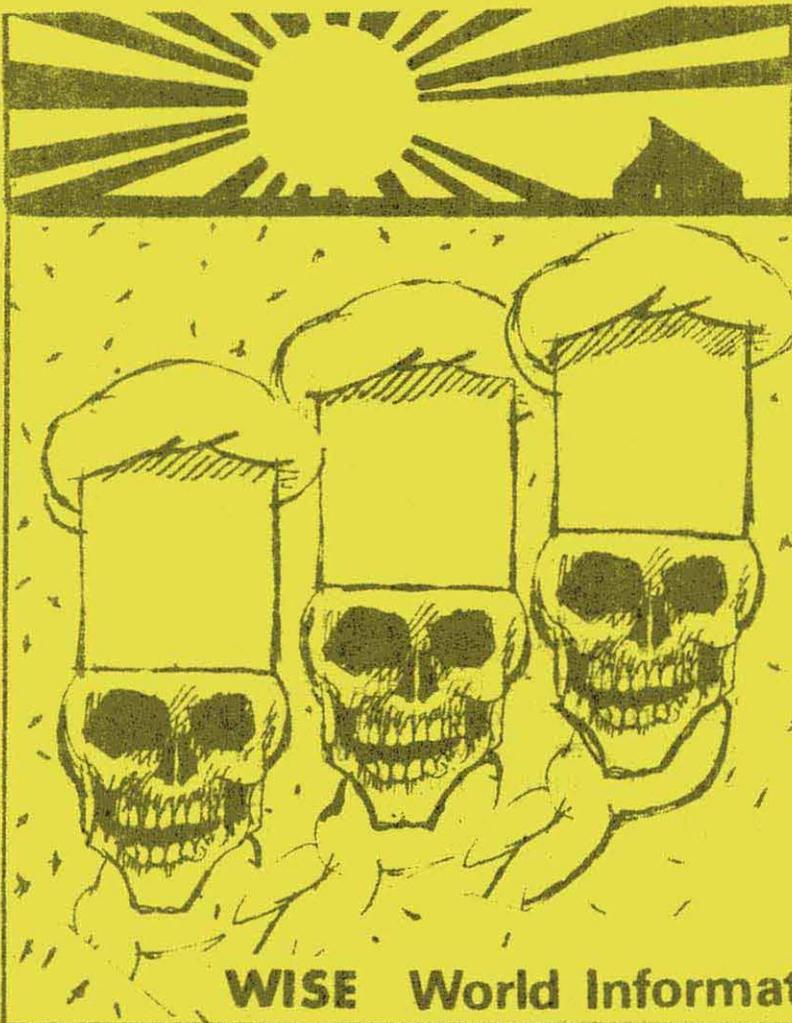


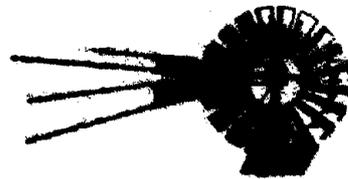
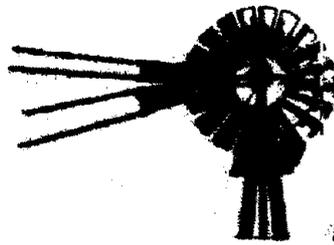
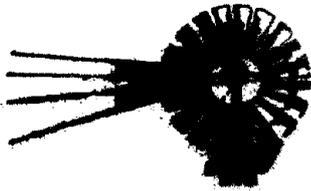
WISE



**keep it in the ground
international stop
uranium mining
newsletter**

march 1981 no.XII

WISE World Information Service on Energy



SUBSCRIPTIONS

A subscription to **Keep It In The Ground** costs now /20 Dutch guilders. This is the equivalent of US\$10 per 10 copies. We had to increase the subscription price to cover rising postage prices. You can subscribe to KIITG direct in Amsterdam. If you live in the UK, send £4.00 to the UK office (see address on back page). America can subscribe through the Washington office. Australians can subscribe through the (as yet temporary) Canberra office. Institutions are asked to pay /50 or equivalent.

The NEW WISE address, as of March 1, is
 BLASIUSSTRAAT 90
 1091 CW AMSTERDAM
 telex 15018
 telephone: yet to be installed
 Postgire number 4088285.

This issue of **KEEP IT IN THE GROUND** with help from the WISE team by Lin Pugh. We cooperate with Roger Moody of CIMRA in London, for industry news. Information is supplied by the movement including WISE relays.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTERNATIONAL	3
COUNTRY BY COUNTRY	
AUSTRALIA	5
THIRD WORLD	9
CANADA	10
USA	10
EUROPE	15
INDUSTRY NEWS	17

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

This is a newsletter linking together people all over the world fighting to stop uranium mining.

We pass on information from groups who want to share that information with other groups. The newsletter was set up at the request and initiative of a meeting of people from isolated pockets of this earth who needed to keep in touch with each other, and feel the solidarity of others in the same struggle.

Everybody who is fighting to stop uranium mining or exploration, and who is fighting against uranium imports and the use of uranium is invited to participate in this newsletter. Please send information on your struggle, copies of new research and publications, information requests etc. to your nearest WISE relay. You can also send direct to WISE Amsterdam.

