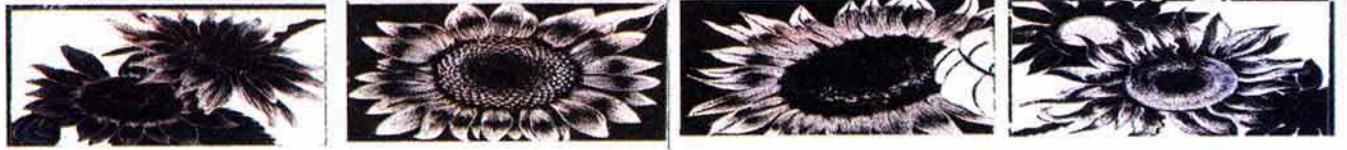


NUKEWATCH QUARTERLY



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



Fukushima updates on pages 1 & 5

Flood waters got past sandbags and approached the blast cover of the unguarded missile launch site N-10 near Trolly, North Dakota July 25, four weeks after the worst flooding to hit North Dakota's Souris River in 130 years. The Minuteman III ballistic missile silo was dubbed "Mudhole missile" by Nukewatch in its 1988 book, *Nuclear Heartland*.

Soggy Missiles & Myths of Deterrence in Nuclear Heartland

Photos and story by John LaForge

Record flooding of the Souris and Des Lacs Rivers in North Dakota has wrecked 4,100 houses in Minot this summer and forced the evacuation of 11,000 people, most of whom are still cooped up with friends or relatives weeks after the worst of it.

The same flooding also soaked some of this country's heaviest and biggest nuclear weapons — the Air Force's Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) — 150 of which are deployed in a cres-

cent-shaped pattern around Minot and all across the Souris and Des Lacs River valleys.

While most people would rather not contemplate nuclear weapons, the missile field region's flooding forced the Bomb back into the collective consciousness. When questioned about the floodwater's threat to the highly sophisticated electronics that envelop these monstrosities — they are reportedly built to be launched on 31 seconds notice and can fly 6,000 miles — Minot Air Force Base representative Capt. Genieve David told the press, *Continued on page 4*

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Sunshine and Sanity

By Ralph Nader

A campaign of protests was launched in August, led by Bill McKibben, in front of the White House demanding that President Barack Obama reject a proposed 1,700 mile pipeline transporting the dirtiest oil from Alberta, Canada through fragile ecologies down to the Gulf Coast refineries. One thousand people will be arrested there from all 50 states before their demonstration is over. The vast majority voted for Obama and they are plenty angry with his brittleness on environmental issues in general.

Following the large BP discharge in the Gulf of Mexico, Obama gave the OK to expand drilling over 20 million acres in the Gulf and soon probably in the Arctic Ocean. He delayed clean air rules over at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Following the worsening Fukushima nuclear disaster last March in Japan, he reaffirmed his support for more taxpayer guaranteed nuclear plants in the U.S. adding his Administration's hopes to learn from the mistakes there.

He proposed an average fuel efficiency standard for 2005 at 62 miles-per-gallon, quickly conceded to industry's objection and brought it down to 54 mpg. The industry's trade journal *Automotive News* calculated the loopholes and brought it down to "real-world industry wide fleet average in the 2025 model year" of about 40 mpg. No wonder the auto companies effusively praised Obama's give-it-up negotiator, Ron Bloom at the Treasury Department of all places.

Were Obama to look out his White House window and see the arrested and handcuffed demonstrators against this \$7 billion Keystone XL pipeline, he might think: "This will upset my environmental supporters, but heck, where can they go in November 2012?"

He is right. No matter what Mr. Obama does to surrender environmental health and safety to corporatist demands, they will vote for him. They certainly won't vote for the Republican corporate mascots. They wouldn't vote for a Green Party candidate either. This is not only the environmentalists' dilemma. It is the liberal/progressive/labor union dilemma as well. They have no bargaining power with Obama.

He did not propose a carbon tax when the Democrats controlled Congress in 2009-2010. Even Exxon prefers a carbon tax to the corruption-inducing complex cap and trade bill the House passed only to have the Senate sit on

it. So doing nothing on climate change is soon to be followed by approval of the destructive tar sands pipeline which will add significantly to greenhouse gases.

Pipelines have been busting out recently in California, near Yellowstone and in Pennsylvania. People died and water was polluted. Pipeline standards are old, weak and hardly enforced by the tiny pipeline safety office at the Department of Transportation. Obama hasn't been pushing for needed money and stronger standards with tougher enforcement.

Over-riding, in Obama's mind, is being accused of blocking job formation. But had he pushed for a major public-works program in 2009, as many economists still beg him to do, he wouldn't be in the position of being called a job-destroyer. He also is sensitive to rebuttable charges that he would prefer future oil from unfriendly countries abroad to Canadian oil.

You can see the corner he is in because he didn't come out strongly for major solar, wind power, energy conservation and immediate retrofit programs in 2009. Instead he swallowed the oil industry line that his proposed energy policy should be a mix of fossil fuels, nuclear power, solar and conservation in that order. No, Mr. Obama, some energy sources are too superior in too many ways to be a part of this manipulative greenwashing propaganda displayed in oil company newspaper ads.

Even nature contradicts Mr. Obama. His Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) recently gave a pass to the Indian Point reactor 2 — a menacingly-troubled reactor 30 miles north of Manhattan — after its inspectors discovered a refueling-cavity liner had been leaking for years at rates up to 10 gallons per minute. This August the strongest earthquake in 140 years struck the east coast. Even though the liner's "sole safety function is the prevention of leakage after a seismic event," according to David Lochbaum of the Union of Concerned Scientists, the NRC did not require the reactor's owner to repair the design defect.

This is only one of many defects, inspection lapses, close calls, corruptions and ageing problems with many U.S. nuclear reactors that Secretary of Energy Stephen Chu and President Obama have not seriously addressed. This is the case even though the news from Fukushima becomes worse every week. More food is found contaminated. Radiation readings at the site reached their highest level in August. Now the Japanese government is about to declare a

wide area around the nine destroyed or disabled nuclear reactors uninhabitable for decades to come due to radiation.

Nearly 50 years ago, the industry regulator and vigorous promoter, the Atomic Energy Commission, estimated that a "Class 9" disaster (reactor meltdown) in the U.S. would contaminate "an area the size of Pennsylvania." That was before we had dozens of even larger ageing nuclear reactors whose owners are brazenly pressing for license extensions beyond the normal life expectancy of many over-the-hill nukes. Please face up to it Mr. President.

At moments of reflection, those 1,000 citizens standing tall before the White House must look up at the sun and all the forms of available renewable energy it gave this planet zillions of years ago and wonder how nuts our life-sustaining star must think Earthlings have been all these years. ■

—Ralph Nader is a consumer advocate, lawyer and author. With John Abbots he wrote *The Menace of Atomic Energy in 1977*. His most recent book is *Only the Super-Rich Can Save Us*.



Hiroshima & Fukushima Censored: Japan's Atomic Tragedies

By Amy Goodman

In 1945, the U.S. suppressed reports of its atomic bombs. In 2011, Japan censors Fukushima's radiation. When will we learn?

In recent weeks, radiation levels have spiked at the Fukushima nuclear power reactors in Japan, with recorded levels of 10,000 millisieverts per hour (mSv/hr) at one spot. This is the number reported by the reactor's discredited owner, Tokyo Electric Power Co., although that number is simply as high as the Geiger counters go.

In other words, the radiation levels are literally off the charts. Exposure to 10,000 millisieverts for even a brief time would be fatal, with death occurring within weeks. For comparison, the total radiation from a dental X-ray is 0.005mSv, and from a brain CT scan is less than 5mSv. The *New York Times* reported, Aug. 9, that government officials in Japan suppressed official projections of where the nuclear fallout would most likely move with wind and weather after the disaster in order to avoid costly relocation of potentially hundreds of thousands of residents.

"Secrecy, once accepted, becomes an addiction." While those words could describe how the Japanese government has handled the nuclear catastrophe, they were said by atomic scientist Edward Teller, one of the key creators of the first two atomic bombs. The uranium bomb dubbed "Little Boy" was dropped on Aug. 6, 1945, on the city of Hiroshima, Japan. Three days later, the second, a plutonium bomb called "Fat Man," was dropped over the city of Nagasaki. Close to 250,000 people were killed by the massive blasts and the immediate after-effects. No one knows the full extent of the death and disease that followed, from the painful burns that thousands of survivors suffered to the later effects of radiation sickness and cancer.

The history of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki is itself the history of U.S. military censorship and propaganda. In addition to the suppressed film footage, the military kept the blast zones off-limits to reporters. When Pulitzer prize-winning journalist George Weller managed to get in to Nagasaki, his story was personally killed by Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

Australian journalist Wilfred Burchett managed to sneak in to Hiroshima not long after the blast and reported what he called "a warning to the world," describing widespread illnesses as an "atomic plague."

The military deployed one of its own. It turns out that William Laurence, the *New York Times* reporter, was also on the payroll of the U.S. war department. He faithfully reported the U.S. government position, that "the Japanese described 'symptoms' that did not ring true." Sadly, he won a Pulitzer prize for his propaganda.

Greg Mitchell has been writing about the history and aftermath of Hiroshima and Nagasaki for decades. On this anniversary of the Nagasaki bombing, I asked Mitchell about his latest book, *Atomic Cover-Up: Two U.S. Soldiers, Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the Greatest Movie Never Made*.

"Anything that nuclear weapons or nuclear energy touches leads to suppression and leads to danger for the public," he told me. For years, Mitchell sought newsreel footage shot by the U.S. military in the months following the atomic blasts. Tracking down the aging filmmakers, and despite decades-old government classification, he was

Continued on Page 5

Rotten to the Corps: Are Lake Superior Waste Dumpers Investigating Themselves?

The Great Lakes are being polluted by PCBs, lead, pesticides, dioxin, mercury and other toxins, according to a 2008 report by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Around Lake Superior, the study found increased infant mortality and elevated cancer rates near 25 of 26 "toxic hot spots" including Duluth, Minnesota's St. Louis River Interlake Tar site or Stryker Bay, and the Koppers Co. site in Superior, Wisconsin.

Of special interest to people at the west end of the big lake, are at least 1,448 barrels of toxic and partly radioactive military waste, which were hauled from the Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant — run by military contractor Honeywell — and secretly dumped into the lake at night by the Army Corps of Engineers along the North Shore just north of Duluth. It was a covert action run at least from 1957 to 1962, and only discovered decades later when a fishing boat snagged a few of the barrels.

