-firing submarines, was run from 1957 to 1986 and torn down in 1992. Dr. James Melius, a health specialist who testified during the month-long trial said that, "one in five people living close to the plant were diagnosed with cancer from 1990 to 1994, compared with one in 125 outside a one-mile radius."

## Nuclear Industry Subsidies Robbing Climate Change Crisis of Real Solutions

One rationale for new nuclear reactors is that nuclear power can help soften climate change and reduce greenhouse gas pollution. This assertion is specious, as it fails to consider the CO<sub>2</sub> produced by uranium mining, milling and transport, the billions of gallons of reactor cooling water returned hot to rivers, lakes and seas, the carbon fuels burned during reactor construction, decommissioning, waste management and transportation and the ozone-depleting CFCs emitted from uranium fuel fabrication factories in Kentucky and Tennessee.

Dozens of nongovernmental organizations have documented not just the inability of nuclear power expansion to help in fighting the climate crisis, but federal subsidies to the nuclear industry amounts to theft as monies are taken from safer long term investment in renewable energy solutions.

Peter Bradford

In "Why a Future for the Nuclear Industry Is Risky," this former Nuclear Regulatory Commission member declares, "the claims that nuclear power is a necessary energy source for displacing greenhouse gasses haven't convinced investors that new nuclear power reactors will be safe and profitable investments."

Bradford's list of reasons to reject nuclear power is startling: investing in new nuclear reactors remains very risky; Wall Street has expressed serious concerns; nuclear power reactors are stated terrorist targets; nuclear power will not reduce foreign energy dependence; permanent storage of used reactor fuel remains unresolved; global warming increases the risks of operating nuclear reactors vulnerable to heated water unable to cool the core.<sup>1</sup>

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

A 2003 Massachusetts Institute of Technology study, *The Future of Nuclear Power*, noted that a "global growth scenario" of a base load of 1,000 gigawatts of installed capacity around the world by 2050, "would require a new 1,000 megawatt reactor to come on-line somewhere in the world every 15 days on average between 2010 and 2050."<sup>2</sup>

Greenpeace

In December 2007, Greenpeace International produced "Nuclear power undermining action on climate change." It concludes not only that new power reactor construction cannot be done soon enough to help, but that money devoted to nuclear power "deprives real climate solutions of funding."

Greenpeace found that, "Even if today's currently installed nuclear capacity was doubled, it would lead to reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions of less than 5 percent and would require one new large reactor to come on-line every two weeks until 2030. An impossible task..."

In stark contrast, "Proven renewable energy techniques are available now, can be constructed and brought on-line quickly and provide immediate cuts in greenhouse gases."

There is an investment choice to be made. "The investment required to double global nuclear capacity, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by less than 5 percent, would be between two and three trillion dollars. Amory Lovins of the Rocky Mountain Institute calculates, "Each dollar invested in electric efficiency displaces nearly seven times as much carbon dioxide as a dollar invested in nuclear power, without any nasty side effects."<sup>3</sup>

Institute for Energy and Environmental Research (IEER)

"Carbon Free and Nuclear Free: A Roadmap for U.S. Energy Policy," was published in July 2007 by IEER. Physicist Arjun Makijani, IEER's president and author of the study, said in releasing the report, "A technological revolution has been brewing in the last few years, so it won't cost an arm and a leg to eliminate both CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and nuclear power."

"What is really innovative about this 'Roadmap' is that it combines technologies to show how to create a reliable electricity and energy system entirely from renewable sources of energy," said Dr. Hisham Zerriffi, an expert on electricity grids at the University of British Columbia.

According to the Roadmap, North Dakota, Texas, Kansas, South Dakota, Montana and Nebraska each has wind energy potential greater than the electricity produced by all 103 U.S. commercial nuclear power reactors.

The Roadmap recommends a "hard cap" on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by large fossil fuel users (more than 100 billion Btu per year). "The cap would be reduced each year until it reaches zero in 30 to 50 years. There would be no free emissions allowances, no international trade of allowances, and no offsets that would allow corporations to emit CO<sub>2</sub> by investing in outside projects to reduce emissions. The emissions of smaller users would be reduced by efficiency standards for appliances, cars, homes and commercial buildings."<sup>4</sup>

Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR)

In "Dirty, Dangerous & Expensive, The Truth About Nuclear Power," PSR, the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize-winning

group, says, "Given the urgent need to begin reducing greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible, the tremendously long lead times required for the design, permitting and construction of nuclear reactors renders nuclear power an ineffective option for addressing global warming. ...

"Were an accident to occur [like the July 16, 2007 Japanese earthquake that shutdown three reactors], it is likely that any planned nuclear power plants would be scrapped. ...

"When the very serious risk of accidents, proliferation, terrorism and nuclear war are considered, it is clear that investment in nuclear power as a climate change solution is not only misguided but also highly dangerous."<sup>5</sup>

Oxford Research Group (ORG)

In their June 2007 report "Too Hot to Handle: The Future of Civil Nuclear Power," the London-based think tank ORG analyzed the environmental and security risks of relying on nuclear power.

"Too Hot to Handle" concludes in part saying, "For the nuclear weapons proliferation and nuclear terrorism risks to be worth taking, nuclear power must be able to achieve energy security and a reduction in global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions more effectively, efficiently, economically, and quickly than any other energy source. There is little evidence to support the claim that it can."

Member of Parliament David Howarth notes in the Forward that in Britain "the potential for renewable power vastly exceeds current electricity consumption."

Like other analysts, ORG noted the impossibility of building enough reactors soon enough to reduce greenhouse emissions. After considering population growth and the parallel growth in electricity demand, the team found that "nearly four new reactors would have to begin construction each month from now until 2075" around the world.

"A civil nuclear construction and supply program on this scale is a pipe dream," they point out since, "In the UK it is expected to take at least 17 years from licensing to generating electricity." Furthermore, "Between 1977 and 1993, 58 nuclear power reactors came into operation at an average of 3.4 reactors per year."<sup>6</sup> Footnotes on page 8.

Know Nukes

## U.S. Can Cut CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions 28% & Save Money, Without Nukes

Nuclear lobbyists tout new \$7 billion-dollar reactors as a way to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The facts debunk this deliberately self-interested fairy tale.

A new study has found that the U.S. could cut nationwide greenhouse gas emissions by 28 percent below 2005 levels using existing, comparatively inexpensive techniques that would pay for themselves in the process. The huge pollution abatement can be achieved using efficiency techniques and tax incentives and would pay for itself both in industry and individual households through savings in gas, electric and oil utility bills.

Energy experts at the consulting firm McKinsey & Company, did the report for Detroit Edison, Honeywell, Pacific Gas & Electric, Environmental Defense, National Grid, Natural Resources Defense Council and Shell Oil.

The study, "Reducing U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions: How Much at What Cost?" directed by Jack Stephenson, concluded that the U.S. is brimming with "negative cost opportunities," that is, potential efficiencies and improvements in lighting, heating and cooling of buildings that cut carbon dioxide emissions from the burning of fossil fuels while saving money.

Stephenson pointed out that, "These types of savings have been around for 20 years."

"What the report calls out is the fact that the potential is so substantial for energy efficiency," said Ken Ostrowski, another of the report's authors. "...the potential is just staggering here in the U.S. There is a lot of inertia, and a lot of barriers," he said.

According to the report, efficiency changes can be made with "tested approaches and high-potential emerging technologies," but the work "will require strong, coordinated, economy-wide action that begins in the near future."

One significant change recommended by the authors is that regulations for large utilities could be rewritten so the companies make as much profit by promoting conservation as in selling electricity.

Tax breaks could promote efficient buildings, cars and appliances and "a broad public education program around wasteful energy consumption could be mounted," the report noted. Like the "Keep America Beautiful" campaign of the 1960s, it could teach about "carbon littering" by increasing awareness of wasting energy.

McKinsey & Company's report can be seen at <[www.mckinsey.com/clientervice/ccsl/greenhousegas.asp](http://www.mckinsey.com/clientervice/ccsl/greenhousegas.asp)>

# Wis. Reactors Unsafe at Any Speed Operators Repeatedly Failed, Faulted, Fined

Wisconsin has three power reactors, two at Point Beach and one at Kewaunee, whose operations are plagued with unplanned shutdowns caused by accidents that have resulted in official warnings, fines and even a criminal conviction. A smaller reactor in La Crosse, shut down since 1987, still stores high-level waste fuel on-site and is undergoing dismantlement.

Every time the industry has a mishap, nuclear power is called "safe" and accidents are declared "no danger to the public." The partial record below tells another story.

The highest safety failure warning in the industry is a "Red" finding by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). Only four have ever been issued in the country and two of them went to the Point Beach reactors. Wisconsin Electric Power Company (WEPCO) ran the two-reactor, 1,023-megawatt site, 30 miles southeast of Green Bay, until late 2006, when it was bought by FPL Energy of Juno Beach, Florida.

Below is a sampling of the unsafe, unplanned and radioactively dirty record of Wisconsin's reactors.

**January 15, 2008**

At Point Beach's Unit 1, an "unusual event" emergency was prompted by the complete loss for more than 15 minutes of all offsite power used by essential electrical "buses," mandating notification of the NRC. A supply breaker opened "for unknown reasons" and was being investigated.

**January 12, 2007**

A turbine and reactor trip at Kewaunee, now owned and operated by Dominion Resources Inc. of Richmond, Virginia, was caused by a loss of auto-stop oil pressure on the main turbine. Following the trip, one of the moisture separators on the main turbine had its associated steam inlet valve fail to open, which resulted in contaminated steam being vented to the environment.

