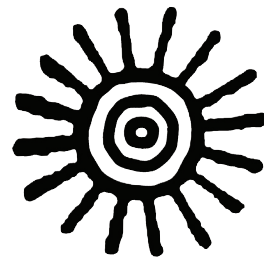


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The CAN-Did Press



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

Nuclear Free Jubilee Takes Over Brattleboro

The largest no-nukes/pro-green demonstration the tri-state region has ever seen filled the streets and Town Common in Brattleboro on Saturday, October 25th. Organized by "Safe & Green," a still less than one-year-old campaign working in coalition with CAN, Nuclear Free Vermont, and the New England Coalition, the Jubilee began with a spirited parade led by the famed Bread & Puppet Theater. Featuring two street bands, colorful banners from a dozen local towns (e.g., "Colrain, MA Says Solar Yes! Nukes No!"), and a sea of the Theater's trademark giant puppets (assembled and rehearsed the evening before with the help of over fifty volunteers), the parade snaked its way up Main Street from one end of downtown Brattleboro to the other, with smiles and cheers from bystanders all along the way.

With an estimated 500 people crowded around him on the Town Common, Bread & Puppet founder Peter Schuman led a haunting but ultimately triumphant performance of his "Resurrection Mass" in which the "bad idea" of generating electricity from splitting atoms was finally buried in the ground forever. This was followed by a two-hour rally of rousing speeches, spirited music, and a "Green Energy Fair" comprised of energy conservation and renewable energy exhibits.

Speakers included CAN's president Deb Katz, longtime no-nukes activist and "Solartopia" author Harvey Wasserman, Vermont Senate President Peter Shumlin, Vermont House Speaker and gubernatorial candidate Gaye Symington, independent gubernatorial candidate Anthony Pollina, and New York City's notorious



"Reverend Billy" of the "Church of Stop Shopping." Among the featured musicians were nationally renowned folksinger Charlie King, the Brattleboro area's own MacArthur Family string band, and the widely popular Nerissa and Katryna Nields.

As Harvey Wasserman called out to the enthusiastic crowd, "We WILL shut down Vermont Yankee! 'Solartopia' is on its way!"

-Randy Kehler, Safe and Green Campaign, rkehler@crocker.com

Hiroshima Day & Nagasaki Day Walk 2008



This was the third annual Walk for a Nuclear Free Future organized through the major cities in Vermont to make the connection between nuclear power and nuclear weapons. Jun-San, Buddhist nun from the Grafton, NY, Peace Pagoda was the spiritual leader

of the walk chanting "Na-Mu-myo-Ho-Ren-Ge-Kyo" every step of the way. Jun-San brought with her many Japanese friends who created the core group of 16 walkers. We agreed to commit every step and breath to the closure of Vermont Yankee and a world free of all nuclear power and weapons.

Our walk was graciously hosted with potluck dinners and welcome homestays in Bennington, Shrewsbury, Montpelier and Burlington. Each night we had a public showing of the Australian DVD, *Climate of Change*. This 28 minute film highlights uranium mining in Australia, which is the beginning of the nuclear fuel cycle, and takes us through all of the processes involved in the creation of nuclear power.

Our last night in Burlington climaxed with a full and spirited potluck dinner and moving panel presentation at the Burlington Quaker Meeting House.

As always, we met many new friends, reconnected with old friends, and hated to say good-bye when the walk ended on Nagasaki Day.

- Hattie Nestel, hattieshalom@verizon.net



Update from Bob Stannard

Lobbyist for the people

November 2008

Now that the elections of historic proportions are behind us we can take a breath and re-evaluate where we are. The Vermont Legislature has maintained its Democratic majority in both the House and the Senate, notwithstanding the fact that there are a few seats up for recount.

The House will elect a new Speaker, as Gaye Symington will not return after her failed bid for governor. We are monitoring the process and prospective candidates for this very powerful position. Democratic Leader Carolyn Partridge has publicly expressed interest in the job, as has Rep. Mark Larson. Rep. Floyd Nease, Assistant Democratic Leader has also been named as a possible candidate. The Speaker is elected by the General Assembly on the opening day of the session.

One of the undecided seats is in the Manchester district, which was held by Rep. Judy Livingston, R-Manchester for 14 years. As of this writing she lost that seat by only 5 votes to Jeff Wilson. Wilson previously served as Town Manager of Manchester for 17 years; one of the longest-serving Town Managers in Vermont's history. Known as a fiscal conservative, Wilson worked in the railroad industry for the past five years.

