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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

07/31/09
74 FR 38239

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E-RFDs = ADM-03
Cald = J. Rikhoff (JSR2)
S. Schneider (SXSH)



NRC PUBLIC MEETING FEEDBACK

Category

3

Meeting Date: 10/20/2009

Meeting Title: Public Meeting on Proposed Rule and Revised Generic EIS for License Renewal - Pismo Beach, CA

In order to better serve the public, we need to hear from the meeting participants. Please take a few minutes to fill out this feedback form and return it to NRC.

1. How did you hear about this meeting?

- NRC Web Page
 NRC Mailing List
 Newspaper
 Radio/TV
 Other _____

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u> (Please explain below)	<u>Somewhat</u>
2. Were you able to find supporting information prior to the meeting?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Did the meeting achieve its stated purpose?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Has this meeting helped you with your understanding of the topic?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5. Were the meeting starting time, duration, and location reasonably convenient?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Were you given sufficient opportunity to ask questions or express your views?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Are you satisfied overall with the NRC staff who participated in the meeting?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS:

Thank you for answering these questions.

Regarding global warming - nuclear waste cannot be helpful in solving the problem. As citizens of this country - what are we saying to future generations - leaving all this waste for them to deal with. We say the NRC do not know the affects of the radiation 50, 100, 150 years from. No need to worry about it. Not our problem? Until we have a solution to nuclear waste, we should

Continue Comments on the reverse. →

OPTIONAL

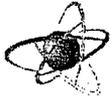
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USNRC
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

**Proposed Rule and Revision to
the Generic Environmental
Impact Statement (GEIS) for
License Renewal of Nuclear
Plants (NUREG-1437)**

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission



USNRC
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Introductions & Agenda

- Welcome and Purpose of Meeting
- Overview of Rulemaking and the GEIS
- Overview of GEIS Update
- Public comment

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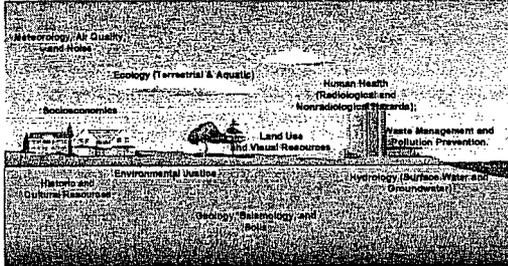
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Purpose of the GEIS

- Evaluate environmental impacts from renewing nuclear power plant operating licenses
- Identify and assess impacts that are expected to be generic (same or similar) at all nuclear plants
- Define the number and scope of environmental impact issues that need to be addressed in plant-specific Environmental Impact Statements

3

Environmental Impacts



GEIS Update

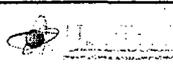
- Basis for update:
 - 10 CFR Part 51, Appendix B to Subpart A
 - 10-year cycle to review and update if necessary
 - GEIS is technical basis for Appendix B
- GEIS categorization of issues
 - Category 1
 - Impacts the same or similar at all nuclear plants
 - Category 2
 - Generic determination cannot be made, plant-specific analysis required

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GEIS Update Process

- Incorporate lessons learned from previous plant-specific environmental reviews
- Assess newly-identified plant-specific and generic environmental impact issues
- Identify changes to environmental laws and regulations

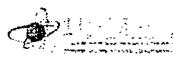
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New Category 1 Issues

- Effects of dredging on water quality
- Effects of dredging on aquatic organisms
- Exposure of terrestrial organisms to radionuclides
- Exposure of aquatic organisms to radionuclides
- Human health impacts from chemicals
- Physical occupational hazards
- Impacts of plants on geology and soils

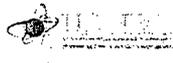
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New Category 2 Issues

- Groundwater and soil contamination, non-radiological
- Radionuclides released to groundwater
- Special status aquatic species and habitats
- Environmental justice
- Cumulative impacts

8



Category 2 Re-categorized to Category 1

- Housing Impacts
- Public services:
 - Public utilities
 - Education (refurbishment)
 - Transportation
- Offsite land use:
 - Impacts from refurbishment
 - Impacts from license renewal

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Summary of Changes

- No issues from the 1996 GEIS were eliminated, but several were combined or regrouped according to similarities
- Environmental issues in the revised GEIS are arranged by resource areas
 - Different approach from 1996 GEIS where issues were arranged by power plant systems (e.g., cooling systems, transmission lines) and activities (e.g., refurbishment)
- Overall reduction in total number of issues from 92 to 78

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GEIS Update Milestones

- Scoping began in June 2003
- Scoping Summary Report issued June 2009
- Proposed Rule and GEIS Revision issued July 2009
- Public Comment period ends January 12, 2010
- Final Rule and GEIS Revision to be issued 2011

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Points of Contact

Agency points of contact:

- Jeffrey Rikhoff (800) 368-5642, Ext. 1090, or
- Jason Lising, Ext. 3220

Documents are available at:

- Web:
www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/status-prop-rulemknrg.html
- NRC's Public Document Room at 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD
- www.regulations.gov (NRC-2008-0608)

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Public Comments

- Written comments can be sent . . .
 - By mail to:
Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001
ATTN: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff
 - E-mail to:
 - LRGEISUpdate@nrc.gov
 - or
 - Rulemaking.Comments@nrc.gov
 - Via Web: www.regulations.gov (NRC-2008-0608)

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Nuclear Waste

Deal with it or do NOT
produce it. Storage on
site is NOT properly
dealing with it

A4 FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2009

S

Letters

Finding spot for N-waste

To the Editor:

I was arrested in front of Diablo Canyon Power Plant in 1978 because they did not know what they were going to do with their nuclear waste.

Here we are, 30 years later, and they still do not know.

Nipomo is downwind of Diablo. I do not consider storage on site next to two earthquake faults an intelligent answer.

I suggest these casks of the nuclear waste be placed in the back yards of the NRC and Diablo. This will disperse the problem, and give the big shots a chance to actually solve the problem they created by permitting Diablo to exist.

Bill Denneen
Nipomo

Onsite storage of spent nuclear fuel

Small impact (Category 1).

The expected increase in the volume of spent fuel from an additional 20 years of operation can be safely accommodated onsite with small environmental effects through dry or pool storage at all plants, if a permanent repository or monitored retrievable storage is not available.

I cannot see how this could be a “Generic Issue”. The NRC’s argument for “generic” is circular. The issue is: what is safe at what plant. If the NRC predetermines that prolonged on-site storage is safe at all plants, then there is no point to take public input. By allowing the utilities to fill the pools way beyond the original licensed capacity, the NRC has allowed a doubling of possibilities for nuclear catastrophe, i.e. a meltdown and a pool fire. [NOTE: Until the year 2000, the NRC did not even officially recognize the possibility of such spent fuel pool fire].

