GANESAYER

GEORGIANS AGAINST NUCLEAR ENERGY SPRING 2001

PLUTONIUM SHOWDOWN

NIX MOX showdown heats up the South. The whole world is watching. And GANE is in the thick of it.

by Glenn Carroll

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MOX. Think it's a cute l'il Pokémon beanie baby or the latest snack food craze? 'Fraid not! MOX is short for MIXED OXIDES OF PLUTONIUM AND URANIUM and is a self-serving concept of the faltering international nuclear industry to capitalize on the frightening legacy of the Cold War — surplus plutonium from nuclear weapons.

Plutonium is the man-made by-product of human experimentation with radioactive elements. It is the essential ingredient of every nuclear weapon on Earth. And an invisible speck, if inhaled, sentences its host to lung cancer. It has a hazardous life of over 250,000 years. Fittingly, it is named after Pluto, the God of Hell.

Ultimately, as we step back from the precipitous edge of nuclear holocaust, plutonium is nothing more than nuclear waste. As such, technologies to keep plutonium out of the environment and to place it in a form where it cannot be made into weapons are urgently needed. Although industry touts MOX as a plutonium disposal idea, in reality it would "burn" less than 1% of the plutonium contained in the reactor fuel while, ironically, the uranium portion of the fuel would make — more plutonium! Nuclear accidents are not only more likely in a MOX scenario — they would be more deadly.

MOX is not a new idea. It is an idea that has been rejected again and again in the past because an international plutonium industry poses an unacceptable security threat. It only takes a few pounds of plutonium to make a devastating atom bomb. And the MOX proposal would involve many tons of plutonium being handled and transported creating the risk of diversion every step of the way.

The last time the MOX idea made significant inroads to becoming reality it was illustrious Georgian Jimmy Carter who effectively tabled the idea for nearly a generation. Indeed, a MOX factory was built at Barnwell, SC, in the late '70s but never operated. It was efforts by GANE and other grassroots groups, coupled with influence from then-Governor of Georgia Carter that stopped a similar reprocessing plant (the Allied General Nuclear Services, or AGNS).

When a prototype MOX fuel factory was proposed in 1999 for the U.S. Department of Energy's nuclear weapons factory Savannah River Site (SRS) in South Carolina just across the Savannah River from Georgia, the center of the international MOX controversy moved squarely into GANE territory.

A consortium of Carolina-based Duke Energy, Cogema (a French nuclear firm which has polluted the North Atlantic Ocean with wholesale dumping of radioactive waste) and the giant engineering firm Stone & Webster (which has

continued next page

PLUTONIUM SHOWDOWN

continued from front page

been through bankruptcy twice since this MOX scheme began) have submitted a license request to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to build the MOX factory.

GANE has been working in a coalition of literally hundreds of environmental, peace and social justice organization all over the Earth. GANE is a small, all-volunteer group, but has a track record of effectiveness that belies its size. GANE's strengths in the MOX campaign are becoming increasingly evident. We have been working on nuclear issues for over 20 years. We have experience in opposing nuclear power, nuclear weapons, nuclear waste, and with the industries, bureaucracies and organizations that work in these arenas.

Significantly, we have successful experience with the NRC legal process for citizens to "intervene" and stop, or at least shape, activities which the NRC licenses. With technical and organizing support from the international NIX MOX coalition, and financial support from foundations, GANE is taking the legal role of NRC intervenor and intends to stop MOX in its tracks right here in the Southeast!

The process is just beginning. The NRC has been steadily relaxing its standards to accommodate the nuclear industry. It is an uphill battle, for sure, but then, public interest groups have always been "out-resourced" by industry while the NRC's historical role has appeared to favor industry over public health and safety.

Plutonium must be dealt with soon. GANE advocates encasing plutonium in a canister of intensely radioactive material. Called "immobilization," the solidified high-level waste will provide an effective barrier to the theft of plutonium and provide a socially meaningful mission for the experienced SRS workforce.

Fifty years into the Atomic Age, it is high time to develop the skills to cope with nuclear waste and to restore our environment to health. Even a kid knows that when you make a mess, you have to clean it up!

Glenn Carroll is coordinator of GANE and leading GANE's NRC intervention.

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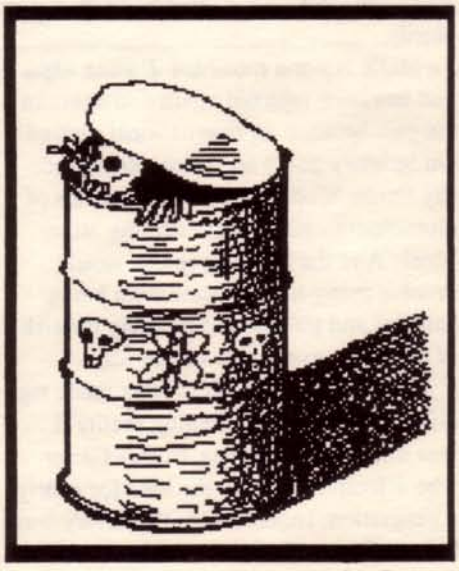

Tom Ferguson

Help GANE Stop MOX!

1 Give generously to GANE. We have been awarded a $25,000 matching grant by W. Alton Jones Foundation (*see donation form on next-to-last page*). Every dollar you give GANE is like giving two dollars!

