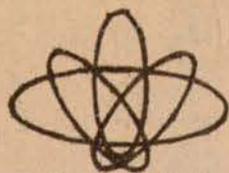


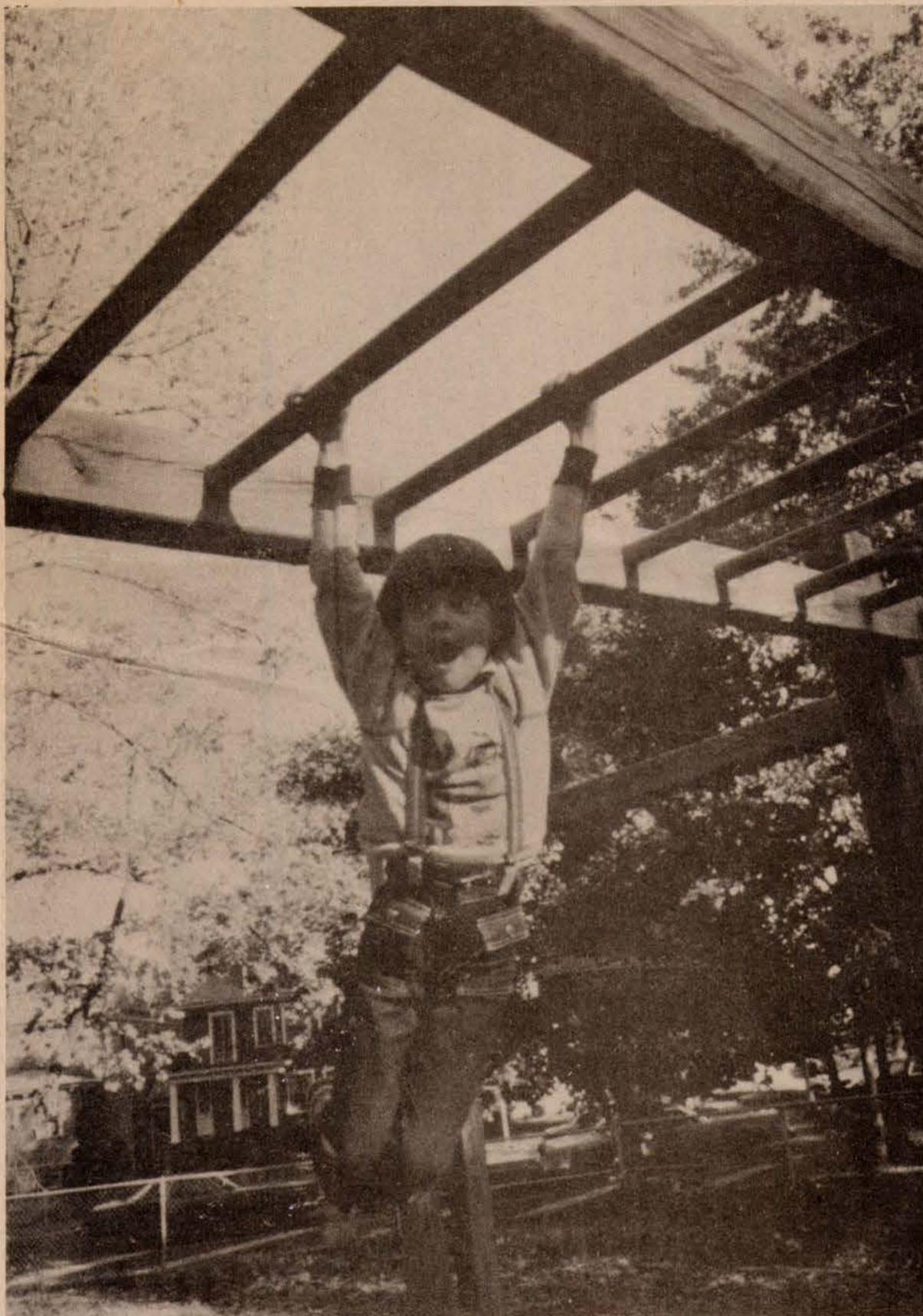
the Waste Paper



sierra club
radioactive waste
campaign

Volume 4 Number 1

photo by Kerri Brooks



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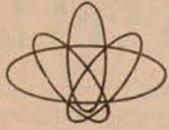
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This photo was taken from our new slide show For details see page 6.

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Hot Brine

Geologists at the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) circulated an internal letter strongly criticizing salt as a potential geologic medium for a high-level waste repository over three years ago. The letter never saw the light of day. *The Waste Paper* has just obtained a copy of the document. Today, NAS still remains officially neutral on the issue.

As the Department of Energy (DOE) continues to push the Waste Isolation Pilot Project (WIPP) in saltbeds near Carlsbad, New Mexico, the NAS geologists' letter is extremely important. The letter admits that the concept of using salt as the medium for a repository received its "inception and initial support from a series of reports of Committees of the National Academy; the Academy thus has assumed considerable moral responsibility for the scientific basis of any decision to go ahead with salt."

The primary problem listed by the NAS geologists as needing resolution before salt is selected as a disposal medium include brine generation and its impact on surrounding rock strata and the difficulty of sealing access shafts.

Corroding Cannisters NAS geologists state that typical bedded salt contains .5-1% of water in liquid or brine pockets inside the salt. Due to the high temperatures in the vicinity of the waste cannisters (550° F), this brine will migrate towards the cannisters. This is because the salt dissolves when it is hot (remember what happens to salt in a heated butter and salt sauce), and then precipitates out when it is cool. Thus, the liquid brine will travel towards the dissolved or melted area and away from the solid area. As the liquid brine moves along this open-ended channel, the surrounding salt becomes deformed, changing the characteristics of the medium.

The Academy scientists point out that the corrosive brine will rapidly corrode and breach the waste cannisters. Then,

the brine will mix with the cannister's radioactive contents and become radioactive brine. This, in turn, will further complicate interactions with surrounding salt and rock formations.

The Academy experts identify collapse of overlying rock strata as a problem. As the corrosive brine moves towards a cannister, it will cause the underground solution of rock salt deposits. This melting or dissolving of the salt deposits will be intensified once the corrosive brine becomes radioactively contaminated as then the brine itself will be thermally hot.

"previous discussions on use of rock salt for waste disposal . . . do not form an adequate basis for insuring that rock salt will be acceptable for permanent disposal of high-level wastes"

The danger is that overlying rock strata that previously rested on top of a firm layer of salt rock will now about the vacuum left by the dissolved rock salt. Consequently, the overlying stratum is likely to collapse into this vacuum — further compromising the integrity of the salt repository. This type of collapse has occurred at three-quarters of a mile below the surface in instances where underground solution of rock salt deposits occurred independently of man's activities.

More Time Needed In addition, the geologists state that each burial vault will have, at least, two access shafts extending up to the earth's surface. But the feasibility of seal-

ing these shafts and making them impermeable to water for the necessary thousands of years has not yet been adequately demonstrated, according to the circulated letter.

The nationally prominent geologists sum up saying: "Because previous discussions on use of rock salt for waste disposal failed to include the geochemical problems of brine generation, interaction, and subsequent migration, or the long time period involved with its attendant implications, they do not form an adequate basis of insuring that rock salt will be acceptable for permanent disposal of high-level wastes.

"We need more time to develop the scientific basis and technology for waste disposal. Even though the national need is urgent, decisions must be made on the basis of adequate facts, and not be in response only to political considerations. . . .

"We do not advocate here abandoning consideration of salt as a potential medium; we do say that we should insist on realistically assessing the uncertainties about a salt site and their possible consequences."

Among the 16 signers of the letter were Drs. Luna Leopold, E-an Zen, Leon Silver, Hatten Yoder, Wallace Broecker and Preston Cloud. This prestigious group of geologists and earth scientists come from the Carnegie Institute, California Institute of Technology, and Columbia University.

As Senate and House members examine the 1981 crop of nuclear waste legislation, the concerns of the Academy experts deserve a full hearing. ☸

Late Breaking News: The DOE has just announced its plans to bring heaters into salt mines under Lake Erie near Cleveland, Ohio in order to test how salt will stand up to intense heat.

Mass. May Face Nuclear Dump

Congress has set 1986 as the deadline for states to join interstate compacts whose purpose is the siting of regional "low-level" radioactive waste sites. Any state not in a compact by that date will be barred from exporting radioactive waste to another state, according to the December, 1980 law, Public Law 96-573. Whether this law is legal remains to be tested.

In the meantime, states are scrambling to meet the 4-year-away deadline. Thus far, compacts have been signed in the northwest and the southeast. As yet, the individual state legislatures have not ratified these agreements, as is required. But the pressure is building for other states to follow suit or be left facing an enormous quantity of "low-level" waste that must be dumped locally.

Thorn in CONEG's Side The problem is particularly thorny in the northeast. This region not only produces 40% of the nation's volume of radioactive waste, but also large quantities of "low-level" waste sit at the crippled Three Mile Island reactor awaiting disposal, somewhere. The northeast governors have formed a regional organization to help solve the problem called Coalition of Northeast Governors (CONEG). CONEG recently obtained a grant of \$96,000 from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to work on the problem. CONEG has had four meetings so far, of which three were secret meetings, *closed to the public*.

