the Waste Paper

sierra club
radioactive waste
campaign

Volume 3 Number 2

Central Park
Reservoir:
Radium-Free Water?
See page 3.

photo by c Al Sacco 1981.

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The Bechtel Administration

What does the Three-Mile Island "clean-up," thirty Manhattan Project dump site "clean-ups," the Alaska Pipe Line, the Hoover Dam, the St. James Bay Hydroelectric plant, the West Valley Nuclear Reprocessing Plant, the Allied Chemical Reprocessing Plant in Barnwell, South Carolina, the Oakland-San Francisco bridge and 65 nuclear power plants have in common? The answer is BECHTEL. In each of these mammoth construction projects Bechtel was intimately involved, either as architect-engineer, main contractor or constructor or *all three*. What is Bechtel and why have most citizens never heard of it?

Bechtel, a privately-owned, giant contracting and construction firm which had $3-6 billion in contracts in 1979, (we do not exactly know which figure because there are no public financial records on the secret company) is virtually unknown to most citizens. And this is the way Bechtel would like to keep it. Astoundingly, this unknown, private company was the #1 contractor in the U.S. in 1978, has 30,000 employees and is working on projects in 44 countries. (Incidentally, the Chase Manhattan bank and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers each also have 30,000 employees). This secret company has the lion's share of the nuclear industry, intimate links with the Reagan administration, and a growing involvement in radioactive waste projects.

Ask the average citizen what company is most deeply committed to nuclear power and you will hear Westinghouse and General Electric. Not so. Bechtel has been the architect engineer for 65 nuclear power plants in the U.S., and the main contractor responsible for civil works on 33 of these 65 plants. Bechtel not only has the lion's share of the market, it also has a strong horizontal penetration. Sixty-five reactors. This is an extraordinary number – considering that in the U.S. there are 75 reactors with operating licenses and 84 with construction or limited work permits, or a total of 159 reactors built or under construction. In other words, this giant has 41% of the architect-designer jobs, and 21% of the main contractor and construction jobs in this field. And these figures do not take into consideration foreign nuclear reactors.

Like all nuclear vendors, Bechtel has been disappointed with the slow pace of reactor orders in the U.S. and moved aggressively into the exportation of this dangerous technology to underdeveloped, third world countries. Bechtel is working on *four* nuclear reactors in Korea, *four* in Taiwan and just signed a 10-year agreement to provide engineering assistance on nuclear reactor construction in Japan. Bechtel worked on the Tarapur, India reactor recently in the news because of a dispute regarding the supplying of enriched uranium to the plant.

Bechtel also has had a long-term involvement with the breeder – an exceedingly dangerous technology involving the use of plutonium as the primary fuel. The plutonium oxide fuel is cooled by liquid sodium which will explode on contact with air or water. This technology is being promoted by the Reagan administration. Back in 1968, Bechtel received the contract to work on the Fast Flux Test Facility (FFTF) in Hanford, Washington. This facility was designed to test plutonium fuels for the breeder. FFTF started up in 1980 using fuel from the Kerr-McGee plant of Silkwood fame in Oklahoma. (Karen Silkwood died under suspicious circumstances, in 1974, after investigating faulty fuel rods at the plant.)

Bechtel, in 1975, also received a $5 million contract to do study work on the breeder from the Energy Research and Development Authority, the precursor of today's Department of Energy (DOE). Bechtel has had a long involvement in the Clinch River Breeder making financial commitments to the plant and participating in a conceptual design study group that is re-

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graphics by Sue Titus

Matuszek Profile

He promotes the expansion of the West Valley burial ground to 1500 acres. In a letter to the Catholic Bishop in Albany, he viciously attacks a respected researcher and Catholic nun. He angrily wads and throws across the table a carefully drafted citizen's proposal during a meeting of citizens and State officials. Unbelievable as it may seem, these ideas and actions are the work of John Matuszek, head of the NYS Department of Health's Radiological Sciences Laboratory (DOH). Affectionately introduced as "our mad scientist" by other DOH officials familiar with his "shoot from the hip" manner, Matuszek's statements are no joking matter to concerned citizens who pay his keep.

The Waste Paper has collected the following incidental remarks by John Matuszek, MIT graduate in Health Physics (not radiation biology or epidemiology) and former military officer with the Atomic Energy Commission:

West Valley At an August 5, 1980 meeting of consultants to Argonne National Laboratory who were reviewing the environmental impact statement for solidification of liquid high level wastes at West Valley, Matuszek advocated the re-opening of the West Valley burial ground. The DOH official argued for the use of 1500 acres of the West Valley site for a "low level" waste dump. Fifteen hundred acres is about one-half of the state-owned land at West Valley and is over 200 times the size of the facility which has already given New Yorkers so much heartache.

At the August 5 meeting, Matuszek admitted there were problems with the previous design of the burial trenches which lead to water infiltration, but he believed these could be fixed. How exactly and precisely the laboratory chief was going to solve the problem of water entering the burial trenches underground, through sand strata (see *the Waste Paper*, Winter 1981), was not spelled out.

Also not clarified for the Argonne consultants was the fact that the DOH regulated the West Valley burial ground between 1963 and 1974. During this time the Department allowed Nuclear Fuel Services to continue use of the site even *after* a large sandy strata and swamps had been identified at the site. This was a violation of the company license which only allowed burial in impermeable, silty till. Because of this DOH laxity in regulation, the burial trenches will continue to fill with water for decades, possibly centuries. For some undefined reason, Matuszek viewed the site as well adapted to radioactive waste disposal - probably because West Valley is 300 miles from his Albany office.

Catholic Diocese of Albany In a letter to the Most Reverend Howard J. Hubbard, Bishop of Albany dated October 5, 1979, Matuszek criticized the Catholic Church for sponsoring a presentation by Dr. Rosalie Bertell at the College of St. Rose in Albany. Dr. Bertell, well-known cancer researcher and speaker, is also a sister and member of the Grey Order of Nuns. Matuszek's letter is a classic, deliberate smear.

The letter, mailed in a DOH envelope, but typed on white, non-letterhead paper to avoid DOH identification with his views, charged that the concepts of Sr. Bertell "in every case . . . have been deemed inaccurate or unsubstantiated," and "the data have never been subjected to objective scientific review." "Sr. Bertell's statistical computer models . . . are not acceptable for publication in responsible scientific journals." "As a result," Matuszek's letter continued, "Sr. Bertell (has) *turned to* publishing in the lay press where scientific validity need not be proven, or to politicized presentations such as the seminar at St. Rose. For the Diocese to lend its support to such a presentation is to me unconscionable." Matuszek assured Bishop Hubbard "that as Director of the State's Radiological Sciences Laboratory, I have the training and experience necessary to review . . . the work of Sr. Bertell."

Fortunately, the Catholic Diocese of Albany was not over-impressed with this scientific bullying. The meeting of the Albany Diocesan Commission on Peace and Justice was held October 10, 1979, as planned. However, Sr. Bertell responded to the Matuszek letter with her own, two weeks later. She stated that her statistical computer models were published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, the *Journal of the American Public Health Association, Journal of Surgical Oncology, Journal of Medicine* and *Experientia*. Sr. Bertell presented her methodology at the International Meeting of the Biometric Society. Matuszek appeared to be ignorant of or deliberately ignored these journal articles and professional meetings. Sr. Bertell also affirmed that the scientific data base comprising 4,000 file folders of 40 pages each, is accessible on magnetic tape to anyone who "requests it through proper channels with legitimate research purpose."

To her credit, Dr. Bertell said she would continue to write in the "lay press" in order to inform the American people of her findings, especially in this "area of radiation-related research where vested interests have a large stake in information control." *Hurrah* for Sr. Bertell and Bishop Hubbard for making the correspondence from Dr. Matuszek

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NYSERDA Gets Tough

The Nuclear Fuel Services (NFS) due bill at the West Valley nuclear waste dump site is rising faster than inflation. Initially, the State of New York asked the Getty Oil subsidiary to place the shut-down reprocessing plant in "good condition." Now it is demanding $153 million in damages.

One hundred fifty three million dollars is the magic number in the court suit, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) v Nuclear Fuel Services (NFS) and Getty Oil in Buffalo, NY. NYSERDA got tough, demanding clean-up, reparation of "defects" and decontamination of the reprocessing building, as well as compensatory damages.