2 Write or call our "environmental" Governor Roy Barnes. MOX is definitely on the radar screen in the State Capitol and we have a significant assist from the Georgia Sierra Club, prominent at the Georgia legislature, which just passed a resolution opposing MOX. Governor Barnes has said he thought MOX was a "done deal" and too far along to stop although he has weighed in effectively on the issues of safeguarding plutonium shipments through Georgia (*see article page 3*) and cleaning up tritium contamination in Georgia groundwater from earlier activities at SRS. Let's help him feel the power of his office by encouraging him to weigh in on this prominant international issue. Remind Barnes that every Georgia governor since Jimmy Carter has called for a moratorium on new production activities at SRS until environmental restoration is accomplished and that Carter stopped MOX after a MOX factory was built! Handwritten letters are still the most powerful but any and every contact helps enormously.

The Honorable Roy Barnes
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PLUTONIUM DISPOSITION AT SAVANNAH RIVER SITE

Georgia Environmental Protection Division Concerns and DOE Response

by Jim Hardeman

On January 4, 2000 the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) issued a Record of Decision (ROD) for the Surplus Plutonium Disposition Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) regarding the disposition of some 50 metric tons of weapons-surplus plutonium. In this decision, DOE announced that it would immobilize approximately 17 metric tons of surplus plutonium (in high-level radioactive waste glass) and would convert up to 33 metric tons of plutonium to mixed oxide (MOX) fuel for use in commercial nuclear power reactors. DOE selected the Savannah River Site (SRS) near Aiken, South Carolina, as the location for the three new facilities required for plutonium disposition: a facility to disassemble weapons components (pits) and convert plutonium metal to an oxide; a facility to convert plutonium to a chemical form which can be immobilized; and a facility to fabricate mixed oxide (MOX) fuel.

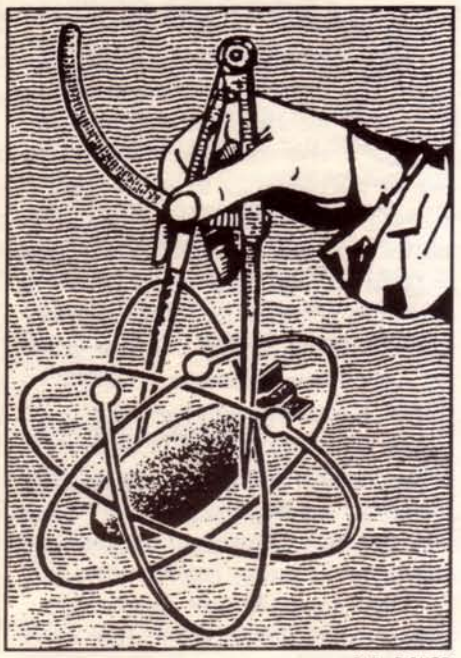
As a result of this decision, hundreds, perhaps even thousands, of classified plutonium shipments will be moving along Georgia's highways over the next few years, transporting weapons components and plutonium-bearing wastes from Hanford, Rocky Flats, and Pantex to SRS for disposition. Unlike commercial spent fuel shipments, however, even state officials responsible for emergency preparedness and radiological protection will be unaware of shipment schedules (even in a very general sense) or routes.

The Record of Decision and the FEIS discount, and in some cases completely ignore, comments that the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) provided to DOE in 1998 in response to the Surplus Plutonium Disposition Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). EPD raised a number of issues in these comments. Of particular significance were EPD's comments regarding the manner in which DOE analyzed facility and transportation accidents, including: DOE's assumption that transportation accidents will occur only in rural settings; DOE's failure to consider radiation doses to emergency response personnel; DOE's failure to consider the consequences of plutonium deposition resulting from either a facility or transportation accident; and DOE's failure to address malevolent acts as accident initiators. EPD also commented regarding the inadequacy of DOE emergency response plans and procedures, both for fixed facility and transportation accidents.

In dismissing Georgia's comments regarding transportation accidents, DOE's argument appears to be that since there haven't been any "serious" accidents involving safeguarded shipments, such accidents will not occur in the future, and that Georgia should not be concerned about the consequences, either to emergency response personnel (although neither they nor the convoy crew will likely have at their disposal the specialized equipment required to monitor for weapons-grade plutonium) or the general public.

DOE is particularly insensitive to EPD's concerns regarding malevolent acts (including "insider sabotage"). EPD noted in its comments that in many accident scenarios, the amount of hazardous or radioactive material available for release is directly related to the duration of the release. EPD contends that an "insider" could take actions designed to thwart incident detection and mitigation, significantly increasing the duration of a release, and thus its severity. DOE dismissed EPD's concerns regarding malevolent acts, including "insider sabotage," as "conjecture," and limited the estimated consequences of spills, transfer errors, and similar accidents by assuming, for the sake of analysis, that all such events can and will be detected and mitigated within 10 minutes.

