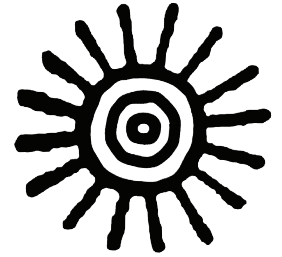


SUMMER 2020

www.nukebusters.org



The CAN-Did Press

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CITIZENS AWARENESS NETWORK
ACT TODAY TO CHANGE TOMORROW...

Organizing in Dark Times

In this time of pandemic CAN has adapted its strategy. We had big plans to get the word out on nuclear waste—organizing monthly road trips throughout New England communities with our “mock” high-level nuclear waste cask; bringing up organizers from the Southwest and Washington, DC to tell their story; planning a fall extended tour to spread the word to others. Before the pandemic struck, we were outreaching to climate action groups as well as environmental justice groups. We intended to share presentations on why nukes are not the answer to climate change as well as participating in their meetings and events.

All this was put on hold. What we’re doing now is creating a series of short videos to distribute to these groups to create a dialogue about the issues. For now this dialogue will be online via Zoom. We have a videographer working with us and his students from La Guardia College in New York will help with the editing.

We are working with the Shantigar Foundation to develop this project. It’s an exciting development and we’re thrilled to collaborate and support these students in their work. The first video is directed towards environmental groups. If you’re interested in receiving a copy of the video, contact us. Our next videos will focus on issues of environmental justice, health, and nuclear waste.

We will continue to monitor decommissioning activities at



CAN’s Weekly Organizing Meetings are now on Zoom

the Vermont Yankee reactor and organize and encourage public participation in NDCAP (Nuclear Decommissioning Advisory Panel) meetings. The pandemic does provide online opportunity for public participation in these meetings.

CAN, with nation-wide grassroots groups, is organizing our fourth High-level Nuclear Waste Summit meeting to be held through a series of webinars and Zoom calls this Fall.

We couldn’t do this work without you. Thank you.

-Deb Katz, Executive Director, Citizens Awareness Network

The Unacceptable Nature of Nuclear Power

The question of how reactors operate and how corporations dispose of waste is central to issues of democracy, pollution prevention and reduction, site remediation, and environmental equity. It involves ethical issues of environmental justice. CAN confronts these issues from the perspective of a contaminated community. We speak as citizens in the contamination pathways of reactors. Our low income, rural community was host to two nuclear power stations which have now become two high level nuclear waste dumps. We also live in the shadow of nuclear reactors throughout the Northeast corridor. We fight from the perspective of a sacrificed community. Our experience is informed by our history of denial, intimidation, ignorance, fear, and an epidemic of disease over a fifty-year period.

Communities chosen to suffer nuclear contamination are
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Nuclear Workers Are Essential to Public Safety Tell Our Leaders to Protect Them

When we think about frontline or essential workers during the Covid-19 pandemic, we often think of doctors, nurses, grocery clerks, bus drivers, and others who perform critical services and can’t work from home. But there are some frontline workers that haven’t been mentioned a lot in the news: nuclear workers.

Nuclear workers already work under dangerous conditions during normal times. But under the shadow of the Covid-19 pandemic, they face even more risk. Nuclear workers are being required to show up at their facilities, exposing themselves not only to dangerous radiation, but also to potential virus carriers.

Nuclear workers are often working without social distancing measures or even the personal protective equipment (PPE)

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VT Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel

The Vermont Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel (NDCAP) is meeting with less frequency these days. At the meeting held (via Skype) on May 4, 2020, NorthStar reported that work was continuing on the reactor vessel segmentation and shipment of radioactive components to WCS (Waste Control Specialists) in West Texas.

The Department of Public Service reviewed financial reports for 2019 and reported that the status of the Decommissioning Trust Fund was in line with expectations at this point in the process.