You may recall that Rep. Livingston serves as Vice Chair of the House Commerce Committee; the committee that ruled 7-4 in favor of the so-called "decommissioning" bill. Livingston was one of the "4" votes who voted against the bill in committee. Her actions raised eyebrows of many legislators because of her potential conflict of interest due to her romantic involvement with one of Entergy's key lobbyists. Many thought that she should recuse herself; instead she worked hard to kill the initiative, which even Gov. Douglas regretted vetoing, after the fact.

Since the last report we have learned that there is now more radiation emanating from the plant than prior to uprating. Instead of insisting that the plant produce less power the VT State Department of Health opted to use a new standard, which would conveniently allow for more radiation.

There is one caveat, however. State agencies are not at liberty to change the rules under which they operate without bringing the rule changes before the Administrative Rules Committee. The Health Department did not bring the rule change before this special committee. The Administrative Rules Committee met and decided that the department does, indeed, have to bring the issue before them. The outcome of these proceedings is unclear but the agency is going into the hearing process with an angry panel.

We have now learned that there are more cracks appearing in the steam dryer at the ENVY plant. Of course, the standard response has been that they are not safety related and that the cracks have been there right along. I have reason to believe that of the 62 cracks found, many appear to be new. The cracks were discovered during a recent, scheduled outage. In addition to the new cracks, it appears as though the cooling tower which is "safety related" has

been determined to have aged, rotten wood barely holding up the structure. This recent development finally brought about the ire of the Department of Public Service, which is now questioning the competence of the NRC. The NRC recently inspected the towers and offered a clean bill health for this cooling tower.

On November 19, the newly elected members of the General Assembly congregated in Montpelier for the traditional "Orientation Day." Here they learn about the workings of the building and the process. A presentation on ENVY was scheduled for the new members by Synapse, a consultant to the legislature. The purpose is to get them up to speed on what many feel will be the most important issue of the '09 session; whether or not to allow ENVY to receive a "Certificate of Public Good" to continue to operate in Vermont.

There have been some discussions as to whether or not the vote, which is scheduled to occur in the '09 session, will take place. We are hearing rumblings that because of delays in the inspection and oversight process that it may not be possible for the General Assembly to vote on the issue in the next session. It has long been felt that if we could delay the vote that our position would be enhanced. As of right now, it's too early to tell what is going to happen.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Stannard, Citizen's Lobbyist for VCAN

(VT Citizen Action Network), bob@bobstannard.com

Door to Door Canvassing in VT

Volunteers for Vermont Citizens Action Network (VCAN), the grassroots action affiliate of the Citizens Awareness Network, have been knocking on doors informing Vermonters about how they can help to close Entergy's Vermont Yankee reactor on schedule in 2012. So far, VCAN has succeeded in face-to-face contacts with thousands of citizens in Bennington and Rutland Counties. In addition to speaking with concerned residents, the volunteers have distributed five thousand VCAN tabloids, a newsprint publication which provides important information aimed at ensuring that Vermont legislators vote to close Entergy Vermont Yankee in 2012 and move ahead with green, sustainable, replacement power and energy efficiency measures.

In an effort to make sure legislators hear from their constituents, VCAN volunteers will continue the door knocking in Rutland, Addison, and Washington Counties through the winter and into the spring. The volunteer canvass goes to the field on at least two Saturdays each month. You can check the calendar at www.nukebusters.org for the next door knocking date. VCAN welcomes and trains new volunteers all the time. To join us contact Chris Williams or Deb Katz.

- Chris Williams, CAN organizer and Board member

cevan@sover.net

CAN Board Member Attends Carbon Free Nuclear Free Workshop

In July, CAN Board member Chad Simmons attended a workshop in Washington, D.C., *Carbon Free Nuclear Free: A Roadmap for U.S. Energy Policy*. The 5-day intensive workshop focused on the book of the same name written by Arjun Makhijani and organized by the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research (IEER). The conference brought nearly 30 groups together from around the country currently working to end nuclear and fossil fuel power production and replace them with renewable technologies. Presentations, discussions and workgroups focusing on the mechanics and the policies needed to completely phase out fossil fuels and nuclear power by 2050 provided participants with constructive tools, the latest research and connection to a broad network of clean-energy advocates.

