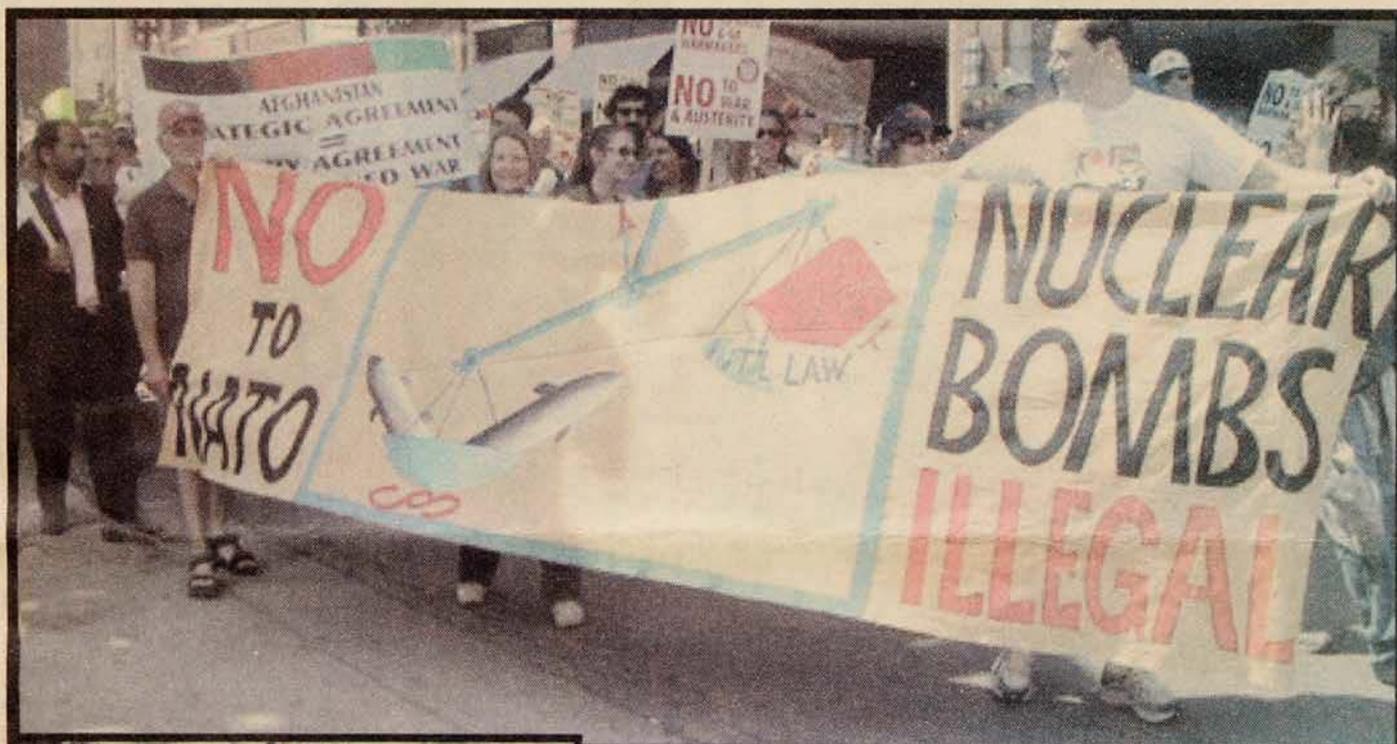


# NUKEWATCH

## QUARTERLY



A publication of the Progressive Foundation — ISSN 1942-6305 — Summer 2012  
 News & Information on Nuclear Weapons, Power, Waste & Nonviolent Resistance



NATO's May summit meeting in Chicago saw rallies, protests, counter-summits and performances by public health, ecology, peace, sustainability, anti-poverty and anti-globalization activists. Calling for NATO's abolition and the use of its budget for war reparations, veterans benefits and environmental cleanup, a May 20 march that *the Guardian* said involved 10,000, ended in a rally where 50 U.S. vets threw away their medals.

Center left: At least 1,000 members of National Nurses United wearing Robin Hood caps rallied in Chicago's Daley Plaza May 18, calling for a tax on Wall Street transactions to improve health care services for the poor and save clinics from budget cuts nationwide.

Left: Peacewalkers with Voices for Creative Nonviolence, who trekked 180 miles from Madison, Wisconsin, held a press conference in Chicago May 18, demanding an immediate end to NATO's war and occupation in Afghanistan and to any use of drop

Collection *Lakia* Foundation  
[www.lakia.org/Forge](http://www.lakia.org/Forge)  
 Digitized 2018

# What's NATO Ever Done? A Global Crime Spree

By John LaForge

A look at some of its more well-known atrocities helps explain why so many thousands joined protests against NATO's May confab in Chicago.

The military's desecration of corpses, indiscriminate attacks, bombing of allied troops, torture of prisoners and unaccountable drone missile attacks are a few of NATO's outrages in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Libya and Yemen that have sparked protests here and stone-throwing riots overseas.

On March 20, 2012 Pakistani lawmakers demanded an end to all NATO/CIA drone strikes against their territory. Pakistan's foreign secretary Jalil Jilani said April 26, 2012, "We consider drones illegal, counter-productive and accordingly, unacceptable." On May 31 last year, Afghan President Hamid Karzai gave what he called his "last" warning against NATO's bombing of Afghan homes saying, "If they continue their attacks on our houses ... history shows what Afghans do with trespassers and with occupiers."

While bombing Libya last March, NATO refused to aid a group of 72 migrants adrift in the Mediterranean. Only nine people on board survived. The refusal was condemned as criminal by the Council of Europe a human rights watchdog. In March 2012, The UN Commission of Inquiry documented 60 civilian deaths and 55 injuries at five sites where the commission found no evidence of military activity.

## Crashing NATO's War Party

CHICAGO, Illinois — NATO gunslingers meeting here were confronted by thousands of protesters from around the country all calling for an end to the quagmire in Afghanistan. Individuals and groups spanning the political spectrum from labor unions to environmental extremists converged in ad hoc meetings, concerts, street theater, and at well-organized "counter summits" demanding that NATO — dubbed by critics a "cold war weapons dealership" — be abolished.

Between 5,000 and 10,000 people joined a final protest march Sunday, May 20 which was highlighted by the sobering presence of Veterans for Peace, 50 of whom joined in throwing away their commendations. Many of the vets who hurled their medals toward the NATO conferees admitted to refusing re-deployment to the war zone, and sev-



eral called NATO's actions "shameful." The veteran's denunciation of their demoralization in an unwinnable war, should and would have been the lead story in Monday's news. But a group of 75 mostly black-clad blockaders refused to leave the street after the rally, and they gave the media the excuse it needed to bury the hard news under a fish story about violent protesters.

Jack and Felice Cohen-Joppa in *The Nuclear Resister* reported, "The demonstrations ... were overwhelmingly peaceful, punctuated only by predictable clashes when [huge] numbers of hyper-militarized police meet a relative handful of demonstrators who are willing to push back when provoked."

Two groups that helped embody public outrage over NATO's actions in Afghanistan were the Chicago-based Voices for Creative Nonviolence — which organized a three-week, 180-mile peace walk from Madison, Wisconsin to Chicago — and the Midwest Catholic Worker (CW) which brought its annual nonviolent action gathering to the war party. Eight members of the CW gathering were arrested May 14 when over 100 people tried to enter President Obama's local campaign offices. They said in a statement, "We are here to proclaim our desire to live in a world where we say no to NATO and yes to community."

First aid for the protesters, several dozen of whom were injured by police, came from Mutual Aide Street Medics — co-coordinated by Nukewatch friend and *Quarterly* contributor Leah Wolfe — and by Chicago Action Medical, both grassroots groups that give free medical care during protests across the country. A free clinic was also set up by MASM.

As a part of the American Friends Service Committee's "NATO-Free Future" conference immediately prior to the NATO confab, Nukewatch helped organize an international panel discussion about U.S. nuclear weapons in Europe. I joined panelists from Mexico, England, Germany and France in making the case for the immediate withdrawal of the weapons. Panelists and participants all agreed that Obama's planned rebuilding of the 240 H-bombs still deployed in Europe — and his other nuclear weapons' "life extension" programs — remain the principle obstacle to U.S. nuclear disarmament. —JL

In a Feb. 12, 2010 atrocity kept secret until March 13, U.S. Special Forces commandos — who killed a teenage girl, a pregnant mother with 10 children, a pregnant mother of six, a police officer and his brother — are accused of trying to cover-up the killings by digging bullets out of the victims' bodies, washing the wounds with alcohol and lying to superior officers.

NATO jets bombed and rocketed a Pakistani military base for two hours Nov. 26, 2011, killing 26 Pakistani soldiers and wounding dozens more. NATO refuses to apologize, so the Pakistani regime has kept military supply routes into Afghanistan closed since November.

On April 12, 1999, NATO attacked the railway bridge over the Grdelica Gorge and Juzna Morava River in eastern Serbia with two laser-guided bombs. At the time, a five-car civilian passenger train crossing the bridge was hit by both bombs. Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch accused NATO of violating binding laws that require distinction, discrimination and proportionality.

NATO rocketed the central studio of Radio Televisija Srbije (TRS) in Belgrade, the state-owned broadcasting corporation, on April 23, 1999 during the Kosovo war. Sixteen civilian employees of RTS were killed and 16 wounded when NATO destroyed the building. Amnesty International reported that the building could not be considered military, that NATO had violated the prohibition on attacking civilian objects and had therefore committed a war crime.

### Headlines chronicle some alleged NATO crimes

- \* "U.S. troops posed with body parts of Afghan bombers." *Los Angeles Times*, April 18, 2012
- \* "Drones At Issue... Raids Disrupt Militants, but Civilian Deaths Stir Outrage." *New York Times*, Mar. 18, 2012
- \* "G.I. Kills 16 Afghans, Including 9 Children in Attacks on Homes." *New York Times*, Mar. 12, 2012
- \* "NATO Admits Airstrike Killed 8 Young Afghans, Contends They Were Armed." *New York Times*, Feb. 16, 2012
- \* "Informers Misdemeaned NATO in Airstrike That Killed 8 Civilians, Afghans Say." (Seven shepherd boys under 14.) *New York Times*, Feb. 10, 2012
- \* "Video [Marines urinating on dead fighters] Inflames a Delicate Moment for U.S. in Afghanistan." *New York Times*, Jan. 12, 2012
- \* "Commission alleges U.S. detainee abuse." *Minneapolis StarTribune*, Jan. 8, 2012
- \* "Six Children Are Killed by NATO Airstrike in

Afghanistan." *New York Times*, Nov. 25, 2011

- \* "American Soldier Is Convicted of Killing Afghan Civilians for Sport." *New York Times*, Nov. 11, 2011
- \* "U.S. Drone Strike Kills Brother of a Taliban Commander." *New York Times*, Oct. 28, 2011
- \* "Afghanistan officials 'systematically tortured' detainees, UN report says." *Guardian & BBC* Oct. 10; *Washington Post*, Oct. 11, 2011
- \* "G.I. Killed Afghan Journalist, NATO Says." *New York Times*, Sept. 9, 2011
- \* "Cable Implicates Americans in Deaths of Iraqi Civilians." *New York Times*, Sept. 2, 2011
- \* "Civilians Die in a Raid by Americans and Iraqis." *New York Times*, Aug. 7, 2011
- \* "NATO Strikes Libyan State TV Transmitters." *New York Times*, July 31, 2011
- \* "NATO admits raid probably killed nine in Tripoli." *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, June 20, 2011
- \* "U.S. Expands Its Drone War to Take On Somali Militants." *New York Times*, July 2, 2011
- \* "NATO airstrike blamed in 14 civilian deaths." *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, May 30, 2011
- \* "Libya Effort Is Called Violation of War Act." *New York Times*, May 26, 2011
- \* "Raid on Wrong House Kills Afghan Girl, 12." *New York Times*, May 12, 2011
- \* "Yemen: 2 Killed in Missile Strike." Associated Press, May 5, 2011
- \* "NATO Accused of Going Too Far With Libya Strikes." *New York Times*, May 2, 2011
- \* "Disposal of Bin Laden's remains violated Islamic principles, clerics say." Associated Press, May 2, 2011
- \* "Photos of atrocities seen as threat to Afghan relations." *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, Mar. 22, 2011
- \* "Missiles Kill 26 in Pakistan" ("most of them civilians") *New York Times*, Mar. 18, 2011
- \* "Afghans Say NATO Troops Killed 8 Civilians in Raid." *New York Times*, Aug. 24, 2010
- \* "A dozen or more" Afghan civilians were killed during a nighttime raid Aug. 5, 2010 in eastern Afghanistan, NATO's officers said. *Chicago Tribune*, Aug. 6, 2010
- \* "Afghans Say Attack Killed 52 Civilians; NATO Differs." *New York Times*, July 27, 2010
- \* In June 2008, NATO bombers attacked a Pakistani paramilitary force called the Frontier Corps killing 11 of its soldiers. *New York Times*, Nov. 27, 2011
- \* "Afghans Die in Bombing, As Toll Rises for Civilians." *New York Times*, May 3, 2010

## 'Forward Basing' of U.S. Warheads: Too Base and Too Forward for the Europeans

The United States is the only country on Earth that places its nuclear weapons in other countries. This country still maintains about 240 nuclear weapons in Europe.