1. Safe accommodation.

At SONGS and Diablo, the earthquake and tsunami dangers are completely different from any other plant. The same is true for terrorist aspects for any plant, because of location and/or design [see Finding 3D National Academy of Sciences Report (NAS) on terrorism aspects for Spent Fuel Pools, 2005. Quote: “The potential vulnerabilities of spent fuel pools to terrorist attacks are plant-design specific. Therefore, specific vulnerabilities can only be understood by examining the characteristics of spent fuel storage at each plant”].

Furthermore, another 20 years of exposure to intense radiation and heat will likely cause further “embrittlement” of components, such as pool racking and/or fuel cladding. The g-forces generated in earthquakes depend largely on the strength of the quake and the distance from the epicenter. This aspect alone could require very different mitigation measures at different plants. For instance, the dry casks at Diablo are bolted to the storage pads but not, to my knowledge, at any other plant.

Accordingly, the “safe accommodation” of spent fuel storage on-site depends on different mitigation measures at each site and must therefore be evaluated in a site-specific EIS.

2. Small environmental impact.

A pool fire or breach of a dry cask are not “small environmental impacts”. In fact, some of the NRC’s own studies identify a pool fire as potentially having “comparable consequences” to a reactor meltdown. The NAS report finds, that a pool fire is possible and that such a fire could result in releasing large amounts of radiation to the environment, hardly a small impact. **Moreover, the NAS report suggests a host of possible mitigation measures, depending on “site by site” evaluations.** Such measures could include lower pool density, reconfiguration of SFA’s in the pool racking, additional sprinkler systems etc., all depending on different conditions at each plant (NAS Report Finding 3D, page 6). Even more important, conditions may change. Another fault was just recently discovered near Diablo, terrorists might get access to new, more destructive weapons, etc.

OB Rag Blog

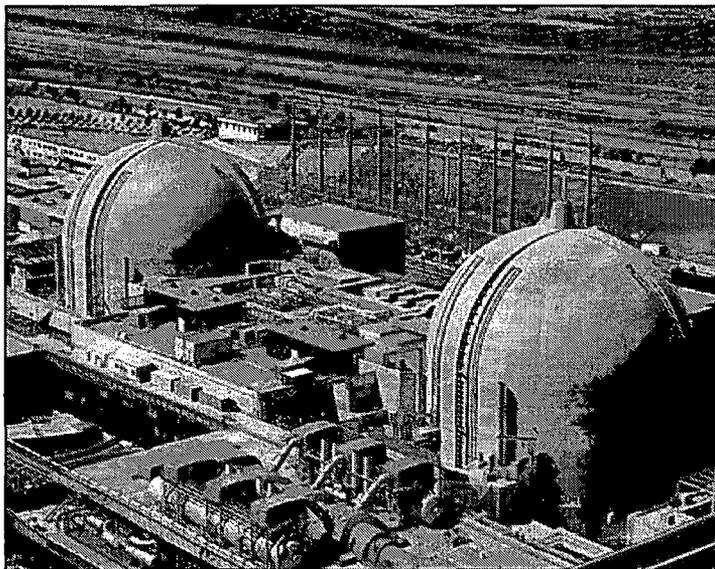
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San Onofre Nuclear Plant: Highest Childhood Leukemia Death Rates

by [Michael Steinberg](#) on [December 13, 2008](#)

in [Energy](#), [Environment](#), [Feature](#), [Health](#), [San Diego](#)



A recent study found that childhood (ages 0-19) leukemia mortality rates around US nuclear power plants have been significantly higher than the national average.

“Leukemia death rates in U.S. children near nuclear reactors rose sharply (vs. the national trend) in the past two decades,” a November 11 press release

for the study stated.

The study, "Childhood Leukemia Near Nuclear Installations," appeared as a letter to the editor in the most recent issue of the European Journal of Cancer Care.

Its authors are epidemiologist Joseph Mangano and toxicologist Janette Sherman, both members of the Radiation and Public Health Project (www.radiation.org).

The authors chose to study childhood leukemia because it "is the type of childhood cancer most frequently studied by scientists," the authors wrote. "In the U.S., childhood leukemia incidence has risen 28.7% from 1974-2004, according to CDC data."

Using mortality statistics from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the authors analyzed death rates from 67 counties adjoining 51 nuclear power stations. They then compared changes in the rates for the period of nuke plant startups, through 1984, with rates for the period 1985-2004.

Among the study's findings:

- An increase of 13.9% in death rates near nuclear plants started 1957-1970 (oldest plants).
- An increase of 9.4% near nuclear plants started 1971-1981 (newer plants).
- A decrease of 5.5% near nuclear plants started 1957-1981 and later shut down.

The 13.9% rate for older plants was statistically significant ($P < 0.02$).

For all plants still operating, the mortality rate, comparing startup-1984 to 1985-2004, was 9.9% higher than the national rate, and also was statistically significant ($P < 0.03$).

San Onofre #1

The authors noted, "The plant with the largest local population is the San Onofre installation in Southern California, located on the border of San Diego and Orange Counties. Results are also presented for this site...and a [statistically] significant increase in leukemia for children aged 0-9 [41% higher than the national rate] and 10-19 [29.5% higher] was observed. Areas near other individual facilities experienced many fewer deaths, and no changes achieved statistical significance."

Despite these disturbing findings, the study did hold out a ray of hope. "Because of major therapeutic advances in the past several decades," the authors wrote,

“the childhood leukemia survival rate is one of the highest of any type of cancer in developed nations. The death rate has plunged while incidence has risen; in the USA, the childhood leukemia mortality and incidence changes from 1975 to 2004 were -49.0% and +29.7% respectively.”

Clearly, however, closing down all nuclear plants and preventing new ones from being built would be the best choices we could make.

Actor and activist Alec Baldwin put it well in the study's press release:

“Exposure to ambient levels of radiation near nuclear reactors used by public utilities has long been suspected as a significant contributor to various cancer and other diseases,” he stated.

“Nuclear power is not the clean, efficient energy panacea to which we are presently being reintroduced. It is dirty, poses serious security threats to our country, and is ridiculously expensive. Nukes are still a military technology forced on the American public with a dressed up civilian application.”

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Tagged as: childhood, childhood death rates, death rates, leukemia, nuclear power, San Onofre Nuclear Power Plant

{ 13 comments... read them below or add one }



dan h December 13, 2008 at 6:42 pm

this report is without merit. san onofre is located on an unpopulated corner of camp pendleton marine base and the nearest significant population is 2 miles upwind of the site. how many real cases are there? where are they located? how many of these people are illegal mexican immigrants who haven't lived in the area even 6 months? (this is the major route of illegals into los angeles).

plus, i must say that i am relieved that alec baldwin has focused his attention



[deutsch \(original\)](#)

[Add a translation >>](#)

Sadleback College Allows Edison to Suppress Free Speech on Campus

Students for Truth 04 Oct 2009 01:35 GMT

Students are being prevented from freely speaking about dangers of San Onofre at Saddleback College. A corporate sponsor has more rights at Saddleback than do students.