The conference concluded with the formation of several working groups as part of the Carbon Free and Nuclear Free Alliance, focusing on outreach, national policy and state/regional policy. Since July, Chad has been working with the State/Regional Working Group that further shares and develops tools for state and regional campaigns to successfully close and replace nuclear and fossil fuel production facilities.

For more information about Carbon Free Nuclear Free, visit www.ieer.org/cfnf

- Chad Simmons, Brattleboro, VT

SolarFest, July '08 and Garlic and Arts Fest Sept '08

CAN setup displays and provided literature at both events where people were more than ready for the nuke to shut down in 2012. Many were eager for information about how to get involved in the fight and hear the latest news on the legislative front to oppose the re-license. It was an opportunity to reconnect with old friends and meet many new ones.

If you are interested in joining our tabling crew, contact: Deb Katz at 413-339-5781 or deb@nukebusters.org.

Solar Rollers Tour Vermont

Between August 10-25, 2008, on their 30th anniversary, the Solar Rollers once again hit the road on their bicycles to hand out literature by day and give presentations each evening. In 1978, they rode to Seabrook, NH to protest that reactor. This year, they rode to educate the citizens of VT about the upcoming 'Certificate of Public Good' vote in the VT legislature, and called for the closure of VY upon license expiration. August 10th was the opening rally with 50 departing from Brattleboro, VT to Entergy's Vermont Yankee Nuclear Reactor in Vernon, VT.

The next day saw riders brave the drizzle, rain and the highest elevation change of the trip on the way to Bennington where they ended the day with a great potluck dinner and discussion. A 14 year old joined us the next morning in Bennington!

Manchester and Middletown Springs put on equally great potlucks and large numbers of people eager to learn and work. Starting off Aug 14th from Middletown Springs, in great summer weather, were 10 riders! Two 11 yr olds and a 15 yr old plus adults had joined the trek to Castleton, and Rutland by way of Orwell, Benson, Ira and Clarendon.

Many radio spots and cell phone interviews later, we camped at the Long Trail Festival and door knocked with the Vermont



Citizens Action Network in Rutland. From Rutland, the solar rollers continued up the western side of Vermont to Hinesburg, Jericho, Enosberg Falls, St Albans and Grand Isle. Aug 24 saw us in Burlington with riders going for the final push to Montpelier and the closing rally on the Statehouse lawn.

We met an amazing number of people from towns large and small, the vast majority ready for Vermont Yankee to shut down and see renewables replace it. About 11,000 solar roller flyers and 1600 VCAN literature pieces went into homes and hands. It was a tiring but extremely gratifying 15 days riding through Vermont hearing the voice of the people calling for ENVY to shut down in 2012.

Distributed Energy Conference May '08

It was the last panel that made the whole day. David Blittersdorf from Earth Turbines and founder of NRG, started off his talk with 3 slides including the cooling tower collapse of Aug '07 and calling for the shut down of ENVY in 2012. He detailed how the power from ENVY could be replaced with solar, wind and other renewables. Then Blair Hamilton from Efficiency Vermont echoed. David continued with how conservation and energy efficiency are still making headroads into energy demand. The efficiency programs have kept electrical demand flat in Vermont for the last 7 yrs. And they could easily save an additional 15-30% of electrical use. Finishing off was Jeff Wolfe from groSolar, the second largest growing business in Vermont. He and his wife started groSolar and have seen demand for solar PV skyrocket. Germany, in 2001, started to aggressively install solar PV. Within 4 yrs, 3300MW of solar electric power came online in a country, which gets 20% LESS sun than Vermont with off-the-shelf, current technology. Additionally, they also installed 14,000MW of wind in the same period of time. We can replace Vermont Yankee. No doubt!

Brattleboro July 4th parade and Franklin County Parade, Sept '08

A wrecked Honda Insight made an impressive float at the July 4th parade in Brattleboro, VT! Lettered on the sides was "Entergy's Vermont Yankee...an Accident waiting to happen...". We were accompanied by Nuclear Free Vermont. Lots of signs and plenty of VCAN tabloids were handed out. The same float was presented at the Sept 4th Franklin County Parade through Greenfield with the leaking radiation barrels and many Solar Rollers on Bicycles!

-Claire Chang, CAN Board member, cchang@nukebusters.org

MA Citizens Meet with their Legislators and Call for Action!