After a few partial and underfunded state and federal investigations and the recovery of only nine barrels, we now know that the old decaying drums contain a toxic and cancer-causing mix of benzene, chromium, cadmium, PCBs, lead, arsenic, barium and 10 other toxins — and that some drums are emitting radiation. Yet in 1995, the agencies halted their investigations after merely locating but not removing 251 barrels.

Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa digs In

The Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, about 50 miles from the nearest barrels, began a study of the risks posed by the wastes in 2004. The project has won major funding, albeit from the Defense Department. Red Cliff's ambitious 1,500-page Work Plan was launched in 2008 when the Band hired environmental contractor EMR of Duluth, Minnesota to look for barrels. EMR identified 591 likely drums and, in April 2009, announced that it would remove a sampling of 70 "rusty, half century old" barrels that summer.

However, in July 2009 Red Cliff said the recovery would be delayed until 2010 because of unresolved logistical issues. In Sept. 2010, the Band again postponed the retrieval effort for another year, this time because of funding problems.

This September, Red Cliff will again announce that its recovery effort will be postponed, until 2012, according to Laura Armagast, Red Cliff's Water Resources Program Manager. The latest delay is due to objections to the Work Plan raised by Pentagon funders and by the Army Corps of Engineers, Armagast told Nukewatch Aug. 9.

"The Work Plan will be revised because of comments from the [Pentagon's] Explosives Safety Board and Army Corps of Engineers technicians," Armagast said.

"We have to re-do our human health safety plan and our field sampling plan, for both sediment and water," she said.

That the Corps of Engineers has any influence whatsoever over the barrel investigation is striking, since it was the Corps that created the problem. Yet the "cooperative agreement" between the Pentagon and Red Cliff, under the Native American Lands Environmental Mitigation Program (NALEMP), has involved negotiations with the Corps from the beginning, according to Armagast.

Foxes counting the chickens?

The level of Army Corps' influence in the process is a matter of speculation since negotiations with the Band are private. In 2010, Red Cliff announced that barrels would be retrieved from only three of seven well established barrel dump sites. Did the Corps have undue influence in eliminating four potential hot spots? For its part, EMR says its underwater survey could not identify anything but a "debris field" at the four sites eliminated from the study.

To its credit, Red Cliff's NALEMP committee has requested funding for taking sediment and water samples from the dump areas. Such sediment testing has never been done, in spite of calls for it by Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) officials like Tim Musik and citizens' groups.

In 2009, Suzanne Hanson, regional MPCA director in Duluth, told the *News Tribune*, "We have so many other issues with Lake Superior that have higher risk and that have remediation efforts we can actually do."

But five years ago, the Coast Guard cutter *Alder* was reported to be collecting "2-foot-deep soil samples," 300 to 500 feet below the surface of the lake and to be testing them for toxicity. The *News Tribune* story said the *Alder*, based in Duluth, had the "ability to accurately hold station even in rough water."

In a 2008 Health Advisory about the barrel dumps, the Minnesota Dept. of Health concluded that, "Chemical analyses of water or sediment samples in this area is not recommended unless there is some indication that there is a significant source of contamination in the area."

The same year, however, the CDC's report offered its deadly serious "indication" that there are significant sources of contamination in the area. The CDC found that residents of St. Louis and Carlton counties in Minnesota have unusually high rates of stroke, and people in Douglas County in Wisconsin had elevated rates of stroke, heart disease, colon cancer, breast cancer and infant mortality.

With the Corps of Engineers and the Pentagon responsible for this reckless endangerment of public health, it's time to get their conflicted foxes out of Lake Superior's chicken coop. — JL ■

A Letter from Private Prison

By Bonnie Urfer

Seven of us were checked in to the Blount County jail on May 13, 2011, after being found guilty of misdemeanor trespass at the Y12 nuclear weapons complex in Oak Ridge, Tennessee on July 5, 2010. For two weeks Jackie Hudson, Jean Gump, Steve Baggarly, Michael Walli, Carol Gilbert, Ardeth Platte and I lived on a starvation diet, received no mail and were subjected to a complete news blackout — no newspapers, magazines, clippings or TV allowed. We were cursed at by staff, lived three to a two-person cell, and by the time we were transferred to the Irwin County Detention Center in Ocilla, Georgia, were in day five of a 15-day, 23-hour-a-day lockdown — because a couple of women had an argument. It was like “super-max” but with overcrowding.

One inmate I met has been in jail for three years and still has not been tried for a crime. She survives on commissary food and hope. Poverty prevents her from paying the bail.

Our friend and co-defendant Jackie Hudson began experiencing chest pain in Blount County, and the evening before our move was taken to “medical” where she spent the night sitting in a wheelchair, as she couldn’t make it to the mat on the floor to sleep.

When I said to a jailer on the way out that it was the meanest jail I’d ever been to, she said, “We have murderers in here!” Jackie was a Dominican Sister and for 25 years a high school band teacher. Before our return journey to Knoxville for sentencing in September, Jackie would be dead.

Irwin County is about a seven hour drive from Knoxville. We were chained up, given a sack lunch and a bottle of water, and with difficulty loaded into a van. The first possible toilet break was 5-½ hours down the road. In a fiery crash, no one would make it out of the van alive as the inside is a welded box completely within another box with 1-inch holes evenly spaced throughout. While we made it safely to Ocilla, Georgia in spite of the drivers going 70-80 mph, talking on a cell phone, playing and poking one another, and having to slam on the brakes numerous times for inattentive driving, another van that left Ocilla recently smashed into a tractor-trailer injuring most of the shackled prisoners. The driver was cited in the incident. The inmates were lucky.

The Irwin County Detention Center (ICDC) is a for-profit jail and it shows. The place spends the minimum amount possible on the care of inmates or detainees. The clothes, including underwear, are used and holey, as are the sheets and towels. The food, while mostly adequate in quantity, is of the very poorest quality. There is not a doubt in my mind that it consists, in part, of industrial waste. One example is the pressed meat made of gizzards, hearts and livers and served as orange meatloaf. Carrot peelings, left over from making of those little “fingers” bagged for grocery stores, must part of the mix. We think that’s what makes the loaf orange. I envision the “chow” coming in 55 gallon drums after being offered to pig farmers. Four oranges per month must be enough to prevent scurvy or rickets. Sometimes we go to bed hungry, but sometimes that’s better than what’s for dinner.

After a couple of days here in pod E9, Jackie was in too much pain to comply with the order to have one’s bed made military style by 9:00 a.m. Women who had known Jackie for just a short time came to her defense and demanded she get medical attention. The staff was facing a near riot on Jackie’s behalf. Jackie was moved to “medical” much to her justifiable chagrin.

Reports reached us that Jackie had been isolated and was being ignored in medical lockup. That led to our initiating emergency outreach to get help for her. Calls came into this jail and the U.S. Marshal’s office from around the country and even from overseas. The jail responded by taking Jackie for an examination or two — and gave us word that she was fine — day after day. Jackie never returned from medical. Her attorney filed a motion to get her out and she was again loaded up, but in chains and barely able to move, for the seven-hour return to Knoxville.

When Jackie was booked into the Knox County jail it was with pneumonia, kidney failure, and four broken ribs from falls she’d taken in Irwin County Medical. Knox County admitted her to the hospital under guard, something that should have happened in Blount County. Judge

Bruce Guyton released Jackie from federal custody and she left for home a week after being released from the hospital — too weak to leave any sooner.

The lack of medical care here and in Blount County is an ongoing crime of negligence and a human rights violation. A woman at Blount who lay on the floor having a seizure was kicked by a guard who diagnosed her as a “faker.” A woman broke her arm and a month later was taken to have it put in a cast. She was given Ibuprofen for the pain in the meantime. Medications are routinely delayed or go missing. For a month Ardeth did not receive the medicine she needs for digesting food. During that time she could eat little or nothing. Carol’s blood pressure medicine went missing, and after three days it was found filed under someone whose first name is Gilbert.

The rule in the “medical” unit seems to be: Do the minimum amount possible. A sign on the wall reads, “No comfort measures to be given.” They aren’t kidding. Long delays in getting medical attention occur because all services and medications must first be approved by the U.S. Marshals. Decisions can take weeks to come by.

Commissary goods and phones, as in all jails, cost an outrageous amount of money. The jails receive kickbacks and those profits come directly from inmates. The hungrier people are the more money a jail can make on commissary. Phones, commissary and medical are all corporate services. Jails are in the business of making money from prisoners. Goods purchased at one jail — socks, underwear, T-shirts, thermals — in spite of never touching the outside world, are disallowed in any other jail to which a person



“Jennifer.” Pen and ink of a cell mate, by Bonnie Urfer

Longest-Serving Nuclear Resister Due Out in Sept.

By the Nuclear Resister

Helen Woodson went to prison the week after Ronald Reagan’s 1984 reelection for her part in the pneumatic jackhammer and sledgehammer disarmament of a nuclear missile silo in Missouri, the Silo Pruning Hooks action.

Paroled twice, she was locked up within days on charges related to new protests against war and other assaults on human dignity and the environment.

For all but those few days since then, Woodson has been serving time. On Sept. 9, after nearly 27 years in prison, she will be released from the Administrative Maximum unit of the Federal Medical Center-Carswell in Ft. Worth, Texas, the highest security women’s prison in the country. She intends to retire from resistance actions to pursue her religious vocation and spend time with her family.

While in prison Helen has become an Orthodox Oblate of St. Benedict, and will continue to pursue this religious vocation. She wrote to Felice and Jack Cohen-Joppa, the long-time editors and publishers of the *Nuclear Resister*:

Dear Jack & Felice,

Forty-eight days, and then I’ll emerge, Rip Van Winkle-esque, into a very different world. I’ve always been a troglodyte and came to prison never having laid eyes on a TV remote control. Now the federal prisons have e-mail! I am not permitted to use it, but I did have to acquire rudimentary computer skills to access my address list and commissary account.

Years earlier, a good friend and I, ignorant of the terminology, had decided to call the process of using the Internet “mousing-on.” Before I acquired the aforementioned rudimentary skills, I thought one held the mouse in one’s hand and aimed it at the screen. You know, like ye olde remote control. Undaunted, when the need arose, it took me a mere three weeks to master the defiant little rodent, after which I gloated for days (okay, forever) about its final submission to my clear genetic superiority. Skype, beware! Woodson’s on the way. I realize I’m going on a bit randomly, but I get to do that because this is my last such letter and because in the end, it will all come together.