On Feb. 13, 1981, in federal district court, NFS tried to make a fast settlement with the State, agreeing to the preliminary suit to maintain the solid waste dump site and not pay back the $18 million Getty loan. But NYSERDA, unaware of the hearing until the day before, quickly retaliated by asking the court for time to amend its complaints. Unwilling to settle, NYSERDA returned to court on Feb. 20, 1981 with specific guidelines for clean-up, *before* NFS can abandon the site.

It is refreshing to see NYSERDA take such stringent action against NFS, although the agency's position on re-opening the dump site is still unclear. These amendments point specifically to the "good condition" clause of the lease. The Campaign believes that the burial ground can never be secured in "good condition." (Order our fact sheet "Insecure Landfills: The West Valley Experience.")

Since the discovery of the huge sand lense, 100' by 200', underlying trenches 12-14, uncovered from a Freedom of Information Act request, it seems that NFS violated its license concerning permeable formations.

In March of 1974, a Department of Environmental Conservation geologist and a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency official found a sand lense 3' thick by 65' in length, and warned NFS of this.

In April 1974, NFS, *without testing*, informed the State that the sand lense was a "surface condition" and that it intended to begin burial that month. The State allowed burial to begin, but requested a report in 20 days to prove the limits of the sand lense.

The NFS investigations described test holes dug to a depth of 7 feet, but the methods were not revealed. Seven years later we learn that a crude *backhoe* was used to dig these holes!

This information could affect the financial liability of the state-licensed burial ground and the license transfer between the State and NFS. It is the Campaign's feeling that NFS should *exhume* the burial ground, particularly the 12 pounds of plutonium and 15,000 curies of strontium- 90. These materials should be placed in above-the-ground storage bunkers, away from the environment for better surveillance.

Citizens of NY should write Governor Carey and Stanley Fink, speaker of the assembly, demanding the exhumation of the state-licensed burial ground.

TMI RESCUE

You could be forced to pay for the estimated $1.8 billion Three Mile Island (TMI) clean-up if Rep. Allen Ertel's bill (HR 2512) goes through in Congress.

The Pa. Democrat is proposing a nationwide ratepayer hike, part of a "Nuclear Property Insurance Fund." This fund would assess utility companies and ratepayers *across the country* for the clean-up of the damaged TMI #2 reactor in Middletown, Pa. and other reactors damaged in similar accidents.

People served by Commonwealth Edison in Chicago would average 13¢ per month, tacked onto their utility bills, and the national average would be roughly a 3¢ monthly increase. This would only be the initial rate hike. Accidents would mean increases. This rate would be determined by the generating capacity of the utility company.

Since the insurance fund would be a condition for licensing a reactor, all assessments would be *automatically* passed on to consumers. No local utility battles will be possible on this rate hike!

Furthermore, this bill would allow the utilities to recover *all* losses, after the first $50 million, yet the Price-Anderson Act denies the public the right to collect more than a fraction of the damages incurred. (The Price-Anderson Act limits insurance coverage for a reactor accident to $560 million.)

Write your federal legislator today, urging opposition to HR 2512, the Ertel bill. Let your congressperson know that this legislation shifts the burden of accident payment to ratepayers nationwide.

photo by Lisa Finaldi

photo by Lisa Finaldi

photo by Marvin Resnikoff

Activists travelled to Harrisburg, Pa. on March 28 to join labor unions opposing the re-opening of the Three Mile Island nuclear reactor #1. From the left: Jeff Schmidt of the Pa. Sierra Club getting into a discussion on nuclear waste; Maureen Bartley, mother of two and volunteer for the Campaign relaying her message; and Lisa Finaldi, smiling from satisfaction after selling all the Campaign's t-shirts.

the Waste Paper

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Texas Tax Break

The houses sit on the market for months. But, there are no buyers. Its not even worth it to stick a "For Sale" placard into the well-mowed front lawns. The rare potential buyer that does show up, is likely to offer $10,000 on a $55,000 home. This problem is described in *Voices from Three Mile Island* by Robert Leppzer.

It is a growing problem in communities like Canonsburg, Pa., Middlesex, N.J., Maxey Flats, Ky., where residents are sitting *on top of* or alarmingly close to radioactive waste dumps. At these sites, there are rumors of unusually high incidences of cancer and, sometimes, informal citizen surveys substantiate the rumors. Even where there are no rumors, there is a present, almost palpable, fear. Is my water contaminated? Will I get cancer?

Citizens along transportation routes for high-level, irradiated fuel shipments are starting to face similar uncertainties regarding what an accident might do to property values. One citizen, a peanut farmer in Fort Worth, Texas decided *not* to wait for the accident to happen. Burlyn Nelon, the owner of a 358-acre farm, near the Texas Electric Service Comanche nuclear reactor, heard the utility was planning to build a railroad spur across his land. The spur would be used to transport irradiated fuel. Nelon sued the utility, claiming that his land would be substantially de-valued by a potential buyers fear of nuclear danger or accident.

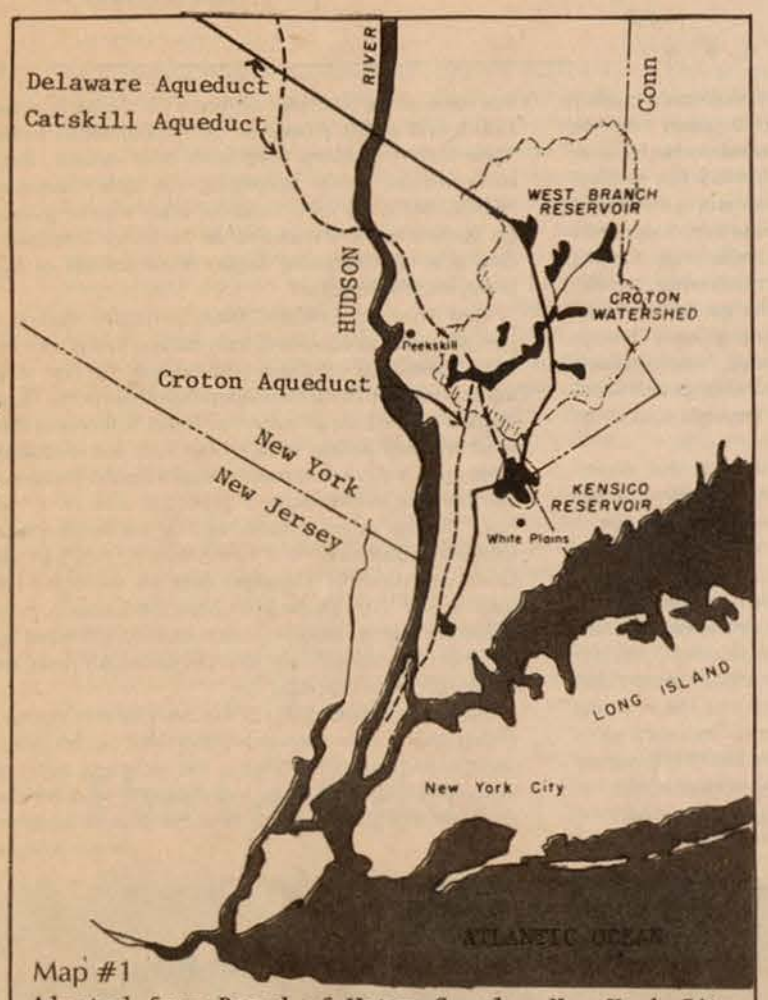
Under the law, as interpreted in this case, for the court to find in Nelon's favor, the judge had to be convinced that 1) there was a basis *in reason or in experience* for the fear, 2) such fear would enter into the calculations of persons who deal in the buying and selling of similar properties and 3) there would be a depreciation of market value because of such fear.

In a decision of far reaching implications for property owners near nuclear hazards who wish to seek property tax relief, the court decided that the peanut farm should be devalued from $280,330 to $175,206 or by *$105,124*. The utility brought in experts in an attempt to prove that the shipping casks were safe and any fear was unwarranted. The court did not accept these arguments. The court stated that, although the probability of a rupture of irradiated fuel containers had not been demonstrated and such a rupture has not yet occurred, *there was a basis in reason* for the fear of this type of accident.

