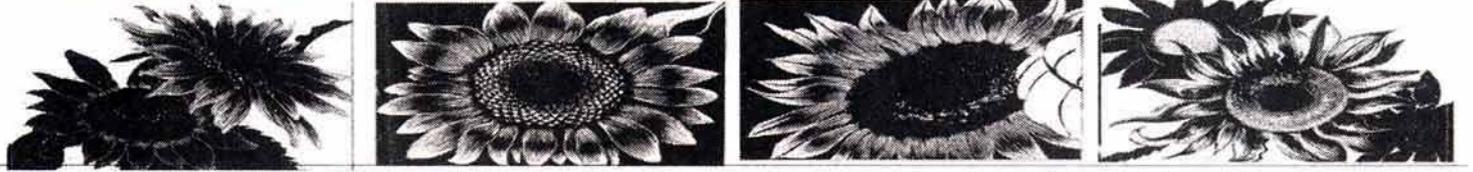


NUKEWATCH

QUARTERLY



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

A publication of the Progressive Foundation — Summer 2008

Radiation from Army's Barrels in Lake Superior?

By John LaForge

Questions about whether radioactive waste — specifically uranium-238, or “depleted uranium,” U-234 or U-235 — is contained in any of the Honeywell barrels dumped by the Army Corps of Engineers into Lake Superior near Duluth have never been satisfactorily answered.

Intriguing bits of documentary references leave the unmistakable impression that something emitting radiation is in at least some of the approximately 1,457 dumped barrels.

Nukewatch staff and volunteers have lately pored over records in the St. Paul offices of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and have only been made more curious by what we've found.

The process of researching the material is time-consuming and frustrating because the MPCA's files are a mess. Lists and tables produced by federal agencies or Honeywell managers contain obscure references, allusions to missing documents and undefined abbreviations. Some documents are missing hundreds of pages, some are misfiled under unrelated headings, and others contain references to reports or appendices that have not been retained.

One MPCA officer informed Nukewatch that he'd taken some of the material with him when he moved from the St. Paul headquarters to the Brainerd, Minnesota offices.

In spite of the difficulty of piecing facts together, the files raise questions.

Quoted directly from the MPCA's files below are references — often vague and abbreviated — to radioactive materials in the barrels:

* 1977 — “Honeywell first shipped quantities of depleted uranium wastes in May 1977. A purchase of April 4, 1978 covered the shipment of 9,520 pounds of depleted uranium mixed with cement in 43 waste barrels.”¹

* 1955 — “Date 2/7/55 — Radiation Data and Lake Superior Rad Dumping: Note from Honeywell P.O. (4/24/78); Monthly Historical Report (7/10/50).”²

* 1988 — “Some information about off-site disposal was available, but it was not evaluated for the purposes of this Preliminary Assessment.”³ *A handwritten note here says: “COE/Lake Superior WDE?”*

* 1985 — “Description of substances possibly present, known, or alleged: ... Uranium ... Ur234, Ur235, Ur238.”⁴

* 1985 — “Waste States, Quantities, and Characteristics: Toxic, Corrosive, Radioactive, Persistent, Soluble, Flammable, Reactive.... Potential exists for most of these wastes to be in the barrels”⁵

* 1990 — “Waste Characteristics: Toxic, EP Toxic, Reactive, Radioactive...”⁶

* 1995 — On its April 12, broadcast, KBJR-TV, Channel 6 News (Duluth) interviewed Captain Harold Maynard (Ret.), the submarine operator who, in 1990, investigated one of the dump sites with his K-350 submersible. In this interview, Capt. Maynard alleged a “cover up” of the presence of radiation in barrels he examined, an allegation he maintains to this day.

Captain Maynard spoke with Nukewatch on May 9, 2008, from his home in New York. He said that from inside his submarine, a Corps of Engineers' Geiger counter registered radiation near one barrel, that the tether securing his sub to a surface ship was contaminated and made the Corps' Geiger counter click, that the Corps' Bob Dempsey “has been denying that ever since,” and that Dempsey would not allow him to return with his sub to the same place to verify his reading.⁷

* 1990 — Mike Stich, of Hazard Control, Inc. in Minneapolis (now All Safe), was hired by the Army Corps to help conduct the Oct. 12, barrel search. In an August 6, 1991 letter to the late John Pegors, former MPCA Region 1 Director, Stich wrote, “From the very beginning I was suspicious.”

“When the sub captain's Geiger counter went off and he surfaced; he was very excited and was sure that he had indeed detected something radioactive. The Corps down played (and even physically shielded him from the news people) the Geiger counter event.... I'm of the opinion that Harold [Maynard] the sub pilot did in fact detect something, he was very excited and almost scared when he surfaced that day.”⁸

Given this partial list of significant references to radiation being emitted from some of the barrels, it is curious that the Minnesota Department of Health could conclude, in its March 14, 2008 “Health Consultation” that “Despite one unexplainable and unconfirmed report of radioactivity near the barrels, there is no reason to believe that the barrels contained [sic] radioactive wastes.”⁹

What do you suppose it would take to raise a health concern at the state Health Department?



Profiteers Trying to Resuscitate Food Irradiation

By Ed Remus

In January 2006, the Center for Food Safety and Food and Water Watch collaborated on a report titled "Food Irradiation: A Gross Failure — The strange, sickening impacts on the smell, taste, color and texture of food exposed to radiation."*

Against the claims made by irradiation's backers that irradiated foods are safe, chemically unaltered, economically efficient and appealing in taste, smell and appearance, the report summarizes irradiation's overwhelming failures in each of these areas. Fortunately, these failures have gradually gained wide spread recognition by consumers and producers alike.

Significant problems in quality, technology, cost and overall commercial viability have combined to produce an industry which the report describes as "in free fall" and "dead in the water." The report suggests that, as of January 2006, the growing consensus against irradiated foods should encourage advocates of food safety. Government-funded irradiation programs, including the National Agricultural Library and the U.S. Army Natick laboratories, have recently lost funding or have been closed down. SureBeam, the food irradiation industry's leading company, filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy — complete liquidation — in January 2004. In the United States, only a few small grocery chains, a food mail-order service and a home-delivery firm continue to market irradiated ground beef. Any renewed attempts by U.S. companies to market irradiated foods internationally will face strong opposition from Germany and the European community more generally.

Two excellent fact sheets are also available from Food & Water Watch: "Irradiation and Vegetables Don't Mix" and "Food Irradiation and Vitamin Loss."

The first discusses problems facing irradiation as a decontamination method for vegetables. The doses required to kill harmful bacteria like *E. coli* are much higher than those required to kill insects and extend shelf-life, and therefore remain unapproved (and unlawful) under U.S. Food and Drug Administration rules. Little research exists on the safety of higher doses for human consumption. Beyond this, the irradiation of vegetables remains impractical due to a number of other factors, including vegetables' delicate cell structure, the immense scale of U.S. vegetable consumption, vegetables' low profit margin and consumer distrust.

The second fact sheet explains the role of irradiation in destroying vitamins C, B1 and E in foods. Ionizing radiation reacts with water in food to create "free radicals" which degrade vitamins' structure and activity. While a number of factors mediate this process, Food & Water Watch notes that "vitamin loss almost always increases with increasing doses of radiation." Because this vitamin loss continues long after the time of irradiation — lasting throughout irradiated foods' extended shelf-life — the zapped veggies may commonly be consumed after considerable vitamin loss has taken place.

Despite the decline of the food irradiation industry, food safety advocates need to remain vigilant. Irradiation's boosters claim it makes foods safer by destroying disease-causing microorganisms using high doses of radiation. Thus, with each new food-related outbreak, most notably *E. coli* and *Salmonella*, there comes a renewed wave of interest in irradiation. Irradiation ads also promise to eradicate fruit flies and other pests which degrade harvested crops. So, in the contemporary

When 'Temporary' Means 200 Years

By Bonnie Urfer

Sixty years ago, the Army Corps of Engineers dumped radioactive and hazardous wastes near the towns of Lewiston and Porter, New York, northeast of Niagara Falls. Left from the Manhattan Project and discarded by the Corps' Manhattan Engineer District and the Atomic Energy Commission, the radwaste dump was originally billed as "temporary." Now the waste may remain for 200 years. Locals are fighting expansion of what has become a private dump adjacent to the radioactive waste.

During World War II, the Army took control of some 7,567 acres and built the Lake Ontario Ordnance Works which produced TNT. The Army then went on to dump tons of radioactive waste from around the country at the renamed Niagara Falls Storage Site. The federal government stored some of the radwaste in an open-topped concrete water tower and some was simply spilled onto the ground. After the war, half the property was sold to private enterprises, the water tower was demolished and the radioactive material was stored and capped in the basement of a WWII-era building. The site contains 25,000 cubic yards of radioactive residue, including radium, thorium and uranium, and an additional 235,000 cubic yards of less-radioactive material. Locals have been working to prevent expansion of the hazardous waste dump adjoining the radioactive site, owned by Chemical Waste Management, and point to elevated cancer rates to bolster their position. Meanwhile, the Army Corps is working on a feasibility study, due out in the fall of 2009, to address radioactive contamination at the site.

era of globalized food production and consumption, irradiation is promoted as a positive treatment for food exports which require long overseas voyages. In 2007, the U.S. imported irradiated mangoes from India and numerous irradiated fruits from Thailand. Despite local opposition, the Mexican company Phytosan plans to construct two irradiation facilities to treat tropical fruit for export to the U.S. Domestically, a Hawaiian facility owned by Hawaii Pride and parent company Titan irradiates papayas and other tropical fruits. Plans for a second irradiation facility in Oahu face delays due to local opposition and a legal challenge.

A number of steps may be taken against food irradiation. First, consumers should remember that irradiated foods are likely to be less nutritious than their counterparts and should avoid foods with the "radura" label. Organic food, by contrast, cannot be irradiated legally. Consumers can pressure local school districts, grocers and restaurants against serving irradiated foods. Rather than masking unsafe and low-quality production and transportation practices with irradiation, food producers should improve the flawed sanitation practices (such as the use of infected manure) that create contamination risks, and should likewise improve testing of irrigation and processing water. The FDA, USDA and the U.S. Congress can be urged to strengthen labeling laws** and to ban irradiated foods outright.

Ed Remus, a recent graduate of the University of Illinois, is a summer intern with Nukewatch.

* "Food Irradiation: A Gross Failure," online at, centerforfoodsafety.org/pubs/Food_Irradiation_Gross_Failure.pdf.

** See also: "Your Right to Know: FDA Poised to Weaken Labeling on Food Irradiation," at: centerforfoodsafety.org/pubs/Irradiation%20fact%20sheet.pdf.

To contact the Center for Food Safety or Food and Water Watch, see Resources on Page 3.

China Inspecting its Military Reactors in Shattered Quake Zone

China's main reactors and nuclear weapons production centers are in the devastated earthquake zone, all between 40 and 90 miles of the epicenter of the May 12 disaster. "It's potentially a serious issue," said Hans Kristensen of the Federation of American Scientists (FAS). At least 21 experts were sent to the site on May 18 to survey the damage.