Students at Saddleback College, concerned about the environment, were surprised to learn of a crackdown on environmentalists at Saddleback College. With the permission of the college and the college newspaper, Edison and Bechtel were allowed to a pro-business spin about a project planned for San Onofre. All environmental concerns are labeled hoaxes. The project has failed to include meetings and safety planning events that are considered a pre-requisite to a safe operation. Last week, students were prevented from attending an NRC meeting on the subject as the meeting was held more than 200 miles away from San Onofre.

A crackdown is underway at Saddleback to stifle dissent or opposition to Edison and suppress information about their past misconduct.

Edison's San Onofre Plant has a long history of safety violations and radiation leaks. It has been learned that cancer rates close to the plant are at epidemic proportions. Near San Onofre, certain kinds of cancers are at the highest level in the US. Fertility is also a big problem among nearby residents.

The procedure has been classified as nuclear roulette. Whistle blowers inside the plant are alarmed. Health records have been falsified. Safety records have been falsified. Most newspapers print what Edison and Bechtel spokespersons tell them to print. The Lariat News at Saddleback College is among the newspapers disseminating Edison's unsubstantiated statements.

Some environmentalist at the college are concerned that notice of a nuclear disaster during the project will be too late to save students. Some fear for their future at the college if they try to continue to get out the word.

Dictionary.com defines "education" as " the act or process of imparting or acquiring general knowledge, developing the powers of reasoning and judgment, and generally of preparing oneself or others intellectually for mature life." With the crackdown in place, education is not taking place at Saddleback College.

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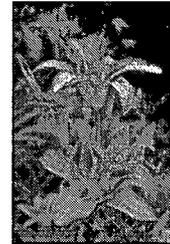


« Older: [A Journey to the North: Part 1](#) Newer: [Honor all our Presidents and the military men and woman who serve](#) »

Last Act: Bush 'sign off' weakened radiation exposure limits

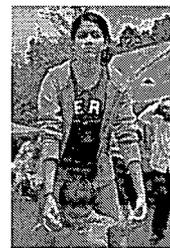
February 16, 2009 |

Huge hikes in allowable radioactivity in drinking water, air and soil



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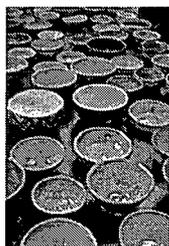


Washington, DC : In January, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency moved to dramatically relax public protections against radioactive releases, according to the Committee to Bridge the Gap (CBG) and Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER). The new standards permit public exposure to radiation levels vastly higher than EPA had previously deemed unacceptably dangerous.

Outgoing Acting EPA Administrator Marcus Peacock signed off on the new Protective Action Guide on January 15th, but the late signing prevented the document from being printed in the Federal Register before Inauguration Day. CBG and PEER are calling on the

Theatre

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incoming Obama administration to withdraw it from the Federal Register before it is published within the next few days. The radiation "PAGs" are supposed to be protocols for protecting the public from radiological incidents ranging from nuclear power-plant accidents to transportation spills to "dirty" bombs to contamination events at metal recycling facilities. In October, the Bush administration shrugged off objections filed by more than 60 public health and environmental groups to the emerging draft rewrite of the 1992 PAGs.

The groups objected to numerous aspects of the plan, such as -

- **Drinking Water.** EPA has radically increased permissible public exposure to radiation in drinking water, including a nearly 1000-fold increase in permissible concentrations of strontium-90, 3000 to 100,000-fold for iodine-131, and a nearly 25,000 increase for nickel-63. In the most extreme case, the new standard would permit radionuclide concentrations seven million times more lax than permitted under the Safe Drinking Water Act;
- **Lax Cleanups.** Rather than specifying long-term cleanup levels that were health protective, officials could instead choose from a range of "benchmarks" including doses so immensely high that the government's own official risk estimates indicate one in four people exposed would get cancer from the radiation exposure, on top of their normal risk of cancer. The PAGs also permit cleanup public health considerations to be overridden by economic considerations;
- **Higher Exposures to More Sources.** EPA relaxed exposure limits for all phases of responding to a radioactive release. For example, concentration limits for nearly twice as many radionuclides have their permissible concentrations relaxed as those that are strengthened for the early phase response, and those that are relaxed are on average weakened by more than double the rate of the smaller number that are enhanced. This despite the fact that the National Academy of Sciences' estimates of cancer risk from radiation have markedly increased since the 1992 PAGs.

"In their last days in office, the departing Bush Administration shovels out the door astronomical increases in permitted public exposures to radioactivity," said Daniel Hirsch, the Committee to Bridge the Gap President. "Have they no shame?"

In an unusual move, approximately two-thirds of the text of the new standards are not even being published for review and public comment and presumably have already gone into effect. The remaining third would be subject to public comment but may be relied upon in the meantime.

The relaxation of radiation protection being embraced by EPA has been sought by the nuclear industry and its allies in the Department of Energy and Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The genesis of this action arose in Department of Homeland Security "dirty bomb" policies designed to provide broad flexibility in the aftermath of an attack. EPA has now expanded the relaxed dirty bomb standards to include virtually every type of radioactive release.

"This is yet another lovely parting gift from the Bush administration," stated PEER Executive Director Jeff Ruch. "The Obama administration can pull this back in the next few days before it gets published and we strongly urge them to do so."

For more information:

View the [letter of opposition](#) from 60 public health groups

See the [Committee to Bridge the Gap](#) study detailing the effects of

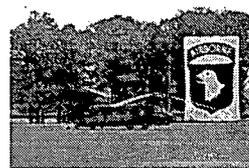
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• Local Community

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- o [Clarksville, Montgomery County Economic Development Council](#) EPA's action
Lean about the [EPA Protective Action Guide](#) process
 - o [Clarksville, TN Ordinances](#) SOURCE: Daniel Hirsch (Committee to Bridge the Gap) and Luke Eshleman (PEER) as viewed in [Transition Vermont](#).
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1. *donnamarcus* Says:
[February 17th, 2009 at 8:42 am](#)



I suppose if you think the 'Baltimore Green Party' and the 'Center for Earth Spirituality and Rural Ministry' qualify as 'public health groups' then you might also consider this a straight news story. I would not.

2. *Bill Larson* Says:
[February 17th, 2009 at 2:21 pm](#)



I doubt you will be able to raise any issue which you can prove is not accurate. Which is why you attacked the messengers not the message.

3. *MartyB* Says:
[February 17th, 2009 at 9:19 pm](#)



I don't understand the comment about attacking the messenger. The numerical factors in the article sound ridiculous. The author is either misinformed or crazy. Offer me the radiation doses in units I can understand, like millirems. The existing regulations are based on a 60-year-old, irrational extrapolation of Hiroshima data that has been discredited in the past 60 years by tons of scientific data that for the kinds of exposure levels that we actually care about.