**December 8, 2006**

At Point Beach, the Control Room Emergency Filtration System was declared inoperable. The Control Room Charcoal Filter Fan tripped during a surveillance test, an event that could have prevented the filter's performance during a contamination emergency.

**October 12, 2006**

At the long shut down La Crosse reactor, airborne levels of radioactive americium-241 contamination inside the reactor building rose to 10 times "normal." By Oct. 16, "Reactor building ventilation to the outside environment through HEPA filters had not reduced the level of Am-241 as

expected." An "unusual event" was declared and investigators began searching to identify the source of the americium.

**August 22, 2006**

In an August 22, 2006 letter to Point Beach, the NRC charged that a senior reactor operator was discriminated against by reactor management for identifying potential technical violations. The discrimination was an apparent violation of employee protection law.

**August 14, 2006**

The NRC announced that groundwater beneath Kewaunee is contaminated with radioactive tritium and declared the pollution to be of "possible safety or public interest significance." Reactor staff detected tritium in groundwater at several locations beneath the auxiliary and turbine buildings August 9. The contamination leaked into four shafts which are used to measure settling of the structures. The shafts are not interconnected, indicating a large amount of contaminated water. The source of the leak, which spewed 1 gallon every 5 minutes, is still unknown.

**March 20, 2006**

The Kewaunee reactor faced increased NRC oversight after being cited for two safety violations, one concerning failure to properly analyze the impact of flooding and another involving a design flaw affecting the reactor's backup cooling water system. The NRC found that the reactor had a "moderate degradation in safety performance" in 2005 even while it was shutdown for five months.

**December 16, 2005**

Point Beach paid a \$60,000 fine imposed Jan. 13, 2005 after two workers "deliberately provided NRC inspectors with inaccurate information" about the critique of an emergency preparedness drill at the reactor in August 2002. The two were fired, and one was convicted in federal court of knowingly making false written statements to the NRC.

**November 29, 2005**

The Kewaunee reactor tripped following a main feedwater pump failure. All three auxiliary feedwater pumps kicked in and the reactor was stabilized at "hot shutdown." The operators said, "There are no known primary-to-secondary leaks" — leaving open the chance of unknown primary-to-secondary leaks. Primary coolant is highly contaminated with radioactive fission products from direct contact with fissioning uranium fuel. It is never supposed to leak into the secondary cooling system, but often does.

## What's the Real Cost of Nuclear Power?

By Cassandra Dixon

Because nuclear power reactors take so long to build their estimated capital costs include the "overnight" cost, which is the price of the reactor if it could be completed immediately plus the costs incurred during construction including interest. Florida Power and Light told *The Tampa Tribune* recently that the "overnight cost of its two-reactor project [in South Florida] would range from \$12 billion to \$18 billion, more than twice as high as Progress Energy's Dec. 2006 estimate."

The Keystone Center, a nonprofit research group in Colorado that includes nuclear industry personnel, estimates the completed nuclear reactor capital costs to be in the range of \$3,600 to \$4,000 per kilowatt of generating capacity.

**Once a nuclear reactor is operating, what is the kilowatt hour cost of its electricity?**

Fuel costs and other maintenance costs are estimated by the Nuclear Energy Institute at 1.72 cents per kilowatt-hour. The Keystone Center's report estimated the cost of decommissioning a reactor at 0.1 cent. The federal charge for nuclear waste storage is 0.1 cent per kilowatt-hour. Using the Keystone estimates, a kilowatt-hour costs between 8.3 and 11.1 cents per kilowatt-hour.

The Wall Street firm Moody's estimated in October 2007, that the capital cost of new reactors would be between \$5,000 and \$6,000 per kilowatt, or 6.2-to-9 cents per kilowatt-hour. Moody's estimate brings the overall kilowatt-hour cost of reactor-generated electricity from new reactors up to about 14 cents per kilowatt-hour.

**What is the kilowatt-hour cost of renewable alternatives to coal power and nuclear power?**

Wind energy is already more economical than nuclear power, and broad expansion of wind power capacity is taking place in many states.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, solar energy is "on track to reduce the cost of electricity produced by photo voltaic [solar panels] from current levels of 18- to 23 cents per kilowatt-hour to 5-to-10 cents per kilowatt-hour for commercial use, and 7-to-12 cents for residential use, by 2015. That's the earliest a new power reactor could come on line in the U.S. New reactors could become economically obsolete before new ones begin generating power.

**Are companies ordering new nuclear reactors now?**

No company has ordered a nuclear power reactor in the U.S. since 1978. Standard & Poors, the well-known Wall Street credit rating agency, has stated that, "... an electric utility

with a nuclear exposure has weaker credit than one without and can expect to pay more on the margin for credit."

As ever, the industry is waiting for 100 percent loan guarantees from the federal government before taking orders. Without this taxpayer subsidy, reactor construction remains too risky for investors. Rising uranium prices and shortages of skilled labor have the potential to drive operating and maintenance costs out of reach. In addition, construction delays and overruns pose additional risk. The French company Areva is currently two years behind schedule in building in Finland one of the only reactors now being built in the West. Originally estimated at 3 billion Euros (about \$4.5 billion), the construction cost has now risen to 4.5 billion Euros, \$6.75 billion). The reactor is years from completion.

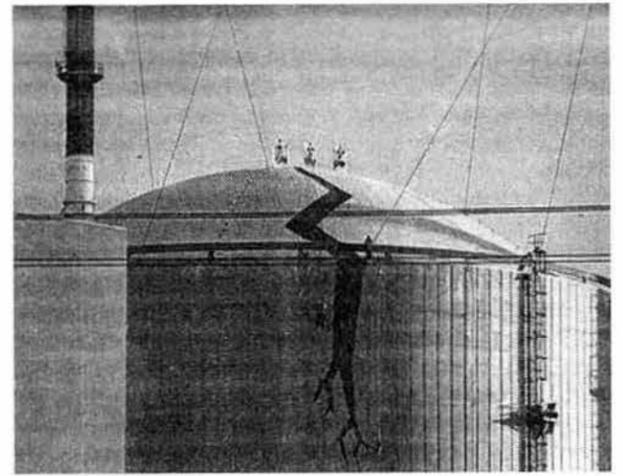
The escalating costs of finding, characterizing and developing a deep geologic repository for nuclear waste provide an added element of economic risk to new reactor building. Expanding nuclear generating capacity will likely necessitate a second U.S. repository, even when it is already unclear whether the proposed Yucca Mountain waste site can ever be licensed. Adding more reactor-generated waste will translate to more repositories, higher costs for new repositories, for proposed waste reprocessing and for on-site/dry cask storage, or all three.

Furthermore, heat waves and droughts have caused European and U.S. utilities to shutdown some reactors and reduce operations at others. Since such events are expected more frequently in a warming world, an element of intermittency has been introduced into nuclear energy, making it an even more dubious investment for electric utilities.

**Are some nuclear power costs paid by the taxpayer?**

Yes. The nuclear industry has always benefited and depended upon federal tax subsidies for research and development, and the federal government has assumed liability for the long-term storage and management of high-level waste fuel from commercial reactors. Due to the risk of catastrophic accidents, nuclear reactors still get a significant subsidy in the form of Single-Payer accident insurance under the federal Price-Anderson Act. Additional federal subsidies for license applications and other costs were enacted as part of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. Another \$25 billion in federal loan guarantees were recently approved by Congress.

— Cassandra Dixon, a former Nukewatch staffer, operates Mary House, giving hospitality to people visiting prisoners at the Oxford federal prison camp. — Sources on page 8.



Better warned by art than an earthquake. Greenpeace activists painted a symbolic crack on the dome at Tihange Nuclear in Belgium.

**November 25, 2005**

The control room received a fire alarm on the main generator and the fire protection system was activated. Air sampling showed carbon dioxide in the storage tank room at life-threatening levels. An "unusual event" was declared based on "a release of toxic or flammable gas on site and portable monitors indicate toxic or explosive concentrations at life-threatening levels of the gas near the spill area." Ventilation of the affected areas was in progress to reduce the toxic gas levels.

**February 23, 2005**

The Kewaunee reactor was shutdown when all three auxiliary feedwater pumps were declared inoperable. During the shutdown to fix the problem, an automatic reactor trip was caused by low water in the 'B' steam generator. Another problem occurred when at least 1,000 gallons of service water, which is drawn from Lake Michigan, entered the steam generators and had to be flushed out.

**November 9, 2004**

While operating at 100 percent power, Point Beach Unit 2 sprang a steam leak from a valve in the main steam flow transmitter. The leak of potentially contaminated steam forced an unplanned shutdown. The leak involved what is called "containment penetration" of the main steam line passing through the concrete containment building. Accordingly, operators declared a Technical Specification Condition "not met," forcing them to isolate the "affected penetration flow path with a completion time of 72 hours." Workers were unable to meet the allowed completion time for this task.

**October 30, 2004**

A worker was contaminated inside the Kewaunee reactor and was rushed to the hospital after immediate decontamination attempts failed. The NRC said it did not know what isotopes had been involved.

**April 8, 2004**

Point Beach paid a \$60,000 fine imposed March 20, for last summer's problems with the reactor's backup cooling pumps.

**February 11, 2004**

The ongoing risk of a breakdown in Point Beach's cooling feedwater pumps resulted in a NRC "Red" finding, the agency's most severe safety failure warning.

**October 2002**

A "Red" finding was issued by the NRC against Point Beach for problems with cold water circulation for cooling the reactor.