Since every state in the union has to respond to the 1986 deadline, we can expect many state legislatures to attempt to railroad through undemocratic, industry-inspired bills. So citizens will be prepared for this problem, *the Waste Paper* is providing readers with a detailed analysis of HS 6877, an industry-sponsored bill in Massachusetts which was recently promoted by Representative Thomas Norton of Falls River.

The Norton bill was introduced shortly after a rumor started circulating in the northeast that Governor King of Massachusetts had magnanimously offered his state as the regional dump site for the northeast. As citizen opposition has sprung up across the state, King has been quick to deny that such an offer was ever made.

The Norton bill was cloaked in secrecy from the start. No public hearing was called. Only 48 hours notice was given regarding the Legislature's Energy Committee intention to vote on the bill. Copies of the bill were not printed until six hours before the committee meeting. Only five members



Activists Steve Galac and Mina Hamilton Probing the Prong at West Valley in search of off-site radioactive contamination. See story on page 3

of the committee were present to vote — THE OTHER FOUR WERE POLLED BY PHONE. We can assume that these four received a highly biased description of the bill.

Funds After Closure? The bill (Section 1) ignores the long-term financial burden that can be expected at a "low-level" waste site. There is no provision for a perpetual care fund or a trust fund to provide monies for maintenance and repair work after "closure." The bill assumes the maintenance problem ends at "closure." On the contrary, sites such as Sheffield, IL., Maxey Flats, KY., and West Valley, NY, have had continuing water infiltration, slumpage and erosion problems since "closure." These problems can be expected to continue for SEVERAL HUNDRED YEARS. The word "closure" probably should not be used at all. "Low-level" dumps, with their significant quantities of cesium,

must be isolated from the environment for, at least, 300 years.

The bill (Section 3) calls for a state-wide assessment report. This is a plus. However, there is no mandate to consider the past performance record of now shut-down dumps, no specific plan to analyze waste streams according to curie content and half-lives of the material. Since reactor waste is dominated by long-lived cesium-137 (30 year half-life) and cobalt-60 (5 year half-life), whereas medical waste is made up of primarily short-lived materials with half-lives of less than one week, this oversight is very important. In addition, the bill does not include any provision for detailed geologic and hydrologic studies of candidate sites.

continued on page 7

Radscope

West Valley 'Dig Up' County Joins Common Council

On Sept. 17, 1981, the Erie County Legislature joined the Buffalo Common Council (see the Waste Paper, Vol. 3 No. 3) in expressing its concern about the state-licensed burial ground at West Valley, NY. The dump site has leaked in the past and may continue to do so unless remedial action is taken.

The resolution, sponsored by Joan Bozer, asked the New York State Legislature to investigate exhuming the radioactive material. The legislation is printed below.

WHEREAS, the West Valley dump site has several streams that lead into Lake Erie, the source of drinking water for one million persons in the Buffalo metropolitan region; and WHEREAS, the West Valley dump site, licensed by the State, contains two million cubic feet of hazardous radioactive materials including twelve pounds of plutonium; and WHEREAS, this waste is currently stored in "trenches" constructed for storage purposes; and WHEREAS, these waste materials could be stored in above ground concrete or steel storage bins for temporary storage purposes; and

WHEREAS, the hazardous radioactive materials in the trenches will be hazardous for three hundred years and must be prevented from reaching the environment through soil, water, and air contamination during that time; and WHEREAS, the Erie County Legislature has been made aware of the long-term hazards of West Valley burial site to the health of citizens in the metropolitan region;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, That the Erie County Legislature hereby requests the New York State Legislature to initiate an investigation into the feasibility of exhuming the hazardous material stored at this burial ground and placing the wastes in less threatening storage facilities, and be it further RESOLVED, that this feasibility study include an analysis of any precedents, possible technology for exhumation, provisions for the safety of workers, cost estimates, fiscal impact, and final fiscal responsibility for the project, and be it further RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to each Western New York Assemblyman and Senator.

Challenging DOT

Challenges continue to pressure the Department of Transportation (DOT) on HM-164, regulations which would preempt state and local laws governing the transport of nuclear materials. These regulations would be effective February of 1982.

To date, the National League of Cities, the National Association of Counties, the National Association of Attorney Generals and the U.S. Conference of Mayors are among several organizations having voiced strong opposition to the new regulations. With the compliance date just around the corner and with over 200 cities and states having already banned or restricted nuclear material traveling down their streets, it appears that opposition to DOT is on the rise.

The states of Ohio and New York have already brought suit against DOT. Two U.S. representatives from the City of New York attempted to ban permanently waste shipments through the Big Apple's crowded streets. U.S. Representatives Weiss and Ferraro who introduced the amendment, were unable to muster enough support and finally had to settle for less.

Comparative Risks By amendment to the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act, the U.S. House of Representatives ordered the Department of Transportation to do a study on the comparative risks of shipping highly radioactive materials, including irradiated nuclear fuel, by rail, barge and highway. Previously, the DOT has only compared the relative risks of highway routes in the new regulations. According to the amendment, the DOT Secretary "shall develop a methodology for analyzing the comparative risks of large quantity radioactive materials by highway, railroad and barge or vessel from any places where such materials are

generated to any place where such materials may temporarily or permanently be stored or reprocessed." The Department of Energy and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission must be consulted on the one-year study.

In the midwest, Michigan's emergency rules which stopped several shipments of irradiated fuel from Chalk River, Canada, from crossing the 180-foot Mackinac Bridge in June 1981, will expire in December 1981. (See the Waste Paper, Vol. 3, No. 4). Citizen groups are asking Michigan legislators to finish their business by passing two new bills, which would strictly regulate radioactive waste material transported through the state.

Citizens in communities impacted by nuclear waste transport should consider health and safety issues associated with shipping casks. Order "Shipping Casks: Are They Safe?" to learn more about inadequate testing of casks.

Rhyme And Reason

This month's environmental puzzle goes by many names; it was once called *epithets* or *hinky-pinkies* in the 1940's. We call it *Rhyme And Reason*. Each clue below can be transformed into a rhyming adjective-noun-combination of environmental significance. For example, the clue "liberated elm" becomes "free tree," a "majestic air mass" becomes a "proud cloud." The following clues will surely test your vocabulary and your environmental IQ. Answers on page 7

1. An uptight Secretary of the Interior
2. An environmentally "bad" area in Niagara Falls, NY
3. An extremely poisonous chemical (detected in the Niagara River and at Love Canal)
4. A confusing report
5. A radioactively contaminated area
6. A travelling environmental spoiler
7. Injured earth
8. A flying nuclide undergoing fission
9. A careful environmental scholar
10. Impure radioactive material, toxic chemicals, etc.
11. A nuclear reaction discharge
12. A list of anti-nuclear signatures
13. A hard-to-locate flume of migrating toxic chemicals
14. The sad (regrettable) launching of the nuclear submarine Ohio
15. An inhuman, life-threatening atomic warhead
16. A small wolf of the western prairies of North America made hoarse from eating chemically-contaminated prairie dogs
17. A protester of nuclear power plant proliferation
18. An immense dinosaur skeleton
19. The type of precipitation we would like to see in the Adirondacks (not acidic)
20. A plea to stop chemical contamination of our highways

By Greg Longo

Greg Longo, whose hobbies include crossword puzzle construction and word games, is a bio-chemistry graduate from the University of Connecticut.

Low-Level Leaks

Hittman Nuclear Development Corp., one of the major shipping companies of low-level nuclear waste, has been accused of knowingly allowing contaminated casks to remain on the road.

A former employee of the company submitted letters and information to the Environmental Policy Institute and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The documentation revealed that Hittman, of Columbia, Md., has known for at least two years, that low-level radioactive waste shipping casks leaked inside during transport. It is unclear where the contaminated water is coming from. Is it rainwater seeping in through a faulty seal? Or could it be a containment problem with low-level drums within the cask?

The company did not report these incidents to the NRC nor did it pull the faulty casks off the road. South Carolina officials who inspect shipments arriving for burial said that two to four gallons of radioactively contaminated water have been found on occasions inside the casks. The toxicity of this water exceeded burial site regulations.

The employee who wished to remain anonymous also charged Hittman with deliberately changing safety analysis calculations in order to meet acceptable standards, continuing to use inadequate shock absorbing foam bumpers and incorrectly calculating cask dimensions in a safety report. These fudged calculations were to justify design changes which affect safety of these steel and lead-shielded casks. Low-level casks are large cylindrical containers which sit upright on a flat-bed truck.

This incident is not reassuring concerning nuclear waste transport in general. "Public confidence is not increased by further evidence of apparent nuclear industry carelessness regarding federal nuclear transportation safety regulations," said Fred Millar of the Environmental Policy Institute. Hittman Nuclear is also one of the firms urging Massachusetts to site a low-level dump. (See Mass. May Face Nuclear Dump, page 1).

Low-level radioactive waste is transported through countless communities across the country. Citizens should investigate whether Hittman carries low-level material through their communities and consider passing bans.

"Low-Level" Overload

Five-hundred-thousand cubic feet of radioactive waste. This was the excess nuclear material accepted at the low-level waste dump in Barnwell, SC. in 1980. Although Governor Riley of South Carolina placed a cap on the total amount of waste which could be accepted each year, the Bureau of Radiation Health authorized the violation without a license amendment or published order.

Most of the excess material came from Columbia, SC. where Westinghouse produces fuel assemblies for nuclear reactors. Over the years, the company has built up a waste sludge pond. Finally, the sludge pond was pumped out and the radioactive waste shipped to Barnwell. This phenomenon illustrates the pressure that the three open low-level dumps in the country are experiencing.

