

PRESS RELEASE

Who: (Fill in your group's name here)
What: New England tour of "mock" high-level nuclear waste cask
Where: (Fill in location of event here)
When: (Fill in the date of the event here)
Contact: (Fill in name, email, phone # of your contact person/persons)

Environmental Justice & Nuclear Waste **the road from New England to Texas and New Mexico**

CAN is organizing a **High-level Nuclear Waste (HLNW) Tour** in New England to address the abdication by the federal government and the nuclear industry to deal with HLNW stranded at nuclear sites throughout the country. We have a 'mock' high-level nuclear waste cask and are taking it on the road to show people what an estimated 1,000 shipments through New England could look like.

The tour will bring speakers from across the country to discuss the issues of **nuclear waste, federal policy, environmental justice and direct action.**

Speakers include **Kerstin Rudek** from Peoples Initiative Bürgerinitiative Umweltschutz Lüchow-Dannenberg (Germany), organizer of the successful opposition to nuclear waste transport to Gorleben; **Tim Judson**, executive director of Nuclear Information and Resource Service; **Leona Morgan** from the Navajo Nation; and CAN's **Chris Williams** and **Deb Katz** who will address the issues of NorthStar's decommissioning goals including sending HLNW from Vermont Yankee to Texas. The Tour will focus on the industry's attempt to create centralized interim storage (CIS) for HLNW in Andrews County, Texas as well as a second site in Hobbs, NM. Recently, legislation passed the House that would support this controversial approach and fund it. It's important for people to know where their legislator stands on this industry driven nuclear waste and environmental justice issue. Additionally, and **Diane Turco** will address Pilgrim and Seabrook reactors at the Massachusetts State House and **Pine DuBois** will speak in Plymouth.

Speakers will address the need to create a permanent solution for this toxic waste and how it will impact vulnerable communities. **What is needed is a scientifically sound and environmentally just solution.** Until sound science & environmental justice drive any disposition, HLNW must remain onsite. But is onsite storage safe? It's certainly safer in dry cask storage than in vulnerable fuel pools described by the National Governors Association as "pre-deployed weapons of mass destruction". To lessen the vulnerability of dry cask storage to acts of malice or accidents, the casks should be hardened, double-walled, increased separation between casks & earth-bermed to limit exposure. All of this is possible, but the industry and NRC refuse to acknowledge the problem or do anything about it. **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.

Tour Events:

- **September 18**, Tuesday, 6:00 PM, Unitarian Universalist Church, 130 Main Street, Montpelier, VT.
- **September 19**, Wednesday, 6:00 PM, Centre Congregational Church, 193 Main Street, Brattleboro, VT.
- **September 20**, Thursday, 7:00 PM, Hawks and Reed, 289 Main Street, Greenfield, MA, NUCLEAR BLUES with The Wildcat O'Halloran Band, "Downtown" Bob Stannard & Court Dorsey as "Will Nukem", and speakers.
- **September 21**, Friday, 1:00- 3:00 PM, MA State House, 24 Beacon Street, Rm 222, Boston, MA.
- **September 22**, Saturday, 1:00 PM, Unitarian Universalist Church (First Parish), 19 Town Square, Plymouth, MA. Boston, MA.
- **September 22**, Saturday, 7:00 – 9:00 PM, Glastonbury Abbey, 16 Hull Street, Hingham, MA.

Speaker Bios

- **Leona Morgan** Navajo Nation, an indigenous community organizer and activist who has been fighting "nuclear colonialism" since 2007. She is focused on preventing new uranium mining, nuclear waste dumping, and transport of radioactive materials in the Southwest. She co-founded and works with Haul No! (www.haulno.org), Radiation Monitoring Project (www.radmonitoring.org), and Nuclear Issues Study Group (www.facebook.com/NuclearIssuesStudyGroup). Leona is Diné from the Navajo Nation and lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico and will address the environmental justice issues inherent in the nuclear industry 's targeting of low income, 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 sites in Andrews County, Texas and Hobbs, New Mexico.
- **Kerstin Rudek** was head of the Bürgerinitiative Umweltschutz Lüchow-Dannenberg (www.bi-luechow-dannenberg.de) which organized the protests against nuclear waste transports in Germany. More than 50,000 people joined the protests. She is leading the ministry of foreign affairs of the BI and is organizing internationally in the Don't Nuke the Climate campaign (www.dont-nuke-the-climate.org). DNTC works to protect the world from more Fukushimas and Chernobyls and insists on no climate money for nuclear power.
- **Deb Katz**, executive director of Citizens Awareness Network, (<http://www.nukebusters.org>) which was instrumental in the closure of four New England reactors, won a lawsuit against NRC's Decommissioning rule, organized Waste Tours

and Action Camps, 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 (www.nirs.org), a national environmental organization. He has led campaigns on reactors in NY & MA, worked with whistleblowers, and represented organizations *pro se* in NRC licensing cases. Tim is also President of the Board of Citizens Awareness Network, and a co-founder of Alliance for a Green Economy (AGREE, www.allianceforagreenecology.org). He also has a background in the labor movement, as a member, organizer, and research analyst.

- **Diane Turco**, Cape Downwinders (www.capedownwinders.info) advocate for the immediate closure of Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant

- **Pine DuBois**, environmental advocate, executive director Jones River Watershed Association (jonesriver.org/jrwa)

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—billions expended to establish Yucca Mountain. This boondoggle failed- 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 casks, lack of onsite protections and HLW abandonment by the Feds. Targeted communities for nuclear waste disposal don't want dangerous nuclear waste in their backyard. 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 is vital that citizens understand the issues and what's at stake. Until the criteria of sound science & environmental justice are the drivers behind any disposition, HLNW must remain onsite.

More info: <http://nukebusters.org/>