In its comments, EPD noted than the deposition of radioactive materials, particularly plutonium, can result in significant public radiation exposure, and may require extreme protective measures, such as long-term condemnation of agricultural products or interdiction of land, to prevent such exposure. DOE, however, dismisses EPD's comments by claiming that the radiation doses due to plutonium



P17 / FISHER

inhalation would be greater than doses due to deposition, and thus, that deposition needn't be considered. (EPD contends that short-term protective measures such as evacuation or sheltering in limited areas, provided that DOE notifies offsite authorities in a timely manner, will minimize doses due to inhalation.) Besides, DOE replied, the consequences of radioactive material deposition would be predominantly "economic." DOE, however, indicated in previous correspondence on emergency preparedness activities at SRS, that the deposition of radioactive materials were "environmental" issue.

The examples listed above are just a small sample of the concerns that EPD has regarding the transportation of weapons-grade plutonium to SRS, and its subsequent storage and disposition. EPD will continue to monitor DOE's activities in this area and will periodically make its findings public.

Jim Hardeman is manager of Georgia's Environmental Radiation Program. Jim and his staff are the primary state responders to accidents involving radioactive materials, and responsible for environmental radiation monitoring around nuclear facilities.

sunplugged

by Ed Witkin

Since 1992 I have lived with my wife, two daughters and assorted animals in our passive and active solar house. We are not connected to the electrical power grid but rely on photovoltaic panels for all of our electricity. A photovoltaic (solar electric) generator provided the electricity for all of the tools I used to build the house. (I built this solar generator while living in Atlanta in the late 1980s. It was originally used to provide power for PA equipment for outdoor music events.) In addition to using solar electricity our house is designed with the sun in mind for passive heating and cooling, natural lighting, and hot water.

There are 20 48-watt photovoltaic panels mounted on the roof. They cover an area of about 100 square feet (4' X 25'). The electricity produced when sunlight strikes the panels is carried to a battery bank in the basement. The battery bank consists of 8 Surette lead acid, deep-cycle batteries. The electricity flows to and from the batteries via a power control center, which monitors the power and also has fuses and circuit breakers for the system. The house is wired like an "ordinary" house, and most of our appliances run on standard 115-volt AC current. A power inverter turns the DC power stored in the batteries to AC power used by the various appliances. I designed this photovoltaic system to give us the electricity we need even during the periods of cloudy weather we can expect in Connecticut. The battery bank stores enough power to last us for about seven days with no sun.

The electrical loads in our household include the pump for our water, a washing machine (horizontal axis), drier (propane heated, electrically turned), refrigerator-freezer (Sun Frost highly efficient), fans, heating circulator pump, stereo, computer, ceiling fan, shop vacuum, power tools, lights (compact fluorescent bulbs), hair drier and iron. We don't have a microwave, toaster oven, or a dishwasher. We have chosen not to use these appliances but they could be incorporated into a solar electric system. However, more solar panels and batteries would be needed.

During the nine years we have lived in the house the sun has provided ample electricity for all of our electrical needs. There have been only six instances when we have had to rely on a back-up generator to charge our batteries, during extended periods of cloudy weather. The total running time of the generator has been about 60 hours.

Ed Witkin

Solar hot water panels utilize the sun's warmth to heat about 80% of our yearly hot water. A propane fired hot water heater boosts the temperature of the water coming out of the solar hot water tank if it is not hot enough. During the summer months, we turn off this propane water heater as the solar hot water collectors provide all the hot water we need.

For heating the living areas in our house we have a combination of passive solar heat, which comes directly through the windows from the sun, a wood stove, and radiant floor heating. Radiant floor heating uses hot water, which is circulated through tubing under the floor. This is an efficient and comfortable type of heating system, which has become an increasingly popular type heating system for all types of buildings, and even driveways and parking lots.

We tend to be aware of the location of the sun throughout the year. As the seasons move from winter into spring, we enjoy the days as the sun follows an increasingly higher path above the horizon. More hours of sunlight bring us more electricity, heat and hot water. In the summertime, when the sun is high in the sky, there are overhangs above the south-facing windows, which block out the direct sun from entering the house. This helps to keep the house cool.

In comparing our lifestyle with other people, it is evident that we use significantly less energy, particularly electrical, than the average family in America. On a typical day we may use only three or four kilowatt-hours of electricity. This is less than a standard full-size refrigerator uses in a day! The average family uses about 20 kilowatt-hours a day.

It should be noted that in order to keep our electrical consumption to a minimum we have avoided the use of resistance heat sources such as electric stoves, electrical heating, electrically heated drier, etc. We use compact fluorescent lights, which consume about a quarter of the electricity of incandescent lights. We try not to leave on unnecessary lights, water and appliances.

We are a nation that is currently using energy and destroying our natural resources at an alarming rate. The environmental, political, and social implications of our actions can be overwhelming, but we do have choices. If we all take a close look at our energy consumption habits, seek ways to use less energy in our daily lives, and choose efficient appliances and vehicles, we can make an enormous difference. Solar power, and other forms of renewable energy, can provide us with all the energy need. It's up to all of us to make it happen.

Ed Witkin moved with his family from Atlanta to Connecticut several years ago and is a manager with Solar Works, Inc. which specializes in the design and installation of photovoltaic, solar thermal and wind energy systems.

Invest in Clean Energy (ICE) Proposal

by Robin Mills

America has eliminated lead paint, leaded gas, lead pipes, asbestos, CFCs and DDT. We have discovered problems and solved them. America has many more problems — acid rain, global warming, ozone depletion and asthma-causing air pollution. We will solve these problems, too. I don't know when or how, but I do believe "It is inevitable!"

