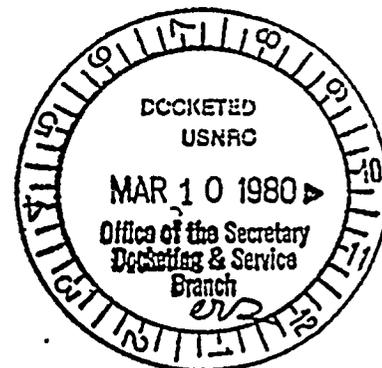


February 28, 1980



Mr. Richard Salzman  
Chairman of the Atomic Safety  
and Licensing Appeal Panel  
4350 East-West Highway  
Bethesda, Maryland 20014

Dear Mr. Salzman,

We, known as a member group of the Abalone Alliance calling ourselves S. U. N. (Stop Uranium Now) urge you to NOT grant an operating license to the Diable Canyon Nuclear Power Plant located in San Luis Obispo for the following factual and valid reasons:

- 1) San Simeon-Hosgri fault is less than two and one-half miles away from the plant. The site has a potential for earthquakes eight to ten times stronger than the plant was designed to withstand.
- 2) The plant would have to be operated at a 99.9 percent margin of safety which is impossible due to the possibility and probability of human error.
- 3) A power plant produces tons of plutonium a year - and man has no safe disposal of it plus, it stays radioactive and deadly for thousands of years.
- 4) No method for long-term storage or disposal of these radioactive wastes has been proven. All proposed techniques for storing these wastes are in a research or development stage.
- 5) Nuclear power plants have a life span of 30 years. After

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Mr. Richard Salzman  
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30 years they become too radioactive to use, work in, or simply live around. Like their waste, nobody knows quite what to do with these dead reactors, therefore these dead reactors are so thoroughly poisoned with very high levels of radiation that each plant must be considered a permanent hazard to the public health for centuries.

a) these inoperable plants can not be dismantled or moved without monstrous "taxpayers" expense. Thus, for centuries, perhaps forever, these abandoned radioactive hulks will remain where they are being built.

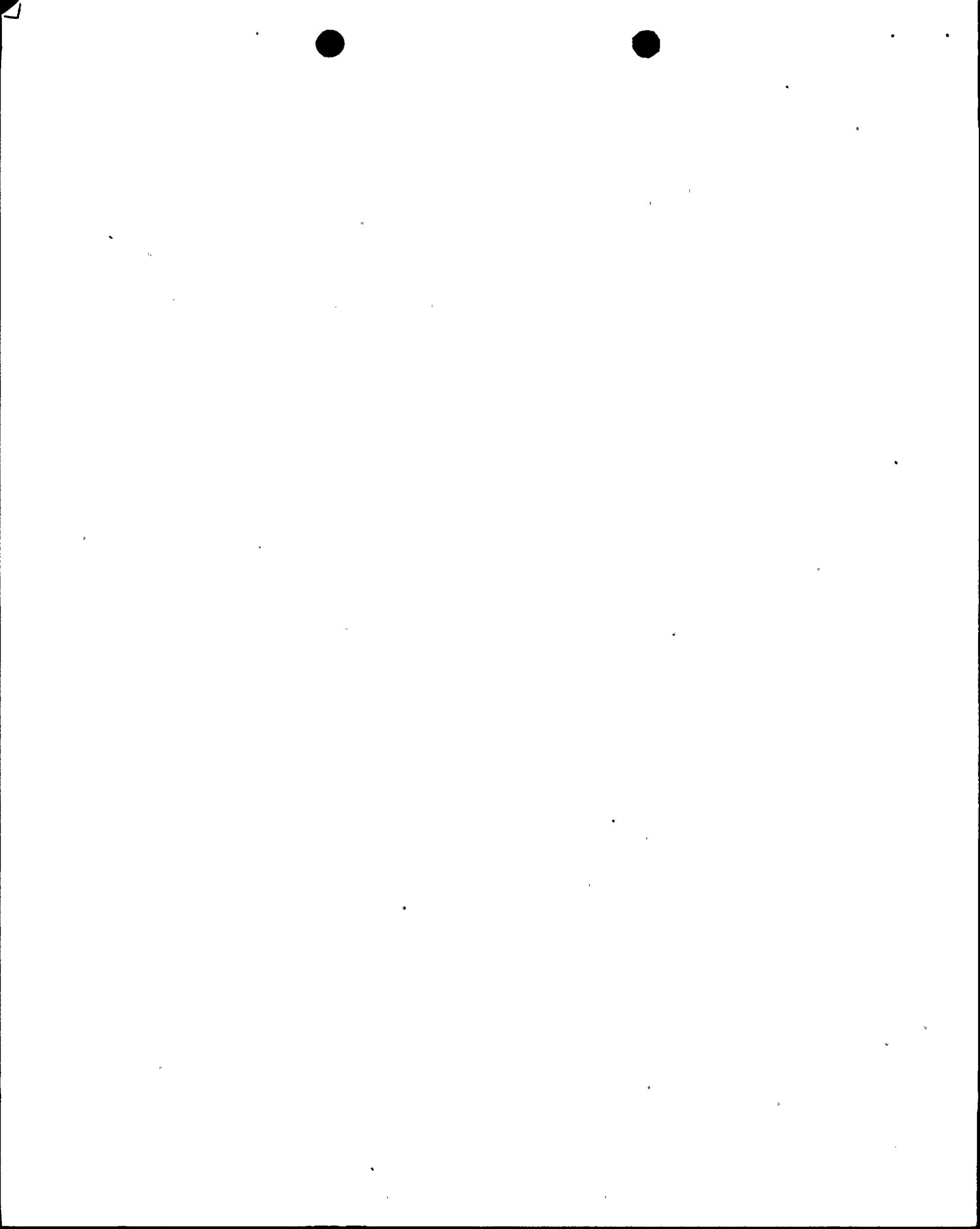
6) Radioactive waste causes cancer, mutations and death when mixed with humans.