**June 5, 2001**

Kewaunee's reactor was shut down when the computer Safety Parameter Display System and Emergency Response Data System both failed. The operators did not know the status of "emergency response availability."

**November 18, 1997**

Point Beach Unit 2 was hastily shut down because of electrical problems.

**August 12, 1997**

The NRC recorded 21 violations at Point Beach in the 90-day period between Dec. 1996 and Feb. 1997.

**July 25, 1997**

Unit 2 at Point Beach was shutdown when a cooling water pump failed.

**February 18, 1997**

Unit 1 at Point Beach was shut down when a cooling water pump defect necessitated the pump's replacement.

**December 1996**

Point Beach owner WEPCO was fined \$325,000 for 16 safety violations and a 1996 explosion inside a loaded high-level waste cask. The NRC said WEPCO was "inattentive" to their duties, "starting up a power unit while one of its safety systems was inoperable," and had failed to install "the required number of cooling pumps."

**September 21, 1996**

The Kewaunee reactor was shut down when "more than expected" corroded steam tubes were discovered.

**May 28, 1996**

At Point Beach, a potentially catastrophic explosion of hydrogen gas upended the 6,390-pound steel cask lid while it was atop a storage cask filled with high-level waste. The lid was being robotically welded to the cask, and a spark caused what the owners called a "gaseous ignition event."

— A footnoted version of this chronology is available as a Nukewatch Fact Sheet. Email us if you'd like to put it to use. <nukewatch@lakeland.ws>

# Yucca Mountain: A Scientifically Unsound Nuclear Waste Plan

By Nukewatch Staff

Yucca Mountain, Nevada, 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas — the fastest growing city in the U.S. — is the only place currently being considered by the federal government for burial of radioactive waste fuel from power reactors. The water table is only 700 feet under the proposed repository.

The site's geology can't meet the original requirements established for deep disposal of high-level rad waste. Instead, mandatory specifications have been weakened or repealed.

In a 1998 study, the Department of Energy (DOE) itself acknowledged that the \$77 billion proposal is set inside a fractured, leaky mountain plagued by earthquakes, and that its untested waste containers have limited viability. As Mary Olson of the Nuclear Information and Resource Service says, "Yucca Mountain is a sieve."<sup>1</sup>

Federal EPA standards hope to limit the site's release of radiation to levels that will cause no more than 1,000 cancer deaths over 10,000 years. Increased cancer incidence has never been estimated. Whether or not such a callous license to kill should be issued is a matter of scientific debate and courtroom litigation.

According to independent analyses, the project's own scientists and political opinion, Yucca should be scrapped.

High turnover of project managers could delay the planned 2008 filing of a license application by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). Nine of 17 key management positions, including the director of quality assurance, have turned over since 2001. Further delay may result from Congress having slashed \$108 million from the White House's \$494 million budget for 2008.

As late as 2002, the NRC still listed 293 "unresolved" scientific issues, or gaps in DOE research that need filling before a license can be issued. Arjun Makhijani, of the Institute for Energy & Environmental Research, said at the time, "The DOE has not done good scientific work."

Opponents of the dump include presidential hopefuls who have promised to "end for good" (Clinton) and "shut down" (Obama) further consideration of Yucca Mt. for a dump. Even the late Ed McGaffigan, the longest-serving member of the NRC, said in February 2007, "There is no chance Yucca can go forward under current statute."

The DOE's proposed transport routes — from 72 U.S. reactor sites to the dump site — would take the deadly wastes through at least 40 states, 40 Indian Reservations, 600 counties and 100 major cities. About 138 million Americans would be exposed to dangerous levels of radiation and inevitable truck and train crashes. U.S. Department of Transportation and NRC regulations allow these containers to emit 100 millirems per hour — equal to the allowable public

dose for an entire year. One-meter away, tied-up in traffic, people in their cars would get the equivalent of one X-ray every hour.<sup>2</sup>

In January 2008, Clark County, Nevada planner and former state transportation analyst Fred Dilger caused a state-wide uproar when he said that as the waste trains go through Las Vegas, "All of the casinos on the west side of Las Vegas Boulevard would be bathed in gamma radiation."<sup>3</sup>

The Yucca Mt. plan does not begin to address the nuclear waste problem. It merely transfers the risk of accidents and leaks to Nevadans and to communities located along transport routes. A 1999 DOE report found that leaving the waste at reactor sites is as safe as moving it to Yucca Mt., as long as the waste is repackaged every 100 years.<sup>4</sup>

Given the uncertainties about the Yucca site and the enormous risks of moving waste fuel, it makes more sense to leave it at the reactor sites while pursuing alternatives. Independent scientists suggest on-site, aboveground, monitored storage, along with additional counter-measures for safety and security.

## Yucca Mountain's Suitability Should be Disqualified

Any one of these major scientific problems should have already disqualified the site:

In 2007, the Bow Ridge earthquake fault was found to be hundreds of feet east of where they had estimated and directly under a planned cool-down area to store waste canisters before they are entombed inside the mountain. The error means designers must revamp or scrap their plans. Project officials say they are still developing repository design, construction and operating ideas for the dump. The DOE has never produced blueprints that Nevada officials can review for comments. "Everything is conception designs and cartoons," said



Bob Loux, director of the Nevada Agency for Nuclear Projects.<sup>5</sup>

In 2002, a June 14 earthquake 12 miles from Yucca even shocked proponents of the dump. The magnitude 4.4 quake was labeled a "wake-up call" by opponents of the project who noted the risk of damage to above-ground storage facilities, where tens of thousands of tons of waste brought to the site would be kept for decades while it cools. "If anyone ever wondered about the wisdom of locating an underground radioactive dump site on an active fault line, this shows why," U.S. Rep. Shelley Berkley, D-Nev. said after the quake.<sup>6</sup>

In 1999, proof that the inside of Yucca Mt. is periodically flooded with water came in the form of Zircon crystals found deep inside. "Crystals do not form without complete

immersion in water," said Jerry Szymanski, a former DOE geologist whose suggestion that deep water rises and falls inside Yucca Mt. was dismissed by the DOE.<sup>7</sup> "That would mean hot underground water has invaded the mountain and might again in the time when radioactive waste would still be extremely dangerous. The results would be catastrophic."<sup>8</sup>

In 1998, the Yucca Mt. site was found to be subject to earthquakes or lava flows 10 times more frequently than earlier estimated, according to a California Institute of Technology study. The finding means that radiation dispersal from the site is much more likely during the proposed 10,000-year lifetime of the dump — not to mention the million-year-long radioactive hazard period.<sup>9</sup>

In 1997, DOE researchers admitted that rain water had seeped 800 feet from the top of Yucca Mt. into the repository in a mere 40 years. Government scientists had earlier claimed the water would take hundreds or thousands of years to reach the waste caverns. Federal guidelines state that the existence of fast-flowing water would disqualify the site.<sup>10</sup>

In 1995, physicists at Los Alamos dropped a bomb on the Yucca plan, charging that plutonium in the wastes might erupt in an explosion, scattering radioactivity to the winds or into groundwater or both.<sup>11</sup> Doctors Charles Bowman and Francesco Venneri reported that the danger of explosions will arise thousands of years from now. "We think there's a generic problem with putting fissile materials underground," Bowman said.<sup>12</sup>

In 1990, the National Research Council reported the DOE's plan for Yucca Mt. is "bound to fail" because it is "a scientific impossibility" to build an underground nuclear waste repository that will be safe for 10,000 years.<sup>13</sup>

In 1989, sixteen geologists at the U.S. Geological Survey bluntly charged the DOE with using stop-work orders to prevent the discovery of problems that would doom the repository.<sup>14</sup> The government geologists reported that, "There is no facility for trial and error, for genuine research, for innovation, or for creativity."<sup>15</sup> Even the NRC complained then that work at Yucca seemed designed mostly to get the repository built rather than to determine if the site is suitable.<sup>16</sup>

In 1983, the National Academy of Sciences noted that the chemical characteristics of water at Yucca Mt. are such that the waste would dissolve more easily than at most other places.<sup>17</sup>

DOE scientists know the steel canisters will dissolve long before the waste's radiation hazards are gone. Because of the million-year cancer danger of the waste, "testing of the whole project is impossible," according to Dr. R. Darryl Banks, a biophysicist at World Resources Institute, as it "would require a time machine."<sup>18</sup>

There are alternatives. Storing the waste at reactor sites will allow time to give other plans the consideration they deserve and allow the most dangerous fission products (cesium-137 and strontium-90) to become less hazardous. The deadly waste should be aboveground, repackaged and monitored till the end of time.

— Footnotes on page 8.

## Nuclear Proponents Ignore Uranium Mine Waste, Devastation

By Al Gedicks

Passage of Assembly Bill 346 would repeal limits on new nuclear reactor construction in Wisconsin. The measure will come up for a vote in the Assembly sometime this session.

Proponents of nuclear power argue that it does not produce carbon dioxide and thus does not contribute to global climate change. This argument, endlessly repeated by proponents of nuclear power, ignores the inconvenient fact that without the mining, milling and enrichment of uranium, there is no nuclear power. Each stage of the nuclear fuel cycle is extremely energy-intensive and results in the emission of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere from the burning of fossil fuels. The most energy-intensive stage of the nuclear fuel cycle is the mining and milling of uranium fuel. As the most accessible and higher grade uranium ores are mined, a greater amount of energy is required to extract uranium from less accessible and lower grade uranium concentrations.