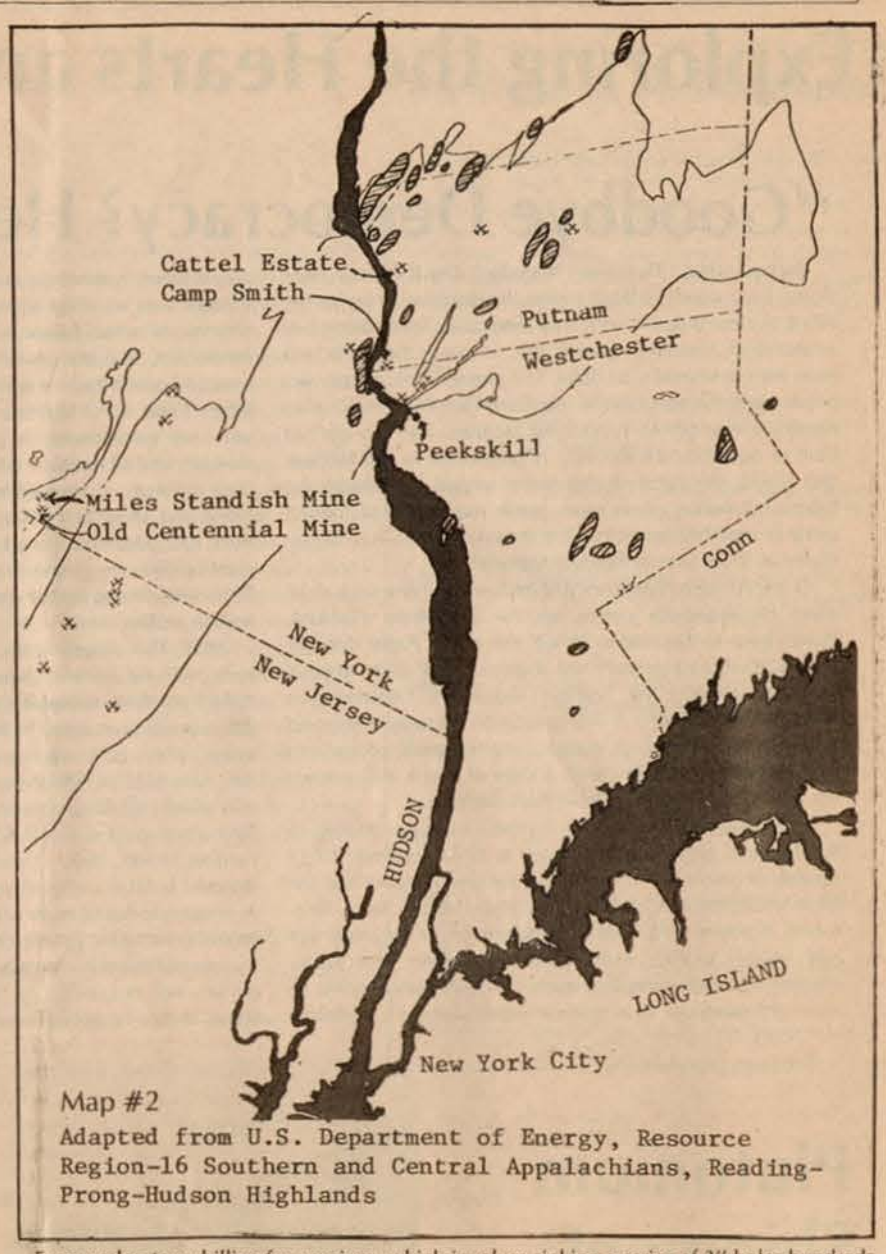
The district court and then the state Court of Civil Appeals affirmed the decision on January 14, 1977. Citizens interested in more details on this case should refer to *546 South Western Reporter, 2nd Series, page 864, Texas Electric Service versus Burlyn Nelon. The South Western Reporter* is available in any law library.

Source: Thanks to Ed Lawrence of the Veatch Program and Chip Reynolds of the American Friends Service Committee for letting us know about this precedent-setting suit.

Radium In NY Water – No Thanks



Map #1
Adapted from Board of Water Supply, New York City Water Supply Systems, December 31, 1957



Map #2
Adapted from U.S. Department of Energy, Resource Region-16 Southern and Central Appalachians, Reading-Prong-Hudson Highlands

New York City residents have long been blessed with an unusually clean, pure water supply. One reason the quality of the water is so high is that water is imported from reservoirs constructed as far away as 125 miles in rural, unpolluted areas. Delaware, Sullian and Orange counties are the location of Delaware and Catskill reservoirs and Putnam and Westchester the location of the 12 reservoirs in the Croton system. The water is piped to the city residents via a complex system of aqueducts (see Map #1).

The purity of this system on which 8 million residents depend could be seriously endangered if oil companies proceed with plans to do exploratory drilling and mining in areas that directly impact upon these reservoirs. Map #2 (see above) is a section of a Department of Energy (DOE) map that shows an "Exploration Area" in the Reading Prong-Hudson Highlands. The pickaxes represent a "reported radioactive occurrence," the cross-matched areas are "radio metric anomalies" (discovered through airborne surveys).

According to a DOE staffer working on uranium geology in this region, some of the "reported occurrences" are "legitimate" uranium prospects; some are not. Conversely, the staffer noted a more thorough exploration of the area would "undoubtedly" turn up more uranium prospects than those noted. As a result, the agency has defined the area as "speculative – which implies our belief that there is some probability that some areas would be large enough and rich enough to be economically viable."

The proximity of the "speculative" areas to the Croton watershed is of grave concern. Even exploratory drilling for uranium, which involves sinking a series of 3" holes hundreds of feet into the ground, can be hazardous. If the drill holes intersect with an uranium bearing strata which always contains radium, then the water soluble radium would have access to the environment via rainfall and surface runoff. Of course, the hazards associated with a full-scale uranium mining operation are considerably more severe. Of particular concern are the acid run-off and large tailing piles left over after the mining and milling operations. These piles contain 85% of the original radioactivity and will remain hazardous for thousands of years. During this time, the radioactive sand must be "stabilized" or protected from wind and water erosion so as to prevent the leaking out of a radioactive gas "radon" or the washing away of the soluble radium. As yet nobody knows how to do this.

New York City residents would do well, not only to start thinking where their water comes *from*, but where it goes *to*. The Croton reservoir system which would be most directly impacted by uranium mining, under average rainfall conditions is pumped to the Central Park water reservoir (see Cover Photo). From there, the water is pumped to a sliver of the East side of Manhattan encompassing 34th Street down to Houston and Third Avenue over to the East River. But, during times of drought, the Croton water is mixed with other city water and pumped to *all* areas of the city. Joggers running around the reservoir may want to contemplate these issues. City residents that are not joggers may want to walk around the reservoir (or sit home) and contemplate the importance of uranium-free water.

Mining Foes Win

Fall of 1980, *the Waste Paper* carried an article that discussed the emerging grassroots opposition to uranium mining in New Jersey. Since then, those tender shoots developed into a statewide coalition which *won* its campaign to stop uranium mining and milling in NJ.

Looking Back In eight short months, five towns enacted ordinances to prohibit uranium activities within their borders and over half a dozen other communities passed strongly worded resolutions against uranium mining.

Uranium opponents gave slide show presentations and sponsored public forums to get the word out concerning the hazards of uranium mining. They talked to church groups, college classes, rotary clubs, vegetarian societies and labor unions. Over 18,000 people signed petitions and joined the NJ Coalition to stop uranium mining.

The Coalition is comprised of the groups spearheading the campaign - The Safe Energy Alternative Alliance (SEA), Stop Uranium Now, Prevent Uranium Mining Alliance, New Jersey Public Interest Research Group and NJ SANE. Before long, the surge of opposition from these groups became a loud roar that state legislators could not ignore; they had to react.

And the legislators did react - by introducing two conflicting bills, one to permanently ban uranium mining, another to allow uranium mining with regulation by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Both bills were referred to Sen. Dodd's Energy and Environment Committee where they were ignored for months. Finally, on Jan. 20, 1981, Dodd's committee held a public hearing to decide which bill it would favor.

Over 200 people crowded into the Morristown hearing room and dozens testified. One by one, they spoke, and their words fit together like pieces of a puzzle. In addition to the testimony of the area residents, scientific and medical experts described the grim reality of the environmental and public health hazards posed by mining uranium. Dr. Joseph Wagoner, the researcher who first conducted studies linking uranium mining and lung cancer, said, "Our experience with uranium can best be termed as one of the most shameful chapters in the annals of science, medicine, government and industry."

