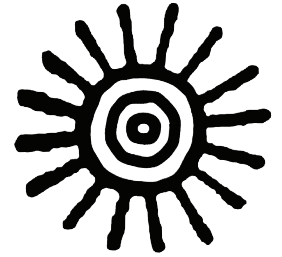


SUMMER 2018

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The CAN-Did Press

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

High-Level Nuclear Waste Tour...We're On the Road Again

Citizens Awareness Network is organizing a High-level Nuclear Waste (HLNW) tour in New England in September to address the abdication and failure of the federal government and the nuclear industry to deal with HLNW stranded at reactor sites throughout our region and the country. We are rehabbing a mock high level nuclear waste cask and taking it on the road to show people what an estimated 1,000 shipments on rail and roads through New England would look like, and educate people about the potential for accidents during transport.

The tour's speakers will discuss the issues of nuclear waste, current federal policy, environmental justice, and direct action. Speakers include Kerstin Rudek from Germany, organizer of the successful opposition to HLNW transport in Germany; Tim Judson, CAN president and Executive Director of Nuclear Information and Resource Service; and Leona Morgan, a representative of the Navajo Nation. CAN's Chris Williams and Deb Katz will address the issues of NorthStar's decommissioning goals at Vermont Yankee—including sending HLNW from VT Yankee to west Texas.

The Tour will focus on the industry's agenda to create "Centralized Interim Storage" (CIS) for HLNW in Andrews County, Texas as well as a second site in Hobbs, NM. The nuclear industry is failing! Reactors are closing throughout the country. "Interim Storage" is the industry's attempt to resurrect itself—to claim that nuclear power is a "clean" technology and there is a "solution"

Update on HR 3053

The Nuclear Waste Policy Act Amendments of 2017-2018 passed the U.S. House of Representatives on May 10, 2018 by a vote of 340 to 72. The bill will now move to the Senate, where a more vigorous fight is expected. Action in the Senate is expected to take place after the November mid-term elections. It is essential that all New England Senators hear from their constituents. CAN opposes HR 3053. Yucca Mountain, Nevada is a geologically unsuitable site for permanent storage of irradiated fuel, and parking waste in Texas and New Mexico is unacceptable.

Authored by Representative Shimkus R-I, HR 3053 is an industry-backed bill to reopen the Yucca Mountain Repository for high level radioactive waste containment. The bill also gives the

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CAN's mock high level nuclear waste cask.

for its deadly waste. Recently, federal legislation (HR3053) that would support the controversial approach to HLNW and fund it passed the House. It is important for people to know where their Representatives stood and where Senators will stand on this industry driven "solution" and how it impacts their community as well as others.

CAN's "Waste Tour" speakers will address the need for a permanent solution for this toxic waste and how it impacts vulnerable communities. Until the criteria of sound science and environmental justice drive any disposition, HLNW must remain onsite.

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Update on Solar in Massachusetts

Gov. Baker is not helping solar at all. He has slowed the growth of solar PV installations so much that we lost 3,000 solar jobs in 2017! Ten years after passage of the Global Warming Solutions Act, only 4-5 percent of our electricity demand is generated by solar PV. How are we going to meet 100 percent renewables by 2050 at this slow pace? Offshore wind has a big part to play as well as distributed solar on every rooftop and parking lot. Gov. Baker and the Statehouse need to hear from everyone across the state that we want GOOD Solar Policy for the benefit of all citizens of the Commonwealth.

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Our Legacy: A Scientifically Sound and Environmentally Just Solution

Although both the nuclear industry and federal government committed to create a final solution for high-level nuclear waste (HLNW) disposal, no acceptable solution has yet been found. Federal legislation mandated a repository and Nevada was targeted. Billions of dollars were expended to establish Yucca Mountain. This boondoggle failed due to site unsuitability, corruption, inadequate safeguards, and Nevada's opposition.

Parking Lot Dumps for High-Level Radioactive Waste?

As the wrangling over Yucca Mountain continues, the nuclear power industry is pressing to create a solution since dangerous high-level waste is piling up at reactor sites undermining its position that nuclear is clean and safe. With the geologic repository at Yucca Mountain stalled, the nuclear industry is pressing Congress to establish an "interim storage" policy with approval for "parking lot" dumps for the 70,000 tons of high-level waste stranded across the country. These are "temporary" storage sites until they can come up with the "Final Solution" of how to safely store nuclear waste for tens of thousands of years. Interim sites do not have to meet the strict environmental standards that have plagued Yucca Mountain. The sites that are routinely targeted for "parking lot" dumps are inhabited by low income, rural, people of color or Native American communities. These targeted communities don't want dangerous nuclear waste in their backyard, particularly given the abysmal record of leaks and inadequate environmental protections.

The "Interim Consolidated Storage Act" would amend the "Nuclear Waste Policy Act" to allow for the shipment and temporary storage of high-level waste at above-ground sites. Transporting high-level waste is a massive, risky, and dangerous undertaking that would go on for decades. The risk to communities along the many transport routes is unprecedented and in the end would be repeated if a permanent deep geologic site is some day approved and built.