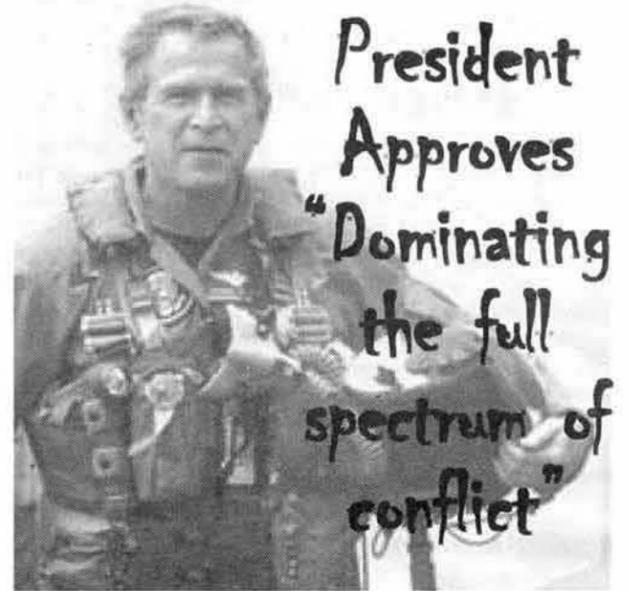
China's nuclear weapons production complex — Code-named "Plant 821" — is inside Sichuan Province, the region hit hardest by the quake that measured 8.0 on the Richter scale and killed an estimated 62,000 people. The plutonium production reactor at Plant 821 is an antiquated graphite-cooled system, according to the FAS, similar to the type that ran out of control and exploded at Chernobyl in 1986.

Closer to the quake's epicenter is the Mianyang complex (China's equivalent of the U.S.'s weapons lab at Los Alamos, New Mexico), which operates a research reactor and where the quake reportedly killed at least 7,000 people. Mianyang is an industrial city of 700,000 people on the edge of the quake zone.

China also runs a "prompt-burst" reactor at a remote site still closer to the quake's epicenter, and stores nuclear warheads in nearby tunnels. On May 16, experts at the French Institute for Radiological Protection and Nuclear Safety said, "It is not possible at this stage to exclude damage to these installations."

China has a research reactor, two nuclear fuel production sites and two atomic weapons sites in Sichuan province, the French agency said. The plutonium production reactor at Guanyuan, China's largest, is also in the quake zone.

"I'd rather have been in the reactor building than a grade school," on May 12 when the earthquake struck. — Jeffrey G. Lewis, from the safety of the rightwing New America Foundation, on the as-yet-unknown damage done to China's nuclear weapons complex which is inside the shattered earthquake zone.



George Bush, costumed like an Air Force fighter pilot, aboard the theatrically situated USS Abraham, May 31, 2003.

Space Command Taking on Galactic Titles, Tasks

U.S. Strategic Command in Omaha, Nebraska has expanded beyond its nuclear warfare mission and doubled its spending since 2001, and now dares to openly claim that world domination is one of its not-so-lofty goals.

As of 2001, StratCom was assigned the task of offensively waging the so-called "war on terror." The Omaha command now controls eight missions: nuclear weapons, cyber-warfare, missile defense, global command and control, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance at home and abroad, and global strikes from outer space. Homeland Security, the FBI and CIA are on site around the clock. Historically, StratCom has been assigned only the planning, preparing and waging of thermonuclear war.

Now StratCom is authorized to attack anywhere on Earth within one hour and controls hundreds of U.S. bases around the world. These bases employ the Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force using conventional and nuclear weapons, all without congressional approval as required by the U.S. Constitution and the War Powers Resolution. Up to 70 percent of the weapons used in the 2003 "shock and awe" bombardment of Iraq were controlled by StratCom.

StratCom is involved in a fantastically broad range of activities that stretch from illegal wiretaps to consulting national laboratories on a new generation of "first strike" nuclear weapons. StratCom has also been told by the Pentagon to prepare to eliminate weapons of mass destruction in other states.

In its "Vision For 2020," the U.S. Space Command boasted that it is "Domingating the space dimension of military operations to protect U.S. investment across the full spectrum of conflict."

StratCom takes a fair chunk of the Pentagon's half-trillion-dollar annual budget. Major corporate beneficiaries of this militarization include Boeing, Northrop-Grumman, General Dynamics, Raytheon, AlliantTech and Lockheed Martin. Up-and-coming technologies include: micro-satellites that stalk and destroy other satellites, the Evolutionary Air and Space Global Laser Engagement project that would position "mirrors" to direct beams from the ground or space, ground-based Kinetic Energy Anti-Satellite Weapons that use missiles, the Falcon system which is said to carry 12,000 pounds of payload a distance of 9,000 miles in less than two hours, and so-called Hypervelocity Rod Bundles — 20-foot-long, 1-foot-diameter tungsten poles to be hurled from low-Earth orbit at 25,000 miles per hour.

President Bush has approved a "National Space Policy" that rejects limits on U.S. military activities in space, in particular the 1967 Outer Space Treaty. China and Russia have drafted a treaty to ban space weapons. The United States, however, has refused to enter negotiations on any such treaty. Bush's appointee even cast the only vote against a recent UN resolution on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space.

Rhymes with Orange By Hillary Price



Nukewatch on Uranium Weapons, Before the Dutch Parliament's Committee on Defense

Editor's note: I had the honor of joining an expert panel that presented information on "depleted" uranium (DU) weapons on Feb. 14 to the Dutch Parliament's Standing Committee on Defense, in The Hague, Holland.

Beginning in March 2003, the Dutch had about 1,100 troops in southern Iraq (hit hard by U.S. DU in 1991). They were withdrawn in April 2005, but today about 2,000 Dutch "peacekeeping" soldiers are stationed — until July 2010 — in central Afghanistan.

Asked by Krista van Velzen, Socialist Party Member of Parliament, to speak about the U.S. military's use of DU, these are the slightly expanded remarks I submitted to the committee. ~ John LaForge

According to a June 1995 statement by the U.S. Army's Environmental Policy Institute, "Depleted uranium is a radioactive waste and, as such, should be deposited in a licensed repository." The U.S. has been shooting this radioactive waste, in the form of armor-piercing shells, at people around the world: At testing ranges in the U.S., South Korea and on Vieques, at populated areas in Iraq (380 tons in 1991, at least 170 tons in 2003), Afghanistan in 2001 (amounts unknown), Kosovo in 1999 (10 tons), and Bosnia in 1994-5 (5 tons).

Like earlier Pentagon denials about the hazards of Agent Orange, the defoliant widely used in Indochina, or above-ground bomb tests in Nevada, or workplace radiation hazards in H-bomb factories, the U.S. military claims publicly that uranium munitions are not known to cause health problems. Yet, some of the strongest evidence to the contrary comes from its own reports.

On August 16, 1993, the Army's Office of the Surgeon General issued its "Depleted Uranium (DU) Safety Training" manual. The document says the expected effects of DU exposure include possible increase of cancer (lung and bone) and kidney damage. It recommends that the Army "... convene a working group ... to identify countermeasures against DU exposure ..."

In 1979, the U.S. Army Mobility Equipment, Research & Development Command warned, "Not only the people in the immediate vicinity (emergency and fire fighting personnel) but also people at distances downwind from the fire are faced with potential over-exposure to airborne uranium dust."

In 1995, the U.S. Army Environmental Policy Institute reported, "The radiation dose to critical organs depends upon the amount of time that depleted uranium resides in the organs. When this value is known or estimated, cancer and hereditary risk estimates can be determined." Depleted uranium has the potential to generate "significant medical consequences" if it enters the body.

In 1993, the U.S. Army Surgeon General's Office said, "When soldiers inhale or ingest DU dust, they incur a potential increase in cancer risk. The magnitude of that increase can be quantified ... if the DU intake is known

... Expected physiological effects from exposure to DU dust include possible increased risk of cancer (lung or bone) and kidney damage."

The Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute found that, "In animal studies, embedded DU, unlike most metals, dissolves and spreads throughout the body depositing in organs like the spleen and the brain, and a pregnant female rat will pass DU along to a developing fetus."

In 1990, the Army's Armaments, Munitions and Chemical Command radiological task group has said that depleted uranium is a "low level alpha radiation emitter ... linked to cancer when exposures are internal, [and] chemical toxicity causing kidney damage." The report said that "long term effects of low doses [of DU] have been implicated in cancer ... there is no dose so low that the probability of effect is zero."

The military has a long history of deliberately exposing U.S. citizens to dangerous radiation without their knowledge or consent, beginning with the open-air bomb tests that the Pentagon knew would contaminate vast areas. The Atomic Energy Commission considered warning or even evacuating populations they knew would be hit hard by radioactive fallout, but chose to do neither.

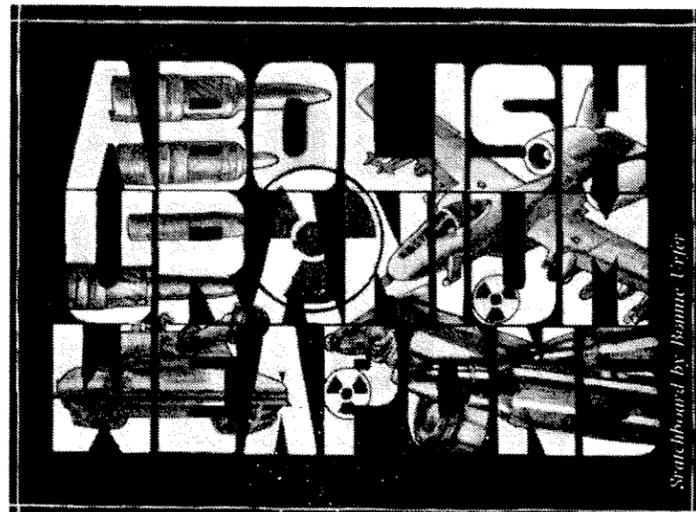
These bomb tests exposed Nevada Test Site workers to levels of radiation that the Atomic Energy Commission knew could cause harm. Government records show that the AEC chose not to reduce workers' exposures or to even inform them because doing so would have halted the bomb testing program.

The U.S. government, even after learning of the dangers, refused to inform 600,000 H-bomb-factory workers that their radiation exposures posed serious health risks. Atomic Energy Commission records show that although enough was known in 1948 about radiation to warn the workers, the AEC chose not to do so.

Thousands of unethical human radiation experiments were conducted on thousands of unwitting U.S. citizens between 1944 and 1974, and were covered up for decades. Plutonium was injected into hapless prison inmates and hospital patients including pregnant women, radioactive oatmeal was fed to orphaned children, and over 250,000 soldiers were marched toward ground zero immediately after bomb test detonations.

That the Pentagon has now exposed civilians in foreign countries to radiation exposures it knew could cause cancer, leukemia, lymphoma and other deadly diseases, should cause no surprise to informed citizens.

Just last October, the Associated Press reported that in 1948 the U.S. Army studied the use of "radioactive materials from atomic bomb-making to contaminate swaths of enemy land or to target military bases, factories or troop formations." The Army reported in 1945 that "radioactive fission products



from a uranium fueled reactor could be extracted and used 'like a particularly vicious form of poison gas.'"