Some things change. Some never do. Alfred Nobel left much of his fortune for the establishment of annual

awards. He had made the fortune after experimenting with nitroglycerin. His first manufacturing plant blew up, killing his youngest brother, Emil. Did that deter him? It did not, and three years later he patented his new explosive, “dynamite.” This may explain why it is entirely consistent that Barak Obama was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize

while engaged in two wars and then went on to a starring role in a third. If I ever write a book about war, I will dedicate it to Emil Nobel and the hundreds of millions of our other brothers and sisters whom we’ve blown up over the years in the pursuit of peace (and prizes).

Some here have asked if my prison time has gone by quickly. The very thought shocks me. Counting previous jail time, we’re talking about almost 28 years. Rip Van Winkle makes a good story, but imagine waking up one morning to discover you’ve lost the last 28 years of your life! Life should not go by quickly. I have always loved life generally and my own life specifically, and since we never live alone, that means having loved those with whom I’ve shared it. There is much that I’m looking forward to post-release, but I’m also keenly aware that I will be bidding farewell, first to beloved friends here whose absence from my life will be very strange and very sad. And then to the felonious folks out there who have been my dear friends for more than 25 years and with whom I will no longer be allowed contact.

Some things change. A couple of years ago, two feral cats showed up in our yard, suitably ferocious as befit their station in life. Now they attack only our shoelaces and mostly just snooze on our laps. A few days ago, a raccoon family began visiting. The mother is encouraging her five babies to move into independence, and they’re eager to explore this new world. In a year, they will no longer recognize each other.

In the end, it all does come together. There really is objective Truth, and it can be known. There really is objective moral right and wrong, and none of us can abdicate the responsibility to recognize and live by it. And there really is Love. Some things never change. 48 days...

Love, Helen, July 23, 2011
— Reprinted from the June & September 2011 issues of the *Nuclear Resister*.

Jackie Hudson, *Présente!* ■
— Bonnie, in prison since her May 11 conviction, will be sentenced Sept. 14 and faces a possible maximum of one year.



Helen Woodson helped disarm Minuteman III missile silo N-5 east of Kansas City, Missouri Nov. 12, 1984, and served an 18-year sentence for the action.

Some things change. A couple of years ago, two feral cats showed up in our yard, suitably ferocious as befit their station in life. Now they attack only our shoelaces and mostly just snooze on our laps. A few days ago, a raccoon family began visiting. The mother is encouraging her five babies to move into independence, and they’re eager to explore this new world. In a year, they will no longer recognize each other.

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Nuclear Shorts

Wasting Space

CUSTER, Wisconsin — “Why not launch nuclear waste into space?” This question pops up at a lot of Nukewatch’s public engagements, like the Midwest Renewable Energy Association’s Energy Fair held here every June. An easy answer puts this pipe dream to rest.

The odds of a catastrophic failure during the launch phase of the Titan IV rocket — the heaviest used by the U.S. space program — are “between one in 10 and one in 20,” according to John Pike, one of the world’s leading experts on military, space and intelligence policy, a former President of the Federation of American Scientists and the current Director of GlobalSecurity.org.

Even a mere 72.3 pounds of plutonium in “batteries” launched from Cape Canaveral in 1997 aboard the Cassini Space Probe risked poisoning billions of people if the craft had burned up in the atmosphere. The *Boston Globe* reported at the time that “NASA’s environmental impact statement for the launch said that in the event of a worst-case accident, 5 billion people could be exposed to radiation and 2,300 could suffer health effects as a result.”

Recent duds, like the Aug. 24 failure and crash of a Russian Soyuz cargo rocket carrying three tons of food and fuel to the International Space Station, prove the point. It was the second failure in a month at Russia’s Baikonur launch pad. And a spacecraft launched from West Texas the same day by billionaire Jeff Bezos’s Blue Origin company, went out of control and crashed, like an exclamation point. NASA, which has contracted with Blue Origin to design systems to launch astronauts into orbit, may want to reconsider. — *New York Times*, Sept. 3, & Aug. 25, 2011; & *Boston Globe*, Dec. 9, 1996

Further Delays & Cost Overruns for “Model” Reactor

FLAMANVILLE, France — The beleaguered 1,650-megawatt Flamanville 3 reactor has suffered another setback in its construction. Electricity of France (EDF) announced that it needs to carry out tougher safety inspections in the wake of the Fukushima nuclear disaster, due to “structural and economic reasons” and pushed back its opening to 2016. The state-owned company reported that its flagship reactor’s costs will increase to \$9 billion due to the new requirements. Potentially one of the largest nuclear reactors in the world, Flamanville 3 is already two years behind schedule and more than \$2.4 billion over budget. The sky-rocketing cost and construction delays are real-world rebukes to EDF and its hopes for the worldwide commercialization of its prototype reactor, known as a European Pressurized Reactor, built by the French nuclear giant Areva. The reality check is politically embarrassing for French President Nicolas Sarkozy, whose strongly pro-nuclear administration is under attack by Socialist and Green Party critics as the partisans prepare for next year’s presidential elections. Sarkozy last month committed to a \$1.5 billion investment in France’s nuclear power industry at a time when several European states have placed moratoriums on new construction and when a major poll found public opinion deeply antinuclear. On May 2, Greenpeace activists blocked the construction site using two trucks anchored to the ground as other activists scaled four cranes to impede the project. Protests are ongoing.

— Greenpeace, May 4; Reuters, the *Guardian*, July 20, & *New York Times*, July 21, 2011

U.S. Sends First Envoy to Nagasaki Commemoration

NAGASAKI, Japan — It took 66 years, but the United States for the first time sent a representative, Charge d’Affaires James Zumwalt, to the annual memorial service for victims of the U.S. Army Air Force’s atomic bombing of Nagasaki.

After a uranium bomb was used Aug. 6, 1945 on Hiroshima, the U.S. dropped a plutonium bomb Aug. 9 on the Japanese port city of Nagasaki killing 40,000 civilians instantly and a total of 70,000 in the days that followed. Nick-named “Fat Man” in reference to Winston Churchill, the bomb was dropped by parachute from a B-29 bomber. It exploded about 1,625 ft. above ground and completely destroyed the city of 240,000 people. More than three million leaflets were dropped from American airplanes over the country in the days that followed warning the survivors that more atom bombs would be used “again and again” to destroy the country unless they ended the war forthwith. However, President Truman ordered that no more atomic bombs be used without his explicit authorization.

Zumwalt said in a statement that President Obama hoped to work with Japan toward “realizing a world without nuclear weapons” — a goal that Japan has championed ceaselessly since the World War II but one the U.S. has historically undermined, today using a ruse called “warhead refurbishment.” — AP, *Washington Post*, & BBC Aug. 9, 2011

Professors Charged in Radiation Death

NEW DELHI, India — In a follow-up to a story we ran last summer, six professors in the chemistry department at Delhi University were recently charged with numerous crimes relating to the illegal auctioning off to a scrap dealer of equipment containing cobalt-60.

The highly radioactive gamma irradiator was later found in a Mayapuri scrap yard where one unprotected

person was killed and eight others who came in contact with it were injured. The victims approached the Delhi High Court seeking redress after the government, despite promises, failed to compensate any of them. Besides the high cost of medical treatment, the victims also suffer from ensuing health problems. One of the victims, Ajay Jain cannot walk, as doctors had to peel off infected flesh from parts of his stomach, thighs and legs which were critically damaged by radiation.

Police booked the six professors under charges of causing “grievous hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others,” and “death due to rash and negligent act.” The police have alleged that the accused, who were part of a committee that decided on junk disposal, violated federal guidelines in disposing of the chemistry department’s gamma irradiator which contained the cobalt-60. The accused also failed to inform anyone in the university about the sale. — *Indio Asian News Service*, Sept. 2, & *Times of India*, Sept. 3, 2011

Nuclear Weapons Cleanup Gone to Pot

HANFORD, Wash. — On August 8th a bag of marijuana was found on the floor of a S.M. Stoller conference room at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. Five employees who resigned rather than take a drug test are now back at work. Four others, who took a drug test, and failed, have lost their jobs. The five employees were returned to Hanford by their union and subsequently passed a drug test. However, Hanford described its policy as allowing some employees to continue working in specialized circumstances if they pass a drug test, enter treatment and agree to random drug tests. Workers who failed the drug test are not expected to be allowed to return to work. Most, but not all, drug tests have been completed. Only Stoller employees were tested. Stoller operates the facility, a huge, lined landfill in central Hanford for low-level radioactive and chemical waste. The employees in the room had been holding its plan-of-the-day meeting. One can only guess what plans were made. — *Hanford News*, Aug. 24 & *Tri-City Herald*, Aug. 31, 2011

Hot Spot: Popular Hawaiian Sandbar Not So Inviting

HONOLULU, Hawaii — In the middle of Kaneohe Bay on Oahu’s northern coast is the Kaneohe Sandbar. A stretch of beach during lower tides which is completely submerged during higher tides, Kaneohe sandbar is a popular near-shore destination for boaters, kayakers and sailors looking for a place to enjoy the sun. Not any more. On March 29, 2011, a Marine Corp helicopter crash landed, killing one soldier and injuring three. Still at large are pellets of strontium-90 used in a system that monitors the copter’s blades. Strontium-90 is a carcinogen that is absorbed by human bones and, according to Hawaiian environmental activist, Carroll Cox, “there is no evidence rescue personnel who rushed to the scene of the crash were told about the possibility of encountering radioactive material. The biggest concern I had was for the first responders, the City and County of Honolulu fire fighters,” said Cox. “I’m informed that they were not told.” — KOHN-TV & AP, Sept. 2, 2011

German Waste Dump Construction Site Under Siege

GORLEBEN, Germany — Inspired by the year-long “Faslane 365” series of blockades of the Faslane nuclear submarine base in Scotland, 300 opponents of nuclear power kicked off “Gorleben 365” Aug. 14, inviting all manner of daily nonviolent direct actions to block work on Germany’s scandal-ridden radioactive waste storage project at Gorleben. So far, authorities have avoided arrests, going as far as to cut new holes in the fence to move traffic around a blockade. For more information, visit www.gorleben365.de/english.html, or email blockade@gorleben365.de. — *Nuclear Resister*, September 2011