4. *Bill Larson* Says:
[February 18th, 2009 at 2:46 am](#)



See it for your self...
<http://www.committeetobridgethegap.org/pdf/PAGreport102208.pdf>

Their measurements are in picoCuries per Liter (pCi/L)

Long-term cleanup is now proposed to use a much opposed process called

"optimization" that would allow the choice of radiation "benchmarks" as immensely high as 10 rem per year, the equivalent of about 50,000 chest X-rays over a 30 year period and an associated cancer risk of 1 in 3, according to current risk estimates prepared for EPA and other agencies.⁶ EPA historically has insisted on an "acceptable" risk range of one in a million to one in ten thousand, so contemplating "benchmarks" with a risk as high as every third person so exposed getting a cancer from the exposure would be a radical departure from its entire history and ethically very difficult to defend.⁷

The report has detailed footnotes and while I am not a scientist, I see no reason to doubt their findings. They have been asked to testify to congress.

A update on the initial article

Obama Administration Withdraws Action Before it is Published in Federal Register

Feb. 13 — Victory! Obama Administration pulls back last-minute radiation regulation relaxation by Bush Administration, days before publication in the Federal Register. The regulation would have relaxed drinking water standards for radiation by factors of hundreds to millions. Fight not over. EPA reviewing the standards; could still issue them. Write EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson [put in address], congratulate her on pulling back these horrid standards and urge her to permanently block their issuance..

Editor's Note: Our article was initially scheduled for publication on 5 February 2009 and went live on February 16th.

Comments

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Scrap metal from San Onofre trips radiation detector
September 11th, 2009, 2:08 pm · 9 Comments · posted by Teri Sforza,
Register staff writer



So last Thursday, a truck left the **San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station**, hauling a load of scrap metal up to the **Port of Long Beach** ("the green port").

Beep! Beep! Beep!

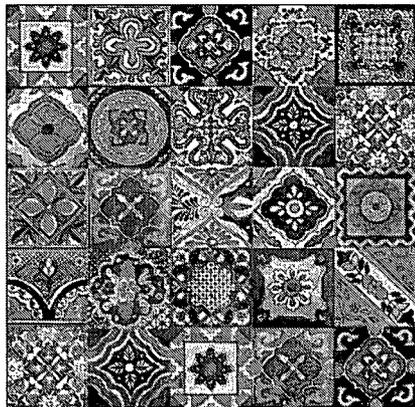
The load set off a "radiation portal monitor" at Terminal Island, operated by the **Public Health Radiation Management Division of the County of Los Angeles**, according to an incident report by the **Nuclear Regulatory Commission**.

The metal recycling vendor, **Alpert & Alpert Iron & Metal Inc.**, was told to immediately ship the stuff back to San Onofre. A special permit had to be issued. Then the truck got back on the road and hauled the scrap back to the nuclear power plant.

San Onofre's operator, **Southern California Edison**, had its health physicists on hand to evaluate the load. Spokesman **Gil Alexander** said that shipment was of scrap building materials from the *office building* side of the plant property - which is to say, across Interstate 5, on the inland side, *not* next to the domes of the nuclear reactors themselves.

Shipments originating from the *nuclear* side of the property "require radiological checks to ensure they are safe and meet federal regulations," Alexander said, but shipments from the *other* side do not.

This particular shipment, Alexander said,



"contained several boxes of old ceramic tiles that emitted enough of the common background

radiation found in clay and other earth elements to trip one of the sensors at the Port of Long Beach. The shipment was returned to the plant where an analysis of the shipment and truck determined the tiles were the cause." Do we sense your skeptic's eyebrow shooting into the air? Well, we can tell you that this would not be the *first* time that low-level radiation from ceramic tiles tripped sensors.

In 2002, the German container ship **Palermo Senator** was delayed for more than **two days off Port Newark**, after inspectors noted low-level radiation emanating from the cargo holds. It was the **Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Energy, Navy and Coast Guard** - who eventually traced the readings back to "naturally occurring radiation in ceramic tiles among the cargo." You can read about it in the **New York Times**.

In fact, you'll find radiation "in pottery and glassware that use uranium salts as part of the glaze to obtain desired colors, especially bright orange," says a rather fascinating discussion in the "Ask the Experts" section of the **Health Physics Society**.

"In reality, virtually all items that are made from materials from the earth's crust contain some radioactive species, most especially uranium and thorium and some of their radioactive decay products and potassium-40," says **George Chabot**, PhD. "Thus, glass, pottery, and ceramics are among the items that contain small amounts of radioactivity. It is generally recommended that dishes that contain added uranium (in the glaze) not be used for eating because some of the uranium may leach from the glaze into the food and be ingested."

All of which makes us cast a wary eye on our bathroom, and wonder: Should we install a radiation detector in the shower?

Here's a Q&A sent to us by Alexander, for your perusal:

Q1. What part of the plant did the tiles come from?

The inland or "Mesa" area on the opposite side of I-5 from the plant where some staff facilities are located and building materials are stored.

Q2. What does Edison believe caused the shipment to set off the portal alarm?

Naturally occurring radioactive materials that make up the composition of building tiles such as those sold at home improvement retail outlets.

Q3. How much tile was included in the shipment?

Roughly one cubic yard of tile.

Q4. How could this material set off the port sensors, but not the sensors that must check outgoing shipments from San Onofre?

The tiles were in cargo containers on the warehouse storage side of the San Onofre property across the freeway from the plant. Building materials used and stored on this side of the property and never brought in close proximity to the plant are not radioactive other than the extremely low background levels found in earth elements such as the tiles contained. Therefore, such shipments are not analyzed prior to shipment.

Q5. How are outgoing shipments are checked?

Shipments originating from the plant side of the property require radiological checks to ensure they are safe and meet federal regulations.

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Posted in: Nuclear stuff • Public health • Public safety |

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9 Comments

9 Comments



dsanchez says:

September 11, 2009 at 3:14 pm

Homer Simpson. Dohhh!!

[Post Reply](#)



scFOOL says:

September 11, 2009 at 3:29 pm

The radiation doesn't seem to be harming the shark population.

[Post Reply](#)



John S. says:

September 11, 2009 at 3:56 pm

The white house emits so much radiation from it's granite blocks (not the toxic waste inside) it exceeds the federal standards for nuclear power plant emissions.

I would bet that if it was a bunch of tile from a grocery store that set the detectors off, the story would not have been reported.

Keep up the negative news about nuclear power so we can hear whiny politicians cry about greenhouse gas and coal mine diasters and how more regulations are needed.

Nuclear power - clean, safe, renewable. (No, it is not an ad)

[Post Reply](#)



Loretta says:

September 11, 2009 at 4:18 pm

So instead of 3 mile island we can call it 3 tile island.

The leak in Chernobyl was first detected by a radiation detector in Norway.

[Post Reply](#)



OC4truth says:

September 11, 2009 at 4:46 pm

Well the story asked some questions that were mostly answered in the body of the article but left out some other pertinent

questions.

How much radiation was it emitting? The article sort of joked about checking our bathrooms, but really, a little more info on the amount of radiation given off by tiles, or the other products mentioned would be helpful.

How about listing the amount that it registered emitting and a scale showing that in comparison to what is considered safe or not safe?