As a stockholder in several large energy corporations I have a shareholder initiative which is on the shareholder ballots for annual meetings this spring. The Invest in Clean Energy (ICE) Proposal promotes a gradual plan of small steps towards a goal.

Clean energy is possible! We can focus mirrors on a boiler to make steam that drives electric generating turbines. We can build wind turbines that generate electricity or pump water into a reservoir for later energy use. We are a free people who have a choice. I ask you to join me in a choice — clean energy — now.

Our utilities make many objections. It costs too much. There isn't enough wind and sun in the service area. It isn't reliable. Wind and sun energy aren't good for dividends and stock values.

How much does free fuel cost?!

Investing in an energy source that uses free fuel like the sun and the wind will always be a good investment. The public already supports wind and solar energy by large majorities according to surveys. The stock price of our utilities is based in large part on the confidence that the public has in the company. Wind and solar are the smart paths for survival for any utility. I affirm it again, "It is inevitable that America will develop clean energy!"

I advocate building solar facilities atop old landfills, at nuclear test sites and plants, atop toxic waste dumps, brownfields and strip-mined lands. Solar can be put atop the roofs of many homes and businesses. Wind makes sense atop transmission poles, mountaintops, near hydroelectric reservoirs, in farmers' fields and at current electric generating plants. By intelligent siting of solar and wind facilities the utilities can maximize existing infrastructure. When there is a will, America can find a way.

The Invest in Clean Energy (ICE) Proposal is on the ballot at these four large utilities.

- Constellation Energy
  Baltimore, Maryland, April 27
- Duke Energy
  Charlotte, North Carolina, April 26
- Progress Energy
  Raleigh, North Carolina, May 9
- Southern Co.
  Savannah, Georgia, May 25

These four companies have 1.3 million stockholders. If the ICE Proposal passes it will result in up to $50 billion being spent on renewable, clean energies over a 20-year period! Many mutual funds hold stocks in energy corporations. Please contact your mutual funds managers and urge them to support the ICE Proposal.

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ICE PROPOSAL
INVEST IN CLEAN ENERGY

Be it resolved that the Company shall invest sufficient resources to build new electrical generation from solar and wind power sources to replace approximately one percent (1%) of system capacity yearly for the next 20 years with the goal of having the company producing 20% of generation capacity from clean renewable sources in 20 years.

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

Utility deregulation demands the Company present a good public image, and the public is demanding progress towards clean energy.

Efforts must be made to slow down changes in global climate so that we can continue to survive on Planet Earth.

The proposal allows flexibility in schedule for the Board of Directors to implement this proposal. The 20% figure is just a reasonable and conservative goal to aim for.

A 1% yearly addition to generation capacity allows for small pilot plants to be built and tried as the program advances.

Although initial building costs might be larger, solar and wind power sources do not require the purchase of fuel, which can make these additions to generation capacity very attractive economically over the long term, especially if the cost of fossil fuels rises. The company should look to building facilities that are made to last a long time.

A 1% annual building program of solar and wind power generation facilities would translate to annual additions in the 100 to 200 megawatt range. Solar power towers, wind farms, solar photovoltaic arrays and parabolic solar troughs already exist in other places in this range of power production, proving that the company could realistically build such facilities.

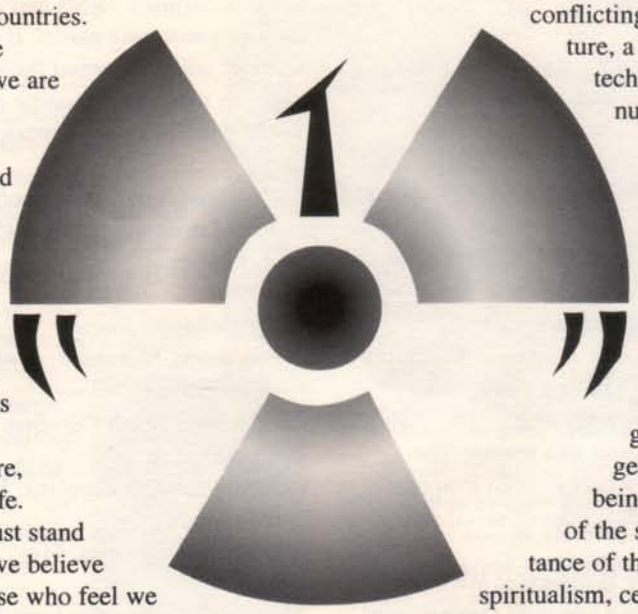
Robert B. Mills - Stockholder
Exelon, Dominion, Duke,
Carolina Power & Light, Southern Company,
and Constellation Energy Group

OHNGO GAUDADEH DEVIA AWARENESS


Margene Bullcreek

The opposition to the nation's most dangerous health effect of radiation is human concern not only in the State of Utah but throughout the world. There is also opposition to uranium tailings storage, the uprooting of natural environment by mining, and the disturbing of ancestral burial grounds.

These are all on Native American land in Utah, Nevada and throughout the United States and other indigenous countries.



As Native Americans, we are significant, never before have we stood up and demanded protection for our people, our environment. Today there is a threat to Mother Nature, our way of life. Today we must stand up for what we believe in: to tell those who feel we have nothing they are wrong, to say we are underprivileged is wrong, to say we are economically deprived is wrong.