1986 Deadline As of 1986, it looks like the northeastern states will be locked out of a "low level" waste dump for radioactive garbage. Following federal legislation enacted in 1980, exclusive-use rights or compacts are being signed by states in the regions around presently operating waste dumps. In 1986, when Congress approves these compacts, all states must begin using a waste dump located in their region. You say that your region doesn't have an operating waste dump? Well, your state has until 1986 to find one or to use some alternative means of "disposing" of radioactive wastes.

The southeastern states located about the Barnwell, SC waste dump (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Mississippi, North and South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia) have already formed a compact. Interestingly, they rejected Delaware and Puerto Rico. The northwestern states (Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Utah, Montana, Wyoming, Alaska and Hawaii) would like their compact to take effect as early as July, 1983. The southwestern states, including California, Nevada, Arizona, Texas and Oklahoma, are expected to form a compact using the Beatty, Nevada dump.

Where does all this leave the populous northeast and midwest states? So far, without a dump, and these states produce the largest volume of radioactive wastes. The northeastern states hope to ratify a compact by 1984 but where will the dump be located in the northeast region? No one is saying. Will there be pressure to re-open dumps which have had major problems such as West Valley (NY), Maxey Flats (KY), and Sheffield (IL)? Will states encourage the environmentally unsound practice of incinerating radioactive waste? Will a dump be located on the border of two states to share the political heat? Citizens must begin to learn about the poor track record of the old dumps. Stay tuned to the Waste Paper for further details.

the Waste Paper

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Probing the Prong

Rad Riddle: What have the Department of Health and Department of Energy known about West Valley since 1971, but have kept very quiet about?

Hint: It's not good news.

Answer: Unusual levels of cesium-137 and other radioactive isotopes were detected in soil samples beyond the boundaries of the Nuclear Fuel Services (NFS) site in 1971, and are still detectable by aerial survey (see maps).

More Questions: Where did this contamination come from?

The answer to this question is being researched now, but the New York State Department of Health (DOH) currently attributes the contamination to "several" filter blowouts in the stacks of the NFS plant in 1970-71. DOH has not yet stated the exact date of these releases. The one major filter blowout which the Sierra Club campaign is aware of occurred *not* in 1970-71, but in 1968. These releases allowed radioactive particles to escape outside NFS property. This means that for the past 10 years children have been playing, adults picnicking, residents gardening, in an area where cesium appears to have been deposited.

If these leaks happened a decade ago, why are citizens in the immediate area just now learning about them?

Only the DOH and Department of Energy (DOE) can answer this question.

In November, 1981, the Sierra Club publicized the existence of a prong of radioactivity found in a just-released 1980 report on an aerial radiological survey conducted for DOE by EG&G in 1979. This prong had never been mentioned in any of the voluminous reports by DOE or the General Accounting Office (GAO) on the site.

The radioactive prong is oriented in a northwesterly direction (see map), although prevailing winds at the site flow in a northeasterly direction. There are no surface streams draining in this direction that might be carrying the radioactivity off-site. These two factors raised the Campaign's suspicions that, perhaps, underground migration of radioactivity accounted for the problem. The Campaign sent out a press release and letter to New York State legislators asking that the situation be investigated. In response to this publicity, DOH testily said "don't worry," that radioactivity has been there for years and was reported in the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation 1971 Annual Report of Radiation in the Environment. Why the fact that the radiation had existed for years should present any consolation was not clarified.

The DEC Annual Radiation Reports are hardly best sellers, and receive very limited public circulation. Furthermore, the critical information was effectively buried in the report.

The summary of this limited-circulation state document singles out "the more important findings during the year 1971," yet fails to mention the detection of cesium-137 in soil samples taken around the NFS site. Not until page 11 of this 44-page report will the diligent reader find this information: "a pattern of local deposition was discovered that extended in the northwest direction for approximately one and one-half miles from the plant. The deposition was probably caused by a release or releases from the plant several years ago as indicated by a cesium-137 to cesium-134 ratio of approximately 15."

Perhaps the Sierra Club Campaign should be faulted for failing to pick up this reference to cesium deposition northwest of the plant in a report ten years old. It should be noted, however, that, at the time, of the major filter blowout that has been admitted to by state and federal agencies, the Atomic Energy Commission, the Department of Health and Nuclear Fuel Services all said, no radioactivity had been deposited beyond the plant's parking lot.

How serious is this contamination?

The levels of radiation are relatively low, but this is not as reassuring as DOH would like it to be. The essential point is that for more than a decade two public health and safety protection agencies have known of a release of radioactivity which affected homes and lives outside the NFS site, and they chose not to inform the citizens whom they are charged to protect.

Now that the Sierra Club has focused public attention on this contamination, what is being done about it?

The Sierra Club has undertaken - at great expense - the testing of well water from homes along the radioactive prong to try to determine the full extent of the contamination and its cause. Fortunately, the tests show no unexpected levels of radiation. Since only four samples were taken, more testing is needed particularly of soil inside and outside of the prong. Concerned citizens whose homes lie in the region of the radioactive prong have expressed their gratitude that the Sierra Club is performing this service - a service which, like informing the public, is properly the function of our public health protection agencies such as DOH.

What else can be done?

You can join other concerned citizens in writing to the head of the Environmental Conservation Committee of the

New York State Assembly. Request a full-scale investigation of this off-site migration of radioactivity to determine the cause of contamination, and to study appropriate remedial action.

A number of questions need to be asked by the Environmental Conservation Committee. What exactly were the dates of the filter blowouts which, supposedly, caused the prong problem? There was a major filter blowout on September 4, 1968, but, at that time, the Atomic Energy Commission, Nuclear Fuel Services and the NYS Department of Health all claimed that no radioactivity was deposited beyond the plant parking lot. If those claims were correct, which blowouts account for the prong? If those claims were *not* correct, why were three state, federal and private agencies in error? What role has underground migration of radioactivity along sandy strata played in creation of the prong? Was enough radiation originally released to account for the amount picked up in the 1979 aerial survey or are additional sources of radioactivity feeding the prong? What kind of hazard do these levels of radioactivity pose to residents living immediately adjacent to the prong? These are some of the questions you might want to ask Maurice Hinchey.

Send your letters to:

Maurice Hinchey, Chair
Environmental Conservation Committee
New York State Assembly
Albany, NY 14227

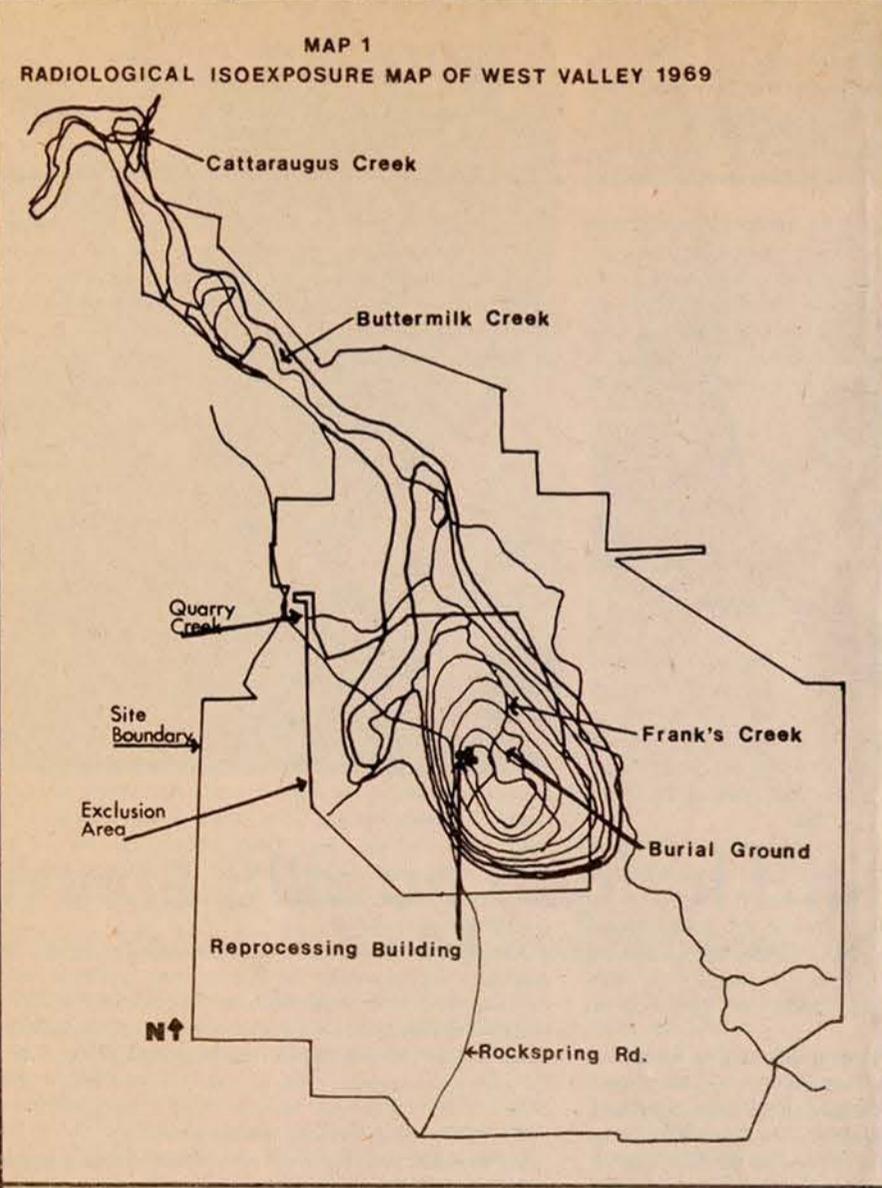
Citizens have a right to know what happened and why - and a right to expect corrective action to be taken.