They are deployed at Germany's Büchel Air Base (20 warheads); at Belgium's Kleine Brogel Air Base (20); at Volkel Air Base in The Netherlands (20); at the Aviano (50); Ghedi Air Bases in Italy (40); and at Incirlik Air Base in Turkey (90).

The current arsenal is down from a cold war total of 7,300 warheads (during the 1970s and '80s), and Germany, Belgium, The Netherlands, Luxemburg, Poland and Norway have formally asked that they be removed.

In the last few years, five NATO allies have called the bombs "militarily useless."

Between 2000 and 2010, all U.S. nuclear weapons formerly in England and Greece were removed. We can thank our anti-war and anti-nuclear friends all across Europe for unearthing the locations and numbers of these weapons because, officially, the U.S. refuses to confirm or deny their existence.

Thousands of European activists have marched to bomber bases at Klein Brogel, Büchel and Volkel. Hundreds have been arrested undertaking "Citizen's Weapons Inspections" modeled after the United Nations weapons inspectors — those officially-sanctioned interventions that have been used by nuclear weapons states to manufacture fear of, point fingers at and even attack resource-rich states like Iraq, Libya, Iran and now Syria.

Massive protests and a renewed recognition of the self-destructive effects of nuclear war have turned public opinion against the weapons.

Thanks to huge European marches, broad public education and dozens of direct actions, calls for the ouster of the U.S. bombs — along with the vast military services that are required to store, maintain, secure, protect and train to use them — have now come from European political leaders of all stripes.

On Nov. 23, 2009, four former Dutch government ministers including a former Prime Minister declared, "A nuclear arsenal to restrain superpowers is no longer needed. In combating terrorism, deterrence with weapons of mass destruction has no purpose."

In Feb. 2010, four senior Belgian politicians, including a former NATO Secretary General, called on Belgium to urge NATO to throw out the U.S. nukes. They wrote, "The U.S. tactical nuclear weapons in Europe have lost all military importance."

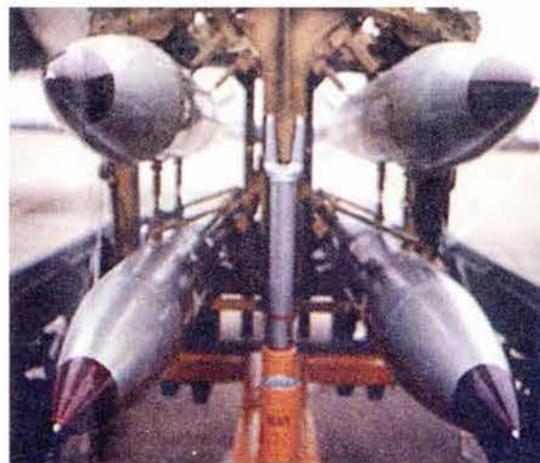
Germany's parliament voted unanimously on March 26, 2010 to support the withdrawal of the last 20 U.S. weapons at Büchel AFB.

Known as "B61s," they carry up to 500 kilotons of explosive force — 40 times the clout of the U.S. bomb that killed 170,000 people at Hiroshima.

All these U.S. B61s are scheduled to be replaced by something called the "B61 mod-12," a device to be built at three new facilities in the U.S. and then returned to Europe. They are currently allowed to be used on B-2 Stealth bombers and on jet fighter-bombers like the F-15E and on German Tornado aircraft in some circumstances. Placing H-bombs on faulty war planes is arguably mad (a B-2 crashed on Guam in 2008 and an F-15 crashed in Libya last March), and, since nuclear-armed plane crashes risk widespread catastrophe, the needlessly reckless practice has raised alarms across European capitals.

In spite of the fact that Generals James Cartwright (see p. 3) and George L. Butler, both former directors of the Strategic Air Command, have demolished deterrence theory as a pretext to amass nuclear weapons, die-hard nuclearists still rely on this defunct concept. On Earth Day 2010, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton told NATO foreign ministers, "... as long as nuclear weapons exist, NATO will remain a nuclear alliance."

Meanwhile, a coalition of 50 organizations in Germany launched a new campaign in March to pressure the government to not merely recommend but demand the expulsion of the remaining U.S. warheads at Büchel. —JL



Time magazine's photo of B61s in its June 19, 2008 report, "Are U.S. Nukes in Europe Secure?"

# Saying No to Nuclear Waste Factories

By Bonnie Urfer

In a poll taken three months after the Fukushima catastrophe, 62 percent of respondents in 24 countries opposed nuclear power. In spite of international opposition, 45 countries still plan to build new reactors. People in the UK are evenly split, Russia and France clearly oppose nuclear and Germany overwhelmingly rejects it. China, which gets 2 percent of its power from 15 operating reactors, temporarily suspended approvals for new reactors following Fukushima's explosions. But it still plans to double its nuclear capacity in 10 years — with 26 reactors under construction, another 51 planned and 120 proposed. Hundreds of thousands of activists around the world are working to close operating reactors or prevent new construction. Notable campaigns and statements include:

- \* April's 26th anniversary of the Chernobyl meltdown spurred gatherings, memorials to victims, a petition drive and protests across all nine time zones in Russia, the Far East and other European cities, Chernobyl's destroyed reactor is getting its second massive covering to curtail radiation releases. The 1986 disaster forced 300,000 people from their homes in Ukraine. Today 80 percent of Russians oppose nuclear energy.

- \* India's mass anti-nuclear protests and hunger strikes have led to injuries, riots, arrests and even deaths in Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Jaitapur. The construction of two reactors in Tamil Nadu has been delayed, and West Bengal dropped plans for six Russian reactors following protests. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh blames activists in the U.S. and Germany for whipping up protests.

- \* Chinese activists opposed to the government's plan to add 40 gigawatts of nuclear in the next 8 years have plagued reactor projects like the Pengze station on the Yangtze River.

- \* On April 27, David Freeman, a former Tennessee Valley Authority chairman, told the agency "to just stop" its reactor building, because it is too costly. The Watts Bar Unit 2 reactor is \$2 billion over budget and electricity demand is down. Freeman ridiculed the TVA, noting that he was told in 1979 that the unfinished Unit 2 "was 92 percent complete."

- \* Catholic Bishops in Japan called for the immediate abolition of nuclear power. In "Reverence for Life — A Message for the Twenty-First Century," the bishops said, "In order to avoid tragedy, we must develop safe alternative means of producing energy." The statement charged that people have put too much trust in science and technology without having "the wisdom to know our limits." The statement urged a "simplicity of life" to cut electric usage.

- \* Last June, Pope Benedict XVI "spoke out against nuclear energy at an audience with several new ambassadors," *La Repubblica* reported. The Pope said that disasters like Fukushima should cause "shifts in political thinking, a radical revision of models for development and new lifestyles." He has previously said he prefers clean energy "to preserve nature's integrity and not endanger mankind's survival on this planet."

- \* Eisaku Sato, Fukushima's prefecture governor said, "We are living with the evacuation. We believe there should be no more people like us." Former Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama regrets his support of nuclear power while in office. "It was imprudent and it was a failure. I want to apologize," he told an antinuclear meeting in the city of Oita.

- \* Rebecca Harms, president of Greens/EFA in the European Parliament, called on countries to abandon their nuclear ambitions saying that the safety of reactors cannot be guaranteed.

- \* Kuwait pulled out of a plan to build four reactors.
- \* With 82 percent of the public opposed to nuclear, Mexico dropped its plans to construct 10 new reactors.

- \* Venezuela halted all nuclear development projects.
- \* Germany will shut off all its nuclear reactors with 52 percent of the population in agreement with the move. Some 50,000 Germans joined anti-nuke protests on the first anniversary of Fukushima. The renewable energy sector employs 300,000 people compared to nuclear's 30,000.

- \* Canada's Energy Minister Chris Bentley said that any decision on new nuclear must be "in the best interests of Ontario ratepayers and taxpayers." Canada's nuclear utilities are \$20 billion in debt and plans for continued reactor development have been put on hold.

- \* Demonstrators in France's Rhone valley formed a human chain of 60,000 people that stretched for 140 miles in opposition to reactors on the Rhone River.

- \* Hundreds of anti-nuclear activists converged on the Australian headquarters of the mining giants BHP Billiton and Rio Tinto, which supplied the uranium for the Fukushima reactors.

- In the U.S. where industry propaganda bombards the masses, 40 percent of the people want more nuclear reactors; in Britain, it's 37 percent; Pakistan — 39 percent; China — 42 percent.

- \* People in Spain, Taiwan and Switzerland have vigorously protested reactors.

The Globescan Poll conducted for BBC World Service, surveyed 23,231 adults in 23 countries between July and September, 2011. Results say 71 percent of those asked agreed that conservation and renewable energy could replace coal and nuclear.

President Barack Obama, not able to read the writing on the wall, said in his Seoul, South Korea nuclear security

summit speech on March 26, that the U.S. is committed to developing new technologies to produce peaceful nuclear energy. What this means is that we all have to work even harder to make the obvious point — as a chant in South Korea went: "No nukes Asia, no nukes Korea, no nukes America, no nukes anywhere."

— *La Repubblica*, June 10; Roman Catholic Bishops of Japan, Nov. 8; BBC Globescan Poll, Nov. 25, 2011; *Financial Times*, Feb. 28; *Guardian*, March 8; *China Daily*, March 23; *Voice of America*, March 26; *Japan Times*, April 9; *Huffington Post*, April 16; *Bellona*, April 26; *Chattanooga Times Free Press*, April 27, 2012.

## 3 Bulgarian Reactors Canceled, Parts Sold

Bulgaria's Belene Nuclear Power project has finally been scrapped, and a natural gas power plant will be built in its place. The construction of the two Belene reactors had been delayed at least 15 times while Bulgaria and Russia haggled over skyrocketing costs. Bulgaria's Prime Minister Boiko Borissov said the Belene project had already cost close to \$1 billion, with over \$300 million still due in interest, according to the *Sophia Echo*. The Russian company Atomstroyexport originally contracted to build three reactors for the Belene project and one set of equipment — a reactor core and steam generators weighing 2.6 million pounds — has already been built. Last March the government agreed to purchase the goods and add them as a seventh unit to Bulgaria's only nuclear power station located in Kozloduy. Of Kozloduy's six reactors, only two are currently operating. According to an April report by the World Nuclear Association, two of the four reactors now off line were retired and two were shut down under duress as a condition of Bulgaria's joining the European Union. Industry boosters want the two ancient units restarted.

In 1999, activists from the Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS) visited Kozloduy. What they discovered was shocking. Considered one of the most dangerous nuclear facilities in the world, NIRS found that reactor fuel rods were being stacked on top of each other in order to save space, a practice that even the International Atomic Energy Agency condemns. Kozloduy is one of the oldest nuclear power stations still in operation. The first reactor on site was commissioned in 1974 while reactors 5 & 6 began operating in 1987 and 1991 respectively. As these facilities age, safety measures erode. The *Sophia Echo* reported in May 2011, that over that past year cracks had been discovered in more than 60 of the fuel rods' protective casings. Furthermore, in light of the Fukushima disaster, it's clear that earthquakes pose a catastrophic risk to old reactors. On May 22, a 5.8 magnitude quake struck Bulgaria just outside of Sofia. Though earthquakes of this magnitude can typically be felt as far away as 300 miles authorities claim that the Kozloduy nuclear facility located less than 150 miles from the epicenter is safe and suffered no damage. — *TJ* — the *Sophia Echo*, March 29, May 5, 2011; *Novinite*, March 28; *Businessweek.com*, May 22; & World Nuclear Association, "Nuclear Power in Bulgaria," April 2012; NIRS, June 1969

## Texas Nuclear Dump Bought With Campaign Donations

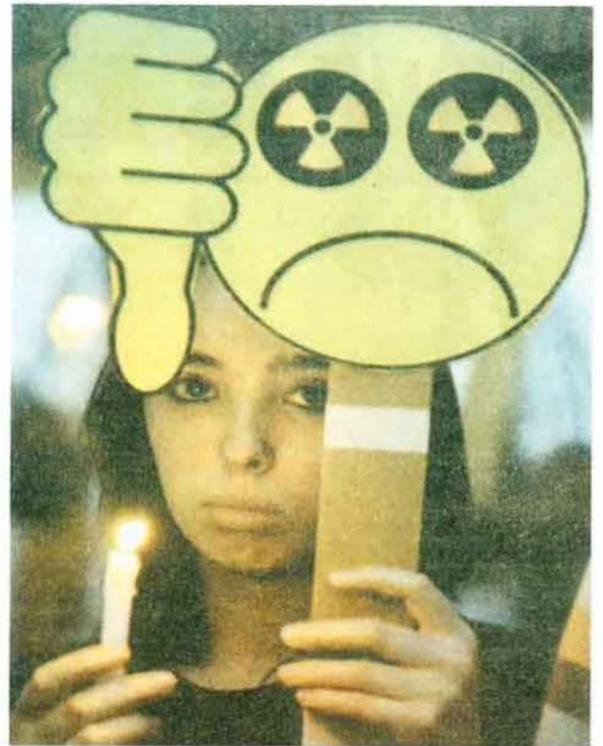
Waste Control Specialists' (WCS) so-called low-level radioactive waste dump in Andrews County, Texas is in business as of April 27, in spite of a state appeal to stop it. The 1,300-acre site is located on the New Mexico/Texas line, northwest of Midland. WCS and Harold Simmons' Contran Corp. own the acreage and stand to collect millions in fees for up to 2.3 million cubic feet of rad waste. Simmons wants to import even hotter waste, like depleted uranium, and has contributed up to \$16 million to Republican campaigns to get what he wants. The dump sits atop the Ogallala and Dockum aquifers. The Ogallala provides 30 percent of all water used for irrigation in the lower 48.