Vice Chair Lissa Weinmann raised the issue of spent fuel storage and she pointed out that the panel had signed onto a letter with other Yankee nuclear sites calling for rapid removal and transport of the irradiated fuel to a Centralized Interim Storage (CIS) facility. She also pointed out that the panel did not have adequate discussion or review of the subject before signing the document. The Vice Chair called for a vote as to whether the panel should have a more thorough review of issues surrounding spent fuel storage. The panel voted 8 – 4 against further educating itself on this important issue! Perhaps the panel would benefit from some public input as to the need to address the environmental justice issues raised by Centralized Interim Storage, as well as the need to better protect the fuel filled casks here in Vermont.

The next NDCAP meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 21, 2020. It will likely be held via a remote digital platform.

- Chris Williams, VTCAN Organizer
CAN Board Member, NIRS Board Chair

In Memoriam: Mitzi Bowman



Mitzi Bowman passed February 14, 2020 at Barre Gardens, Barre, VT, with her family by her side. Born in New York City on July 27, 1924, she was 95 years of age. Over the years she also lived in New York State, England, Connecticut, Nova Scotia and Vermont.

A dynamic, strong willed crusader for anything to do with peace and justice, civil rights, and solar energy, she fought to create a better world. She was

a passionate anti nuclear activist beginning in the early 70s. With her husband Pete, she fought along with CAN for the closure of the Millstone reactors in CT. When she moved to VT she focused on the closure and cleanup of Vermont Yankee. She loved music, was an artist, hiker, lifeguard, animal lover, sailor, organic gardener and loved lively political arguments. She joined the Air Force at 19 years old during WWII where she taught soldiers to swim. Widowed twice, she died on Valentine's Day—as did her second beloved husband, Pete, years before.

Rest in Power.

Nuclear Workers

Continued from page 1

necessary to keep them safe from the pandemic. Hundreds—if not thousands—of these workers across the country have already been infected with the virus. For example, there's been a Covid-19 outbreak at the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station in Port Gibson, Mississippi, where there were already 89 confirmed cases of Covid-19 two weeks ago. At the Hanford Site in Washington State—dubbed by NBC News “the most toxic place in America”—workers are terrified of what awaits them when they go back to work:

“When you come back to work, what's the expectation [for protections]?” asked a maintenance and operations worker at Hanford, who asked not to be identified by the Guardian to protect his job. “There are none.”

“There's no way to keep that social distancing. You're right up in somebody's face, they're breathing on you, they're sweaty,” said the technician, who asked to remain anonymous for fear of retaliation at work.

The pandemic has also delayed major projects at radioactive waste sites across the country. For example, Covid-19 has temporarily halted most physical work on major waste projects scheduled for this year at the Energy Department's Idaho National Laboratory and Savannah River Site in South Carolina. This means that many workers who would've taken part in those projects are now unemployed—but because they're contractors, they may not be receiving unemployment benefits.

There's a consistent theme to what is happening. On the one hand, the nuclear industry is postponing things that have an environmental and/or nuclear safety purpose: safety inspections, waste cleanup, etc. We have no objection to this because it's necessary to postpone these things to protect workers. On the other hand, the industry is pressing forward with things that are not essential and are generally being done to protect profits at the expense of worker and public health and safety.

Nuclear workers need protection, but most nuclear facility owners and our leaders in Washington aren't doing anything to protect them. Nuclear workers are the first and last lines of defense for nuclear safety, and they deserve protection. That's why we created this action to tell President Trump, Vice President Pence, and your members of Congress to protect nuclear workers during the pandemic here: <https://tinyurl.com/y87f3t3v>

We oppose nuclear energy, but we support nuclear workers who should be part of a just transition to truly clean, renewable energy. That means they should be prioritized as we phase out nuclear power plants in favor of wind, solar, geothermal, and other renewables. But right now, during this pandemic emergency, nuclear workers need special protection.

- NIRS.org, Nuclear Information and Resource Service



Nuclear Power & COVID-19

Here's a new twist on the pandemic. It has to do with nuclear power. That may seem an un-likely pairing, but nuclear reactors have workers, and they can get sick just like everyone else. Every day these essential workers are in facilities that, by their radioactive nature, can create great environmental and economic harm if they are not managed very carefully.