7) The cost of the plant has risen to \$1.4 billion from an original estimate of \$350 million - a 400 percent cost overrun.

8) See Information Sheet #4 attached and brochure entitled "A Very Ugly Fact About Every Nuclear Power Plant" also attached.

We would like to add very strongly our opposition to the hearings being held in Maryland. WHO CARES ABOUT DIABLO IN MARYLAND? The concern is here in California where people will be affected by the plant when and if it is in operation. We would, then, like to know the reason(s) why the hearings will be held in Maryland and when?

In consideration of the facts and views presented here we urge



Mr. Richard Salzman  
February 28, 1980  
Page three

you, then, to make the right decision and refuse Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant an operating license.

Thanking you very much for taking the time to read our appeal.

Most sincerely,



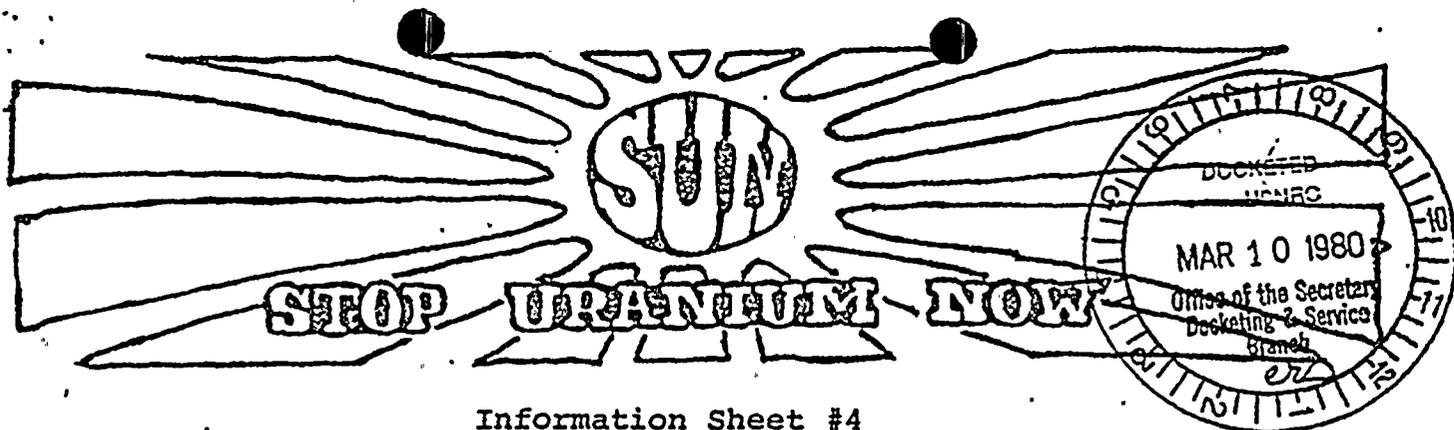
Tracey Hopkins  
for S.U.N. (Stop Uranium Now)  
a member group of the Abalone  
Alliance  
P. O. Box 772  
Ojai, California 93023  
(805) 646-3832

TH:cah  
Enclosures

cc: Representative Leon Panetta  
437 Canon Building  
Washington, D. C. 20515

P. S. We would appreciate a copy of the final report on the hearings as soon as they become available. We will pay postage if necessary.





