

## **N.R.C. HEARING, GAFFNEY, S.C., JUNE 17, 2010**

I am Dr. Don Richardson of Western North Carolina Physicians For Social Responsibility, and a retired pathologist who in <sup>my</sup> his practice was board certified in Nuclear Medicine.

**The last of my approximately 700 autopsies was on the nuclear industry—a corpse on a cold steel morgue table. At the demand of members of the nuclear family and other vested interests, mouth to mouth resuscitation and pounding the chest were tried, followed by zapping the corpse with the electric paddles, and it jumped a few times on the table, but could not be revived. Nuclear power died of market forces many decades ago but the industry, ever the opportunist for public subsidies, these many years later still keeps insisting that we try again, ignoring the final diagnosis. In my view, the entire industry needs professional help.**

**Our 103 operating nukes are OLD, many with their operating lives dangerously extended. They will ALL have to be decommissioned over a short period of time, meaning there is no way even an Apollo program to build new ones could possibly keep up, so the industry will shrink dramatically even with the proposed new construction.**

**Meanwhile, cheaper, safer, job-rich and quicker alternatives are already growing exponentially as nuclear power fades away, and none of them is a terrorist target. They're decentralized and thus protected from failure. They are outperforming nukes every day.**

(over)

**We are daily watching the disaster in the Gulf of Mexico and acutely aware of what happens when public policy is co-opted by narrow, self-serving corporate interests. Not acting in the public interest—for the people who elected them—is one definition of treason, for which the time-honored punishment is, well, unpleasant. I remain amazed that Congress, for cash bribes, sells its votes and runs the risk.**

*Congress*

**Further, an analysis of the entire nuclear cycle, done by Jan Willem Storm van Leeuwen and the late Philip Smith, concluded that a small amount of net energy can be gotten from nukes by using the highest grade ores—which are running out—and that there may be NO net energy from the remaining low-grade ores. What keeps the industry going is the spinoff of bomb materials, U235 and Pu. Another isotope, U238, has a half-life of 4.5 billion years, the age of our planet. Not to worry, we'll be safe after 10 half-lives, 45 billion years from now. We have thus contaminated Earth forever already, and everyone in this room has some Sr-90 in his or her bones, exposing bone marrow to the risk of leukemias and related malignancies and morbidity.**

**Am I angry about our inability or refusal to use common sense to preserve our life support systems and all life on Earth? Not just angry. Outraged. Homicidal might be a more accurate term. Nuclear energy in all its forms, with the possible exception of isotopes for medical diagnosis and treatment, is the worst idea ever devised by human intelligence, an idea whose time really never came. May it rest in peace. Thank you for your time.**

*Don Richardson*