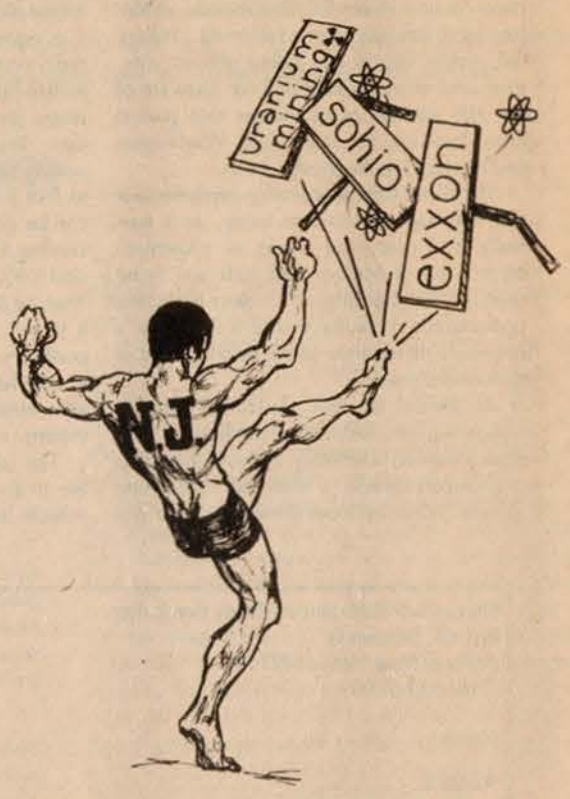
At the end of the hearing, Sen. Dodd announced that he was convinced and would support a statewide ban. He said, "What I will recommend will be a sunset provision on a ban."

Dodd kept his promise and on Jan. 29, 1981, his committee released a bill that would ban uranium exploration, mining and milling for seven years while the DEP studies the hazards. The bill also requires that DEP hold hearings before issuing a report on their findings. On Feb. 19, the NJ Senate voted *unanimously* for this bill and less than one month later, the Assembly *unanimously* approved it as well.

All that is needed now is the governor's signature on the bill and NJ will become the second state in the country to prohibit uranium mining and milling, following the lead of Vermont, which passed a ban in April 1980.

by Linda Sachs

Linda Sachs is active in the SEA Alliance and worked toward the uranium mining ban in NJ. Activists who are trying to stop uranium mining in other states can get advice and information including Uranium Mining and Milling Primer from the SEA Alliance, Box 271, New Vernon, NJ 07976 or call (201) 538-6676 or 539-9016.



graphics by Sue Titus

Exploring the Hearts and Minds of the NRC

"Goodbye Democracy? Hello . . ."

Reprocessing.* Plutonium Recycle.* The Breeder.* New dental buzz words in Washington that promise to revive the ailing nuclear industry with rosy (and, alas, false) dreams of economical, boundless power. But, as usual, the politicians have left out several vital links. The plutonium economy depends upon the transport of irradiated fuel from the 75-plus operating reactors to processing facilities that are not yet built or operable, the trucking of plutonium to fuel fabrication plants, the constant movement to and fro through the heart of America of weapons-grade material – plutonium oxide or enriched uranium. This material is known to the industry as SNM-Special Nuclear Material.

Since Western New York just experienced one such shipment of plutonium oxide (on the way from Hanford, Washington to Rochester, N.Y.), *the Waste Paper* decided to look at what increased SNM shipments will mean to all of us. After reading the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) NUREG-0465, *A Transportation Security Personnel Training Manual*, which details recommended procedures for SNM transport, we are in a state of shock and suspect our readers will soon join us in this condition.

NRC Paranoia Each SNM shipment contains pounds of bomb-grade plutonium. Because it only requires 10-12 pounds of plutonium to fashion a nuclear weapon, the nuclear establishment is deeply paranoid about these shipments. A potential attacker lurks behind every tree, stop sign and young, smiling woman with a toddler (see "Contemplating a Primer on Terrorism"). The paranoia seems almost pathological. The nuclear establishment's elaborate preparations to run the gauntlet of quiet rural roads, country villages and winding highways are so far afield from the concept of what democracy is envisioned to be by most Americans, that the reader of NUREG-0465 has to blink eyes and pinch flesh to realize that we are not in the land of James Bond make believe. No, a government, supposedly *our own* government, is advocating deliberately training men to view all ordinary citizens *particularly white, middle-class women* as potential terrorists to be gunned down by pistol and shotgun packing guards blasting away through truck cab portholes. So all electric homes, master-metered glass-walled-energy-guzzling 102-story buildings and flood-lit banks drinking up the juice through the night, can go on and on proliferating.

MUF The absurd, grim, enraging irony is that experience, thus far, clearly shows that the primary threat to enriched uranium and plutonium is not sabotage, but loss at the place of manufacture. Repeatedly, at plants such as the West Valley, N.Y. reprocessing facility, the Irwin, Tennessee, Kerr-McGee, Oklahoma and Numec, Pa. fuel fabrication plants, significant amounts of weapons grade materials have gone poof – or MUF, material unaccounted for, according to NRC lingo. *Thousands of pounds* of bomb-grade material is MUF with, supposedly, much of it lost in piping or missing in liquid or air waste effluents . . . as if such a loss would comfort us. But the other MUF not lost in this manner . . . simply nobody can state definitively whether a theft has or has not occurred. (In 1977, *Rolling Stone* magazine stated that a "highly placed Pentagon consultant" alleged that some of the MUF was delivered via a truck hijacked in France and a ship pirated in the Mediterranean to Israel. These bizarre incidents have never been verified.) But, for some reason, while promoting the sick mentality of NUREG-0465, the NRC looks the other way or gives only the gentlest tap on the wrist when the Irwin, Tennessee nuclear fuel manufacturing facility loses pounds of bomb-grade, enriched uranium.

And what is the NUREG-0465 mentality? Nuclear shippers are urged to equip and train nuclear fuel guards to perceive themselves as above and beyond the law. A paramilitary force is being developed that is trained to be suspicious of all the normal law enforcement authorities, sheriffs, local and state police; to shoot to kill; to run roadblocks. It is left up to the driver to make the split-second decision as to whether the roadblock is a legitimate one or a "police ruse." But the driver is reassured if he has *incorrectly* run a legitimate roadblock "If it is the police, they can always chase you down". This guard with his extremely limited training (see "The Training: Mission Impossible"), is taught to believe that his extra-legal actions are legitimized by the fact that "the task you are about to undertake ranks among the world's most important".

Apparent Hoaxes What is the basis for this strange and chiling variation on cops-and-robbers that has become mercenaries-and-terrorists? What is the record in terms of attacks upon nuclear facilities and shipments? Has the nuclear establishment gone bananas or is the paranoia legitimate?

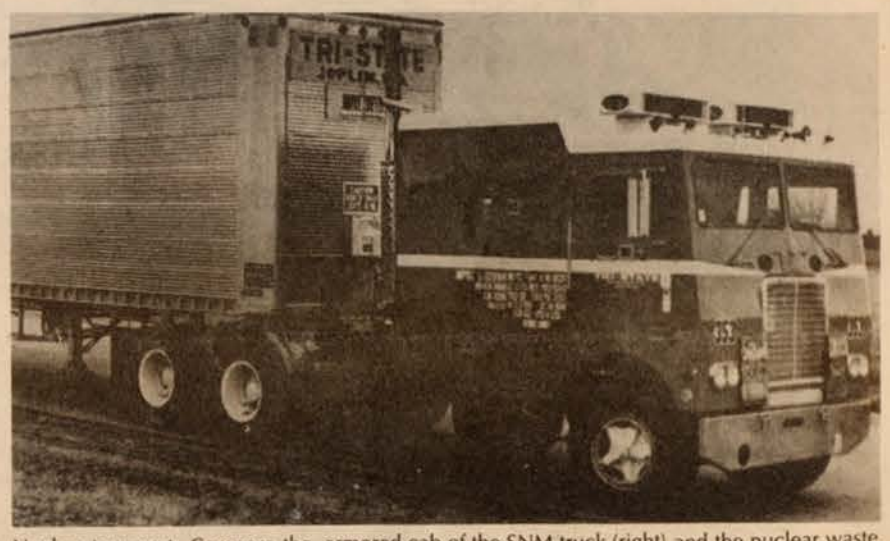
continued on page 5

*See page 7 for glossary.

Plutonium Shipment

Oops! We apologize . . . Lindsey Audin was the source from which we received the information on the plutonium shipment which came through western New York last February, 1980. We didn't mention that in our last issue. Lindsey obtained the information from a Freedom of Information Act request concerning transportation of nuclear fuel in New York.

photo by Marvin Resnikoff



Nuclear transport: Compare the armored cab of the SNM truck (right) and the nuclear waste cab (left) Note tank-like features and gun ports.

