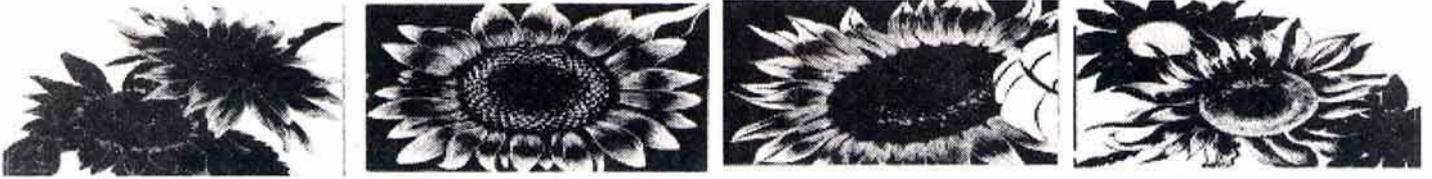


NUKEWATCH

QUARTERLY



A publication of the Progressive Foundation — ISSN 1942-6305 — Fall 2010
News & Information on Nuclear Weapons, Power, Waste & Nonviolent Resistance



Photo by Jim Kernodle

36 Arrested at Tennessee H-bomb Factory

Action Marks 30th Year of Nukewatch, The Resister, Plowshares

OAK RIDGE, Tennessee — Thirty-six anti-nuclear activists were arrested July 5 at the Y12 National Security Complex, an H-bomb materials fabrication factory famous for producing the uranium used in the U.S. bomb that destroyed Hiroshima, Japan in August 1945, killing an estimated 140,000 people. The July protest made headlines around the world, one month before the attack's 65th anniversary. It was the first time in eight years that federal charges have been brought against nuclear weapons opponents at the site.

Thirteen of the nuclear abolitionists were brought into Federal District Court in Knoxville, Tennessee July 6, and later released pending trial. The 13, including longtime Nukewatch staffer Bonnie Urfer, were charged with federal trespass and if convicted of the misdemeanor they face a possible maximum of one year in prison, a \$100,000 fine, or both. Since 1980, Urfer has spent a total of over four years in jail or prison for peace and anti-nuclear protests.

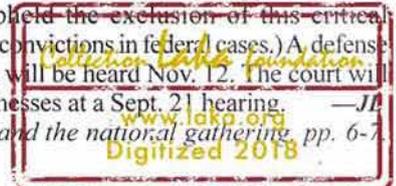
For blocking the road leading into the complex, 23 other nuclear resisters received Tennessee state charges, some of whom have already been sentenced to fines and time in jail.

The Y12 facility still enriches uranium for nuclear warheads used in the replacement of the 5,900 nuclear weapons in the U.S. nuclear arsenal. It is one of three federal sites scheduled to get \$3 billion for construction of new H-bomb production facilities.

The July 5 action was the culmination of a national gathering of over 200 anti-nuclear activists (in photo above) celebrating the 30th anniversaries of Nukewatch, the Arizona-based publication *The Nuclear Resister*, and the series of "Plowshares" actions — individual disarmament acts involving the use of household hammers to damage nuclear weapons systems. The first such action, the Plowshares Eight, took place at a General Electric factory making nosecones for nuclear-armed missiles. Four of the original eight attended the conference, which was held on the campus of Maryville College in Maryville, Tennessee and was co-sponsored by the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance.

In federal court Sept. 8, trial in the case was set for Jan. 11. Government prosecutors have filed a "motion in limine" which, if granted, would severely gag the testimony of defendants at trial. Similar motions in previous cases have excluded mention of "nuclear weapons," "international treaty law," "mass destruction," and "the Constitution of the United States." (U.S. Appeals Courts around the country have upheld the exclusion of this critical information, thus guaranteeing convictions in federal cases.) A defense motion to dismiss the charges will be heard Nov. 12. The court will consider the use of expert witnesses at a Sept. 21 hearing. —JE

See more on the action and the national gathering, pp. 6-7.



Wildfires in Russia Spread Chernobyl Radiation Again

By John LaForge

The 1986 Chernobyl radiation catastrophe, the world's worst, is a cancer that keeps on spreading.

On Aug. 5, Russia's Emergency Situations Minister Sergei Shoigu warned that Chernobyl's radioactive poisons could be spread by the fires, according to the *New York Times*. "In the event of a fire there, radionuclides could rise ... resulting in a new pollution zone," Shoigu said on state television, the newspaper reported.

Highly radioactive materials were spewed from Chernobyl's reactor No. 4 for weeks when it was torn apart by explosions and fires that eventually sent radioactive cesium, strontium, iodine and hundreds of other isotopes — falling in rain — across the whole of the Northern Hemisphere.

Russian authorities said Aug. 11 that of the 29,509 wildfires officially reported in the former Soviet Union, some had spread to Chernobyl's heavily-contaminated "exclusion zone" around the destroyed reactor. News soon followed that the fires were re-suspending radioactive materials that have for almost 25 years been a part of the region's plants, soils and trees.

The Aug. 10 *New York Times* noted that "dozens of fires have been burning in contaminated zones." And Aug. 12, the AP and France's AFP reported that Minister Shoigu announced that at least six wildfires were extinguished "this week" in the Bryansk region, which was heavily contaminated when Chernobyl exploded and burned. *Christian Science Monitor* said Aug. 11 that Russia's forest service admitted that 28 fires were burning across Bryansk.

On Aug. 19, *Time* reported that "a deputy for the regional parliament in Bryansk, Lyudmila Komogortseva, found [on Aug. 13] that radiation levels in the burning forests were six to 12 times higher than they were before the fires began."

London's *Daily Mail* noted Aug. 14, that Minister Shoigu had changed his cautionary tune. "In Russia, experts insisted the radiation levels were normal despite fires in several regions badly contaminated with radiation," the paper said. Yet *Time* reported that Russian leaders removed maps of likely radiation-contaminated fires from web sites maintained by the government forestry agency.

Russian authorities in 1986 likewise worked hard producing mis- and dis-information about the original disaster. Then they sent tens of thousands of "liquidators" to their deaths ordering them to work to extinguish the burning uranium fire and to bury hotly radioactive rubble and machinery.

Last Jan. 10, *The Guardian* reported "the Belarus National Academy of Sciences estimates 93,000 deaths so far and 270,000 cancers, and the Ukrainian National Commission for Radiation Protection calculates 500,000 deaths so far."

Fire Burns Aldermaston, UK Weapons Bunker

BERKSHIRE, England — Residents near the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) Aldermaston in Berkshire were evacuated the night of Aug. 3, when one of the bunkers used in explosives manufacturing caught fire around 9 p.m. Roads four miles from the base, where nuclear weapons are designed, built and maintained for the UK's Trident submarine fleet, were blocked and the top secret facility was locked down.

Opinions differ on the seriousness of the situation. AWE officials say no radiation leaked and that was there was no risk of a nuclear explosion as the fire occurred in the conventional explosive area, not one with nuclear warheads. In spite of the 4-hour blaze, the Ministry of Defense (MOD) called the fire "minor." But Peter Burt, Director of the Reading-based Nuclear Information Service expressed concern as the fire occurred in the explosives area of the Aldermaston site

Wild Boars Still Radioactive

Chernobyl continues to spread radiation hazards internationally — now it's with wild boars, whose population is increasing across Germany. The animals are radioactive enough that sale of their meat is prohibited. High levels of cesium-137 in the wild pigs is expected to persist for the next 50 years. The government has been compensating hunters for lost income, having given away \$555,000 in 2009, according to the July 30 issue of *Der Spiegel*.

The boom in Germany's boar numbers has been attributed to warmer winters and increased availability of food. The high levels of cesium-137 in their flesh results from their diet of mushrooms and truffles, which readily absorb the isotope. According to the German Hunting Federation, all the bagged boars must be checked for radiation.

A chemical mixture called Giese salt — used in farm animals following the Chernobyl disaster — is being fed to boar. The salt is said to absorb cesium-137 which is then excreted, lowering the amount of cesium in the animals.

Chernobyl's officially contaminated "exclusion zone" extends for 18 miles around the smashed and burned reactor No. 4. In all, 112 villages were abandoned inside the zone. Wolves, lynx, deer, Przewalski's horses and moose populations have taken up residence in the area void of humans. While hunting is heavily limited around Chernobyl, poaching is said to be widespread. The arbitrary size of the zone is illustrated by animals in far northern Nordic countries and the Scottish and Welsh countryside that have also been contaminated and made unfit for human consumption.

— *Der Spiegel*, July 30 & Aug. 4; *National Post* (Ontario), Aug. 2; & CBS, Aug. 6, 2010; BBC, April 4, 2006

August's reports of increased radiation levels so angered minister Shoigu that he urged police to find those responsible for spreading "rumors" about the danger.

At the Nukewatch office near Luck, Wisconsin, we regularly check "background" radiation levels which rarely go above 11 clicks-per-minute on our \$250 "RadAlert" meter which measures alpha, beta, gamma and X radiation in the air. The last couple of days the machine's been reading 19, 20 and on August 16 even 22 clicks-per-minute.

To the unfamiliar, it seems preposterous to suspect that heavy radioactive particles suspended in the smoke spreading from Russia could migrate this far on the wind and then be deposited here via rainfall. But the history of nuclear power disasters is stark and ominous. They can poison the globe.

Consider some of the news from the original disaster:

Only 19 days after the April 26, 1986 start of Chernobyl's fire, these reports appeared:

1) "An invisible cloud of radioactivity spewed over the western Soviet Union and Europe, and has worked its way gradually around the world." — *St. Paul Pioneer Press, Associated Press*, May 14, 1986

2) "Airborne radioactivity from the Chernobyl nuclear accident is now so widespread that it is likely to fall to the ground wherever it rains in the United States, the EPA said." — *Associated Press*, May 15, 1986

3) "State authorities in Oregon have warned residents dependent solely on rainwater for drinking that they should arrange other supplies for the time being." — *Associated Press*, May 15, 1986

4) "Since radiation from the Chernobyl nuclear accident began floating over Minnesota last week, low levels of radiation have been discovered in the raw milk from a Minnesota dairy." — *Mpls Star Tribune*, May 17, 1986

Some of the Chernobyl-borne isotopes persist in the environment for hundreds of years and will continue to be spread by wildfires. Eight years ago, dozens of peat fires and wildfires burned in heavily-contaminated Belarus and officially raised radiation levels there. The Associated Press reported July 22, 2002 that "Belarusian Emergency Minister Valery Astapov said radiation levels in the fire zone are elevated, though he did not say by how much."

In 2009, the American Geophysical Union reported that the radioactive cesium-137 dispersed by Chernobyl is not decaying as quickly as predicted, and the scientists estimated the cesium wouldn't "disappear" from the environment through decay for up to 320 years.

For two months the wildfires burned over two million acres and caused at least 50 deaths.

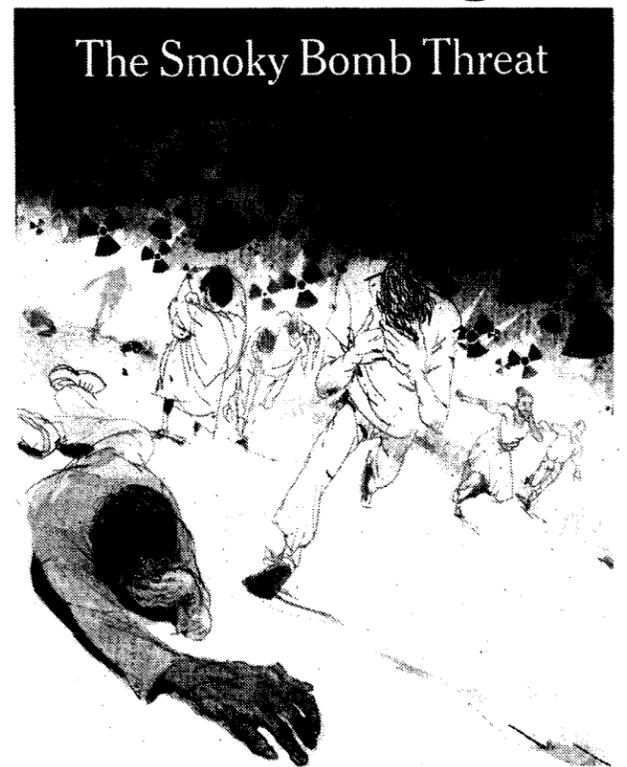
where there was a risk of a "domino effect" among the explosives, causing a rapid spread of fire. "It seems we came within a hair's breadth of everyone's nightmare scenario," he said. Fire crews from six nearby towns along with AWE crews took until 1:00 a.m. to extinguish the fire.

Beyond nuclear materials and weapons, AWE has explosives and deadly chemicals. Operations at AWE are not regulated by the Health and Safety Executive but by the MOD, an agency as secretive as our own U.S. Department of Energy when it comes to nuclear-related information. Nuclear-Free Local Authorities is calling for an independent investigation into the fire. Robin McGill, chief executive officer at AWE made assurances that an investigation is underway and that the findings will be made public.

Biodiversity Declines Around Chernobyl

PRIPYAT, Belarus — A wildlife census conducted over nearly four years in the area of the Chernobyl reactor disaster has revealed that mammal populations are declining in some contaminated regions. The study counted, examined and compared animal populations inside the exclusion zone — an 18-mile radius from ground zero — with populations outside and was spearheaded by professor Timothy Mousseau, from the University of South Carolina, and Dr. Anders Moller from the Marie Curie University of Paris-Sud in France.

The findings, published in the journal *Biology Letters*, show a negative impact on insects, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals due to radiation, with migrating birds most severely affected. Mousseau told the BBC, "These radiation effects were so large as to be overwhelming." The research team documented



Art by Frank Stockton for the New York Times

Sheep Declared "Edible" 24 Years After Chernobyl

By Bonnie Urfer

SCOTLAND — It took 24 years after the explosion at Chernobyl for Scottish sheep to get a radioactively clean bill of health and a green light for human consumption without first having to go through rigid testing under the Food and Environmental Protection Act. In July the Food Standards Agency (FSA) lifted the ban on the last Scottish farmers that prevented movement, slaughter and sale of sheep. After the 1986 disaster, 9,700 farms were contaminated with Chernobyl's fallout, in 2009 only five farms remained on the forbidden list. Peat and grass in the upland areas of Scotland were poisoned with cesium-137 from the radiation catastrophe — which took place 1,400 miles away. Cesium levels increased to legally unallowable levels in the sheep and the FSA set up a monitoring program in the early 1990s to test for radiation.

Farmers in Wales and Cumbria still live with FSA's radioactive restrictions. Each animal from 330 farms must be tested before the sheep can be moved. Restrictions in Northern Ireland ended in 2000.

Immediately after the Chernobyl explosion, farmers were told restrictions on sheep sales would last for one week. Twenty-five years later, each sheep gets three readings to be sure it is free of radiation before it can go to market. At the start of testing, the sheep were killed to measure the radiation levels but a method of measuring cesium concentrations without slaughter came about, minimizing loss to farmers.

— *The Sunday Herald*, Aug. 5; *The Independent*, July 7; *The Herald*, July 4; *Farmers' Guardian*, July 5; Food Standards Agency, June 24, 2010

birds with tumors on their eyes, feet and necks. Birds with flashy plumage appear to be more susceptible to radiation contamination according to a 2008 *ScienceNow* report.