Late Breaking Item

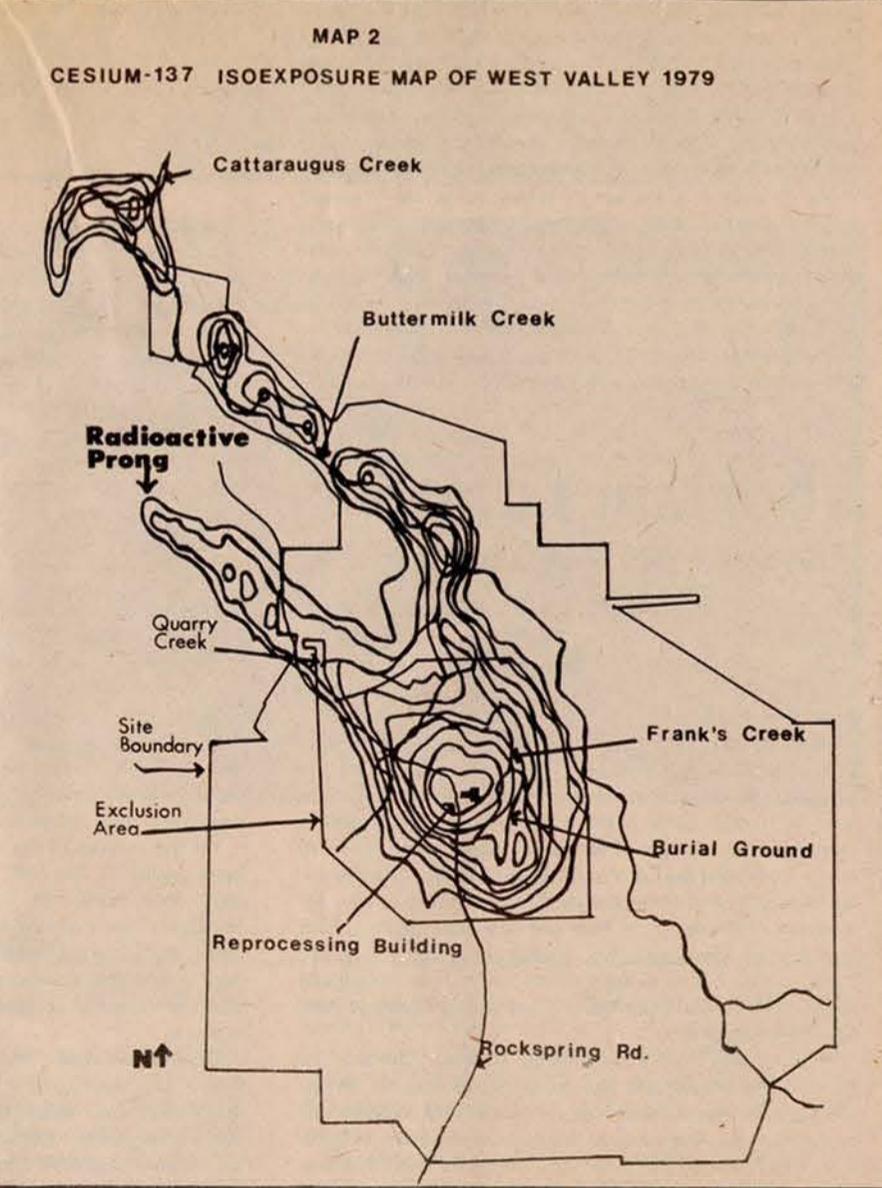
On November 17, 1981, John Matuszek, Director of the NYS Department of Health's Radiological Sciences Institute made a major concession in his often acrimonious and barbed correspondence with the Sierra Club on the matter of the radioactive prong at West Valley. Dr. Matuszek stated that he agreed "that further soil studies would be appropriate." The Health Department official stated that his comments did not represent "any official DOH position." Congratulations are in order to Dr. Matuszek.

by Elizabeth Phillips

Elizabeth Phillips is a free-lance writer specializing in scientific and medical subjects who has worked on the West Valley Burial Ground Task Force.



This map shows radiation readings of the West Valley area in 1969. The isoexposure lines represent an equal radiation reading along each line's entire length, the way contour lines represent altitude on a contour map. The highest reading (750uR/h) is at the center, over the NFS reprocessing building, still in operation at that time, and the lowest reading (17uR/h) is at the perimeter.



This map shows the prong of radioactivity extending outside NFS property that the Sierra Club has recently publicized. The isoexposure lines represent readings for cesium-137. DOH has known about this off-site contamination since 1971, but residents of the area are just now finding out about it. Although the radioactivity is reduced from 1969 levels, it still is measurable in areas where it should not be found. The highest reading (288 uR/h) is over the NFS reprocessing building and the lowest reading (0.4-0.7 uR/h) is at the perimeter.

Mining Near the Catskills for Uranium?

In the Spring of 1981, *the Waste Paper* carried an article accompanied by two maps, which described the emerging threat of uranium mining in New York State. Now, only months later, this threat has grown into reality. Gulf Oil is exploring for uranium ore, the chief source for nuclear fuel, in Sullivan County's resorts in the foothills of the Catskill Mountains.

Gulf originally purchased the mineral rights to 164 acres of rolling hilltop near South Fallsburg, NY, but now the lease has been expanded to 430 acres. This land is located above the Raleigh Hotel and across the valley from the prestigious Concord Hotel, just two of the many hotels in the area which serves Catskill vacationers year round.

Ironically, the land leased by Gulf Oil is the site of an egg farm and just upstream is the Neversink Reservoir. (see map) The Neversink is one of the four reservoirs which make up the complex Delaware Water System, which supplies New York City residents with 50% of their drinking water. As leases are expanded and new ones taken out, city drinking water becomes threatened.

The Delaware System draws water from the Cannonsville, Pepacton, Neversink and Rondout Reservoirs. Total capacity of the system is 320.4 billion gallons of water. The Delaware has two tunnels, the East and West, which join at the Rondout, then cross the Catskill System and go on to feed into the Croton System before reaching to New York City.

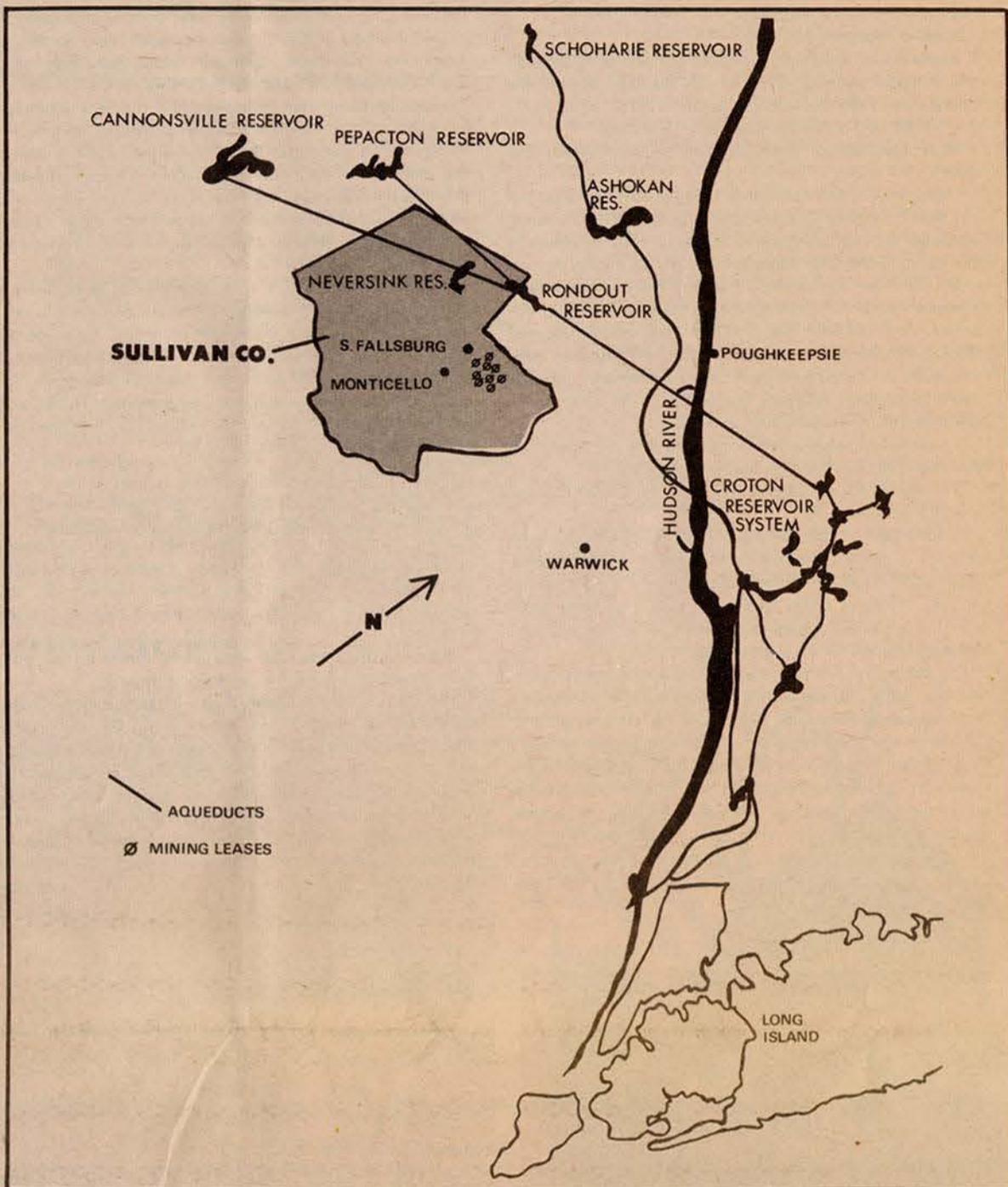
Possible contamination of the Neversink could result if leases are taken upstream from South Fallsburg. This mining could seriously damage most of the water supply of New York City since the Delaware System drains into the Croton. The Croton System supplies the city with 10% of its water. If droughts, similar to the one which occurred in the summer of 1981, become more commonplace, water will become our most precious resource. We cannot afford the risk of possible radium contamination.