The Truck: A Tank on Main Street, U.S.A.

In the Winter, 1981 issue of *the Waste Paper*, the Sierra Club Radioactive Waste Campaign revealed the route of a secret cross-country shipment of plutonium oxide. No local officials were informed. Police, fire, public health and safety officers, city, town and village residents were unaware of the 105 pounds of plutonium that passed from Cheswick, Pa. to Hanford, Washington and then back to Rochester, N.Y.

The secret shipment was carrying nuclear fuel not made of uranium oxide, as is normally the case, but made of plutonium oxide. The plutonium fuel rods are being used in a "demonstration" project to test the performance of plutonium in a reactor – a necessary prerequisite to the development of the breeder reactor.

As Special Nuclear Materials (SNM) or weapons-grade fuel, the unpublicized shipment involved a military convoy consisting of an escort vehicle, a semi and a screening vehicle. While en route these vehicles travel extremely close together, frequently varying the pattern of which vehicle goes first or last.

The semi in this trio is unique. It has an armor-plated cab with bullet-resistant glass. It is equipped with gun ports and multiple radio systems – a cb, a radiotelephone and walkie talkies. (None of these systems has a range greater than 25 miles from a home base, less in mountain terrain.) The laminated steel, air-conditioned cab can carry up to four passengers, has sealed windows and can be quickly released from the trailer. According to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) training manual, the armored cab "can be driven around as a base of fire, like a tank," with guns protruding through the portholes. Leaving behind the trailer which is very hard to enter, this tank then can go after terrorists and "force the adversary to extreme measures."

The tank-like character of the cab is visible in the accompanying photo. The SNM vehicle is placed adjacent to a regular semi used for irradiated fuel or "low level" radioactive waste transport.

Aside from the extremely disturbing civil liberties aspects of this mode of transport discussed in "Goodbye Democracy" and "Contemplating a Primer on Terrorism," the tank features make the semi heavy and hard to steer. Thus, the potential for accidents is increased with this type of transport. Add to these problems, a jumpy crew expecting attack at every corner, and the potential for accidents increases.

The drivers and guards in the escort vehicles are given remarkably simplistic and superficial military and "political" training (see "The Training" and "Contemplating a Primer on Terrorism") including a mere four hours of shooting from a gun port practice. Then, armed with pistols, shotguns, gas masks, semi-automatic weapons and a bizarre concept of the U.S. Constitution (see "The Guards"), the SNM is on its way through small and big town, U.S.A.

"If it is the police, they can always chase you down"

In the case of the February, 1980 shipment of plutonium oxide, the fuel was shipped in MOI containers made of two steel shells. In between the two shells is polyurethane foam used for shock and thermal insulation. *This foam is highly flammable and should not be used in packaging plutonium oxide.* A highway accident, involving a fire could ignite the polyurethane foam, potentially releasing plutonium and creating a serious health hazard. *The Waste Paper* has not yet examined the tests to which these casks have been subjected but, if the same lack of rigor is applied here as is found with irradiated fuel shipping casks, then we, indeed, have cause for concern.

The primary threat from these plutonium shipments, however, is not a health hazard, but a civil liberties hazard. Read on, dear reader.

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Name . . . . . .

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Please make checks payable to the Atlantic Chapter Radioactive Waste Campaign. Send to the above address. Thank you.

☐ Yes, I would like to subscribe to the *Waste Paper* at the reduced introductory rate of $6.00 per year. I am enclosing a check in this amount.

☐ Yes, I would like to volunteer some time for the Radioactive Waste Campaign. I will help with research, clerical, organizing, public speaking (please circle your interest).

☐ Yes, put me on your mailing list.

☐ Yes, I would like to stop radioactive wastes. Here is my contribution of _____ to the Campaign.

Goodbye . . .

continued from page 4

An interesting document, *Safeguards Summary Event List*, NUREG-0525, details every hostile act or threat made against commercial nuclear facilities since 1969. In these 12 years, there have been about 300 anonymous bomb threats phoned into nuclear facilities. We found this a surprising and alarming number – particularly, since a high percentage of the calls came from phones *located on the actual reactor site*. Apparently, nuclear power plant workers have, unfortunately, hostile attitudes towards these facilities or a very sick sense of humor. But all of the calls were described by the NRC as "apparent hoaxes" with no actual bombs in place (with one exception, a crude pipe bomb at the Trojan plant in Washington). Since many such threats have been against facilities under construction, it would appear that the threats have been exceedingly misguided and stupid means of expressing opposition.

The record is more eventful as pertains to shipping events. In 1971 and, again, in 1978, there were verified shootings at a Tri-State Motor Truck carrying irradiated fuel. But the NRC classified both incidents as "labor-related".

Any violence either verbal or actual is of grave concern when dealing with the atomic genii. But a sense of proportion is missing here. In terms of domestic violence against nuclear facilities and shipments, the record does not justify the industry's current obsession with terrorists. In terms of international violence and the loss of SNM, the record indicates that those who wish to obtain weapons-grade plutonium and enriched uranium are very sophisticated operators who will do so and not be deterred by AR-15's, semi-automatic weapons and shoot-to-kill instructions.

Fear Economy The persons to whom these weapons are very relevant are the majority of law-abiding citizens whose civil liberties are under gross attack. When a woman flagging down a diesel truck to borrow some diesel fuel additive to ungel fuel in sub-zero weather, when a policeman setting up a road barrier because of a highway accident, when a black advocate concerned by conditions in the ghetto, when a Native American activist, are all defined as potential terrorists by the nuclear establishment, then the plutonium economy is in the process of becoming the fear economy.

We feel that the philosophy and policy laid out in NUREG-0465 is exceedingly dangerous and should spell the end of Congressional filtrations with the plutonium economy. We have selected some readings from this alarming document to publish and discuss here. We urge all *Waste Paper* readers to peruse NUREG-0465 promptly *before* it is removed from your government document library shelves and to let your congressperson know how you feel about it.

The Training: Mission Impossible

"Mission Impossible Capers" best describe the teachings from the 4-week course for drivers of SNM shipments. Tactics for safeguarding cargo resemble James Bond stunts. In only *one month*, these men are trained to spot terrorists, learn how to recognize a "police ruse" and finally, how to shoot an AR-15 rifle, a 12-gauge pump shotgun and a 38 pistol. Excerpts from the suggested course are listed below. The estimated cost for *one class of 15* in 1978 was $37,921.18.

TACTIC		HOURS
Dismounted	– field of fire, cover and concealment, movement under fire, estimating direction and range.	1
Mounted	– organizing to move and halt, convoy structure, alert response and ambush response, counter surveillance.	8
Terrorism	– students become aware on terrorism threats, backgrounds on terrorist groups and profiles. (see "Contemplating a Primer on Terrorism.")	1
Defensive	– hand-to-hand combat, self-defense, basic escapes and counter attacks.	10
Shotgun	– proficiency in use of shotgun, fire in combat positions using silhouettes, learning rapidity as well as accuracy.	6
AR 15	– AR 15 rifle use (same as U.S. Army M-16), assembly and disassembly.	8
Night Firing	– identification of target with one blink of a flashlight and shoot.	4
Gun Port Shooting	– learn to fire a 38 pistol and a 12-gauge pump shotgun from simulated gun ports.	4
Police Ruse	– learn about the attacker disguised as a police officer	3

The Guards: Special Nuclear Forces

"My job is perhaps one of the most important in the world today"

Code of Ethics

Article I

"I recognize the fundamental duty of every citizen to support the Constitution and our system of government. I accept further, however, that the position which I hold places even greater responsibilities upon me to assure the safeguarding of the materials placed under my protection. To this end, I pledge my complete and total support, so that freedom in this republic will not be diminished through act or failure on my part."

Article X

"My job is perhaps one of the most important in the world today. Nuclear material and the energy which it can release may provide necessities for untold generations yet to come. Failure on my part may change the course of research or may actually permit tragedy to strike. I will not settle for a lesser *degree than* 'well done'."

The previous two selections from the code of ethics outlined in the training manual for guards leads us into the murky realm of above and beyond the law, particularly, when combined with other NUREG-0465 directives to ignore police directions, run roadblocks and presume the driver's concept of law is superior to the local sheriff's. When the City Council members in Binghamton pledge allegiance to the flag, when the school assembly recites support for the Constitution, when the State and Federal legislatures across the land murmur these familiar words of duty, they never add "further" and "however" or "the position which I hold places even *greater* responsibilities upon me."