These days, since the U.S. has actually used "radioactive materials from atomic bomb-making to contaminate swaths of enemy land" — namely uranium munitions by the ton — the military is quick to say that any contamination of soil and water in Kosovo, Bosnia, Afghanistan or Iraq is "incidental" and unrelated to cancers and other health problems experienced by exposed civilians, peace-keeping troops and combat forces.

Even when "radioactive fission products from a uranium fueled reactor" were "extracted and used like a particularly vicious form of poison gas," Pentagon and NATO officials have dismissed the public uproar. In 2001, when plutonium, neptunium and americium — isotopes created only inside reactors — were found in contaminated areas of Kosovo hit by uranium shells, "U.S. officials said the shells contained mere traces of plutonium, not enough to cause harm." NATO representatives said likewise, "Traces of plutonium were not relevant to soldiers' health because of their minute quantities."

Any NATO or Pentagon official who can blandly trivialize the health impact of plutonium exposure should be invited — by parliaments and veterans the world over — to voluntarily ingest a few "mere traces." Their answer to the invitation would be more informative than their lullabies.

Finally, the militaries that both use uranium weaponry and make official denials about its harmfulness have a state interest in avoiding financial liability, and a personal interest in dodging legal liability in the International Criminal Court. It is no wonder the Pentagon and U.S. Department of State object so strenuously to the mere idea of the ICC's universal jurisdiction. They are scared because the law of armed conflict applies to international hostilities regardless of whether a declared "war" exists, and because, under the Hague and Geneva Conventions, "It is especially forbidden to employ poison or poisoned weapons."

— For a footnoted version of this testimony, contact Nukewatch, nukewatch@lakeland.ws

13 Million Pounds of "Unimportant" DU Waste Sent from Kuwait to U.S.

After taking a worried call from members of a Longshoreman's Union about radioactive cargo coming into port, the Washington state *Daily News Online's* Eric Olson reports in a series of articles that 6,700 tons (13.4 million pounds) of uranium-contaminated sand has been shipped from a U.S. military base in Kuwait to a private landfill in Idaho.

The Kuwaiti sand was contaminated with so-called "depleted" uranium, or DU, when an ammunition truck caught fire at the U.S. Army's Camp Doha — a warehouse complex north of Kuwait City — during the 1991 U.S. war in the Persian Gulf.

The Army says it placed the contaminated sand into 306 special bags that were then put in containers. The German cargo ship *BBC Alabama*, flagged in Barbuda, then carried the rad waste to the Port of Longview, north of Portland, Oregon on the Columbia River in Washington state, under a contract reportedly paid for by the Kuwaiti government.

The Longview Longshoremen's Union that had alerted *The Daily News* off-loaded the canisters, which were then sent by rail to American Ecology Corp.'s Grand View, Idaho dump located in the Owyhee desert, 70 miles southeast of Boise. The transport required two separate 76-car railroad shipments which were to be completed by May 22.

American Ecology, headquartered in Boise, operates the Grand View dump and three others — in Beatty, Nevada, Robstown, Texas and Hanford, Washington. AE's Grand View Project manager Chad Hyslop claimed the rail shipment was safe because the concentration of uranium in the sand is so low, "about 10 parts per trillion." In an interview with *The Daily News* on April 15, Hyslop said, without citing particular documentation, "We're talking about levels that you see in nature."

The sand contains "unimportant quantities of source material," according to a Sept. 13 letter from the NRC to the U.S. Army that *The Daily News's* Eric Olson obtained from the port. "Source material" is the NRC's euphemism for cancer-causing radioactive wastes.

Yet if the sand's uranium concentration was actually "low," "unimportant" and at levels one sees "in nature," Kuwait would have no reason to ship 13 million pounds a total of 7,239 miles to a U.S. landfill.

Mike Wilcox, vice president of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union Local 21, told *The Daily News's* Olson he was concerned about the safety of longshoremen and the entire community.

"You hear 'depleted uranium,' and I don't know what it is, but it's dangerous," Wilcox told *The Daily News*.

The U.S. and Britain used hundreds of tons of uranium-238 in armor-piercing ammunition fired from battle tanks, helicopter gunships and warplanes. The ammunition was shot into Iraq, Kuwait, Bosnia, Kosovo and most likely Afghanistan during U.S. and NATO bombardments. The United Nations Environment Program has recommended that DU-contaminated topsoil in Kosovo be removed because of the threat the uranium poses to civilians and the food chain.

European Parliament Strengthens Call For DU Moratorium

An overwhelming majority of the European Parliament has called for a moratorium on the use of DU weapons, and for increased pressure for more research on the munitions' effects — leading ultimately to a treaty banning the munitions.

The EP's May 22 resolution, "strongly reiterates its call on all [27] EU Member States and [26] NATO countries to impose a moratorium on the use of depleted uranium weapons and to redouble efforts towards a global ban." It was the fifth and strongest yet in a series of anti-DU resolutions by the Parliament and was approved with 491 votes in favor, 18 against and 12 abstentions.

The joint resolution adopted by Parliament "urges the Member States to adhere to paragraph 1 of the UN resolution adopted on 5 December 2007 and to submit a

report with their views on the effects of the use of armaments and ammunition containing depleted uranium."

The resolution's Section Eight, "Calls on the Member States and the Council to take the lead in working — through the UN or through a 'coalition of the willing' — towards an international treaty establishing a ban on the development, production, stockpiling, transfer, testing and use of uranium weapons as well as the destruction or recycling of existing stocks, should there be conclusive scientific evidence of harm caused by such weapons."

The relentless anti-DU campaigner Ria Verjauw from Belgium, a board member with the International Coalition to Ban Uranium Weapons, wrote on May 23, "This is a very good lobbying document, especially now that the EP urges member states to submit a report on the harmfulness of DU weapons."

The U.S. Knew About Consequences of Depleted Uranium — British expert

"The United States had information about the dangers of depleted uranium a whole year before the air strike campaign against then Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in 1999," according to British scientist Keith Baverstock in an interview with the Frankfurt-based Serbian language daily *Vesti*. Baverstock is the former director of the World Health Organization's European Office of the Radiological Protection Service, and was a participant in the February 14 expert panel on depleted uranium in the Hague.

"We started to see that depleted uranium is not only toxic — that is, bad for kidneys, bones, liver and the lymph system — but also becomes genotoxic when it enters the body, which always leads to cancer," Baverstock told *Vesti*.

He explained that one does not know which elements in the DU cause genotoxicity, and that U.S. military forces and its own Institute for Radiological Research obtained this information after the U.S. hit its own troops with DU anti-tank shells by mistake in its bombardment of Iraq in 1991. — JL

NUCLEAR SHORTS

Rollover Throws Drums of Rad Material from Truck

AMMA, West Virginia — On the morning of Feb. 20, 2008, a truck's rollover accident saw two 60-gallon drums containing highly radioactive cesium-137 and cobalt-60 tossed onto Interstate 79 in Roane County, West Virginia. The driver and his sole passenger were working for the National Security Technologies of Nevada, and were contracted by the Department of Energy (DOE) to haul the material from an anti-terrorism training facility in West Virginia to Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland. According to the DOE, the material in the barrels was used for DOE radiation detection exercises at the Center for National Response, operated by the National Guard and Pentagon. No serious injuries were reportedly caused by the rollover and, according to a National Security Technologies spokesperson, tests found no indication of leakage.

— *Charleston Daily Mail*, Feb. 21 & March 5, 2008

France Cozying Up to the Algeria it Bombed

VIENNA — Eleven years ago, the International Atomic Energy Agency called on all nuclear armed States to accept responsibility for radioactive contamination left from their Bomb tests. France conducted 17 tests in French-occupied Algeria in the 1960s, four above ground, the rest below. At least four of those experiments released radioactive gases and, afterwards, locals fell ill. Elevated radiation levels still persist at three test sites where fission products mixed with molten rock. A new study of contamination and health consequences may be conducted and France may contribute to clean up costs "if necessary." France planted millions of landmines during its occupation of Algeria and, in another recent attempt to improve relations between the two nations, finally handed over maps of their locations.

— *Reuters*, February 28; *Earth Island Journal*, December 3, 2007; IAEA, Vienna, 2005

Nuclear Workers Killed at Pakistani Reactor

PAKISTAN — The explosion of a cylinder of poisonous hydrogen sulphide gas started a fire at the military's Khushab plutonium production reactor southeast of Islamabad. "After the blast, the building caught fire," the local police chief told the AP. "Two men sustained burns and died on the way to a hospital," he said. After the fire, a nearby town and hundreds of other workers were evacuated from within a radius of 16 kilometers. The site contains three reactors and is suspected of producing plutonium for Pakistan's nuclear weapons arsenal. — *Associated Press*, BBC, *PakistaniDefense.com*, & *ExpressIndia.com*, April 8, 2008

Tracking Wasted Animals

HANFORD, Washington — Animals in and around the 560 square-mile Hanford nuclear weapons production site in southeastern Washington have been attracted to the radioactive salts that remain after decades of nuclear waste reprocessing. The reprocessing saw extremely radioactive liquids disposed of in underground tanks or surface trenches — over 50 million gallons during the Cold War. Animals crisscrossing the area eat contaminated plants and drink contaminated water. Larger animals eat smaller ones and those large animals excrete literally radioactive waste across the great expanse of the state's southeastern desert. Some cleanup proposals for the Hanford site estimate that 237,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil need to be dug up, diluted 3 parts-to-1 with clean soil and stored in a landfill somewhere off site. — *Tri City Herald & Seattle Times*, March 28, 2008

Worker Contaminated at Sabia, Inc.

IDAHO FALLS, Idaho — An employee of Sabia, Inc, a private company under license by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, inhaled an unknown amount of strontium-90 while extracting the material from a gauge. The affected worker sought medical help and was released from the hospital a week later. No other workers were contaminated, Sabia reported. The company prepares the gauges for "proper" dumping. Emergency management officials said that Sabia has closed and secured the building and has been assessing the best method of re-entering it in order to conduct a cleanup. — *Idaho Press-Tribune & AP*, March 2, 2008

Uranium Processor Pleads Guilty to Killing Birds

DENVER, Colorado — On March 12, representatives of Cotter Corporation's uranium processing facility near Canon City pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court for its role in the poisoning death of some 40 geese and ducks. On October 21, 2005, some 4,500 gallons of organic solvent the company uses to extract uranium and vanadium from leached uranium ore, were spilled into a containment pond where the migratory birds stopped over and were killed. Cotter Corp. was sentenced under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to the maximum fine of \$15,000, told to "make additional restitution of \$15,000" (to the birds' families?) and to implement an environmental compliance plan designed to prevent future spills or to clean them up if accidents occur. — *PRNewswire*, *Denver Post*, March 12, 2008

Sarkozy Calls French Nuclear Arsenal "Life Insurance"

PARIS — Toward the end of March 2008, President Nicolas Sarkozy announced that France would be reducing the size of its nuclear arsenal to half the total number of warheads

reached during the Cold War. The cuts would reduce airborne nuclear weapons by a third, leaving the majority of French H-bombs onboard submarines. Sarkozy promised that France would not be "defenseless," stating that its nuclear deterrent was also its "life-insurance policy" against various nuclear threats in Asia and the Middle East. The irony of his warhead reduction pledge could not be missed as it was delivered at the inauguration of a new nuclear-armed submarine aptly named *Le Terrible*. — *BBC News & The International Herald Tribune*, March 21, 2008

Bush: Nukes Good for Bulgaria, Bad for Iran

SOFIA, Bulgaria — In an effort to expand U.S. influence in Eastern Europe, the Bush Administration has gained the support of the Bulgarian Cabinet to fund an experimental nuclear reactor to be built near the Pentagon's three bases already inside the country. While the White House threatens Iran because of its pursuit of nuclear power, the Bush Administration wants to extend financial and technical assistance worth \$5.5 million to the Bulgarian Academy of Science for the same. As part of the agreement, the Department of Energy will help the academy export its nuclear waste to Russia and provide funds for a safety system covering the reactor and its waste storage site.