RESOURCES

- * **AlliantACTION**, Email: alliantaction@circlevision.org, Web: alliantaction.org
- * **Beyond Nuclear**, 6930 Carroll Av., #400, Takoma Park, MD 20912, (301) 270-2209, Email: info@beyondnuclear.org, Web: beyondnuclear.org
- * **Electronic Privacy Information Center**, 1718 Connecticut Av. NW, #200, Washington, DC 20009, (202) 483-1140, Web: epic.org
- * **Institute for Policy Studies**, 1112 16th St. NW, #600, Washington, DC 20036, (202) 234-9382, Web: info@ips.org
- * **Los Alamos Study Group**, 2901 Summit Place NE, Albuquerque, NM 87106, (505) 265-1200, Web: lasg.org, Email: gmello@lasg.org, or twm@lasg.org
- * **Low Level Radiation Campaign**, Powys LD1 5LW, UK, Tel. 44-1597-824-771, Email: sitemanager@llrc.org, Web: llrc.org
- * **Midwest Renewable Energy Association**, 7558 Deer Rd., Custer, WI 54423, (715) 592-6595, Web: midwestrenew.org, Email: info@the-mrea.org
- * **Nuclear Information & Resource Service**, 6930 Carroll Av., #340, Takoma Park, MD, 20912, (301) 270-6477, Web: nirs.org, Email: nirsnet@nirs.org
- * **Physicians for Social Responsibility**, 1875 Conn. Av., NW, Washington, DC 20009, (202) 667-4260, Web: psr.org, Wisconsin Chapter, PO Box 1712, Madison, WI 53701, (608) 232-9945, Email: info@psrwisconsin.org
- * **The Nuclear Resister**, PO Box 43383, Tucson, AZ 85733, (520) 323-8697, Email: nukeresister@igc.org
- * **Public Citizen**, 1600 20th St. NW, Washington, DC 20009, (202) 588-1000, Email: member@citizen.org, Web: citizen.org



So Many Crimes, So Little Time

Sentencing statement, September 14, 2011
U.S. District Court, Knoxville, Tenn.
Magistrate Bruce Guyton presiding

By Bonnie Urfer

One of the most unpleasant things in life is to go to jail. But because they are places with some of the worst human rights violations in one of the most unjust systems, it is important that people know what happens in them. We need people in jails who have a voice, and people who know to tell the truth.

In the past 126 days I have been booked in to three different jails. The hardest part of the experience is being just one person in the midst of so much systematic institutional crime.

I have a decision to make. Do I refocus and put my energy into exposing the on-going crime of medical negligence in these jails? Do I begin a campaign to highlight the illegal starvation diet in the Blount County jail, for which no one has been arrested? Do I join the effort to condemn the practice of overcharging mostly dirt poor inmates for phone calls, and commissary, so that corporations and counties receive greater kickbacks? Should I add my voice to those in this courtyard who show up protesting unjust sentences for nonviolent conspiracy charges? Or should I spend all of my time researching how many prosecutors, judges, attorneys, court clerks and law enforcement personnel hold stock in the private prison industry, commissary companies, phone providers or medical contractors in these human warehouses? I see so many literal and moral crimes, and I’m just one person.

My final answer is: None of the above. I will continue to resist the ultimate crime of nuclear weapons and their production here and around the world.

I heartily disagree with this court’s position that Y12’s production of nuclear bombs does not amount to imminent nuclear war. I can tell you about the women I met in the jails who lost family members from cancer after exposure to radiation while working at Y12. The government pays \$150,000 to those workers with cancer or to their family after a death if they can prove liability. Thousands of people are dead or dying from weapons production. How many deaths does it take to convince the courts that Y12 is killing its own in a nuclear war? How many does it take to name it a crime? In my mind — just one.

I have just one life and there is so much to do.

It doesn’t matter what my sentence is. If I am returned to jail, I’ll expose more crimes. If I am set free, I’ll expose more crimes.

Now, it is your decision. ■

Whole Body Airport Scans Okayed Without Scrutiny

WASHINGTON, DC — Now that there are 247 full-body X-ray scanners in 38 airports around the country, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit ordered the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to start soliciting comments about the machines’ hazards and invasiveness. Ceding to pressure from the Electronic Privacy Information Center, a civil liberties group based in Washington, who argued that the full body X-rays violated privacy and religious freedom laws as well as the Fourth Amendment, the court now is allowing citizens to voice their concerns. This comes after routine maintenance of the machines in December 2010 showed they were emitting more than 10 times the radiation expected. The TSA says that the results were due to a mathematical error and that all the machines are safe. U.S. Rep. Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah, was troubled by the information posted by the TSA. Chaffetz chairs a House oversight committee on national security and has sponsored legislation to limit the use of full-body scans. He has been pushing the TSA to release the maintenance records. At best, Chaffetz said, the radiation reports generated by TSA contractors reveal haphazard oversight and record-keeping in the critical inspection system the agency relies upon to ensure millions of travelers aren’t subjected to excessive doses of radiation. “It is totally unacceptable to be bumbling such critical tasks,” Chaffetz said. “These people are supposed to be protecting us against terrorists.”

— *New York Times*, July 16, & *USA Today*, March 14, 2011

Continued from cover

Soggy Missiles & Myths of Deterrence in Nuclear Heartland

June 30, "Our missile launch facilities are not directly threatened by the flooding of the Souris River" and have "remained unaffected."

Col. Stephen Davis, commander of the 91st Missile Wing at Minot Air Force Base, was more forthcoming and said the day before that there'd been some "localized flooding" at a handful of missile sites and that the silos are designed to handle "some" water. WDAY television in Minot reported that "at least" two launch sites were being "protected by sandbags and pumps." And Col. Davis told Channel 1310 News Radio that "protective measures were taken" at a few missile sites.

I was skeptical of Capt. David's nonchalance and curious about Col. Davis's minimization. I have first-hand knowledge of these missiles' unguarded and open-air vulnerability, having driven with Barb Katt in 1987 to all 1,000 of the Minuteman sites then in operation, under a research contract with Nukewatch. In 1988, the group published *Nuclear Heartland: A guide to the 1000 missile silos of the United States*.

"Alert" missiles isolated, unprotected, ridiculed

Minot's missiles are still kept on "alert" status — ready to fire on a moment's notice from their underground launch

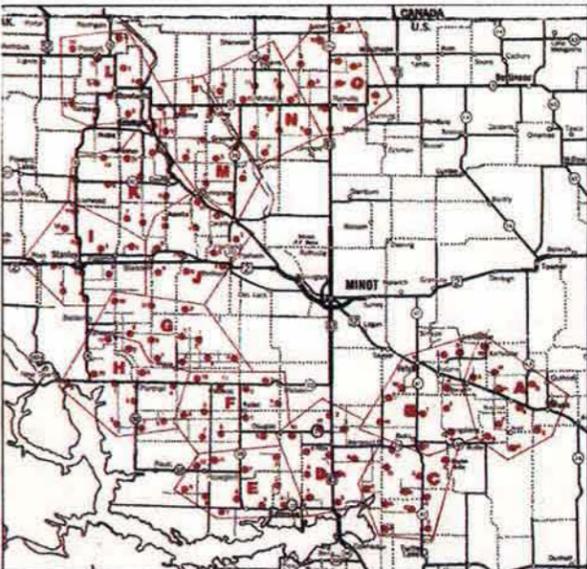


Some of the 13 law enforcement officers who responded 3 hours after Air Force police reported someone taking photographs near flood-threatened missiles, like M-9 at upper left in photo.

pads — just like 300 others still deployed across the Great Plains. The giant weapons are relics of the Cold War that ended 20 years ago. The 60-foot-tall rockets weigh about 8,000 pounds and carry a mind-numbing 330 kiloton thermonuclear warhead which has 26 times the explosive force of the 12.5 kiloton that the United States used on Hiroshima, Japan in 1945. The Minuteman's destructiveness, in view of the 140,000 people who were killed at Hiroshima, is capable of incinerating 3.7 million people.

Today these devices pose more of a danger to the Air Force and to nearby residents than to anyone else because of their occasional fires, their ongoing venting of radioactive tritium, their mechanical or weather-related accidents, their repeated crashes during transport, and the mistaken launch orders that are routinely initiated by computer mishaps. More than once the Air Force has hastily parked a heavy truck on top of a silo lid hoping it would fall onto and wreck a missile that panicked operators believed was about to launch itself.

So vulnerable are these aging and exposed sentinels of the nuclear age — even in good weather it takes 30 minutes for Air Force response teams to reach some — that they are regular targets for pranksters, vandals and disarmament activists. During our 3-month, 30,000 mile Nukewatch research odyssey, local teenagers told us that



Nukewatch's map of the Minot, ND missile field. Record summer flooding of the Souris and Des Lacs Rivers soaked some of the missile silos in "flights" A, B, J, M & N.

they used to drive out at night and "plink" the silo fences by throwing rocks, or bumping them with their cars, then watch from a safe distance and snicker as Air Force Security patrols arrived to inspect half an hour later.

Determined to find out if the Air Force was misinforming the public, I drove 10 hours from home to see and photograph the flood-soaked missile sites and others that were undergoing extensive repair work.

On Sunday July 24th, I visited six missile launch sites and found two, silos A-2 and A-4, partly girded with shabby sandbags. The bags had evidently been used to protect



An Air Force helicopter delivered two civilian police investigators to a waterlogged Ward County Rd 2 west of Kenmare, ND where Nukewatch was taking photos of Minuteman missile silos threatened by flooding.

the lowest spot on any of the launch sites: the bottom of the 100-ton concrete lid that covers the missile silo itself. (See cover photo) The heavy steel rails that this giant lid slides across when opening for a missile launch are the first places to get soaked. On Monday the 25th, I visited another eight silos and one Launch Control Center.

All told, eight of the 14 silos I saw had been sandbagged with varying degrees of success or were undergoing repair work. This put the lie to the Air Force Captain's public assurance that the silos were "unaffected." How these waterlogged sites had previously looked at the height of the 130-year flood a month earlier, we'll never know.

"Deterrence" myth a broken record of disinformation

In answer to a question from Nukewatch, Col. Davis wrote Aug. 1st:

"The ability to immediately launch remains a key contribution of the Minuteman III ICBM to our nation's deterrent capabilities. The Minuteman III maintains its immediate launch capability with personnel inside the fenced area.

"However, under these circumstances launch facility evacuation would occur prior to launch."