The new study's conclusions contradict statements made by some scientists in Ukraine. Dr. Sergii Gashchak, a researcher at the Chernobyl Center, told the BBC last year, "Wildlife really thrives in the Chernobyl area — due to the low level of [human] influence." But Mousseau disagreed, saying evidence that species are thriving there is "purely anecdotal."

Insects and animals are not the only life forms affected by the radiation. Biologist James Morris at the University of South Carolina reports that trees in the area are extremely contaminated and "don't know which way is up," with limbs that branch and twist oddly as the chemical signals that orient their growth have been disrupted. The "Red Forest" near Chernobyl is so named because the high levels of radiation turned pine bark red as the trees died from exposure. The contaminated trees were bulldozed and buried as radioactive waste. The area remains one of the most contaminated in the world today. — BU

Sizewell Fire Smoulders for 7 Hours

LEISTON, England — It took 50 firefighters seven hours to extinguish a July 3 fire smoldering among charcoal filters at the Sizewell B reactor, on the southeast coast of England. The reactor has been shut down since March for the repair of heaters used to control moisture levels in the reactor containment building. The fire started in a cabinet containing charcoal absorbers and duct work used to extract gasses. Thermal imaging cameras were used to monitor the heat and temperature of the fire after which additional crews were summoned. Water was pumped into the manually sealed cabinet to douse the flames. The 7-hour fire was said by station director Jim Crawford to be "small", and the cause has not been determined.

— BBC & EDP News, July 3; *The Mail*, Aug. 5; *The Evening Star*, July 5, 2010

“No One’s Died from Nuclear Power”? Don’t Be Fooled

By John LaForge

Two of the nuclear industry’s talking points these days are that “nuclear power hasn’t killed anyone” and that “no one died at Three Mile Island.”

The 1986 Chernobyl catastrophe exposes this lie, but the deliberate denial of thousands of other deaths is also part of the industry’s effort. For younger people who have no experience or recall of reactor explosions and meltdowns, steam bursts or radioactive waste spills, pro-nuclear propaganda has convinced many of them that radiation is merely medicinal or dental and must be harmless. On the contrary, there is no safe dose of radiation, and any exposure, no matter how little, increases the risk of cancer and other diseases.

A quick look at the record of some of the deadliest radiation accidents counters efforts by the Nuclear Energy Institute, and some in Congress, to whitewash their poisoned nuclear power and win another \$32 billion in taxpayer giveaways for building new reactors. What follows is a sampling — a completely footnoted version of the list is at www.Nukewatch.com

January 3, 1961: Three killed in Idaho

The experimental boiling-water reactor called SL-1 (Stationary Low-Power Plant No. 1) in Idaho blew apart killing three technicians. Two Army Specialists, John Byrnes, age 25 and Richard McKinley, age 22, and Richard Legg, a 25 year old Navy Electricians Mate, died in the explosion. According to Arlington National Cemetery Records, “One technician was blown to the ceiling of the containment dome and impaled on a control rod. The men were so heavily exposed to radiation that their hands had to be buried separately with other radioactive waste, and their bodies were interred in lead coffins.”

July 27, 1972: Two killed at Surry reactor

At the Surry Unit 2 pressurized water reactor in Virginia, pressurized steam burst through a corroded pipe and scalded two workers to death.

March 28, 1979: Three Mile Island and infant mortality

Exposure to radioactive fallout and contaminated water released by the meltdown at Three Mile Island (TMI) may have caused thousands of deaths. Among many, two books, “Deadly Deceit: Low Level Radiation High Level Cover-up” by Jay Gould and Ben Goldman, 1990, and Joe Mangano’s “Low-Level Radiation and Immune System Damage: An Atomic Era Legacy,” 1999, document these fatalities.

Infant deaths in surrounding counties soared 53 percent in the first month after TMI; 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 mortality rates shortly after the accident.

Studying 10 counties closest to TMI, deaths from birth defects were 15-to-35 percent higher afterward than before the accident. Breast cancer incidence rose seven 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.

In counties downwind of the accident, leukemia deaths among kids under 10 (1980-to-1984) jumped almost 50 percent compared to the national rate. From 1980-1984 death rates in the three nearest counties were considerably higher than 1970-74 (before the reactor opened) for leukemia, female breast thyroid and bone and joint cancers.

April 26, 1986: From 4,000 to 125,000 Chernobyl deaths

Estimates of deaths caused by Chernobyl vary widely. The *St. Paul Pioneer Press* reported April 27, 1995 that Ukrainian Health Minister Andrei Serdyuk had announced the latest Ukrainian estimate of Chernobyl’s death toll at 125,000 from illnesses traced to radiation.

The United Nations reported Sept. 6, 2005 that its scientists predicted about 4,000 eventual radiation-related deaths among 600,000 people in the affected area. CNN reported April 26, 1997, “Ukrainian authorities say over 4,000 died of radiation-related illnesses.”

The *Wisconsin State Journal* noted on April 15, 1991 that, “The most senior scientist at the Chernobyl nuclear power station says the disaster claimed up to 10,000 lives, thousands more than Soviet authorities have admitted, a London newspaper reported on Sunday.”

The *Milwaukee Journal*, on April 21, 1991, reported, “Many Soviet and Western researchers dispute the official death toll of only 32, saying that at least 500 people and possibly as many as 7,000 have died of cancer and other illnesses.”

December 9, 1986: Four more killed at Surry

Again at the Surry Reactor Unit 2, a similar pressurized steam burned four people to death after an unchecked and corroded 18-inch steel feed-water pipe broke and spewed 30,000 gallons of extremely hot pressurized water.

March 11, 1997: Cancer deaths unknown at Tokaimura

Japan’s Tokaimura reprocessing facility suffered explosions and fire at this experimental waste treatment site. At least 37 people were seriously contaminated, 34 internally through inhalation. Experts said, “a massive amount of heat and energy was released” in the explosion at the state-run facility. A lack of medical follow-up for the contaminated workers has allowed the industry to deny that deaths resulted.

September 30, 1999: Two killed at Tokaimura

Workers at Japan’s Tokaimura uranium processing complex caused a “uranium criticality burst” that killed two men, exposed at least 600 residents in the surrounding community to a burst of neutron radiation, and caused the evacuation of thousands. One worker died of radiation poisoning after 82 days of agonizing pain, the other took 210 days to die.

August 9, 2004: Five killed at Mihama

At the Mihama reactor in Japan, a burst of highly pressurized steam at 390° F killed five workers and severely burned 11 others when a corroded pipe ruptured and burned them to death. The accident was Japan’s deadliest at a nuclear reactor. About 800 tons of water escaped from the large pipe that had not been inspected in 28 years.



Starting on August 16, tritium-contaminated steam spewed for 26 hours from the Braidwood nuclear facility in Illinois.

Braidwood Shut Down: Radioactive Steam Released

BRAIDWOOD, Illinois — Both Braidwood power reactors, 50 miles southwest of Chicago, shut down within 13 minutes of each other Aug. 16, and the emergency lead to a release of tritium-contaminated steam over a 26-hour period. Area residents described noise coming from the reactors as “jet engine” in volume. Exelon, owner of the reactors, claimed the vapor was not radioactive, but the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) said tritium was present in the vapor. The NRC does not know exactly what went wrong but the trip of Unit 2 was blamed on an electrical problem, while Unit 1 had a secondary cooling system malfunction necessitating the steam release. The NRC and Exelon downplayed the danger of tritium inhalation, an isotope with a radioactive half-life of 12.3 years. Both reactors will remain off-line until the cause of the shutdown is discovered and repairs are made.

— *Kankakee Daily Journal*, Aug. 18; WBEZ Chicago, ABC Channel 7 & Fox News, Aug. 17; *Chicago Breaking News*, CBS 2, NBC & *Chicago Business*, Aug. 16, 2010

Nuclear Reality Inconsistent with Dreams of “Renaissance”

Poison Power is Not on the Rise – Hard Facts Point to a Continuing, Slow Phase-out Around the World

By Michael Dittmar

Repeatedly in recent years there have been calls for a revival of nuclear power. Yet that renaissance never seems to come.

Of the more than 200 countries in the world, only 30 use nuclear power. In July 2010, a total of 439 nuclear power reactors with a net installed capacity of 373,038 gigawatts (GW) were connected to various national electricity grids, about 1.2 GW more than at the beginning of 2006.

Roughly 16 percent of total energy needs (up to 25 percent in the highly industrialized countries) are now met by electric energy. Nuclear fission’s contribution to total electric power has decreased from about 18 percent more than 10 years ago, to about 14 percent in 2008. On a worldwide scale, nuclear power is thus only a small component of the global energy mix, and its share, contrary to widespread belief, is not on the rise.

During 2009, for example, nuclear power reactors provided 2,560 terawatt hours (TWh) — equivalent to 2,560 billion kilowatt hours of electric energy — about 1.6 percent lower than during 2008, and almost 4 percent lower than during the record year of 2006. Early results for the first four months of 2010 for the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries indicate that so far the 2010 results are as low as or lower than last year.

During the next five years, on average, roughly 10 new nuclear reactors are expected to become operational every year. But this assumes that all are constructed according to schedule, and the nuclear industry has rarely met its promised construction deadlines. According to the World Nuclear Association (WNA), 17 new reactors should have become operational between 2007 and 2009. But only five came online during this period — three in 2007 and two in 2009.

Moreover, four reactors were decommissioned during 2009, and a larger number of reactors in Japan and Germany are not in use, owing to various technical stoppages. At least 100 older and smaller reactors will most likely be closed over the next 10-15 years.

Furthermore, during the past 10 years, only about two-thirds of worldwide demand for nuclear fuel was met from resources obtained from mining. The remaining 20,000 tons came from so-called secondary uranium sources — mainly

inventories held by utilities and governments, reprocessed nuclear fuel and stockpiles of depleted uranium. The supply from these sources will drop by roughly 10,000 tons at the end of 2013, when the “Megatons to Megawatts” program between Russia and the United States — which recycles highly enriched uranium from Russian nuclear warheads into low-enriched uranium for nuclear power reactors — comes to an end.

Current projections indicate that uranium shortages in the coming years can be avoided only if existing and new uranium mines operate according to plan. Indeed, extrapolations of global supply that foresee an increase in uranium mining are based on claims about the ability to expand output in Kazakhstan. So far, uranium mining in Kazakhstan has increased roughly as expected, from 4,357 tons in 2005 to 14,000 tons in 2009.

But it remains to be seen if the uranium mining in this country can indeed increase further. According to the WNA’s latest estimates, from July 2010, the expected uranium extraction figure for 2010 has actually been decreased to 15,000 tons.

The view that the amount of energy derived from nuclear power worldwide will continue its slow decrease during the coming years is further supported by the 2008 annual report of the Euratom Supply Agency, which coordinates long-term uranium needs of nuclear power plants within the European Union. According to the ESA’s forecast, uranium demand in Europe will fall from 21,747 tons in 2010, to roughly 16,000 tons in 2024.

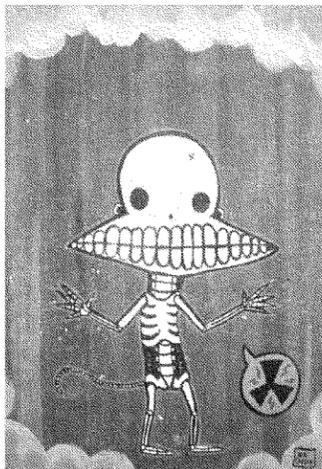
These numbers indicate that the European Union, currently producing about one-third of the world’s nuclear electric energy, is heading for a reduction in nuclear-energy production of up to 20 percent over the coming 10 years. One can also expect that the current worldwide economic crisis will not help to accelerate the construction of nuclear power reactors and new uranium mines.

In summary, the hard facts about nuclear power are inconsistent with the possibility of a worldwide reactor renaissance. Indeed, reality points toward a continuing slow phase-out of nuclear energy in most of the large OECD countries.

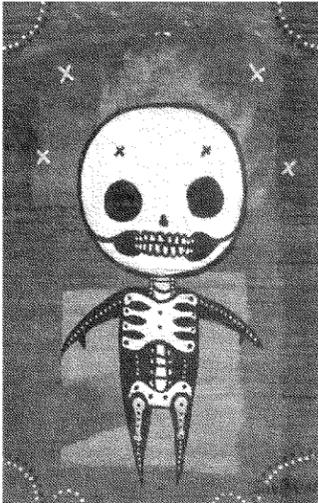
It seems unavoidable that energy consumers, especially in many rich countries, will have to learn to exchange their current worries about the distant future consequences of global warming for the reality of energy shortages during periods of peak demand. Such shortages could result either in chaotic supplies and power outages or in a coordinated policy of energy rationing.

In the absence of a nuclear-energy revival most of us will be forced to reduce our direct energy consumption. Let us hope that we can learn to adapt to simpler lifestyles.

— *Michael Dittmar is a physicist at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zürich and works at the European Organization for Nuclear Research in Geneva. He wrote this article for the (London) Guardian.*



Nicolas Caesar, scary art.com



Nicolas Caesar, scary art.com

NUCLEAR SHORTS

Niger Uranium Mine is Poster Child for Poison Power

ARLIT, Niger — The uranium mine that covers 17 square miles near the village of Arlit in Niger is one of the dirty secrets of nuclear power. Accessible only by military convoy, the French nuclear giant Areva employs 2,200 miners there, in a harshly contaminated environment without protective clothing or equipment. Areva has mined uranium here for 40 years, created millions of tons of radioactive mine tailings waste — which has contaminated water and soils and the workers who use them. Some roads and homes have been built with the mine tailings, and some tools and cooking posts have been made with radioactive scrap metal. On April 12, the Inter Press Service reported that Areva had not decontaminated the waste metals. Areva even owns the hospital at Arlit, and doctors there haven't attributed any deaths to radiation exposure. One in four children dies before the age of five in Niger, the 2nd highest rate in the world, according to the World Bank and World Development Indicators for 2008.

Niger, the world's poorest nation, is being exploited for the likes of France, Britain, India and the U.S. as some 52,000 square miles have been searched for uranium and 80,000 people are adversely affected by uranium mining, especially in the villages of Arlit and Akokan, some 850 km northeast of the capital Niamey. Since 1968, 100,000 tons of uranium has been taken from the Sahara Desert — fuel for all of France's 58 nuclear reactors. Today, levels of radiation exceed World Health Organization limits up to 500 times. — *The Ecologist*, June 1; *Der Spiegel*, April 4; & Inter Press Service, April 12, 2010

Work Halted at Savannah River Plutonium Production Site

AIKEN, South Carolina — On June 14, a sub-contract worker at the Savannah River Site was contaminated with plutonium and americium after he suffered a puncture in his index finger. Work in the waste sorting area F has been suspended while safety and process reviews are conducted, including further testing of the durability of safety equipment. The extent of the injuries of the worker has not been released. A review of the full extent of the radiological impact on this person may be weeks or months away from being completed, according to Will Callicot, a spokesperson for Savannah River Site. When it happened, the worker underwent medical treatment and diagnostic tests which showed there was some radioactive contamination beneath the skin. The wound underwent multiple decontamination efforts, but contamination levels continued. Tests revealed that plutonium 238, 239 and americium 241 were present. After further medical treatment, where "tissue was removed," the levels had dropped by half, a report of the incident stated.