Simmons donated \$700,000 to Attorney General Greg Abbott's re-election campaign and contributed hugely to the states' Republican office-holders. Simmons lobbied the Texas legislature to pass a bill allowing private companies to import radioactive waste. He then lobbied for a bill that resulted in his company's 2009 permit. TCEQ's Executive Director Glenn Shankle helped push the permitting through in 2008 then quit — six months later he went to work for WCS as a lobbyist.

Questions have been raised about groundwater being found inside the 100-foot buffer zone around the facility. WCS has pumped 23,000 gallons away from the dump since last November but the water has returned, presumably from the aquifer. In 2009, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) scientists recommended denying Simmons a permit but were ignored. Three TCEQ employees later quit in protest over what they called a biased licensing process.

State District Judge Lora Livingston ruled in May that TCEQ should have held a public forum about the permit, and the Office of Administrative Hearings will now schedule a contested case hearing. WCS plans to appeal.

— Bloomberg, Apr. 5; Reuters, April 27; *Dallas Observer*, Apr. 30; *Austin Statesman & Associated Press*, May 8; *KUT Radio News*, Austin, May 9, 2012



A woman in India protested nuclear power and commemorated those who died in Japan's earthquake-tsunami-radiation disaster. (AFP/Getty Images)

## India Protests Continue

The people of south India do not want reactors operating at the Kudankulam site, on the far southern coast of Tamil Nadu. The government plans to operate six reactors at Kudankulam, although none are yet functioning in spite of 24 years of work. Opponents have been fighting the project since the mid-'80s, and actions last September were effective in blocking further construction at the facility. But in March the government reversed a moratorium, and work resumed on the \$3.3 billion Russian-backed project. "This is a classic David-and-Goliath fight between the ordinary citizens of India and the Indian government supported by the multinational companies, imperial powers and the global nuclear mafia," said Doctor S. P. Udayakumar, Coordinator for People's Movement Against Nuclear Energy in the *Guardian*.

Activists, mostly local, have been arrested by the hundreds for nonviolently resisting deadly nuclear operations. Ten thousand people turned out in March to peacefully reject the reactors 10,000 police attended as well. Police have arrested and charged some 178 citizens with "waging war" and "terrorism" against India for participating in protest activities that were reignited on March 19. Area villagers are landing by boat to join the rallies. Bail has been denied to those in custody and people have blockaded Kudankulam access roads, calling for the release of the detainees. Over 300 people have engaged in hunger strikes. The People's Movement Against Nuclear Energy has launched the "Respect India" campaign along the lines of Mahatma Gandhi's "Quit India" campaign of 1942.

Police have destroyed a school and its library and have refused to allow food into one protest camp. Some reports said the police had blocked all the entrances to the campsite as well as roads into villages where protests are held. Curfews have been imposed in the area and electricity and water supplies have been cut off. Protesters were encouraged by authorities to go home and live normally.

The campaigners warn that earthquakes and the possibility of tsunamis put the area in danger, and two tsunami warnings have been issued in the past 6 months. An 8.6 magnitude quake on April 11, in an area off the coast not known for such activity, has shaken confidence in nuclear power, especially because of the Fukushima disaster.

Russia has agreed to supply the uranium fuel for Kudankulam, and India intends to keep the deadly waste for its own reprocessing and nuclear weapons program. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has accused the U.S. and Scandinavian civic groups of funding the protests to slow India's development. India has been displaying its paranoia by cancelling the operating licenses of churches and organizations it suspects of aiding the resistance movement. Bank accounts have been frozen and visas for foreigners revoked. The government is even investigating all foreign contributions going to Indian charities — an amount totaling about \$6.5 billion between 2007 and 2010.

In exchange for embracing nuclear reactors and their catastrophic risks, the government is offering host communities refrigeration for fish, better roads and more housing. More than one million people live within 30 kilometers of Kudankulam's 6 planned reactors.

India does have an energy crisis — about 500 million people live without electricity. But the sun shines on all of them.

— People's Movement Against Nuclear Energy, Feb. 10 & May 9; *Los Angeles Times*, March 18; Environmental News Service, March 19; Reuters, March 20; *Wall Street Journal*, India & Agence France-Presse, March 21; BBC & Nuclear Information Resource Service, March 23; *Idinthakarai Update*, March 27; *Dianuke.org*, April 12, 2012

# NUCLEAR SHORTS

## Salp Join Jellyfish to Shut Down Reactors

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA — “Moon” jellyfish have repeatedly disrupted reactor operations around the world by clogging intake screens. Now joining the moons, are salps, a barrel-shaped sea creature the size of your thumb. Beginning April 23, Salps clogged screens at Pacific Gas and Electric’s Diablo Canyon Unit 1 near San Luis Obispo, forcing it to lower energy output first to 25 percent, then to 15 percent, and finally to shut it down completely. Diablo Canyon’s Unit 1 was down the same week for refueling. So much for “reliable base load 24/7, 365 days a year” from nukes. Salps usually live further out to sea. — *Los Angeles Times*, Apr. 26; Associated Press, Apr. 28; MSNBC.com, Apr. 27; & San Luis Obispo *Tribune*, April 24, 2012

## Send in the Clowns

KALKAR, Germany — Germany’s failed breeder reactor experiment, the SNR-300, was begun in 1972, but 12 years and more than \$4 billion later, the project was scrapped due to public opposition. What to do with a giant concrete monstrosity? Bring in the clowns. The complex was purchased in 1995 by Hennie van der Most, who converted it into an amusement park named “Wunderland” that has become a hot new attraction, boasting over 600,000 visitors last year. The refurbished cooling tower has a swing ride inside and a climbing wall outside. The park includes 40 other rides, plus restaurants, museums and a hotel. Wunderland is a comic salvaging of a failed industrial boondoggle. “Breeder” reactors are still heralded as generating more fuel than they destroy. The abandoned reactor was dismantled for a whopping \$90 million, but van der Most purchased the place for just over \$3 million.

— Inhabitat, June 14; England *Daily Mail* & England *Metro*, Aug. 23, 2011



Abandoned Gr. reactor project turned fun park

## Saving the Grand Canyon

GRAND CANYON — The Havasupai tribe, with roughly 188,000 acres in and around the Grand Canyon, has joined the Center for Biological Diversity, Sierra Club’s Grand Canyon Chapter, the Grand Canyon Trust and the National Parks Conservation Association in supporting the U.S. Interior Department’s ban on uranium mining near the canyon. One million acres of the canyon lands, a World Heritage site, and one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World, are being protected from prospectors and new uranium mining operations for at least 20 years. The Jan. 9, 2012 conservation order or Record of Decision, also bans mine development on existing claims without valid permits. Federal Judge Fred Martone in January upheld the department’s decision in the face of a lawsuit filed by Gregory Yount, a uranium prospector who challenged the environmental protection actions.

Uranium mining runoff is still contaminating the Colorado River, upon which 25 million people depend for drinking water, and the mining has poisoned aquifers, wildlife habitats and sacred sites. Still, Yount and others have filed counter suits challenging the decision. If miners have their way, 26 new uranium mines and 700 exploration projects could go ahead. — *Summit County Citizens Voice*, April 24; Center for Biological Diversity, March 13; U.S. District Court, *Yount vs. Salazar*, *Arizona Daily Sun* & *Treehugger.com*, March 14, 2012

## Subcontinent Joins Nuclear Submarine Club

VISAKHAPATNAM, India — India is forging ahead with its effort to join the “club” of five nations that have the ability to launch nuclear weapons from land-based missiles, jet bombers and now submarines. The others are England, China, France, Russia and the U.S. India recently launched the 8,140-ton *INS Chakra II*, which is on lease from Russia. It is able to fire torpedoes and nuclear-armed cruise missiles. India is also developing its

own *Arihant*-class nuclear-powered sub which is expected to begin patrols this year. The *Arihant* will be equipped with ballistic missiles, and may be able to fire a warhead 434 miles. On April 19, 2012 India launched a long-range intercontinental ballistic missile that it said could carry a nuclear warhead over 3,100 miles. A few days later Pakistan launched an intermediate-range, upgraded ballistic missile able to travel up to 1,200 miles. Pakistan says that the launch had nothing to do with India’s earlier test. Both countries, like the other club members, claim their nuclear weapons programs are merely a deterrent. — *Aljazeera*, April 4; *BBC*, April 19; & *Associated Press*, April 25, 2012

## Fires and Firings at Idaho National Lab

POCATELLO, Idaho — Half a dozen mishaps at the Idaho National Laboratory, a 63-year-old test site for experimental reactors and radwaste storage, have prompted a “safety pause,” or stop-work order, of two weeks or more in some areas of the facility. The work stoppage will be used partly for training. On April 16, a fire on the roof of the Materials and [nuclear] Fuels Complex forced workers to evacuate. Another fire broke out at the complex in January, and last November, 16 technicians were exposed after handling a damaged plutonium fuel container that had been in storage for over 30 years. (See the spring 2012 *Quarterly*.)

Plutonium was found in nasal swipes of six workers, and at least two were internally contaminated with americium and plutonium. Last October another employee was exposed to elevated levels of radiation during yet another fire. Locals interviewed by news crews blame the accidents on overwork, a lack of focus and stress due to layoffs. Fifty-six employees recently volunteered to retire and 19 were laid-off in March. — *Idaho/Wyoming, LocalNews8.com*, Jan. 18 & Apr. 27, 2012 & *CBS News*, Nov. 11, 2011; *INL News Release*, Jan. 18; *Boise State Public Radio*, Apr. 20 & 23; 2012; *Bellona*, Nov. 10; 2011

## Coming to a Neighborhood Near You

WASHINGTON, DC — Nuclear reactors small enough to be transported by train may be coming to a neighborhood near you. The U.S. DOE has set aside \$904 million for the engineering, design and licensing of the first two so-called small modular reactors (SMR). The original budget was \$452 million, but the DOE decided to match private investor contributions. Developers, national labs, engineering firms and utilities have their hands out for a piece of the funding pie. Besides the money grab, a concerted effort is underway to push the SMR program, with industry and the military working together. Likely locations for production include the Savannah River Site in South Carolina and the Callaway reactor site near Fulton, Missouri. Total construction costs for the “small” reactors could be big: up to \$7.5 billion. Proponents of SMR are teaming up July 17 at the Renaissance Dupont Circle Hotel in Washington, DC to work out a strategy for keeping the gravy train running.

— *Missouri News Horizon*, Apr. 19; NuHub Press Release, Apr. 24; *St. Louis Today*, Apr. 25, 2012

## Radioactive Trash Gets A Round Trip Ticket

ATLANTA, Georgia — Atlanta-based Perma-Fix Environmental Solutions, Inc. has filed an application with the NRC to import 500 tons of radioactive waste from Mexico’s Laguna Verde reactor near Veracruz. In a 5-year operation, shipments of the waste will go to Richland, Washington where Perma-Fix has an incineration facility. Contaminated waste to be burned includes clothing, tools and other materials. The radioactive ash will then be transported back to Mexico, if permits are issued, to be stored or buried there. EnergySolutions (ES) in Utah received a license last year to import similar wastes from Germany, with the ash also being returned. A public uproar prevented ES from importing Italian waste in 2009, but that radioactive trash would have stayed in Utah.