An Air Force officer called to report "suspicious behavior" after I took photos of extensive repairs underway at Minuteman missile M-3 near Greene, ND. Repairs were also going on at N-11, N-7, N-9, and sandbags had been stacked against flooding at A-2, A-4, J-3 and N-10, all in the heavily-flooded Souris River valley.



Workers labored over a Minuteman missile silo near Mohall, ND, where water from the 130-year flooding of the Souris River soaked the surroundings.

This is balderdash, since it would take hours for evacuation orders to be written, delivered to work crews and carried out. In just a few hours of investigation, I found several missiles sand-bagged against the flooding or under repair. There are, at any given time, dozens of North Dakota's 150 missiles that are unavailable for "immediate launch." The alert status is no more "key" to deterrence than the missile silo security crews that didn't even register my two hours of missile hopping on July 24.

Detained but not deterred

Of course the image of U.S. Air Force Missile Wing weakness or uselessness is something that official military myth-makers can't tolerate. After three hours of photographing the same silos I'd visited and photographed many times, I began being followed by Air Force security

around 12:30 p.m. I was later detained for over two hours by a gradually increasing contingent of law enforcement and security officials that eventually numbered 13.

At first, two Air Force security patrollers in their black, tinted glass SUV simply followed me from silo to silo, always staying about 300 feet behind my car. To break the ice, I stopped on the access road to the M-1 Launch Control Center near Greene, ND and approached the officers with a copy of *Nuclear Heartland* and Nukewatch's large Minot Missile Field map. The officers hustled out of the vehicle and threw their machine guns over their shoulders. Both were formal and cool behind sunglasses. One said only that my "suspicious behavior" meant they had to follow me. As I drove off, they stayed in my rear view mirror and I headed east look at silo M-9.

Around 1:15 p.m., a Kenmare City policeman pulled me over just as I left M-9 on Ward County Road 2. He said I was acting "suspicious" and told me I had to wait for the Air Force to question me. As we waited and chatted, more and more law enforcement officers with guns arrived on the scene in front of a small farm house on the prairie east of Kenmare.

For 95 minutes of quasi-detainment — I wasn't in handcuffs and walked around taking photos like a tourist — 9 of us stood around waiting through the blisteringly hot afternoon for an "Air Force helicopter" that was reportedly on the way. The group of officers eventually included the two Air Force security patrollers, the Kenmare cop, four Ward County Deputies, two Renville County Deputies, and later, an FBI special agent, a member of the Air Force Office of Special Investigations (OSI) and the helicopter crew of three.

While we waited, one of the deputies suggested that I had to get "permission from the Air Force" to take pictures. This is not true, and I showed him the photos of the dozens of silos I'd taken and had published in *Nuclear Heartland*.

After an hour, the curious householder had come out of his prairie home carrying a bag full of water bottles and offered one to each of us. I kept thinking, "Hell, if they're sending a helicopter, I'm going to jail for sure." With a rented car and with Bonnie's dog and my own in the care of friends back home, this was not a happy thought.

Finally, after an hour-and-a-half-long wait, the two super cops were on the horizon. And with all the military gravitas that a USAF helicopter can deliver, they landed in the middle of Ward County Road 2 at 2:50 p.m. Two civilian-dressed agents, one each from the FBI and the OSI, emerged and greeted the other cops. Using a digital camera, I filmed a 17-second video of this preposterous waste of resources thinking, "No one in the world will believe this story."

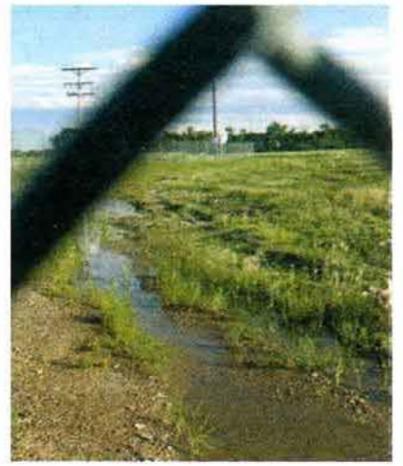
Yet this nearly private theater of the absurd was ended rather quickly. The OSI officer's opening statement to me, after we'd taken refuge from the sun in an air-conditioned squad car, was that I was "not under arrest and didn't have to answer any questions." I chuckled and asked if we could end the interview and all get back to work, as I had "a few more silos to look at." I did let them know I was taking pictures for the *Nukewatch Quarterly*.

I offered them the latest issue of the newsletter and they gave it a quick glance as we were walking back toward my car. Just then my mobile phone rang, and, as if the experience wasn't comic enough, it was Nukewatch's Bonnie Urfer calling from federal prison camp! The feds were at the moment looking at Bonnie's picture on the cover of the Summer edition. "What did she do?" they asked pointedly. I offered, "You can read all about it," and waved goodbye. This time the Air Force police didn't follow.

I drove off shaking my head and found silo J-11 by Aurelia, ND covered with work vehicles. Silo J-3 near Carpio was partly walled up with sandbags.

Taking photos of these unguarded, "alert status" intercontinental ballistic nuclear missile launch sites is still legal — even for convicted felons, even after the 9/11 security crackdown and even without permission.

But if you're out to challenge the Air Force's mythic hogwash that land-based ICBMs are "safe" and that they deter anything, be prepared for delays. ■



Water inside the fence July 24 at the mostly underground Minuteman III missile silo A-4 near Balfour, ND

Radiation Gushes From Fukushima, Information Trickles

The radiation gusher that began at Fukushima March 11 — radioactive materials are still spewing from cracked reactors, waste storage pools, drainage ditches and broken ducts — has poisoned soil, rainwater, tap water, seawater, groundwater, incinerator ash, foods of all kinds and almost everything in between.

A radiation survey by Japan's Ministry of Science and Education released Aug. 20, found contamination far higher than the government had publicly predicted. In the town of Okuma, it was 25 times what the government considers "safe." The ministry's report said radiation above legal limits was confirmed at three dozen places inside the 12-mile exclusion zone around the wrecked nuclear complex.

Contamination near and far

On July 20 the U.S. State Department restated its advisory to U.S. citizens that they evacuate from within a 50-mile radius of the wrecked reactor complex. "Out of an abundance of caution, we continue to recommend that U.S. citizens avoid travel to destinations within the 50-mile evacuation zone... [those] who are still within this zone should evacuate or shelter in place," the statement said.

The United States considered evacuating all 90,000 U.S. citizens in Tokyo right after the radiation disaster began. A book by Kevin Maher, published Aug. 17, the former senior diplomat at the U.S. State Department in Japan discloses that the plan was rejected not because evacuation was uncalled for but because "it could have ... caused panic among the Japanese." (1) The 90,000 were saved panic too.

On a global scale, according to scientists at the French air pollution research group CERA (Centre d'Enseignement et de Recherche en Environnement Atmosphérique), the world-wide ground level dispersal of cesium-137 from Fukushima may be more severe along the U.S. West Coast, especially California, than even the western half of Japan itself. CERA's graphic approximation of the airborne dispersal of cesium between March 11 and April 6, 2011 can be seen at <http://cera.enpc.fr/en/fukushima.html>.

This reference to the contamination of California appears to coincide with a June 7 report from the Radiation and Public Health Project in New Jersey, that compared infant death rates before and after the March 17 arrival of Fukushima fallout on the West Coast. Using data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the report found that infant deaths reported in eight northwestern cities rose 35 percent. Infant deaths averaged 9.25 per week for the four weeks ending March 19. The average jumped to 12.50, a 35.1 percent increase, in the following 10 weeks. (2)

Radioactive food and drink

The list of contaminated foods in Japan is long, getting longer and includes milk, beef, fish, tea, seaweed, flavorings, cabbage, spinach, fava beans, mushrooms, cauliflower, turnips, canola, broccoli, parsley and now rice.

The formal acknowledgement on August 20th that rice as far away as Tokyo was poisoned with radioactive cesium has shaken to the core the public's confidence in the federal government. According to press reports, rice is more positively identified with Japanese identity and culture than is apple pie in the United States.

The Fukushima catastrophe continues with relentless gut-wrenching revelations to dramatize the industry's and government's inability to control the spread of radiation into the food chain. Hay that was fed to cattle at one ranch in Fukushima Prefecture was found poisoned with cesium 250 times the official limit. Some hay 85 miles from the destroyed reactors was found to be contaminated. (3)

Japanese government announcements about the latest foodstuff that's been found radioactively tainted but "at less than harmful levels," leave the public either aghast or skeptical. Government warnings never note, much less remind consumers that eating tainted foods in combination, as we all do, could result in contamination exceeding allowable limits.

Legally permissible amounts of internal radioactive contamination are themselves scientifically indefensible, since radiation authorities agree that "there is no firm basis for setting a 'safe' level of exposure above background..."



(U.S. Environmental Protection Agency). Grim headlines like "Radiation-Tainted Beef Spreads Through Japan's Markets" appeared in July. The contaminated meat "made its way to supermarkets and restaurants across Japan" and into school lunches, major papers reported. Reports from Japan noted that "only a small percentage of farm products grown in the [Fukushima] region get checked for radiation." (4)

Inspectors from Japan's Ibaraki Prefecture, which is south and adjacent to Fukushima Prefecture, claimed that the radiation was well within safe levels, about 1/10th of the official limit for grains. The national Agriculture Ministry also said there was no health risk from eating 52 becquerels of cesium per kilogram of rice.

With radioactive materials spread broadly across Japan, the government's Aug. 26th announcement that it would cut in half the radiation levels in all of the contaminated areas is clearly incredible. The government did not explain how it would decontaminate thousands of square miles, or how it would pay for such an enormous undertaking.

Exposing children "akin to murder"

Like the U.S. State Dept., Japan also decided to expose huge segments of its population to dangerous amounts of radioactive fallout from the out-of-control meltdowns rather than endure the panic, outrage and even rebellion that could have been prompted by a broad precautionary evacuation.

In a lengthy investigative report, the *New York Times* found that Japanese authorities deliberately endangered even the most vulnerable individuals — women, children, infants and the elderly — by at first denying and then covering up its own data about wind direction and radioactive fallout. The story, "Japan Hid Radiation Path, Leaving Evacuees in Peril," could hardly be more damning of the Japanese government. (5)



This worker was reportedly "decontaminating" an elementary school in Fukushima City Aug. 6 (Photo by Yuriko Nakao, Reuters). The *Wall Street Journal* reported Aug. 30 that "... the latest data point to the possibility that cesium could also be washing away and spreading to other areas, potentially contaminating rivers, lower-lying land and the ocean." — "Japan Finds Radiation Spread Over a Wide Area," *Wall St. Journal*, Aug. 30, 2011

The federal radiation monitoring program, dubbed the System for Prediction of Environmental Emergency Dose Information, or Speedi, "had been churning out maps and other data hourly since the first hours after the catastrophic earthquake and tsunami," the *Times* reported. But this data was withheld until March 23, even from rescue workers and local authorities, in violation of the prime minister's own nuclear disaster manuals.