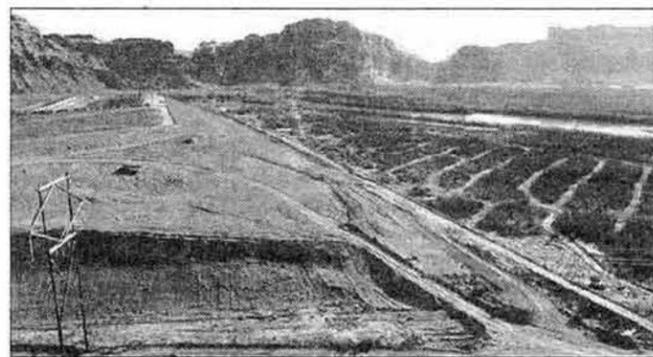
After the ore is excavated by bulldozers and shovels, it must be transported by truck to the milling plant, consuming large amounts of diesel fuel. The uranium-bearing rock is then crushed and ground to a powder in electrically powered mills. The powder is then treated with harsh chemicals, usually sulfuric acid to convert the uranium to a compound called yellow cake. Fuel is needed during this process to create steam and heated gases, and all the chemicals used in the mills must be manufactured at other chemical plants.

If the mill wastes, or tailings, which contain 85 percent of the original radioactivity in the ore, were to be disposed of properly, by deep burial in the ground, there would be additional quantities of fossil fuel required. Instead, these wastes are routinely dumped in large tailings piles on Native American lands, emitting radioactive elements into the air,

water and soils, threatening human health and the environment in perpetuity. Communities near these tailings piles report a high rate of miscarriages, cleft palates and other birth defects, bone, reproductive, and gastric cancers as related health effects of uranium mining and exposure to contaminated air and water. "This single remediation process, which should be scrupulously observed," says nuclear critic Dr. Helen Caldicott, "by itself makes the energetic price of nuclear electricity unreasonable"

Before uranium can be used in nuclear power reactors it must undergo a process of enrichment. Uranium enrichment plants are the largest industrial sites in the world and consume enormous amounts of electricity. Far from being "clean," each 1,000 megawatt-reactor required the equivalent of a 45 megawatt-electric coal plant — which annually burns 135,000 tons of coal — to supply its enrichment needs alone.

Proponents of nuclear power as a solution to global climate change not only ignore the fossil fuel emissions of every stage of the nuclear fuel cycle, they also fail to recognize the substantial emissions of radioactive elements from this same cycle and its disproportionate impact upon Native American lands and people. Over half of the nation's uranium deposits lie under Navajo and Pueblo Indian lands. At least one in five tribal members recruited to mine the ore were exposed to radioactive radon gas and have died and are continuing to die of lung cancer. The Navajo Nation banned uranium mining and processing on its land in 2005. Navajo President Joe Shirley Jr. said "It would be unforgivable to allow this cycle to continue for another generation."



Moab, Utah has long been fighting to get a mountain of radioactive uranium mine waste, which has moldered on the edge of town for decades, removed by the government. The Department of Energy said it would move the mine tailings pile to a spot about 30 miles away for entombment.

And what about nuclear waste disposal? Under current law, highly radioactive waste fuel must have a place to be stored permanently before a new reactor can be built in Wisconsin. There is no known way to safely dispose of this waste. Are we going to dump the waste on the lands of the Western Shoshone Indians, as the federal government proposes to do at the Yucca Mountain site in Nevada? Are we going to dump the waste on the lands of the Menomonee Indian Nation in Wisconsin, as the DOE tried to do in the 1980s? The DOE is required by law to report to the President and to Congress on the need for a second repository before the end of 2009.

If Wisconsin's common sense limits on the construction of new nuclear reactors are lifted, the DOE will have all the more reason to reconsider the granite bedrock of Wisconsin's Wolf River Batholith as a suitable site for a permanent nuclear waste repository.

Al Gedicks, author of *The New Resource Wars*, is a professor of sociology at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse and has written extensively on the impact of resource exploitation on indigenous peoples.

# Fight Cancer: No New Reactors

NUKEWATCH

# Groundwater Contamination from Nuclear Reactors Goes Nationwide

By Bonnie Urfer

The history of accidental, unregulated radiation leaks from nuclear reactors should be enough to slam the door on nuclear power. Among others, the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) lists 350 separate incidents since 1961, at 101 of the country's reactors.<sup>1</sup>

Tritium, with a radioactive half-life of 12.3 years, is the unstable form of hydrogen. It leaks from hot uranium fuel, combines easily with and contaminates water. Tritium leaks and consequent contamination of groundwater have become routine at all reactors — shutdown and operating. In addition, the UCS has documented contamination by cesium-137 (half-life: 30 years) and cobalt-60 (half-life: 5.26 years). It takes 10 half-lives for an isotope to decay to other elements.

Nuclear reactors shake, rattle and rumble like a fleet of freight trains from their giant turbines' powerful vibrations. As they age, cracks occur in holding tanks, waste fuel pools and concrete floors. Radioactive water leaks from tanks, flanges, valves, pumps, drums, pits, waste concentrators, tubes and even laundry systems. The pathways are almost unlimited.

Tritiated water has repeatedly leaked into the soil under reactors or waste pools, onto roofs of adjoining buildings and outdoor blacktop areas, and into storm drains and culverts. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has recorded spills of between 20 gallons and 787,000 gallons.

Wisconsin's Kewaunee and Point Beach reactors are no exception. In 1975, Point Beach's Unit 1 leaked approximately 10,000 gallons of radioactively-contaminated water after a steam tube ruptured. The water spilled into a retention pond and from the pond into groundwater. In 1997, another steam tube in the same reactor spilled another 10,000 gallons of radioactively contaminated water that ran eventually into Lake Michigan. That year, Unit 2 had a leaking discharge pipe which also contaminated a stream and Lake Michigan. In 2006, Kewaunee workers found tritium in the groundwater below the site. The NRC said the radiation had infiltrated narrow shafts beneath two buildings. The leak rate was thought to be one gallon every five minutes. The operators could not find the leak's source but were investigating.

In the case of E.I. Hatch, in Georgia, the operator claims a building "settled" in 2006 and that leaks then sprang from buried pipes, from an isolation valve, from failed seals on an outdoor radioactive water storage tank transfer pump, from waste fuel pool expansion bellows and from outdoor radioactive water tanks. The leaks contaminated soil and groundwater.

Accidental releases (in addition to daily "allowable" releases) cumulatively and irreversibly add radioactive pollution to the soil, water and air. Near Braidwood in Illinois, area residents were drinking radioactive water for years until Exelon Corp., the operator, began supplying bottled water, buying up property adjoining the reactor and offering to pay for a municipal water system to replace the private wells it poisoned. Exelon officials were derelict in reporting the tritium contamination which was ongoing for over a decade. The state of Illinois has sued Exelon.

Documented groundwater contamination has occurred at: Palisades in Michigan; Kewaunee in Wisconsin; Limerick in Pennsylvania; Connecticut Yankee near Haddam; San Onofre, Diablo Canyon and Humboldt Bay (still registering contamination from the 1960s) in California; Perry in Ohio; St. Lucie in Florida; Brunswick and McGuire in North Carolina; Catawba in South Carolina; Callaway in Missouri; Watts Bar, Browns Ferry and Sequoyah in Tennessee; Ft. Calhoun in Nebraska; Salem in New Jersey; Palo Verde in Arizona; Indian Point and Ginna in New York; Braidwood, Dresden, Quad Cities and Byron in Illinois; Prairie Island in Minnesota; Seabrook in New Hampshire; and Palisades and Cook in Michigan.

Groundwater contamination at the Cook reactor is just below "safe" limits for drinking. The EPA holds that tritium up to 20,000 picocuries (abbreviated as pCi) per-liter (pCi/l) is "allowable" in drinking water.<sup>2</sup>

At Quad Cities, contamination from a spill 25 years ago still exceeds "allowable" levels of tritium. Millstone, Fermi I, Perry and a myriad of other reactors have leaked tritium into the environment, but their operators claim no current groundwater contamination.

California's San Onofre, shut down since 1992, continues to spread radiation into groundwater and to the nearby beach where a 13-foot deep, 12-foot wide swath was excavated. Twenty-one thousand cubic feet of poisoned sand was shipped to the Hanford H-bomb production site in Richland, Washington for burial. In 2006, San Onofre's Unit 1 had tritium levels of between 50,000 and 330,000 pCi/l.

Tritium is not the only danger from nuclear reactors. Tests at Oyster Creek in New Jersey show elevated levels of cesium-137 in leaf and soil samples near the reactor.

Cesium-137 is a beta and gamma radiation emitter that affects humans in proximity to it, and it does even more

damage via ingestion. The isotope has a 30-year half-life and remains in the environment for 300 years.

## Notable Releases

\* Yankee Rowe, in Western Mass., had numerous leaks that resulted in the excavation of 420 cubic feet of dirt and rock. Shut down in 1992, operators have both resurfaced contaminated asphalt, as well as excavated and dumped it, and even collected and dumped snow contaminated with cobalt-60 and cesium-137.

\* In Minnesota, Prairie Island workers detected cobalt-60 and cesium-134 in soil which was subsequently excavated and dumped elsewhere.

\* Cobalt-60 and cesium-137 contamination has been detected under Browns Ferry, Tennessee in 2006.

\* In 2007, Fort Calhoun Unit 1, in Nebraska, had detectable tritium, cesium-137 and antimony-125 (half-life: 2.7 years) in water seeping through an exterior wall. The tritium level was 173,000 pCi/l and increasing.