— *Xinhua & Sofia Novinite*, March 12, 2008

Court Orders Cleanup of Military Rad Waste Dumps

TWIN FALLS, Idaho — A three-judge panel of the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a lower court decision ordering the DOE to clean up buried nuclear waste at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory (INEL). The ruling found against the DOE which claimed it was obliged to dispose of only "transuranic" waste stored in barrels above ground since 1970. The courts ruled that the DOE is responsible for disposal of all the waste at the site, including some put into cardboard boxes and drums and dumped into unlined pits and trenches between 1954 and 1970. About 60,000 cubic meters of this buried waste originated at the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons factory near Denver, Colorado and were shipped to INEL during the 1950s and 1960s. The estimated cost of the INEL cleanup, to be finished by 2018, ranges enormously from \$57 million to \$13.5 billion. — *Idaho Falls Post Register*, May 21; *Times-News Magic Valley*, March 25, 2008; the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

50,000 Tons of Radwaste Threaten Missouri River Basin

BRIDGETON, Missouri — The West Lake Landfill, closed in 1995 and located one mile from the Earth City levee in St. Louis, Missouri, contains as much as 50,000 tons of radioactive waste which was illegally dumped in 1973. The waste resulted from uranium ore processing at the Mallinckrodt Chemical Works. The dump sits in the flood plain and would contaminate the Missouri River with uranium, thorium, radium and polonium-210, should the levee fail. The river provides drinking water for about 20 percent of St. Louis' population and the water intake is just 8 miles downstream from the poisonous trash. According to the Missouri Coalition for the Environment, radiation migrated off-site after erosion exposed the radioactive products. Isotopes have shown up in groundwater samples. The site falls under the Environmental Protection Agency's beleaguered Superfund program which has increasingly undergone budget cuts. As a result, nothing has been done to remove the deadly radioactive waste. The EPA has suggested spending \$22 million to dump rubble, clay and stones on top of the waste, rather than a minimum of \$75 million to remove it. Meanwhile, the levee ages. — *The St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, March 27 & 28; KSDK TV, May 27, 2008; *The St. Louis Journalism Review*, Feb. 1, 2007; Missouri Coalition for the Environment

Unwarned Federal Lab. Workers Deliberately Exposed

LIVERMORE, Calif. — Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) exposed 178 of its workers to dangerous levels of beryllium between 2002 and 2006 without their knowledge. Beryllium, a hazardous non-radioactive metal used in nuclear weapons, can cause fatal lung disease. In Feb. 2007, tests showed high beryllium levels in machine shop than previous studies revealed. The high levels were reconfirmed in July '07, but the shop's contractor was not notified until January 2008 — six months after the fact and a year since high levels were first recorded. "We absolutely could have and should have informed the employees about this sooner," Lab Spokeswoman Susan Houghton confessed to the press. The LLNL has arranged for all current and former contract workers to receive blood tests to establish exposure levels. The lab has known of the beryllium danger for years, because radiation monitors, in storage, registered elevated beryllium as early as 2005. — *The Daily Californian*, Feb. 12; *Contra Costa Times*, Feb. 2, 2008; GAO report, 01-476R, 2001

"Hot" Milk With Your Tea?

CUMBRIA, England — Elevated concentrations of radioactive iodine-129 have been detected in cow's milk from farms in the vicinity of the UK's Sellafield nuclear complex in Cumbria, according to the site's own analyses. British officials also report that the thyroid-seeking iodine-129 has entered the food chain. The Environmental Agency issued assurances that there has

been no health risk from the radioactive iodine, yet it claims to be mystified about how radioiodine got into the milk supply. Iodine-129 is a byproduct of Sellafield's reprocessing of nuclear fuel. Its THORP reprocessing facility was shut down in 2005 following the discovery of a 20 metric ton leak of plutonium, uranium and nitric acid (that continued undetected for eight months). THORP was recently allowed to resume operations, even without certain safety certificates for crucial equipment. "There is no obvious explanation for the increase," the Environment Agency's Andrew Mayall said, laughably. THORP claims not to know how the iodine-129 reached a local farm because, its officials are quick to point out, waste iodine-129 is normally dumped in the Irish sea. — *The Whitehaven News & The Farmer's Weekly Interactive*, April 16, 2008

Reactors Dumped in Russia's Kara Sea

MOSCOW — An emergency team of 85 scientists has been rushed to the Kara Sea in northwest Russia to assess the situation at what is reported to be an "underwater facility." Russian newspapers report that 138 air, ground and under-sea nuclear weapons tests were detonated in the area which has since become a radwaste dumpsite, and that 13 propulsion reactors removed from Soviet submarines were dumped there as well. With their radiation endangering Norway and Russia, some of the reactors cannot even be located. Researchers have found what they called "minor" excesses of radiation on the sea floor. The presence of up to 3.5 trillion cubic meters of natural gas has drawn the attention of prospectors to the area. — *RIA Novosti*, April 11; *Barents Observer*, April 4, 2008

Worker Radiation Exposures Hidden, Understated

OAK RIDGE, Tennessee — So much radioactive waste has been buried at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory that the DOE is actually contemplating "mining" 41 million pounds of buried uranium waste. This nuclear weapons fabrication complex is a quagmire of radioactive contamination and workers continue to be recklessly exposed. On January 16, six employees of a waste-processing facility run by DOE contractor EnergySolutions were contaminated with uranium-232, U-233 and thorium-229. The accident, which the company blamed on incorrect labeling, occurred when workers opened a package of powdery uranium (labeled as "discs") delivered from Ohio. The shipper, US Enrichment Corp. in Ohio, claimed on Feb. 3 that only three workers were exposed and announced that "there was some exposure to the workers, who have turned out to be OK." Mike Johnson, president of EnergySolutions' commercial facilities group admitted on Feb. 13 that, "We tested a total of six." One worker received internal alpha contamination, with an estimated radiation dose of 2.8 rems, more than half the annual limit for nuclear workers, Johnson said. In a Jan. 17 letter, the chairman of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board said problems with the facility's safety documents identified two years ago have not been fully corrected and "may lead to improper classification of safety systems and less than adequate protection of the public and workers." — *Knoxnews.com*, April 28, Feb. 13, 15 & Jan. 31; *Pike County News Watchman*, Feb. 3; & Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, March 28, 2008

Cameco Warns of Lake Ontario Contamination

OTTAWA, Canada — Cameco, the world's largest uranium mining company, has warned that Lake Ontario may now be contaminated with uranium, arsenic and fluorides from its Port Hope refinery if their computer modeling is correct. The site has been closed since July in order to remove contaminated soil under the structure that has leaked into an adjacent harbor that links directly to Lake Ontario. The refinery is in the center of town, in the flood plain on the lakefront and has poisoned residential groundwater. It has gone through several cleanups since it opened in the 1930s. The current cleanup effort has cost \$18 million and is not yet completed. Cameco expects to reopen after cleanup even if the site has contaminated Lake Ontario. — *International Herald Tribune*, May 22; CTV.ca (Canada), May 21, 2008

RESOURCES

- * Alliance for Nuclear Accountability, 322 4th Street NE, Washington, DC 20002; (202) 544-0217; Web: anuclear.org
- * Beyond Nuclear, 6930 Carroll Ave., Suite 400, Takoma Park, MD 20912; (301) 270-2209; Email: info@beyondnuclear.org; Web: beyondnuclear.org
- * Center for Food Safety, 660 Pennsylvania Ave., SE, Suite 302, Washington, DC 20003; Web: centerforfoodsafety.org; (202) 547-9359
- * Food and Water Watch, 1616 P St. NW, #300, Washington, DC 20036; (202) 683-2500; Web: foodandwaterwatch.org 08739
- * Institute for Energy & Environmental Research, 6935 Laurel Ave., # 201, Takoma Park, MD 20912; (301) 270-5500; Email: ieer@ieer.org; Web: www.ieer.org
- * Grandmothers Mothers & More For Energy Safety, P.O. Box 923, Normandy Beach, NJ 08739
- * Missouri Coalition for the Environment, 6267 Delmar Blvd. Ste. 2E, St. Louis, MO 63130; (314) 727-0600; Email: moenviro@moeenviro.org; Web: <http://www.moeenviro.org/>
- * Nebraskans for Peace StratCom Watch Committee, P.O. Box 6418, Omaha, NE 68106; Web: nebraskansforpeace.org; (402) 475-4620; Email: nfpstate@nebraskansforpeace.org
- * Nevada Desert Experience, 1420 W. Bartlett Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89106; Email: info@nevadadesertexperience.org; (702) 646-4814; Web: www.nevadadesertexperience.org
- * Nuclear Information & Resource Service, 6930 Carroll Ave., # 340, Takoma Park, MD 20912; (301) 270-6477; Email: nirsnet@nirs.org; Web: nirs.org

New Reactors, Same Old Risks

Making You Pay for the Next Chernobyl — in Advance

By Harvey Wasserman

Are you ready to pay for tomorrow's Chernobyls in advance? Are you willing to have nuclear power prevent a solution to the climate crisis?

Twenty-two years ago on April 26, an apocalyptic cloud rose up from Chernobyl's Unit 4, in the heart of Ukraine. For the next few hundred generations, you and your progeny will breathe its radioactive fallout, which was thousands of times worse than that released at Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Conservative estimates of Chernobyl's financial costs are in the \$500 billion range. In downwind regions, festering with cancer and radiation-related birth abnormalities, the ultimate death toll is impossible to estimate.

Another Chernobyl could be happening as you read this. And you are already on line to pay for it.

The so-called "reactor renaissance" is built on high-priced lies and public liability.

Not one of the 104 U.S. reactors now licensed to operate, and not one of the new ones being hyped, can get insurance from private sources against another Chernobyl.

For a half-century — since passage of the 1957 Price-Anderson Act — your tax dollars have protected the reactor owners. Now the industry wants us on the hook for another century or so.

Check out your homeowners' insurance policy for its specific exclusions against liability for reactor-related radiation.

With an old reactor or new, a Chernobyl here will bankrupt the government — and you.

The first 9/11/2001 jet that flew into the World Trade Center passed, a minute prior, directly over the Indian Point reactor site. Had the terrorists targeted those reactors — one dormant and two active — plus the three pools full of

Three Mile Island at 29: Reactors and Infant Health

By John LaForge

March 28th marked 29 years since the partial meltdown and radiation disaster at Three Mile Island (TMI) near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. News reports at the time noted the reactor's loss of coolant, melting fuel, multiple explosions, venting of radioactive gases, dumping of contaminated water and buildup of explosive hydrogen inside the core. The accident caused such a nationwide scare that the expansion of nuclear power ended in the United States.