In another instance, clear evidence of reactor meltdowns that was found the day after the tsunami was not disclosed for almost three months. Critics from both inside and outside the government of former Prime Minister Naoto Kan complain that "some exposures could have been prevented if officials had released the data sooner." Speedi maps clearly indicated a plume of radiation extending to the northwest of the reactor complex, "beyond the areas that were initially evacuated," the *Times* found.

"We are extremely worried about internal exposure to radiation," said Tamotsu Baba, the mayor of Namie. In March, his town's residents fled north, directly into the plume of fallout, and for three days were "in a location with one of the highest levels of radiation." Mayor Baba said bitterly that the "withholding of damaging information" by political leaders was akin to "murder." (6)

In May, radioactive cesium was found in urine samples taken from all 10 children who were tested from Fukushima City, 37 miles from the stricken reactors. The results indicate that residents were exposed internally to radiation spewing from the wreckage, the *Guardian* reported. (7)

Tests were conducted on children between the ages of 6 and 16 by a Japanese civic group and Acro, a French firm that measures radioactivity. All 10 tested positive for small amounts of cesium-134 and caesium-137.

"Everyone is worried about their children," said 33-year-old Yuki Osaku, a mother of two. (8)

Well, almost everyone. Richard Wakeford, of the Dalton Institute in Manchester, UK told the *Guardian* that ingestion could be prevented by avoiding contaminated food and milk. He admitted that produce contaminated at legally allowable levels would inevitably go on sale. (9)

Likewise, Nanao Kamada, professor emeritus of radiation biology at Hiroshima University, told the *Guardian*, "This won't be a problem if they don't eat vegetables or other contaminated products." — JL ■

Graphic by Philip Hubert

Cesium in Japanese Rice

Professor Chris Busby is the Scientific Advisor to the UK's Low Level Radiation Campaign and a visiting professor at the University of Ulster. Nukewatch asked Busby what he thought of the Japanese agricultural ministry's decision to allow distribution, sale and consumption of rice contaminated with certain amounts cesium-137 and -134.

On Aug. 19, Busby wrote: "There are two serious systematic distortions of the risk to the people of Fukushima from their exposures to radioactivity from the catastrophe. The first is the use of external gamma dose rate, or air dose rate, quantified as micro-Sieverts per hour. The second is the use of cesium-137 contamination.

"Both of these were also employed after Chernobyl, but having studied Chernobyl, and having re-thought the biological effects of radiation on the DNA, we now know better that it is internal contamination, by a whole range of radioactive particles and molecules, that is the basis of the singular and terrifying range of ill health effects that follow such contamination.

"Cesium contamination is easy to measure: the two nuclides, cesium-137 and cesium-134 have large gamma energy signatures, and this is why they are used. I myself have now looked at about 15 car air filters and found radio-cesium in all of them, even ones from Tokyo. What is far harder to measure, and what is far more dangerous, is the uranium, plutonium, strontium-90, carbon-14 and tritium, to say nothing of more exotic and dangerous species like sulphur-35. All of these, unlike cesium, bind to DNA and other biological material.

"However, the cesium in the rice will almost certainly be a flag for other contaminants, none of which are included in the assessment of the effects of eating the rice.

"My concern is that when the health effects begin to appear, which will be quite soon, and the cancers appear, which will be in a few years — don't listen to those who talk about long latency [delayed symptoms] — and the birth rate falls as the children die in the womb, no one will record this, and the whole issue will be covered up in the same way as it was after Chernobyl. This is why I am urging local people to contact me to get a small health survey going. I have the methodology for this and have even had it translated into Japanese. All is ready.

"The authorities cannot be trusted to do this; there is no Japanese cancer registry and unless we do this or some independent epidemiology is done we will be doomed to repeat the Chernobyl story." — CB

Notes

- 1) "U.S. Government Considered Evacuation of 90,000 U.S. Citizens in Tokyo," *Yomiuri Shinbun*, Aug. 17, 2011
- 2) "Infant Deaths Soar 35% In Pacific Northwest - Area Hit Hardest By Japanese Nuclear Fallout," Radiation and Public Health Project, June 7, 2011
- 3) "Radiation-Tainted Beef Spreads Through Japan's Markets," *New York Times*, July 19, 2011
- 4) "Radiation Discovered in Rice Near Tokyo," *New York Times*, Aug. 20, 2011, p.A8
- 5) "Japan Hid Radiation Path, Leaving Evacuees in Peril," *New York Times*, Aug 9, 2011, p.A1
- 6) *Ibid*
- 7) "Fukushima children test positive for internal radiation exposure," *Guardian*, June 30, 2011
- 8) "Tokyo area parents' radiation worries grow with discovery of local 'hotspots,'" *Mainichi Daily News*, June 21, 2011
- 9) *Ibid*, note 5

News and analysis of the crisis is updated regularly at many websites including: beyondnuclear.org * llrc.org * ieer.org * nirs.org * radiation.org * japantimes.co.jp * eneenews.com * fairwinds.com * cnic.jp/english *

From Hiroshima to Fukushima: Japan's Atomic Tragedies

from page 1

one of the journalists who publicized the incredible color film archives. As part of the U.S. strategic bombing survey, the film crews documented not only the devastation of the cities, but also close-up, clinical documentation of the severe burns and disfiguring injuries suffered by the civilians, including children.

In one scene, a young man is shown with red, raw wounds all over his back, undergoing treatment. Despite the massive burns and being treated months late, the man survived. Now 82, Sumiteru Taniguchi is director of the Nagasaki Council of A-Bomb Sufferers. Mitchell found recent comments from Taniguchi in a Japanese newspaper linking the atomic bombing to the Fukushima disaster:

"Nuclear power and mankind cannot coexist. We survivors of the atomic bomb have said this all along. And yet, the use of nuclear power was camouflaged as 'peaceful' and continued to progress. You never know when there's going to be a natural disaster. You can never say that there will never be a nuclear accident."

In a poignant fusion of the old and new disasters, we should listen to the surviving victims of both. ■

— Amy Goodman is the host of *Democracy Now!* Denis Moynihan contributed research to this column which appeared in the *Guardian*.

“Depleted” Uranium by Any Other Name ...

Tom Bottolene has been telling people about Alliant TechSystems (ATK) from the street, from jail and from corporate boardrooms for more than 15 years. Bottolene helps coordinate AlliantACTION, the watchdog group that relentlessly targets this corporate war monger with protest and resistance. The group's slogan: “Who profits? Who dies?”

The corporation, with 18,000 employees working at 60 facilities in 22 states, and with \$4.8 billion in sales this year, produces not-so “depleted” uranium munitions — the armor-piercing shells made of toxic and radioactive uranium-238 left over from producing reactor fuel and H-bombs — that since 1991 have brought birth defects, cancer and environmental disaster to Iraq, Bosnia, Kosovo and Afghanistan. Uranium-238 has a radioactive half-life of 4.5 billion years and persists in nature for 10 half-lives.

ATK's world headquarters in Eden Prairie, Minnesota has been the object of AlliantACTION's protests and non-violent resistance since 1996. On Sept. 8, the company announced that its HQ is moving to the Washington, DC area “for increased engagement with our customers.”

In July, ATK won a \$77 million contract to develop new ammunition for the Army's Abrams tank: a 120 millimeter shell for anti-tank war that the company now calls an “ad-

vanced kinetic energy tactical tank round.” On its web site and news releases, the company has replaced the words “depleted uranium” with the phrase “kinetic energy.” The new contract, announced on the web site in July, prompted Bottolene and other critics of the company's war profiteering to shower the Chief Executive Officer with pointed questions at the annual shareholders' meeting Aug. 2.

Nukewatch talked with Tom about the meeting. **Alliant admits “kinetic energy” rounds are uranium** “We had a delegation of eight from AlliantACTION that hold shares, and we were allowed in,” Tom said. It was only the second time. Previously the company had them arrested for demanding their right to attend.

“The new President and CEO is Mark DeYoung,” Tom said. “He gave a pep talk about the economy, and about moving into civilian projects. After introducing new executive board members, he took questions. And he admitted then what he had denied last October.”

“We'd met with DeYoung then,” Tom recalled. The earlier delegation included activists Char Madigan, Pepperwolf, Bill Barnett and Steve Clemens.

“DeYoung brought corporate counsel Keith Ross to last year's meeting. When we asked if ATK was making



Tom Bottolene

‘depleted’ uranium shells. DeYoung said, ‘Gee Keith, I don't think we're doing anything with DU now.’ And Mr. Ross said ‘Yea, we're not doing anything there.’”

DeYoung “told us he ‘... just supplies what the U.S. government asks them to supply,’” Tom said, “but at the Aug. 2 meeting, DeYoung answered that the Pentagon ‘supplies the depleted uranium to us free of charge, and we just insert it into the shell.’”

Yes, ATK is still in the poison uranium weapons business, no matter what they call it. The name “depleted uranium” is itself a misnomer used by the military to give the impression that uranium is absent. Resorting to euphemisms like “kinetic energy” and “depleted” uranium indicates the successfulness of the local campaign against these poisoned weapons.

Get involved: See ICBUW.org, run by the international campaign to have uranium weapons outlawed. Or look at Alliantaction.org for the Minnesota-based work to convert the big dog in this nasty biz, ATK. —JL ■

Nuclear Madness National Park

By John LaForge

In what looks like the establishment of a state religion, federal- and state-funded monuments to nuclear weapons are popping up all over the country.

Hoping perhaps to enshrine the myth that the god of the underworld, after which Plutonium was named, can be transformed from a vengeful, bloodthirsty self-destructive nightmare demon, into a benign peace-loving fairy tale prince, government propagandists are establishing nuclear war theme parks — but without the uncomfortable taint of mass murder or Cold War hatreds.