— *Augusta Chronicle & Aiken Standard* June 19, 2010

Plutonium Volume Tripled at Hanford

HANFORD, Washington — According to new analysis of the Hanford Nuclear Reservation by the Department of Energy, the amount of plutonium buried at the complex is nearly three times what the federal government previously reported. The study points up the DOE's failure to track plutonium production at the very places designed and built by the government for the purpose. The greatly increased estimate of plutonium volumes also brings to light the deepening radiation threat the material poses in the soil, especially as it nears the saturation zone, where water flows into the nearby Columbia River. Hanford clean up has been underway for 20 years, and the recent findings complicate future work on the heavily contaminated 560-square-mile site. Even after two decades of study and remediation, the DOE has yet to characterize or determine the extent of contamination in the soil. Government officials recognize that they still have a weak grasp of how much plutonium is contaminating the environment. "The numbers are changing," said Ron Skinnerland, a radiation expert at the Washington State Department of Ecology, which is trying to enforce a clean up agreement it reached with the department in 1989. "What is reasonably foreseeable is that there are people who will be drinking the water in the ground at Hanford at some point in the next few hundred years," Gerry Pollet, executive director of the environmental group Heart of America Northwest Mr. Pollet said. "We're going to be killing people, pure and simple." — *New York Times*, & UPI, July 18, 2010

Tritium Found in East Coast Drinking Water

PLYMOUTH, Massachusetts — High levels of the radioactive isotope tritium have been detected in one of the new ground water monitoring wells at the Pilgrim Reactor. Although the levels were within federal drinking water limits, the NRC, which executed the tests, made the findings public. The elevated levels of radioactivity have spurred the watchdog group Pilgrim Watch to insist on the installation of more monitoring wells closer to the potential source of leaks. Arnie Gundersen, chief engineer of the oversight committee for Vermont Yankee, said, "it's inadequate to have monitoring wells 600 feet apart, as they are at Pilgrim. Radiation can go between monitoring wells and they may not know there's a leak for a long time."

"They're not going to be able to figure it out until they drill more wells," he said. A team of environmental, chemists and other specialists are busy trying to pinpoint the source of the tritium. In step with the industry's mantra line, David Tarantino, representing Pilgrim owner Entergy Nuclear

Operations, said that despite identifying increased levels of tritium in samples taken May 17, June 11 and June 21, "there's no threat to public drinking water." — *Boston Globe & Gate House News Service*, July 9, 2010.

Lake Superior Barrel Recovery Postponed

RED CLIFF, Wisconsin — In the late '50s and early '60s, the Army Corps of Engineers dumped over 1,457 barrels of toxic military waste from Honeywell, Inc. along the North Shore of Lake Superior. The possibility that some of the barrels contained radioactive waste has become a Nukewatch project. (See our Special Report "Drinking Water at Risk, Toxic Military Wastes Haunt Lake Superior," at nukewatch.com/barrels)

As part of its own investigation, the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa intended this summer to retrieve about 70 of the barrels. Engineers that the Band hired, EMR of Duluth, Minnesota, located 591 objects in 2008 likely to be drums. But because of technical problems and funding delays, the barrel sampling is "not going on this year," said Tracey Ledder, Red Cliff's Environmental Programs Director.

The Tribal committee studying the scandal hopes to do the barrel sampling next summer and has applied for an additional \$475,000 for the work. The Band was awarded \$1.3 million last year to implement its 1,500-page Work Plan to investigate the risks to drinking water and to fish that are posed by the waste. Ledder told Nukewatch Sept. 9 that next summer's recovery effort will likely include the sampling of sediment near the barrels to determine whether persistent chemicals have leached into the lake bottom. — Nukewatch's "Drinking Water at Risk," updated Sept. 2010; phone interview with Red Cliff Environmental Program, Sept. 9, 2010

Radioactive Waste at Site of 2012 Summer Olympics

LONDON, England — During the 1950s and '60s when illegal disposal of toxic waste was standard operating procedure, at least 100 tons of radioactive waste were dumped in a landfill which now underlies the site of the Olympic stadium recently built in East London for the 2012 Summer Games.

Officials have asserted that the landfill, which was covered with additional soil in preparation for stadium construction, poses no risk to athletes or attendees of the Olympics. The planned development housing projects or an urban park following the Games has been thrown into question by the discovery of the dump, and critics have said a complete environmental reassessment of the site is necessary. Thorium and radium were mixed with low-level waste and buried together in an attempt to reduce overall radioactivity to a level "exempt" from expensive high-level waste management. John Large, an independent nuclear analyst hired to review 28,000 pages of material on the dumping, told the *Guardian* that "At the best, this might be interpreted as a misplaced interpretation of the radioactive waste regulations or, at the worse, some might view it as blatantly cooking the books to save on the high cost of off-site radioactive waste disposal." The scandal casts an unhealthy pallor on the government's justification for hosting the Olympics, which was to subsequently build as many as 10,000 new homes on the site.

— *UK News*, Feb. 14; the *Guardian*, June 20, 2010

Radioactive Metals Found in Home Products

Radioactive metals are turning up in consumer products throughout the world according to U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) records. An investigation by Scripps Howard News Service into NRC records indicates that the U.S. system is flawed. More than 18,000 cases of radioactive materials in consumer products have been reported, and estimates suggest that more than 500,000 contaminated items are unaccounted for. Some products are composed entirely of contaminated metal, such as the kitchen grater found in Flint, Mich. that was laced with cobalt-60. The list of reported products include brackets used in the production of La-Z-Boy recliners, women's handbags, buttons, and chain link fencing. The investigation revealed several flaws in the U.S. system for regulating and reporting contaminated metals. These flaws include: a lack of specified levels for acceptable amounts of contamination (which allows other countries to dump contaminated metals into the U.S. market); no requirement for recyclers or scrap yards to check for radiation; no agency to oversee the regulation of radioactive metals. The only program that collects such items has a two-year waiting list and a 9,000 item backlog. To make matters worse, many of these items are being recycled in the U.S. and recirculated without regulation. According to the EPA, the agency responsible for regulating radioactive waste, steps to develop a reporting system and regulatory protocol have not been taken. The EPA calls them "Next Steps" in controlling importation of contaminated metals. An EPA-made CD-ROM training manual for scrap metal operators is available by order, but the program does not mention

supplying scrap yards with the tools necessary to identify contaminated metals. — GreenerDesign, June 8, 2009; *Los Angeles Times*, Nov. 8, 2008; EPA, epa.gov/rpdweb00/source-reduction-management/scrapmetal.html

Worker Contaminated at Navy Shipyard

NEWPORT NEWS, Virginia — At Northrop Grumman's giant Newport News shipyard, a worker's clothing was reported to have been radioactively contaminated while he was conducting "radiological surveys in a tank" aboard the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier *Theodore Roosevelt*. The company declined to provide details about the radiation except to claim "There was no adverse impact to the employee's health, the public, or the environment as a result of this event" The reassurance followed the company's inconclusive assertion that, "no ingestion or inhalation of radioactivity was expected." Northrop Grumman even had the confidence in reader gullibility to say, "For perspective, the amount of radioactivity found on the employee's clothing was significantly less than the amount of radioactivity found in a common household smoke detector." — Associated Press; Northrop Grumman press release, June 9, 2010

Over 7,500,000 Million Sold Recalled

GOLDEN ARCHES — In June McDonalds recalled 7.5 million children's glasses featuring cartoon characters from the movie "Shrek Forever After," because they contain cadmium paint, a known carcinogen and heavy metal that can transfer to the hands of the kids using the glass. The glasses produced millions of additional visits to hamburger franchises, where they were sold for \$1.99 with food and for \$2.49 without a purchase. The fast foot giant is offering \$3 for each returned glass. The cadmium painted glasses originated in France where cadmium is still used in some paints to make bright colors. However, International Cadmium Association spokesperson Hugh Morrow explained that "cadmium pigment should not be painted on consumer glasses." McDonalds announced in May that sales increased by 3.4 percent once the glasses were offered in their sales promotion. Five of the eight isotopes of cadmium are mildly radioactive.

— *Los Angeles Times*, June 4; *New York Times*, June 5 & 9, 2010

Arrests at Nuclear Weapons Parts Builder

KANSAS CITY, Missouri — Twice in two months, nuclear weapons critics have organized protests at the Kansas City Plant, a giant Honeywell managed factory that produces components for the nation's H-bombs. On August 16, about 70 peace activists surrounded some construction equipment being used for a new \$3 billion facility that the Obama Administration says is to replace the contaminated 40-year-old

Bannister Federal Complex. About 14 people were arrested after refusing to end the encirclement. Less than a month later, during a Sept. 8 ground breaking ceremony for the new factory, a group of 7 protesters were arrested after they blocked a road being used by local dignitaries to attend the event. Former Honeywell employees like Maurice Copeland have joined the protests. "The reason we're here is because of the sick workers. Making parts for nuclear weapons exposes you to depleted uranium," he said.

— *Kansas City Star*, Sept. 8, NBS Action, August 16, 2010

RESOURCES

*Beyond Nuclear, 6930 Carroll Av., # 400, Takoma Park, MD 20912; Phone: (301) 270-2209; Email: info@beyondnuclear.org; Web: beyondnuclear.org
*European Organization for Nuclear Research, CERN CH-1211, Genève 23, Switzerland; Phone: (+41) 22-76-766 49; Email: cern.reception@cern.ch; Web: public.web.cern.ch/public/en/Contact-en.html
*Healthy Environment Alliance of Utah, 68 S. Main St., #400, Salt Lake City, UT 84101; Phone: (801) 355-5055; Email: info@healutah.org; Web: <http://healutah.org>
*NC WARN: Waste Awareness & Reduction Network, PO Box 61051, Durham, NC 27715, Phone: (919) 416-5077; Email: ncwarn@ncwarn.org; Web: ncwarn.org
*Nuclear Information & Resource Service, 6930 Carroll Ave., Suite 340, Takoma Park, MD 20912; Phone: (301) 270-6477; Email: nirsnet@nirs.org; Web: nirs.org
*Nuclear Energy Information Service, 3411 W Diversey Av., #16, Chicago IL 60647; Phone: (773) 342-7650; Web: neis.org; Email: neis@neis.org
*Pilgrim Watch, 148 Washington St., Duxbury, MA 02332; Phone: (781) 934-0389; Email: mary.lampert@comcast.net; Web: pilgrimwatch.org
*Prevention is the Cure, 746 New York Av., PO Box 1446; Huntington, NY 11743; (631) 547-1518; Email: staff@preventionisthecure.org; Web: preventionisthecure.org
*Rocky Mountain Peace & Justice Center, P.O. Box 1156, Boulder, CO 80306; Phone: (303) 444-6981; Email: info@rmpjc.org; Web: rmpjc.org
*Sortir du Nucléaire, 9 Rue Dumenge, 69317 Lyon, cedex 04, France, Email: contact@sortirdunucleaire.fr; Web: sortirdunucleaire.org
*Voices for Creative Nonviolence, 1249 W. Argyle Street #2, Chicago, IL 60640; Phone: (773) 878-3815; Web: vcnv.org; Email: info@vcnv.org

Depleted Uranium Updates

156.5 Tons of DU Shot Into Iraq During 2003 Invasion

CADU News, by the Campaign against Depleted Uranium and the UK Uranium Weapons Network, in Manchester, England reports that in the 2003 invasion of Iraq, at least 142,000 kilograms of depleted uranium were used by U.S. and UK militaries. In U.S. terms that's about 313,000 pounds of DU, or 156.5 tons.

Pentagon Worried About DU Effects As Early As 1993

In July, Mike Ludwig, an intern at Truthout.org reported on a little-known Pentagon memo by then-Brigadier General Eric Shinseki (now the Secretary of Veterans Affairs) that indicates the military was seriously worried about radioactive contamination by DU and that the Department of Defense had required medical testing for personnel exposed to it.

The August 19, 1993 memo was titled "Review of Draft to Congress – Health and Environmental Consequences of Depleted Uranium in the U.S. Army – Action memorandum."

On July 27, Veterans for Common Sense demanded that Shinseki's department begin comprehensive research on the correlation between chronic illnesses and exposure to depleted uranium during the Gulf War. The issue of Gulf War Syndrome had come up during a House Veterans Affairs subcommittee hearing, and VCS made particular mention of the secretary's 1993 memo at the hearing. Of the 697,000 men and women who served in U.S. warfare in the Persian Gulf between 1990 and 1991, about 250,000 suffer from symptoms of Gulf War Syndrome.

Paul Sullivan, executive director of VCS, told Truthout that the medical tests ordered in the 1993 memo, which also called for personnel to be trained in dealing with contaminated equipment, were canceled after a training video scared soldiers.

VCS has also asked Shinseki to investigate the 2009 termination of a \$75 million research project on Gulf War illnesses at the University of Texas medical center. Last year the VCS filed a Freedom of Information Act request for records of alleged "internal sabotage" of the research and the intentional delaying of treatment, according to Sullivan.



AP photo

Workers in West Valley, NY prepare barrels of radioactive waste for transport to Energy Solutions' dump site in Utah

Waste "Recycling" Failure

West Valley Still Exposing Workers

WEST VALLEY, New York — Work at the West Valley Demonstration Project, 30 miles south of Buffalo, has always been dangerous. Employees have routinely received huge doses of radiation. Contract workers take over when permanent staff reach their quarterly maximum dose limits.

Clean up of the once privately-owned reactor fuel reprocessing site, on 3,345 acres, has been underway since the 1980s and will take another 10 years to complete. The factory separated uranium and plutonium from 630 tons of used military and commercial reactor fuel. Severely contaminated, it was closed in 1972; no area of the site was considered radiation-free including hallways, stairways, lobbies, soil, a nearby river and groundwater.

Today, 38 years later, workers must wear restrictive, highly sophisticated protective gear. Some of the locations on site are so radioactive that only robots can be utilized. Even so, on Aug. 1, a woman was contaminated when moisture seeped through her suit while cleaning a floor. She reportedly underwent decontamination using "soap and water."

It was the second time in less than three months that employees were contaminated. On May 21, four workers were exposed when radioactive waste pipes were being deposited in plastic bags. The property is owned by New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, and the state pays 10 percent of clean up costs and federal taxpayers cover the rest via the Energy Department.

Energy Solutions in Utah and the Nevada Test Site (formerly Envirocare), have received shipments of West Valley's radioactive waste by truck and train. Recovered uranium was sent to Fernald in Ohio, and plutonium was either shipped to Hanford in Washington or stored in a Plutonium Storage Facility nearby. Unprocessed fuel rods were sent to the Idaho National Laboratory. Approximately 20,000 steel drums of low-level waste remains onsite.

— WIVB-TV, and *Business Week & Buffalo News*, Aug. 4, 2010; Oak Ridge Associated Universities, Dose Reconstruction Project for NIOSH, Aug. 17, 2007

"The VA has yet to release any documents about the impeded research," Truthout reported.

Sullivan said that the DU "follow-up" program the VA consistently references was inadequate as it consisted of sporadic studies on only a small fraction of estimated 400,000 veterans exposed to the radioactive heavy metal.