Yet the environmental and health consequences of the TMI disaster aren't widely recognized and are regularly minimized. Official cover-ups, industry propaganda, and ignorance of radiation-induced illnesses have led to present-day trivialization of the accident and the proposed revival of new reactor construction. Any such revival is totally dependent on billions of dollars in federal subsidies (\$18 billion in a recent energy bill; see page five), because, as *Forbes* magazine blazoned across its Feb. 11, 1985 cover: "The failure of the U.S. nuclear power program ranks as the largest managerial disaster in business history, a disaster on a monumental scale."

The nuclear industry's attempt to raise nuclear power from the dead involves denying the damage resulting from TMI itself and flies in the face of 25 years of science regarding the effects of exposure to low-dose radiation. Indeed, one Wisconsin state legislator said on the record last December, "Three Mile Island was a success of containment."

Things weren't much different in 1979. President Jimmy Carter's Kemeny Commission hurriedly finished its report on the disaster, issuing it in October 1979. The commission neglected to consider any data on the effects of wind-borne radiation, although the wind blew 6-to-9 mph for days toward upstate New York and western Pennsylvania.

Over 10 million curies of radioactive noble gases, including 43,000 curies of krypton-85 — which stays in the environment for 100 years — as well as 15 to 24 curies of radioactive iodine-131, were vented from the "containment" building. (A curie — 37 billion disintegrations per second — is a huge amount of radiation.) As the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) later noted, several "deliberate but uncontrolled releases" were used to vent radioactive gas. Official airborne release estimates are just guesses because of the insufficient number of faulty outside radiation monitors — half weren't working, and a large number went off-scale.

On the third day of venting these gases, half the population within 15 miles — 144,000 people — fled the area. By this time the bulk of the accident's airborne radiation was already spewed and drifting on the wind.

In addition, approximately 400,000 gallons of radioactive cooling water that leaked from the reactor were secretly dumped into the Susquehanna River, a source of drinking water for nearby communities. About 2.3 million gallons of radioactively contaminated cooling water were later allowed to be "evaporated" into the atmosphere.

In 1980, Pennsylvania State Health Department authorities reported a sharp rise in hypothyroidism in newborn infants in the three counties downwind from the reactor. Late in 1979, four times as many infants as normal were born with the disease. The NRC said the increase was unrelated to radiation released by TMI. Upwind incidence of the disease had dropped to below the national average.

high-level waste fuel rods, the loss of life and property would have been beyond comprehension.

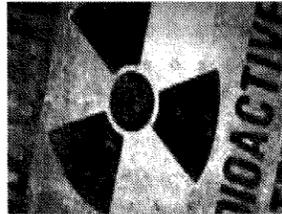
Billions of dollars in private money now pour into renewable technologies like wind and solar, which are the real solution to the climate crisis. Every dollar invested in increased efficiency saves seven times the energy a dollar invested in nukes can produce [according to Amory Lovins of the Rocky Mountain Institute].

Last fall a grassroots movement stopped an attempt to grab \$50 billion in federal loan guarantees (see nukefree.org). Now nuke-pushers want to load the Lieberman-Warner "Global Warming" Bill with still more taxpayer-funded subsidies.

But from the start of the fuel cycle to reactor decommissioning and waste management, nuclear power technology is a serious greenhouse gas emitter. The final "bootprint" is unclear because there's no actual solution to the waste problem, and no firm price for final reactor decommissioning.

A French "new generation" project in Finland is already two years and \$2 billion over budget. French reactors are gargantuan tax pits, Europe's most notorious radioactive polluters and ecological and public health nightmares.

In Florida, ratepayers may be gouged for up to \$24 billion for two new reactors that would destroy the Everglades, and billions more still for two more north of Tampa. The utilities involved don't know what kind of reactors they want to build and can't guarantee either when they would come on line or what they'll ultimately cost.



The same year, six workers entered the heavily contaminated reactor building. Five of the six later died of radiation-induced cancers. David Lochbaum of the Union of Concerned Scientists reports that UCS opposed license renewal for the surviving TMI units and demanded health studies for neighbors. The NRC refused.

In the county where TMI is located, infant deaths soared 53.7 percent in the first month after the accident, and 27 percent in the first year. As originally published, the federal government's own Monthly Vital Statistics Report shows a statistically significant rise in infant and overall mortality rates shortly after the accident.

Studying 10 counties closest to TMI, Jay M. Gould, in his meticulously documented 1990 book *Deadly Deceit*, found that childhood cancers, other infant diseases, and deaths from birth defects were 15 to 35 percent higher than before the accident, and those from breast cancer 7 percent higher. These increases far exceeded those elsewhere in Pennsylvania.

Gould suggests that between 50,000 and 100,000 excess deaths occurred after the TMI accident. Joseph Mangano of the New York-based Radiation and Public Health Project (RPHP) says, "The NRC allows reactors to emit a certain level of radiation, but it does not do follow-up studies to see if there are excessive infant deaths, birth defects or cancers."

Leukemia deaths among kids younger than 10 (between 1980 and 1984) jumped almost 50 percent compared to the national rate. Mangano reports that "between 1980 and 1984, death rates in the three nearest counties were considerably higher than the period 1970 - 74 (before the reactor opened) for leukemia, female breast, thyroid and bone and joint cancers."

In the Spring 2000 edition of *Environmental Epidemiology and Toxicology*, Mangano and Ernest Sternglass reported that in counties adjacent to nuclear reactors, infant mortality falls dramatically after the reactors close. The RPHP study found that in the first two years after the reactors were shutdown, infant death rates fell 15 to 20 percent. In communities near Big Rock Point in Michigan, for example, the decrease in infant mortality rates was 54 percent, and at Maine Yankee the percentage decrease was 33.4 percent, after their reactors were closed.

The evidence of cancers caused by reactor operations brings to mind the words of Roger Mattson, former Director of the NRC Division of Systems Safety, who said during the TMI meltdown, "I'm not sure why you are not moving people. I don't know what we are protecting at this point."

— A footnoted version of this article is available from [Nukewatch <nukewatch@lakeland.ws>](mailto:Nukewatch@lakeland.ws)

Another Leak at Braidwood, Illinois

BRACEVILLE — At the Exelon owned Braidwood reactor, 70 miles southwest of Chicago, a tritium leak was discovered when an employee noticed the soil surface was wet and found water bubbling up from a 4-inch pipe buried 8 feet in the ground. The leak of tritiated water is only the latest in a long series of leaks associated with the Braidwood reactor. The incident was reported to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Illinois E.P.A. and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency in what company spokesman Paul Dempsey called a "courtesy." NRC public relations officer Viktoria Mitlyng said the cause of the leak had not even been determined but that workers were excavating and investigating the area. — *The Herald News & The Chicago Sun-Times*, Feb. 13, 2008

All that money should be going to renewables, which can solve global warming *now*, rather than at some alleged, inscrutable, incalculable time in the future. Wind, solar, tidal, wave, geothermal and a host of green "Solartopian" technologies are attracting huge quantities of private investment. Based on the natural bounty of Mother Earth, they promise tangible, immediate economic and employment opportunity, not radioactive catastrophe and endless waste problems.

Chernobyl proved that atomic energy's most significant ability — by terror or error — is to spread radiation over large parts of the Earth. While blocking the real solutions to climate chaos, nuclear power can bankrupt entire nations in a single moment. They can inflict birth defects and cancer on millions of humans with a single cloud.

Twenty-two years after, it's time to ask the ultimate question about the last reactor catastrophe: In money, body and soul, do you really want to pay for new ones?

Harvey Wasserman, a co-founder of *Musicians United for Safe Energy*, edits nukefree.org and is the author of *Solartopia! Our Green-Powered Earth, A.D. 2030*, at www.solartopia.org.

Counterfeit Safety

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has officially warned nuclear utilities about counterfeit equipment being sold to reactor operators, after inspectors uncovered fake parts. In one instance, the Hatch reactor near Baxley, Georgia installed a counterfeit valve on a cooling water skid, and in the other instance three different reactors had circuit breakers that would fail to trip if overloaded. The NRC took the opportunity to remind all U.S. reactor operators — and possible future operators — of their responsibilities to prevent such fraud.

— *World Nuclear News*, April 8, 2008, & Nuclear Information and Resource Service

Pre\$idential Nuclear Politics

With three major hopefuls now vying for the Presidency, we checked in on their nuclear energy views hoping for some fresh insight. Unfortunately, the "Republicanrats" are as stale and myopic as ever when it comes to a sustainable future.

Last month, Republican Senator John McCain cited France as a nuclear utopia, where 80 percent of the nation's electricity comes from nuclear power. Critics quickly lampooned McCain for the thoughtless quip, since for the U.S. to generate 80 percent of its electricity from reactors would require the building of over 700 new nukes.

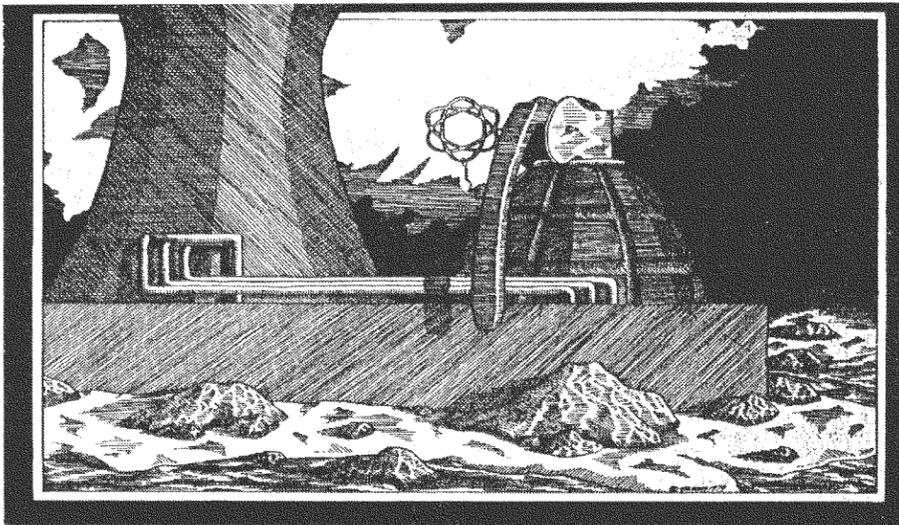
Illinois Senator Barack Obama has made no secret of his romance with nuclear power. In September 2006, he introduced a watered-down, industry-endorsed bill that would free utilities from the burden of immediate public notification in the event of radioactive leaks. Also, the bill made clear that state and local authorities would have no regulatory oversight of nuclear power reactors. To date, executives and employees of Illinois-based Exelon Corp., the nation's largest producer of nuclear energy, have donated more than \$225,000 to Obama's campaign.

Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton has said that she is "agnostic" about nuclear power but her campaign donations tell a different story. NRG Energy has given Clinton nearly \$80,000 in campaign contributions and the company's president and CEO, David Crane, is a "Hillraiser" — a Clinton backer who has raised at least \$100,000. NRG Energy has also given \$175 million to the Clinton Global Initiative run by former President Bill Clinton. Unless a third party nuclear skeptic like the Green Party's Rep. Cynthia McKinney of Georgia can be elected, the country is wired into another four years of spills, leaks, shutdowns, contamination and cover-ups.