Many people in the movement have experienced postal difficulties when corresponding with other groups. If you would like to get a copy of a report from the WISE Amsterdam office, this is also possible: we will charge copying costs.

This newsletter is now being translated into French, Spanish and maybe German.

BULK ISSUES OF **KEEP IT IN THE GROUND** ARE AVAILABLE TO ALL GROUPS. DISTRIBUTE THEM TO ALL ACTIVISTS. ADVERTISE THIS NEWSLETTER IN THE MOVEMENT PRESS.

WISE has received two subsidies for this newsletter service, for which we are grateful. Both are from Dutch organisations: NOVIB and NCO. The grants cover production costs and funding for the Gulliver File.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

We are pleased to publish your
INVITATION TO THE

SECOND EUROPEAN ANTI URANIUM CONFERENCE

From June 12-14 1981 the Kreisbildungs-
werk des Bund Naturschutz and AG
Uranabbau in Fichtelgebirge will
host the second European anti uranium
mining conference. The first was held
last year in Bessines, France. The
meeting will be held at the Volks-
hochschule (Peoples University) in
Bad Alexandersbad, West Germany.
(Don't despair at the distance:
if people would like to rent a bus
from Amsterdam and back, tell Lin Pugh
at WISE!)

The organisers write:
Dear Friends

As you might know we (working group
against nuclear power/Protectors of
Environment - Bund Naturschutz and
the Working Group against the exploit-
ation of uranium in the Fichtelgebirge)
told you at the first European
anti uranium mining conference in
Bessines that we would organise the
second conference.

You are invited, and we enclose
a proposal for the programme and
a registration form.

FOR THE PREPARATION AND PROGRAMME:
Please send us your wishes and
proposals before the 28th of February

so that we have enough time to take
them into account in our plans.
Most importantly we must know if there
are scientists or experts from your
country who are willing to give a
report to the meeting. Then we ask
each of you to bring information
with you on the situation in your
country and the work of your group.
Please send your information papers,
if possible, in English French and
German. Please send this all before
April 15.

ON REGISTRATION:

As we had great difficulties in
finding suitable rooms for the conf-
erence we had to rent the People's
University at Bad Alexandersbad defin-
itely. To keep the financial risk
for us low it is essential that you
transfer DM 70 for each person together
with your written announcement that
you will come. This price includes
overnight reservation in 2-bed rooms
and all meals from Friday evening
to Sunday.

As soon as we receive your announcement
you will receive the agenda and
exact details of how to get to the
place. Closing date of application
is April 15.

Please tell us if you can act as
translator.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

FRIDAY: arrival in the afternoon
19.00 dinner
20.00 Presentation of groups
Working out final programme
Organisational matters

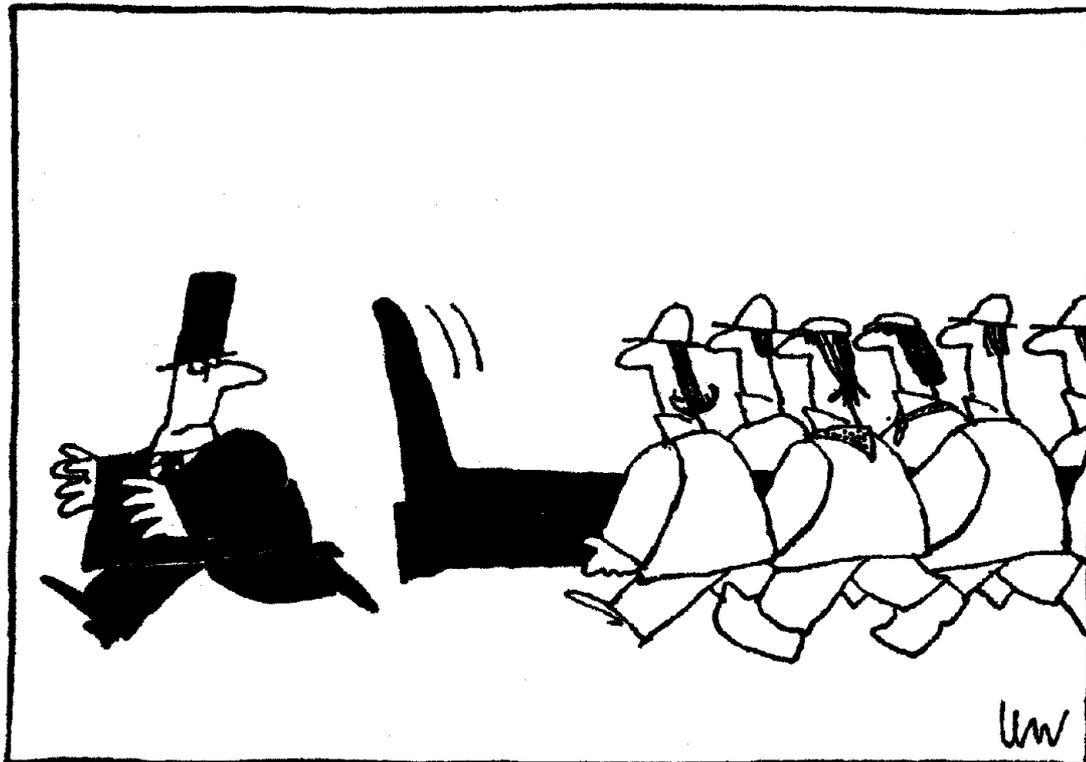
SATURDAY: 8.00 Breakfast
9.00 2 reports
topic: Effects of low-level radiation on people
Plenary
12.00 lunch
12,30 2 reports:
Storing of nuclear waste
in uranium mines
16.00 working groups:
topic 1
topic 2
forms of resistance
international working
together possibilities
U mining in West Germany
18.30 Plenary meeting, collecting workshop results.
19.00 dinner
20,00 FESTIVAL