Concerned with the dangers facing Western Massachusetts from Vermont Yankee, constituents have visited State Reps Chris Donelan, Steve Kulick, Ellen Story, Jim Welsh and Peter Kocot, State Sen. Stan Rosenberg and Steve Brewer and the first US Cong. District Rep. John Olver. More meetings are in the works.

Each delegation has met with their representatives and gone over various issues such as increased radiation levels being emitted and the danger to workers and citizens alike. Accidents, such as the crane failure while lifting 97 tons of spent fuel and even more cooling tower leaks have also been brought to the legislators attention, all with photos and accompanying background articles. A tangible result of these meetings has been a resolution crafted by Rep. Kocot and adopted on July 23rd by the MA House of Representatives.

This resolution, in part, states, "Resolved, That the Massachusetts House of Representatives joins with its neighboring states to ensure that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission establishes strong procedures and regulations to mandate safe storage and transportation of nuclear waste and begins a transition away from nuclear power to an affordable, clean and sustainable national energy policy; and be it further resolved that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Governor of Vermont, the Vermont Legislature, The Massachusetts Attorney General and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission." There are twenty signatures on the resolution. This is a milestone in that it brings to the surface an issue of great danger that has been off the governmental radar screen.

We are working with our legislators to have a meeting with Governor Deval Patrick to bring our concerns to him.
-Hattie Nestel, MACAN Organizer, hattieshalom@verizon.net

We Couldn't Do It Without Your Help! Our Thank You's

We want to thank all of our donors, our supporters and volunteers who make our work possible.
We also thank the foundations that support our efforts:
**Ben & Jerry's Foundation • Block Foundation
Peace Development Fund • Van Itallie Foundation**

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Environmental Justice Tour

In September, CAN supported and participated in an environmental justice tour with two amazing Australians, who spoke throughout Vermont and Massachusetts about the dangers of uranium mining in Australia and the urgency of creating a NUCLEAR FREE FUTURE. Kerry Ann and Marcus have walked with Australian Aboriginies



for four months in opposition to uranium mining on ancestral lands. They have also organized a series of Walks for a Nuclear Free Future in Japan, the U.S., Ireland and France over the past four years. Their most recent three month walk through France, against nuclear power and the reprocessing of nuclear waste by the French government was met with tremendous public support. Kerry and Marcus' talks were sponsored by CAN and organizations in Burlington, Montpelier, Johnson State College, St. Johnsbury, Manchester and Bennington Vermont. They will also be speaking in Massachusetts in West Springfield, Barre, Petersham, Amherst, Northampton, and Greenfield Community College. In New Hampshire they will appear at Keene State College.

- Hattie Nestel, Tour Organizer, hattieshalom@verizon.net

Report from New York State

The Central New York chapter has our work cut out for us. We are currently the target for one of the new generation of nuke plants developed in Europe by the French company Areva. The company UniFirst Nuclear (a joint Constellation /Areva corporate gambit) has applied to the NRC to build 'Nine Mile 3' on a site right next to Nine Mile 1 and 2 and FitzPatrick.

The first public meeting held by the NRC to discuss the new plant was on August 21. CNY-CAN turned out people to speak against the plant and we were able to cover a number of issues. We had a physician speak about health issues related to exposure and the myth of "safe" radiation doses. We discussed the amount of jobs that could be created for union trades if the same amount of money were spent on retro-fitting Central New York's housing stock for maximum energy efficiency. One of our members reminded the crowd what happened to Detroit when GM and Ford began to lose money and cut jobs.

The movement for a Public Utility in Syracuse (which will give the citizens more control over their energy supply) continues to gain momentum. After working with city government for the last year to release a request for proposals to engineering firms for a feasibility study, the bids have come in and the company has been chosen. The city is currently finishing up contract negotiations with Source One, a firm from Boston.

Most recently the city asked the CNY Public Power Coalition (of which CNY CAN is a core member) to give feedback on the contract between them and Source One. We found some issues that we hope will be resolved before the city agrees to sign. We are waiting to hear the company's response to the city. Throughout this process we have had a great deal of access and input and we are optimistic about the city's commitment to the project. The contrast between Syracuse's proactive sustainable energy strategy and the Constellation's new reactor proposal just 30 miles north in Oswego could not be more stark.

- Tim Judson, CAN Board, CNY CAN cancny@nukebusters.org