— Center for Responsive Politics via Campaign Action Fund, *New York Times*, Nov. 28, 2007, Progressive Media USA Research, April 23, 2008

Secret Safety Study Slammed

LACEY, New Jersey — Oyster Creek, the nation's oldest nuclear reactor, is seeking a 20-year license extension, but prior to approval, further analysis of its corroded drywell has been ordered by the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board. The drywell is a critical steel barrier surrounding the reactor which is designed to contain radiation during an accident. Suspiciously, Oyster Creek officials and federal regulators do not intend to make public the details of the analysis. Opponents of the relicensing have petitioned the NRC to make the whole report public instead of a mere summary. Oyster Creek spokeswoman Beth Rapczynski said, "we will be confident of those results," which shouldn't be released, she said, because they will be "proprietary." A member of the citizens' group Grandmothers, Mothers and More for Energy Safety told the press, "The [reactor operations] impact not only the safety of my family, but of everyone living in the death zone of this reactor, and for that reason the data cannot be kept secret." — *The Star Ledger*, & *The Asbury Park Press*, April 7, 2008



From the archives of Northern Sun News with thanks to Sharon Collins

Reasonable Doubt:

Should Women and Children be Evacuated?

Ian Fairlie

Among the many environmental concerns surrounding nuclear power reactors, there is one that provokes public anxiety like no other: the fear that children living near nuclear facilities face an increased risk of cancer. Though a link has long been suspected, it has never been proven. Now that seems likely to change.

Studies in the 1980s revealed increased incidences of childhood leukemia near nuclear installations at Windscale (now Sellafield), Burghfield and Dounreay in the UK. Later studies near German nuclear facilities found a similar effect. The official response was that the radiation doses from the nearby plants were too low to explain the increased leukemia. The Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment, which is responsible for advising the UK government, finally concluded that the explanation remained unknown but was not likely to be radiation.

There the issue rested, until a recent flurry of epidemiological studies appeared. Last year, researchers at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston carried out a meta-analysis of 17 research papers covering 136 nuclear sites in the UK, Canada, France, the U.S., Germany, Japan and Spain. The incidence of leukemia in children under 9 living close to the sites showed an increase of 14 to 21 percent, while death rates from the disease were raised by 5 to 24 percent, depending on the children's proximity to the nuclear facilities (*European Journal of Cancer Care*).

Skyrocketing Reactor Construction Costs Embarrass Utilities, Estimates Being Kept Secret

By John LaForge

According to a new report or "index" from Cambridge Energy Research Associates, Inc. (CERA), the cost of components and construction materials for new nuclear reactors has nearly tripled just since the year 2000, *The Wall St. Journal* reported on May 27.

Overall, the *Journal* said, CERA found that construction of new generating capacity that would have cost \$1 billion in 2000 would cost \$2.31 billion if construction began today.

The price of new electrical generating capacity is "skyrocketing" in the *Journal's* words, and, according to the CERA index, "Components and construction materials for nuclear plants scored the biggest run-up in costs, up 173 percent — nearly tripled — since 2000."

Beyond Nuclear, the Washington, DC watchdog group, likewise reports that while the nuclear industry publicly claims that the cost of new reactors is less than \$4 billion per unit, "the true costs look to be triple that figure."

Beyond Nuclear obtained documents filed by the Florida Power and Light company that reveal construction costs as high as \$12 billion per reactor — even without the financing expenses. The *Journal* report noted similarly that, "... the [CERA] index likely minimizes the rising cost of building power plants, because it doesn't factor in financing costs, and it doesn't include fuel costs."

This conservative financial news only reinforces public skepticism about the feasibility of the industry-hyped reactor construction boom, or "nuclear renaissance" of tomorrow.

In Raleigh, North Carolina, *The News & Observer* reported on April 24, 2008 that the cost of new reactors has "tripled in the past few years." Even with projections as high as \$9 billion per reactor, the *News & Observer* noted, the issue of construction costs has become a secrecy-laden public relations disaster for pro-nuclear utilities.

Duke Energy of Charlotte, North Carolina has refused to disclose the projected cost of its proposed nuclear reactor in Cherokee County, South Carolina.

This was followed by a German study which found 14 cases of leukemia compared to an expected four cases between 1990 and 2005 in children living within 5 kilometres of the Krümmel nuclear plant near Hamburg, making it the largest leukemia cluster near a nuclear power plant anywhere in the world (*Environmental Health Perspectives*).

This was upstaged by the yet more surprising KiKK studies (a German acronym for Childhood Cancer in the Vicinity of Nuclear Power Reactors), whose results were published this year in the *International Journal of Cancer* and the *European Journal of Cancer* (see the *Spring Quarterly*). These found higher incidences of cancers and a stronger association with nuclear

installations than all previous reports. The main findings were a 60 percent increase in solid cancers and a 117 percent increase in leukemia among young children living near all 16 large German nuclear facilities between 1980 and 2003. The most striking finding was that those who developed cancer lived closer to nuclear power reactors than randomly selected controls. Children living within five kilometres of the plants were more than twice as likely to contract cancer as those living further away, a finding that has been accepted by the German government.

Though the KiKK studies received scant attention elsewhere, there was a public outcry and vocal media debate in Germany. No one is sure of the cause (or causes) of the extra cancers. Coincidence has been ruled out, as has the "Kinlen hypothesis," which theorizes that childhood leukemia is caused by an unknown infectious agent introduced as a result of an influx of new people to the area concerned. Surprisingly, the most obvious explanation for this increased risk — radioactive discharges from the nearby nuclear installations — was also ruled out by the KiKK researchers, who asserted that the radiation doses from such sources were too low, although the evidence they base this on is not clear.

Anyone who followed the argument in the 1980s and 1990s concerning the UK leukemia clusters will have a sense of *déjà vu*. The UK's Committee Examining Radiation Risks of Internal Emitters (which was set up by the government

and for which I was a member of the secretariat) reported in 2004 that the models used to estimate internal radiation doses from sources emitted from nuclear facilities are riddled with uncertainty. For example, assumptions about how radioactive material is transported through the environment or taken up and retained by local residents may be faulty.

If radiation is indeed the cause of the cancers, how might local residents have been exposed? Most of the reactors in the KiKK study were pressurized water designs notable for their high emissions of tritium, the radioactive isotope of hydrogen. Last year, the UK government published a report on tritium which concluded that its hazard risk should be doubled. Tritium is most commonly found incorporated into water molecules, a factor not fully taken into account in the report, so this could make it even more hazardous.

As we begin to pin down the likely causes, the new evidence of an association between increased cancers and proximity to nuclear facilities raises difficult questions. Should pregnant women and young children be advised to move away from them? Should local residents eat vegetables from their gardens? And, crucially, shouldn't those governments around the world who are planning to build more reactors think again?

Dr. Ian Fairlie is a consultant on radiation in the environment in London and a past member of Britain's Committee Examining Radiation Risks from Internal Emitters. This essay appeared in New Scientist.

Greenpeace Reveals Radiation Spewed in Spain

ASCO, Spain — A swath of northeastern Spain was contaminated with radioactivity spewing from the Asco 1 reactor on the Ebro River. The radiation release occurred last November 29, when reactor cooling water spilled during refueling operations. Dangerous isotopes, including the gamma radiation emitter cobalt-60, were spewed up to 45 miles, even though the reactor's operators initially asserted that they remained within the confines of its property.

The operator, Endesa Corp., kept the accident secret for five months, but on April 5 Greenpeace discovered and publicized contamination at the reactor site as well as on nearby river banks, roofs and fences. As a result of the revelation, up to 1,600 people have been tested for contamination, including children who recently toured the reactor. Current radiation levels register some 100 times higher than Endesa representatives first claimed.

An investigation by Spain's Nuclear Safety Council (NSC) substantiated Greenpeace's assertions that contamination was widespread and deployed federal inspectors. A radioactively contaminated truck set off alarms as it entered a landfill carrying non-radioactive metal from the Endesa reactor. On March 14 and again in April, reactor staff members found hot particles outside the containment building that were not reported to the public. A whistleblower eventually alerted Greenpeace which began its own investigation.

Spain's current government, headed by Socialist Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, has vowed to replace nuclear power with renewable energy by 2028. Trade union sources quoted by the daily *El Pais* say reactor operators have been cutting personnel, thus increasing the risk of more accidents. Spain has eight aging reactors within its borders. The Asco pressurized water reactor was built by Westinghouse and went on line in 1983. Its license expires in 2011.

Endesa, which has been sued by Greenpeace, fired its top radiological protection official and its reactor director after the leak turned out to have been 100 times more serious than the company stated in its initial report to the federal Nuclear Safety Council.

During a public hearing, an Endesa spokesman, quoted in a Greenpeace report, had the nerve to say there would not be any health concern "even if all the hot particles were introduced in a sandwich and the sandwich were eaten."

The company could be fined up to \$48 million for the radiation release and its attempted cover-up.

Vermont Yankee Crane Fails, High-level Waste Cask Falls 4'

VERNON, Vermont — A 97-ton cask filled with highly radioactive used fuel rods fell four inches to the floor of the Vermont Yankee waste fuel cooling pool building on May 12, when a heavy crane's brakes failed during an otherwise controlled lowering of the cask. Entergy Corp., the reactor's operator, admitted on May 21 that the crane was last tested with a comparable load 30 years ago. As it was, the faulty 110-ton crane was allowed to lift the fully loaded cask after a dry-run weighing only 70 percent of the working load (about 30 tons short). "The test was an appalling charade," said Arnie Gundersen, a former industry insider turned nuclear power critic. "This is not inconsequential," he told the press. Workers were allowed only short amounts of time close to the dropped load which was emitting elevated amounts of radiation. Entergy spokespeople said that the crane's brakes slipped due to an electrical glitch. The waste fuel rods were being moved into a steel and concrete dry cask for outdoor storage. Entergy plans to re-test the crane using a full-weight mock up. — *Rutland Herald*, May 20 & 22; *Reformer.com*, May 21, 2008

Experience vs. the Power of Myth: Does the Military Protect Freedom?

By John Heid

From our earliest history, we have insisted that each of us is and must be free to criticize the government... We have insisted upon freedom of speech and the press and, as the First Amendment to the Constitution puts it, upon "the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the government for a redress of grievances." — U.S. Supreme Court Justice Abe Fortas, "Concerning Dissent and Civil Disobedience," 1968

When was the last time you heard someone say, "Thank a soldier for the freedom you have to demonstrate?" Who among us has not gritted our teeth searching for a snappy response? This all-too-familiar remark is not usually an invitation to dialogue. Yet, the quip can be a catalyst for reflection on the roots of free speech.