Wrong to hide behind the word "sovereignty" to bring waste of nuclear power plants. The waste storage will bring devastation to our people and to our future generation. The future does not have any part in today's decision. But they [future generation] will have a part to plan for major cleanup. They will put up with the health defects such as cancer, deformation, because the elements in nuclear energy will breakdown everyone's immune system where healthy cells can't build, or the blood can't pump nutrients to the major parts of the body.

Taking the true sense of sovereignty out of Native Americans, out of their culture and traditions, will cause detribalization when we lose our customs. Furthermore with the major change in our livelihood is the sure way to an acculturation as we advance toward a more conflicting modern culture, a culture of technology of nuclear.

We have a very unique heritage. Being a Native American, listening to the stories passed from generation to generation, and being the protector of the sacred importance of the eagles, spiritualism, ceremonies of purification are all everyone needs to preserve. We know what is important to our Native American heritage. What we don't know is what Private Fuel Storage Limited Liability Company* will be doing behind their walls if there is an accident whether its cause is mechanical or man-made accident and how it would cause an impact on our medicine wheel in four areas: 1) Physical, 2) Mental, 3) Emotional and 4) Spiritual.

Ohngo Gaudadeh Devia Awareness says NO! to storage of the highly radioactive spent fuel rods on the Skull Valley Reservation. We need to protect our culture, tradition, heritage and our plants, animals, air, water and our future generation and their future economic development.

— Margene Bullcreek
Skull Valley Band
Goshutes

* **Private Fuel Storage LLC is a consortium of eight private utilities led by Southern Company which has made a secret deal with certain Goshute tribal members to store the United States' inventory (40,000 tons) of high-level radioactive waste from nuclear power plants on sacred land in the Skull Valley of Utah on the Goshute reservation. This controversial for-profit scheme is bitterly opposed by the political leadership of Utah including Governor Mike Leavitt. Members of Margene's tribe of 175 individuals are evenly divided on the issue, splitting along family lines.**

DECIDE TO NETWORK

Decide to network
Use every letter you write
Every conversation you have
Every meeting you attend
To express your fundamental beliefs and dreams
Affirm to others the vision of the world you want
Network through thought
Network through action
Network through love
Network through the spirit
You are the center of a network
You are the center of the world
You are a free, immensely powerful source
of life and goodness
Affirm it
Spread it
Radiate it
Think day and night about it
And you will see a miracle happen:
the greatness of your own life.
In a world of big powers, media, and monopolies
But of five billion individuals
Networking is the new freedom
the new democracy
a new form of happiness.

Robert Muller

NUKE NOTES
will return in Summer 2001 GANESAYER

YUCCA MOUNTAIN UPDATE

Yucca Mountain, 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas, Nevada (the fastest growing city in the nation), is the only site under consideration to store the nation's high level nuclear waste. Congressional politics singled out Yucca Mountain in the 1987 amendments to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA). An independent poll done by the University of Nevada at Reno and Las Vegas indicated that over 79% of Nevadans do not support the project because it is based on politics, not science.

Since the study of Yucca Mountain began, serious flaws have been discovered including earthquakes, volcanic activity, and unanswered questions about groundwater movement. The Western Shoshone to whom Yucca Mountain is sacred call it "serpent swimming westward" speaking of its constant movement. These issues show that it would be very difficult, if not impossible, for the site to meet the established laws, scientific and technical guidelines and criteria, and human health standards for groundwater and radiation. Consequently, the "fix" for this dilemma has been to change or eliminate all these regulations to accommodate the deficiencies at the site.

The current design concept for Yucca Mountain is almost entirely reliant upon manmade, "engineered barriers" such as the waste casks that have not been fully tested and the research has proven that the mountain would provide less than 10% of the nuclear waste containment over the licensing period of 10,000 years. So, the mountain itself will not contain the waste. The question is not IF radioactivity would escape into the environment, but rather WHEN. Thus, the Yucca Mountain Project now endeavors to delay the escape of radioactive isotopes through engineered barriers to keep the exposure within regulatory limits for the licensing period of 10,000 years. This approach violates the intent of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act that the intrinsic nature of the site itself provide primary waste isolation.

You won't find a bunch this savvy this close to a real nuclear cask! GANE (far right) joined the Nuclear-Free Great Lakes Action Camp in Michigan for a week of organizing, protest and all-right-we-admit-it-get-down FUN in August 2001!