The proposed parking lot dump is a cynical, shortsighted play by a desperate industry that has been in decline for decades. The negative implications for the dump's host communities are enormous and cannot be ignored by reactor communities now saddled with the waste. States, as well as reactor communities, fear the industry and federal government will abandon the deadly waste and not remove it from their communities as quickly as possible. As understandable as these fears are, reactor and waste communities must come together to support a scientifically sound and environmentally just solution and to defeat the industry's drive to make its waste problem "go away."

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Sacrifice Communities

The question of how reactors operate and how corporations dispose of waste involves ethical issues of environmental justice. Citizens Awareness Network 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 is host to two nuclear power stations and now two high-level nuclear waste dumps. We 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 thirty-year period.

We believe it is unacceptable:

- To press people to choose between immediate economic survival and the sacrifice of future generations.
- To contaminate the water, earth, and air of another community to clean our community up.
- That radioactive pollution is an allowed by-product of energy production and that communities in the contamination pathway suffer increases in disease.

Green Policy for Waste

A Green Policy on radioactive waste is necessary to protect the environment. It must be driven by the concerns of ordinary citizens working to protect their children and future generations from contamination.

Citizens Awareness Network:

- Supports the expansion and adoption of renewable energy solutions to replace nuclear power. Nuclear power, in addition to creating toxic waste and thermal pollution, is not carbon neutral, nor is it renewable or clean.
- Calls for the halt of the production and the shipment of radioactive waste off site. The industry's solutions support opportunism and maintain an illusory fallacy—reactors, clean when operating, are now dirty and dangerous if waste remains on-site as an interim solution to the waste problem.
- Calls for the creation of an independent review of waste. The democratic process is the best guardian for an environmentally safe solution to be developed. Let us not sacrifice any more communities and future generations.
- Demands that nuclear sites be classified as superfund sites. Provide funding to communities for education, medical training and treatment, monitoring, and other protective services.
- Supports creating citizen advisory boards in reactor communities. Communities in the contamination pathway of nuclear facilities require meaningful participation in pollution prevention. Citizens must create a substantive role in order to clarify, negotiate and protect their community's interests.

Surprise! Trump Won't Take No For An Answer

Last summer, Donald Trump delivered on his promise to try to bail out nuclear power and coal – proposing billions of dollars in taxpayer subsidies for about 100 old reactors and coal plants. But after tens of thousands of people railed against the bailout, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) unanimously rejected it. That's right, Trump's plan was so bad that the same agency that has been 'FERC-ing' up our environment by rubber-stamping dirty energy projects for years, actually said no to it. That should have put an end to the story.

But no..... As we write this, the White House is getting ready to roll out an even larger and more outrageous plan to promote nukes and coal. In May, the White House leaked a memo that described major parts of an executive order that would effectively put the White House in control of electricity generation nationwide. It starts with prohibiting any reactors and coal plants from closing for two years—basically cancelling plans to shut down Pilgrim and several other nukes for the time being, while ordering subsidies from ratepayers to profit Entergy and other companies that own the reactors.

In total, Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS) estimates the cost of the new bailout could be \$8 to \$17 billion per year just for the nuclear subsidies. Energy consultants at the Brattle Group say the total cost with the coal plants included could be double that amount to \$34 billion/year!

Trump's order would also require the Department of Energy to come up with a justification for continuing to promote nuclear and coal for “national security” reasons. The White House is



claiming two completely baseless things: 1) closing nuclear and coal plants would cause power shortages and blackouts, and, 2) we need to keep nuclear power plants running to support nuclear weapons and keep nuclear submarines running. So after decades of falsely promoting nuclear as the “peaceful atom” alternative to nuclear weapons, the Trump administration wants America to believe we need to poison our communities with radiation to keep other countries from bombing us.

Everyone from environmental groups and energy companies are promising to file lawsuits to stop this outrageous plan, but it will take grassroots pressure, too. We will need people to call your Congressional representatives and Senators, as well as governors, attorney generals, and state

legislators to speak out. We have to stop Trump's nuclear and coal bailout, but we also have to stop states from subsidizing nukes. This year, Connecticut and New Jersey enacted laws to bail out old reactors—even though they're still making money. In Connecticut, utility customers could soon be forced to buy overpriced power from the Millstone 2 and 3 reactors for 5-10 years; and New Jersey residents are on the hook for up to 12 years. In both cases, the bailouts could amount to billions of dollars.

We set an example for the rest of the country by closing Vermont Yankee when we did, with our Green by 2015 campaign. Now we have to work for a nuclear-free New England—and the first step is stopping Trump's nuclear and coal bailout.

- Tim Judson, Exec Director, Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS)

Solar in Massachusetts

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GOOD Solar Energy Policy:

- Support 20 percent Solar and 50 percent renewable energy by 2030
- Eliminate Net Metering Caps
- Ensure Time of Use Rates for ALL Ratepayers
- Restore 100 percent Net metering credits for community and low-income solar projects
- No pipeline tax on electricity ratepayers
- Fix the gas leaks

Make sure that every candidate for State and local office understands this is about our SURVIVAL against CLIMATE CHAOS! Ask your candidate for State Representative, State Senate and/or Governor to support Good Solar policy. Get involved in local and state elections. Governor Baker only won by 40,000 votes. He can be beat! We need to get the vote out!!Vote Nov 6 and get all your friends out to vote as well. This will set the tone for the next legislative session.