— *Associated Press* & *Seattle’s KING5TV.com*, May 2, 2012

## Where’s the Money for Safe Drinking Water?

MOAB, Utah — Over the next five years, three million more tons of radioactive waste tailings left from uranium mining may be moved from the 439-acre Atlas Uranium Mill dump site in Utah, and away from the Colorado River (a source of drinking water for millions), leaving another eight tons to be removed. Five million tons of the cancer-causing wastes have been shipped north 30 miles to a dump near Crescent Junction, UT. The DOE has a congressionally-mandated order to complete the job by 2019, but has scaled back the project to nine months of work per year. At this rate, DOE will miss the deadline by 10 years. Clean-up operations have been compromised by an inadequate budget that allows for only four train-loads per week, excluding December, January and February. Portage, Inc. has taken over for EnergySolutions, Inc. which lost the \$121.2 million contract last December. — U.S. Dept. of Energy press release, Feb. 27; *Moab Times-Independent*, Apr. 5; *Salt Lake Tribune*, Apr. 28; *Desert News*, Apr. 23, 2012, & Dec. 22, 2011

## Nuclear Retirement Syndrome

WASHINGTON, DC — Gen. James Cartwright knows about nuclear weapons. He was head of the U.S. Strategic

Command under Pres. George W. Bush from 2004 to 2007. The job included overseeing weapons in submarines, bombers and warheads on missiles. He directed the targeting plan. When Gen. Cartwright proposes an 80 percent cut in the U.S. nuclear arsenal, he knows what he’s doing. He wants a reduction of warheads to 900 from 5,000 saying, “No sensible argument has been put forward for using nuclear weapons to solve any of the major 21st century problems we face.” To keep the record clear, Gen. Cartwright endorses the increased use of uncrewed drone warfare.

A report commissioned by Global Zero and supported by several former military hawks urges taking ICBMs — land-based missiles — off high-alert status, a plan endorsed by Air Force Generals George Butler (Ret.), Eugene Habiger (Ret.), and Charles Horner, Army Gen. Andrew Goodpaster, and the late Admirals Noel Gayler and Hyman Rickover. — *Seattle Times*, May 16; *Scotsman.com*, May 17; *iWatch*, May 18; *Washington Post*, May 21; *Sarasota Herald-Tribune*, May 28, 2012

## Recycled Radiation

Bicycle baskets and tissue box covers are the latest in commercial products found contaminated with radioactive cobalt-60. The stainless steel baskets, assembled between Nov. 2011 and Jan. 2012, were made in China and sent to Japan. Nearly 10,000 Jobno bicycles are being recalled because of the radiation, but 20,000 bikes with the hot baskets have already been sold. Of those, 3,200 were assembled during the same period. The radioactive tissue box covers were found at two Bed, Bath & Beyond stores in Westchester County, New York. The Westchester County Department of Health was notified and worked with state and federal authorities to deal with the hazard. The product, a Dual Ridge Boutique tissue box cover, model number DR9M, had also been available on the company’s website, officials said.

Cobalt-60 is a radioactive isotope created only inside production reactors and used in some medical radiation treatments and some sterilization systems for foods and instruments. On Jan. 10, the NRC notified Bed, Bath & Beyond of the danger after a truck carrying a shipment in California set off a radiation monitor. However, 12 contaminated boxes were said to have been shipped to New York before the notification. In addition to the eight boxes traced to Westchester, officials said two others were traced to a store in Nassau County and two to a store in Suffolk County, although none of the four contaminated items in those counties were sold. — *Los Angeles Times*, Jan. 13, UPI, Jan. 16, & *Japan Times* April 20, 2012

## Ft. Calhoun Slapped With NRC Warning

OMAHA, Nebr. — On May 31, 2012, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission told nearby residents that dozens of deficiencies found at Nebraska’s Ft. Calhoun reactor must be corrected before it can restart. The reactor was flooded in June only days after a serious electrical fire.

The June 7 fire cut off cooling water circulation for 90 minutes to the pool holding highly radioactive waste fuel rods, “and the pool’s temperature rose by several degrees,” the *Wall St. Journal* reported May 24. A cracked pipe was recently found in the system circulating cooling water through the reactor. In April the NRC slapped Omaha Public Power District (OPPD) which runs the plant, with a “red” finding, the most serious sanction it can issue for unsafe operations and one of only 7 issued in 12 years.

The *WSJ* also said that U.S. Rep. Ed Markey, D-Mass., was sent an anonymous letter reportedly from NRC staffers charging that senior NRC officer Troy Pruett pooh poohed the harsh red finding, played down his own staff’s warnings, and wanted it toned down. Pruett denied the allegation. OPPD spokesperson Jeff Hanson told reporters in Omaha May 31, “We’re working up a checklist and we feel we can safely restart [the reactor] in September.”

When the NRC’s Victor Driechs was asked if a September restart was realistic, he said, “No. They’re not ready.” — *KMTV-TV*, Omaha, June 1; & *Wall St. Journal*, May 24, 2012

## Resources

- \* **Beyond Nuclear**, 6930 Carroll Av., #400, Takoma Park, MD 20912; (301) 270-2209, Email: info@beyondnuclear.org, Web: beyondnuclear.org
- \* **Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists**, 1155 E. 60th St., Chicago, IL 60637, (773) 382-0146, Email: nben-meir@thebulletin.org, Web: thebulletin.org
- \* **Casa Mariposa Community**, 340 S. 3rd Av., Tucson, AZ 85701, (520) 269-6597, Web: restorationproject340.wordpress.com/
- \* **Global Zero**, Washington, DC, phone: (202) 797-5284; Web: globalzero.org.
- \* **Great Lakes Forever, Biodiversity Project**, 4507 N. Ravenswood Av., 106, Chicago, IL 60640, (773) 496-4020, Email: project@biodiverse.org, Web: biodiversityproject.org
- \* **Greenpeace**, 702 H. St., NW, #300, Washington, DC 20001, (800) 722-6995, Email: info@wdc.greenpeace.org; Web: greenpeace.org
- \* **Iowa PIRG**, 3209 Ingersoll Av., #210-A, Des Moines, IA 50312, (515) 282-4193, Web: iowapirg.org
- \* **Sierra Club**, 50 F St., NW, 8th Floor, Washington, DC 20001, (202) 547-1141, Email: information@sierraclub.org, Web: sierraclub.org
- \* **Voices for Creative Nonviolence**, 1249 W. Argyle, #2, Chicago, IL 60640 (773) 878-33815; Email: info@vcnv.org; Web: vcnv.org

# Fukushima Contamination Vast & Persistent

By John LaForge

There is relentless news from the global radiation disaster at Japan's Fukushima Daiichi reactor complex.

Yet if major papers don't ignore it entirely, they tend to downplay the instability plaguing the three destroyed reactors and their leaking waste fuel pools, and the widespread and long-lasting contamination that has begun dramatically to corrupt the food chain.

On May 24, a report from Tokyo Electric Power Co. which owns the complex, declared that an earlier estimate of how much radiation had been released to the atmosphere was dramatically wrong.

Radiation spewed in the first weeks of the disaster "was almost two and a half times the initial estimate by Japanese safety regulators," the *New York Times* reported — sort of. The *Times* ran the report online and in its New York City edition, but not in the nationally distributed edition. The "newspaper of record" evidently decided that readers outside Manhattan didn't have a need to know.

While most commercial media in the U.S. treat the radiation catastrophe, as a nonstarter, a steady stream of news and information from Japan and neighboring countries continues to make headlines.

## A few major events since the spring Quarterly

Twenty years from now parts of Fukushima Prefecture will still be too heavily contaminated to inhabit, the government announced April 24. The prefecture is home to the three exploded Fukushima-Daiichi reactors, three other damaged units and 40 years of waste fuel stored in unstable pools.

The government said earlier in April that areas where radiation doses to humans exceeded 50 milli-sieverts per year would remain off-limits to evacuees.

Radioactive cesium-137 dispersed by the explosions and the melting of uranium and plutonium fuel has spread far beyond Fukushima prefecture. Cecile Peneda reports in her new book *Devil's Tango* that because the cesium dispersed across Japan has seeped down two inches into the earth, 29 million cubic meters of contaminated soil must be scraped off of some 930 square miles, placed in containers and managed as radioactive waste. Japan has yet to agree on a way to manage this volume of waste that could fill 23 football stadiums.

## Food chain contamination spreading

On May 2, the *Japan Times* reported that 51 food products from nine Japanese prefectures were found to be poisoned with cesium-137 contamination in excess of newly established "allowable" limits.

The Health, Labor and Welfare Ministry tested the foods and declared that 2.4 percent of the vegetables, mushrooms, fish and meat it looked at had more than the 100 becquerels-per-kilogram it allows.

Cesium exceeding the previous limit of 500 becquerels per kilogram, set in March last year, was detected in 55 samples. The new limit of 100 becquerels-per-kilo, which went into effect this April, was exceeded in 282 cases.

All the domestically grown food in Japan is likely contaminated with some reactor-borne cesium, but those that tested above the allowed level were found in Fukushima, Tochigi, Ibaraki, Iwate, Miyagi, Chiba, Yamagata, Gunma and Kanagawa prefectures. (In blue on map) All but Fukushima itself are well outside the official exclusion zone which extends only 12 miles beyond the Fukushima-Daiichi site.

In April this year, cesium contamination of 18,700 becquerels per kilo, 37 times what federal authorities allow in fish, was found in salmon from Iitate, a village in Fukushima prefecture. It was the highest level of cesium found in Japan's fish since the disaster began 14 months ago.

Contamination of soil, vegetation and water is so widespread in Japan that evacuating all of the at-risk populations would possibly collapse the economy, much as the Chernobyl radiation fire did to the former Soviet Union.

Fukushima City, 31 miles from the dead zone, is an example of the problem. The city has 500,000 inhabitants — 300,000 children under 15. Federal authorities refused to conduct soil radiation surveys, except for school yards. Residents interviewed for the new documentary "Fukushima Never Again" complained of high radiation levels, and said the government's refusal was done to avoid evacuating half-a-million people.

## Pacific Ocean Contamination Unprecedented

The global radiation catastrophe that exploded at Fukushima has deposited cesium-137 over 600,000 square-miles of the Pacific, according to author Bob Alvarez, a former senior advisor to the Department of Energy. Concentrations of cesium-137 at the Fukushima's Pacific Ocean leaks peaked at more than 50 million times preexisting ocean levels, according to a National Academy of Sciences report this past March.

According to the French Institute for Radiological Protection & Nuclear Safety, at least 27 petabecquerels — 27 million billion becquerels — of cesium-137 poured into the Pacific Ocean between March 21 and mid-July 2011, in "the biggest single outflow of man-made radioactive materials introduced to the marine environment ever seen or recorded."

The consequences have begun to appear in food thousands of miles away.

The May 28 Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences online reported that all 15 of the giant Bluefin tuna captured by researchers off California were poisoned

with 10 times the amount of cesium they expected. Because of the unique "signature" of both cesium-137 and Cs-134 in the fish, the findings "are unequivocal: Fukushima was the source," according to oceanographers who spoke with the Associated Press.

Caught five months after the colossal releases of cesium into the Pacific, the Bluefin swam in poison seas for about a month before reaching Calif., 6,000 miles away. "Researchers planned to repeat the study with a larger number of samples" next year, the AP said, adding, "The upcoming travelers have been swimming in radioactive waters for a longer period. How this will affect concentrations of contamination remains to be seen."

But others have seen enough. South Korea has imposed harsh radiation monitoring rules on seafood imported from 8 far flung Japanese prefectures (see map).

"It's worrisome in that Cs-137 is leaking," said Paul Falkowski, a professor at Rutgers University's Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences, to the *New York Times* in March 28, last year — before the enormous amounts were known. And, Falkowski predicted, if there is a lot of cesium over an extended period "then you'll have to worry."

\*\*\*\*\*

See our website, soon to be updated on the subject, for more depth accounting of the Fukushima disaster.

See also: BeyondNuclear.org; the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, IEER.org; and the Nuclear Information and Resource Service, NIRS.org; the Low Level Radiation Campaign, LLRC.org; and the Citizens' Nuclear Information Center, Tokyo, CNIC.jp/English.