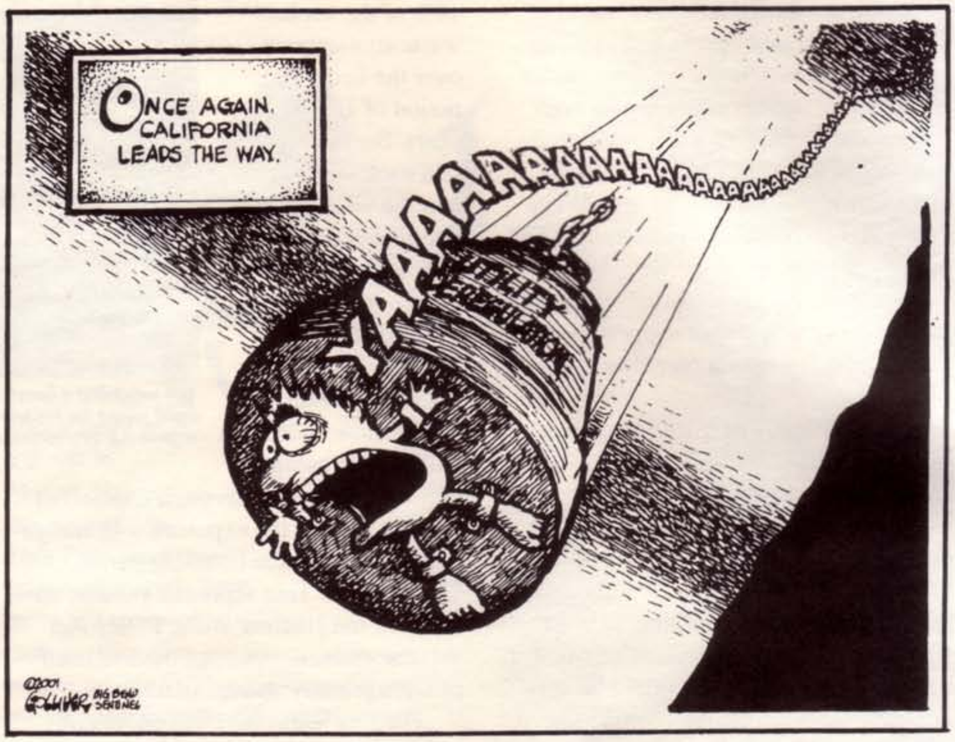
The Las Vegas business community has recently become involved in opposing the dump and occasionally one hears former dump proponents in Washington, D.C. refer to the increasing likelihood that nuclear waste will indeed not ever be taken to Yucca Mountain. Currently, DOE's work to move the site through regulatory hurdles is mired in scandal and serious allegations of predetermined "findings" that the site is suitable. Alarming statistics have surfaced about the number of trucks that travel illegally through dangerous intersections such as Hoover Dam raising similar questions in Nevada to other states in the nation which have moved to strengthen regulations in the case of nuclear waste shipments.

Citizen Alert appreciates the efforts of groups like GANE in communities all through the U.S. which have brought Yucca Mountain to the attention of their local leaders and representatives in Washington. The new administration in Washington is renewing efforts to open Yucca Mountain and put high-level nuclear waste on the roads and rails to our state which doesn't even have any nuclear power plants! Please keep up your efforts that help us defend our home.

— John Hadder and Kalynda Tilges
Citizen Alert Las Vegas
702-743-8523

CALIFORNIA AND THE SO-CALLED ENERGY CRISIS:

by Harvey Wasserman



The California's deregulatory meltdown will likely cost its ratepayers some $60 billion, for which they will get virtually nothing in return.

The 1996 law that threw the state into chaos was written by the utilities now claiming bankruptcy. It has allowed them to launder more than $20 billion to their parent companies, with no accountability. Though they spent $40 million to defeat a 1998 statewide green-sponsored referendum that would have repealed this madness, the power companies and their media minions continue to blame the public and the environmental movement for the mess. Another $20-40 billion has been stolen by Enron, Reliant and other gas companies close to George Bush, who manipulated power supplies while federal regulatory agencies and California's Democratic Governor Gray Davis did nothing.

The economic and ecological shock waves of this tragedy will reverberate for decades. But for pure psychotic fantasy, none can exceed its use as a pretext to build more nuclear power plants.

For weeks now the corporate media has been filled with "too cheap to meter" bombast. Pompous talk show bloviators have spun reactors as an "overlooked" oasis of energy. Most recently, the right-wing WEEKLY STANDARD has carried a massive, profoundly inaccurate tome on the alleged need for a nuclear revival.

But lets look at some practical realities.

To begin with, the crisis in California was actually CAUSED by atomic power. The deregulatory impulse first came from big industrial users and gas companies who meant to undercut the state's utilities, which couldn't compete because of their huge reactor investments.

The utilities countered by whining to a bought state legislature that their reactors required a bail out. So deregulation came with $28.5 billion in "stranded costs" tagged on for those bum nukes. Thus far more than $20 billion has been taken from ratepayers and bagged off to parent corporations.

And now, those nukes have suddenly become "economic" in the eyes of the same media that supported their being bailed out. But that very media somehow missed the February 3 fire that knocked out San Onofre Unit Three, near Los Angeles, causing untold millions in damage. A full report is due one of these days from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, from which we may or may not learn what actually happened. We do know that in an instant, fully a quarter of the state's reactor capacity disappeared, bringing down the capacity to power more than a million homes.

As we saw at Three Mile Island and Chernobyl, no other technology can do so much damage so instantaneously.

The green community bitterly opposed reactors at both San Onofre and Diablo Canyon, demanding the billions spent there be used instead for solar power, wind, efficiency and conservation. Had their advice been followed, California would now be energy self-sufficient.

Indeed, as early as 1952, the Truman Administration's Paley Commission asked the U.S. to build itself a solar future, predicting 15 million sun-heated homes by 1975. But Dwight Eisenhower's "Atoms for Peace" program intervened the next year. More than a trillion dollars has since been squandered on atomic power, for which we now receive a paltry 20 percent of our electricity.