"The VA does not listen to expert scientists. The VA does not even listen to Congress," Sullivan told the subcommittee. "Two decades of inaction have already passed. Gulf War veterans urgently want to avoid the four decades of endless suffering endured by our Vietnam War veterans exposed to Agent Orange."

Japan Strengthens Call for UN Study

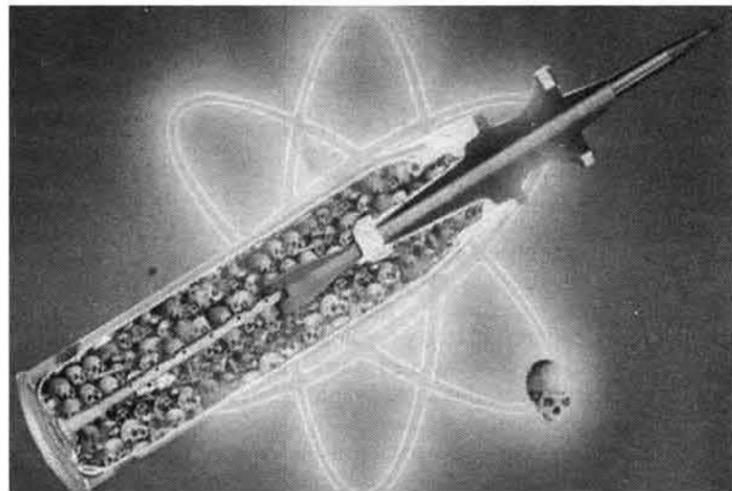
In 2008 the UN General Assembly resolved to solicit from member states official opinions on the effects of the use of depleted uranium weapons. After first submitting a generic dismissal (Japan does not make or use DU), the government this summer sent to the UN a more pointed assessment. It calls for "all relevant international organizations to conduct successive on-site studies and further information gathering including [the] latest scientific findings, with due attention to the opinions and activities of interested NGOs in this field, and to provide their views on the effects that the use of depleted uranium munitions may/ can cause on the human body as well as the environment."

Iraqi Cancers "Linked to U.S. Weapons" in TV Special

World News Australia broadcast on August 16 a 30-minute special report produced by SBS Television on increasing numbers of terrible birth abnormalities and children with leukemia in Iraq, with locals blaming depleted uranium weapons used in U.S. attacks. The SBS Dateline special is reported by Fouad Hady, an Iraqi Australian. You can watch the report at: (<http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/1328172/Iraqi-child-cancer-linked-to-US-weapons>) — JL

Punjab Poisoning its Children

A small village in Punjab, Northern India, has been the focus of a study into alarming rates of uranium poisoning. In 2008 a visiting physician noticed a spike in the number of severe birth abnormalities and began taking hair, urine and well water samples. A dangerously high level of uranium



was found in all three and many children had 60 times the normal level of uranium. In the two years since the tests, there has been a steady increase in the number of birth defects. Understaffed clinics are filled with children suffering macrocephaly (enlarged heads), microcephaly (small heads), and others whose limbs cannot bend.

The source of the uranium has not been identified. Some scientists have proposed that the ground water may have been contaminated by contact with granite rock 150 miles away. Another possibility is fly ash from coal fired stations which contains concentrated levels of uranium. A new report published by Russia's leading nuclear research institution warns of an increased radiation hazard to people living near coal-fired power stations. Others have alleged that the contamination may have been exacerbated by depleted uranium carried on the wind from Iraq and Afghanistan. At a seminar in Amritsar in April, Admiral Vishnu Bhagwat, a former chief of India's Naval staff, suggested that areas within a 1,000-mile radius of Kabul — including Punjab — may be affected by depleted uranium. Regardless of the source, Punjab officials have been quick to bury the story, even threatening to shut down the clinics that care for the affected children. Though the source may never be known, the dangerous results of exposure to uranium are quite real and have affected Punjab families irrevocably. — PV

"Breathable" Plutonium Still Litters Rocky Flats

DENVER, Colorado — The 10-year long, \$7 billion project to, as they say "clean up" Rocky Flats — the now former plutonium bomb factory 16 miles from Denver, Colo. — appears frighteningly inadequate in view of the breathable plutonium that's been identified in on-site soil and in nearby homes.

In August, State Rep. Wes McKinley, a Democrat, announced that plutonium and americium were found in potentially lethal amounts and called on state and federal authorities to delay opening the site as a "national wildlife refuge" pending further tests.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment have claimed that plutonium is not a hazard at Rocky Flats and plan to open the "refuge" to the public for recreation.

A group called the Boston Chemical Data Corp. analyzed the contaminated soil last spring.

Patricia Calhoun reports in the *Denver Westword* that 20 years ago, McKinley was a rancher and teacher from southeastern Colorado, who became "the foreman of the grand jury that reviewed evidence seized in the 1989 FBI raid of [Rocky Flats] which was still manufacturing plutonium triggers for bombs. The grand jury termed the plant 'an ongoing criminal enterprise' and wanted to indict officials with Rockwell International."

Investigative journalist Judy Pasternak reports that while the Energy Department announced the clean up complete in 2005, the department originally said the project would take 65 years and cost \$37 billion.

Pasternak, who interviewed Marco Kaltofen, the head of a Boston lab that identified the plutonium, wrote "The samples were collected in April by the Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center, which has criticized the quality of the cleanup."

"Plutonium particles were present in dust from a crawl space in an older home near the plant, Kaltofen said."

Kaltofen also said he found traces of plutonium and americium which he called "significant, a huge amount. It would be a good project to check all these older homes," he added.

Writer Kristen Iversen, who will soon publish the book *Full Body Burden: Growing Up in the Shadow of Rocky Flats*, told the Environmental News Service, "If there's plutonium in the dust at one house downwind of Rocky Flats, there's probably plutonium in dust in many other homes, or perhaps even schools or libraries, located in the area known to be contaminated with plutonium released from Rocky Flats."

— Associated Press, Aug. 18; ABC News Denver, AOL News Service report by Judy Pasternak, and the Environmental News Service, Aug. 4, 2010

This is now ...

To meet our growing energy needs, and prevent the worst consequence of climate change we'll need to increase our supply of nuclear power. It's that simple.

— Barack Obama, in Lanham, Maryland, announcing \$8 billion in loan guarantees for a new reactor, Feb. 16, 2010

Her Majesty's Astute Endangerment

FASLANE, Scotland — The *Scotland Sunday Herald* obtained reports under freedom of information legislation from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) regarding Naval Base Clyde and its huge array of safety lapses including radioactive contamination, fires and nuclear accidents.

The Royal Navy identified 167 nuclear safety incidents, 17 leading to radiation releases including one from the nuclear submarine *HMS Torbay* into Gareloch. There have been 27 fires in the past two years alone, with 783 false alarms — about one-third blamed on faulty equipment. The Navy has also been called on the carpet for "shortfalls" in safety during the handling of H-bombs. Oil spills, sewage discharges and asbestos contamination are also on the list of health and environmental breaches. The base contains an aging radioactive waste facility that SEPA is worried about, and the Navy has until 2014 to replace it.

Britain has four *Vanguard*-class submarines carrying Trident missiles. The nuclear powered submarines dock at Coulport on Gareloch. The latest class submarine is under construction at Barrow-in-Furness and its namesake, the *Astute*, is just now finishing up a year of sea trials — albeit not so jolly well. The sub is said to be more technically advanced than the space shuttle, but earlier this year had an electrical fire on-board that damaged its bridge fin. In August it returned to port with a broken anchor. Still the sub was expected to be commissioned into Her Majesty's Royal Navy at the end of August, if it is not recalled.

An emergency exercise conducted July 13 at the Barrow-in-Furness shipyard failed several safety requirements. The test revealed that the shipyard has no emergency plans for responding to radiation leaks from on-board reactors, leaving 56,000 workers especially vulnerable to nuclear accidents. The other *Astute* class subs *Ambush*, *Artful* and *Audacious* are all under construction at Barrow at a cost of \$1.5 billion each, five years late and 50 percent over budget. — *The Scotland Herald*, May 16 & July 25; *The Scottish Sun*, Aug. 11; *North West Evening Mail*, Aug. 16; *The Engineer*, Aug 2, 2010

The Cancer Epidemic: Its Industrial Causes

Presidential Panel Calls for More Regulation

By Karl Grossman

The World Health Organization is projecting that this year cancer will become the world's leading cause of death. Why the epidemic of cancer? Death certificates in United States show cancer as being the 8th leading cause of death in 1900.

Why has it skyrocketed to now surpass heart disease as number one?

Is it because people live longer and have to die of something? That's a factor, but not the prime reason as reflected by the jump in age-adjusted cancer being far above what could be expected from increased longevity. And it certainly doesn't explain the steep hike in childhood cancers. Is it lifestyle, diet and genetics, as we have often been told? They are factors, but not key reasons.

The cause of the cancer epidemic, as numerous studies have now documented, is largely environmental — the result of toxic substances in the water we drink, the food we eat, the consumer products we use, the air we breathe. (Some of the pollution is voluntarily caused — by smoking. But most is involuntary.)

As the President's Cancer Panel declared in May in its 240-page report titled *Reducing Environmental Cancer Risk: What We Can Do Now*, "The American people — even before they are born — are bombarded continually with myriad combinations of these dangerous exposures."

It said, "With the growing body of evidence linking environmental exposures to cancer, the public is becoming increasingly aware of the unacceptable burden of cancer resulting from environmental and occupational exposures that could have been prevented through appropriate national action."

The report points to chemicals and radiation as major causes of cancer and states: "Cancer continues to shatter and steal the lives of Americans. Approximately 41 percent of Americans will be diagnosed with cancer at some point in their lives, and about 21 percent will die from the cancer. The incidence of some cancers, including some most common among children, is increasing. The burgeoning number and complexity of known or suspected environmental carcinogens compel us to act to protect public health."

The panel urges President Obama "most strongly to use the power of your office to remove the carcinogens and other toxins from our food, water, and air that needlessly increase health care costs, cripple our nation's productivity, and devastate American lives."

In 1980, another presidential panel, the Presidential Toxic Substances Strategy Committee, came to the same conclusion. It declared:

"Of the hazards to human health arising from toxic substances, cancer is a leading cause of concern. Cancer is the only major cause of death that has continued to rise since 1900. It is now second only to heart disease as a cause of death. Some of the increase in cancer mortality since 1900 is a function of the greater average age of the U.S. population and the medical progress made against infectious disease. But even after correcting for age, both mortality (death) rates and incidence (new cases) of cancer are increasing. Many now believe that environmental (nongenetic) factors — life style and work and environmental exposures — are significant in the great majority of cancer cases seen."

Meanwhile, through the years solid science done by independent researchers — not those taking money from the chemical or nuclear industries — has extensively documented this cancer/environment connection.

"The evidence is there that the majority of cancer cases are environmentally caused," says Dr. David Carpenter, founding dean of the University of Albany School of Public Health and now director of the Institute for Health and the Environment there. Among the research he points to is a 2000 study involving examining health records of 44,788 pairs of twins in Sweden, Denmark and Finland. If genetics were the main cause of cancer, if one twin developed cancer the other probably would, too. This was not found. The study, published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, concluded that "inherited genetic factors make a minor contribution" in most cancers.

"This finding indicates that the environment has the principle role in causing sporadic cancer."

Dr. Samuel Epstein, professor emeritus of Environmental and Occupational Medicine at the University of Illinois School of Public Health, in his book *The Politics of Cancer* concludes that cancer is a preventable disease "caused mainly by exposure to chemical or physical agents in the environment." The huge problem, he said, is how "a combination of powerful and well-focused pressures by special industrialized interests, together with public inattention and the indifference of the scientific community" has warped public policy and thwarted "meaningful attempts to prevent the carnage." Dr. Epstein now chairs the Cancer Prevention Coalition committed to eliminating those toxins that are causing the cancer epidemic (<http://www.preventcancer.com>).

The initiative "Prevention is The Cure" was founded by breast cancer survivor Karen Joy Miller, and on its website (www.preventionisthecure.org) declares that four decades have passed, "and the wake-up call put forth by Rachel Carson"

in her book *Silent Spring* "and other activists has been blocked by powerful political interests that profit from pollution."

These powerful interests have long had allies in government. The late James Sibbison, who went from being a reporter for the Associated Press to press officer at the Environmental Protection Agency, would tell the story of how immediately after Ronald Reagan became president, orders were given to the EPA press office "never to use the words cancer-causing in front of the word chemical." Now the number of chemicals in commercial use in the U.S. totals 80,000. The EPA under the Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976 has been required to assess all of them. In more than 30 years it has gotten around to examining 200.

The poisoning — and consequent cancer — is not necessary. The report by the President's Cancer Panel emphasizes how "the requisite knowledge and technologies exist" to provide safe "alternatives" to cancer-causing agents.

But this doesn't suit those doing the polluting — who have such a hold on government.

Read the report at: http://deainfo.nci.nih.gov/advisory/pcp/pcp08-09rpt/PCP_Report_08-09_508.pdf

— Karl Grossman is a professor of journalism at the State University of New York/College at Old Westbury and host of the nationally syndicated TV program *Enviro Close-Up*.



That was then ...

I am not a nuclear energy proponent. Until the nuclear industry can show that they can produce clean, safe energy without enormous subsidies from the U.S. government, I don't think that's the best option. I am much more interested in solar and wind and bio-diesel.

— Barack Obama, on the campaign trail in Newton, Iowa, December 30, 2007

Contaminated Reactor Parts Could Take Water Route from Canada to Sweden

KINCARDINE, Canada — Warning against accidents, health risks and potential contamination of drinking water, opposition to a shipment of 16 huge radioactive steam generators from Canada to Sweden is growing. The school-bus-sized generators, each weighing 110 tons, originate from the \$5.25 billion refurbishing job at Bruce Nuclear Generating Station, owned by Bruce Power, a consortium of companies located north of Kincardine, Canada on Lake Huron. The radioactive equipment is scheduled to float down Lake Huron, past Sarnia, Windsor, Detroit, Cleveland and Buffalo, then through Lake Ontario passing Toronto, into the St. Lawrence Seaway past Quebec City, before setting sail across the Atlantic Ocean.

Mayors, two Michigan State Representatives, more than 70 organizations, First Nation leaders, hundreds of individuals and a unanimous Windsor City Council have been working to stop the shipments.

Company officials promote the shipment of the generators as part of their "recycling" program. The generators will be salvaged by the Swedish firm Studsvik. The business claims it can "clean" 90 percent of the metal, smelt it into ingots and sell it on the European open market. The hottest remains of the process will be returned to Canada for long-term storage in about three years time. If not for the transport, the waste generators would remain as is on site. The company intends to ship the steam generators at a cost of over \$1 million per unit.

Bruce Power officials claim the radiation levels are so low that in the event of a sinking, nothing would come of it. Murry Elston, vice president of Bruce Power corporate affairs told the *Windsor Star*, "I could stand within a two-meter distance of them for two hours and the result would be the equivalent of a chest X-ray." At present the waste generators



Mary Olson
on the stump

Here are a few points I always make when I'm asked about the government's oversight and regulation of radiation health and safety issues.