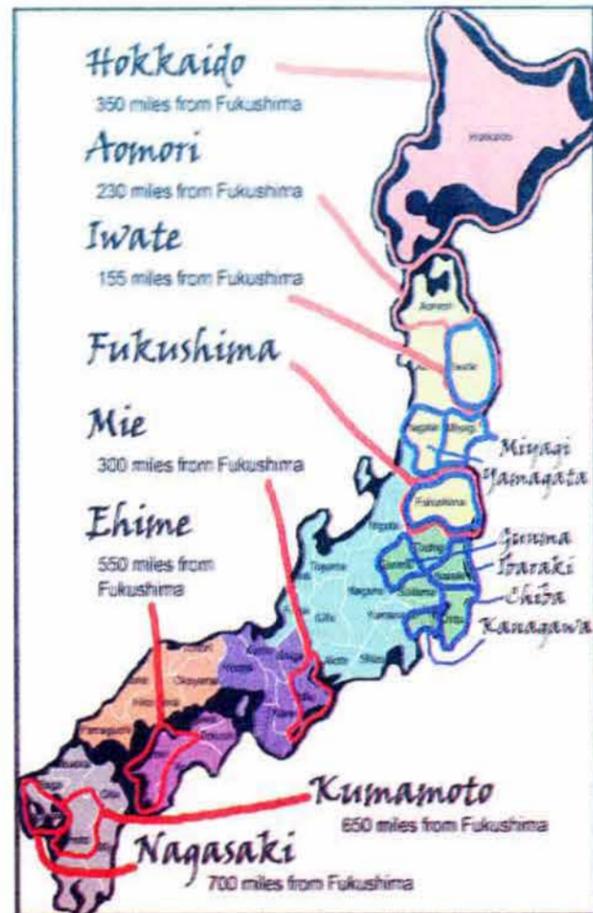
## Books on Fukushima

*Devil's Tango*, by Cecile Pineda, Wings Press, San Antonio, Texas, 2012, 223 pages

*March Was Made of Yarn: Reflections on the Japanese Earthquake, Tsunami, and Nuclear Meltdown*, Elmer Luke and David Karashima, Eds., Vintage Books, New York, 2012, 216 pages

*Fukushima Meltdown: The World's First Earthquake-Tsunami-Nuclear Disaster*, by Takashi Hirose, Asahi Shimbun Publications, Tokyo, 2011, 164 pages

*Fukushima and Health: What to Expect*, Chris Busby, Joseph Busby, Ditta Rietuma and Mireille de Messieres, Eds., Green Audit, Aberystwyth, UK, 2011, 317 pages



Japan's Federal Prefectures

S. Korea imposed mandatory radiation monitoring on seafood imported from 8 prefectures, circled in red above, all far from Fukushima's 12-mile exclusion zone, after finding high levels of cesium contamination in May this year. Foods with cesium-137 poisoning exceeding what the government allows, were found in 7 prefectures many miles beyond the zone: Miyagi, 61 miles away; Ibaraki, 84; Iwate, 88; Yamagata, 100; Gunma, 130; Chiba, 150; & Kanagawa, 160.

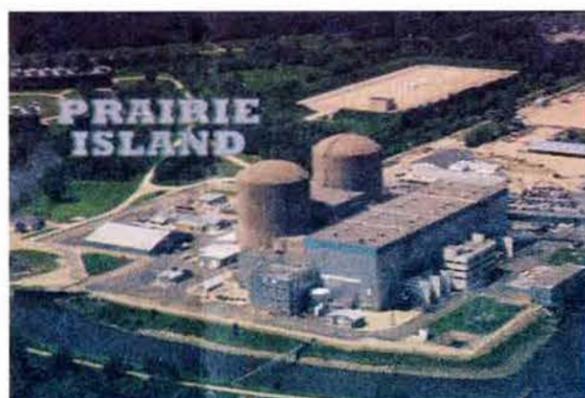
# Emergency Generators for Cooling Reactors, Wrecked in Japan, May be Unworkable Here

Keeping nuclear reactors from running out of control, exploding and burning like at Fukushima requires the circulation of cooling water at all times. Even when smashed by an earthquake, the circulation of coolant has to go on — powered by backup diesel generators — so that the ferociously hot uranium fuel in the reactor, and tons of waste fuel in deep, highly engineered pools, is kept from burning through its containers and releasing colossal amounts of barely pent-up radiation.

In Minnesota, according to a Minneapolis *StarTribune* report, three nuclear reactors "will get post-Fukushima upgrades," but the pittance being allotted makes the project look like mere propaganda or corporate image control. Xcel Energy, which owns the two reactors at Prairie Island, 32 miles south of Mpls., and one at Montecello 40 miles northwest, says it will install new diesel generators for emergency backup power, like putting lipstick on the Thing.

## Questions about the official Fukushima story

Most accounts of the unfolding disaster at Fukushima assert that backup electricity was destroyed when the tsunami "wiped out power lines and in-plant diesel backup generators," as the *StarTribune* said.



Excel Corporation's two Prairie Island reactors, and highly radioactive waste fuel rods in concrete casks (top right in photo) are all situated in the flood plain of the Mississippi River south of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

It turns out that Fukushima's backup diesels may have destroyed themselves just by being turned on.

In his book *Vulture's Picnic* (Dutton, 2011), Greg Palast casts alarming doubt on the "tsunami wrecked the generators" story, and points to reactor vulnerabilities worldwide caused by reliance on faulty diesel motors.

In his chapter "Fukushima, Texas," Palast explains that aerial photos show that the buildings housing Fukushima's diesels are intact. To find out if the diesels failed due to reasons other than the official story, Palast studied

the record he compiled 30 years ago, when diesel expert R.D. Jacobs suspected problems with diesels proposed for a U.S. reactor. After studying the diesel tests he was hired to monitor, Jacobs warned a utility executive that nobody knew "what the axial vibration of the crankshaft was doing to the [diesel] units." Jacobs wanted the diesel motors thoroughly inspected. The company refused.

Palast and other watchdogs also investigated plans for the Shoreham reactor on Long Island Sound in New York. That reactor was completed but never-operated. Critics had forced Shoreham's builders to test the backup diesels under emergency conditions, and all three failed, one after another, when their crankshafts snapped — as Jacobs had predicted. The Shoreham reactor was cancelled, and the faulty generator case applies to Fukushima and hundreds of other reactors.

## Diesels not built for emergency "crash starts"

According to Jonathan Sellers — another diesel generator expert that Palast interviewed about his work for General Electric at a California nuke — emergency backup diesels were designed for and even taken from cruise ship engine rooms or old locomotives. As such, they need 30 minutes to warm up and more time to "build crankshaft speed," before adding the load of the generator. But in a loss-of-power emergency, these backup "diesels have to go from stationary to taking a full load in less than ten seconds," Sellers said. The machines are not made for such a "crash start."

"So, you're saying emergency diesels can't work in an emergency?" Palast asked. Sellers answered, "Actually, they're just not designed for it."

These diesels are the cheap off-the-shelf diesels that Xcel Energy told the *StarTribune* it intends to buy for its Minnesota reactors, rather than the more expensive nuclear-qualified equipment. Penny pinching by Xcel is what made Christopher Paine of the Natural Resources Defense Council lambast the so-called "upgrade" telling the *StarTribune*, "This is a public relations measure to create the illusion that the industry is jointly taking the issue seriously."

Xcel could use some good PR, especially after the disclosure of two recent tritium leaks from its Prairie Island reactors. Tritium is a known carcinogen, and it doesn't take a large-scale disaster like Fukushima to cause it to leak from nuclear reactors. Tritium leakage to surface and ground water and to the air is routine, and present tritium limits fail to account for health risks such as early failed pregnancies, birth abnormalities and other non-cancer outcomes. No population anywhere should be subjected to these health and pregnancy risks. With Japan's 50 working reactors now shut down, and their electricity replaced with readily adopted conservation and efficiency measures, there is no reason this country can't shut ours down too — and plenty of reasons to do it. — JL

# Know Drones: Remote-Controlled Warfare

Unpiloted aircraft known as drones are nasty business and may get even worse as the U.S. contemplates making them nuclear powered so they can fly for months without refueling. The design work for the "ultra-persistence technologies" is being done at the Sandia National Laboratories in partnership with Northrop Grumman. According to designers, nuclear power in drones would improve communications, surveillance, intelligence, and of course, make them even more dangerous. Clearly, the idea of nuclear-powered drones does not sit well with the public, and political conditions have halted progress on "flying dirty bombs" with the chance of the technology falling on our heads or into the hands of unfriendly factions in the event of crashes.

The Obama administration is using drones in Pakistan, Somalia, Afghanistan and Yemen. According to a Bureau of Investigative Journalism report from October 2011, between 386 and 775 people have been killed by drone strikes — including 175 children.

Organizing and protesting the use of drones is ramping up in the U.S.

About 150 people marched toward Hancock Air Field in DeWitt, New York to deliver an indictment over the illegal use of drones, and 33 people were arrested while still blocks away from the base for not having a permit. Sheriffs confiscated cameras and phones. A nonviolent action on April 22, 2011 at the same place resulted in 38 arrests. The 174th Fighter Wing at the base has been flying MQ-9 Reaper drones armed with Hellfire missiles and laser-guided bombs into Afghanistan.

Camp Williams/Volk Field in Wisconsin is getting \$8 million in federal and state money to build a drone "pilot" training center. On April 24, seven people who tried to deliver a message to the base commander were arrested and charged with disorderly conduct.

Police arrested 18 people at a peace rally and nonviolent direct action protesting Creech Air Force Base near Indian Springs, Nevada last Oct. 11. They were issued a range of citations including "jaywalking" and illegal assembly. An additional 59 people crossed the line at the Nevada test site, now called the Nevada National Security Site. The event stemmed from the national gathering of Catholic workers held in Las Vegas.

General Atomics offices in Washington, DC, La Jolla, California and London have been the site of numerous anti-drone rallies.

In the Philadelphia area, the University of Pennsylvania has been criticized for its participation in drone advancements. The institution participates in technology and ap-

## Nuclear's Socialized Costs and Risks

Government subsidies to the nuclear power industry were created to provide temporary support. But according to a February 2011 report by the Union of Concerned Scientists, subsidies over the past fifty years have been so large compared to the amount of energy produced that it would have cost taxpayers less to just buy kilowatts on the open market.

In an analysis done last year by DBL Investors titled "What Would Jefferson do? The Historical Role of Federal Subsidies in Shaping America's Energy Future," the authors show that over the period of time renewables have been subsidized, they've received about \$395 million per year compared to nukes which have been supported for a much longer period and have averaged \$3.3 billion per year. This report states that when allowances are made for inflation it reveals that the federal commitment to the nuclear industry over the first 15 years of subsidies is more than 10 times greater than that of renewables.

President Obama's 2013 energy budget allows for a 29 percent increase for renewable energy. The Budget also provides \$770 million for the Office of Nuclear Energy, which includes funding for research and development on "advanced small modular" reactors. Obama defends the increase as "a testament to the importance of innovation and clean energy to the country's economic future."

Taxpayers continue to bear the burden of its toxic dangers as well as the high cost of nuclear energy. In Durham, North Carolina the Nuclear Regulatory Commission recently approved the combined construction and operating licenses for Progress Energy Florida's Virgil Summer reactor in South Carolina. This is only the second construction license to be approved since 1978. Now that project is more than \$300 million over budget.

In 2006, the Florida legislature passed a construction-work-in-progress bill requiring customers to pay in advance for a new nuclear power complex. This advance fee will add an average of \$50 to the typical monthly bill even if this project is never completed. Meanwhile the original \$5 billion construction cost estimate has soared to more than \$22 billion. The legislation is designed to shift the financial risk from the utility and its shareholders to the consumer. But in the words of Susan Bucher, who was the only legislator in Florida's senate to vote against the bill, "If you can't afford to operate your business, perhaps you shouldn't be in it." — Tampa Bay Times, Mar. 18, 2012; Department of Energy, Energy Budget for FY 2013; KPCC Southern California Public Radio, Sept. 29; & DBL Investors, [http://i.bnet.com/blogs/dbl\\_energy\\_subsidies\\_paper.pdf](http://i.bnet.com/blogs/dbl_energy_subsidies_paper.pdf), Sept. 2011. —TJ

plication research. As a result, the Know Drones coalition has demonstrated on the campus.

Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland also benefits from drone research in its applied physics laboratory. On May 8, activists attempted to deliver a letter of protest to the university's president condemning the school's drone research. On May 8, nine activists did a "sit-in" at the office of Ronald Daniels, President of JHU.

Three people were arrested at Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri on April 15, in their attempt to deliver an indictment of President Barack Obama, Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta and Whiteman AFB's Brigadier General Scott Vander Hamm and drone crews.

The use of drones has been criticized in Pakistan where innocents have been killed and no wonder as drones strikes are immune to prosecution and kill willy-nilly. As a result of a Jan. 10 bombing, Pakistan shut down an overland supply route used by NATO, forcing the U.S. to airlift materials into Afghanistan. The U.S. accuses Pakistan of leaking information about pending drone strikes to targeted individuals, allowing for their escape. The Pakistan *Observer*, on May 10, reported that since the U.S. uses drones in any country it wishes, "Obama has accepted right of other states to conduct drone strikes in America" and calls for the prosecution of Obama and his team for their roles in crimes against humanity. Drones fired into Pakistan originate from Afghanistan.