\* An entire concrete floor, along with eight barrels of contaminated soil, at Big Rock Point in Michigan was removed and dumped off-site.

\* At Millstone in Connecticut, workers dumped off-site, twenty 55-gallon drums of contaminated soil from an unplanned water and steam discharge.

\* Ten years after Georgia's Vogtle reactor tritium leak, it is still detected in groundwater. The leak went on for two years as operators failed to keep it contained. Concrete from the reactor has been dumped off-site as radioactive waste.

\* In 1995, concentrations of tritium in test wells at Ginna, New York, reached the maximum allowable 20,000 pCi/l.

\* Seabrook had 10 to 30 gallons-per-day of radioactive water leaking from its waste fuel cask "wash pit transfer canal area" from 1999 to 2004, contaminating the groundwater.

\* Wolf Creek in Kansas has had three radioactive water leaks from its waste fuel pool since 2001.

\* A leak from a steam seal evaporator forced the excavation and off-site dumping of six inches of gravel in an area measuring 100 square feet at the Limerick reactor in Pennsylvania.

\* McGuire operators in North Carolina, found very high and dangerous levels of tritium in groundwater — 138,000 pCi/l — near the Unit 2 equipment staging area. In 2006, unsafe levels were measured in the northeast corner of the auxiliary building, and testing in 2006 showed pCi/l contamination: Feb. 14: 35,200; Feb. 15: 33,800; March 10: 33,100; May 1: 31,900; June 1: 33,200; June 21: 30,000; July 2: 30,000; July 17: 26,000; and July 26: 31,700.

\* North Anna in Richmond, Virginia, reported 56 occurrences of radioactive water releases. Specific dates and amounts were kept secret. Surry, near Newport News, VA, reported eight incidents. The movement of clean water through contaminated buildings and becoming radioactive and subsequently poisoning the ground was reported numerous times.

\* Catawba, near York, South Carolina, has groundwater contamination over double the allowable drinking water limit measuring 42,335 pCi/l.

\* Commercial reactors continuously expel radiation as do experimental, research and military reactors. In 1997, the Brookhaven Laboratory High Flux Beam Reactor on Long Island, New York, leaked to the point that groundwater contamination registered 32 times the EPA's drinking water standard. The Oak Ridge High Flux Isotope Reactor in Tennessee has also leaked tritium.

## Tritium Hazards

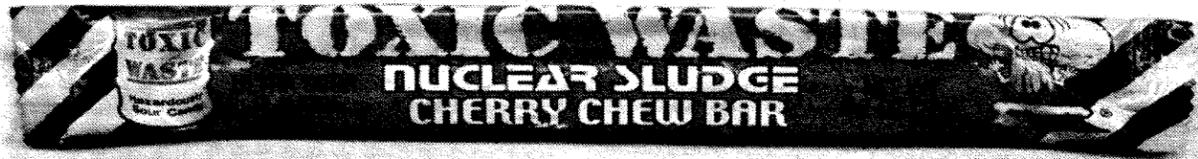
Ingestion, inhalation or absorption of small amounts of radioactive tritium results in irradiation of the internal organs, possibly for long periods of time. According to Dr. Rosalie Bertell, ingestion of tritium quadruples internal damage and disproportionately affects women, children and anyone under age 20. Tritium easily crosses the placenta, so spontaneous abortions, stillbirths, congenital malformations and childhood diseases can be a consequence of exposure to tritium. The young are not only more vulnerable because of an underdeveloped immune system, but also because of their long expected life-span after exposure.

According to Dr. Bertell, tritium spontaneously disintegrates into a helium atom which disrupts chemical bonds in cells. When reproduced, these disruptions cause chronic diseases such as allergies or hormonal dysfunction. Studies have noted a correlation between tritium releases from Canada's Pickering reactors and an increase in the number of fatal birth defects nearby. Down's syndrome increased by 80 percent in Pickering.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer found that nuclear workers exposed to tritium have a higher incidence of radiation related cancer. Childhood leukemia deaths increased by a factor of 1.4 among children born near the Bruce reactor after it opened.

<sup>1</sup> Groundwater Events Data Base, David Lochbaum, Union of Concerned Scientists, Washington, DC, Jan. 28, 2008, <ucs.org>

<sup>2</sup> The curie is a standard measure for the intensity of radioactivity. The basis for the curie is the radioactivity of one gram of radium. An enormous amount of radioactivity, a curie represents 37 billion atomic disintegrations-per-second. A picocurie is about one trillionth of a curie. A picocurie represents 2.2 disintegrations per-minute.



From your local grocery: candy happily called nuclear sludge. This stuff's got real shelf life.

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<sup>6</sup> "Too Hot to Handle: The Future of Civil Nuclear Power," by Frank Barnaby and James Kemp, Oxford Research Group, July 2007, 22 pages; <www.oxfordresearchgroup.org.uk>

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<sup>2</sup> Nuclear Regulatory Commission, <http://www.nrc.gov/POA/gmo/tip/tip10.htm>

<sup>3</sup> Dr. John Beyea, study for the National Audubon Society, 1984, in John May, note 1, pp. 220-221;

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<sup>6</sup> *European Journal of Cancer Care*, July 2007, Vol. 16, Issue 4, 355-363, "Meta-analysis of Standardized Incidence and Mortality Rates of Childhood Leukemia in Proximity to Nuclear Facilities," Peter J. Baker, Department of Biometry and Epidemiology at the Medical University of South Carolina, <www.blackwell-synergy.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1365-2354.2007.00679.x>

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# Municipal Sustainability Using The "Natural Step"

The Natural Step (TNS) is a broad-based community education and development coalition designed to draw business, government and local councils to economic and environmental sustainability. In TNS, sustainability means to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet its own needs. TNS employs simple scientific principles and an operational framework based on case studies.

TNS's framework encourages dialogue, consensus-building and systems-thinking (key processes of organizational learning). It creates the conditions needed to introduce new ideas and expand on practical possibilities.

Doctor Karl-Henrik Robert started the Natural Step in 1989 along with colleagues in the Swedish scientific community. Through a consensus process the group developed a set of "system conditions" for a sustainable society based on natural cycles. Communities adopting these principles can reduce operating costs and environmental risk and be pioneers in long-range planning.

The American Planning Association interprets the four Natural Step system conditions in terms of the following goals:

1. Reduce dependence upon fossil fuels, extracted underground metals and minerals.
2. Reduce dependence on chemicals and other manufactured substances that can bio-accumulate.
3. Reduce dependence on activities that harm life-sustaining ecosystems.
4. Meet the hierarchy of present and future human needs fairly and efficiently.

TNS philosophy holds that sustainability depends on leaving the earth's crust intact. From fossil fuel extraction, to metallic mining, to greenhouse gases, we live with a catalogue of poisons in our air and water that affects all ecosystems. TNS encourages comprehensive metal and mineral recycling programs, a reduced dependence on fossil fuel and a halt to the use of toxins like PCBs, DDT, Freon and other destructive compounds that damage the food chain and the ozone layer.

Rampant ecosystem manipulation — overharvesting and destroying habitat — must be replaced with a balance between plants, animals and humans in order for natural replenishment of species.

Samples of TNS in action are hopeful. Sweden-based Electrolux Co. adopted TNS framework after it lost a multi-million-dollar deal because it did not offer a refrigeration system without chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). The company

used TNS principles to phase out CFCs and won back that customer. But it didn't stop at refrigerators. It has introduced washing machines that use 12 gallons of water instead of 45, and substituted canola oil for petroleum-based oil in its chain saws — all while reducing total energy consumption and hazardous waste. IKEA and Electrolux of Sweden have moved toward environmentally sensitive production methods.

In a sustainable society, people are not subject to conditions that systematically undermine their capacity to meet their needs. "All human beings have intrinsic needs. The goal of the social system is to provide the opportunity for all to meet those needs, as a precondition to a dignified way of life for everyone. 'What' we do and 'how' we do it matters. To make decisions which take us toward this goal, in consideration of any policy, product, marketing or investment, we should always identify in advance the people who are going to be affected, taking the widest possible systems view. We should ask ourselves: 'Would we like to be subjected to the conditions we create?' In addition, the manner in which we make these decisions should allow for participation, be transparent, hold actors accountable and be honest."

Community meetings in Wisconsin have been standing room only for Natural Step presentations. Mayors Irene Blakely of Washburn and Fred Schnook of Ashland — two of sixteen Wisconsin cities that have declared themselves "eco-municipalities" — joined with mayors from across the U.S. in calling for efforts to help halt climate change at the local level. The agenda includes planting trees, maximizing public transportation and cutting down on pollution. The Wisconsin Green Party has officially endorsed the eco-municipality and The Natural Step agenda. People are talking about rain gardens and barrels, composting, solar panels, bio-fuels, local organically grown food in schools and changing light bulbs.

Natural Step interns in the Chequamegon Bay area in Wisconsin knocked on 4,000 doors, talked with 1,800 people, and exchanged 1,300 light bulbs representing 96,000 kilowatt

hours of energy saved over one year, translating into accumulated savings of \$7,200 for the homeowners. It also represents 40 tons of coal saved and 100 tons of CO2 saved, based on usage estimates from the homeowners.

TNS works through local study circles, facilitator trainings, leadership team events, collective fundraising strategy and outlining goals.

A sustainable future requires finding a balance between economic, environmental and social capital.

Participate in reducing wasteful dependence on fossil fuels, underground metals and minerals, wasteful dependence on chemicals and unnatural substances, encroachment on nature and meeting human needs fairly and efficiently.