Who is to determine when these "greater" responsibilities should be expanded or terminated? Who is to determine when these "greater" responsibilities should supersede local law and authority? Who is to determine when these very guards are, instead of supporting "the freedom of the republic," subverting that freedom? Should this power be given to individuals indoctrinated with the ideals of "Contemplating a Primer on Terrorism"? The answer to this question is so evident, it hardly needs to be asked.

Dismounted Tactics - The graphic taken from the SNM Training Manual illustrates the techniques used in training drivers to combat terrorism.

Contemplating a Primer on Terrorism

The *Transportation Security Personnel Training Manual*, NUREG-0465, written under the auspices of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), states that its purpose is "to make the student aware of the potential threat that terrorism poses." The "student" is the trucker who is responsible for the transportation of S.N.M., and the teacher, by implication, is the NRC. The entire document is written in an understated matter-of-fact tone much like a primer, the words conveying such a confident authority that the emotional effect is intended to lull the reader into an acceptance of the document's content, its definition of the terrorist.

On the first page, the "student" is personally involved when the document states that "the nature of the material . . makes *you* a potential victim of the terrorist attack." (italics mine). And by what is this so-called terrorist motivated? The manual offers three reasons for terrorism, including the "Psychological Factor," citing "the human's secret love of violence;" the "Sociological Factor," noting that "Upper and middle class youths no longer have to work," (as opposed, undoubtedly, to the trucker whose job it is to transport dangerous material); and the "Political Factor." The latter refers to some groups that advocate "overthrowing a government" or have some "minor complaint". To quote directly from the SNM Training Manual (italics mine):

"III Who's Involved and Why?

A. Terrorist Profile
   1. Tends to be between 22 and 25 years of age.
   2. Mainly males but the female population is growing. *Typically females tend to be more violent*
   3. Usually single.
   4. Usually urban.
   5. Middle or upper class.
   6. Many students and professional people.

B. Reasons's for Being a Terrorist
   1. Political - Some groups advocate overthrow of a form of government – some just have a *minor complaint* such as the civil rights in the 60's – the students who were against the Vietnam War and wanted the U.S. to bring all its troops home – against the conditions they live in – such as ghettos."

This reader had always thought minor complaints were like a pebble in one shoe, or too much salt in the chicken soup. War, poverty and racism are not minor complaints; they are major human tragedies.

The document goes on to identify some of the specific terrorist groups as the American Indian Movement, the Black Panther Party, Black Muslims, Black Liberation Army, Fueras Armadas de Liberacion Nacional Puertoriquena (FALN), and the Weather Underground organization. Each one of these groups is briefly summarized.

The unwarranted and undocumented comment in a "Terrorist Profile" that "Typically females tend to be more violent" is in odd contrast to a language that otherwise seems to try to avoid the controversy of sexism. For example, the Weather Underground is defined as the "Grand *person*" of American revolutionary organizations.

Perhaps the most disturbing thing about this document is not what it states, but what it implies. Anyone who in any way threatens the shipment of S.N.M. becomes, by definition, a terrorist. By definition, the concerned citizen who might protest a shipment of SNM through his or her community becomes defined as a terrorist. The human being, concerned for the life of the planet, becomes a gangster motivated by little other than greed for financial or political gain, who will threaten the life of the trucker. In reality, the true threat is the cargo that the trucker is being taught to protect. And this primer, identifying the characteristics and goals of the terrorist, is itself quietly terrifying.

by Ruth Geller

Ruth Geller is a Buffalo writer. The Waste Paper *published "The Lecture" from her short stories collection in the Fall, 1980 edition.*

Middlesex Soil Relocation Project

Beginning on June 1st, the borough of Middlesex, New Jersey, will be subject to a radiological decontamination that is expected to take six months to complete.

Middlesex was the site of uranium ore sampling during the World War II project to develop the first bomb (see Summer 1980 *Waste Paper*). As a result of the sloppy handling of uranium tailings at the Middlesex Sampling Plant, over a million cubic feet of soil at the nine-acre site was discovered to be radioactively contaminated. It was dug up in 1948. A sampling plant guard, unaware that the soil was radioactive, took several small truckloads to fill in the low spots of his yard at 432 Williams Street and at the rectory of his church. The bulk of the soil was improperly disposed of in the Middlesex Municipal landfill.

The contaminated soil at 432 Williams St. and the rectory was excavated last summer in a "cleanup" that was full of surprises. The most astounding was the inaccuracy of the government's assessment of the extent and location of contamination. At the rectory, workmen had to dig down over *six* feet in some spots, instead of the expected 2.5 feet. Also, contamination was unexpectedly discovered across the street. At the Williams St. site, contamination went as deep as *13* feet instead of the anticipated 1.5 feet.

In addition to these two locations, 27 other properties were contaminated during operation of the sampling plant, by uranium that spilled off trucks and was carried off the site by wind and rainfall. It is these properties that are scheduled for decontamination beginning June 1.

If last year's *modus operandi* is repeated, Middlesex residents are in for a long ordeal. They will see 8-foot high plywood fences erected around the 27 properties, some of which are in the middle of town. And then for at least six continuous months, workmen in white protective overalls, radiation badges and special rubber boots will be uprooting ancient trees and digging up lawns, sidewalks, patios and garages. The crew will load at least 25,000 cubic yards of radioactive soil into thousands of truckloads. These will be carted to the sampling plant site. The radioactive soil will be piled on top of the mound of soil from last summer's cleanup. The mound, which measures approximately 150-feet long, by 100-feet wide, by 14-feet high, will be increased by at least ten fold.

That mountain of radioactive soil will be covered with a sheet of thin rubber and two feet of clean earth. It will stay "temporarily" at the sampling plant site until another, permanent location is found, if ever.

The search for a permanent location has been undertaken by the NJ Department of look for a site in exchange for the Department of Energy's (DOE) commitment to clean up the contaminated properties.

Environmental Protection (DEP), which commissioned a $29,000 study to identify suitable sites in New Jersey. Officials promised to

Dr. Marvin Resnikoff, Sierra Club staff scientist fears that the DOE is using the Middlesex situation as a lever to open up a regional low-level radioactive waste dump in New Jersey for "low level" wastes from nuclear reactors in surrounding states.

Middlesex residents think that the search for another site is a farce, that the DOF is only pretending that storage in Middlesex is temporary. According to Health Board member Dr. David Ehrenfeld, "It's going to stay here forever." If another site *is* found, then the people of Middlesex will find themselves pitted against those in the new municipality targeted for the dump. If a permanent site *is not* found, then the sampling plant site will continue to be a source of radiation exposure for neighborhood people.

by Linda Sachs

Down on the Swamp

Senator Dale Volker of Lancaster N.Y. has written a strong letter (see below) requesting more information about the West Valley swamp discussed in *the Waste Paper*, Vol. 3, No. 1. *The Waste Paper* readers are urged to write local New York State Assembly and Senate representatives. Request them also to obtain clarification from *both* Department of Health and Department of Environmental Conservation regarding the West Valley swamps. Folks writing letters might like to cite the following sources that have stated that there are swamps at the site: Figure 2.22a from the Safety Analysis Report prepared by Nuclear Fuel Services in 1962 shows a swamp at the south end of the burial ground. Figure 7 on page 26 of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 1977 study "Summary Report on the Low Level Radioactive Waste Burial Site, West Valley, N.Y." shows a swamp at the same location. In addition, the existence of the swamp was mentioned by Thomas Cashman, former chief of the Bureau of Radiation in several conversations with the Radioactive Waste Campaign staff. For background information on the West Valley burial ground alias swamp, write for the fact sheet: "Insecure Landfills: The West Valley Experience."

Dear Sirs:

I have received correspondence from the Sierra Club Radioactive Waste Campaign alleging that low level waste burial sites at West Valley are located near "several swamps". Not being in a position to determine if these charges are warranted, I hope you will answer the questions below.

1. Do swamps or large sand lenses present a problem if low level wastes are buried in their proximity?
2. Do such geologic formations exist in the occupied low level burial ground areas at West Valley?
3. Were you aware of these formations at the time the original permit was granted?
4. Is there any radioactive migration into surrounding water supplies? If so, how much?
5. If above recommended limits, what plans do you have to correct the situation?
6. What continuing monitoring functions do you plan?