And if the amount is harmless, why do the port sensors pick it up?

Post Reply



Earle says:

September 11, 2009 at 5:16 pm

Just one high school science class devoted to radiation and nuclear technologies, please, just one required 10 week class to all students as the minimum I'd like to see.

Post Reply



Alan Travis says:

September 13, 2009 at 5:11 am

Highly trained nuclear engineers WORK at San Onofre nuclear power plant. They have been working there for decades. The silliness of pretending that something is dangerous because it is detectable is a common practice of environmental wackos everywhere.

WATER can kill you, not only by drowning but just by drinking excessive amounts.

OXYGEN can kill you if breathed in pure form.

AIR can kill you if injected into your bloodstream.

There are no toxic chemicals, only toxic amounts.

Stamp out environmental stupidity and extremism.

Eat meat, take vacations and enjoy life.

Oh, and above all, be sure to never vote for a Democrat.

Post Reply



Bob Holt says:

September 13, 2009 at 12:05 pm

I wish they could invent a device that would detect loony politicians in Sacramento, which has made nuclear power so expensive.

Post Reply



Ralph says:

September 14, 2009 at 8:31 am

A congressman once stated that "nuclear power will produce electricity too cheap to meter", well that politician caused all the other politicians to jump on the bandwagon and holler "tax it", "regulate it", and "tax anything associated with it".

Therefore, the results we have obtained is the cost of more detection and sensitivity to radiation which makes everyone scared and the politicians and newspapers profit on the news. But in the end, the buck stops with the ratepayer.... and that's all of us.

So live with it....

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Groundwater Reveals Radiation Leak at San Onofre

By Seema Mehta, Times Staff Writer and Dave McKibben, Times Staff Writer | August 18, 2006

Radioactive, cancer-causing tritium has leaked into the groundwater beneath the San Onofre nuclear power plant, prompting the closure of one drinking-water well in southern Orange County, authorities said.

Officials have not found evidence that the leak from the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, California's largest, has contaminated the drinking water supply.

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As a precaution, San Clemente officials shut down and are testing a city well near the contaminated area.

"We owe it to our residents and business folks to properly test the water," said Dave Lund, San Clemente's public works director.

In recent years, tritium leaks have been found at more than a dozen nuclear plants across the nation, prompting the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to form a task force this year to study the cause of the contamination. The findings are scheduled to be released this month.

Sandwiched between Camp Pendleton and the Pacific Ocean in northwestern San Diego County, the San Onofre power plant has had a controversial presence on the coast since its construction in the 1960s.

In the years since, sea lions and endangered sea turtles have been killed when caught in the plant's seawater intake pipes for its cooling system. Since Sept. 11, 2001, nearby residents also have grown wary of the plant as a potential terrorist target that stores highly radioactive spent nuclear fuel.

One of two nuclear power plants in California, San Onofre provides 2,150 megawatts of power, enough for 2.2 million homes throughout Southern California.

The plant is operated by Southern California Edison and houses two working reactors. A third, 450-megawatt reactor was shut down in 1992 and is being dismantled.

While workers were taking apart the containment dome that housed the inactive reactor, they discovered that groundwater beneath the reactor complex was tainted with tritium, said Ray Golden, spokesman for the power plant. The source of the leak has not been determined, he said.

Tritium occurs naturally in the environment but is also a byproduct of nuclear fission, said Victor Bricks, spokesman for the NRC's regional office in Arlington, Texas. It has a half-life of 12 years, meaning its radioactivity is reduced by half every 12 years.

Tritium, an isotope of hydrogen that can cause not only cancer but also miscarriages and birth defects, is increasingly stoking fears in communities near nuclear plants across the country.

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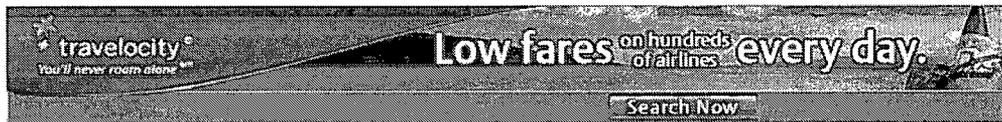
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New Cancer Suit Filed Against San Onofre

By TONY PERRY, TIMES STAFF WRITER | July 12, 1994

SAN DIEGO — For the second time, a worker suffering from cancer is suing the operators of the San Onofre nuclear power plant on grounds that he contracted the disease because the plant was negligent in the way radiation was handled.

In a lawsuit to be filed today in federal court against Southern California Edison, 62-year-old Glen James of Dominguez Hills alleges that he contracted chronic myelocytic leukemia because of his exposure to radiation at San Onofre. He is joined in the suit by his wife, Doreth.

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Richard Rosenblum, an Edison vice president, denied that the company was responsible for James' cancer. "Thirty percent of all Americans get cancer," Rosenblum said. "With a work force as large as ours, it's not surprising these lawyers could find another cancer patient to file a lawsuit."

James worked at San Onofre from 1982-83 as an engineer for Bechtel Power Corp. and from 1985-86 as an engineer for Fluor Technology Inc. During the latter period, the plant suffered chronic problems with microscopic bits of radioactive fuel called "fuel fleas," which led the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to fine and chastise Edison.

James is represented by the Los Angeles law firm Howarth & Smith, the firm that represented Rung C. Tang, 44, a former inspector for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission who was stationed at San Onofre from 1985-86 and later found to have chronic myelogenous leukemia.

Kenneth Tune, a partner in the firm, said the damages to be sought in James' case will be \$10 million to \$15 million.

"He probably won't die today or tomorrow," Tune said, "but it's our information that he has been told by doctors that because of his age and medical condition, he is not a candidate for a bone marrow transplant, which is the only thing that could save him."

Many of the claims in James' suit are identical to those in Tang's suit: that Edison officials knew there was a severe contamination problem, that radiation detectors were faulty, and that the company cared more for profits than for workers' safety. Edison has denied all such assertions.

Tang sued Edison, the plant's operator and majority owner, for \$15 million. A federal court jury deadlocked 7 to 2 in her favor.

Jurors later said that some of the most persuasive testimony came from Dr. Harry Demopoulos, a New York pathologist and cancer causation expert who testified that Tang's cancer was caused by exposure at San

Onofre. Demopoulos will offer similar testimony in James' case, Tune said.

Demopoulos' testimony in the Tang case was vigorously contested by Edison and its cancer expert Dr. Robert Gale, a professor at UCLA.

On the eve of retrial in mid-March, Edison and Tang's attorneys reached an out-of-court settlement. The amount was not disclosed and the company admitted no wrongdoing.

Still, nuclear industry critics predicted that the settlement--thought to be the first time a cancer lawsuit has resulted in a nuclear plant operator paying damages to a former worker--would provoke other lawsuits against the nation's 119 nuclear plants.