1) The U.S. federal government is one of the largest employers of workers in radioactive jobs — so it conflicts with its own "interests" to study radiation health impacts, or to admit to its radioactive pollution.

2) The commercial nuclear industry has a "free ride" on this federal suppression of information.

3) All U.S. federal grant money for radiation health impact research originates, or is controlled by the U.S. Department of Energy — the employer mentioned above. This was documented in a study done by Physicians for Social Responsibility.

4) There has been one national study of radiation impacts on reactor communities (none on the uranium fuel cycle), and that study did not look at impacts downwind or downstream. It looked at the county the reactor is sitting in, but reactors are on water and typically the water is the boundary of the county. The fact that there was no finding of impact may also tie to the fact that it was 1990 and many reactors had been on-line for less time than the 20-to-40-year "latency" period between exposure and cancer development.

5) Only one study. Yes, there is a move for National Academy of Sciences to do another — we are worried the mistakes will be repeated.

6) Cancer is the "perfect crime" — while there are cancers that are "presumed" to be "radiogenic," this does not exclude radiation causing an overall increase in cancer. But today, there is no way to say "this is what caused that particular cancer."

7) Women are more vulnerable to cancer from radiation — because we have more tissue that is more sensitive (reproductive and mammary) — about 50 percent more vulnerable than men. The fetus and children are even more vulnerable — some estimates are 20 times more vulnerable than an adult. Alice Stewart's work in the 1950s showed that childhood cancer is, in some cases, a "post-birth defect" — and the chances are 400 percent higher if the mother had an abnormal X-ray during pregnancy.

— Mary Olson is the Director of the Southeast Office of Nuclear Information and Resource Service in Asheville, North Carolina.

are stored in a concrete warehouse and workers are allowed near them for only short periods of time due to their radioactivity. The piping inside the generators is contaminated with highly radioactive nuclear fission products including plutonium, cobalt-60, cesium-137, americium, curium and tritium — elements that emit all types of radiation.

An application for a transport license was filed in April and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) has appointed one person — director of the commission's Transport Licensing and Strategic Support Division — to grant approval once officials are satisfied that there is no risk to the public or the environment.

The generators will be trucked, one per day, avoiding certain bridges and high traffic areas, to the port of Owen Sound. They will then be loaded onto the *MV Palessa*, a ship designed for heavy loads, and sent off once the St. Lawrence Seaway's heavy summer traffic subsides.

No environmental assessment has been done for the shipment and when asked, Garry Linsey, director of maritime services for the division of the Canadian Coast Guard that oversees clean-up of hazardous material on the Great Lakes, said in an interview in the *Windsor Star* that he was unaware of the planned shipment.

Under pressure from opponents and thousands of signatures delivered through an on-line petition, a public hearing on the license proposal has been scheduled for Sept. 29, at the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission headquarters in Ottawa. As a result, the shipments may be delayed. — *Windsor Star*, July 11 & 12; *Toronto Sun*, July 28; *Kincardine News*, July 13; *Kingston Whig Standard*, July 26; *London Free Press*, July 15; *The (St. Catherines, Ontario) Standard*, July 22; *Sarnia Observer*, Aug. 4, 2010

Resistance for a Nuclear-Free Future

By Jack Cohen-Joppa, *The Nuclear Resister*

The weekend was bookended by a lot of hugging — starting Friday evening in front of the registration table as old friends reunited, and ending Monday afternoon outside the Clinton, Tennessee jail as prisoners were released into the hot July sun to await trial. In between, it was a powerful celebration of nonviolent resistance marking the thirtieth anniversaries of Nukewatch, the Nuclear Resister and the first Plowshares disarmament action.

There was music, there was talking, there were puppets and Fourth-of-July burgers and watermelon. And on Monday morning, July 5, a revised Declaration of Independence was delivered at the gates of the Y12 Nuclear Weapons Complex in Oak Ridge, after which thirteen people crossed the property line and twenty-three more stretched a long banner across the road to block the entrance to the bomb plant.



Photo by John P. Kernodle

Plowshares Eight activists took the stage: L to R: Molly Rush, Sr. Anne Montgomery, Fr. Carl Kabat and John Schuchardt.



Photo by John LaForge

Twenty-three people held a banner blocking the road into the Y12 bombplex, were arrested and charged with obstructing the roadway.



Photo by John P. Kernodle

Wackenhut forces move in for federal arrests of thirteen people. Arraignment for all was set for September 8, and trial in Knoxville federal court scheduled for January 11, 2011.



Photo by Jim Haber

They were arrested — the thirteen on federal trespass charges and twenty-three on state charges for obstructing a roadway. The penalty for the federal offense can be as much as \$100,000 and a year in prison; for the state charges, \$50 and 30 days in jail.

Not everyone risked arrest, but the depth of commitment and the passion for the future was uniform — hundreds of peace cranes were tied on the barbed wire fence expressing the deep desire for a world free of nuclear weapons.

The weekend's Declaration of Independence said in part, "Under principles of democracy we exercise the right of every citizen of this republic and this planet to peacefully resist the nuclear threat; attacking as it does every core concept of human rights.

"We act to exercise our basic rights to life and freedom from violence and we exercise our duty to protect children and future generations.

"We act to ensure that our government fulfills its promise and responsibilities to unequivocally pursue and achieve nuclear disarmament in good faith.

"We call on this government to end the use of our tax dollars to wage permanent war, and we demand the clean up of all chemical and radioactive contamination."

Most of those arrested on state charges — Marcus Atkinson, Jon Blickenstaff, Ed Bloomer, Stephen Clemens, Barbara Corcoran, Frank Cordaro, Susan Crane, Paul Fesefeldt, Nancy Gowen, Clare Grady, Joe Gump, Judith Hallock, Martha Hennessy, Steve Jacobs, Elizabeth McAlister, Joan Noyes, Tom Palumbo, Pepperwolf, John Schuchardt, and Janice Sevré-Duszynska — were released without bail. Court dates were set for early July. Three women who remained in jail — Alice Baker, Beth Brockman, and Billie Hickey — were arraigned July 8 in Anderson County Court. Alice Baker and Billie Hickey were sentenced to five days in jail plus a \$50 fine and court costs and a "jail fee" of \$50 per day. Beth Brockman was sentenced to 10 days in jail, and the same fine, court and jail costs.

Crossing over a railroad gate and crawling through barbed wire, thirteen resisters moved onto the Y12 Nuclear Weapons Complex and were jailed over night. Steve Baggaly, Bill Bichsel, David Corcoran, Dennis DuVall, Carol Gilbert, Jean Gump, Jackie Hudson, Mary Dennis Lentsch, Bradford Lyttle, Ardeth Platte, Beth Rosdatter, Bonnie Urfer and Michael Walli appeared before Judge Bruce Guyton in U.S. District Court in Knoxville the following afternoon for a detention hearing. All were released without bond on their own recognizance, pending trial.

The weekend gathering, held on the campus of Maryville College in nearby Maryville, Tennessee, was attended by more than 200 anti-nuclear activists from across the United States to advance the role of nonviolent direct action and civil resistance in the movement for a nuclear-free future.

Saturday morning began with plenary presentations summarizing the status of nuclear power (with Glenn Carroll from Nuclear Watch South/NoNewNukes.org and Mary Olson of the Nuclear Information and Resource Service), nuclear weapons (with Jay Coghlan of Nuclear Watch of New Mexico), and the Y12 Nuclear Weapons Complex (with Ralph Hutchison of the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance).

It was followed by a roundtable report from more than a dozen nonviolent anti-nuclear action campaigns around the country. The morning presentations brought everyone up to speed on the state of the movement and the challenges it faces.

Afternoon workshop sessions included in-depth presentations on new nuclear bomb factories, the nuclear power relapse, nuclear waste issues nationally and in Tennessee, and more. Workshops focused on issues for resisters also included presentations on war tax resistance, nonviolent blockading, the Plowshares movement, songs to sing at protests and in jail, representing yourself in court, and doing time in prison.



Photo by Tom Bottolene

Ardeth Platte gave the peace sign as she prepared for transport by Wackenhut security personnel. She was one of 13 people who received federal trespass charges for entering the Y12 property in Oak Ridge.



Photo by Kim Joy (Rugh) Bergier

Event organizers Ralph Hutchison (Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance), Felice and Jack Cohen-Joppa (*The Nuclear Resister*), Bonnie Urfer & John LaForge (Nukewatch), sang a version of "It Isn't Nice."

The Saturday evening celebration was kicked off by event organizers Ralph Hutchison, Bonnie Urfer, John LaForge and Felice and Jack Cohen-Joppa, who performed an anti-nuclear rendition of Malvina Reynolds' "It Isn't Nice."

Former anti-nuclear prisoner of conscience and Voices for Creative Nonviolence cofounder Kathy Kelly delivered a keynote address.

Singing was led by song pioneers of the civil rights movement, Guy and Candie Carawan of the Highlander Center, with their son Evan joining in on mandolin. A tribute to the Plowshares Eight began with Steve Jacobs singing "The Hammer Has to Fall", a song about the disarmament action.

The four members present — Fr. Carl Kabat, Molly Rush, John Schuchardt and Sr. Anne Montgomery — each spoke, as did Elizabeth McAlister, Plowshares activist and wife of the late Plowshares Eight member Philip Berrigan.

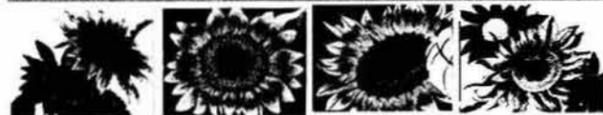
Sunday events included nonviolence training and preparation for Monday's action, and presentations on noncooperation in court and in custody (Fr. Steve Kelly), and international law regarding nuclear weapons and a citizen's duty to resist (attorneys Kary Love and Anabel Dwyer).

Participants joined members of the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance, who hosted the gathering, for their weekly Sunday afternoon vigil at Y12. Music was provided by a local acoustic trio, The Emancipators.

Back at the college, the July 4th cookout was followed by a theatrical performance. Local cultural workers enlisted the help of both children and adults at the gathering to perform Bombs Away!, a colorful, lively production with costumes, music and large puppets.

Among those present for the weekend events was 94-year-old Gordon Maham, who helped build the Y12 plant for the Manhattan Project. Maham quit when he heard about Hiroshima and his role in building the bomb. He then lost his war-industry draft exemption and served three years in federal prison as a post-war conscientious objector.

NUKEWATCH QUARTERLY



Nukewatch is a project of
The Progressive Foundation
a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 1979 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.

- printed on 100% recycled paper -

The Progressive Foundation & Nukewatch

740A Round Lake Road, Luck, WI 54853

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Web: www.nukewatch.com

ISSN: 1942-6305

Through the Prism of Nonviolence

Resistance for a Nuclear-Free Future “Living a way of life into being”

By John Heid

Some stood and stood and stood and stood.
They were taken for fools,
They were taken for being taken in.

Some walked and walked and walked-
They walked the earth,
They walked the waters,
They walked the air.
'Why do you stand?' they were asked, and
'Why do you walk?'

— Excerpted from “Some,” by Daniel Berrigan

They came from around the corner and around the country. Heartland and northland. Pacific northwest and sweet New England. From the Sonoran borderlands to the southeast hinterlands. From coast to coast. Even Down Under checked in. Nearly every growth zone and watershed of the lower 48 was represented and each decade from toddler to nonagenarian.

Construction and service workers, kids and parents, herbalists and school teachers, clowns and clerics (some wearing both hats), lawyers and writers, monks, musicians and ne'er-do-well catholic workers. And so many more. A collage of Americana. A veritable who's who of malcontents and dreamers. And surely somewhere in the mix a government scribe, or two. Indeed a hodge-podge of humanity showed up in the hazy emerald shadow of the Great Smokey Mountains on a sultry Fourth of July weekend to celebrate independence from nuclearism — to celebrate community. This was an anti-nuclear family reunion. The global backdrop for that weekend bespoke anything but liberation.

Deepwater Horizon was in its 75th day of hemorrhaging black blood into the Gulf of Mexico. The longest war in U.S.

Arrested in Good Company Opposing Weapons of Mass Destruction

By Bonnie Urfer

I was so inspired by the “Resistance for a Nuclear Free Future” weekend that I just had to cross the line on July 5 at the Y12 nuclear weapons complex. I just had to. Thirty-six others also joined in resistance to the weapons on that day, some opting for state charges and some federal. I went for federal since I have a state warrant for my arrest in Tennessee on August 6, 2005, and figured that since law enforcement forces don't communicate, the feds wouldn't know I was wanted. It worked.

Oak Ridge, Tennessee, was once a city behind walls with entrance granted only after acquiring security clearance. It's the place, in part, responsible for manufacturing the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki that killed hundreds of thousands of people in a blinding flash. Oak Ridge as a site was chosen for its role in the “Manhattan Project” due to its obscure location and high illiteracy rate. Secrecy was paramount back then and a breach of it could get you killed — remember Ethel and Julius Rosenberg.

It's a much different story today at weapons production sites around the world where chest-puffing by leaders of nations is spurred on by the number of nuclear weapons each possess. The walls around the city of Oak Ridge have come down.

To resist the production of weapons of mass destruction today, one only need climb through a barbed-wire fence, and when it's done with helping hands, it requires no physical risk. The risk for me came when the Wackenhut used their handcuffs on me. Really, I don't like to complain, but the first set were very painful and it took a lot of stating the obvious to get the police to do them again with less malice. The seconds set was still too tight and circulation in my hands was diminished, but it would have been useless to complain again. After about two hours or so, the police checked on the handcuff situation and a third pair were put around my wrists that finally did not hurt.

It was my privilege to pass over the strands of wire onto federal property in the company of 12 other stellar anti-nuclear, peace and justice activists and to spend the following 28 or so hours with the likes of Beth Rosdatter, Mary Dennis Lentsch, Jean Gump, Carol Gilbert, Ardeth Platte and Jackie Hudson. If you ever decide to get arrested, do it with these women.

Each woman had an extraordinarily disarming quality. Once under arrest and transported further into the Y12 property, we waited against a wall for the first of many processes. Before long the women among us knew the names of each of the Wackenhut security guards, how many children and grandchildren they had, how they liked their job, who had kids in war, and when they were going on their next family holiday. In the spirit of nonviolence and with utmost concern the guards were invited by the women to step into the shade with us — although they refused, they were checking soon enough to be sure our handcuffs weren't too tight and making sure we had enough water on that sweltering day.

After initial paperwork we were loaded into vans and transported to the county jail holding cells for a night's stay. Guards in the county jail complained about the plastic

history was raging outside the headlines with both civilian and combatant casualties in Afghanistan at unprecedented levels. The number of bodies recovered in the Sonoran desert borderlands of Arizona was so great that the Pima County Medical Examiner was utilizing a refrigerated truck to store them. And the Nuclear Posture Review escalated U.S. nuclear war preparations by pumping billions of dollars into three proposed facilities including the uranium processing factory at Y12, the site of our declaration of independence from nuclear weapons and reactors.