SUNDAY: 8.00 Breakfast
(8.30 possibility of worship)
9.00 continuing groups work
11.30 Conference evaluation
12.30 lunch
15.00 Press Conference
16.00 Conference closes

REGISTRATION

The necessary information for registration is
Name
Group
Address
Country
How many people your application covers
Transfer of DM 70 to bank account
number 351 213 at Sparkasse Hohenberg
(bank number 780 550 50)

Gertrud Winkler
Bahnhofstr. 37
D-8664 Starnbach, FRG
(tel (09256) 1387



COUNTRY BY COUNTRY

AUSTRALIA

COURT CASE AGAINST MINATOME IN QLD

On March 2 1981, the second session of the Ben Lomond court case on uranium mining will commence.

The sleepy historic town of Charters Towers has become the rather unlikely setting for a major battle over uranium mining.

Opposition to a proposed uranium mine at Ben Lomond, 50 km west of Townsville Queensland has been expressed in the Mining Warden's Court at Charters Towers following an objection launched by Adrian Jeffreys, Co-ordinator of the Townsville Regional Conservation Council.

The wholly owned French company, Minatome, has applied for a second lease in the area to site necessary tailings dams, yellowcake mill, and other facilities associated with the mine. If granted, it will cover more than 20 square kilometres. The first lease was granted by the Queensland government in March 1980 with no public consultation whatever.

A formal Objection to the granting of such a lease represents the only channel available within the legal system to express opposition to uranium. Predictably, however, Queensland's arid and blatantly biased Mines Act makes it virtually impossible for anyone opposing the Queensland government to win. The Act allows the Minister for Mines to overrule any decision that the presiding Mining Warden makes. It also restricts arguments to legalities and a narrow definition of the effect of uranium mining.

Nonetheless, the hearing is an important measure of the acceptance and validity of the arguments against uranium and provide another forum for the arguments to be presented.

The Hearing proper commenced on December 8 with Minatome presenting 8 witnesses over a period of 4½ days during which time, counsel for the Objector had the opportunity to cross-examine. Time constraints have forced an adjournment to March 2 when the case against the mine will be presented by an expected 10 expert witnesses.

All witnesses and legal counsel for the anti uranium case are contributing their services free of charge (although the exercise has probably cost Minatome \$20,000 in legal fees alone). Administration costs, airfares etc are mounting up, however, and the Townsville group would appreciate financial assistance.

TRCC
PO Box 364
Townsville Q. 4810 Australia
tel (077) 71 6226



RADIOACTIVE TAILINGS DAM IN PORT PIRIE WILL BE FINALLY COVERED

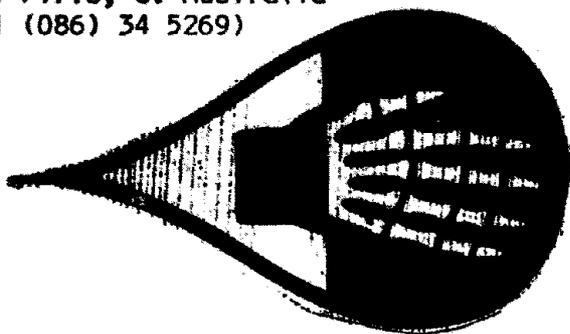
After years of action demanding that something be done with the left over uranium tailings at Port Pirie, residents may finally get some action out of the Atomic Energy Commission of Australia. The AAEC decided, in January this year, to cover the tailings.

The local press seemed to think that should satisfy Port Pirie Friends of the Earth - but PPF OE is not happy with the decision. They say covering the tailings is a large improvement on the present conditions, but is not a long term solution.

PPFOE is particularly concerned that the AAEC refuses to study the health effects of the tailings on the local population, while claiming that there have been no adverse effects. Friends of the Earth has requested on many occasions, and will continue to request, a thorough investigation of the health of ex-uranium mill workers, the children who played and swam in the tailings dams over a 10-15 year period, and the general Pirie population.

PPFOE maintains there is no long term satisfactory way of dumping or disposing of these 200,000 tonnes of low level waste.

PPFOE
PO Box 7
Port Pirie, S. Australia
(tel (086) 34 5269)



ALLIANCE FORMED AGAINST HONEYMOON

Whatever your own opinion is about Honeymooning, here is one more to add to the theory that they are a bad thing. Honeymoon is the latest uranium venture in South Australia, and its owners intend to test in situ mining at this site 100 km north of BHP's mining town, Broken Hill.