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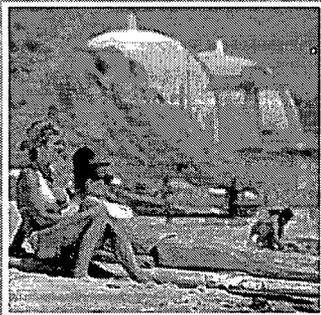
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SURF WATCH: Michelle Combs, left, of Las Vegas, Betsy Bickley, center, of San Clemente, and Sofia Baxter, 2, watch surfing Thursday at San Onofre State Beach in the shadow of the San Onofre Nuclear power plant.

MARK AVERY, THE REGISTER

Previous links

Radioactive water found beneath San Onofre

Friday, August 18, 2006

San Onofre reactor added to list

Discovery of tritium-laced water under plant highlights a widening pollution controversy.

By **JOHN McDONALD** and **PAT BRENNAN**
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

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SAN ONOFRE — A person could drink 130 gallons of the most radioactive water found under the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station last week and still have no cause for health concern, Nuclear Regulatory Commission spokesman Victor Dricks said.

"You can say it's safe to drink water containing 20,000 picocuries of tritium but who is going to want to drink it?" asked James W. Glasgow, state's attorney for Will County, Ill.

Glasgow sued the operators of the Braidwood Nuclear Generating Station in March and convinced them to clean up spills, including one that was a decade old.

Critics say plant operators and nuclear safety experts have been focused on big problems — large tank breaks, catastrophic failures — while ignoring smaller problems like the leak found at San Onofre.

The plant here is one of three in the nation to report leaks of radioactive water in recent weeks — leaks that might once have been considered too small to be worth reporting.

None of the leaks posed a health hazard, and neither of the other two came from reactors themselves. Instead, they were spilled from pipes, cooling systems or holding tanks for radioactive waste, according to NRC documents.

The source of the San Onofre spill is still under investigation.

Nuclear regulators, environmental activists and industry representatives say the rash of leaks should be taken seriously.

If they involved material with higher radioactivity it could pose a definite hazard, said David Lochbaum of the Union of Concerned Scientists, a nuclear industry critic that has been tracking the leaks.

"There's a general concern that a small leak could go undetected for a long period of time," said Lochbaum. "That hasn't happened yet, but from what we've seen, the potential is there."

A blossoming national controversy has placed operators of nuclear power plants across the nation on the alert for even the smallest of leaks involving tiny amounts of radiation.

At least nine nuclear plants have reported similar leaks in the last two years, prompting the NRC to form a task force to probe the matter.

Scott Burnell, a task force member and NRC spokesman, said they have reviewed the incidents and are preparing recommendations on whether to change procedures at power plants, as well as how the operators of the plants communicate with the public.

"There have been several comments from the public to the effect, 'You should have told us sooner,'" Burnell said.

The worst of the nation's recent leaks involved the Braidwood nuclear plant earlier this year. Like the others, it involved the discharge of tritium, a low-level radioactive element. The tritium found its way into groundwater after leaking from valves into a discharge pipe, and was measured above background levels in at least one well.

The plant operators knew about small leaks over a long stretch of time, said Burnell.

"There were several instances over a period of about 10 years," he said. "It was not a case of going undetected. People were not understanding the significance of it."

State's attorney Glasgow said that initially the Braidwood operators argued that the lawsuit was invalid because nuclear plant operators are protected from such lawsuits by federal laws.

"They complied for public relations reasons, the situation was making them look very bad," he said.

Industry guidelines were revised a few weeks ago, in large part because of the lawsuit brought by Glasgow and the Illinois state attorney general.

In another case, at the Indian Point nuclear plant in Buchanan, N.Y., tritium leaked from a spent-fuel pool in September 2005.

On Aug. 7, the Prairie Island nuclear plant in Minnesota reported a small leak, and on Aug. 10 radioactive material was found beneath buildings at the Kewaunee nuclear plant in Wisconsin.

The San Onofre spill is believed to be at least 14 years old. The low-level radiation found in the water below the former Unit 1 reactor did not require reporting by the plant's operator, Southern California Edison.

But those who run the nation's 103 nuclear plants recently agreed to voluntarily report all such leaks, no matter how small.

"We would have tested the groundwater as part of our decommissioning of Unit 1 but had we tested as little as three weeks ago, it's not certain we would have reported it," said plant spokesman Ray Golden.

Wells in San Clemente are being tested but there is little chance of contamination, local officials said.

Contact the writer: 949-465-5424 or jmcdonald@ocregister.com

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GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION BY U.S. REACTORS

NUKEWATCH FACT SHEET

The history of accidental, unregulated radiation leaks from nuclear reactors should be enough to slam the door on nuclear power. Among others, the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) lists 350 separate incidents since 1961, at 101 of the country's reactors.¹

Tritium for example, with a radioactive half-life of 12.3 years, is the unstable form of hydrogen which leaks from hot uranium fuel, combines easily with and contaminates water. Accidental tritium leaks and consequent contamination of groundwater have become routine at operating and even shutdown reactors. In addition, the UCS has documented off-site contamination by cesium-137 (half-life: 30 years), cobalt-60 (half-life: 5.26 years) and other isotopes. It takes 10 half-lives for an isotope to decay to other elements.

Nuclear reactors shake, rattle and rumble like freight trains from their giant turbines' powerful vibrations. As they age, cracks occur in holding tanks, waste fuel pools and concrete slab floors. Radioactive water springs from tanks, flanges, valves, pumps, drums, pits, waste concentrators, tubes and even laundry systems. Leakage pathways are almost unlimited.

Contaminated water has repeatedly leaked into the soil below, onto roofs of adjoining buildings, onto outdoor blacktop areas and into storm drains and culverts. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has recorded spills of between 20 gallons and 787,000 gallons.

Wisconsin's Kewaunee and Point Beach reactors are no exception. In 1975, Point Beach Unit 1 leaked approximately 10,000 gallons of radioactively-contaminated water after a steam tube ruptured. The water flowed into a retention pond and from the pond into groundwater. In 1997, another steam tube in the same reactor spilled another 10,000 gallons of radioactively-contaminated water that ran eventually into Lake Michigan. That year, Unit 2 had a leaking discharge pipe which also contaminated a stream and Lake Michigan. In 2006, Kewaunee workers found tritium in the groundwater below the site. The NRC said the radiation had infiltrated narrow shafts beneath two buildings. The leak rate was thought to be one gallon every five minutes. The operators *could not find the leak's source* but were investigating.

In the case of E.I. Hatch reactor, in Georgia, the operator claims a building "settled" in 2006 and that leaks then sprang from buried pipes, from an isolation valve, from failed seals on an outdoor radioactive water storage tank transfer pump, from waste fuel pool expansion bellows and from outdoor radioactive water tanks. The leaks contaminated soil and groundwater.

Accidental releases (in addition to daily "allowable" releases) cumulatively and irreversibly add radioactive pollution to the soil, water and air. Near Braidwood in Illinois, area residents were drinking radioactive water for years until Exelon Corp., the operator, began supplying bottled water, buying up property near the reactor and offering to pay for a municipal water system to replace the private wells it poisoned. Exelon officials were derelict in reporting the tritium contamination which was ongoing for over a decade. The state of Illinois has sued Exelon.