Exploratory drilling, which is the first step to uranium mining, can even be hazardous. Deep holes, drilled into the earth can intersect uranium strata, which contains water soluble radium, and allow the radioactive radium to infiltrate the aquifer or cause surface run-off contamination. This has been the case of uranium mining and milling in the southwest where rivers were tainted by radium from the mining processes.

As far as area citizens have been able to determine, exploration has not begun on the leased property near South Fallsburg. Yet the fact that another parcel of land has been leased, is not reassuring. To date, Vermont and New Jersey have passed uranium mining bans after several communities were threatened. In December of 1980, the town of Warwick, NY permanently banned exploration and mining of uranium ore which caused Exxon and Chevron to abandon test sites.

Several areas, which include northeast New Jersey and southwest New York are part of a 1,000 square mile area called the Reading Prong. The area in which the Reading Prong is located is known to geologists as the Scranton Quadrangle. In a National Uranium Resource Evaluation (NURE), the Bendix Field Engineering Corp. has listed several areas which seem to be favorable for uranium exploration in New York. These sites show that there could be as much as 20,000 lbs. of uranium ore available at each site.

Communities impacted by this study should consider looking into the possibility that leases to mineral rights may



have been taken out around these areas. Citizens should also consider working with their town council to pass exploration and mining bans before companies like Exxon, Chevron and Sohio lease property. On the state level, citizens are urged to write their senators asking for their support on proposed legislation to ban uranium exploration and mining. In particular, residents of Ulster, Orange and Sullivan counties

should write Senator Richard Schermerhorn to support a uranium ban. Why not clip this article with the map and chart and send it to your legislator today. Activists in the New York City area should contact the Friends of the Earth office, at (212) 675-5911, to find out about the next meeting of the New York State Coalition on Uranium Mining.

Thorium Dump "Low-Level" Waste in N.J.

In the northern New Jersey communities of Maywood and Rochelle Park, a radioactive Love Canal has developed, thanks to two chemical companies, which have dumped radioactive thorium in and around a gas mantle lantern plant since 1916.

Swampy areas The companies dumped millions of cubic feet of the monozite sand, containing a considerable amount of thorium, near the main street of Rochelle Park, a town of 10,000. Some of the waste was used for landfill in swampy areas adjacent to the Saddle River; some sits in an empty lot behind Jax Car Wash; some is under a Sears distribution center, and some was used in the Thirties in the construction of Route 17, a four-lane interstate highway that runs through Maywood. (No, driving along Rte. 17 will not cause cancer, but no thought seems ever to have been given to the workers who built Rte. 17 and whose exposure must have been frequent.)

Thorium was used in gas mantle lanterns. The thorium glows when heated and thus makes good lanterns. When the German exports were cut off by the First World War, processing was stepped up in this country. Maywood Chemical, which owned the plant until 1959, dumped thorium-contaminated waste scattered throughout the 25-acre site. The waste contained 1% thorium with some large piles containing over 5%. One such pile was 20' by 300' by 300' and contained 1.8 million cubic feet.

In 1959, Stepan Chemical bought out Maywood and began to bury the radioactive waste still lying on the surface in deep pits on the site. Some of the waste was also trucked away from the site. A worker at the plant loaded his pick-up

truck with what he thought was good, cheap landfill, and took load after load into his backyard.

According to a November, 1981, Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) study "Radiological Survey of Seven Private Properties in Maywood, N.J.," that yard is now 18 times more radioactive than the normal background in Maywood. The worker has since died, but the present owners have lived there for six years, and have received the equivalent of 45 chest X-rays per year.

Yet the owners of the seven contaminated houses have been assured by the NRC that "there is no immediate hazard." John Kinneman, who has been in charge of the Maywood case from the King of Prussia, PA, NRC regional office, has admitted, however, that these radiation levels are "not a desirable condition." He told residents they might want to consider moving, but added that there was no urgency.

Organized Crime The homeowners, whose names the federal and state agencies will not disclose on the grounds that their privacy would be violated, have been frightened. Some officials have told residents that a anonymity is essential because organized crime is involved in the dumping.

Some of the homeowners told the minerologist who discovered the thorium (ironically, while he was using his geiger counter to search for canisters of radioactive iridium which had spilled along Route 17 during a trucking shipment) that they do not want publicity on the issue because their property values would drop sharply. They would like to sell their houses and hope that the Department of Energy (DOE) will accomplish the clean-up quickly.

While the NRC has publicly said that no water contamination would occur, an inter-office memo from 1963 claims that run-off from leaching and erosion would spill into the Saddle River, which supplies most of Bergen County - over 60 towns - with its drinking water.

Although thorium is not water soluble, its first decay product, radium is water soluble. This means the potential for water contamination is high. In addition, radium produces radon, a radioactive gas. Thus, there is a distinct threat to both water and air. Sierra Club advisor, Dr. Marvin Resnikoff, a physicist, believes that the NRC's failure to measure those elements in their major 1981 aerial survey report is a significant omission.

Minimizing the Danger The Department of Energy has agreed to decontaminate the houses, after repeated urging by Congresswoman Marge Roukema. Curiously, Roukema's office reports that the DOE's measurements of the contaminated houses are one-half to one-third those of the NRC's. Why the measurements differ so widely is not known but the DOE's lower figures are consistent with the agency's attempts to minimize the danger of the situation.

Yet the DOE has said it will not dispose of the huge piles of radioactive thorium wastes on the floor of the plant's buildings and in the other outdoor areas, although radiation from these piles measures from 8,760 to 30,660 millirems per year, or as much as 245 times background radiation.

In November, 1981, the NRC imposed a \$20,000 fine on Stepan Chemical - a mere slap on the wrist for the company. For several decades, the Atomic Energy Commission

The Mobil Whitewash

Ads About Nuclear Waste

Voice: A message from the Mobil Information Center.
Dick Callinan: Good evening. I'm Dick Callinan. Disposing of radioactive waste from nuclear power plants makes some Americans uneasy. Here is a report from Physics Professor Bernard Cohen.
Dr. Cohen: We're going to convert the radioactive waste into a rock and put it where the rocks are - deep underground. No scientist has ever doubted that this can be done. Basically the conversion derives from a medieval technology. From knowing how rocks behave, we can easily prove that the buried radioactive waste will be safer than the waste from any other industry.
Dick Callinan: Professor Cohen believes people's concern about radioactive waste is largely an emotional issue, and has nothing to do with the hard scientific facts.
Voice: This has been a message from the Mobil Information Center.

This is the text of one of a series of television commercials brought to you in the last few months by the Mobil Oil Corporation. This campaign by Mobil is an extremely clever attempt to sway local prime time viewers into believing that what's good for Mobile is good for Americans. By designing the campaign to imitate a newscast, Mobil obviously felt this was the most effective means of giving the message credibility. Because of this attention-getting format, the alleged facts and conclusions sound very convincing to the viewer who does not have the information needed to evaluate Mobil's claims.

Bernard Cohen, whose report was featured in the Mobil commercial, has long been one of the utilities' most prized promoters of nuclear energy. He is the same man who once offered to eat a pound of plutonium. Professor Cohen also once stated that 600 years is all it would take for irradiated fuel to decay down to the levels of natural uranium. He later refined his views and reported that his estimation of 600 years was now incorrect. He really meant to say 11 million years. (See the Waste Paper, Vol. 3, No. 4).
 In this ad, Cohen goes far out on a limb with the claim that "no scientist" has any doubts about the safety of buried radioactive waste. Readers of the Waste Paper should check our article on "Hot Brine" (see page 1) to see some of the doubts many prestigious National Academy of Science experts have about burial in salt, just one rock medium.
Only Small Amounts Furthermore, the experience with transforming waste into rock has been extremely limited.