In the late 1970s the safe energy movement again pushed for massive investments in renewables and efficiency. This time the Reagan Administration sent a booming wind and solar industry pack-

The economic and ecological shock waves of the tragic California deregulatory meltdown will reverberate for decades. But for pure psychotic fantasy, none can exceed its use as a pretext to build more nuclear power plants.

The Psychotic Attempt to Bring Back Atomic Energy

At 2.5 cents/kilowatt-hour, wind is now the cheapest and fastest-to-build form of new electric power generation, with capacity growing worldwide at 25 percent per year.

ing to Denmark, Germany, Japan and Israel.

At 2.5 cents/kilowatt-hour, wind is now the cheapest and fastest-to-build form of new electric power generation, with capacity growing worldwide at 25 percent per year. In 2000 Germany alone installed some 1300 megawatts, more than what's generated by any single U.S. nuke.

Between the Rockies and the Mississippi, as well as offshore and in hundreds of eastern locations, the U.S. has more than enough wind potential to generate its entire electrical supply more cheaply and more quickly than any other source. Photovoltaic cells, which convert sunlight directly to electricity, are more expensive. But with a large-scale industrial infrastructure, they offer the secure promise of clean energy independence. And increased efficiency — we still waste half of what we burn — can save energy far more cheaply than we can generate it with any new source.

But in the face of all that, the hugely financed nuclear power industry persists.

So lets look at some practical realities. Building any new nuke anywhere in the United States would take a minimum of five years. Even with a site approved tomorrow, and zero public opposition, the physical act of getting a new reactor on line could in fact take up to a decade.

In the interim, wind power will even further outstrip atomic power. Photovoltaics will also pull way ahead.

Strangely, much of the nuclear hype has been on a new technology called "Pebble Bed Reactors." The rhetoric is familiar: inherently safe, too cheap to meter, no environmental impact. But no such operating reactors exist today. There was one pebble bed prototype in Germany. It's now shut. Another may be built in South Africa, but that will take five years.

The much-vaunted "breeder" technology, meant to produce more fuel than it used, is a certified failure, with dead reactors in France, Germany and Japan standing as mute (but radioactive) testimony.

Meanwhile, some 500 less exotic "light water" reactors have been built worldwide since the 1950s. By downplaying the technology on which it's relied for a half-century in favor of an untested new design, what is the industry trying to tell us?

Right now it's boasting about alleged low operating costs and high efficiencies. But with utility deregulation has come the abandonment of nuclear safety standards. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission exists only as a rubber stamp for license extensions on decaying nukes that cry out for retirement. With official approval, staff and maintenance are being slashed. Today's reactor industry is a runaway train, flying down a steep incline with no brakes, setting speed records along the way, but headed for a predictable end.

Yet even without factoring in unknown future costs for radioactive waste management, health impacts and the inevitable meltdowns, increased efficiency and conservation are cheaper. So is wind power. And photovoltaics will join them long before the first "new generation" reactor can come on line, no matter which breed of this failed technology gets the nod. A combination of these renewables and efficiencies would allow communities and individual homes and businesses to control their own power supply, independent of the oil, gas and utility companies. Which is the real reason for this nuclear diversion, just as it was 50 years ago.

Harvey Wasserman is author of ***The Last Energy War: The Battle of Utility Deregulation*** *(Seven Stories Press: 1-800-596-7437). Harvey is senior advisor to Greenpeace USA and Nuclear Information & Resource Service.*

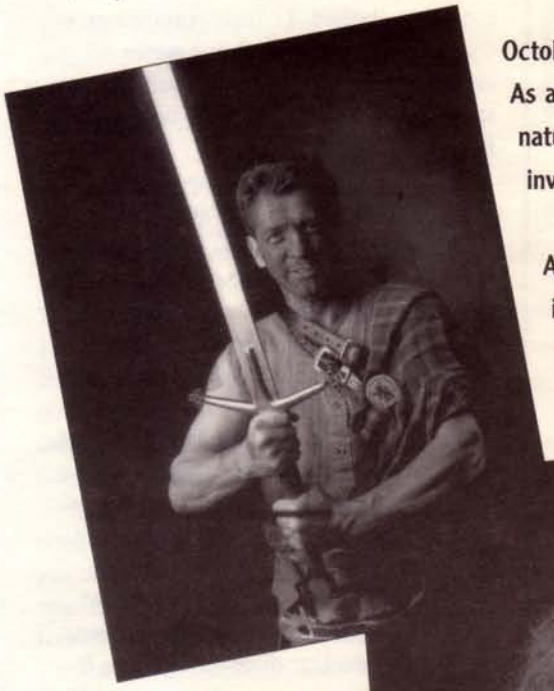
NUMBERS TELL THE STORY

BUSH'S ENERGY TRANSITION TEAM

63 - team members
59 - men
4 - women
50 - represent energy supply industries
1 - energy efficiency expert
0 - renewable energy experts
27 - represent oil and gas industry
17 - represent nuclear power or uranium mining industries
16 - represent electricity industry
7 - represent coal industry
3 - represent Peabody Coal and its subsidiaries
1 - represents public-interest group
8 - "Bush Pioneers" who raised over $100,000 for Bush's campaign
$8,007,479 - total Republican campaign contributions from team members
$127,103 - average contribution per team member

research conducted by CLEAR, the Clearinghouse of Environmental Advocacy and Research.
202-201-7515. daniel.barry@mindspring.com

HALLOWEEN TORCH PASSES



October 2000 saw the passing of the hallowed GANE party torch to Inman Pre-School. As a board member, father and long-time supporter of Inman Pre-School, John Rick's natural inclination to throw the world's greatest Halloween party aligns with his personal involvement with another popular community organization.