Documented groundwater contamination has occurred at: Palisades in Michigan, Kewaunee in Wisconsin, Limerick in Pennsylvania, Connecticut Yankee near Haddam, San Onofre, Diablo Canyon and Humboldt Bay (still registering contamination from the 1960s) in California, Perry in Ohio, St. Lucie in Florida, Brunswick and McGuire in North Carolina, Catawba in South Carolina, Callaway in Missouri, Watts Bar, Browns Ferry and Sequoyah in Tennessee, Ft. Calhoun in Nebraska, Salem in New Jersey, Palo Verde in Arizona, Indian Point and Ginna in New York, Braidwood, Dresden, Quad Cities and Byron in Illinois, Prairie Island in Minnesota, Seabrook in New Hampshire and Palisades and Cook in Michigan.

Groundwater contamination at the Cook reactor is just below legal limits for drinking. The EPA holds that tritium up to 20,000 picocuries (abbreviated as pCi) per-liter (pCi/l) is not safe but legally "allowable" in drinking water.²

At Quad Cities, contamination from a spill 25 years ago still exceeds "allowable" levels of tritium. Millstone, Fermi I, Perry and a myriad of other reactors have leaked tritium into the environment, but their operators claim no current groundwater contamination.

California's San Onofre reactor, shutdown since 1992, continues to leak radiation into groundwater and to the nearby beach where a 13-foot deep, 12-foot wide swath was excavated. Twenty-one thousand cubic feet of contaminated sand was shipped to the Hanford H-bomb production site in Richland, Washington for burial. In 2006, San Onofre's Unit 1 had groundwater tritium levels of between 50,000 and 330,000 pCi/l.

Tritium is not the only danger from nuclear reactors. Tests at Oyster Creek in New Jersey show elevat-

ed levels of cesium-137 in leaf and soil samples near the reactor. Cesium-137 is a beta and gamma radiation emitter that affects humans in proximity to it, and it does even more damage via ingestion. The isotope has a 30-year half-life and remains in the environment for 300 years.

Notable releases:

- Yankee Rowe, in Western Mass., caused numerous leaks resulting in the excavation of 420 cubic feet of dirt and rock. Shutdown in 1992, its operators have both recovered contaminated asphalt, and excavated and dumped it. They even collected *snow* contaminated with cobalt-60 and cesium-137.
- In Minnesota, Prairie Island reactor workers detected cobalt-60 and cesium-134 in on-site soil which was subsequently excavated and dumped elsewhere.
- Cobalt-60 and cesium-137 contamination has been detected under Browns Ferry, Tennessee in 2006.
- In 2007, Fort Calhoun Unit 1 in Nebr. had detectable tritium, cesium-137 and antimony-125 in water seeping through an exterior wall. The tritium level was 173,000 pCi/l and rising.
- An entire concrete floor, along with eight barrels of contaminated soil, at Big Rock Point in Michigan was removed and dumped off-site.
- At Millstone in Connecticut, workers dumped off-site twenty 55-gallon drums of contaminated soil from an unplanned water and steam discharge.
- Ten years after Georgia's Vogtle reactor tritium leak, it is still detected in groundwater. The leak went on for two years as operators failed to keep it contained. Concrete from the reactor has been dumped off-site as radioactive waste.
- In 1995, concentrations of tritium in test wells at Ginna, Pennsylvania were at the maximum allowable level of 20,000 pCi/l (the maximum allowed by EPA).
- Seabrook had 10 to 30 gallons-per-day of radioactive water leaking from its waste fuel cask "wash pit transfer canal area" between 1999 and 2004. The leak contaminated groundwater.
- Wolf Creek in Kansas has had three radioactive water leaks from its waste fuel pool since 2001.
- A leak from a steam seal evaporator forced the excavation and off-site dumping of six inches of gravel in an area measuring 100 square feet at the Limerick reactor in Pennsylvania.
- McGuire operators, in North Carolina, found very high and dangerous levels of tritium in groundwater — 138,000 pCi/l — near the Unit 2 equipment staging area. In 2006, unsafe levels were measured in the

northeast corner of the auxiliary building, and testing in 2006 showed pCi/l contamination: Feb. 14: 35,200; Feb. 15: 33,800; March 10: 33,100; May 1: 31,900; June 1: 33,200; June 21: 30,000; July 2: 30,000; July 17: 26,000; and July 26: 31,700.

- North Anna in Richmond, Virginia, reported 56 occurrences of radioactive water releases. Specific dates and amounts were not made public. Surry, near Newport News, VA, reported eight such incidents.
- South Carolina's Catawba has groundwater contamination surpassing safe drinking water levels. Concentrations have been measured at 42,335 pCi/l.
- Commercial reactors continuously expel radiation as do experimental, research and military reactors. The Brookhaven Laboratory High Flux Beam Reactor, in 1997, leaked to the point that groundwater contamination registered 32 times higher than EPA drinking water standards. The Oak Ridge High Flux Isotope Reactor has also leaked tritium — no groundwater contamination has yet been detected.

Tritium Hazards

Ingestion, inhalation or absorption of small amounts of radioactive tritium results in irradiation of the internal organs, possibly for long periods of time. According to Dr. Rosalie Bertell, ingestion of tritium quadruples internal damage and disproportionately affects women, children and anyone under age 20. Tritium easily crosses the placenta, so spontaneous abortions, stillbirths, congenital malformations and childhood diseases can be a consequence of exposure to tritium. The young are not only more vulnerable because of an underdeveloped immune system, but also because of their long expected life-span after exposure.

According to Dr. Bertell, tritium spontaneously disintegrates into a helium atom which disrupts chemical bonds in cells. When reproduced, these disruptions cause chronic diseases such as allergies or hormonal dysfunction. Studies have noted a correlation between tritium releases from Canada's Pickering reactors and an increase in the number of fatal birth defects nearby. Down's syndrome increased by 80 percent in Pickering. The International Agency for Research on Cancer found that nuclear workers exposed to tritium have a higher incidence of radiation related cancer. Childhood leukemia deaths increased by a factor of 1.4 among children born near the Bruce reactor after it opened.

¹Groundwater Events Data Base, David Lochbaum, Union of Concerned Scientists, Washington, DC, Jan. 28, 2008, <ucs.org>

²The *curie* is a standard measure for the intensity of radioactivity. The basis for the curie is the radioactivity of one gram of radium. An enormous amount of radioactivity, a curie represents 37 billion atomic disintegrations-per-second. A *picocurie* is about one trillionth of a curie. A *picocurie* represents 2.2 disintegrations per-minute.