Check out The Natural Step at <[www.naturalstep.org/com/nyStart](http://www.naturalstep.org/com/nyStart)>



Photo by John LaForge

Nukewatch volunteer Matt Blackwood converted his heavy duty 4X4 truck to run on waste vegetable oil.

## Solutions: Biodiesel Vehicles Now Serving San Francisco

In November, the city of San Francisco completed the conversion of its entire array of diesel vehicles to biodiesel, a clean-burning and renewable fuel that reduces the fleet's production of greenhouse gases.

The city is buying virgin soy oil from Midwest producers, and 100 percent of its 1,500 diesel vehicles are now powered by the vegetable oil, which also sharply reduces toxic diesel exhaust that is linked to the incidence of asthma and other respiratory illnesses.

Diesel conversion is part of the city's plan to cut greenhouse gas emissions to 20 percent below 1990 levels by 2012.

The city also announced in November, a new project called SFGreasecycle, a program to collect fats and cooking oils from the city's restaurants. Nathan Ballard of the Mayor's office said, "We're taking the grease that would have gone down the drain and turning it into biodiesel."

## Wisconsin Lawmakers Taken in by Nuclear Industry PR Machine

By John LaForge

With Republican Party leadership, the Wisconsin State Assembly is being courted by nuclear industry lobbyists and is working to repeal limits on new reactor construction.

Nukewatch is part of a coalition of environmental groups organizing to save the statute that requires that a solution to the nuclear waste dilemma be found before new reactors can be built here — and that new reactors be economical compared to alternatives.

Having failed for 25 years to pass these simple tests — no waste site has been approved and new reactors cannot compete with renewable energy and efficiency in meeting electricity demands — the industry is pushing the repeal measure, AB 346.

The Assembly's Energy & Utilities Committee, chaired by Phil Montgomery, R-Green Bay, met December 18 to hear comments on the bill, which would, Montgomery said, "Send a message to Wall Street that Wisconsin is open to new reactor construction."

Nukewatch joined representatives from the Citizens Utility Board, Physicians for Social Responsibility Madison, and the League of Conservation Voters, along with State Representative Chuck Benedict of Beloit (the bill's lead opponent in the Assembly), in testifying against the measure.

We worked hard to counter the industry's misleading propaganda by providing committee members with studies and reports from independent scientists. The League of Women Voters, Renew Wisconsin, the Sierra Club and the Wisconsin Public Interest Research Group also urged the Assembly's Energy and Utilities Committee to reject the repeal.

Proponents of the repeal measure repeatedly used preposterous claims to help greenwash nuclear power.

Rep. James Soletsky, D-Green Bay, said the 1979 Three Mile Island reactor disaster was a "success of containment."

In fact, 15-to-24 curies of radioactive iodine-131<sup>1</sup> and over 10 million curies of radioactive noble gases, including 43,000 curies of krypton-85,<sup>2</sup> were vented from the so-called "containment" building. Indeed, as the NRC later reported, several "deliberate but uncontrolled releases" were made to vent radioactive gases. Official airborne release estimates are just guesses, because there weren't enough outside radiation monitors, half weren't working, and a large number of them went off-scale.<sup>3</sup> Approximately 400,000 gallons of radioactive cooling water that had leaked from the reactor were secretly dumped into the Susquehanna River, a source

of drinking water for nearby communities.<sup>4</sup> Later, about 2.3 million gallons of radioactively contaminated cooling water were allowed to be "evaporated" into the atmosphere.<sup>5</sup>

Assembly Speaker Mike Huebsch, R-West Salem, testified "In 40 years of transports, the Navy has never had an accident with its high-level waste shipments." On the contrary, the cover of this winter's Nukewatch Quarterly shows one of the Navy's waste casks on its side after derailing in New York State, September 22, 2005.

Committee Chair Phil Montgomery asserted that "new reactor designs will be capable of reprocessing waste fuel rods squeezing out 95 percent of the waste's energy."

On the contrary, reprocessing was abandoned by the U.S. in the 1970s because of technical dangers, the vast amounts of liquid high-level waste it produces and because of the bomb-building threat created by the extracted plutonium. Because of the millions of gallons of leaking and explosive liquid waste left from reprocessing, West Valley, New York, Hanford, Washington and Savannah River, S. Carolina have become radioactive national sacrifice areas.

My statement to the committee focused on three recent studies that show: A) elevated leukemia incidence in young people living near U.S. reactors;<sup>6</sup> B) a correlation between the strontium-90 found in baby teeth and the incidence of cancer among children living near U.S. reactors;<sup>7</sup> and C) a dramatic rise in infant mortality following the opening — and the subsequent fall in infant mortality rates after the closing — of nuclear reactors in the U.S.<sup>8</sup> These are warnings against operating reactors, which Rep. Montgomery and others called "safe and clean."

It is clear that many committee members are not aware that nuclear reactors are allowed to routinely vent radioactive tritium, iodine, krypton and xenon gases, as well as strontium-90 and other deadly isotopes in the course of everyday operations. This radiation escapes from their stacks and leaks accidentally into the secondary cooling water that is returned to the lakes and rivers from which it is taken.

Among the lawmakers who spoke, only Rep. Benedict condemned nuclear power's dirty, dangerous and incalculably costly down side. "Wisconsin should invest in viable, cleaner renewable alternatives" to nuclear power, Benedict said. Conservation, efficiency, wind, solar, biomass and cogeneration, he said, are all preferable to "nuclear power's dangerousness and unreliability."

## Presidential Hopefuls on Nuclear Power

In a survey of the remaining presidential hopefuls' positions on nuclear power, only U.S. Rep. Cynthia McKinney (Green-Georgia) is explicitly against additional nuclear power. The others have been had.

From the field:

**U.S. Representative Cynthia McKinney (Green Party, Georgia):** "Not even considering the fact that we will never find a safe way to dispose of nuclear waste, we simply cannot guarantee the containment dome strength of any reactor in the world that will withstand a modern day jet crash or that key auxiliary buildings that house spent fuel pools could survive such attacks. ... Nuclear power is not green energy."

**Senator Hillary Rodam Clinton:** "When it comes to nuclear power, I'm an agnostic. We've got two big problems: What to do with waste? And how do we afford to build and maintain nuclear power plants? If we can deal with those two big question marks, I'm not against it."

**Senator Barack Obama:** "Nuclear power is one of the few emissions-free energy sources available to us. ... I am open to the use of nuclear power production as a transition to new energy technologies, but I think answers to a variety of safety questions, such as how we are going to transport and dispose of nuclear waste safely, are required."

(To his credit, Sen. Obama did say Oct. 2, 2007 that if elected he would end production of fissile material for nuclear weapons, agree not to build new weapons and remove nuclear weapons from hair-trigger alert.)

**Senator John McCain:** "The fact is, nuclear energy is clean. It produces zero emissions in operations. It has the lowest carbon footprint and is, therefore, undeniably a valuable tool for reigning in greenhouse gas emissions both quickly and economically."

As expected, the committee passed the repeal measure, January 22. The vote was 8-to-2, with Rep. James Staskunas, D-WestAllis, and Rep. Josh Zepnick, D-Milwaukee, voting No. And while the bill will likely pass the full Assembly, Noah Seligman of Madison reports, "The good news is that ... a legislative aide in the Senate ... indicated that the bill will not move anywhere in the upper chamber."

Urge your representatives to speak out against new nuclear reactor construction. — Footnotes on page 8.

— A version of this article appeared first in several Wisconsin dailies.

Take Action: Footnoted versions of the information in this pull-out section are available in paper and PDF format from Nukewatch, <[nukewatch.com](http://nukewatch.com)>. Please make use of the Fact Sheets to inform your legislators, friends and neighbors about the downside of nuclear power.



Photo & illustration by Steve Dvorak

By Michael Hopping

Another round of weapons-grade plutonium shipments to the Savannah River Site (SRS) near Aiken, South Carolina, has begun, according to a recent announcement from the Department of Energy (DOE). At the completion of the transfer, the K-Area Material Storage facility at SRS will house approximately 13 metric tons of "non-pit" (never weaponized) plutonium, says Allen Gunner, an SRS-based DOE manager.

This supply, Gunner adds, is in addition to 38 tons of U.S. weaponized plutonium and 14 tons of non-weapons grade plutonium to be removed from military stockpiles as part of a deal struck with Russia several years ago. At some point, that material may also be South Carolina-bound.

In all, the current non-pit shipping campaign involves 2,511 packages of plutonium metal and oxide from the Hanford site in Washington State, Los Alamos, and the Lawrence Livermore National Lab in California. The containers will travel in unmarked armored tractor trailer rigs known as "Safe Secure Transports" (SST), driven and guarded by armed federal personnel. Routing details are classified and state officials aren't notified when a shipment passes through.

The DOE's plutonium drivers don't pick their own routes to SRS. Instead, federal dispatchers direct them with RADTRAN or TRAGIS software. These routing programs take several factors, including road conditions, accident rates, population centers, etc., into account. RADTRAN and TRAGIS vary in the weighting of such factors, but the routes they select are likely to be similar.

John Sticpewich, a retired oil and gas geologist living in Asheville, NC, has access to TRAGIS software. When Sticpewich entered the plutonium origin and destination information into the program, the resulting itineraries surprised him. Columbia appears only as a third choice alternative from Hanford. "What's striking about the maps is that all but one of them converge on Atlanta," he says.