What is happening at nuclear reactors in the midst of the pandemic? Right now there are 30 nuclear power stations in a refueling phase in which the reactor is shut down, maintenance and safety inspections are completed, and new fuel is placed in the reactor.

This requires bringing in hundreds of contract workers, who then travel on to the next refueling reactor. Yet, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is not requiring coronavirus screening or quarantining of workers prior to beginning work. Conditions in nuclear power plants make social distancing difficult, with large work crews, confined spaces, and frequent contact with equipment surfaces.

At some sites, workers have complained about lack of social distancing, sanitation, PPE, and testing. Further, since March, the NRC has granted exemptions to nuclear power generating stations to increase limits on the number of hours employees can be required to work, and to postpone scheduled safety inspections and maintenance. Eighty-six organizations, organized by the Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS.org), have sent a letter to VP Mike Pence, chair of the Coronavirus Task Force, and six federal agencies outlining the failure of the NRC to act responsibly in the face of this pandemic.

The groups call for an immediate, multi agency, industrywide response to protect workers and reactor host communities, and to ensure nuclear safety is not compromised. We at the Citizens Awareness Network feel a responsibility to let you know what's happening and what's being done by active citizens to try to protect us here in the Pioneer Valley, where the Indian Point and Seabrook reactors are just 120 miles away, and Millstone only 75.

- Ann Darling, Citizens Awareness Network

Join us on Zoom for CAN's Annual Meeting

**CAN is holding its Annual Meeting
Sunday, August 16, 2020
from 12:00 – 1:00 PM ET.**

Find out what Entergy and the nuclear industry is up to! Hear what's happening and what CAN is planning in the next year.

Speakers include Chris Williams (CAN board member), Tim Judson (CAN President and Executive Director of NIRS), and Deb Katz (Executive Director CAN).

And of course, find out what you can do!

Join the Zoom meeting at the scheduled date and time:

<https://tinyurl.com/y8bct7p4>

Meeting ID: 867 5018 0173 • Password: Nonukes

- www.nukebusters.org

Massachusetts and Gov. Baker continue to short change solar

Since the Net metering caps were maxed in 2016, the state legislature has not been able to raise them. Instead they exempted under 25kW from the Net metering cap limits.

Currently, H 2866, An Act relative to net metering for on-site renewable energy facilities, is before the House leadership. It will help to encourage more solar PV systems especially small and medium commercial systems. It exempts solar PV systems larger than 60kW (Class II and III) from the Net Metering caps. This is good, however, we need to amend it to include smaller systems 1-60kW (Class I) as well.

H 2866 will not impact the State Budget negatively. It will help businesses install solar PV systems to generate 100 percent renewable energy and save them money as well as reduce greenhouse gas emissions from electricity generation.

Additionally, H 3667, An Act relative to modern grid access and customer service will enable solar PV systems to interconnect to the grid faster and cheaper. And again at no cost to the State budget.

Calls and e-mails to your own rep, as well as Rep. Golden, Chair of Telecommunications, utilities and energy and Rep. Michlewitz, Chair of House Ways and Means, will help to move H 2866 forward. Ask for H2866 and H3667 to go to a floor vote this legislative session with an amendment to include Class I systems.

<https://malegislature.gov/Search/FindMyLegislator>

House Ways and Means Chair

Aaron.M.Michlewitz@mahouse.gov

Telecommunications, utilities and Energy Co-Chair

Thomas.Golden@mahouse.gov

You can thank Gov. Baker for holding back solar development and ownership! He has handed the utilities everything they want. If the utilities owned all the solar, we would be saturated in PV! Your representatives and senators need to hear from everyone that Solar is important in the climate change fight. It is a major component in 100% renewable energy goals for the Commonwealth. Distributed solar generation helps keep the grid reliable, resilient and sustainable and accessible to the individual ratepayer.