I appreciate your taking the time to research these questions and look forward to your answers.

Sincerely yours,
Dale Volker

The Campaign presented 12 red roses representing the 12 lbs. of plutonium buried at the West Valley burial ground in New York to local legislators on Valentine's Day. From left to right: Susan Hagar representing Assembly Speaker Stanley Fink, David Collins of Buffalo City Council, Joan Bozer of Erie County Legislature.

Bechtel Administration . . .

continued from page 1

viewing the facility. And finally, Bechtel has spent $200,000 on an inside-company study of the Super Phenix plant in France and the potential for exporting the breeder technology to third world countries.

But what does it mean that a company is privately held? Why should citizens care? Because Bechtel is privately held, it is not required to register financial documents with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Unlike publicly held corporations – companies whose stock anybody can buy if they come up with the money – there are no documents on record with SEC that detail who are on the board of directors, what salaries these individuals make, how much stock they own, what are the annual expenses and profits made, taxes paid. There are no Annual Reports available for inspection. There are no monthly summaries showing who bought or sold stock in what quantities. There is no way to check to see if company board members are making illegal donations to presidential and other political campaigns because we do not know who those board members are.

In particular, for a firm deeply involved in nuclear power where long term corporate responsibility is so important, this lack is very disturbing. Already two of Bechtel's nukes need to be decommissioned – Peach Bottom 1 in Pa. and Humbolt Bay in Calif. How are citizens to establish a long term decommissioning plan that protects the public health and safety if they do not know who is accountable?

Actually, because Bechtel has had a policy of hiring Cabinet and other high level staffers from earlier administrations, these appointments have surfaced in newspapers like the Wall St. Journal. Among the Board of Directors have been George Schultz (Secretary of Labor under Nixon, joined Bechtel in 1974, became President in 1975 and now serving on Reagan's Council of Economic Advisors), Caspar Weinberger (former Nixon HEW head, then Bechtel counsel and Vice-President, now Reagan's Secretary of Defense), Richard Helm (ex-CIA chief and Ambassador to Iran and now a Bechtel board member), Robert Hollingsworth (former head of AEC nuclear promotion department, 1964-1974) and Kenneth Davis, recently appointed Deputy Secretary in the Energy Department, is another ex-Bechtel staffer. But it is only a few such individuals that emerge from the secrecy that surrounds the company.

The question citizens must ask is what type of private economic interest or company loyalty among top level advisors surrounding Reagan (folks who might return to the company after a stint in Washington) is now tainting decisions to promote nuclear power, push the breeder, advocate sale of enriched uranium to India (wouldn't that sweeten the deal for future reactor sales), reduce regulatory oversight of the industry and ease restrictions on export of nuclear technology to foreign countries.

We cannot know the answer to these questions without knowing more about the past and present executives of Bechtel and how each link to Ronald, Nancy and their friends. But it is natural that a company with 19 reactors currently cancelled or delayed (7 cancelled and 12 delayed) because of the unfavorable nuclear climate would want to change that climate. And it is natural for a company that has had major conflicts with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to wish to restrict the Commission's power.

A couple of examples of NRC-Bechtel disputes: In Spring of 1979, the NRC temporarily shut-down Bechtel's Trojan nuke near Portland, Washington because a re-inforced wall in the control room did not meet NRC earthquake standards. And the NRC publicly chastized Bechtel for "lax" quality control at the Midland, Michigan nuke where the agency found 15 instances in which steel reinforcing bars in the containment vessel were put in wrong.

These NRC flagged instances have not been the first occasion for quality control to bring the secret company into the limelight. Back in 1976, Bechtel lost its job as the firm responsible for quality control on the 700-mile Alaska pipeline. An internal audit showed problems on 4000 welds on the pipeline with 500 X-rays incorrectly identified (X-rays of good welds were keyed to welds that had not even been photographed), defective or missing. The state pipeline inspector commented that 30% of the welds had to be re-done in one year, whereas normally, the industry average would be 2-3% of defective welds. Responsibility for the welding problem was never clearly established, but Bechtel was sufficiently implicated to lose its $40 million contract. The potential for accidents at nukes where near-perfect welds are absolutely necessary is exceedingly discomforting if similar quality control problems were to pertain.

This brings us back to the issue of accountability which is so crucial in the nuclear energy field. If citizens do not know who is responsible for design and engineering construction of a local nuke, what recourse do they have for impact on the policies of the corporation? Citizens all over the country are participating in stockholder meetings, presenting stockholder resolutions, pressuring large institutions and pension funds to divest their portfolios of nuclear energy stocks. Bechtel is immune from this kind of action.

Is it an accident or is it something about the nuclear technology which makes its promoters feel that secrecy is the best policy? Is it an accident or is it deliberate that we cannot go down to the Federal Elections Commission and find out what type of Bechtel donations went to Reagan? into the National Republican Committee? and into warchests for the conservatives that are presently making pro-nuclear, increased subsidy decisions in Washington and in our local states? Is it an accident or is it deliberate that Bechtel keeps pulling in enormous plums in the way of federal contracts – $13 million in 1978 for engineering services at the Portsmouth, Ohio enrichment facility, $400 million in 1980 for the "clean-up" of Three Mile Island, $130 million in 1981 for the "clean-up" of thirty Manhattan project sites?

Do we, in fact, have a Reagan administration or a Bechtel administration sitting in the White House?

Sources for this article: *Wall St. Journal, Engineering News Record, Nuclear Engineering International* (published in England).

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Matuszek Profile . . .

publicly available. This undocumented, unscientific attack by Matuszek is a discredit to the DOH.

DOE West Valley Task Force In 1978, the Department of Energy (DOE) convened a Task Force on Decontamination and Decommissioning of the West Valley Tanks chaired by the NYS Attorney General, with citizens and State agency officials as members. The purpose of the Task Force was to designate radioactivity levels for "cleaning up" the West Valley tanks. Carol Mongerson, member of the Coalition on West Valley Nuclear Wastes, constructed an elaborate scientific logic for deciding when and if the high level waste tanks, solid waste dumps or reprocessing building, should be decommissioned. The volunteer work which took weeks was quickly scanned by the ex-military officer, angrily crumbled into a ball and thrown on the table with the utterance, "This is what I think of this." The Matuszek performance was cruel and tactless. The Mongerson report was adopted by the Task Force and published in the DOE *Western New York Nuclear Service Center Study*.

In a letter to the Sierra Club Radioactive Waste Campaign on Jan. 28, 1980, David Axelrod, commissioner of DOH, defends his employee Matuszek. "Employees of this Department are entitled to their personal opinion." He continued, "You would agree that we cannot infringe upon the right of scientists to disagree." In the case of Matuszek, Commissioner Axelrod blandly looks the other way, no matter how outrageous the "opinions" and actions of his subordinate.

But when Roswell Park researcher Dr. Beverly Paigen reported on Love Canal birth defects and cancers in 1979, the Commissioner played a very different game. The Commissioner, through Roswell Park head Gerald Murphy, denied Dr. Paigen research funds from the EPA. It was the first time Roswell Park prevented a researcher from exercising a federal grant. The Commissioner had no trouble infringing on Dr. Paigen's rights to protect the health and safety of the public from toxic chemicals.

The Waste Paper knows there are more tales of this "shoot from the hip" DOH official who has enraged citizens from one end of the State to the other. If you had some discouraging or enraging encounter with Matuszek or his ilk in the State agencies, and would like to see it published in *the Waste Paper*, let us know.

New Jersey Workshop

On July 18th the Sierra Club Radioactive Waste Campaign will sponsor a training workshop in New Jersey for radioactive waste activists. The workshop will include sessions on technical issues and organizing skills. A selection of workshops such as "Nuclear Transport: Is It Safe?," "Solid 'low-level' radioactive waste burial grounds," "Speaker Training" and "Building a Citizen Network" will be offered. The all-day session will be held at a rural retreat near the Delaware River on the Pa.-N.Y. border. The registration fee is $10.00. Attendance will be limited to 30 participants. Pre-registration is required. To obtain a registration form write the Campaign at 3164 Main St., Buffalo, N.Y. Participants will be selected on a first come, first serve basis.

Reality's Dream

Memories of childhood, dreams of summers past,
fly by through my moving window
like so many spiders weaving ever more beautiful webs
with the many conclusions I had long ago reached.
The tiny ribbon of highway I glide upon
snakes its way through mountains and meadow
its many sharp curves and holes reminding me
of a well-travelled trail I could hike in my sleep,
each mile more familiar and comforting. . .