But for those living along the I-26 corridor, rejoicing may be premature. Ninety percent of the material scheduled for transfer resides at Hanford, and RADTRAN may value Atlanta more highly than does TRAGIS. The result: it could just as easily route some of the shipments through Columbia.

#### Spinach Cans

Twenty-two lbs. of plutonium-239 is enough to go critical under certain circumstances, so DOE limits the amount in any single package to about nine and a half pounds. The specific transport and storage container DOE chose is a layered stainless steel drum system.

Plutonium rests inside a primary and secondary containment vessel — nested stainless steel tubes wrapped by a half-inch lead jacket. This assembly is placed in the "overpack," a 35-gallon stainless steel drum with an inner padding of Celotex rings. (Celotex is a type of fiberboard with a consistency reminiscent of stiff felt. It is commonly used to sheath houses.) Together, these components comprise a "9975 package."

Federal regulations require containers and casks for highly dangerous or radioactive materials to meet standards for damage resistance in accident conditions. They must not release their contents after a series of misfortunes

including a 30-foot drop onto an unyielding surface, puncture by a stationary iron pin and a 30-minute engulfing fire burning at 1475° F. The tests are designed to account for the possibility of a severe transportation accident, such as a container being hit by a train or a fiery tunnel crash involving multiple vehicles.

Bureaucratic snafus delayed the 9975's Type B certification for years. It was eventually granted in 1999, but trouble soon followed. Someone noticed that when a 9975 was dropped on the lid end at a 45-degree angle, the outer lid opened up. Integrity of the steel drum is critical to the container's fire resistance. Celotex burns at temperatures above 350° F and lead melts at 622° F.

Type B certification was withdrawn. Testing at the Westinghouse Savannah River Company confirmed the severity of the problem. Lids on the 9975 routinely popped open like Popeye's can of spinach when the package was dropped at an unfavorable angle. The report concludes, "conventional clamp ring closures are not suitable for packages where the weight ratio of the internals (containment vessels, contents, shielding, etc.) to the gross package weight is greater than 50 percent ... the failure rate for packages exceeding this limit is nearly 100 percent for the packages evaluated." The combined weight of lead and stainless steel "internals" in the 9975 virtually guaranteed lid failure on the regulatory drop test.

Talk about embarrassing. The fault was remedied by redesign. A series of bolts now secures the lid. The 9975 was recertified in 2001 and has been continuously certified since then, although the redesigned model was not subjected to the series of Type B damage tests.

In fact, it appears that the 9975 was *never* subjected to the test series. James Giusti, a DOE public affairs officer at SRS told me, "Drum and fiberboard overpacks were already a mature technology at the time of the 9975 certification testing, with extensive testing dating back for over twenty years, at Savannah River Site, Oak Ridge National Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratory. The 9973 and 9975 were so similar to the earlier, certified packages that extensive additional testing was not necessary."

The 9973 container Giusti mentioned is a smaller, 30-gallon drum system without lead shielding. At least one 9973 was put through the regulatory series of damage tests in 1994 and survived. In view of the subsequent problem with the 9975, the lack of lead in the 9973 may have made a critical difference. An unloaded 9973 package weighs only 187 lbs., less than half that of a 9975. According to the Westinghouse findings, a 9973 would likely retain its lid when dropped at an angle.

I asked Gunner, who manages the 9975 package program at SRS, what was stored or moved in the old model 9975s before the lid problem was discovered. He said that although the 9975 was available for use, it wasn't actually pressed into service until after the lid problem was corrected. According to him, no lid failures have occurred with the bolted lid model. The old-style 9975 isn't used to store anything requiring a Type B container.

#### Cross country

People concerned about the nation's diesel supply may be relieved to learn that 2,511 SST convoys may not be required to move the plutonium across country. A DOE document states that as many as ten 9975s were aboard the SSTs that transported a different fissile element out of South Carolina a few years ago. If plutonium shipments are similarly consolidated, the number of SST trips could be reduced to less than 300.

For those concerned about the consequences of an accident involving an SST, this prospect is less welcome news. Worst case scenarios worsen as more plutonium is added to a wreck.

DOE's announcement of the current plutonium shipping campaign has this bit of bureaucratise to offer on the risk of serious highway accidents:

"DOE evaluated the impacts of a severe accident while

transporting plutonium oxide material in Type B shipping containers in Safe Secure Transports. The hypothetical accidents modeled for the impact assessment involve either a long-term fire or tremendous impact of crushing forces. In the case of crushing forces, a fire would have to be burning in order to spread the plutonium as modeled. These accidents were assumed to cause a ground-level release of 10 percent of the radioactive material in the SST. These accidents fall within the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's severity Category VIII, with an accident frequency in rural areas of about  $1 \times 10^{-7}$  per year (once in 10 million years). DOE estimated that if such an accident were to occur in an urban area as many as 114 cancer fatalities could result. In addition, the accident itself would cause a number of non-radiological fatalities, depending upon the specific circumstances."

This determination is based on arbitrary DOE assumptions dating to 1977. They aren't specific to plutonium, the 9975 container, or the present shipping campaign.

DOE classifies hypothetical radiological transport accidents on an eight-point scale. Category 8 is the most severe. A Clinton-era environmental impact statement defines a Category 8 accident: "For the truck and air analysis, the eight accident-severity categories defined in the NRC Final Environmental Statement on the Transportation of Radioactive Material by Air and Other Modes (Dec. 1977) were used... The most severe category (Category 8) represents a large crush force, high-impact velocity, high puncture-impact speed, a 54.6-mile-per-hour collision into the side of the vehicle and a 1,800-degree Fahrenheit fire lasting 1.5 hours to produce a release of the material (plutonium, highly-enriched uranium or tritium). The release fractions for Category 8 accidents were conservatively estimated to be 0.1 for all types of materials analyzed."

Translated to English, DOE's worst case pencil and paper accident scenario involves a tractor trailer collision at a speed of 55 mph and a hot fire, but one that only burns for an hour and a half. DOE's calculation of 114 cancer fatalities is derived from the arbitrary Category 8 assumption of a 10 percent release of radioactive material. Whether that number has any relevance to the 9975 container, a packaging system that didn't exist in 1977, is anybody's guess.

Thankfully, to date, there have been no publicly acknowledged accidents involving SSTs hauling 9975 packages. This testifies to the skills of SST drivers but has no bearing on the reasonableness of the DOE's projection of a severe accident frequency of "once in 10 million years" or the ability of an SST to retain 90 percent of the radioactive cargo it contains.

When Sticpewich looks at the schematic drawing of the 9975 and imagines what might happen if a load of 9975s is hit by one or more 80,000 lb. tractor trailer rigs traveling at highway speed, followed by a fire such as the inferno that closed an Interstate-5 tunnel in LA for more than two days in October, he's not optimistic. "I fear the durability of these containers may be a real concern."

Gunner is more confident. When I suggested that the 9975 doesn't look like a can with much of a chance in a smashup featuring hurtling big rigs and fire, he replied, "These containers aren't going to open up in a wreck."

Hopefully, we'll never have to find out.

Michael Hopping writes for the Citizen-Times and The Indie in Asheville, NC. A version of this story appeared in the January 2008 issues of the Columbia City Paper.

## NUKEWATCH QUARTERLY



Nukewatch is a project of  
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NEWS-MEDIA

# Canada Puts U.S. on Torture "Watchlist"

An end that requires unjust means is not a just end. — Albert Camus, *The Rebel*

By John LaForge

What do U.S. citizens have in common with people in Israel, Syria, China, Iran, Afghanistan, Mexico and Saudi Arabia? Our governments torture prisoners.

That's the conclusion of Canada's Foreign Ministry which included the U.S. on its "torture watchlist" declaring that some of its interrogation methods include torture, according to a document obtained by *Reuters* Jan. 17.

Under "definition of torture" the document includes the U.S. military's and CIA's infliction of forced nakedness, prolonged isolation, sleep deprivation and blindfolding upon prisoners.

Two days later the first secretary of homeland security, Tom Ridge, said "There's just no doubt in my mind — under any set of rules — waterboarding is torture." And Gen. Michael Hayden, the current CIA director, admitted for the first time Feb. 4 that the CIA used waterboarding. On January 13, Mike McConnell, the Director of National Intelligence, told *The New Yorker* magazine, waterboarding "would be torture" if used against him.

Nevertheless, when testifying alongside Gen. Hayden before the Senate Intelligence Committee, McConnell declared waterboarding "a legal technique used in a specific set of circumstances."

CTV television in Ottawa, Ontario reported that the Foreign Ministry watchlist was part of a training manual on torture awareness, given to Canadian diplomats to help them determine whether prisoners they visited abroad had been mistreated.

The torture awareness course started after the case of Maher Arar, a Canadian, who in 2002 was abducted, hooded and shackled by U.S. agents in New York City and flown to Syria (also prominent on the "watchlist"). There he was kept in a tiny "grave-like" cell in the ground for ten months, beaten repeatedly, tortured and forced to make a false confession. The Canadian government publicly cleared Arar of any link to terrorism and awarded him a \$10.5 million settlement. The U.S. has refused even to apologize.



A spokeswoman for the U.S. embassy in Ottawa responded to *Reuters* saying, "The United States does not permit, tolerate, or condone torture under any circumstances."

The Canadian manual condemns the U.S. prison camp at Guantánamo Bay where a Canadian, Omar Khadr, is being held along with the 275 still imprisoned there. The May 1, 2005 *New York Times* reported that FBI agents visiting Guantánamo "wrote in memorandums that were never meant to be disclosed publicly that they had seen female interrogators forcibly squeeze male prisoners' genitals, and that they had witnessed other detainees stripped and shackled low to the floor for many hours."