NUKEWATCH

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www.nukewatch.com

(Solar Panel continued from Page 4)

Solar Panels Fuel Electric Vehicle Cars (EV-PV)

A plug-in electric vehicle (EV) can finance your solar system, because money you avoid spending on gasoline can pay off the solar system over little more than a few years. Money you formerly spent on gasoline, oil and repairs, smog checks and tune-ups can pay for clean solar power. As your car uses clean solar, less pollution is created, so the EV literally pays off your investment while cleaning the air. You can plug in your electric vehicle while you sleep, therefore, using the utility's nighttime electricity that might otherwise be wasted. This idea is called "EV-PV", plug-in EVs and solar PV power.

It's a good feeling to watch your meter going backward, perhaps powering some of your neighbors, visible and profitable proof that you're part of the global green-house gas solution.

(Doug Korthoff contributed to the reporting of this story.)



No More Nuclear Power

Nuclear Power Uses More Energy Than It Produces

By Dorothy K. Boberg

How much fossil fuel energy does it take to produce and operate one 1000 megawatt nuclear reactor; to mine and mill the uranium, neutralize the tailings, convert uranium to U hexafluoride, enrich uranium from natural U238 to U235, fabricate the fuel elements, produce the products to construct the reactor, build the reactor infrastructure, decommission and dismantle the reactor, clean up the site, dispose of the radioactive waste, build the vehicles, transport the high and medium level waste to long term storage and guard the waste for 240,000 years?

Helen Caldicott, J. W. Storm van Leeuwen and Philip Smith are three of few scientists who have analyzed the balance between the amount of fossil fuel energy needed to produce the nuclear energy fuel cycle for one 1000 megawatt nuclear reactor. It may be impossible for most laymen to consider a petrojoule of energy (1 million billion joules) and the several hundreds of petrojoules of fossil fuels needed for the nuclear fuel cycle, but it is not impossible to accept the obvious concept that it takes more fossil fuel expenditures for one reactor than the reactor can produce in its lifetime.

Dr. Caldicott reports that it takes 162 tons of natural uranium each year from the most productive ore, in sandstone and shales, for one nuclear plant. If the uranium is from granite ore, 40 million tons must be mined or 80 million tons after providing for chemical treatment of the ore. "The extraction of uranium from this granite rock would consume over 30 times the energy generated from the uranium." Uranium is in short supply. If all electricity worldwide were to be generated

from nuclear power, all the uranium would last 9 years. In the same case, uranium from high grade ores would last 3 years.

In addition to the truth of negative energy from nuclear power after using fossil fuels to produce it, the monetary costs have not been honestly reported. What is the cost to the public of the \$13 billion in subsidies in the 2005 Energy Bill? What is the cost of the stranded investments paid by customers of nuclear energy when a plant lasts only 28 of the promised 40 years life, and then they pay again to rebuild such plants as San Onofre I and II? What does the Price-Anderson insurance to protect companies from loss cost the taxpayers? How much do taxpayers pay for Homeland Security, which has done little or nothing to secure the existing 103 nuclear plants? What are the medical costs for the hundreds of individuals who have contracted cancer, leukemia and injured DNA from the operation and accidents at nuclear plants, especially Three Mile Island, Simi Valley, and Idaho Lab SI-1?

The scientists are telling us that to cope with global warming, reduce nuclear injuries, reduce our energy costs, and to meet our future energy needs, we must forgo building nuclear plants and go directly and at once to conservation and alternative, renewable energies such as cogeneration, wind, solar, small hydro, geothermal, biofuels and tidal and wave power. It may be too late to make the necessary transitions if we continue on the nuclear path!

Bibliography

Another Mother Fund for Peace: "Nuclear Facilities and Radiation Monitoring in California."

Helen Caldicott: "Nuclear Power is Not the Answer"

J. W. Storm van Leeuwen and Philip Smith: "Nuclear Power - the Energy Balance" "Can Nuclear Power Provide Energy for the Future?"

Glimpse of Sierra Club Decades Promotion of

CALIFORNIA'S STATE ENERGY ACTION PLAN

Transition to energy efficiency programs,
public response and renewable energies,
clean, safe, and abundant free fueled,
that do not deplete the earth's
natural resources

This is page 4 of the Sierra Club Angeles
Chapter, San Fernando Valley Group's
Newspaper, edited by Elaine Trogman



dan h December 15, 2008 at 3:09 pm

my dear Molly. i have been involved with nuclear power for 30 years. nuclear power plants like san onofre do not emit nuclear dust. what they do emit is occasional small puffs of hydrogen and helium gas which is sometimes radioactive. these gases are emitted from a vent about 200 feet above ground level. and, as you might recall if you had attended a science class, hydrogen and helium are both lighter than air and rise into the upper atmosphere fairly rapidly. and since there is a 2 mile distance upwind of the plant to the nearest population center, there is little to no chance that any exposure to these gases might occur. if the illegal migrants were included in the leukemia study, it is far more likely that they had brought the leukemia with them then contract it here. consider if you can, that much of the scrap metal sold by mexican business to the US is very radioactive and is actually toxic. further, if san onofre was such a dangerous place, why is there no incidence of increased cancer in the onsite workforce of 5,000. many of these people have been on this site for more than 20 years. according to the leukemia study exposure of only a few years is enough to get cancer. why is there no increase of cancer inside the plant? radiation exposure decreases at a rate equal to the inverse of the square of the distance. a person at 2 feet of distance will suffer 1/4 the exposure that a person at 1 foot would receive. how can there be an increase of lethality at 2 miles but not at the epicenter? in fact why is there no report of an increase in cancer for the marines who live on the downwind side of the plant. this leukemia study seems to be more about how to manipulate data to cause panic than it is about nuclear safety.

Reply



jon December 16, 2008 at 5:26 pm

I dunno Dan...you may have some good points, although you're somewhat vague about how you've been "involved" in nuclear energy and you don't really list any verifiable sources for blog readers to fact check other than your self proclaimed nuclear wisdom. But the fact of the matter is, I don't think you're really getting anyone warmed up to the idea that nuclear power is totally safe and cool and we shouldn't worry about it. I for one still cringe at the thought of nuclear power plants in our backyards.

Reply

Resolutions

Resolution Number SAC09.65

Congressional Oversight Of San Onofre

WHEREAS, the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station has been found by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission as well as its own internal investigations to have a history of safety, maintenance and training concerns that bring into question the safe operation of the plant and a degraded safety culture, i.e. delayed preventive maintenance, endangered safety employees by careless plant operations, unreliable equipment, insufficient training for its workforce and a history of poor performance over several evaluation cycles;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Democratic Party requests our local Democratic Congressional members to call for Congressional oversight to investigate the outstanding safety issues at the plant and to assure that the problems identified by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations be addressed.

Authored by Nancy Casady (AD 75); Derek Casady (AD 75) and the La Jolla Democratic Club's Focus For Change San Onofre Shut Down Issue Group □ Adopted by La Jolla Democratic Club, Dr. Michael McQuary, President

* * *

Adopted by the Executive Board □ Of the California Democratic Party □ At its Executive Board Meeting □ Crowne Plaza Hotel, Burlingame □ July 19, 2009