As the ~~image~~ goes, every picture tells a story. Picture this: Dominican Ardeth Platte crosses “the line” onto the Y12 factory on her knees, not so much as an act of penance but rather liberation. Her crutches, near at hand, become accomplices to the crime. Security personnel offer further succor, a wheelchair, and then they decide to remove her from the facility by the most immediate access. The fence. Bolt cutters arrive. The officers fumble about. They don't know how to use them! They couldn't cut themselves out of that nuclear weapons facility if they wanted. It is Ardeth who offers direction for her liberation, and theirs. She instructs them in the use of the tool and the fence is cut. All are freed.

Who cannot see the metaphor here? We have within our very hands the means of disarmament. We're born with an innate sense of freedom. No paper can guarantee let alone grant it to us. And yet, so few can cross the Maginot Line of profit motif, illegitimate law and denial that rationalizes, sanctifies and protects the nuclear culture. We are in our 65th year on nuclear death row and counting. We are in a global sense “dead men and women walking.” Pass me the bolt cutters please.

handcuffs used by Wackenhut since they had no tools for removing them but knives and scissors eventually worked. The holding tank contained steel benches along two walls and a toilet and sink tucked into a corner with a low privacy wall.

There too, the women I spent time with were engaging. We talked and sang during the long hours of fingerprinting and photographing and again, the police became friendly and even apologetic at the conditions in the jail. It is here that one sees the inadequate facilities and conditions under which prisoners in this country are kept. We were told that those incarcerated in the county jail received beans for meals three to four days a week, little to nothing in the line of fresh vegetables. People held inside jails across the country are increasing hungry as budget cuts take place and prisoners, convicted or just waiting for trial, are placed low on the list of needs. Our evening meal consisted of beans and two varieties of leftover coleslaw donated by church groups after their weekend of July 4th festivities. Without the donations it would have been beans.

Through the hours, the police were questioned and engaged in conversation by the activists in their midst. As night arrived, we women were given blankets and mattresses from the juvenile cells, which we laid side by side completely filling the space. The men were not given mattresses so slept on the cold cement floor or metal benches.

Morning brought handcuffs, ankle cuffs and chains for transport to the federal holding facilities in downtown Knoxville, another steel tank with benches. We were again fingerprinted, DNA'd, photographed and questioned in preparation for our court appearance and conditional signature bond release. Many more conversations took place and songs sung in our holding cell.

By the afternoon we had each been assigned an attorney to represent us in court, as the local magistrate judge would not allow pro-se appearances. Each person was granted release with restrictions on travel and we all left the federal facility by 8:00 in the evening.

Trial in the case has been scheduled for January 11, 2011 for those entering pleas of “not guilty.” I have yet to decide which plea to enter. A “guilty” plea means I don't have to make another long trip to Knoxville, earlier sentencing perhaps closer to home, and I avoid the agony of listening to court proceedings that protect and legalize nuclear weapons and subsequent long-lived radioactive contamination of our land and air. A not guilty plea means an appearance with all of the disappointment that comes in listening to government prosecution of peace activists, but I'd be in good company.

Dorothy Day wrote, “We have all known the long loneliness and we have learned that the only solution is love and that love comes with community.”

What is it that knits us together? What has kept both Nukewatch and the *Nuclear Resister* in ink, though not always in the black, lo these three decades? What made the Plowshares 8 a seminal witness? There were no blueprints. No 30-year plan or social contract.

Is it fair to say that there is something enduring about people who take the twine of simple hope and tie words to vision, and then action to words? Who then persist despite so-called reality? Despite the soul grinding status quo? Despite themselves? What is it about a people who stand by their words, that is to say, tell the truth, in fair weather and foul and oftentimes stumble in doing so? A people who tell the lion it has bad breath and bloody paws.

Conspiracy has another name. Community. In his compelling autobiography, *Coca-Cola Anarchist*, B Wardlaw recalls Phil Berrigan saying, “Creating community is the most radical thing we can do in these times.” His elder brother Daniel echoes: “Relations are of more import than tactics.”

I believe that it is a deeply rooted commitment to community that keeps us keeping on. The “Resistance for a Nuclear-Free Future” celebration was one of the fruits of this labor — resistance was another.

As Jim Corbett says in *Sanctuary for All Life*, “Individuals can denounce and resist a way of life — only a community can live a way of life into being and bequeath it to succeeding generations. The fulcrum that permits vision to move social evolution is the base community. ...”

And the 19th century social reformer Brontier O'Brien said that however halting and sometimes clumsy are our “experiments in truth,” nonviolent community continues “to create a soul under the ribs of death.”

— John Heid is a member of the Restoration Project at Casa Mariposa in Tucson, Arizona.



Photo by John P. Kernodle

Bonnie Urfer under arrest at the Y12 nuclear weapons factory. “I don't like to complain but my handcuffs are too tight.”



Wackenhut police in the midst of protesters on their way to arrest federal trespassers.

Lessons From the Gulf for Nuclear Reactors

By Dr. Jeffrey Patterson

One crucial lesson from the BP oil spill is that measures to speed licensing, cut corners on safety and undermine regulation can lead to tragic consequences. Yet Congress appears on the verge of repeating mistakes that led to the environmental catastrophe in the Gulf.

Federal lawmakers are weighing a BP-type deregulation of new nuclear reactors — the one energy source in which damage from a major accident could dwarf harm done by a ruptured offshore oil well.

In this effort, the nuclear industry's backers are working both sides of the street. On one hand, they proclaim that the current nuclear regulatory system is so superior it could well serve as a model for regulating the petrochemical industry.

At the same time, those nuclear proponents are working behind the scenes for regulatory rollbacks that would dramatically reshape safety and environmental requirements for new reactors. These provisions might be incorporated into a climate bill, or into a narrower "energy-only" bill.

The result of the changes making the rounds of Capitol Hill would further undermine Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) safety reviews by truncating the licensing process for new reactors, scaling back environmental-impact reviews, and limiting public transparency in reactor licensing decisions. All are bad ideas.

Here are a few of the problematic provisions proposed in draft legislation that should not be included in a final climate or energy bill:

- The NRC would not be authorized to prevent startup of a new reactor, even if fundamental safety components already inspected were later compromised in the construction process.
- The NRC would be required to propose and implement an "expedited procedure" for issuing construction and operating licenses for new reactors under certain conditions.
- An impossibly high standard set for including an evaluation of the need for power, the cost of a new reactor, and alternative energy sources within the NRC licensing process.

Uranium Mining in the Land Down Under

By Jeff Leys

For years, Australia maintained an official "three mines" policy that emerged after the first round of uranium mining conflict in the 1970s and '80s. This policy was officially dropped in 1996 but was maintained as a near "de facto" policy until the last couple of years. Today four uranium mines operate in Australia, but with significant expansion on the horizon.

Plans are underway to significantly expand both the Olympic Dam site in South Australia and the Ranger Mine in Northern Territory. The Olympic Dam site contains 40 percent of the world's uranium reserves (and is also the world's fourth largest copper deposit). The Ranger Mine is located in the Kakadu National Park (listed as a world heritage site), a park inhabited by Aboriginal peoples. On May 24, 2010, the *Brisbane Times* reported that, "About 40 Aboriginal people live downstream from a site where a measure probe recorded up to five times the warning level of electrical conductivity, which is a measure of contaminants including uranium, sulphate and radium."

The *Brisbane Times* also reports that in Dec. 2009, six million liters of radioactive water flowed into a creek that runs through Kakadu following the collapse of a dam. Every day, 100,000 liters of radioactive water leak into fissures in Kakadu from the Ranger mine's tailings dam.

Stepping into the fray, the Electrical Trades Union (ETU) imposed a ban in June that prohibits its members from working in the uranium mining industry or in any aspect of the nuclear fuel cycle. Originally issued by the Queensland and Northern Territory branches of the ETU, it has since been endorsed by the Victorian Branch.

The ETU's decision is based on workplace health and safety concerns, environmental issues, respect for Aboriginal peoples, and weapons- and war-making qualms. The ETU has produced a 5-part video for its membership regarding the ban and the expansion of uranium mining in Australia. (You can view the video on YouTube by searching for "When the Dust Settles ETU.")

The video follows the Sparky family — faced with the loss of their home and an inability to pay their bills — after the dad is hired to work at the new Olympic Dam mine for \$180,000 a year Australian (\$163,000 U.S.). The mom's response is, "We can have our own bathroom." The sullen long-haired son's response is to begin searching the internet, and learning from the likes of Helen Caldicott, Rosalie Bertell and others about the impact of uranium mining.

The video notes that workers are required to sign a "nondisclosure agreement" that prevents them from publicly discussing health and safety issues. For example, this precluded workers from revealing that uranium contaminated water had entered the water supply from which workers drank and took showers. The ETU reports on a worker who was fired after he was directed to work in a contaminated area without proper protective gear — and because he had the audacity to raise this issue in a health and safety meeting with his supervisors.

The ETU video further explores the potential environmental impact of expanded mining, not only for the immediate surroundings but also for distant cities. The Olympic Dam site will maintain its tailings in above-ground

• The NRC could no longer hold a mandatory hearing to do an independent safety and environmental review in new reactor licensing.

Nuclear reactors already have the most streamlined licensing process of any type of industrial facility in the United States. What is delaying the review of reactor applications isn't the licensing process, but the fact that the industry has been unable to submit adequate design proposals for reactors or to respond to the NRC in a timely fashion.

Rather than weakening reactor safety rules, Congress should order the NRC to strengthen them.

For example, the NRC should be required to take into consideration "worst-case" accident situations. The NRC has resisted pressure to analyze risks posed by terrorist attacks on spent fuel storage casks, although such an attack could cause a severe release of radiation. As with the Deepwater Horizon offshore drilling rig, mere assurance that the worst-case situation won't happen is a hollow promise.

The notion that lack of a recent major reactor accident makes such an occurrence a "remote possibility," therefore justifying lax safety regulation, is the same illogical and irresponsible thinking that set the stage for the BP disaster. As the oil spill illustrates all too well, the more complex the technology, the greater the chance of catastrophic failure.

Because of human error, technological failure or unforeseen events, it is virtually guaranteed that there will be other major disasters. The catastrophic effects of these on human health and our environment will continue for generations. As we have seen at Chernobyl and are seeing in the Gulf, our environment cannot sustain this continued onslaught.

We must drastically change the direction of our energy future. This is possible through the use of clean, renewable and sustainable technologies. When it comes to disasters caused by technologies such as deep offshore drilling or nuclear power, even one accident is one too many.

— *Jeff Patterson is President of Physicians for Social Responsibility and a Professor of Family Medicine at the University of Wisconsin. He wrote this piece for Carib Life.*

piles, covered with soil or other material to try to keep the tailings stable. To dramatize the potential widespread impact of tailings mounds, the video cuts to a news story entitled "Desert Storm" reporting that Sydney, over 800 miles away from the Olympic Dam site, was inundated by dust kicked up in a dust storm that began in the region of the Olympic Dam.

The film debunks the notion that uranium exports from Australia will be used only for peaceful, non-weapons related purposes. Australia does indeed require that countries buying its uranium commit to using it only for non-weapons purposes. However, the film notes that in the U.S. (which is the largest purchaser of Australia's uranium) one way to dispense with radioactive waste is to "Give it away free to the arms manufacturers then make money from it by exporting these depleted uranium weapons to 29 foreign armies."

The video highlights the widespread use of DU weapons during the Iraq wars and the impact of these weapons on the people of Iraq.

Australia's labor unions have an inspirational history of opposition to uranium mining and the nuclear industry. Between 1979 and 1981, labor stood on the precipice of significant action to close down uranium mining. In Feb., 24 unions with connections to the nuclear industry agreed to take action to implement the Australian Coalition of Trade Union's bans on work in the uranium industry. On March 1, national work bans were implemented by the Electrical Trades Union, the Amalgamated Metal Workers, and the Shipwrights Union. To halt uranium exports, the Seamen's Union instituted a ban on shipping yellowcake and the Waterside Workers Federation continued its ban on loading yellowcake. Because the bans applied to existing mines as well as planned mines, and because the bans extend to not only the production and export of uranium but also to any services or products provided to the mines, the mining companies were denied telecommunications, transportation, construction, metal fabrication, power and other necessary services.

Unions were on the precipice of shutting down Australia's uranium mining industry. Profits at one operating mine fell more than 60 percent. Australia's Industry Minister threatened the use of troops to break the bans. The Australian Labor Party was regaining power in Australia (and making accommodations to secure its majority). Then, on the brink of victory, the Executive Committee of the National ACTU, under pressure from the Party, voted 15 to 9 to lift bans then in place.

As Australia enters a period of significant expansion of uranium mining (and debate over whether to open its first ever nuclear power reactor), a nascent coalition appears to be developing to oppose the expansion. The coalition includes elements of labor and environmental organizations and Aboriginal peoples (on whose ancestral lands the mining almost inevitably occurs). Whether this coalition will be more successful than the coalition of the 1970s and early 1980s is yet to be seen. But it is encouraging to see a labor union once again stressing the intertwined concerns of social justice unionism — concerns that emphasize the workplace but extend beyond it to the broader community.

— *Jeff Leys is a long-time social justice advocate, most recently with Voices for Creative Nonviolence in Chicago.*



Revived High-Level Waste Scheme Again Raises Ire

TOOLE COUNTY, Utah — The fight is on again. On July 26, U.S. District Judge David Ebel of Denver ordered the Interior Department to reevaluate its 2006 decision preventing Private Fuel Storage (PFS) from sending thousands of tons of highly radioactive waste (from eight nuclear power companies) to the Goshute Skull Valley Reservation in Utah.

Utah's Congressional delegation the next day angrily vowed to stop the dump proposal. Judge Ebel — urged on by a 2007 lawsuit filed by PFS with support from several members of the Skull Valley Band of Goshute — ruled that decisions made by the Interior Department regarding a lease for the dump and right-of-way clearances to get to it were "arbitrary, capricious and an abuse of discretion." The department has yet to say whether it will appeal.

Declaring battle over the case, Senator Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, said July 27, "The court decision, as bad as it is, doesn't change anything on the ground. We have already laid down a gauntlet of obstacles to any company that would think of building this facility, and we will continue to man the barricades and put up new ones at every opportunity. ... The fact is that we will never allow this facility to be built."

U.S. Rep. Jim Matheson, D-Utah, added, "Utah has said a resounding *no* to having the most lethal nuclear waste on Earth stored in our state. We have fought and won battles against this ill-conceived proposal before, and we will do what is necessary to oppose this now."

In Jan. 2006, the establishment of the Cedar Mountain Wilderness Area in Utah, a 100,000-acre parkland near Skull Valley, meant that a railroad spur into the reservation was prohibited, and tentatively put an end to PFS's plans.

The Interior Department then denied both a right-of-way permit, under Bureau of Land Management rules, for a transfer station that would see the casks moved from train cars to trucks. Interior also denied a lease for the project under Bureau of Indian Affairs regulations.

The Goshute Tribe is split on the decision to import waste. Tribal member Rex Allen says the Goshute people are already in the middle of a hazardous waste industrial zone and, "that's the only kind of business we can bring in."

Margene Bullcreek, who has been fighting to stop the PSF dump says, "They [PFS] won't have to be taxed by the state. ... They don't have to be regulated by the federal government, so they can do it anyway they want to do it."