At the end of 1980, environmental and anti nuclear groups in the towns around the Spencers Gulf in South Australia formed themselves into "The Gulf Alliance", principally to organise against the Honeymoon project.

If Honeymoon goes ahead, it will use the as yet (in the world) relatively untried in situ method. It works by injecting chemicals into the ground which dissolve uranium ore underground, then pumping the ore to the surface. A similar pilot project is being tried by EXXON at Laguna, New Mexico, USA (see story in USA section).

The in situ method places the underground water in danger of being seriously contaminated not only by acid but by radioactive materials. On the average there will be one million gallons of the acid solution going through the ground every day and at any time there will be 5 million gallons of the solution in the mine. (one gallon is two litres). During the lifetime of the mine some 10,000 million gallons of radioactive acid solution will be pumped through the ground. This will endanger not only the local waters but also more distant areas such as Lake Frome and the Great Artesian Basin which is 50km from the proposed mine.

The process is opposed by the U.S. Federal Water Pollution Control Administration.



Three Queensland companies each own 1/6th of the proposed venture. They are Oilmin N.L., Transoil N.L., and Petromin N.L. The anti uranium campaign in Queensland sent representatives to Transoil and Petromin's annual general meetings on February 12 to ask questions, while CANP members picketed outside. The questions revealed that the company knew very little of the adverse possible effects of in situ.

Gulf Alliance members met with Broken Hill anti nuclear people on January 26. The Broken Hill people then decided to form an action group to work on uranium and related issues, and the Mayor said he was personally in favor of declaring the area a nuclear free zone. Unionists in the town have expressed their intention not to allow yellowcake from the Honeymoon site to pass through Broken Hill (and, as Broken Hill is an isolated town, it will be hard NOT to go through).

PPFOE
PO Box 7 Port Pirie S.A.
Australia

ENRICHMENT THREAT LOOMS IN AUSTRALIA

An Australian government commissioned report on the possibility of a uranium enrichment plant in Australia is due to be presented to the federal legislature before April. The report is made by the Uranium Enrichment Group, consisting of uranium interests: Peko Wallsend, CSR, Western Mining, and Broken Hill Proprietary (BHP). CSR, who is involved in the Honeymoon project, considers the scheme for all these companies to build an uranium enrichment facility so good, that it is prepared to give the scheme full financial support.

The market for the plant will be built up through the clause in all Australian uranium contracts stating that at least 35% of uranium bought in Australia has to be bought in its enriched form.

Shareholding in the new plant will be split between Australian interests, main overseas customers, and the foreign group providing technology for building the plant.

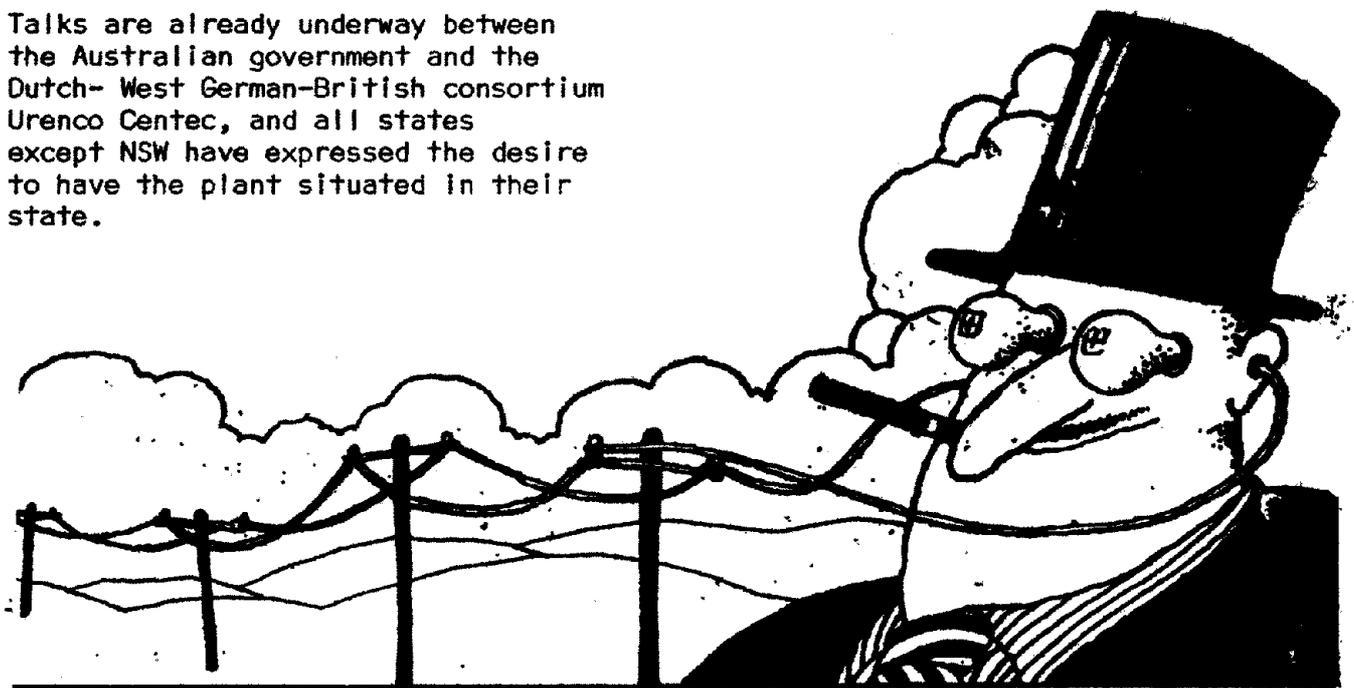
Talks are already underway between the Australian government and the Dutch-West German-British consortium Urenco Centec, and all states except NSW have expressed the desire to have the plant situated in their state.

