

Hayes, John

From: Jonathan Cole [joncole@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, October 23, 2009 12:59 PM
To: Hayes, John
Subject: Comments for the NRC re: Hawaii Island and Pohakuloa Training Ground

Dear Sir,

I understand that it is the responsibility of the NRC to quantify risks regarding nuclear materials and their effect on public health.

It has become increasingly clear that some kind of environmental contamination is raising cancer rates to unacceptable levels on Hawaii Island.

It has come to our attention that the Army used depleted uranium munitions in Pohakuloa Training Area and neglected to clean it up or inform the public (until recently, under pressure from the public).

Pohakuloa happens to be located in a geographical area where strong winds scour the flats between the mountains (known as the "saddle") . For decade heavy artillery fire in the same area may well have aerosolized DU remnants allowing nano particles to be spread down wind which can either be Hilo or Kona, depending on the weather. Anecdotal reports of spikes from radiation monitors in the presence of gusty winds outside of Pohakuloa Training Area suggest that this problem needs urgent and un-biased monitoring.

The Army has shown itself to have too much conflict of interest to leave this problem to them. We need public officials and regulatory agencies to be pro-actively scientific rather than to back up the military whose activities may harm public health. And by the way, aerosolized depleted uranium is probably the most harmful to the soldiers who are in the vicinity. Protecting our men and women in the armed forces has a higher priority than protecting the policy of the Army and Pentagon. People or policy? There is really only one moral choice.

Please require independent monitoring of the Pohakuloa Training Area. I suggest that all training areas, everywhere have such monitoring. Do not allow the independent monitoring entities to have any conflict of interest with the military or defense industries. Such conflicts should be expressly prohibited as malfeasance and a Federal felony.

Please, require an environmental impact statement before granting permits for any nuclear materials. This should be a part of a process that includes a formal public hearing.

Contaminated areas should be decommissioned forthwith and the military should be required to pay for the state-of-the-art cleanup technology.

Please do your duty to your country and protect the citizens from the harmful side-effects of bad policy.

Thank you,

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