But the summer haze quickly clears and stark reality shakes my body,
my heart beats furiously and tears cloud my eyes.
Somehow the scenery has changed,
though no new buildings scar the forest,
no stately old barn has fallen prey to the clutching earth
and no dams yet challenge the mighty river.
Yes now it is all different,
the rural, almost innocent serenity of this trip will never reappear.
The truck which so blithely passed me by,
its 18 wheels as silent as a sled upon snow,
carries our future's destiny and our past's shame:
radioactive waste.

A bucolic town squeezes the speed from the highway
as if to force the city travellers to appreciate the quaint village.
One lane disappears and traffic lights replace it.

An ancient steeple-topped railroad station,
its black slate roof gleaming in the sun,
beckons the commuters away from their homes.
The stores boast antiques and other articles
which city folk seem to think essential for country living.

The radioactivity, however, didn't notice.
Hot and glowing inside its gargantuan container,
restrained by chains, bars and concrete,
it waits for the smallest crack in its temporary home
to teach the lessons of human fallibility to our green earth.

Ah, but what cowardice is possessed by this most deadly of enemies.
Never will it announce its presence
by sight, smell or to the touch.
Rarely will it strike so boldly
that the death throes of its victims end during prime time.

Yet it is just such a mild-mannered villain
who has befriended so many people, the same ones
who lack the patience to watch 20 year cancer deaths,
who have the courage to face all but the unknown
and those who mistake the ticking of their geiger counters
for profits on wheels rolling down the highway.
Yet this thing which some call friend and I call foe
may kill us all before the argument ends.

The evil inside Pandora's container has
lulled us to sleep, left us mesmerized,
because no eyes search out this 18 wheeled time bomb,
no bureaucratic regulation slows its progress,
the local police sergeant knows not of its whereabouts
and no corporation can protect us with green security.
It's the truck versus the road and the trucker versus the truck.

Now the container on the truck doesn't look so thick,
the chains resemble string, the metal bars-sticks.
Every pothole in the tar, every bend in the road
tries to shake the precious cargo loose from its precarious home.
Quietly and without ceremony the inevitable happens.
When the casket breaks open and the unthinkable escapes
no bells sound nor is a trace of evidence left behind.

The sun still shines and the winds still blow.
On the sidewalk a group of children play
as their mother shops for their meals.
And when the silent shadow briefly descends upon the road
nobody will admit that a villain visited.
Explanations for the childrens' deaths
will have to come
from you and me.

David Epstein of Ramsey, NJ wrote this poem after following a Chem-Nuclear truck through Sloatsburg, NY on Route 17. He writes, "I live 1000 feet from this radioactive waste corridor."

Mind Excursion

Find the answers to the clues then fill in the solution according to the number beneath each letter. You'll find an important message from the Campaign.

Clues	Answers
A gas still being released from a tower in Lewiston, N.Y.	12 27 17 2 6
Location of a nuclear reprocessing plant (abbrev.)	26 24' 10 1
A tiny particle	20 7 19 14
A metric unit of volume (abbrev.)	21 4
"Hot plate" brand name	11 18 25 28 29 16
Common partner of fall, doors	13 9 22
Common radioactive metalic element (symbol)	3
An important environmental group	31 23 30 15 8 5

Solution: What runners never do . . .

1 2 3   4 5 6 7   8 9 10   11 12 13 14
15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25   26 27 28 29 30 31 !

For answer see page 8

Greg Longo

Glossary

Reprocessing. A process whereby irradiated reactor fuel is mechanically chopped up, chemically dissolved and plutonium and uranium extracted. The process is extremely dirty and expensive and produces large amounts of fiendishly toxic, high-level liquid waste. The only commercial reprocessing facility to operate in the U.S. at West Valley, N.Y. was a financial and technological failure.

Plutonium Recycle. This term is used to refer to re-use of plutonium extracted from irradiated fuel after use in a reactor. The plutonium is then mixed with uranium at fuel fabrication facilities. This scheme would supposedly stretch supplies of uranium.

The Breeder. The breeder is a nuclear reactor that would use plutonium as its primary fuel. The breeder uses liquid sodium as a coolant. Since the sodium reacts violently and instantaneously with air or water, a fire or explosion is a grave danger. There are other major technical problems with this type of reactor.

Strontium-90. Element 38 with a half-life of 28 years. It is chemically similar to calcium and tends to accumulate in place of calcium in the human body.

Plutonium. Element 94 which is highly toxic, with a wide range of half-lives. Extremely small quantities of plutonium are capable of inducing lung cancer when inhaled.

Deer Liver Analysis

In the article *Deer Hunters Beware* from *the Waste Paper*, Vol 3, No 1, Dr. Marvin Resnikoff was quoted as having conducted laboratory tests on a liver from a deer shot near the Lake Ontario Ordnance Works site in Lewiston, NY. His tests found 9.5 picocuries per gram of Cesium-137, radium and its daughters.

Recently, Resnikoff released the findings from a second test. "Based on our recent analysis of the livers of four deer shot near the LOOW site, we now find they contain no measurable amounts of the radionuclides cesium, radium or its daughters. From a radioactivity standpoint, the livers and deer meat are safe to eat. However, because of the unexplained anomalies hunters have observed in the area, a further *chemical* analysis of the liver is warranted," said Resnikoff. Resnikoff believes the testing apparatus and methods were more reliable in the second test.

Many of the deer shot near the LOOW site this past hunting season had abnormal characteristics such as bent antlers, skin growths and puss-filled knees. For this reason, the Campaign feels further studies should be conducted. The LOOW site holds large quantities of radioactive uranium residues from the Manhattan Project (see Winter 1981 issue of the *Waste Paper*.) LOOW site borders a major toxic chemical dump site, SCA Services, so chemical poisoning is also possible.

Resources

Radioactive Waste Slide Show – Includes review of the nuclear cycle, problems of low level radiation, hazards of transportation and an in-depth portrait of West Valley. Excellent for community groups and teach-ins. Available with cassette or written script. $55.00 purchase, $15.00 one week rental.

Sierra Club Fact Sheets

Just Off The Press

Salt Will Not Work – A revised look at current concerns about the promotion of salt as the favored geologic method for a permanent repository for nuclear waste. Reviews the Lyons, Kansas site with a map of salt deposits in the U.S. 50¢; for 25 or more, 10¢ each plus postage.

West Valley: A Challenge for the 80's – Detailed history of the West Valley site, includes explanations of current storage problems and burial ground leakage with a map of the site. Current status of the dump site is updated. 50¢; for 25 or more, 10¢ each plus postage.

Insecure Landfills: The West Valley Experience – An excellent analysis of the solid radioactive waste burial ground at West Valley. Includes the discovery of sand lenses and swamps. Detailed maps of the trenches and the geologic drillings used to determine the suitability of the site. Valuable tool for activists confronting "low-level" dump sites planned for your community. 50¢; for 25 or more, 10¢ each plus postage.

Also Available

Shipping Casks: Are They Safe? – An in-depth analysis of irradiated fuel shipping casks. Can they withstand highway accidents and fires? Useful for all communities and groups impacted by irradiated fuel transport. 50¢; 25 or more 10¢ each plus postage.

On the Job at NFS – Reviews conditions that led to high worker exposure at West Valley, valuable graphs, excellent for organizing labor and health worker. 10¢

Nuclear Transport: Is Your Community Ready? – Important facts on the transportation of high level radioactive waste, includes accident rates and review of NRC guidelines. 10¢

Uranium-Mining Chart – Describes uranium deposits in the NY, NJ and CT area plus directions to the mines and levels of radioactivity from AEC investigations. $1

Critique on Cesium Levels in Milk Near Nine Mile Point – Critique of utilities' report, NUS-3620, concerning the high levels of cesium found in milk at farms near Nine Mile Point nuclear reactors. 50¢

Secret Plutonium Shipment – White Paper discusses the fresh fuel that travelled through western New York in February 1980. Describes the casks, special shipping truck and shipper's record. $1.00

The Best of the Waste Paper – Back copies of *The Waste Paper* are available in a collection of important articles on irradiated fuel accidents, Manhattan Projects dumps in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania, analysis of the reactor at TMI, transportation bans, dairy herd problems, medical wastes and much more. A bargain at $2.50 for the collection.

Dear Friend,
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