Algeria has denied the U.S. permission to fly drones over its territory. As more people learn of the immoral and illegal paramilitary actions of the U.S. government, and as more peace actions take place, we can ground the drones.

For a comprehensive look at the issue, see Medea Benjamin's new book, *Drone Warfare: Killing by Remote Control*, OR Books, 2012. See also: <http://vcnv.org/project/drone-warfare-awareness>; (and) <http://www.codepink.org/article.php?list=type&type=469>.

— *The Guardian*, Apr. 2; *New Zealand Herald*, Apr. 4; *Atlantic Wire*.com, Mar. 22; *Syracuse Post-Standard*, Apr. 22; *Reuters*, Feb. 22; *Atlantic*, Jan. 27; *Examiner.com*, Feb. 24; *Salon & Pakistan Observer*, May 10; *News International*, May 9, 2012 — **BLU**

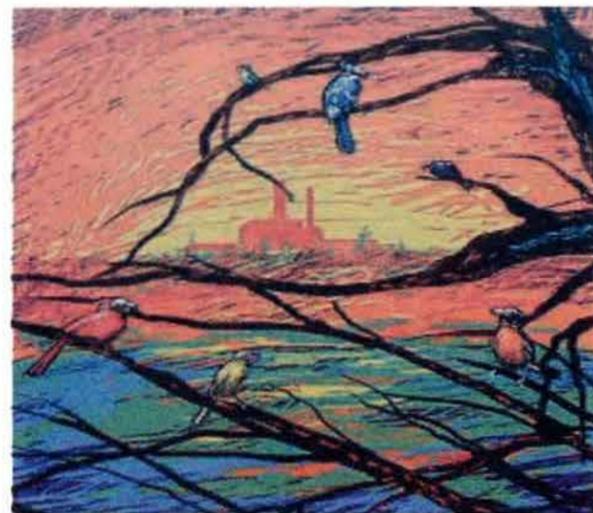
## Nuclear Sub Burns at Portsmouth

At least 100 firefighters from 20 fire departments across three states were called to the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine on May 23, to deal with a burning nuclear powered submarine in dry dock. The extensive fire which burned for 12 hours injured seven fire fighters and crew members. The 7,102-ton, 360-foot *USS Miami* is a \$900 million *Los Angeles* class or "fast attack" sub. The fire broke out during a 20-month stay for an overhaul.

Rear Adm. Rick Breckenridge told the *Portsmouth Herald* the temperature in the forward compartment was "very high, and there were caustic fumes." David Funk, a firefighter on the scene, was quoted by the Associated Press as saying that "It's like going into a chimney," and described insulation and wiring that fueled the fire which became hot enough for aluminum to burst into flames. The melting point of aluminum is 1220°F and temperatures must exceed 6920°F in order for aluminum to burn. The fire started on the middle deck at the front of the sub then spread to the top floor. It caused damage to the forward compartments which includes the living quarters, command-and-control center and the torpedo room. At one point flames were shooting out of the forward hatch. Firefighters used oxygen packs with just a 30 minute supply, and the extreme heat allowed for just a few minutes of work. Seventy-five to 80 of these short rotating shifts — done in the sub's tight interior maze — were necessary to bring the fire under control.

The extent of the damage is unknown at this point and it is unclear whether the *Miami* can be salvaged or ever return to service. The 22-year-old sub officially has another 13 years before retirement.

Adm. Breckenridge claimed that there were no weapons on board and that its reactor had been shut down when it entered port, but its extremely hot uranium fuel hot is dangerous, so guards were stationed near the reactor throughout the crisis — the cause of which was not disclosed. — *Associated Press*, May 24, 26 & 30; *SeacoastOnline.com*, May 24, 25 & 27; & *Boston Globe*, May 24, 2012 — **BLU; JL & TP**



Chernobyl Birds by Aimee Cozza

## Radiation - It's Not for the Birds

A study done by Timothy Mousseau of the University of South Carolina and Anders Møller of the University of Paris-Sud, compares the 14 species of birds that live near both Chernobyl and Fukushima. Researchers counted and identified birds in 300 locations near Fukushima and compared it with data collected at Chernobyl between 2006 and 2009. Where radiation exists at 35 microsieverts per hour in Chernobyl the average bird numbers dropped by nearly one-third, but at Fukushima the numbers decreased by nearly half. One possible explanation is that the Fukushima radiation contains more damaging isotopes. Another theory is that Chernobyl's surviving bird species have, after 25 years, adjusted to living in a radioactive world. The authors claim that some species seem to develop a tolerance for radioactivity over time.

Male birds outnumber female birds around Chernobyl suggesting that females, like in human populations, are more susceptible to low-dose radiation than males. Increased numbers of male birds exist in 48 different species. All bird numbers decreased when exposed to higher radiation levels. Studies in the Ukraine have also shown that birds with darker plumage have higher survival rates. According to calculations by Jim Smith at the University of Portsmouth, UK, bird sperm is being damaged by radiation. Older birds die earlier as evidenced by the imbalance of yearlings to mature birds. Bird brains were found to be five percent smaller near Chernobyl, compared to uncontaminated birds. Research data implies that bird populations are being maintained by the immigration of young birds from uncontaminated areas. Studies are on-going but there's no doubt that even low-dose radiation kills our fine-feathered friends. — *The Economist*, March 3; *New Scientist*, April 11; *Enformable Nuclear News*, April 15; *Science Daily*, Apr. 19, 2012; *BBC News*, Feb. 5; *Scientific American & Nature Magazine*, May 4, 2011

## Exelon Chief Slams Nuclear

Retired Exelon CEO John Rowe has been in the news lately. He said in March that new reactor construction is wrongheaded. "It just isn't economic and it's not economic within a foreseeable time frame." Rowe became chairman and CEO of Exelon in 2003 and when he retired in March he was earning \$1.5 million a year.

"I've never met a nuclear plant I didn't like," he boasted. "Having said that, let me also state unequivocally that new ones don't make any sense right now...."

Natural gas fracking and increasingly warm weather have cut into utility profits, with gas being at its lowest price since January 2002. Exelon owns and operates 22 nuclear reactors and in March it merged with Constellation Energy Group Inc. The business owns hydro, natural gas and nuclear operations in 47 states and Canada. Exelon is hoping for more money in the form of loan guarantees, contract agreements and higher rates for customers to insure profit.

— *Forbes*, Mar. 29; *Chicago Business.com*, Apr. 13 & May 7; & *Bloomberg.com*, Apr. 11, 2012

## Greenpeace Drops in On the French

A Greenpeace activist used a parasail to drop onto Électricité de France's Bugey reactor site 22 miles east of Lyon on May 2. He dropped a smoke flare onto the dome of one reactor before landing, highlighting the system's vulnerability and stirring political debate on nuclear power ahead of France's May 6 presidential election. The new president, Francois Hollandem has vowed to cut France's reliance on nuclear power. Hollandem's goal is to cut nuclear power by 50 percent by 2025, down from 75 – 80 percent today. EDF owns and operates all 58 reactors in France. EDF claims that the Greenpeace intruder was arrested within 10 minutes of landing. At the Civaux reactor site, an activist entered through a truck gate and hid from security guards and police for an hour before being apprehended in the bushes.

France has a 6-mile no-fly zone around and a .62-mile exclusion zone above all of its reactors. EDF plans to spend \$526 million within the next three to four years to enhance security which, for equipment such as tasers, barricades and guard dogs, already costs tens of millions a year. — *Associated Press*, *Dow Jones Newswire*, *Bloomberg.com* & *Reuters*, May 2, 2012



# Industry TV

By Paul Vos Benkowski

The Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) is seeking a new audience to influence with a series of slick television ads that espouse half-truths about nuclear power. And where is the starting point for this campaign of misinformation? The Daily Show with Jon Stewart, on Comedy Central. The snarky news satire has welcomed the misinformed campaign and its deep pockets. NEI, which represents Entergy Corp. and Southern Co., is also planning on print and radio ads. Other outlets include the Washington Post, the Economist, Businessweek, the "NBC Nightly News," "Meet the Press," National Public Radio and Facebook.

This commercial push comes just over a year since the Fukushima meltdowns and during a time when power companies are facing a number of hurdles in their push to build expensive new reactors. NEI will double its annual advertising spending for the campaign. The NEI is joining other industry groups, including the American Petroleum Institute, that want to reach policy makers and the non-reading public in an election year where energy policy has become a central theme. The industry wants "to reach some of the younger audience that are [sic] helping to shape policy," said Scott Peterson, the Washington-based industry group's senior vice president for communications.

About 57 percent of 1,032 Americans polled by market-research group ORC International are less supportive of nuclear power than they were before the Fukushima disaster, according to a March 7 survey released by the Civil Society Institute, a Newton, Massachusetts-based research group that commissioned the study. The television ads aim to reduce that majority by casting nuclear reactors as a reliable, climate-friendly energy source that creates scores of jobs. And like most commercials on television — It's better than ever, it slices, it dices, buy it now before time runs out — the pro-nuclear ads are nothing more than distractions and disinformation.

The ads claim that nuclear energy is a reliable and affordable source of energy that emits no greenhouse gases, yet readers of our newsletter are aware that the number of shutdowns continue to increase as the reactors age. And while it is understood that an operating reactor has near-zero carbon emission (never mind the heat and radioactive waste) the steps involved in the provision of fuel and construction increase its carbon footprint. Nuclear reactors are built of mountains of cement, uranium has to be mined, processed and transported, waste has to be containerized and managed, and eventually reactors have to be decommissioned. All these actions produce carbon emissions.

Another ad asks, "How can we generate more low-carbon electricity that is affordable while creating more American jobs?" When one considers the dangers inherent in the jobs in the nuclear industry, the answer is: safe, renewable energy — which is brought online far faster than new reactors. From the dangers of mining and milling, to waste storage and clean-up, there are only a few safe jobs in the industry. Factor in the element of human error and the dangers increase tenfold.

So while the nuclear industry floods various media markets with its rhetoric in slick new ads, watch with a gimlet eye and remember what my mother liked to say. "Don't pay attention to the ads, they are just trying to sell you something you don't really need."

## DOE Employees Contaminated

By Bonnie Urfer

Employees at DOE facilities such as Oak Ridge's Y12 complex and the Savannah River Site (SRS) trust that their safety equipment works, but recently found it doesn't. Radiation technicians surveyed thousands of pieces of "laundered" respirator equipment and discovered that 10 percent still exceeded contract levels of uranium contamination. The respirators had been sent to UniTech/Global Solutions for "cleaning" but came back contaminated.

Over 500 respirator masks and 100 breathing tubes were sent from Y12 to the UniTech/Global Barnwell facility in South Carolina and returned over the past three years. Ten percent of Y12's respiratory equipment is checked each year.

The DOE says that the radiation dose from wearing even the dirtiest respirator would have been about 100 millirems. And Y12 officials claim their employees did not ingest or inhale significant amounts of radiation. It's possible that some workers used dirty respirators more than once. One package received from UniTech contained cobalt-60, an isotope not used at Y12, indicating some cross contamination from other sites.

The DOE confirmed that respirators used at the Separations Process Research Unit near Schenectady, New York in 2011, and the SRS in January of 2008, were contaminated. UniTech's contract has been temporarily terminated but not cancelled. New, disposable equipment will replace the recycling of respirators.

UniTech claims to be the leader in radiological "laundering" and protective clothing. The company "decontaminates" tools, scaffolding, other metals and clothes. Hopefully, UniTech employees have better luck with their own breathing equipment. — Knoxville News Sentinel, March 2 & 17, April 19 & 21; Tri-City Herald, March 27; DOE Office of Health, Safety and Security, March 2012



Children and women are especially vulnerable to radiation. The Nuclear Energy Institute's ad campaign, above, shows the smiling face of its potential victim.

## Vermonters Say Shut It Down!

Entergy, the owner/operator of Vermont Yankee, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission have gone rogue. The state of Vermont wants the leaky, collapsing and volatile reactor shut down. Last year, the NRC issued a 20-year license extension to the crumbling and deadly boiler, in spite of the state's decision to close it in March 2012.

On March 22, one day after the reactors state operating license expired, hundreds of Vermonters visited Entergy offices in New Orleans, its regional headquarters in White Plains, New York (where 5 people were arrested), and its offices in Brattleboro, Vermont, where 163 people including a state senator were taken into custody. Over 800 activists marched to the White Plains headquarters from downtown Brattleboro.