The proposed dump is located near Hill Air Force Base and the Utah Test and Training Range whose jets make any dump vulnerable to accidental bombing or jet crashes. However, in 2005 the Atomic Safety Licensing Board reversed its March 2003 finding that concrete casks containing the waste would not withstand a direct hit from a crashing jet.

The proposed site would hold casks of waste on 100 acres, but access would be controlled to a total of 820 acres that PFS wants to lease from the Goshute Tribe.

In Sept. 2006, the NRC issued a license to the Goshute Tribal Government to store the waste for 20 years, and PFS has signed a 25-year renewable lease. The Nuclear Information & Resource Service in Washington broadcast a public rebuke of the NRC, saying in part, "Approving a private nuclear waste site on the Goshute Indian reservation in Utah is the latest example of environmental racism on the part of the federal government. [The NRC] has now condemned a tiny impoverished tribe in Skull Valley to generations of environmental and health risks."

Nearly 450 organizations had petitioned the NRC to reject the dangerous and racist proposal.

Utah has no nuclear reactors but if the go-ahead is given for PFS to transport waste to the Goshute nation, the state could become the alternative to the now failed Yucca Mountain dump site.

Utilities with nuclear reactors are desperate to find a place to abandon their deadly fuel rods, since the U.S. government reneged on its agreement to take possession of them. The Energy Department is also hard pressed to find a centralized dump, as it has already shelled out \$1 billion in compensation to reactor owners for not having opened a dump in the time line mandated under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. — Sen. Hatch Press Release, July 27; *Examiner.com* & ABC 4 News in Salt Lake City, Aug. 22; *Salt Lake City Tribune*, July 30; *World Nuclear News*, Aug. 4; *Associated Press*, Aug. 3; *Desert News*, Aug. 1, 2010

Lost Trillions, Lost Wars

By John LaForge

How much tax money has the U.S. military unaccountably given away? Even before the July news of another "lost" \$9 billion, about 3.3 trillion dollars.

Yeah, that's trillion, with a "t."

This is in addition to the \$12 billion in plane loads of cash that was simply dumped into Iraq in 2004.

In September 2001, the day before 9/11, acting Pentagon chief Donald Rumsfeld declared, "According to some estimates, we cannot track 2.3 trillion dollars in transactions." That's about \$8,000 for every child, woman and man in the country.

If these trillions had been placed into healthcare, environmental protection and educational "insurance" policies, our most serious national security problems could have been addressed.

At the same September 10 press conference, Mr. Rumsfeld declared a so-called "war" on military waste. "The adversary is closer to home" than terrorism, he said. "It's the Pentagon bureaucracy," he admitted, calling the military-industrial complex a serious threat. "In fact, it could be said it's a matter of life and death."

Well, that life and death struggle lasted exactly one day, because soon after 9/11, George Bush announced that "my 2003 [military] budget calls for more than \$48 billion in new spending."

There would be another trillion (one thousand billion) that went missing before too long.

On May 18, 2003, the *San Francisco Chronicle* reported that the military's big spenders "couldn't account for more than a trillion dollars in financial transactions."

According to the non-partisan General Accounting Office (GAO), the failed state of Pentagon fiscal controls extends even to its own attempts to fix the controls.

The newspaper reported that in June 2002, the GAO reviewed the Pentagon's Corporate Information



An armed guard poses beside pallets of \$100 bills in Baghdad. Almost \$12 billion in cash was spent by the U.S.-led authority. The U.S. flew nearly \$12 billion in shrink-wrapped \$100 bills into Iraq, then distributed the cash with no proper control over who was receiving it and how it was being spent. (*The Guardian*, Feb. 8, 2007)

Management system (CIM). The program began in 1989 as an attempt to unify over 2,000 overlapping systems then being used for billing, inventory and personnel, etc. But after "spending about \$20 billion, the CIM initiative was eventually abandoned," the GAO said.

Then there are the \$12 billion, in \$100 bills, that were shipped on pallets into Iraq in 2004 and simply disbursed without accounting.

These astronomical amounts of bribery and corruption are nearly incomprehensible. U.S. Rep. Henry Waxman, D-

A Way Forward: Reexamining the Pentagon's Spending Habits

By Frida Berrigan

What is a trillion? It is a big number for sure. The best explanation I have found for this mind-blowing figure is from author David Schwartz. "One million seconds comes out to be about 11½ days. A billion seconds is 32 years. And a trillion seconds is 32,000 years."

What then is a trillion dollars? What can we get for that much money? Rethink Afghanistan — Robert Greenwald's effort to help us understand the war on terror, its costs, and consequences — has a new Facebook application aimed at breaking down exactly how much we can get for a trillion dollars.

It is fun (in a qualified-world wide web-war on terror sort of way), and eye-opening.

During one round of the game, we were able to spend \$999.5 billion to:

- Hire every worker in Afghanistan for one year at a total cost of \$12 billion;
- Fund the cleanup of the Gulf oil spill (costs as of May 28) at a total cost of \$930 million;
- Build 4 million affordable housing units at a total cost of \$516 billion;
- Provide health care for 4 million average people for one year at a total cost of \$13.6 billion;
- Provide health care for 5 million children for one year at a total cost of \$11.5 billion;
- Hire 5 million music/arts teachers for a year at a total cost of \$292.5 billion;
- Fund Head Start places for three million children for one year at a total cost of \$21.9 billion;
- Generate renewable energy for 1 million residences for one year at a total cost of \$969.3 million;
- Hire 2 million elementary school teachers for one year at a total cost of \$122.2 billion;
- Provide a one-year university scholarship for 1 million students at a total cost of \$7.9 billion.

... And have \$516.5 million left over (way more than enough to pay off my college loans).

A trillion dollars is also what the United States has spent since 2001 on military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Now, it is being estimated that another \$800 billion plus will be added to the tab before the wars are ended.

No peace dividend

If you're looking forward to a peace dividend as U.S. forces withdraw from Iraq, you're going to have to wait a while. As the costs of the Iraq war have been going down, the costs of the war in Afghanistan have been rising. The financial costs, the numbers of troops, and the number of casualties in Afghanistan are all getting larger. This fiscal year (FY 2010), for the first time, more money is being allocated to Afghanistan than to Iraq.

Since 2003, military operations in Iraq have absorbed the bulk of war funding—three or four times as much money as Afghanistan. But that gap dropped precipitously in 2009.

Now, in 2010, we will spend 10 percent more in Afghanistan than in Iraq — and the spending difference will be even more once the \$33 billion supplemental funding to

pay for the Afghanistan troop surge is factored in on top of the \$72.9 billion allocated up front — and for 2011, the administration is requesting \$110.3 billion for military operations in Afghanistan and \$43.4 billion for ongoing military operations in Iraq.

Another way to think about the costs of war is per person — how much does it cost to deploy each individual member of the military. The Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessment asserts that "the annual cost per troop since FY 2005 has averaged \$1.186 million in Afghanistan and \$0.685 million in Iraq, in constant-year FY 2011 dollars." That's another reason why, as the war in Iraq winds down — at whatever rate — the savings are most likely going to be eaten up by the rising costs of military operations in Afghanistan.

Another way to think about the costs of war is in hours, minutes and seconds. Laicie Olsen of the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation has done the math: "In 2010, the troop increase in Afghanistan will cost \$2.5 billion per month, \$82 million per day, \$3.4 million per hour, \$57,000 per minute, and \$951 per second." And that's just for the \$33 billion troop surge, not the \$171 billion we're spending on the two wars.

In short, if we want a peace dividend, we're going to have to find a way to get out of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Ineffective funds

There's new evidence to suggest that the current billions being thrown at Afghanistan are not particularly effective. A recent report from the Special Inspector General for Afghan Reconstruction criticizes the way the Pentagon has been evaluating progress in training the Afghan military. Most tellingly, the report suggests that after \$27 billion spent on training Afghan security forces, even the best-trained units are still unable to operate independently (i.e., they need support from U.S. troops to operate in combat zones). According to the *New York Times* account of the report, it also "details drug abuse, heavy attrition, corruption and illiteracy among the Afghan security forces."

As for U.S. economic aid to Afghanistan, similar problems have been identified. In response to an investigation by the *Washington Post* indicating that Afghan officials have systematically blocked corruption investigations of politically-connected individuals, Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY) has threatened to block a new round of \$3.9 billion in aid until she "has confidence that U.S. taxpayer money is not being abused to line the pockets of corrupt Afghan government officials, drug lords, and terrorists."

So, the costs of war and the costs of preparing for war continue to soar, even in the midst of protracted economic

Calif., said the way the cash had been handled was mind-boggling. "The numbers are so large that it doesn't seem possible that they're true," he said.

As the London *Guardian* reported Feb. 8, 2007, "The staggering scale of the biggest transfer of cash in the history of the Federal Reserve" occurred in the year after the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

About 281 million notes, weighing 363 tons, were sent from New York to Baghdad for disbursement to Iraqi ministries and U.S. contractors. The largest single drop, made on June 22, 2004, totaled \$2,401,600,000.00.

News of the colossal embezzlement was found in a memo prepared for the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform which was studying Iraqi reconstruction. The cash came from Iraqi oil sales, surplus funds from the UN oil-for-food program and seized Iraqi assets. Rep. Waxman, Chairman of the committee when it investigated the 2004 larceny asked then, "Who in their right mind would send 363 tons of cash into a war zone?"

Well, evidently the same people who believe a government can fight terror with terror, or who think — against all historical experience to the contrary — that wars of occupation can be won. According to one CIA analyst, not one ever has.

It's true that Medicare for all, free universal college education, conversion to safe energy, comprehensive pollution control and even nation-wide drinking water decontamination would cost a lot of federal tax money. But not \$3.312 trillion.

Like Rumsfeld said, putting an end to the Pentagon bureaucracy is a matter of life and death.

Thinking of Always War

Adding injury to insult, Pentagon chief Robert Gates has ordered the military and its civilian bureaucracy to find several billions of dollars in budget savings "to pay for war-fighting."

Of the \$7 billion Gates says he wants scavenged in 2012, he says two-thirds is to be transferred directly to combat forces. The amount transferred to shooting wars is supposed to increase dramatically — to \$37 billion — by 2016, according to Gates.

It's unclear what combat the Secretary imagines waging in 2016, since the President just announced a halt to U.S. combat in Iraq and simultaneously promised to begin the withdrawal of his combat forces from Afghanistan in July 2011.

After helping launch wars of aggression against Afghanistan and Iraq, and seeing between 31,000 and 60,000 soldiers return home maimed, disfigured, debilitated, sickened and mentally ill, Secretary Gates on June 3 sounded positively irked that his actions have caused tens of thousands of soldiers to be sent home in need of medical care. Gates complained, "Health care costs are eating the Defense Department alive." And Homer said, "D'oh." — *JL*

recession and deep anxiety about the future. New ideas and new perspectives are needed to rebalance a deeply dysfunctional system.

In the mean time, the Pentagon's base budget — not counting the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan — continues to increase. Of the over \$700 billion in military spending in 2011, roughly \$550 billion is for the "regular" Pentagon budget.

In short, base Pentagon spending is over three times as much as what is being spent on the wars. Therefore, there is ample room to cut the Pentagon's base budget even if the costs of Afghanistan and Iraq stay at their current high levels.

A new report shows just how that might be done. *Debt, Deficits and Defense: A Way Forward* was produced by the Sustainable Defense Task Force and illustrates how the Pentagon can contribute significantly to deficit reduction while advancing national security goals.

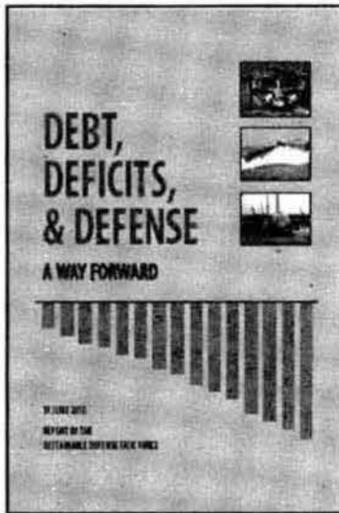
The report presents options for reducing the Pentagon's budget — in sum saving nearly \$1 trillion over the next decade.

Suggested cuts include more than \$113 billion in savings by reducing the U.S. nuclear arsenal to 1,050 total warheads deployed on 450 land-based missiles and seven Ohio-class submarines; Over \$200 billion in savings through reducing U.S. routine military presence in Europe and Asia to 100,000 while reducing total uniformed military personnel to 1.3 million; and more than \$138 billion in savings by replacing costly and unworkable weapons systems with more practical, affordable alternatives. Some of the proposed systems for replacement would include the F-35 combat aircraft, the MV-22 Osprey, and the Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle.

And the list goes on.

A Way Forward is not the only set of good ideas on how to reduce military spending. But — taking another look at the list of things we could buy for one trillion dollars if we were not spending it on wars abroad — it is a good place to start this long over due work.

— Frida Berrigan lives at the *New York Catholic Worker* and wrote this article for *Foreign Policy in Focus*.



Lawsuit vs. Utah Waste Dump Reinstated

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah — The radioactive waste dump operator EnergySolutions (founded in 1988 as "Envirocare") was created under a cloud of fraud allegations. The company's reprehensible mode of operation seems to continue.

On Aug. 4, the Denver-based 10th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals ruled that a lower court's dismissal of a whistleblower lawsuit was in error. The Appeals Court found that the alleged fraud had been adequately documented and that EnergySolutions had attempted to cover up its illegal actions. *The Salt Lake City Tribune* said the court found, "plaintiffs also offered a detailed description of Energy Solution's alleged efforts to conceal the violations, including, for example, the names of the Envirocare supervisors who instructed one plaintiff to stop documenting the violations."

Last year, Federal District Judge Bruce Jenkins in Salt Lake City dismissed the lawsuit brought in 2003 by the three whistleblowers. The suit alleges faked invoicing, substandard construction, and safety and environmental violations in the handling of radioactive waste at the company's Toole, Utah site. The whistleblowers appealed and the 10th Circuit's decision revives their case.

ES, which employs 2,500 people in 40 states, imports low-level radioactive waste from 36 states and from federal clean-up projects and buries it in shallow earthen trenches.

In a related case, EnergySolutions' planned importation of radioactive waste from Italy (after some processing in Tennessee) has been cancelled. The company filed a waste-import application in Sept. 2007, hoping to profit from 20,000

tons of waste that would have been indefinitely stored at its one-square-mile site in Toole County — 75 miles west of Salt Lake City. The application was withdrawn in July. State lawmakers now plan to pass legislation banning imports of foreign radioactive waste. ES's plan faced grassroots opposition from across the country, but ES claims that its decision was not influenced by the public's overwhelmingly negative response.

Last March, a report by Healthy Environment Alliance of Utah accused the company of burying more than 10,000 drums of uranium waste — from plutonium production reactors at Savannah River, S.C. — whose radioactivity was so high that state law forbids its burial.

— *Salt Lake Tribune*, July 15, Aug. 4 & Sept. 2; AP, July 14; *Desert News*, July 14; and the *New York Times*, Mar. 4, 2010

New Reactor Design Risks Major "Evolutionary" Accident

French nuclear watchdogs have forced Electricité de France (EDF), Europe's largest electric power producer, to admit to design flaws and welding errors that could cause a massive radiation release if the experimental reactor under construction at Flamanville, on the Normandy coast, comes online. The same flawed design is being promoted by U.S. boosters of new reactor construction.