*Reuters* reported that the leaked document was mistakenly given to Amnesty International Canada as part of a lawsuit the group launched against Ottawa over the treatment of detainees in Afghanistan.

Khadr, the only Canadian in Guantánamo, has been jailed there for five years. He is accused of throwing a grenade that killed a U.S. soldier and of planting mines in 2002, when he was 15 years old, while fighting the U.S. military occupation of Afghanistan. In

April 2007, after 5 years in prison, the U.S. charged Khadr with murder, attempted murder, supporting terrorism, conspiracy and spying.

Human rights groups want Khadr, now 20, returned to Canada, saying he should be in juvenile court — a demand rejected by Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

"At some point in the course of Omar Khadr's detention the Canadian government developed the suspicion he was being tortured," Khadr's U.S. lawyer William Kuebler told CTV television.

According to *Jurist Legal News and Research*, about 485 prisoners have been released from Guantánamo.

The United States' continued holding of Khadr has drawn international criticism, especially since the State Department's chief legal adviser, John Bellinger, said only 60 to 80 prisoners would eventually face trial by military commission. The rest will be released, Bellinger said.

## World Health Organization: 155,000 Iraqis Killed by U.S. War

The World Health Organization (WHO) Jan. 9 published the striking results of its study of Iraqi civilians killed by the U.S. invasion and military occupation, finding that between 104,000 and 223,000 had died between March 2003 and June 2006. The WHO figure is at least twice the estimate of Iraq Body Count, a nonprofit group based in London which says 47,668 citizens were killed during the same period.

The WHO study says 151,000 Iraqi citizens had been killed by the violence and forced occupation of 130,000 U.S. troops and 196,000 private contractors and U.S. mercenaries.

A 2006 report by Johns Hopkins University's Bloomberg School of Public Health found that as many as 655,000 had died from the U.S.'s bombardment, war of occupation and subsequent diseases through July 2006.

White House speaker Jeanie Mamo said, "The unmistakable fact is that the vast majority of these deaths are caused by the murderous intentions of extremists," leaving the press corps to wonder about the implied self-identification.

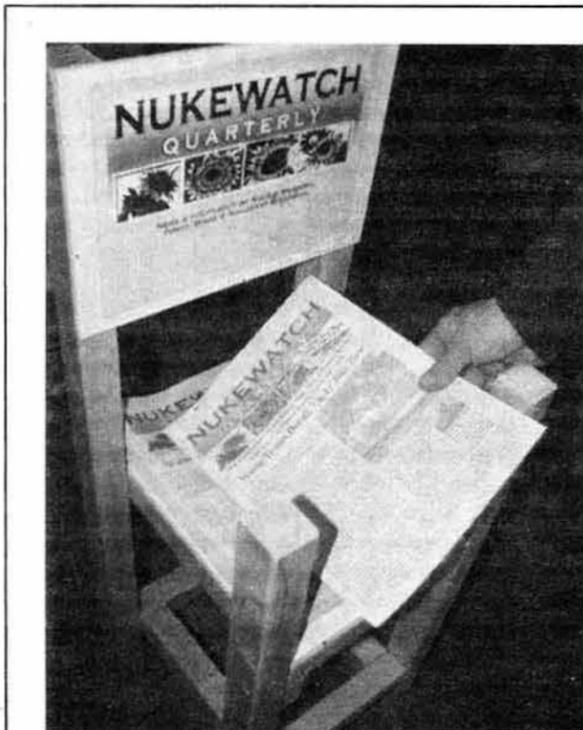
Members of the Bush administration made at least 935 extreme and baseless statements about the Iraqi regime in the two years prior to its unprovoked 2003 aggression, according to the nonprofit Center for Public Integrity.

Governments in France and Germany both famously dismissed as inadequate the arguments for war made by President Bush and then Secretary of State Colin Powell.

The United Nations Security Council, which could have legalized the war on Iraq by invoking certain chapters of the UN Charter, never bought the fiction.

Indeed, the war has been declared illegal by former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan (Sept. 16, 2006). King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia called the U.S. presence in Iraq "an illegal foreign occupation" (March 28, 2007).

In a speech made just before leaving office, retired French President Jacques Chirac said in 2007, "As France had foreseen and feared, the war in Iraq has sparked upheavals that have yet to show their full effects ... and threatens the very integrity of Iraq ... It has offered terrorism a new field for expansion."



Thanks to carpenter Matt Blackwood of Balsam Lake, Wis., *Nukewatch Quarterlies* are now available on their own news stands. Matt spent over 30 volunteer hours building the handsome racks that help advertise the paper. Watch for them and help us promote new subscriptions.

## Midwest Renewable ENERGY FAIR

June 20 to 22

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Midwest Renewable Energy Association  
The Nation's Premier

Energy Education Event

Learn how nuclear power is undermining action on climate change

Keynotes:

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Since its inception in 1990, the Energy Fair has shown 190,000 fairgoers how to change the world while having fun. Each summer the Fair transforms rural Custer, Wisconsin into the global hot spot for renewable energy education. The Energy Fair is the world's largest renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable living educational event of its kind. Please join us this year!

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\* Sustainable Table Workshop Area ~ New for '08!

\* Farmers Market

\* Hands On Workshops

\* Polka breakfast

## StratCom: The Most Dangerous Place on the Face of the Earth

Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power In Space  
Annual Organizing Conference  
April 11-13, 2008  
OMAHA, NEBRASKA

The U.S. Strategic Command (StratCom) is the site from which a U.S. nuclear war would be waged. Since 9/11, StratCom's mission has expanded. It is now also the command center for the so-called "war on terror" and for U.S. plans to militarily dominate outer space. This "New StratCom" is responsible for overseeing any nuclear "First Strike," the National Security Agency's "warrantless wiretaps" and Ballistic Missile Defense.

StratCom, at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, is the most threatening place on the face of the earth. Its power is secretive, its mission destabilizing. It operates outside the law, and its transformation has occurred so quickly that most of the world is unaware of its missions and dangers.

The Global Network brings together world citizens who will, for the first time, gather to shine a light on what StratCom has become. Building global awareness is essential if we are to get StratCom to back away from the brink.

Friday, April 11

4:00 p.m. — Rally at StratCom's Kinney Gate at Offutt AFB, Omaha

6:00 p.m. — Dinner at Creighton University (St. John's Parish basement)

Saturday, April 12

8:00 a.m. — to 9:00 p.m. — Plenary sessions, workshops, dinner

Sunday, April 13

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. — Global Network Membership meeting

Registration fee is sliding scale: \$15 - \$75

Register with Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space,

P.O. Box 652 Brunswick, Maine 04011

Contact: [globalnet@mindspring.com](mailto:globalnet@mindspring.com) (207) 443-9502 or

[nfpstate@nebraskansforpeace.org](mailto:nfpstate@nebraskansforpeace.org); (402) 475-4620

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## Through the Prism of Nonviolence Fracture the Good Order

By John Heid

Civil rights activist, Rev. C.T. Vivian, came to Winona in late January. He brought the sorely needed fire of nonviolent activism and the light of her/history to our neck of the woods which, like much of the nation, is mesmerized by electoral politics and a billion dollar campaign huckstering the mantra that the system can change itself. Rev. Vivian emphasized the singular power of people's movements in forging social transformation and stimulating human rights legislation. Packed audiences greeted this line-crossing visionary.

The elder recounted a meeting in which President Lyndon Johnson advised Ralph Abernathy, Andrew Young and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to "go to the streets and make me do it" when the civil rights activists met with Johnson in 1964 to push the Civil Rights Act forward.

Yet, Rev. Vivian is not frozen in the so-called civil rights era like an insect in amber. His activism continues to this very day. "I don't like to talk about nonviolence," he told us "without talking about nonviolent action." It's in action that we find out who we really are ... it's in action that life has meaning ... it's in action that we discover what is possible." Action invites, encourages and provokes a widening circle of people to stand up, or sit-in as the case may be.

Rev. Vivian added a grave footnote to the lecture: "There's no real justice without the shedding of blood." His civil rights experience demonstrates the power of nonviolence wherein one refuses to return blow for blow and keeps the dialogue going,

just as he did on the steps of an Alabama courthouse. Sheriff Jim Clark's fists dropped Rev. Vivian to the ground but never silenced his words or his nonviolence.

In Taylor Branch's *At Canaan's Edge*, Rev. Vivian is quoted: "Nonviolence is the only honorable way of dealing with social change because if we are wrong, nobody gets hurt but us and if we are right, more people will participate in determining their own destinies than ever before."

Power structures inherently recognize any hint of challenge to their authority. Fractures of good order must be criminalized and crushed. The more insecure the apparatus, the more draconian is its reaction to perceived threats.

Systems of domination depend primarily upon cooperation, i.e., passive consent of the populace, to thrive and survive. The status quo of law and order keeps the ship of state afloat. When threatened, Big Government will respond with removal of privileges, criminalization and incarceration of authentic change agents, torture and, sometimes, tanks. Empire's toolbox is primitive, brutal and predictable.

The advent of Homeland Security as a defining concept and agency gives palpable evidence of national insecurity. Physical dominance masks a fragile yet volatile State. Civil liberties are eroding at a rate that rivals the polar ice cap's melting and new regulations are quietly cranked out like paper money in a recession. Take, for instance, Homeland Security Supplement 28CFR540-200 (a) "Limited Communication for Terrorist Inmates."

Collection *Continued on page 4*

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