On the day of the coordinated actions, seven women of the Shut It Down Affinity Group chained shut the gates of site. On April 28, charges were dropped against 136 of those arrested in March.

Eight activists entered Entergy's corporate headquarters in New Orleans for a "No Nuke Business as Usual" demonstration in which they hung banners and used crime scene tape to cordon off the downtown building. They demanded a meeting with the CEO and after being denied the face to face, followed up with a sit-in.

More than 1,000 turned out for an April 14 rally that included U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders and Governor Peter Shumlin. Sanders criticized the NRC for overreaching of its legal authority, saying the agency is responsible for making sure reactors operate safely and nothing more, and he reminded the crowd that in 1983, the Supreme Court ruled that states can halt nuclear power within their borders for non-safety reasons. Gov. Shumlin accused Entergy of being "a bad business partner" citing 10 instances where the company had at best misled and at the worst, lied to public and state officials about radiation leaks.

Vermont Yankee's on-going leaks have contaminated the soil, groundwater and the Connecticut River with tritium. When a cooling tower collapsed, the company claimed it didn't need it. The reactor's license extension was granted by the NRC just 10 days after the Fukushima catastrophe.

The Vermont Senate voted to decommission the reactor but the NRC issued a license extension anyway, insuring continuation of a legal battle — Entergy/NRC vs. the People of Vermont. The AP recently reported that Elizabeth Miller, commissioner of Vermont's Department of Public Service testified in court that Entergy violated the Clean Water Act and the renewal should not have been approved without an updated water quality certification. The company and NRC argued that the old certificate (issued in 1970!) is still good and that a discharge permit can serve as a water quality permit. The state should have put forward water quality issues during permit hearings they said — so time's up. The reactor has been allowed to operate by Federal Judge Garvan Murtha while the case proceeds. The New England Coalition has entered the legal process and New York State has filed a friend-of-the-court brief.

Vermont Yankee critics who were charged with trespass correctly claim that Entergy is now the trespasser, since it does not have a state license to operate.

On May 23, the NRC held a public forum in Brattleboro's high school. Activists occupied the room and NRC spokespersons would not start the biased meeting until the protesters were removed. The safe energy campaigners walked out en masse shouting "Shut it down!"

— Associated Press, Mar. 22, 23, Apr. 16 & May 8; Vermont Digger, Mar. 23; Huffington Post, Mar. 24; Burlington Free Press & Boston Globe, Apr. 15; WCAX News, May 8; CBS News, May 9; Brattleboro Reformer, May 10 & 15; New Hampshire Sentinel Source.com, May 24, 2012 — BLU

## Occupy Portland Rallies to End Nuclear Power, Weapons and Contamination

By Bonnie Urfer

RICHLAND, Washington — There are good reasons that Occupy Portland organized an April 15 rally in Richland, Washington. The activists gathered to oppose nuclear weapons, reactors and radioactive waste. The Hanford Reservation is massively contaminated and clean-up contractors try to put a leash on escaping radioactivity. Miriam German helped organize the event and calls Hanford the "Fukushima in our own backyard." Nukewatch's Troy Jones and I attended, and I was invited to speak.

During the cold war, Hanford extracted plutonium from used reactor fuel rods to feed the nuclear weapon's industry. Acid concoctions "reprocessed" the hot uranium fuel, creating in the process hundreds of millions of gallons of deadly liquid waste. That waste is still contaminating the ground, groundwater and the Columbia River. Salem-News.com reported on April 24 that the Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee approved a provision which nominates Hanford for a new pilot program to turn the site into a national dump for the ferociously radioactive waste fuel. The move would add as much radioactive garbage as must already be cleaned up and isolated at the site. The plan would also, according to the Department of Energy's own environmental impact statement, cause over 800 fatal cancers along the highway shipping routes, because the casks cannot be shielded enough to prevent exposure by an estimated 30,000 truckloads of waste. The DOE proposes to bury it all in Hanford's soil.

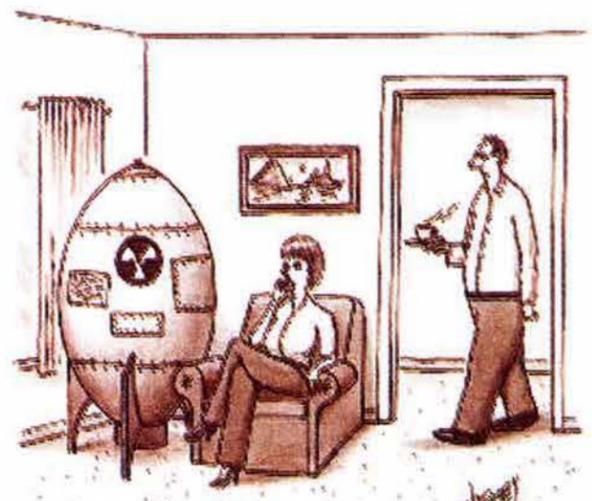
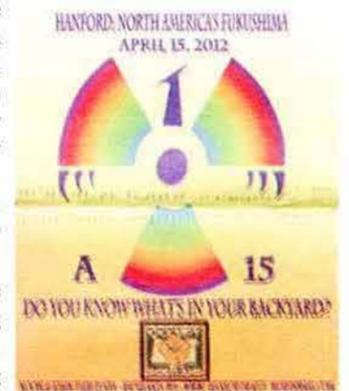
Local hearings on the proposal have been scheduled for Portland, Oregon, Seattle, Spokane and Richland, Washington. Before any facility could be developed, the governor, local government, and tribal councils must agree to the dump.

Construction of a new "vitrification" facility that would solidify the deadly liquid waste into "glass logs" is underway at Hanford. The experiment's cost has soared from the original \$4.6 billion estimate to \$12.2 billion and may surpass \$20 billion by the time it's finished. Bechtel National Inc. is raking in the tax-payer money.

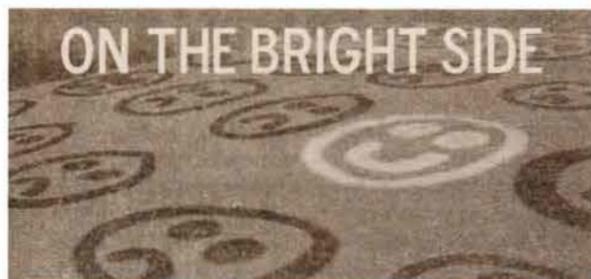
In the meantime, the Columbia Generating Station, a power reactor, operates on leased land at Hanford and adds to the stockpile of radioactive waste that has no place to go. The federal government spends \$2 billion annually to "clean" Hanford of past spills, intentional releases, leaking tanks and failed dump sites. According to Hanford spokesperson Gerald Woodcock, contamination has been greatly reduced and the movement of radiation from the soil to the groundwater and Columbia River has been slowed.

On April 30, a federal audit concluded that the DOE and its contractor Bechtel installed tanks that did not always meet requirements for quality assurance and violated the contract. Bechtel was paid \$15 million to produce the defective tanks intended for installation in "black cells," — areas that can never be entered by humans once the site is in operation. The DOE claims it has taken steps to improve quality assurance and oversight.

Because Hanford is a money sinkhole with countless problems of worker contamination and quality control, reactor accidents and waste production, the rallies need to continue. — NBC, KNDU, Apr. 15; Associated Press, April 16 & May 1; Tri-City Herald, Apr. 14 & 16; Salem-News.com, April 24; Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee Press Release, April 24, 2012



"He's been so much more attentive since he found out I have the bomb."



## Energy Blowing in the Wind

By Troy Jones

Wind energy is taking off. With an annual increase of 20 percent in wind turbine installations, wind is far outpacing new reactor construction. Last year 41.2 gigawatts of wind power capacity were installed worldwide, 50 percent more than all of the new nuclear capacity installed from 2002 to 2011.

The disaster in Fukushima has generated a lot of interest in making the most of wind power. Last May, Japan closed its last nuclear power facility leaving it nuclear-free for the first time in 42 years. Seeking new energy sources, the Marubeni Corp, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. and Nippon Steel Corp. are developing a 16-megawatt pilot wind system off the coast of Fukushima Prefecture. There is room to expand the project to 1,000 megawatts which would make it Japan's largest wind farm on sea or land.

In an effort to improve the efficiency of wind turbines, researchers at Japan's Kuyushu University have developed the Wind Lens, an inward curving wing that fits around the turbine blades. As the blades rotate, they create a low pressure pocket in front of the turbine resulting in increased air flow that can triple its efficiency.

Researchers and ecologists agree that the best location for wind turbines is offshore, where the winds are stronger and more consistent, don't expose populations to sound pollution and can be situated out of the path of migratory birds. England and the U.S. have announced that they will collaborate to develop wind technology in deep waters. They have pledged resources to create a floating wind system that can generate five to seven megawatts by 2016.

While the wind initiative is good news, and Energy Secretary Steven Chu has offered \$180 million to the project, the White House has promised an \$8.3 billion loan guarantee for the proposed Vogtle reactors 3 and 4 in Georgia. The reactors' construction is in progress, although the overall funding has yet to be secured. Southern Company, which is building the reactors along with several other utilities, filed their quarterly report with the Securities Exchange Commission in May stating that its costs may rise again, this time by \$900 million above the original estimate.

Wind power gains around the world are impressive: Norway already has a full-scale demonstration of a floating wind turbine in the works, and Portugal installed the first floating wind turbine platform in the open waters of the Atlantic Ocean last December. China is individually ahead in wind power installation for the third year running, having just installed 18,000 megawatts, giving it a total wind capacity of 63,000 megawatts. One quarter of Denmark's electricity is currently being supplied by wind power, and the government has vowed to raise that to 50 percent by 2020. With close to 100,000 megawatts of wind capacity, European states collectively are ahead of the rest of the world.

The United States currently receives less than 20 percent of its energy from nuclear reactors, and the DOE estimates that wind could account for 20 percent of U.S. electricity needs by 2030. — Southern Co., Quarterly Report, May 7; DOE, "20% Wind Energy by 2030," July 2008; Earth Policy Inst., "World Wind Power Climbs to New Record in 2011," March 14; *Guardian*, April, 23; *Bloomberg*, March 30; *Earthesy*, March 23; *Earth Techling*, Dec. 11, 2011

## Huge Majority for Safe Energy

A survey conducted for the Civil Society Institute shows that in the United States, the vast majority support clean, renewable energy and not nuclear or fossil fuel generated electricity. The poll was taken between March 22 and 25. Of the 1,019 people queried, 83 percent agreed that: "The time is now for a new, grassroots-driven politics to realize a renewable energy future." Congress is debating large public investments in energy and we have to translate opinion into action to ensure that tax dollars support renewable energy — one that protects public health, promotes energy independence and the economic well-being of all Americans. The poll also found that 80 percent opposed payment-in-advance for reactor construction before a unit is operating. Seventy-six percent support federal loan guarantees for wind, solar and other renewables. More than three-out-of-four agreed that "the energy industry's extensive and well-financed public relations campaign contributions, and lobbying machine, are a major barrier to moving beyond business as usual when it comes to energy policy."

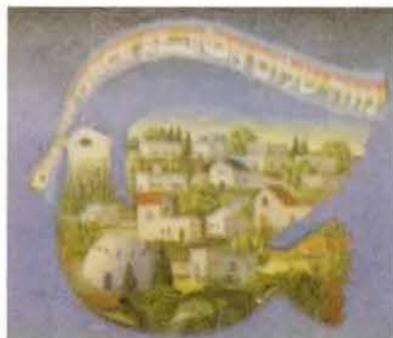
Read the entire report on the Civil Society Institute's website: <http://theclean.org/>

# Works of Peace In the Presence of War

By Bonnie Urfer

Instead of covering the failed process, I want to report on the work of peace by people in Israel and the occupied territories. Dozens of peace groups are struggling to end the causes of war. The following is a brief description of some of the organizations and on-going projects that make a difference in the lives of both Palestinians and Israelis. From art projects, to peace studies to games, communities have formed to walk the path of coexistence.

\* Neve Shalom - Wahat al-Salam (Oasis of Peace), a bi-national community, has been promoting peaceful reconciliation among Jews and Palestinians since 1970. The community of more than 52 families is founded on mutual acceptance, respect and cooperation. Matters of policy, acceptance of new members and annual budget, get made in assemblies of all members despite national and religious differences. Neve Shalom consists of: The School for Peace, which conducts courses and seminars for Arabs and Jews to address Israeli and Palestinian autonomy; the Children's Educational System, which provides bilingual and multicultural schooling; the Pluralistic Spiritual Centre, which offers a framework for spiritual reflection on issues at the core of the middle east conflict and the search for its resolution; and a Youth Club that provides extracurricular activities for the community's children. Neve Shalom - Wahat al-Salam also identifies populations in need and provides food and humanitarian assistance to remote towns and villages and includes medical relief for Palestinians affected by the on-going war. Physicians and medical personnel volunteer their services.