The so-called European Pressurized Reactor (re-named "evolutionary power reactor," or EPR for U.S. audiences) intends to utilize metal cladding on the uranium fuel that has "a serious safety problem."

The warning came from Crilan, a French anti-nuclear committee, which alleges that changes intended to solve flaws with the reactor's fuel pellet shielding have invalidated the reactor's original building permit. The French nuclear safety authority, ASN will now have to respond to the complaint.

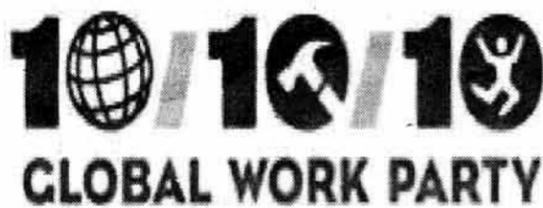
In March 2010, internal company documents raise concerns over the safety of the redesigned reactor core. The reports of design problems were leaked to the nation-wide protest network Sortir du Nucléaire, which made them public.

The network divulged eight internal papers showing the results of tests on the EPR that, it claims, reveal defects in the mechanism that controls the nuclear reaction. These defects, it said, could cause an explosion sending a massive cloud of radiation into the atmosphere.

Some of the documents refer to a major redesign of the reactor. Original plans did not meet safety criteria and the leaked reports note that even the revamped design leave several issues unresolved. The leaked documents also listed EDF's attempts to conceal the data from the government nuclear safety agency. The company is even shown trying to convince the regulator to relax safety standards.

Of course EDF spokespeople ran to the microphones July 26 to say, "Nuclear safety is EDF's top priority."

On its website, Sortir du Nucléaire said that a committee of experts asked to examine the documents concluded: "It seems that the conception of the EPR increases the risk of a Chernobyl-type accident, with the destruction of the reactor chamber and the massive dispersion of nuclear radiation into the atmosphere." — *New York Times*, July 26; Sortir du Nucléaire, March 10; and the *Guardian*, March 7, 2010



GLOBAL WORK PARTY

Global Work Party for Sustainability

October 10, 2010

People in every country on earth are planning to take tangible local actions to make their communities better places to live and emit less carbon at the same time. Through local climate action projects, we'll make our leaders wake up and lead on the climate crisis. Solar panel installations, community garden digging, bike path construction, gas-to-electric motor conversions, etc.

See 10-10-10 campaign or 350.org for details and to register your local effort.

**ONE NATION
11
WORKING ★ TOGETHER**

**march on
Washington!
October 2, 2010**

**"Money for Jobs,
not for war"**

**"Jobs, Peace
and Justice"**



<http://www.onenationforpeace.org/>

November 6, 2010 International Action Day to Ban Uranium Weapons

November 6th also happens to be the United Nations' Day for Prevention of the Exploitation of the Environment during Wars and Armed Conflicts.

Events take place worldwide.
Organize an event in your area.

KEEP SPACE FOR PEACE

International Week of Protest to Stop the Militarization of Space



No Weapons in Space!
Stop U.S. First-Strike Star Wars
Deployments in Poland and
Czech Republic

Organize an event in your region.
The U.S. is encircling Russia and China with "missile defense" systems that are key elements in the Pentagon's "first strike" program.

The U.S. is deploying Navy Aegis destroyers, with SM-3 interceptors on-board, in Japan, South Korea and Australia.

Ground-based PAC-3 (Patriot) interceptors are being put in Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan.

Obama is also deploying PAC-3 missiles in Poland, 35 miles from Russia's Kaliningrad border, and SM-3 missiles at new U.S. bases in Bulgaria and Romania.

Aegis destroyers will also be deployed in the Black Sea further surrounding Russia.

All of these missile deployments will be directed by U.S. space technology from bases around the globe. U.S. "missile offense" makes it likely that a new arms race with Russia and China will move into space.

For more info.: <http://www.space4peace.org>

On the Bright Side

Solar Energy is Now the Better Buy

A July 2010 report by Duke University researchers John Blackburn and Sam Cunningham, has found for the first time that solar photovoltaic system costs have fallen enough in the last 20 years that "electricity from new solar installations is now cheaper than electricity from proposed new nuclear" reactors.

The report, concludes that, "For many years the U.S. nuclear power industry has been allowed to argue that 'there is no alternative' to building new nuclear reactors. This is just not true. It is time for the news media and the public to see the compelling evidence that clean, efficient energy is the path forward and to make sure their elected representatives hear this message repeatedly."

See: "Solar and Nuclear Costs - The Historic Crossover: Solar Energy is Now the Better Buy," prepared for NC WARN, July 2010.

The Collapse of Calvert Cliffs & "Nuclear Revival"

CHESAPEAKE BAY, Maryland — The flagship project to build a new nuclear power reactor in the U.S. — the one that provided the economic model for most new reactor proposals since — is in serious trouble and likely will collapse of its own weight before construction even begins.

What this means for the much-hyped nuclear "renaissance" is clear: there will be no large-scale nuclear revival in the U.S., and probably not in the rest of the world either, since pressures on this project are international in scope and affect just about every country but China.

UniStar Nuclear Energy, a joint venture of Electricite de France (EDF) and Maryland-based Constellation Energy, was formed to build the Calvert Cliffs-3 reactor on Chesapeake Bay. It had hoped to build several other reactors in the U.S. as well. Agreements were reached to build in at least New York, Missouri, and Pennsylvania, and projects in Idaho and Texas were being considered. All were to be based on France's Areva EPR design, two prototypes of which are now under construction in Finland and France. (See p. 10 story)

But in July everything began publicly to fall apart. Mayo Shattuck, CEO of Constellation Energy, told an investors' conference call that the company is slowing its spending on the reactor. Between the lines, Shattuck admitted that Unistar is nearly out of money, having run through some \$600 million since mid-2007 with little to show for it.

Shattuck pressed for a taxpayer bailout of his project. "We can't keep going at the rate we're going without clarity on the loan guarantee," he told the investors. Shattuck was referring to UniStar's application to the Energy Department for \$8-10 billion in taxpayer loans to build the reactor, and he said the project likely will be cancelled if it hasn't received the bailout by the end of summer 2010.

Shattuck didn't explain why taxpayers should put up some \$8-10 billion for a company that is nearly broke, on a nuclear construction project before the first shovel has been put in the ground. — *nirsnet.org*, Aug. 5, 2010

Going Solar

NEW ORLEANS, Louisiana — Entergy Corporation's Chief Executive J. W. Leonard has declared that nuclear reactors cost too much to build and that the price will prevent the company from building new ones. The company suspended two license applications filed with the NRC. Mr. Leonard said natural gas and coal prices would have to escalate to \$50 per ton to make nuclear economically viable. After a federal loan guarantee of \$8.3 billion was granted to Southern Company to build a new reactor at the Vogtle site in Georgia, Leonard questioned the decision saying, "I've wondered how Southern — how anybody — makes the numbers work. Sitting on the outside looking in, they have some reason we don't see."

New Jersey has initiated a robust solar power initiative. The move has created more than 2,000 jobs and that number may increase to 3,500 by the end of the year. State Legislation passed this January mandates that the state's solar capacity reach 5,000 megawatts by 2026, or the equivalent of 5 new nuclear reactors. In September, state residents and nonprofits will be eligible for solar rebates on a limited basis. As of June 6th, 281 solar projects were producing 180 megawatts of electricity — enough energy to power 36,160 homes. The price of solar installation is expected to drop once long-term contracts are signed, technology improvements are embraced and larger solar systems are constructed. The New Jersey state advantage is that the state pays commercial rates for grid-connected solar generation, rather than bulk rates. The state's energy credits have more than doubled in value over the past two years. — Reuters, May 25; New Orleans *Times Picayune*, Jan. 5; Business Wire, Aug. 31; CBS Business Network; Sept. 1; NJSpotlight.com, Aug. 31; *Press of Atlantic City*, Aug. 1; *Rutland Herald*, Sept. 1, 2010



"Can Hiram call you back? He's adjusting our solar panels."

Stimulus Money, Renewables & Efficiency

WASHINGTON, DC — Twenty U.S. communities have been selected to receive more than \$60 million from the Department of Energy to implement energy efficiency programs. Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, local governments, residential, nonprofit and commercial enterprises will receive the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program money. The grants are intended to stimulate the economy while increasing investment in conservation, efficiency and renewables. Focusing on long-term community benefit and models for future projects, grant winning projects include transportation systems, recycling, solar installations, conversion of street lighting and reduction of fossil fuel consumption.

The Energy Department said in August that the block grant program had over 4,000 projects underway this summer using Recovery Act funds.

Critics of the program inside the renewable energy industry have complained that more than half of its expected loan guarantees have been diverted to other areas. Renewable energy competes with education, medical and social service funds while the Pentagon alone spends \$3.4 million per hour for war.

— Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program, June 11; *The Hill*, Aug. 15, 2010

Conejos County Exiles Radioactive Waste

ANTONITO, Colorado — In their community of 1,000 people alongside the San Antonio River, the people of Conejos County and the town of Antonito in Colorado have stopped radioactive and toxic waste — from a Los Alamos nuclear weapons site clean-up program — from lumbering through on trucks and being transferred to trains. Fearing an accident and contamination of the drinking water, Antonito passed a resolution supporting the county's opposition and providing \$2,000 for legal fees. The county was successful in stopping the truck-to-railcar transfers that were taking place on private land, and since last December the shippers have been forced to go around the county and then only by truck.

Conejos County disclosed that neither the Los Alamos subcontractor, San Luis-Rio Grande Railroad, the Department of Energy, nor EnergySolutions bothered to obtain proper local permits for shipping railcars filled with hazardous waste. No public hearings or County Commission meetings took place, a violation of county protocol. Fred deSousa, communications specialist at Los Alamos National Lab claimed that EnergySolutions, Inc. was responsible for obtaining the permits to ship the 133 train cars full of waste.

The county requested an injunction against the DOE's and EnergySolutions' rail operations last year, but withdrew the request when rail traffic stopped in December.

Los Alamos where 840 areas still need to be decontaminated under a New Mexico deadline of 2015.

The U.S. DOE has dismissed local concerns and has said it will continue shipments from Los Alamos in New Mexico to the EnergySolutions dump in northwest Utah. The waste include dirt contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls, uranium-238 and other radioactively contaminated trash. Another schedule of train shipments is expected by January 2011 under contract with a new hauler, but the county is preparing to demand another injunction to stop an additional 2,500 cubic yards of contaminated soil that EnergySolutions is contracted to move.

U.S. Representative John Salazar, D-Colo., organized a public meeting in July and established a task force to resolve the dispute. — ABC KOAT news, May 24; *Albuquerque Journal*, May 26; *Conejos County Citizen*, May 28; *The Pueblo Chieftain*, May 4, July 27 & Aug 6, 2010; *The New Mexican*, Dec. 15, 2009

Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Nuclear Power: Nuclear Worse Than All Renewables

This chart combines the results of 103 studies of life cycle greenhouse gas-equivalent emissions for nuclear power reactors. The report, "Valuing the greenhouse gas emissions from nuclear power: A critical survey," begins by briefly detailing the separate components of the nuclear fuel cycle before explaining the methodology of the survey and exploring the variety of life cycle estimates. It calculates that while the range of emissions for nuclear energy over the lifetime of a reactor (reported from qualified studies) is from 1.4 grams of carbon dioxide equivalent per kilowatt hour (g CO₂e/kWh) to grams of CO₂ emissions per kilowatt hour to 288 g CO₂e/kWh, the mean value is 66 g CO₂e/kWh.

It should be noted that nuclear power is not directly emitting greenhouse gas emissions, but rather that life cycle emissions occur through reactor construction, operation, uranium mining and milling and reactor decommissioning.

Power source	Capacity/configuration/fuel	Estimate: gCO ₂ e/kWh
Wind	2.5 MW, offshore	9
Hydroelectric	3.1 MW, reservoir	10
Wind	1.5 MW, onshore	10
Biomass	Anaerobic digestion	11
Hydroelectric	300 kW. Run-of-river	13
Solar thermal	80 MW, parabolic trough	13
Biomass	Forest wood Co-combustion with hard coal	14
Biomass	Forest wood steam turbine	22
Biomass	Short rotation forestry Co-combustion with hard coal	23
Biomass	Forest wood reciprocating engine	27
Biomass	Waste wood steam turbine	31
Solar PV	Polycrystalline silicone	32
Biomass	Short rotation forestry steam turbine	35
Geothermal	80 MW, hot dry rock	38
Biomass	Short rotation forestry reciprocating engine	41
Nuclear	Various reactor types	66

From: "Valuing the greenhouse gas emissions from nuclear power: A critical survey," by Benjamin K. Sovacool, in *Energy Policy*, No. 36 (2008), pp. 2940 – 2954. (http://www.nirs.org/climate/background/sovacool_nuclear_ghg.pdf)

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Disarm Now Plowshares Indicted for Conspiracy, Trespass, Property Destruction, Depredation

On November 2, 2009, five activists entered the Trident submarine's Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor in Washington state in the dark of night and headed for the nuclear weapons storage bunker area to symbolically disarm the standby warheads. The Strategic Weapons Facility — Pacific weapons area — is the largest stockpile of nuclear weapons in the U.S. and the world, with more than 2,000 warheads. Now, 10 months later, a federal grand jury has handed down charges.

The group — Susan Crane, 65, Father Steve Kelly, 61, Sr. Anne Montgomery, 83, Lynne Greenwald, 61 and Fr. Bill Bix, 82 — called itself the “Disarm Now Plowshares.” They targeted the Trident submarine base to spotlight its overwhelmingly destructive, some would say self-destructive, weapons system. Before they reached the bunkers, but after over two hours walking the otherwise high-security base, alarms were sounded and they were arrested only after they scattered sunflower seeds, poured their blood on the road, and damaged the road and the fence with hammers. They were issued a “ban and bar letter” and released.

The U.S. attorney in Tacoma, Washington charged the five with conspiracy, trespass, destruction of property on a naval installation and depredation of government property. They face up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. Each of the weapons present on the Bangor base carries more than 30 times the explosive

power of the Hiroshima bomb and costs \$60 million. The D-5 missile can also be armed with the 100 kiloton W-76 warhead. The Trident fleet at Bangor deploys both the 455-kiloton W-88 warhead and the 100-kiloton W-76 warhead.

In a statement the group said their aim is to turn humans away from nuclear weapons. Just as we have outlawed slavery, they said, so too should we rid ourselves of the weapons of mass destruction.

The fact that five unarmed activists, some quite elderly, could walk unseen for several hours on a heavily protected navy base, exposes national security as a myth.

The defendants expect the trial to be “another act of resistance” as the government will attempt to severely limit any testimony by defendants or expert witnesses in court. Defendant Steve Kelly explains, “Our actions, which could be part of the solution, are deemed illegal, because nuclear weapons are legal.”

Arraignment for the Disarm Now group is set for Sept. 24, in U.S. District Court in Tacoma, after which a trial date will be scheduled.

There have been more than 100 Plowshares direct disarmament actions worldwide since the Plowshares Eight first used hammers and blood to damage nuclear weapons parts in Pennsylvania on Sept. 9, 1980.