Only very small amounts have been made into rock in laboratory experiments. Nobody knows what will happen once these limited experiments are scaled up to commercial production and nobody knows how long the "rocks" will remain rock-like before they fracture and break apart. One of the problems with glassification (vitrification) - another solidification technology under consideration - is that the heat of the solidified radioactive waste fractures and cracks the glass. The glass de-vitrifies fairly rapidly.
 Finally, Cohen's belief that we know "how rocks behave" and therefore, can rest assured that underground burial will

be safe, is not shared by many geologists and other earth scientists. Many of these experts are deeply concerned by the difficulty of adequately characterizing the geology of a region so that accurate predictions on the safety of a repository can be made for the thousands of years necessary.
 The Sierra Club Radioactive Waste Campaign brought the misleading, confusing statements of the Mobil-Cohen ad to the attention of local TV stations in Buffalo, NY. The stations, aware of the requirements by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) that equal time be given to opposing views on controversial topics of national interest, ran a show rebutting the Cohen "information." During the show, Cohen was, again, interviewed by the media. The pro-nuclear physicist abused the Campaign staff calling them "ignoramuses." Apparently, Cohen would rather sling epithets than deal with the facts.
 Citizens should keep an eye open for the Mobil-Cohen ads and similar advertising statements which editorialize about the nuclear waste problem. If inaccurate or misleading information is provided, television viewers should write to the producer of the show and politely, but firmly, ask for equal time on this issue. If the television station refuses, citizens should notify the station that they intend to alert the FCC and ask the Commission to consider the issue when the station's license comes up for renewal. Usually, this response will elicit a reponse - fast. ☸

Photos From 1981

Here are some photographs shown throughout the 1981 editions of the Waste Paper. In order to check your memory and see how well you have been reading your newspaper, see if you can recognize what each photo pertains to. Answers can be found on page 8.

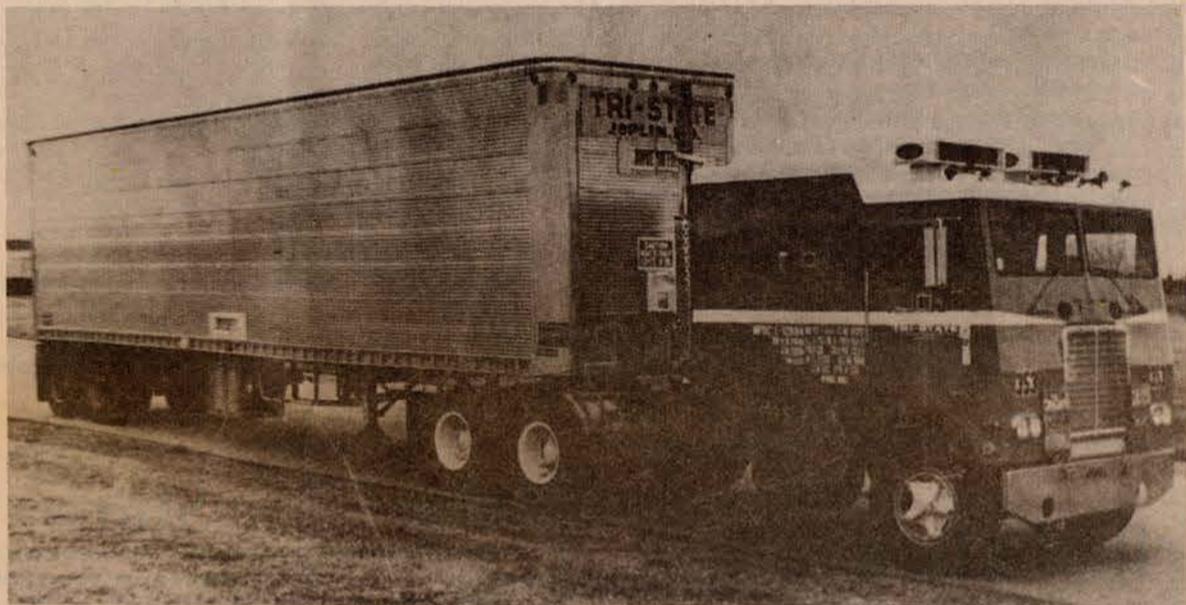


photo by Lisa Finaldi

Waste Bills on Capitol Hill

West Valley, Barnwell, Morris Threatened

HELP! Forces are at work to re-open West Valley, Barnwell and Morris. Your letters are needed immediately to stop Away-From-Reactor (AFR) storage at any of these three facilities.
 Senate Bill 1662 (S-1662), "The National Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982," introduced by Senator James McClure (D-Idaho) would establish a federal program for high-level nuclear waste from nuclear reactors. Among the worst section of this bill is Title III, which calls for a 2,800 metric ton AFR. An AFR is a spent fuel pool located away from the reactor site, which is considered interim storage until a permanent repository is found.
 A 2,800 metric ton AFR is more than the combined total capacity at the three sites now available: West Valley, NY., Barnwell SC., and Morris, Ill. This means that aside

from loading up the present sites, other AFR's would need to be established.
 To date, all three threatened states have passed restrictive legislation on AFR's. South Carolina calls the state legislature and the Governor to endorse an AFR before it can be implemented. New York laws require a \$300,000 filing fee for an AFR license and an extensive hearing process. Unfortunately, Illinois legislation was overturned, which originally banned out-of-state irradiated fuel from the Morris facility.
 These AFR's would mean hundreds of shipments of irradiated fuel travelling across the country in casks that lack proper safety requirements (see the Waste Paper, Vol. 3, No. 3) An AFR is an unnecessary federal bailout of the nuclear industry which forces government to become

legally responsible for irradiated fuel from commercial reactors. Presently, on site spent fuel pools are quickly filling up and the nuclear industry needs a federal bailout. McClure's bill also goes against Reagan policy that interim storage is the responsibility of the private sector.
 There are several other bills in both the House and the Senate which would more responsibly and safely deal with nuclear waste storage. Citizens should write their U.S. Senators now and urge them to strike Title III of S-1662 on the Senate floor.
 S-1662 does not properly address the problems of nuclear waste storage. Interim storage only delays a three-decade old issue which is constantly becoming more severe and remedied by patchwork policy.

Resources

Bankrolling Ballots

Bankrolling Ballots Update 1980: The Role of Business in Financing Ballot Question Campaigns by Steven D. Lydenburg, published by the Council on Economic Priorities, 84 Fifth Ave., New York City, \$7.95.

Increasingly, citizens are using ballot campaigns (initiatives and referenda) for redress of social and political concerns. Repeatedly, however, issues with what appeared, at the outset to have wide political support have lost at the ballot box. The Council on Economic Priorities (CEP) book has a complete breakdown of corporate donors behind recent initiatives and an analysis of some of the factors which led to victory or defeat. The book is a must for citizens thinking of launching a referendum battle.

Bankrolling Ballots makes clear that financial dominance in the 1980 campaigns generally swayed the tide. "In fourteen campaigns where corporate funds dominated, the side with business backing won in eleven cases." However, there were some notable exceptions. In the Montana fight, an initiative to ban nuclear waste disposal in the state, won - even though corporate opponents spent \$131,894 to the citizens' \$2,269. In other words, citizens were outspent 58 to 1.

The CEP study recommends a number of measures to correct some of the corporate abuses of the initiative process. Some of these measures are: The Securities and Exchange Commission should require disclosure to shareholders regarding company funds spent on ballot questions, voter pamphlets outlining arguments for and against the initiative should be sent to all registered voters, all states should require public disclosure of contribution figures - on a frequent basis and states should impose a dollar limit on contributions from a single source to any one campaign committee - if the constitutionality of such limits is upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court. (A court decision is pending on this.)

CEP also puts in a plea for citizen groups to more effectively use the FCC Fairness Doctrine in obtaining free radio and television time to counter well-financed, frequently misleading, media campaigns by industry. If citizens anticipate a media blitz in the last few days of the campaign, they may be able to educate folks sufficiently so that the blitz flops.

Resources for Low-Level Waste Activists

If you are heavy into the problems of low-level nuclear waste, here's some terrific resources for you. Each can be obtained either at your library if it is a repository for government technical reports or through National Technical Information Service in Springfield, Va.

* "A Waste Inventory Report for Reactor and Fuel-Fabrication Facility Wastes." UC-70, Office of Nuclear Waste Isolation, March, 1979, available from the National Technical Information Service, Printed Copy \$13.25; Microfiche \$3.00. An exhaustive analysis of filters, sludges and resins, including predominant isotopes generated by type of reactor and other nuclear facilities. Invaluable antidote to myth that contaminated booties are primary product in nuclear reactor garbage - instead we learn that cesium contaminated sludge is the dominant product.

* "Characterization of Selected Low-Level Radioactive Waste Generated by Four Commercial Light Water Reactors." ORP-TAD-77-3, Dec. 1977, the U.S. EPA Office of Radiation Programs. Detailed descriptions of four New York reactors low-level waste inventory. Gives curies and volume of materials accumulated at reactors.

* "An Analysis of Low-Level Solid Radioactive Waste from Light Water Reactors through 1975." ORP-TAD-77-2, Nov. 1977, U.S. EPA Office of Radiation Programs. This report analyzes the low-level waste problem at reactors. It shows that each year quantities of low-level material increase at reactors and describes the source of this waste.

Although some of these reports tend to be expensive, the microfiche run much cheaper. Local libraries have microfiche readers which also allows for copying the material. This way the convenience of printed material is still available.

Although some of these reports tend to be expensive, the microfiche run much cheaper. Local libraries have microfiche readers which also allows for copying the material. This way the convenience of printed material is still available.