\* The Givat Haviva Institute in Israel has been educating for peace, democracy, coexistence and social solidarity since 1949. The Institute operates on six campuses in central Israel addressing racism and discrimination and works to bridge gaps in Jewish-Arab relations. Every year, 25,000 people participate in lectures, seminars and tours of the region. The project has a Peace Library with Israel's largest collection of Hebrew, Arabic and English documents relating to Palestinians and Arabs. The Jewish Arab Center for Peace at Givat Haviva empowers women to become municipal leaders, encourages dialogue, employs encounter groups, develops inter-organizational partnerships, educational curricula and research, and promotes Jewish-Arab athletic and arts programs. One of the art projects is Through Others' Eyes which brings young Arabs and Jews together using photography to highlight coexistence and identity. A show of photographs from the TOE project runs at the Peace Gallery every year, where 8-10 exhibits are on display from September through July. The center advocates regional peace and reconciliation through the cultivation of social and cultural education and experiences.

\* OneVoice is an international grassroots movement working for a two-state solution for Israelis and Palestinians. Participants work on conflict resolution, human infrastructure, negotiation and permanent agreements through the consensus process. OneVoice argues that violence by either side will never be a means to end the conflict. On April 3, 2012, OneVoice Israel unveiled a new campaign — the Arab Peace Initiative (API) — a proposal that offers a comprehensive resolution to the conflict. The first phase of the plan focuses on public awareness, then a mass mobilization to restart peace negotiations, and finally, efforts for the API to be acknowledged by the Israeli government. In response to PM Netanyahu's claim that Iran's nuclear program "quacks like a duck," OneVoice sent 80 "Arab Peace Ducks" along with the text of the API to members of the Knesset and to media correspondents, reminding them that "a potential partner for peace has yet to be given a real chance."

\* Partners for Progressive Israel (PPI, formerly Meretz USA) is an organization working for civil and human rights and peace in Israel. Equal rights means ending discrimination based on ethnicity, race, religion, gender, national origin or sexual orientation. The group has over 18,000 supporters in the U.S. in pursuit of peace in Israel, and is working to establish and sustain a cease-fire and meaningful negotiations leading to a sovereign Palestinian state. PPI Israel opposes on-going settlement expansion and discrimination against the Palestinian minority. It supports separation of religion and state, ending the economic gap between Ashkenazi Jews and Ethiopian Jews, and securing equal rights for women and the GLBTQ community. PPI sees Israeli economic development as a foundation for stability and peace if it is put to work improving living standards for Palestinians.

One project of PPI is the Jewish Academic Network for Israeli-Palestinian Peace. Scholars, teachers and administrators reject the polarized debate surrounding the conflict, and works toward a negotiated two-state solution and the realization of human and civil rights, social justice and environmental sustainability for everyone in the region. PPI is active in Israel and the U.S. and has established a youth volunteer program that holds seminars and leads travel/study programs in Israel to build bridges.

\* Bat Shalom is a feminist grassroots group of Jewish

and Palestinian Israeli women working for peace, a just resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, respect for human rights and an equal voice for Jewish and Arab women within Israeli society. The organization recognizes the right to self-determination of both Israelis and Palestinians through the establishment of a Palestinian state alongside Israel on the 1967 boundaries, with the whole city of Jerusalem constituting two capitals for two states.

Bat Shalom says, "Only a diplomatic process that brings with it the termination of Israeli control of the occupied territories and the establishment of a Palestinian state alongside Israel within the demarcation lines of the 4th of June 1967 will insure peace and security for Israelis and Palestinians, and for all those who live in this region."

Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails went on a hunger strike in March demanding improvements in conditions and an end to detentions without charges. The strike ended after two months when Israel agreed not to renew the "administrative detentions," and the agreement may free more than 300 prisoners by November. In exchange, the detainees agreed "not to engage in actions contravening security inside the jails."

Nonviolent activists worldwide make peacemaking an everyday reality.

Thank you to our friend and supporter, Barbara Meislin, "the Purple Lady," for reminding us of the work of these remarkable organizations.

## Sailing With the Sun

Neither storms, nor pirates nor a dead calm sea were able to deter Raphael Domjan and his team from their mission to sail around-the-world on a ship powered entirely by the sun. On May 8, the *Turanor Planet Solar* cruised into Hercule Harbor in Monaco, 584 days after leaving that same port. The 95-ton, 102-foot carbon fiber catamaran is fitted with more than 530 square meters of photovoltaic panels which performed flawlessly. Only three solar panels were lost on the trip, in each case because someone fell on them and the only technical glitch happened when a storm caused problems with the ship's propeller.

The project encompassed eight years, from conception to fundraising, research, design and construction — and then a final two years to sail around the world. However according to Domjan the real work is now beginning. Though elements of the ship's design offer ship builders new concepts to work with, the intent was not recreate the catamaran for commercial production, but to prove that it could be done. As Domjan points out, "That was the point: to spread the message, to politicians and to the business world, that if we can do this, if we can power a boat around the world, then we can use solar energy much more in other ways, too."

*Planet Solar's* team intends to have a book and documentary film out by September 27 to mark the anniversary of the journey's start. Up next is the Solar Impulse, a sun-powered plane that's been in development since 2005 and is scheduled for its own around-the-world journey in 2014. Go solar! — *New York Times*, May 9; *New Scientist*, April 25; *Wired* magazine, May 12, 2012

## NUKEWATCH

QUARTERLY



Nukewatch is a project of  
The Progressive Foundation  
a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization  
founded in 1979 by Samuel H. Day, Jr.

**Progressive Foundation Board of Directors**  
John LaForge, Molly Mechtenberg-Berrigan,  
Michele Naar-Obed, Jeff Peterson,  
Bonnie Urfer, Gail Vaughn

**Nukewatch Staff**  
Bonnie Urfer, John LaForge,  
Paul Vos Benkowski & Troy Jones

**Volunteers**  
John Bird, Barb Parrell, Muriel Fitzgerald,  
Leah Wolfe, Sherry Liabraaten, Sharon Cody,  
Jeff Peterson, Kris Schmid, John Bachman

*Nukewatch Quarterly*  
submission deadlines:  
Nov. 1, Feb. 1, May 1 & Aug. 1  
Suggested subscription donation: \$25/yr.  
- printed on 100% recycled paper -  
The Progressive Foundation & Nukewatch  
740A Round Lake Road, Luck, WI 54853  
Phone: (715) 472-4185  
Email: [nukewatch1@lakeland.wisconsin.edu](mailto:nukewatch1@lakeland.wisconsin.edu)  
Web: [www.nukewatchinfo.org](http://www.nukewatchinfo.org)  
ISSN: 1942-6305

# Vaguely Reminiscent of the '60s... or Not

By John Heid

*In our world divide and conquer must become define and empower.* Audre Lorde

*We would replace power rooted in possession, privilege or circumstance by power and uniqueness rooted in love, reason and creativity.* The Port Huron Statement, 1962

*We forget that the necessary ingredient needed to make the past work for the future is our energy in the present, metabolizing one into the other.* Audre Lorde

As this *Nukewatch Quarterly* goes to press, the Port Huron Statement turns 50 years old. The manifesto was forged during the Students for a Democratic Society's national convention in mid June 1962. Traces of this document reemerge in the Declaration of the Occupancy of New York City written last September by the Occupy Wall Street Movement.

This year also marks the 20th anniversary of the death of Audre Lorde, who self identified as black, lesbian, mother, warrior and poet. Her wisdom and insights echo across the decades and heavily inform this article, let alone its writer. All of the quotations, unless otherwise indicated are contained in Lorde's *Sister Outsider, Essays And Speeches*.

The heat's on. Both kinds, climatic and political. This year alone the bodies of 99 migrant travelers have already been recovered from the Tucson sector of the U.S.-Mexico border despite a marked decrease in the number of people crossing into the U.S.

Meanwhile, the scorching flames of discontent are roiling in Chicago at the NATO summit, as I write. Some call this a 1968 redux. Is it déjà vu or something new? There is wild fire in the air sparking seeds scattered by the Occupy Movement. Resistance in these moments of convergence can be ones of fertile transformation. Or hellish chaos. The stage is set, but the die not cast. The choice is in our hands. What can our history tell us that might inform the choices we make in the coming months? Pre election.

First, we must disabuse ourselves of the mainstream media fiction of the '60s. The Age of Aquarius myth. Some still hold that decade as the apex of modern revolutionary activism in the U.S. A half century exposes the tie-dyed patina of a movement for what it was and wasn't. A half century puts a worthy perspective on a document, like the Port Huron Statement, freeze-framed in time. A half century also records the dismantling of many of the most pristine hopes of the SDS framers. Like any movement the '60s were more evolutionary than revolutionary. Not a measuring stick, but another experiment with truth.

What can we learn from that vibrant and volatile decade so the bruising pitfalls and ideological cul-de-sacs do not have to be revisited, and so that our political acuity can be sharpened for the escalating challenges ahead? It's time to move on, no pun intended, from the "vaguely reminiscent of the '60s" narrative. A quick listen to Charlie King's song "Vaguely Reminiscent of the '60s" isn't a bad starting place. And Audre Lorde's 1982 lecture "Learning from the '60s" offers what I feel are seminal insights into that fabled era.

"The '60s were characterized by a heady belief in instantaneous solutions," she wrote. Liberating ourselves is not a simple process. We tend to express our frustration and anger horizontally, that is, against those around us rather than vertically toward the apparatus of power which seeks to control our lives. A familiar characteristic of this misplaced energy is our intolerance of difference. This attitude was observed and exploited in the '60s by the FBI and CIA to foment confusion and division

amongst activists. Lorde said, "Hopefully we can learn from the '60s that we cannot afford to do our enemies' work by destroying each other... Can any of us still afford to believe that efforts to reclaim the future can be private or individual?" This insight was echoed by Angela Davis when she proclaimed at an Occupy rally in Philadelphia last October, "We have a complex unity."

The lessons of the '60s offer fertile compost for the movements of our present day. Nonviolence is not static. It is evolving into a more sophisticated tool, if not ethos, in light of the lessons of that decade. "Militancy no longer means guns at high noon, if it ever did," Lorde reminds us. "It means actively working for change, sometimes in the absence of any surety that change is coming... it means fighting despair."

Todd Gitlin, author of the forthcoming book *Occupy Nation* writes, "The primacy of nonviolence is a reaction to the '60s, as is don't have hierarchal organizations..." Whether a lifestyle, or simply a tactic, nonviolence is critical to the durability, the accountability and the integrity of our actions.

"But we must recognize that many of our expectations of rapid revolutionary change did not in fact occur. And many of the gains that did, are even now being dismantled. This is not a reason for despair, nor for a rejection of those years. But we must face with clarity and insight the lessons to be learned from the oversimplification of any struggle for self-awareness and liberation, or we will not rally the force we need to face the multidimensional threats to our survival in the '80s."

The NATO and G8 summits are over. Their lock-step agenda intact but not unchallenged. Occupy has sprouted anew with the spring heat. A long, steamy summer's ahead. Can we integrate the insights and lessons of our predecessors into these times, into our lives, our organizing, our streets?

A closing insight from Audre Lorde: "We are not perfect, but we are stronger and wiser than the sum of our errors."

Thank you Audre Lorde.

—John Heid is a member of Tucson's Casa Mariposa Community.

## Iowans Halt Reactor Handout

The people of Iowa have pushed back and stopped an estimated \$2 billion nuclear industry Construction Work In Progress (CWIP) bill that would have charged customers in advance for a small nuclear reactor. The bill was stalled in the state senate. MidAmerica Energy's scheme involves getting ratepayers to finance the permitting, licensing and construction of a nuclear reactor before it produces any electricity. The House passed the measure 68 to 30 last year, and the senate commerce committee passed it by one vote earlier this year, but the bill is dead, as of this writing, since Iowa's full Senate didn't take up the measure before the 2012 session ended.

Wall Street and private investors aren't investing in new reactor construction. And a poll published by the Des Moines *Register and Tribune* showed that 77 percent of Iowans oppose MidAmerica's bill. Proponents of renewables have promised to defeat pronuclear legislators. Mike Carberry, in Iowa City, tells *Nukewatch* that their coalition led by Friends of the Earth Iowa, "Was able to kill the bill using a constant drumbeat of opposition." The campaign increased the number of State Senators' votes against CWIP from 16 last year to 20 this time around. The senate's Majority Leader Mike Gronstal faces a tough reelection campaign because of his past support for the scam.

Safe energy advocates worked hard to engage Iowans in the debate, making 100,000 phone calls, writing letters, doing radio interviews and raising funds for