This spring, Winona, Minnesota has witnessed a "surge" of opposition to the U.S. bloody military occupations of Afghanistan and Iraq. In response, local media, military recruiters and counter-protesters have dusted off and rolled out the weary, timeless myth that the source and guarantor of our freedoms is the very military apparatus we protest. Two specific incidents sufficiently moved me to write this commentary. I recall that "Peaceful picketing is the working person's means of communication." (*Drivers Union v. Meadowmoor Dairies*, U.S. Supreme Court, 1941)

In early April, alongside a group of friends on the median of a Winona shopping mall, I held a banner reading "End The War." We had previously held mall area vigils without incident near the Army/Navy recruiting station. However, this time, a security officer advised us that we were not welcome on private property and that the police would be called if we refused to move. As I was being escorted off the premises, the security officer remarked, "You know, if it weren't for the military you wouldn't even be able to hold that sign." The irony of the moment was too pristine for a comeback. I did not know whether to laugh or scream.

So-called free speech is a privilege, not a right, on private property. The owner's prerogative trumps any semblance of free expression. It has been my experience that anti-war sentiment is mighty unwelcome on most private property, even when it serves a public function, like the local mall.

"Those who begin coercive elimination of dissent soon find themselves exterminating dissenters. Compulsory unification of opinion achieves only the unanimity of the graveyard." (*West Virginia Board of Education v. Barnette*, U.S. Supreme Court, 1943)

Tax day, April 15, followed our mall expulsion by two weeks. A small leafletting vigil was organized in Winona to use this "teachable moment." Our handout was the War Resisters League's "Where Your Income Tax Money Really Goes" (warresisters.org): Its pie chart always attracts some interest. Many people have no idea that military spending uses up 51 percent of their federal tax. The flyer dramatizes former Secretary of State Alexander Haig's comment upon one million people rallying against nuclear weapons in New York City in June 1982. Mr. Haig quipped, "Let them march all they want, as long as they continue to pay their taxes."

For the first time in my 20 years of joining in tax day vigils, the postmaster came out and said, "You can't do that here." I objected, "This is public property, right?" He allowed it

was and said if our tiny contingent didn't move he would call the police. Two squad cars arrived shortly.

One officer said he was not sure if we were violating any law by simply distributing literature outside the post office. Word came down later that we were "trespassing." Our options were to cease and desist or be arrested. The misuse of police power prevailed again.

So, if the drive-by axiom, "You can thank our military for the freedom of speech we enjoy," has any merit, where under our "beautiful for spacious skies" is this freedom?

"Freedom for religious, social and political self-expression is not an appendage to, but rather is at the heart of, our political system." (John Whitehead, *The Right to Picket and the Freedom of Public Discourse*, 1984)

Civil society, by definition, acknowledges, encourages and protects civil liberties. These aspects of human nature are recognized as rights, not merely privileges. A gun can take these rights away, constituting a crime against humanity, but no gun or military can guarantee, let alone give us, what is already hardwired into our being.

Thus, we see vigils, demonstrations and mass protest even in the most overtly oppressive nations. The consequences of such activism are often brutal as evidenced by the Tiananmen Square massacre in 1989 and in Tibet this year. Yet history verifies that the intrinsic seed of free speech needs no military for germination. Conversely, militarism has been a perennial nemesis to freedom.

Freedom of speech in the U.S. has always been legally limited. "Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" were reserved for a small circle of men, mostly white, who excluded women, non-land-owners and enslaved peoples. Our civil rights have been pried from the republic's patriarchs only when popular resistance forced the government's hand, not when the military intervened. When they are in

conflict, the armed forces have historically defended the apparatus of the state rather than protecting fundamental human rights.

This December will mark the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Article 19 declares, "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression: this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers."

Meanwhile, constitutionally guaranteed freedom of expression in the U.S. has eroded to the geographical equivalent of a postage-stamp-sized piece of real estate. Private property like the mall is off limits and so is most public land. The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that the First Amendment "does not guarantee access to property simply because it is owned or controlled by the government." (*United States Postal Service v. Greenburg Civic Association*, 1981)

When freedom of expression is denied anyone, its existence is jeopardized for everyone. We have a fundamental right and human responsibility to speak and act out nonviolently when our government behaves illegally, including when civil liberties are denied, current laws notwithstanding. This is as much a matter of the heart as of ideology.

As Terry Tempest Williams says in *The Open Space of Democracy*, "The only space I see truly capable of being



closed is not the land or our civil liberties but our own hearts. The human heart is the first home of democracy. It is where we embrace our questions. Can we be equitable? Can we be generous? Can we listen with our whole beings, not just our minds, and offer our attention rather than our opinions? And do we have enough resolve in our hearts to act courageously, relentlessly, without giving up — ever — trusting our fellow citizens to join with us in our determined pursuit of a living democracy?"

My debt of gratitude for freedom of expression is owed to everyone who struggled to keep the voice of the people audible in the public square — the visionaries, activists, pacifists, suffragettes, abolitionists, poets, musicians, artists and every single person who has dared to speak a word of truth to power against the odds. Gracias!

A Free Country?

In his essay "Civil Liberties During Wartime,"* historian Howard Zinn explains how "the First Amendment, while it looks good in print, becomes inoperable when our nation is at war."

The Supreme Court in *Schenck* even ruled that speaking against the U.S. entry into World War I violated the Espionage Act of 1917, which made it a crime punishable by 10 years in prison to say or write anything that would "discourage recruitment in the armed forces of the U.S." Zinn notes that 2,000 people were prosecuted and 1,000 imprisoned, "for speaking against the conscription law or against the war."

During World War II, when the Smith Act made it a crime to "teach and advocate" overthrow of the U.S. by force, 18 Socialist Workers Party members were sent to prison not for promoting violence, but for distributing literature. At the same time, 120,000 Japanese Americans were shipped to detention camps and had their property confiscated, not for any crime but merely because of their national origin. Today there is a monumental apology in Washington, DC, carved in stone, memorializing this cruel act of wartime hysteria.

The Cold War saw loyalty oaths for government workers, prison for Communists and jail for people refusing to answer questions about their political associations put to them by the House Committee on Un-American Activities. Simultaneously, the FBI compiled lists of hundreds of thousands of U.S. citizens who had publicly criticized government policy. And Congress sanctioned deportation of noncitizens if the Attorney General alleged that they belonged to a "subversive" group.

During the U.S. war in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, 75 City and State Police officers on the campus of Jackson State College in Mississippi opened fire on unarmed protesters, killing James Earl Green and Phillip Lafayette Gibbs, and wounding 12 others on May 15, 1970. The Jackson State rally was in part a protest of the May 4th killing at Kent State in Ohio of Alison Krause, Sandra Scheuer, Jeffrey Glenn Miller and William K. Schroeder — all shot by Ohio National Guardsmen.

With the so-called "war on terror," citizens are again being placed on "no fly lists," subjected to illegal domestic spying, threatened with arbitrary, indefinite secret detention, and warned that the Constitution and the Geneva Conventions don't apply to certain "combatants" identified as such solely by the Office of the President.

In the military itself, isolation, harassment, retaliation, demotion, courts martial and even prison await personnel who speak critically about or refuse deployment to the war *du jour*. The military doesn't make the country safe for dissenters, least of all during wartime. —JL

* From Howard Zinn's, *A Power Government Cannot Suppress*, City Lights Books, 2007, p. 169

Energy\$olutions, Inc. Dumps on Utah

In Utah, Energy\$olutions, Inc. (ESI), formerly "Envirocare," disposes of the nuclear power industry's low-level rad waste at its dump near Clive, in Toole County, 74 miles from Salt Lake City. The company has raised nationwide objections by applying for a license to import 20,000 tons of waste from Italy. ESI wants to process the waste at its Tennessee facility, sell most of the metals as "shielding," and then ship about 1,600 tons of waste to the Clive dump.

Eight western states have rejected ESI's Italian import proposal, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has received more than 1,000 comments objecting to any import of foreign radwaste. In addition, the Northwest Interstate Compact on Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management unanimously rejected the plan, and Utah Governor Jon Huntsman says he'll stop all foreign waste from entering the state.

Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Utah make up the Compact, created by Congress in 1985. The Compact wants control of its states' dumps and has adopted a resolution stopping foreign waste from being imported to Utah. ESI contends that since its Clive dump is privately owned, Compact's rules do not apply.

The NRC has agreed that Italian nuclear waste may still enter the U.S. for processing in Tennessee, where ESI has processed Canadian, German and French waste. That waste was allowed to be reclassified as "domestic" and either sold or dumped. Foreign waste may already have been buried at Clive, although ESI claims not to use more than 5 percent of its capacity for imported waste.

While ESI's license application moves forward, a federal bill has been introduced by Representatives Bart Gordon, D-Tennessee, Ed Whitfield, R-Kentucky and Jim Matheson, D-Utah, that would allow only nuclear waste originating in the U.S., or at U.S. bases, to be dumped. And Arjun Makhijani, president of the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, told the *Salt Lake Tribune* that ESI's application before the NRC suggests the material is so radioactive it should be declared Class-C waste — and too hot to be permitted under Utah law.

In an attempt to skirt these roadblocks, ESI increased its annual congressional campaign contributions to \$400,000, with money going to about 50 representatives. Its political donations totaled only \$40,000 for the previous four years combined. Company CEO Steve Creamer donated the maximum allowed by law last year — \$28,500 — to both Democratic and Republican senatorial campaign committees. Senator Lindsey Graham received the largest share and happens to be a huge supporter of nuclear power. ESI spent \$1 million on lobbying in 2007 — up from \$680,000 in 2006.

ESI claims its reprocessing facility in Tennessee has created a radiological "pedigree" and falls under no current classification for rad waste. The ESI facility accepts waste from 36 states and it buries 99 percent of the U.S. low-level waste in most years. From 104 operating reactors, the U.S. annually produces 12,000 cubic feet of low-level radioactive waste.

Eighteen countries now have nuclear power reactors although none of them have established permanent facilities to deal with the deadly wastes they produce.

Footnotes from cover story

Radiation from Lake Superior Barrels?

¹ Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Illinois, "Installation Restoration Program: Preliminary Assessment of the Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant." February 1988, p. 3-113, by Energy and Environmental Systems Division, received by MPCA, Ground Water & Solid Waste Div. March 2, 1988, in PA/SI, Preliminary Assessment Information, Lake Superior Barrel [file drawer], 1985 - 1988

² Ibid, p. 10-1, Section 10, References, Sec. 10.1, References from the ANL Records Search, #4, Feb. 7, 1955

³ Ibid, p. 1-2

⁴ Environmental Protection Agency, Form 2070-12 (7-81), "Potential Hazardous Waste Site Preliminary Assessment," Part 1 - Site Information and Assessment, Minn. Site Number 980679344, John Pegors, June 23, 1985

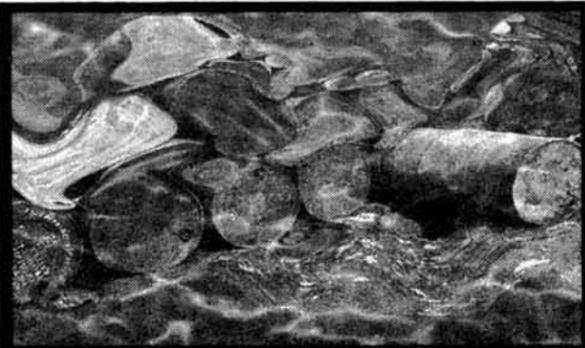
⁵ Ibid, Part 2 - Waste Information, Identification

⁶ Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Solid and Hazardous Waste Division, "Site Safety and Sampling Plan," Project Team Leader: Bob Cross, p.1 of 2, Nov. 13, 1990

⁷ Barbara Reyelts interview, KBJR - TV News broadcast, Channel 6, Duluth, Minnesota, April 12, 1995; Nukewatch telephone interview with Capt. Harold Maynard (Ret.), May 9, 2008

⁸ Mike Stich, All Safe, Inc. (formerly Hazard Control, Aquatic Div.), Minneapolis, letter to former MPCA Region 1 Director John Pegors, August 6, 1991; and Minneapolis *Star Tribune*, October 4, 1990

⁹ Minn. Dept. of Health, "Health Consultation: Barrels Disposed in Lake Superior by U.S. Army," EPA Facility ID: MND908679344, prepared by Carl Herbrandson, Site Assessment and Consultation Unit, Environmental Surveillance & Assessment Sec., March 14, 2008, p.13



Lake Superior Day
Military Waste Barrels Campaign
Walk for the Lake
Sunday, July 20, 2008

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
DULUTH, MINNESOTA

Brighton Beach to Canal Park (6.5 mi.)
&/or
Leif Erikson Park to Canal Park (1.5 mi.)