Tours are being offered at the “B Reactor” on the Hanford Reservation in Washington State where decades of plutonium processing produced radioactive waste that still threatens the Columbia River. At Rocky Flats, Colorado, where the machining of plutonium poisoned tens of square miles, a National Wildlife Refuge has been established. Near Fargo, North Dakota, the State Historical Society

now operates a deactivated intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) launch control center, dubbed “Ronald Reagan Minuteman Missile Site,” and opened it to tourism. In South Dakota, a disarmed ICBM launch center run by the National Park Service is called the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site, and you can go underground to personally simulate an attack that could kill several million people.

This summer, just in time for the 66th anniversary of the U.S. atomic attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, Interior Department Secretary Ken Salazar recommended to Congress that a national historic park be established to honor the Manhattan Project — the secret World War II program that built the bombs that massacred 140,000 people at Hiroshima August 6, and another 70,000 at Nagasaki August 9, 1945. If approved by Congress and the

ing of the Hydrogen Bomb, Robert Lifton's *Hiroshima in America: Fifty Years of Denial* (1995) or his earlier study *Indefensible Weapons*, and Gar Alperovitz's definitive history *The Decision to Use the Atomic Bomb* — the product of 30 years of research — are all devastating in their undoing of official historical myths, and in their treatment of the Bomb's development, its terroristic uses and its billions of years of environmental contamination.

But the state wants us to ignore the facts. At least two agendas are at work: First, treating nuclear weapons nostalgically teaches the sham lesson that H-bombs are a thing of the past. South Dakota's doomsday tour website says, “At Minuteman Missile NHS, it is possible to learn how the threat of nuclear war came to haunt the world” — as if today's 450 Minuteman ICBMs were history and not still on “alert” status ready to kill millions. This Aug. 9th, Col. Stephen Davis, commander of the missiles in Minot, made the point, telling Nukewatch, “The ability to immediately launch remains a key contribution of the Minuteman ICBM...”

Second, official memorials devoted to nuclear weapons self-consciously deny, ignore and rewrite the horrifying results of the Nuclear Age. This “Columbus Day” style of U.S. history — lionizing heroic efforts while ignoring the crimes committed by the hero — is the sort that is being carved into stone at these government circuses.

No one will learn at these idol-worshipping chapels that the Bomb was used unnecessarily against Japanese civilians without warning, and tested in the atmosphere over 100 times in ways that caused at least 75,000 thyroid cancers in the United States, according to the National Cancer Institute's 1997 study.

Students will have to look elsewhere to learn that the Bomb has been condemned by every major religion on Earth and that in 1996 the International Court of Justice declared that the mere threat to use it in a sneak attack (like keeping Minuteman and submarine missiles on “alert” status) is a violation of International Humanitarian Law.

Today's H-bomb monuments never acknowledge the legacy of uncontrollable and persistent radiation poisoning or the nuclear industry's resulting plague of radiation-induced genetic damage and cancers the world over. Nor will the memorials note that in the annals of war and war crimes, the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki are more controversial than any other.

Official U.S. histories and wartime propaganda claim that the atomic attacks “ended the war” by preventing a land invasion, and this is repeated endlessly at these H-Bomb shrines. Yet the historical record is that by July of 1945 Japan was already defeated, no invasion would ever have occurred even without the use of the Bombs, and, indeed, the massacres at Hiroshima and Nagasaki were not just unnecessary but “known in advance not to be necessary” — as Alperovitz says in *The Decision...*

President Eisenhower wrote, “First, the Japanese were ready to surrender and it wasn't necessary to hit them with that awful thing.” Adm. William Leahy, wartime Chief of Staff to Roosevelt and Truman, wrote, “[T]he use of this barbarous weapons at Hiroshima and Nagasaki was of no material assistance in our war against Japan... I was not taught to make war in that fashion and wars cannot be won by destroying women and children.”

We should confront official myth-making and take a lesson from the late Paul Nitze, an arch-Cold Warrior and former Reagan Administration Special Advisor to the President. Writing Oct. 28, 1999, in the *New York Times*, Nitze said, “I see no compelling reason why we should not unilaterally get rid of our nuclear weapons. To maintain them ... adds nothing to our security. I can think of no circumstances under which it would be wise for the United States to use nuclear weapons, even in retaliation for their prior use against us...”

Such are the words worthy of engraving at a national nuclear weapons monument. ■

— A version of this comment ran first in the *Madison, Wisc. Capital Times online* and *Duluth's Reader Weekly*.

Continued from Back Page

Coming Home

“You have to understand these guys have been in war” said Mike, supervisor of the counseling staff at Coming Home. “It's not like you may think. War changes people.” Many people assume that coming home is the easiest thing troops do. But it's not so simple. They come back with a lot. And it isn't all pretty. The men here are working with issues like alcohol and chemical dependence. Psychological trauma too. Mike was clear and to the point. No nonsense.

The Journal of Traumatic Stress reports that soldiers who either killed in combat or issued lethal orders are more likely than others to report symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), alcohol abuse, anger and relationship problems. (*New York Times*, Feb. 14, 2010) A recent U.S. Army suicide report noted that 79% of the soldiers that committed suicide in recent years had had only one deployment or had not been deployed at all. (*New York Times*, Oct. 31, 2011) Is it no wonder that what we now label PTSD was called “Soldier's Heart” during the War Between The States.

Suffice it to say, war is a killing institution from the get-go, from boot camp to the battlefield, from the ROTC classroom to one's home neighborhood. War has no regard for side or cause or outcome. Soldiers and civilians alike are its most immediate and enduring casualties. There is no exit strategy. War is largely profit driven and, left to its own designs, abides no survivors save psychological hostages. War will not end itself. Only we can do that. The ultimate power of war lies in our belief that we cannot live without it. This is the quintessential paradox of violence.

I have come to see the institution of war as the ultimate divider. More effective than any wall, in as much as one can at least touch a wall. It's much harder to recognize the barriers we construct between “us” and the latest “them” *du jour*. Those walls are not reserved to exclude so-called “enemy” only. The tension between activist and soldier is another insidious separation. It is seemingly cathartic but ultimately caustic. Such oppositional thinking will keep us perpetually at war, abroad and at home.

That frigid day in Duluth reverberates: an army recruiter in full crisp uniform and an activist likewise in costume — i.e. thrift store jeans etc. with a placard — yelling our fool heads off at one another on a downtown street at rush hour. Then comes the realization we're the only ones who likely know the number of toe tags issued thus far in the war. The fabled crevasse between activist and soldier suddenly, however momentarily, narrows. We have more in common than not. Why are we arguing, let alone fighting?

I continue to volunteer occasionally at Coming Home by invitation of some of the guys. My court-ordered responsibilities are complete. The moral ones linger. ■

— John Heid, is an associate member of Veterans for Peace and a member of the Restoration Project at Casa Mariposa in Tucson.



Part of a flyer promoting tours of a deactivated Launch Control Center, near Fargo, North Dakota, formerly used to direct the use of 10 ICBMs which then carried a total of up to 30 warheads and had the combined force of 408 Hiroshima bombs. There are 15 active LCCs near Minot.

president, the new “park” would be set up at sites in Los Alamos, New Mexico, Hanford, Washington and Oak Ridge, Tenn. The sites would be managed and operated by the Department of Energy, while the National Park Service would provide educational and interpretive services.

Michael Mariotte, director of Nuclear Information & Resource Service, and Greg Mello of the Los Alamos Study Group in New Mexico, are urging participation in a campaign to stop the program which they point out contradicts the purpose of the park system. “... glorifying a weapon of mass destruction is certainly not among the purposes of a national park,” Mariotte said.

“We have to bracket a healthy historical interest with our moral sensibilities and with common sense, and that's not what's happening here,” said Mello, whose group has been lobbying against the effort for years. “We risk harming the national park system as a whole and even the idea of national parks just when we need to protect the environment the most,” Mello said.

National Parks Director Jon Jarvis said July 17, “Once a tightly guarded secret, the story of the atomic bomb's creation needs to be shared with this and future generations.” Jarvis feigned ignorance of the vast literature on the Manhattan Project available in any good library, and his acting the dunce insults both the conscience of the living and the memory of the dead.

Richard Rhodes's Pulitzer Prize winning *The Making of the Atomic Bomb* and his sequel *Dark Sun: The Mak-*

More Trouble for Vermont Yankee, Ft. Calhoun, North Anna, San Onofre, Calvert Cliffs, Palisades, Prairie Island ...

By Paul Vos Benkowski

In early August, fish taken from the Connecticut River tested positive for strontium-90 and regular tests of the soil and groundwater near the Vermont Yankee reactor indicated radioactive tritium is also present. The tritium pollution is nothing new for the decrepit reactor which has been cited many times for leaks from underground pipes or from the waste fuel pool. But the strontium-90 finding is striking. Entergy, the owners, would like the public to believe the strontium-90 in the fish is fallout from above-ground bomb tests in the 1950s and '60s. Despite Entergy's best efforts, all signs point to the aging, leaking reactor as the source of the radioactivity.

The news comes at a bad time for Entergy which is suing the state over the legislature's decision to close the reactor when its operating license expires in March 2012. In response to the lawsuit, Vermont's Attorney Gen. filed a motion to dismiss, stating "the operator's case lacks subject matter and fails to state a claim for which relief can be granted."

Entergy's lawsuit claims the state's attempt to forbid operation of the reactor past 2012 infringes on the federal jurisdiction of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). Entergy was seeking a preliminary injunction which would prevent the closure until a final decision on the lawsuit has been issued. On July 18, Judge J. Garvan Murtha ruled that Entergy failed to show that any irreparable harm would befall the company and denied the preliminary injunction.

The discovery of both strontium-90 and tritium in the Connecticut River and in ground water near the reactor is further evidence of the dangers Vermont Yankee poses. While scientists agree that the origin of the radiation cannot be pinpointed, David Lochbaum, director of the Union of Concerned Scientists' Nuclear Safety Project, called the absolute denial "galling" in light of Entergy's own reported emissions of the radionuclides. "By [Entergy's] own admission, [Vermont Yankee] is releasing strontium-90 into the environment" and therefore cannot rule itself out of the fish equation, Lochbaum said.

The NRC requires reactor owners to file annual effluent release reports. The permitted releases can go into the water, into the air and can be shipped offsite as solid waste. According to Entergy's 2010 Radioactive Effluent Release Report, the reactor released 31,800 picocuries of strontium-90 — at ground level, not through the exhaust stack — in the first quarter.

The people of Vermont are rallying and have successfully pushed Governor Peter Shumlin to call for a permanent shut down. Shumlin, a persistent critic of the accident-prone reactor, pointed to the finding as "another example of Entergy ... putting their shareholders' profits above the welfare of Vermonters. I am asking my Health Department to keep a close eye on test results moving forward to determine the extent of any contamination that has reached the environment."