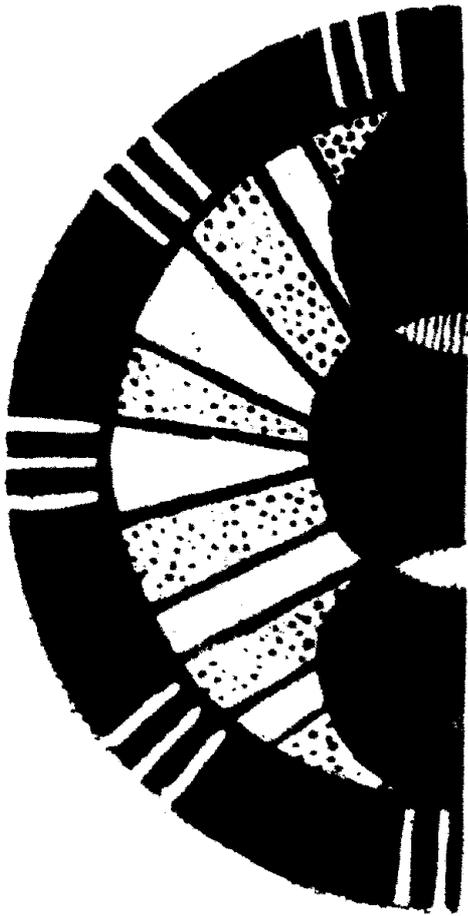
Although normal commercial enrichment plants cannot produce highly enriched weapons grade material, it is possible either to adapt operations so that such material can be produced, or to disguise from the state that such material is being produced.

Competition in the enrichment market brings predictable results. The U.S. has offered to reduce the price of its enriched uranium to between \$70 and \$75 per single work unit kilogram - down from US\$115.

The Campaign against Nuclear Power (CANP) in Queensland comments that these moves come at a time of increased international competition for diminishing markets, increased anti-nuclear activity among Australian unions, and growing public dismay and concern about all stages of the nuclear fuel cycle.

CANP suggests that people write to their state legislatures and federal parliament, deploring the developments. CANP newsletter Jan 1981
PO Box 238 North Quay, Q 4000 Australia
tel 221 0188





THIRD WORLD THIRD WORLD

Governments and Mining Companies In Developing Countries

James H Cobbe

Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press
1979 324 pp \$20.

All four of these books are concerned with the conditions under which mining - including prospecting - takes place in developing countries.

The most substantial and informative is Financing Mining Projects in Developing countries. A number of factors have been altering the traditional pattern of mine investment and the traditional role of the multinational enterprise.

For a detailed book review, you can request that from WISE in Amsterdam.

BOOK REVIEWS FROM THIRD WORLD
QUARTERLY MAGAZINE, Vol 3 No 1.

Financing Mining Projects in Developing Countries

Marian Radetzki and Stephen Zorn
London: Mining Journal Books, 1979
184 pp, £7.50pb.

New Patterns of World Mineral Development

Raymond F Mikesell
British-North American Committee
1979, 97pp £2.25

Mining Ventures in Developing Countries, Part 1: Interests, bargaining processes, Legal concepts

Christian Kirschner et al
Frankfurt: Alfred Metzner Verlag
1979. 193 pp £23.60

THIRD WORLD THIRD WORLD



canada

MAMMOTH REFINERY FOR BLIND RIVER

Eldorado Nuclear's application to the Atomic Energy Control Board for approval of a uranium trioxide (UO₃) refinery at Blind River, Ontario, calls for the processing of approximately 25,700 tonnes per year of yellowcake. This would result in a plant production capacity of 21,630 tonnes UO₃, or 18,000 tonnes uranium as the metal. This information was provided by the AECB in a recent letter to the Saskatoon Environmental Society.

As Canadian uranium production has been forecast by the federal government to grow to a maximum of 15,500 tonnes of uranium as the metal per year by 1990, this new information supports the argument that a Saskatchewan refinery would be surplus to Eldorado's needs. The AECB's letter also indicates that Eldorado has made an application to expand the capacity of its Port Hope facilities from 5700 to 9000 tonnes per year of uranium hexafluoride, while maintaining the production of 2000 tonnes of uranium oxide.

Saskatoon Environmental Society
PO Box 1372 Saskatoon, Sask
S7K 3N9 Canada
tel (306) 665 6655.

NUCLEAR ENERGY IN ONTARIO: WHO ASKED US? is the title of the Birch Bark Alliance's slide-tape show. (1979). The 40 minute slide-tape show contains some stunning shots of the uranium tailings (over 80 million tons) lying in the open environment near Elliot Lake, Ontario.