Radiation Workers

Radiation Workers: Reprocessing is a documentary which focuses on employees of Nuclear Fuel Services Reprocessing plant at West Valley, New York. Produced by Willow Mixed Media and the Documentary Guild, *Radiation Workers* gives a first hand account of health risks at the only commercial reprocessing facility to operate in this country.

Since President Reagan is promoting the reprocessing of irradiated fuel again, this film is an excellent preview to many probable health and safety hazards associated with reprocessing. The Nuclear Fuel Services plant was shut-down in 1972 because of chronic equipment breakdowns and over-exposure of workers to radiation.

In the film, several employees from the plant speak freely about their experiences in working with nuclear fuel. Lab technicians describe how lead shielding had to be laid on the lab floor because high levels of radiation were coming through the ducts. Each worker interviewed also discusses their fears and hopes for future generations as a result of their work at Nuclear Fuel Services.

Although there are a few technical problems with the program, it is still very powerful. The film lasts one-half hour and can be rented from Media Bus, 120 Tinker St., Woodstock, NY 12498. Charge for rental is \$35. Media Bus has several other films available on nuclear issues. The 11-year-old company operates a video tape production and editing center geared towards the arts and issues of social and community concern.

New Slide Show

A new slide show has been released by the Campaign entitled, "Low-Level Legacy - A Profile of Radioactive Waste Dump Sites." The slide show was the brainchild of a Campaign task force concerned about the upcoming push to site new low-level dumps across the nation, specifically the northeast and midwest. An important tool for activists all over the country, the slide show includes sections on the Sheffield, Il., Maxey Flats, Ky., and West Valley, N.Y., dumps.

The show lasts approximately 20 minutes and is accompanied by a written script. There are over 80 slides including charts, maps and vivid photographs of open trenches at burial grounds in the U.S.

In New York, the slide show can be accompanied by a speaker from the Burial Ground Task Force to discuss, in greater detail, problems that plague the low-level waste dump at West Valley, New York. Slide show rental is \$15 per week and cost to purchase the show is \$55. Taped script will be available soon.

Workshops

The Radioactive Waste Campaign announces the offering of workshops on nuclear waste issues. Our topics include: irradiated fuel transport, low-level radioactive waste dumps, decommissioning nuclear reactors, high-level waste storage in salt domes, avoiding burnout, public speaking, etc.

In the past, we have co-sponsored these workshops with local groups in Mississippi, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York and Virginia. For more information about these sessions, contact us at our Buffalo office.

The Monadnock

The beautiful, young granite mountains of northern New England called Monadnocks are the setting for this fascinating three-act play. Chris Braithwaite, the author, has managed to focus on the radioactive waste problem, yet make the play upbeat and most enjoyable.

The play is about a family who runs a dairy farm in the Monadnock mountains. Their lives become entangled with nuclear waste dumping when one family member, Arthur, bargains with the Department of Energy (DOE). Arthur secretly allows the family land to be used as the federal dump for radioactive waste. "We could carve out seamless caverns (in granite) where the waste would be safe from ground water," boasts the DOE official Beelzebub Witherspoon, director of Social Impact Assessment in the agency.

Several characters reflect conflicting attitudes about the development of nuclear power with an aside commentary about society's belief in the technological fix.

The northern appalachian granites are being considered as a high-level nuclear waste repository. Although these mountains would not be for immediate use, pressure will heighten in upper New England as other federal repositories are sited around the country.

Braithwaite's *The Monadnock* is a useful organizing tool for communities facing nuclear waste dump sites. Copies are available for \$5 each from Chris Braithwaite, West Glover, Vermont, 05875. The play can be performed without royalties. Braithwaite started a weekly newspaper, *The Chronicle* in 1974, which is published in Barton, Vt.



Creative Communications

"Hey, honey, let's turn out some lights." This message was part of an advertisement, not about sex appeal but about energy conservation. It is just one example of creative message marketing discussed in the Northern Rockies Action Group's (NRAG) Communications Workbook.

The 23-page booklet has been adapted from a workshop conducted by Dr. Peter Sandman, formerly of the University of Michigan, on environmental communications. Sandman's information is pertinent to environmental activists about to launch any type of campaign.

Several models for communication are reviewed, including the use of fear to activate citizens. Sandman illustrates that this technique rarely works, (it merely makes people feel guilty, not motivated) and how important it is to stress positive points on issues.

NRAG is a public interest support team with expertise in environmental and social change. The group offers specific training in all aspects of citizen organizing.

If you want to know why Alka Seltzer's advertisement "I can't believe I ate the whole thing." flopped and you want to improve your media skills, order NRAG's Communication Workbook, Vol. 1 No. 4, a well-spent \$4 from 9 Placer St., Helena, Montana 59601.

Sierra Club Radioactive Waste Campaign
3164 Main Street
Buffalo, New York 14214
(716) 832-9100

Name
Address
City State Zip
Phone: Work () Home ()

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.

Don't Nuke Mississippi

by Fred Millar

It was the Magnolia and Mint Julep of nuclear waste forums, and quite successful on its own terms: Five thousand Mississippians turned out in the Gulfport Coliseum in Biloxi on Sunday, November 8, 1981, for a "Nuclear Waste Forum" which provided an extraordinary visibility for the widespread citizen opposition to the further testing of southern Mississippi salt domes for high-level nuclear waste disposal.

The large turnout was the result partly of good fortune, and partly of bold planning and hard work by the Citizens Against Nuclear Disposal (CAND), a fast-growing, one-year-old group of Gulf Coast activists. Shortly before the event, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced plans to resume testing of the salt domes at Richton, near Hattiesburg, MS.

The bold planning for a \$20,000 four-hour long coliseum-scale event was facilitated by CAND, a group of energetic and talented scions of some of the most prominent Gulf

Coast families. Some five thousand dollars was available immediately as up-front seed money, and office space was secured in a major local insurance firm.

Most of the audience stayed through three hours of expert panel discussion on nuclear waste issues, and "the treat" at the end was guru Buckminster Fuller, who unexpectedly listed nuclear power plants and the development of profit-making corporations as two of "the major mistakes" humankind must try to correct in the immediate future if we are to survive.

The pro-nuke side nearly all reneged on early promises to come debate the issues. Most prominent in the early CAND advertising was Dr. Edward Teller, "father of the H-bomb," who along with other pro-nuke speakers, was scheduled to debate critical scientists Dr. Karl Z. Morgan (health physics), Dr. Rustrum Roy (waste engineering), and Dr. Jonathan Callendar (geology). Teller reportedly pulled out when he learned that Buckminster Fuller was to be a featured

speaker. Only Dr. Lynn Draper of Gulf States Utilities was left to present "the other side" of the nuclear waste question. DOE declined to show; many Forum attendees were angry at the federal absence.

Portraying Mississippi as the chosen "guinea pig" for radioactive waste disposal, CAND said that other states have been ruled out by DOE. Louisiana was seen as having already worked out a "written deal" with DOE to get a state veto over nuclear waste disposal in exchange for storage of U.S. strategic oil supplies in its salt domes.

CAND saw the choice of Mississippi waste sites as due to "lack of the state's political muscle on the national level." The group has researched DOE's land acquisition plans and the safety problems with salt dome disposal. The transportation phase of disposal ("as many as 15 shipments per day") was said to pose "the most immediate possibility of exposure to radiation, . . . accidents will happen." CAND also implied that the Gulf Coast tourist trade may be hurt: "After all, who wants to vacation downstream from the world's radioactive garbage dump?"

Fred Millar, an expert on nuclear waste transport, is employed at the Environmental Policy Institute in Washington, D.C.

Rent-Free Fuel Pool

The Waste Paper has just learned that in 1981 Nuclear Fuel Services (NFS) ceased to collect rent from the five utilities currently storing irradiated fuel at West Valley. Why NFS feels it can throw away good money (previously, the annual rent was about \$10,000 per metric ton) when the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) is suing the company for more money, is a mystery.

But now NYSERDA is wondering how to recover the back

rent from the utilities. It is rumored that one option the agency is considering is to ask the utilities to take back their irradiated fuel! This would mean less of a long-term headache for New York State but then the century-long caretaker problem would be transferred to citizens in New Jersey, Illinois, Wisconsin and Michigan and Rochester, NY.

As Waste Paper readers know, there are grave hazards associated with moving the poisonous stuff to supposedly a temporary location and then moving it again to a "perma-

nent" repository. However, there is a financial equity question here. Why should New York taxpayers pay for waste generated by electricity users in New Jersey, Illinois, Wisconsin and Michigan? Here is a chart which shows the amount each utility has in the West Valley pool and in pools back home at the reactors from which the fuel originally came.

Utility	Reactor	Reactor Type Boiling Water Pressurized Water	# Fuel Assemblies in NFS Pool	Fuel Assemblies in Reactor Pool As of March, 1981	Maximum Capacity	Date Reactor Pool Full
Commonwealth Edison - Illinois	Dresden 1 Shutdown	BWR	206	295	720	1986
Consumers Power Michigan	Big Rock Point Shut-down	BWR	85	106	545	1997
Jersey Central Power & Light - New Jersey	Oyster Creek	BWR	224	780	1956	1987
Rochester Gas & Electric - New York	GINNA	PWR	121	232	595	1988
Wisconsin Electric Power Co. - Wisconsin	Point Beach 1 Point Beach 2 (SHARE POOL)	PWR PWR	114	172 132	1502	1996

(Data from DOE/SR-0007, Spent Fuel Storage Requirements, DOE, March, 1981.)