- Claire Chang, CAN Board Member

Solar Store of Greenfield, MA

413-772-3122 / Claire@solarstoreofgreenfield.com

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www.nukebusters.org

We Do Not Consent!

A Call To Action!

**Tell Holtec and the
Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC):
We Do Not Consent!
Submit comments to NRC by Sept. 22, 2020**

Now is the time to TAKE ACTION to stop a dishonest private company (Holtec International) from transporting all of the waste from every U.S. nuclear power plant in the country and dumping it on New Mexico!

The Nuclear Issues Study Group (NISG) urges everyone to submit comments on NRC's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Holtec's application to build the world's largest radioactive waste dump in New Mexico.

Sample Letter

We do not consent to dangerous national transport! We do not consent to storage of forever deadly waste from every nuclear power plant across the country, risking contamination to the land, water, wildlife, and people for millions of years!

To submit written comments via e-mail before September 22, 2020: Copy and paste the Sample Letter into the body of a new e-mail. This is now your letter, your voice, please personalize to make it your comment.

Copy and paste into Subject line: Docket ID NRC-2018-0052 Draft Environmental Impact Statement Comment

Enter your name at the end of the letter (address, city and state are OPTIONAL).

E-mail to: Holtec-CISFEIS@nrc.gov and please CC your elected officials and members of Congress, as well as NISG (Nuclear Issues Study Group): protectnewmexico@gmail.com.

Please note: NRC publishes all written comments online, so you may want to keep your personal contact information private.

Please act now to protect New Mexico from forever deadly "mobile Chernobyls."

*- Leona Morgan, Nuclear Issues Study Group Coordinator,
CAN Board Member*

The Unacceptable Nature of Nuclear Power

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routinely low income, rural, people of color, or Native American communities that are hard pressed to choose between health and safety and short term financial relief.

It is unacceptable:

- To force people to choose between economic survival and the sacrifice of future generations.
- For a corporation to contaminate our water, earth, and air on a routine, regular basis.
- To contaminate the water, earth, and air of another community to clean our community up.
- That radioactive pollution is an acceptable by product of nuclear energy production and that communities in the contamination pathways suffer increases in disease.

Is This What We Can Expect?



An overturned tractor trailer carrying an empty nuclear waste storage cask highlighted the dangers of moving nuclear waste. (photo from the Brattleboro Reformer)

An oversized tractor trailer load consisting of an empty nuclear waste storage cask overturned on Route 11 in Andover, Vermont on June 19, 2020. Andover is a small community in Windsor County about 60 miles north of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant, the intended destination.

These days, many heavy loads leaving Vermont Yankee do so via rail. We have to wonder why NorthStar, the plant owner, didn't have this heavy load delivered via the newly upgraded rail spur.

This accident points to problems we can expect in the future if highly radioactive spent fuel is shipped from locations all across the country to proposed "parking lot" dumps in Texas and New Mexico. A DOE contractor analyzed a potential accident with a high level nuclear waste cask shipment. If the cask was compromised, a substantial amount of radioactivity would be released leaving 60 square miles uninhabitable for decades.

CAN believes these proposals are ill conceived schemes to "solve" a problem the industry and the government are unwilling to address with a rigorous scientific program which leaves politics aside. We need a scientifically sound and environmentally just solution—not one driven by the industry's bottom line.

We need to move this dangerous cargo once, not twice.

- Chris Williams, VTCAN Organizer

CAN Board Member, NIRS Board Chair

Thank You from CAN Staff & Board

We couldn't do it without you!

*Boston Downwinders • Bob Bady • Court Dorsey
Paul Burton • Cape Downwinders • Connie Childs
Chris Nord • Ann Darling • Lionel Delevigne
Guacamole Foundation • Gerry Hersh • Michael Schreiber
New England Grassroots Environmental Fund
Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS)
Rothschild Foundation • Shantigar Foundation
Amy Shollenberger • TMTC • Van Itallie Foundation
Vermont Yankee Decommissioning Alliance*