Gov. Shumlin wants the reactor shut down when its license expires next year. Shumlin cited tritium leaks reported in January 2010 — from pipes that reactor operators

had insisted didn't exist — as evidence that the 39-year-old system was too unreliable to relicense.

— *Burlington Free Press*, Aug. 2, *New York Times*, Aug. 17 & *Brattleboro Reformer*, Sept. 1, 2011

SCRAM: A Frightful Joke on Reactor Failure

Robert Alvarez, a Senior Scholar at the Institute for Policy Studies and former senior advisor to the Energy Department, reports, "[W]hen these large reactors 'scram,' it's like a jumbo jet making a quick forced landing. The sudden insertion of control rods creates unexpected stress on the reactor. This is why when a reactor is normally shut-down for refueling, it's done gradually. If a reactor experiences several scrams during a year, this should raise a red nuclear safety flag. While working in DOE, I was involved



The Ft. Calhoun reactor was flooded by the Missouri River near Omaha, Nebraska. — Nati Harnik/AP photo, June 14, 2011

in energy emergency planning, and electricity blackouts. The NRC staff were definitely concerned about the safety of increased scrams caused by forced power outages.

"By the way, 'scram' is an acronym going back to the experimental 'pile' at the University of Chicago in the early 1940's. It stands for *safety control rod axe man*. According to Norman Hillbury who worked on the Univ. of Chicago pile: 'When I showed up on the balcony on that Dec. 2, 1942 afternoon, I was ushered to the balcony rail, handed a well sharpened fireman's ax and told, if the safety [control] rods fail to operate, cut that manila rope. The safety rods, needless to say, worked, the rope was not cut ... I don't believe I have ever felt quite as foolish as I did

then. ... I did not get the s.c.r.a.m. story until many years after the fact. Then one day one of my fellows ... called me 'Mr. Scram.' I asked him, 'How come?'"

U.S. Reactors Shaken by Rare East Coast Quake

A magnitude 5.9 earthquake struck central Virginia Aug. 23. Consequently, the two North Anna reactors outside Richmond lost offsite power and automatically "scrammed."

It was the largest earthquake to hit Virginia in 117 years. North Anna's owner, Dominion, reported to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Aug. 26 that ground motion "potentially exceeded" what the reactors were built to sustain. Reuters reported Sept. 8 that the quaking was perhaps "twice as hard" as the reactors were designed to withstand.

The emergency "scram" of reactors 1 & 2 — 34 and 31 years old respectively — forced backup diesel generators to kick in — to circulate cooling water. One of the four generators immediately failed, the *Washington Post* reported.

Securing fool-proof emergency back up power can never be assured. The complete loss of it partly caused the deadly fires and explosions that destroyed four large reactors at Fukushima, Japan site following the March 11 earthquake and tsunami. The 49-foot tall tsunami that smashed the complex destroyed all 13 emergency generators.

Power was restored to the North Anna site Aug. 24, but the two reactors are indefinitely shut down while inspectors look for quake damage. According to the Associated Press, Sept. 2, the risk of an earthquake causing a severe accident at a U.S. reactor is greater than previously thought, 24 times as high in one case. The NRC believes 25 percent of U.S. reactors may need modifications to make them safer.

The quake forced 19 other reactors at 12 sites as far away as Michigan into "Unusual Event" status. Shaken by the Virginia quake were Peach Bottom 2 & 3, Three Mile Island 1, Susquehanna 1 & 2, and Limerick 1 & 2 in Pennsylvania; Salem 1 & 2, Hope Creek, and Oyster Creek, in New Jersey; Calvert Cliffs 1 & 2 in Maryland; Surry 1 & 2 in Virginia; Shearon Harris in North Carolina; and even D.C. Cook 1 & 2 and Palisades in Michigan. They continued running while workers examined the sites for damage.

California's Quaking Reactors

Sept. 1 saw the biggest quake to rattle southern California in a year. The 4.2-magnitude quake bolted out of a spot 24 miles northwest of Los Angeles. The quake "fluttered through much of Southern California" the *Los Angeles Times* reported, scaring up images of Fukushima at the two San Onofre reactors 70 miles south, and at the two Diablo Canyon reactors 150 miles north. Radiation from the quake-stricken Fukushima Daiichi complex has inundated all of northeast Japan Tokyo, 140 miles away. ■

On the Bright Side

NRC to Consider Critics' Appeals for Closing Fukushima-Style U.S. Reactors

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has accepted for further review several emergency actions that were requested in a petition filed by the Takoma Park, Maryland based nuclear watchdog group Beyond Nuclear, on April 13. The petition calls for suspending the operation of the dangerous and seriously flawed General Electric (GE) Mark I Boiling Water Reactors, 23 of which still operate in the U.S. and which are nearly identical to the Fukushima reactors that melted down in Japan. The petition was co-signed by Nukewatch and other national and regional anti-nuclear groups as well as more than 5,000 individuals.

Beyond Nuclear urged that GE Mark I reactors cease operations until several urgent actions are taken. Two actions accepted for closer study are: 1) that NRC revoke the 1989 "prior approval" for GE Mark I operators to "voluntarily" install the same experimental hardened vent systems that all failed at Fukushima; and 2) that the NRC immediately order all U.S. Mark I operators to promptly install emergency back-up electrical power generators to reduce the chances of cooling system failure in the densely packed waste/"spent" fuel pools. GE fuel pools are located at the top of reactor buildings and do not currently have backup power if offsite and onsite electrical power were lost simultaneously. — *BeyondNuclear.org*

Grand Canyon Spared For Now

The Interior Department has extended until the end of December a moratorium on new uranium mining claims in the buffer zone around the Grand Canyon. However, even though Secretary Ken Salazar said that uranium mining near this national treasure could threaten water supplies, air quality, wildlife, desert vegetation and priceless scenery, that once lost can never be reclaimed, he said he would not yet declare the area off limits. Salazar is believed to favor a 20-year moratorium on mining near the canyon, but Republicans in Congress are attacking the department for putting ecology ahead of mining jobs. Even if it could be done without destroying the environment, uranium mining in the U.S. makes little economic sense since the ore

thought to be in northern Arizona could provide only about six years worth of the nuclear industry's needs.

— *New York Times* and *Time*, June 21, 2011

Associated Press Does Some Digging

The Associated Press has finally produced a major and highly critical investigative report on the condition of rickety old U.S. power reactors. The extensive 4-part series by Jeff Donn is available widely under the title "Aging Nukes" and should have been published in full by your local daily paper. Echoing what nuclear watchdog groups have complained of for decades, the series notes that federal regulators work cozily with the nuclear industry, keeping failed reactors operating within mandatory regulations by repeatedly weakening those regulations or simply failing to enforce them.

— Associated Press, June 20, 21 & 22, 2011

Some Cell Phones Emit More Radiation Than Others

Last month, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, a branch of the World Health Organization, declared cellphone radiation "possibly carcinogenic to humans." Now, some scientists are claiming that certain types of cellphones could be more "possibly carcinogenic" than others. "Several recent studies have shown that CDMA phones normally emit a small fraction of their maximum radiation output, while GSM phones emit, on average, half the maximum, he explained. This comes down to the different radio frequency bands that the two networks operate on."

Do some mobile phone networks pose more of a health risk than others? "Though some researchers suspect so, it is too soon to say for sure. 'Clearly more comparative studies are needed,' says Joel Moskowitz, the director of the Center for Family and Community Health at the University of California, Berkeley. 'My first recommendation is to keep a safe distance from your phone. Text instead of calling. Use the speakerphone. Use a headset.' Radiation levels fall off rapidly with distance—so rapidly that you can decrease your brain's exposure to a negligible level simply by keeping your phone antenna just a few inches away." — Editors, *BigThink.com*, a web-based educational forum ■

NUKEWATCH QUARTERLY



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Through the Prism of Nonviolence

Coming Home

By John Heid

Our primary mission as veterans is to make our job obsolete.

— Andy Anderson, executive director of Veterans for Peace Chapter 80, Duluth-Superior

On a blustery late winter's morning a handful of years ago, I stood in silent, solitary vigil outside an Army recruiter's office on Superior St. in Duluth, Minnesota. Shortly after arriving I was accosted by a young recruiter who took umbrage with my sign noting the current number of recorded U.S. casualties in the war in Iraq. The ensuing exchange was a less than exemplary display of nonviolent communication — on both our parts.

Somewhere amidst the fray, a question found its voice in me. I blurted it out to the recruiter: "Who on this busy street, do you think, knows how many U.S. soldiers have been killed in Iraq?" He paused. I quickly replied: "Probably two. You and I! We know the exact recorded number because we pay attention and it matters to us." Then I heard myself saying: "Hey, we have a lot more in common than either of us realizes." The shouting match was over. We didn't part bosom buddies. Still something changed in that moment. We weren't yelling at each other anymore. He went back to his routine office duties, and I returned to the comfort of the Catholic Worker house, somewhat disquieted, somehow changed.

Flash forward to torrid Tucson, Arizona 12-1/2 years and two wars later — wars with no end in sight. The number of civilian killings has risen sharply alongside the number of U.S. military suicides. "About 270 U.S. service members killed themselves

in 2010, up from 151 a decade earlier. A third of those deaths occurred in combat zones." (*New York Times*, July 7, 2011)

In early July, President Obama reversed a long-standing, albeit unwritten policy announcing that condolence letters will now be sent to the families of military service members who commit suicide. The decision was applauded by military family support groups but decried by others.

This past May, a Vietnam veteran, an educator and I were convicted of "trespass" at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base. The charges stemmed from our arrest on Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, as we solicited a meeting with military brass regarding the impact on civilians and our own soldiers as a result of U.S. warfare with drones and uranium shells. During our trial, one supporter observed the Air Force officers who testified against us and noted how attentive and uncomfortable they appeared to be during our testimony, particularly as we detailed our personal stories from Iraq and elsewhere.

Guilty verdicts were summarily handed down and we three were ordered to perform community service. I usually resist court-ordered community service, advising judges that I was doing community service at the time of the arrest.

However, the Air Force officers' reaction in the courtroom prompted me to approach such service as a way of engaging men and women in uniform. My search for an appropriate site put me on the doorstep of Coming Home, a Tucson, Arizona-based transitional house for veterans and a community of men in various stages of recovery from the echoes of war.

Collection Loka Foundation
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