The Ontario Public Research Group (OPIRG) will sell or rent this show to groups in Canada and the USA (putting higher charges on US shipments).

The script and footnotes are available from OPIRG and from WISE in Amsterdam.

OPIRG
Trent University
Peterborough, Ont K9J 7B8
Canada tel 748 1554

DO YOU HAVE A SLIDE SHOW OR FILM
WE DON'T YET HAVE ON OUR LIST? WRITE
US THE DETAILS - MANY PEOPLE ACTUALLY
USE THE LIST.



CHURCH ROCK: HUGE ACCIDENT IN 1979 STILL LEAKING IN 1981

The United Nuclear Corporation has been given an extension of time till March 11 1981 to come up with a plan to stop the seepage of pollutants from the tailings disposal area at the uranium mill at Church Rock. It is scandalous to think that this mill continues

to leak, and to operate, after the catastrophic overflow of July 16 1979. Even more sickening is the realisation of how minimal attention the health and welfare of people and animals in the area is given in the Church Rock area.

State Environmental Officials contend the uranium mill should not be operating because polluting seepage from the tailings disposal area is not under control. The Director of the State Environmental Improvement Division (EID) has recommended that United Nuclear not be allowed to discharge any water into the disposal site after January 9. This would in effect compel the mill to shut down. The mill leaks a significant amount of toxic, radioactive and acidic materials into the groundwater.

If the mill closed down, its director stated, it may never open again.

The EID reviewed United Nuclear's Uranium Mill discharge plan in December. The plan supposedly will control leakage from the tailings area. The EID concluded "that UNC genuinely has no design which will show that the seepage will ever be under control". In fact the EID director said that the company's field experience indicates:

"They are certainly at the low end of the learning curve in achieving success even in the physical pumping of the wells."



UNC president Cunningham claims to be "accutely concerned about our environmental responsibility...we want to be a good citizen of the state of New Mexico". (oh dear-Ed) He said the company has spent millions of dollars attempting to solve the seepage problem. He added that a lot of that money was wasted. UNC also complained that all the environmental protection pressures are forcing up the price of uranium. UNC has an unrecovered investment of \$90 million in the Church Rock facilities

If you pardon the turn of phrase, the UNC monster does not just have a belly ache; it has diarrhea. Result: the people and environment of Church Rock are under attack by the pollutants.

At the present time Navajo Indian farmers are demanding a court case against UNC to be held in Tribal Court. This is the latest in a series of legal confrontations stemming from the July 16 1979 accident.

The Indians demanding this, on December 29, do so because "In a Navajo Tribal Court we would be talking in our own language and could make ourselves understood much more effectively and could get a good hearing in regard to our case." If the case is heard in a federal court, many Indians will face these and other hardships. It will be difficult to get other folk to look after the farm animals - It was because of the sickness of the animals that the people are suing.

The legal manouvres began with a \$12.5 million civil suit filed against UNC in August 1980 by 200 Navajo's claiming damages.

American Indian Environmental Council
1503 Central NW
Albuquerque NM 87103 USA

GRANTS NEW MEXICO URANIUM MILL WINS
APPROVAL FROM STATE

Gulf Minerals Resources Corporation received permission in December last year to begin constructing a uranium processing mill north-east of Grants near Mt Taylor, New Mexico. But whether the company will actually build the mill will depend on the uranium market.

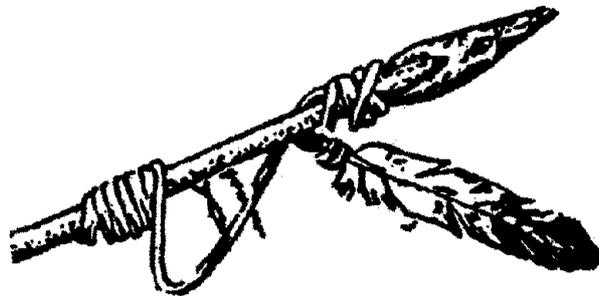
The state imposed 24 conditions on Gulf. These apply mostly to monitoring waste areas to ensure there is no land fracture or liquid seepage.

Gulf plans to process 4,200 tons of rock per day, producing only a few pounds of yellowcake and a lot of radioactive tailings. Gulf plans to bury the waste in trenches. The mill could operate for 30 years, but because the US finds it difficult to get nuclear power plants built the market for yellowcake is at this time somewhat sluggish.

source: Albuquerque Journal
Contact: AIEC (see other story
for address)

EXXON GETS GO-AHEAD AT LAGUNA

On Jan 3 1981 New Mexico's Environmental Improvement Division (EID) accepted Exxon corporation's application for construction of a uranium leaching plant pilot test project 15 miles north of Laguna. The method is "in situ" - Latin for in place.



RITA SILK NAUNI NEEDS OUR CONTINUED
SUPPORT

Rita Silk Nauni is a 31 year old Lakota woman, who exercised "one of the oldest and most fundamental rights known in the Holy Circle of Life -"the right of a woman to defend her own child". Rita was forced to stand trial for first degree murder in August last year, with the state seeking the death penalty for exercising that right and defending her own life. She received a 150 year jail term.