Start longer leg:
Brighton Beach to Leif Erikson Park (5 mi.)
10:00 a.m. converge
11:00 start

1:30 arrive at Leif Erikson
Start shorter leg:
Leif Erikson Park to Canal Park (1.5 mi.)
2:00 start - 3:00 arrive Canal Park
Finish: 3:30 Canal Park with rally & music
We want sediment testing now!

Contact: Nukewatch
nukewatch@lakeland.ws
(715) 472-4185

A Youth Peace and Nonviolent Action Camp in Büchel, Germany (the last deployment site of U.S. nuclear weapons in Germany), will run from Aug. 16 to Sept. 3. The camp's workshops, events & demonstrations focus on active nonviolence and nuclear disarmament. Sarah Miles of Luck, Wisconsin will represent Nukewatch, write a daily blog, make a photographic record of the activities and learn organizing skills. Information about the camp is available at: <www.pressehuetten.de> & at: <http://www.yap.org/docs/yap_germany.pdf>



Sarah Miles

NUKEWATCH
QUARTERLY



Nukewatch is a project of
The Progressive Foundation
a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded
in 1981 by Samuel H. Day, Jr.

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

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**Voices for Creative
Nonviolence
Witness Against War 2008
Peace Walk**

From Chicago, through Wisconsin, to St. Paul, Minnesota to challenge and nonviolently resist our country's continuing war in and occupation of Iraq.

July 12 - start at NOON from Grant Park in Chicago - site of the 1968 Democratic Party convention in the midst of the Vietnam war. The walk will conclude on August 31 in St. Paul - in time for the start of the 2008 Republican Party convention in the midst of the Iraq war.

Detailed information about the walk:
<http://vcnv.org/witness-against-war>

Sign up as a support person or day-walker:
<http://vcnv.org/signup-waw>

Visit the Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice website for dates, stops & point-contacts along the way:

www.wnpj.org & www.wnpj.org/event/2008/7

Become a part of this historic event

Voices for Creative Nonviolence
1249 W. Argyle Street, #2, Chicago, IL 60640
Phone: (773) 878-3815
Email: info@vcnv.org attn: Dan Pearson

July 12, 2008

**7:00 p.m. First evening gathering:
Potluck - St. Gertrude's Social Hall
1401 W. Granville, Chicago**

**Seeds of Peace
Free Action
Camp**



July 5 - 13, 2008

Anathoth Community Farm
740 Round Lake Road
Luck, Wisconsin
anathothcommunityfarm.org

This camp is for all those who demand an end to the illegal war in Iraq; for those who don't support the return to a nuclear program for our country; for those who seek an end to unjust economic practices. This camp is for those who seek meaningful ways of organizing our communities and direct ways of voicing our political program of peace, justice and economic freedom for all. The Camp will be located at Anathoth Community Farm near Luck, Wisconsin, home of Nukewatch.

Nonviolent Action Camp

The Free Action Camp will include trainings in nonviolence, direct action, community organizing, blockades, mobile kitchens, group consensus decision-making, legal defense, affinity groups, street theater, jail support and other topics. The dates for the **Seeds Of Peace Free Action Camp** are July 6-13, with a dinner and orientation on the night of the 5th. The Direct Action Camp is free and open to all. Seeds Of Peace is requesting donations to help cover costs.

**Wilderness First Responder and
Action Medical Training**

Immediately following the Free Action Camp, Seeds is sponsoring a full Wilderness First Responder/Action Medical training, open to anyone interested in learning to provide certified first aid for the activist community.

The staff of Aerie School Of Backcountry Medicine, based in Missoula, Montana, will teach the Wilderness First Responder section, which will be nationally certified. All of our trainers are EMT's or WFR's and are long-time medics. Because Aerie supports the work we do, they have offered us a substantial discount on their usual fee.

The fee for this course is \$450.00.

**July 5th to the 13th
for the Action Camp
July 15th to the 24th
for the Wilderness First Responder training
July 25th to the 27th
for the Action Medical section training**

Registration forms for the Wilderness First Responder course, and information about the Free Action Camp:
seedsofpeace@riseup.net

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Contaminated Legacy Doesn't Scare Uranium Prospectors

By Bonnie Urfer

With uranium prices higher than ever, mining companies are lining up to start their dirty digging. Yet the industry faces increased opposition nationwide, and recently hard-won denials of mining permits have strengthened the resistance. Mining communities know that uranium operations contaminate aquifers, surface waters and more, but mine projects are moving forward with little or no opposition in many areas. The following is a short list of uranium mining news.

ARIZONA

* Dennison Mines has been denied permits south and northwest of the Grand Canyon. Dennison submitted a mining plan using outdated methods for radiation control. Another Dennison mine facing no organized opposition near Fredonia, Arizona is going ahead. The company estimates the uranium lode at those three mines to be 239,000 tons. It is appealing the permit denials.

* On April 4, VANE Minerals and the Kaibab National Forest were issued a restraining order by a federal judge which, pending the outcome of a Sierra Club lawsuit against the Forest Service, halted test drilling and uranium exploration at 39 sites near Grand Canyon National Park.

COLORADO

* North of Fort Collins, about 5,600 acres have been targeted by Powertech Uranium Corporation which is after an estimated 4,800 tons of uranium. Landowners know that Powertech's "in-situ" mining (a process of injecting chemical leachate into ground water) could spread contamination to the their 3,500 local wells. The Greeley and Fort Collins City Councils have passed anti-mining resolutions. On March 29, the State House of Representatives gave initial approval to tighter restrictions on in-situ mining, requiring operators to demonstrate that at least five of their previous projects have left groundwater uncontaminated. Powertech is fighting the legislation, claiming the strict purity standard is akin to "taking" the company's property.

* In Fremont County, the planning commission has so far denied local permits submitted by Black Range Minerals for exploratory drilling west of Colorado Springs. BRM drilled 70 test wells using state permits before the county stopped them. The company intends to drill 800 such wells across 8,169 acres, and it wants to mine and mill 23,000 tons of uranium. Fremont County alone has 79 abandoned uranium mines. Mining corporations staking claims in the state include Royal Resources of Australia and the Vancouver-based firms Buckingham Exploration and Energy Metals Corp.

* Horizon Nevada Uranium, Inc. is notifying property owners near Hartsel in Park County that it plans to explore up to 3,000 acres.

* The Cotter Corporation intends to rebuild and reopen its Canon City mill, known locally as Cotter mill, at a cost of up to \$200 million. The site was used for a failed experimental attempt to extract uranium from as much as 100,000 tons of radioactive Manhattan Project waste. Cotter mill remains one of the most uranium-contaminated Superfund clean-up sites in the nation.

* Powertech hopes to mine about 4,750 tons of uranium from its claims in Weld County, east of Colorado Springs. The acreage sits atop the Denver Basin that holds four aquifers stacked on top of one another. Old boreholes already connect the various aquifers, making them more vulnerable.

NEW MEXICO

* In spite of a Tribal government ban on uranium mining in place since 2005, the NRC has granted permission to Hydro Resources, Inc. to carry out in-situ mining in the aquifer used by the 15,000 Navajo people of Church Rock and Crownpoint. Eastern Navajo and the Dine have been fighting the NRC for 14 years, and in an appeal that challenges the NRC in the 10th U.S. Federal Circuit, they argue that Hydro cannot ensure the health of the mine's nearby residents,

that Hydro's Environmental Impact Statement is inadequate, and that its water pollution "contingency fund" is incapable of cleaning up contaminated groundwater. At least five companies are seeking mining permits in New Mexico, hoping to extract at least 250 thousand tons of uranium. More than 1,000 abandoned mines dot the state, and three quarters of them are still contaminated. Just last November, six families were evacuated from the Red Water Pond Road area due to dangerous levels of radiation. After the area's top eight inches of soil were removed, the families were allowed to move back.

WYOMING

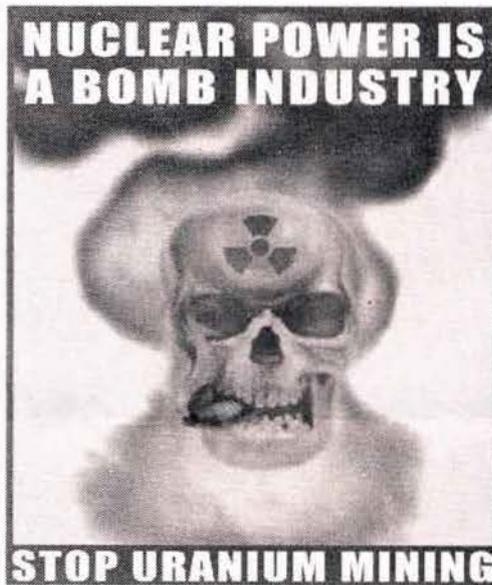
* Wyoming has only one in-situ uranium mine north of Douglas, and the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality has found environmental violations at the site. Operated by Power Resources Inc., a subsidiary of Cameco Corp., the infractions involved spills, delayed groundwater restoration, and insufficient restoration funds. The Smith-Highland Ranch mine provided Cameco with 2 million pounds of uranium in 2007. Statewide, seven or more applications for new in-situ operations are expected.

TEXAS

* Uranerz Energy has applied to the State Railroad Commission for a permit to drill for uranium in the Panhandle and has leased about 8,000 acres for exploration in an area already riddled with 90 test wells.

WASHINGTON

* About 38 million tons of uranium came out of the Midnite Mine on the Spokane Reservation in northeast Washington. That mine and another, the Sherwood, were operated by Dawn Mining and the Newmont Mining Corp. Although both mines closed down in the 1980s, the groundwater is still poisoned. A local lake remains so radioactive that its eerily blue water is virtually sterile. Back in the day, local driveways were paved with free (radioactive) fill and uranium ore dust settled everywhere. One scientific model shows that a person using water from the Blue Creek basin has a 1-in-5 chance of getting cancer from the waste's radiation. Blue Creek drains into the Spokane River. An estimated 7 million pounds of uranium remain underground, and in spite of the mine's horrendous legacy, that last bit may be extracted.



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