Mass. Dump . . .

continued from page 1

What About the Public? The bill (Section 8) does not provide for public hearings on the issue. Although the Department of Public Health is asked to "publicize" proposals for dumps, this vague mandate falls far short of a specific public hearing process with specified locations of hearings (such as a host community) and a specified notification required, such as three weeks. The Department of Public Health will conduct "briefing sessions" (Section 6) according to "whatever schedule" the "Department deems appropriate." "Briefing sessions" are a far cry from public hearings where citizens have the opportunity to make comments and have them entered into a record, on which a decision is based. The crumb thrown to the public is the "right to ask questions." This is democracy?

Funds (Section 3 (6)) from commercial interests planning a dump can be donated to the Department of Health. This astounding provision opens the door wide for a firm such as Chem-Nuclear to provide funds to a "public information" program.

A low-level radioactive waste facility site safety council (Section 4) of 23 members is set up to review dump site proposals, and to "encourage cooperation" between the host community and the developer. The "safety" council is not charged with objectively evaluating proposals, but with facilitating acceptance by the host community of a proposed site. Of the 23 members, all are heads of various state agencies (and, therefore, previously, appointed by the governor) plus 13 individuals now appointed by the Governor. There will be only one person appointed who is "knowledgeable in environmental affairs." This "safety" council will approve a proposed site by a majority vote. This means that **ELEVEN INDIVIDUALS CAN DECIDE THE LOCATION OF A DUMP THAT WILL BE HAZARDOUS FOR 300 YEARS.**

Departmental Whims Any records (Section 6) regarding the dump may be kept secret. This highly undemocratic and disturbing provision gives the Department of Public Health a free hand to classify whatever documents and information it chooses as confidential. This decision is not made in accordance with any specified guidelines. Instead, it is left to the whim of the Department.

The bill contains no specific siting criteria. Mention is made of considering such matters as geology and hydrology, (Section 3 (f)), but the reference is so vague as to be meaningless.

No information (Section 1) is required in the public record regarding the financial history of the proposed developer or regarding the company's capability to meet long-term care requirements. This lack ignores the fact that at both Sheffield, IL. and West Valley, NY, the states are now suing previous commercial leasees. The states are trying to recover monies to help pay for extensive remedial action required and to pay for long-term maintenance.

The Norton bill (Section 9) sets up an inordinately hasty siting schedule. Within 50 days of the "briefing sessions" on a proposed site, alternative sites may be considered, but only if the commercial developer suggesting the first site agrees. The decision as to how many sites are evaluated is not made by a representative of the public interest, but by the commercial firm.

If the developer opposes consideration of additional sites, the 23-person Council (remember, mostly gubernatorial appointees) reviews a project impact report filed by the developer. There are no public hearings on this impact report.

Local assessment committees (Section 11) are set up in potential host communities. These communities will receive money (read bribes) "to participate in the siting process." The host communities do not have the right to oppose a low-level waste dump in their communities. HS 6877 is deeply insulting to the intelligence of local township officials in that it assumes any and all can be bribed into ac-

cepting a local dump - with financial compensation and services.

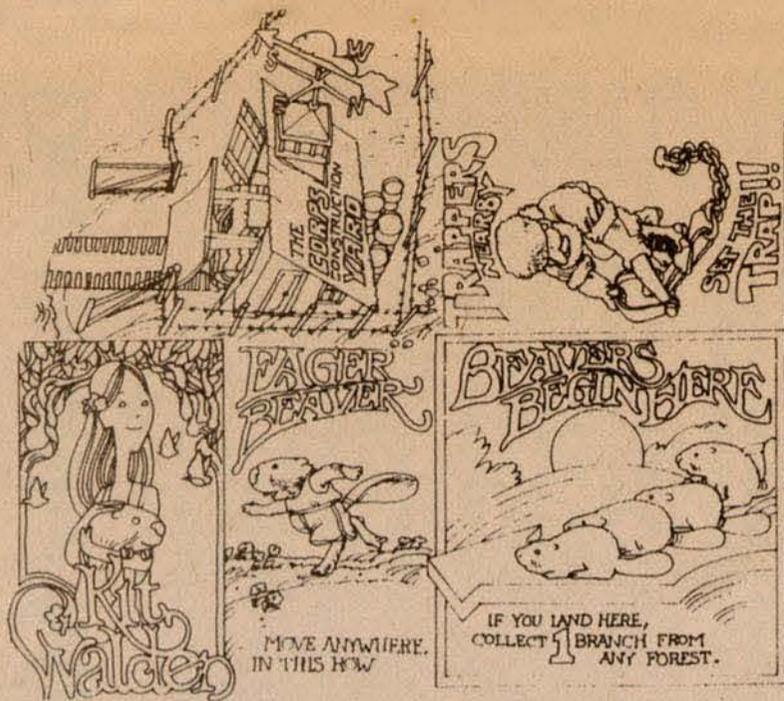
Citizens wanting up-to-date information on the status of a "low-level" dump in Mass. should contact the New England Sierra Club, 3 Joy St., Boston, Mass. 02108, (617) 227-5339. Citizens elsewhere in the country should check to see if a son or daughter of HS 6877 is secretly making its way through the local state legislature. A preferable alternative bill is being written by citizens in Massachusetts and in New York. Write the Campaign office for more details.

As we go to press, big news from Massachusetts, House Energy Committee Chairperson, Thomas Norton has withdrawn his support for the bill he introduced over the summer, H-6877. Apparently, the flack was too intense. Norton heard the message when 76 of 101 Western Massachusetts towns passed restrictive ordinances against radioactive waste dumping. Instead, Norton is now backing a year-long study of the problem. Despite this favorable turn of events, the Waste Paper still feels that it is important for citizens in Massachusetts and elsewhere to become fully aware of the problems of H-6877 - similar legislation is waiting in the wings in dozens of states. Furthermore, the Norton shift means now all the states in the northeast are now wide open again for a "low level" dump site.

Rhyme and Reason . . .

Answers from page 2

1. a distraught Watt, 2. mal canal, 3. toxin dioxin, 4. muddy study, 5. hot spot, 6. commuter polluter, 7. hurt dirt, 8. fissile missile, 9. prudent student, 10. unchaste waste, 11. fission emission, 12. lission petition, 13. an elusive diffusive, 14. dismal baptismal, 15. nihilistic ballistic, 16. throaty coyote, 17. reactor detractor, 18. colossal fossil, 19. plain rain, 20. halt salt.



New Games

If you are looking for an alternative to electronic robots, computerized cars and space exploration games for your kids, *Animal Town Game Company* may have something for you.

The family-owned and operated company stresses cooperation and education rather than competition and distortion of human values. All *Animal Town Games* are created and designed by the family members. (Above)

To date the Kolsbun family has marketed seven games which include: Nectar Collector – all about honey bees; Back to the Farm, that is a small, organic farm; Save the Whales – which comes with nickel-plated authentic whale markers; Dam Builders – about beavers and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Madison Avenue – which deals with the advertising industry and the latest game, A Chicken in Every Plot, concerned about noise pollution.

Each game has a unique and brilliantly colored board and comes with special and often, hand-made markers. *Animal Town Games* are refreshing, new games which are both educational and fun for everyone. Prices range from \$14 to \$21.

You can order the *Animal Town Game Company* catalog free from P.O. Box 2002, Santa Barbara, CA 93120.

Thorium Dump continued from page 4

and its successor, the NRC, have done little but issue occasional notices that the company still required a license for possession of radioactive materials.

The chemical companies have stopped dumping, but the problem remains for residents of Maywood and Rochelle Park. For years, residents have unwittingly allowed their children to ride bicycles through a field. The kids came home covered with a white dust later identified by the NRC as radioactive thorium. And for years motorcyclists have been riding over a trail that runs through a contaminated area. So far, no one has received compensation for what could prove to be a tragedy with long-term implications. And so far, nobody has received any promises regarding a clean-up.

Ann Spanel, a free-lance writer from New York City, has recently helped organize the NY State Coalition on Uranium Mining.

Photos From 1981

Clockwise Answers from page 5

Buffalo rally protesting Department of Health lies about the West Valley low-level radioactive waste dump site. (Vol. 3, No. 3)

Special Nuclear Material semi carrying fresh plutonium. This photograph accompanied a two-page in-depth look at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission training of drivers and guards for this radioactive material. (Vol. 3, No. 2)

An unknown man posts radioactive alert sign to warn citizens that a secret shipment of plutonium came through their community in Western New York. (Vol. 3, No. 3)

OOPS!

In the *Waste Paper*, Vol. 3 No. 4, we reported that Pennsylvania citizens should urge House Representatives J.L. Wright not to support H-955, a bill concerning low-level burial grounds. We regretfully have erred on this point. Citizens should urge Wright to support this bill which would repeal a 1954 law which allows for a low-level burial ground to be established. H-955 would ban low-level waste in Pa.



SIERRA CLUB RADIOACTIVE WASTE CAMPAIGN

The Sierra Club Radioactive Waste Campaign T-Shirts are great gift ideas for any time. Buy one for a friend as well as for yourself. Shirts are white, all-cotton with 6 color design. Non-toxic dyes. They only cost \$5.95 each, plus 75¢ postage and handling. (N.Y. residents, add 7% sales tax.) Bulk rates available. Now in Polish too!

All proceeds go to the Radioactive Waste Campaign. **Last Chance at this price.**

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3164 Main Street
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