On September 19, 1979, Rita and her son Derrick were harassed by police while hitch hiking. During a struggle in which Rita was trying to protect herself and the child, Rita was shot in the leg and a police officer was mortally wounded. Frightened by the whole episode Rita commandeered the police vehicle, and was chased several miles down the road by another police vehicle until they rammed her. They then beat her senseless. Innocent bystanders filed complaints of police brutality.

Rita's sentence will be appealed by her defence group. It is vital that Rita stay free until the appeal - but for this a lot of money is needed. Rita needs your continued support through prayers, letters, telegrams, and contributions to the defence fund.

Rita Silk Nauni Defense Committee
Native American Centre
1212 N. Hudson, Oklahoma City, OK 73103
USA

URANIUM BANS

In some states of the USA, however, there is less depressing news - in fact news of hope.

NEW JERSEY: SUPPORT FOR STATEWIDE BAN GROWS

Twelve towns in New Jersey, as well as Warwick New York, have passed resolutions or ordinances banning uranium mining, milling and exploration in their communities.

Local ordinances are a first important step, says the SEA Alliance. How well these bans hold up in the face of all companies determination to mine the uranium is to be seen. There are already attempts afoot to prove the bans unconstitutional, but residents are pushing for a statewide ban to ensure the success of the local bans. There are presently two bills before state legislature calling for the implementation of these bans.

Residents of New Jersey towns are pushing also for public hearings in the areas to be affected by mining. A signature campaign is one of the actions set up to this end, and 12,000 signatures have now been gathered. The people hope to stop a problem before it begins.

Kate Donnelly
SEA Alliance
PO Box 271 New Vernon NJ 07976
USA tel (201) 538 6676

URANIUM BANS IN VERMONT, MONTANA, WISCONSIN, AND VIRGINIA

Slowly but surely, according to a press release of Jan 28 1981, Vermont towns are passing ordinances prohibiting the mining and milling of uranium. Stop Uranium Mining Inc (SUM) is backing these ordinances.

In other states, Montana has banned uranium mining and milling by statewide referendum, Wisconsin has submitted a bill to its legislature calling for a seven-year moratorium on uranium mining and milling, and Virginia is conducting a hearing on a bill to study uranium mining and milling spurred by the concern of dairy farmers.

In December the German uranium company was thrown out of Vermont, yet towns are making doubly sure that the companies do not return by continuing to pass ordinances.

The most comprehensive ordinance was passed in the town of Hartland, Vermont:

ORDINANCE AGAINST THE MINING AND MILLING OF URANIUM

1. Nuisance - Definition

The Hartland Board of Selectmen, in the exercise of their powers and pursuant to 24 V.S.A par 2291 (14), define public nuisance as an activity that disrupts the comfort and convenience of the general public by adversely affecting some general interest or common rights

2. Findings

The Hartland Board of Selectmen has reviewed information concerning uranium mining and milling in the nation. The Board as a result, finds and declares that uranium mining and milling, whether conducted singly or together, constitute a public nuisance in and near where such activities are conducted for the following reasons:

Uranium mining and milling release radioactive substances into the air and underground water supplies. These substances expose humans to radioactivity both directly and indirectly through the air they breath, the agricultural products they eat and the milk and water they drink.

Such exposure of humans to radio-activity is harmful to them. Additionally, such mining and milling activities present a substantial risk of despoiling the landscape, limiting its usefulness and financial values for other activities, and increasing local highway expense burdens.

3. Prohibition

A. The mining and milling of fissionable source materials, whether conducted singly or together, is prohibited within the borders of the town of Hartland.

B. For the purposes of this ordinance, "fissionable source material" shall mean:

- mineral ore which is extracted or processed with the intention of permitting the product to become or to be further processed into fuel for nuclear fission reactors or weapons

- ores which contain by weight one-hundredth of one percent (0.01%) or more of uranium, or thorium, or any combination thereof, in any physical or chemical form or any concentrations which might reasonably be expected to permit economically profitable or successful conversion or processing into fuel for nuclear reactors or weapons.

4. Construction

If any provision of this ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid or pre-empted. The remainder of this ordinance and the application of such provisions to other persons or circumstances shall be construed to be not affected thereby.

5. Effective Date

This ordinance shall be effective 65 days after the date of its adoption...





BRITAIN

ANTI RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN

Military and nuclear corporations are travelling through Britain on a recruitment campaign of graduate college students.

Students Against Nuclear Energy, (SANE) together with Third World First, National Union of Students and the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, confronted the campaign with a national week of action at the beginning of February.

Targetted corporations included:
Rio Tinto Zinc: London based biggest single uranium exploiter in the world, operators of the Rossing mine in Namibia
British Nuclear Fuels: fabricators of warhead materials and fuel for "civil" nuclear power
Central Electricity Generating Board: Customers for Rossing uranium. Totally committed to going nuclear.
General Electric Company: Standing to earn big contracts from government nuclear expansion
United Kingdom Energy Authority.