Thank you,

- Claire Chang, CAN Board & Solar Store of Greenfield



Thanks!

We couldn't have done it without you:

**Block Foundation • Paul Burton • C-10 Foundation
Cape Downwinders • Deans Beans Coffee
Lionel Delevigne • Charlene Divoky • Sarah Creighton
Louise Baum • Franklin Community Co-op
Guacamole Foundation • Lintilhac Foundation
Rothschild Foundation • Safe and Green Campaign
TMTC • Van Itallie Foundation • VYDA • and YOU!**

High-Level Nuclear Waste Tour

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Background:

Although the nuclear industry & federal government committed to create a solution for high-level nuclear waste (HLNW) disposal, no acceptable solution exists. Federal legislation mandated a repository. Nevada was targeted and billions were expended to establish Yucca Mountain. This boondoggle failed due to site unsuitability, corruption, inadequate safeguards & Nevada's opposition. As the wrangling over Yucca continues, the industry has a pressing need to create some solution since dangerous waste piling up at reactor sites undermines its position that nuclear is "clean and safe". Interim Storage sites do not have to meet the strict environmental standards that have plagued Yucca Mountain. The sites targeted for "disposal" like the sites selected for operation, are routinely low-income, rural, people of color and Native American communities. The industry pits nuclear communities against each other—reactor communities fear inadequate onsite storage, lack of adequate protections and HLNW abandonment by the Feds. Targeted communities for nuclear waste disposal don't want dangerous nuclear waste in their backyard, particularly given the abysmal record of leaks and inadequate environmental protections. Waste communities face unconscionable choices: short-term economic survival or long-term health and safety.

It is essential that reactor and waste communities work together to create effective strategies and actions to defeat industry initiatives to target vulnerable communities and provide protections for reactor communities forced to be guardians of the world's most toxic and long-lasting waste. It's vital that citizens understand the issues and what's at stake.

Waste Tour speakers will include:

- Leona Morgan, from the Navajo Nation, who will address the environmental justice issues inherent in the nuclear industry's targeting of low income people, people of color and Native American communities for nuclear waste disposal. She will address the industry's plan to dispose of New England's HLNW waste in a Centralized Interim Storage site in Andrews County, Texas.

- Kerstin Rudek, former head of the Bürgerinitiative Umweltschutz Lüchow-Dannenberg (BI), who organized successful protests against the Castor high level nuclear waste transports in Gorleben, Germany in 2011. More than 50,000 people participated in the protest. She is leading the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the BI and organizing internationally in the "Don't Nuke the Climate" campaign. DNTC works to protect the world from another Three Mile Island, Chernobyl, and Fukushima.

- Deb Katz, Executive Director of Citizens Awareness Network, instrumental in the closure of four New England reactors, will address the issues of decommissioning, hardened onsite storage at nuclear reactors and opposition to interim storage of nuclear waste.

- Tim Judson, Executive Director of Nuclear Information and Resource Service

Tour Events: Details TBA

- September 18 Tuesday evening Montpelier, VT event
- September 19 Wednesday, 6:00 PM Centre Congregational Church, 193 Main St, Brattleboro VT
- September 20 Thursday, HAWKS & REED Performing Arts Center, 289 Main St, Greenfield, MA with Wildcat O'Halloran, Bob Stannard, Will Nukem and Speakers. 7pm concert
- September 21 Friday Boston, MA event
- September 22 Saturday Hingham, MA event

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Update on HR 3053

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green light to establish so-called parking lot dumps for "interim storage" of irradiated fuel rods. The nuclear industry is proposing two parking lot dumps, one in West Texas and the other in New Mexico.

At the Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel meeting of June 28, 2018 representative from the offices of Representative Peter Welch, Senator Patrick Leahy, and Senator Bernie Sanders reported that the Trump Administration budget proposals for fiscal year 2018 and 2019 contain line items for a pilot project for interim storage of irradiated nuclear fuel. The staffers stated that action on these proposed appropriations could take place as soon as July of this year. If approved a pilot project like the proposed Holtec parking lot dump in New Mexico could get a green light and funding without Senate passage of HR 3053.

Yucca Mountain, located in Nevada, was defunded and the project halted in 2010. The site is prone to severe earthquakes and the mountain is porous. Two of the most important site criteria for storing irradiated fuel rods are keeping the canisters dry and stable geology. Yucca Mountain does not meet these crucial requirements. We need to be using sound scientific methodology not politics to solve our waste problem.

Parking lot dumps are a way to kick the can down the road. To move thousands of shipments to Texas or New Mexico only to have to move them again is dangerous. To say we will find a permanent repository in the future is quite possibly disingenuous. Once parked the waste may never move again.

Check to see how your Rep voted on nuclear waste HR 3053 (Shimkus) <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2018/roll179.xml>. 300+ Voted for this bad bill.

- Chris Williams, CAN, NIRS