As GANE's funding horizons move towards foundation support to conduct the legal intervention to stop MOX, we wish to thank John, Patti Kunkle and Woody Jones for including us in the coolest fundraiser in town for so many, many years!

photography: Tom W. Meyer
404-377-1774
twm@mindspring.com

Thanks to these hard-working folks for volunteering at the 1999 party: Judy Arnold, Adrian Bernal, Allison Romans, Genie Brazzeal, Julia Brookes, Glenn Carroll, Bill Chelton, Bob Darby, Tom Ferguson, David George, Jonathan Harris, Zack Harrison, Dennis Hoffarth, Judi Holley, Rita Kilpatrick, David McBride, Patrick Malone, Bob Paine, Peter Paluch, Leigh Scherberger, Stephen Wing, Bob Woodall and photo folks Tom Meyer and Judy Parady.

NO NUKES, Y'ALL!

NOW IS A GREAT TIME TO SUPPORT GANE AND NIX MOX

GANE has been awarded a $25,000 matching grant
by W. Alton Jones Foundation
to conduct the legal intervention to stop MOX
(see cover story).

This means that every dollar you give —
gives GANE two dollars!

Please show your support for GANE's
globally significant effort to
NIX MOX once and for all!

Your generous donation supports GANE's role
in the global NIX MOX campaign.
Help us finance legal research and writing,
expert witnesses, public meetings, networking,
printing, postage and phone.

NIX

I support GANE's project to NIX MOX!

☐ $15 ☐ $30 ☐ $50 ☐ $100 ☐ $250 ☐ $500 ☐ $1000 ☐ $_____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

e-mail _____

Double your money.
Give generously to GANE today!

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MOX

SOUTHERN COMPANY: *Don't Waste Native Lands*

Southern Company has an unholy scheme worming its way through the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission licensing process — plans to dump the nation's 40,000 tons of high-level nuclear waste on a tiny band of Indians in Utah.

Private Fuel Storage (PFS), a consortium of eight nuclear utilities including Southern Company has made a secret deal with the Goshute Tribe of the Skull Valley which it cynically hides behind a mask of tribal sovereignty. PFS seeks profit from leasing dry-cask storage space to other utilities to store radioactive wastes that will be lethal for 250,000 years on the Goshute Reservation in Utah. The storage technology PFS plans to employ is similar to what many utilities including Southern Company are instituting at the generating site as their irradiated fuel pools fill and Federal programs for high-level nuclear waste storage continue to be stymied by public resistance.

The 175 members of the Skull Valley Band of Goshutes are deeply divided along family lines. Utah's political leaders are fiercely opposed and Governor Mike Leavitt has vowed that nuclear waste will enter his state "only over my dead body."

Southern Company's invocation of "tribal sovereignty" may run afoul of laws which prohibit the export of nuclear waste. In any event, it is the consensus of the civilized world that it is unconscionable for rich nations to dump on poor nations. Formal opposition to PFS' plan includes an environmental justice lawsuit.

GANE has a delivered a petition signed by hundreds of concerned ratepayers to Georgia's Public Service Commission calling for assurance that ratepayer money is not used to pay for this shameful project. GANE contends that shareholders and not ratepayers must shoulder Southern Company's expenses associated with PFS.

In Massachusetts, a similar effort prompted Boston Edison to drop out of PFS.

Safe methods for on-site storage must be developed for nuclear waste. Irradiated fuel rods can be given a 30 to 50 year cooling-off period on-site in which both thermal temperatures and radiation levels will fall off significantly allowing for safer handling in the future. Meanwhile, an intense national inquiry into effective nuclear waste management must be undertaken immediately and sustained until the problem is addressed.

— Glenn Carroll

NEWS FLASH!

Southern Company has announced plans to seek a license from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to pre-approve a site for a new nuclear plant. It is widely assumed that Plant Vogtle which was approved in the late '70s for four nuclear plants of which only two were constructed is the site under consideration. Pursuit of new nuclear plants flies in the face of Southern's acknowledged nuclear waste problem and diverts precious financial resources from developing green energies in a region awash in nuclear waste and harmful greenhouse gases.

TAKE ACTION ON NUCLEAR WASTE

Please help the Goshutes stand firm against the gigantic, rich consortium PFS with these simple actions:

- Write Southern Company CEO Allen Franklin, 270 Peachtree Street, NW, Atlanta, GA 30303 and urge him to get with the times and start phasing out dirty coal and nuclear plants in favor of renewable energies — wind and solar power. Demand that Southern Company abandon the unethical Private Fuel Storage scheme.
- If you own Southern Company stock, or mutual funds, support the ICE Proposal to invest in clean energy (*story on page 5*).

GANESAYER
GEORGIANS AGAINST NUCLEAR ENERGY
P.O. BOX 8574 • ATLANTA, GA 30306
404-378-GANE

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