SANE's campaign is to ensure that no graduate leaves college unaware of the implications of working with these corporations.
In England, there have been tremendous cuts in welfare service and industry by the Thatcher government, and the only areas of increased spending has been in Defence and nuclear power. Over £155 million is given to nuclear energy research every year, while a cumulative total of £16 million has been provided for renewable energy and conservation research over the years. Since jobs are only created where money is invested, says SANE, "we the youth

EUROPE

IRELAND

APRIL 4: National Day of Action

At a national mass meeting of the anti nuclear movement in Ireland on December 21, April 4 was chosen as a day of national action against uranium mining.

The meeting decided to move the national organising focus from Donegal, where campaigning continues to be successful, to Leinster, a potential uranium area.

The Irish action will be directed against Minatome subsidiary Maugh Ltd. The action is in a loose way coupled on to the Black Hills call for international action against mining companies.

Source: Rebel

of Britain are being pressed by free market forces to take work in those few expanding areas, jobs as gravediggers in the military nuclear complex".

SANE demands the run-down of military and "civil" nuclear programmes; the diversion of funds to alternative energy and socially useful research and development; and the right to socially useful jobs.

SANE
9 Poland St
London W1
tel (1) 251 4978



WEST GERMANY

RESOURCE:

STOP URANABBAU UND ATOM-EXPORT

is a 120 page document produced by the Archivgruppe der BBA in Bremen.

The document has three sections: the first dealing with the problematic of native peoples and uranium mining, the second with native peoples throughout the world in relationship with nuclear power, and the third is filmtext and material from "Paul Jacobs and the Nuclear Gang".

The document draws its information from articles published already in foreign publications, as well as German resource material. It is beautifully presented, with many graphics and photos, and is worth, for people reading German, to spend DM6 on.

Adebar
Ostertorsteinweg 43
28 Bremen FRG
tel (0421) 327530



FRANCE

URANIUM MINING GROUPS HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE: PRESIDENTIAL INTERVENTION PLANNED

French anti uranium groups organised a press conference in Paris on February 10. The main purpose was to present the national umbrella group "Réseau Uranium" (established in October 1980 to the French press, along with their proposed actions.

The meeting presented Réseau Uranium and its bulletin GOUFFRE, presented LA GAZETTE NUCLEAIRE (produced with the assistance of Groupement Scientifiques pour l'information sur l'Energie Nucleaire - GSIEN), projected the Réseau's film Touchés par l'uranium, and made public repression against one of the groups leaders.

The main issue of the meeting was the declaration that Réseau Uranium will intervene in the Presidential Elections next April. It was announced that each candidate would be called upon and asked for a part of the means put at their disposal by the institutions on this occasion to be shared with Réseau Uranium. The latter would thus be able to explain on a national level the numerous geo-political implications of uranium mining in France, and the irresponsibility of Cogema in still promoting it inside the country and throughout the world.

Notwithstanding the dangers of the uranium as a political entity, an article published in the serious French newspaper "Le Nouvel Economiste" last November clearly showed that uranium prospecting is becoming more and more hazardous as prices of uranium are already going down after the slackening of all nuclear programmes in the world (except France and UK).

Réseau Uranium intends also, through the intervention, to provoke public discussion on the subject.

Four of the group have been officially commissioned to look after this project. They will personally enter into contact with each candidate and receive their answers and positions on the subject.

The results will be made public during the official campaign before the first Ballot.

Réseau uranium now counts some 400 members from 50 French Departments (regions). All are affected by

- one or several uranium mines or future ones
- a processing plant (uranium mill), or uranium mines being used as atomic waste storage sites

Some of the groups are information groups, others are activist groups, others are looking for alternatives.

GOUFFRE will link these groups together, as well as bringing international information. Readers will be kept informed with technical and juridical information and a better knowledge of the laws concerning uranium mining. There will also be articles on geology and the economical structures of uranium mining.

GOUFFRE
34700 Lodeve, France

(for English communication)
Louise Trussel
31 rue du Mail
75002 Paris
France tel 2333696

WISE has also a copy of the Intervention being presented to the candidates. If you would like an English translation, write and tell us....

INDUSTRY NEWS

We do not have much industry news this time as our dear friend Roger of CIMRA has been busy putting out Natural People's News. Well, that's out now, and he is busy working on stopping RTZ (the week in May) and getting together Gulliver File and probably a lot more as well. However, you will get more news next time...

A NEW NUCLEAR AGREEMENT between France and Morocco includes the provision by Cogema of a Plant (presumably a processing plant) which will utilise Morocco's huge phosphate deposits. The French will also cooperate on a development plan for phosphates-into-uranium costing some £2.4 billion. Since their invasion of West Sahara, the Moroccans also have virtual control over the very extensive phosphate deposits at Bou Craa (Financial Times London 27.1.81)

THE FRENCH (THROUGH COGEMA) HAVE also supplied Niger with the most of its mining equipment to help it become the sixth most important western producer of uranium. In February, however, ONAREM - the country's mineral agency - announced that it was seeking mining equipment from further afield, including European companies. Britain's Central Electricity Generating Board has an interest in the deposit at Tchell, on which no firm decision has yet been taken.

(Financial Times London 9.Feb 81)

SEVENTY-THREE EXPLORATION PERMITS covering 1,25 million hectares are being issued in Canada's Northwest Territories this year. They are in the region of Baker Lake, but as uranium is in a slump it is not expected that much development will happen.

(News/North, Feb 6 81)