Information Sheet #4

**DIABLO CANYON NUCLEAR POWER PLANT Background Information:**

Pacific Gas & Electric Company, the Nation's second largest private-owned utility company, has completed the construction of its nuclear power plant at Diablo Canyon. Located on the Pacific Coast 2.5 miles from the San Simeon-Hosgri Fault Zone, the site has a potential for earthquakes 8 to 10 times stronger than the plant was designed to withstand. The cost of the plant has risen to \$1.4 billion from an original estimate of \$350 million dollars, a 400% cost overrun.

"Diablo" is planned to contain as much long-lived radioactivity as would be released by the explosion of 1000 bombs the size of the one the U. S. Government dropped on Hiroshima in 1945. Besides the threat of a "meltdown," the plant will -- should it go "on line" -- cause thermal and radioactive pollution as well as produce solid, liquid and gaseous radioactive wastes; not counting radioactive fuel waste, for which there is no known safe method of storage.

The electricity from the Diablo Canyon nuclear plant is not needed either by people or business, with one exception: Pacific Gas and Electric needs to sell the electricity from this plant so that it can recoup its very substantial financial investment. They now need to pay for the results of poor energy planning.

STOP URANIUM NOW (SUN), formed in Ojai in August 1978, is a member of the statewide Abalone Alliance. As part of the Alliance, we are committed to a permanent halt on nuclear power plant construction and operations in California. We recognize nuclear power as dangerous to all life. We encourage the real alternatives of conservation and safe, clean, and renewable sources of energy.

We also recognize that: 1) The much advertised "need" for nuclear energy is derived from faulty and inflated projections of consumption based on a profit system hostile to conservation. The United States of America has 6% of the World's population consuming over 30% of its energy resources. With a rational energy policy and appropriate changes in construction and recycling procedures, the alleged "need" for nuclear energy disappears; 2) Nuclear plants are an economic catastrophe. They are unreliable and inefficient. Nuclear power is an extremely capital intensive technology. In contrast, conservation and solar related energy technologies will create many more jobs, both permanent and safe, than the atomic industry could ever provide; 3) The centralized nature of nuclear power takes control of energy away from local communities; 4) There is a direct relationship between nuclear plants and nuclear weapons; 5) The dangers of nuclear power are intolerable. They range from a continuous flow of low-level radiation which can cause cancer and genetic damage, to the creation of deadly radioactive wastes which must be completely isolated from the environment for 250,000 years, to the destruction of our rivers, lakes and oceans by radioactive and thermal pollution, to the possibility of a major meltdown catastrophe. NO MATERIAL GAIN, REAL OR IMAGINED, IS WORTH THE ASSAULT ON LIFE THAT NUCLEAR ENERGY REPRESENTS.

(continued on back)



(continued from other side)

The Abalone Alliance, and SUN as a member group, has pledged to wage a nonviolent action campaign to build a more loving and responsible world for ourselves, our children, and future generations of all living things on this planet. We appeal to all people to join with us.

#### HOMESTAKE MINING COMPANY IN OJAI Background Information:

When uranium is mined, two highly carcinogenic radioactive substances are released, radium and radon. Radium, an alpha emitter with a half-life of 1,600 years, is a decay product of uranium found in uranium ore. Radon, a gas, is a decay product of radium.

There is no such thing as a safe dose of radiation with respect to cancer, leukemia, or genetic mutation injury.

There is no safe way known to dispose of radioactive wastes.

Despite all this, Homestake Mining Company, a multi-national corporation headquartered in San Francisco with profits of \$127 million dollars in 1977, wants to strip-mine for uranium above our local major water supply, Lake Casitas. Homestake is basing its right to mine on the federal 1872 Mining Act, which established the legality of destruction of public property by mining interests. Later laws dealing specifically with National Forests have given mineral development priority over "outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed, and wildlife and fish purposes."

The Casitas Municipal Water District (CMWD) hired a consulting geologist, Robert T. Bean, to go over Homestake's plans of operations. Bean concluded "Pollution by radionuclides of both surface water and ground water would be very difficult if not impossible to eliminate if the drilling should be carried out." Bean's report also points out that one of the possible pollutants is radium-226, "the most toxic of all inorganic materials."

The U. S. Congress has spent \$20 million so far to purchase private lands contiguous to the National Forest -- in order to preserve the purity of the Lake Casitas watershed. Eventual expenditures for the watershed preserve are expected to total \$55 million dollars.

Once radioactive substances are released into the ecosphere, they stay there for thousands of years, constantly emitting radioactive particles.

There have been at least three instances of radioactive pollution to the environment caused by Homestake Mining Company operations in New Mexico and Colorado. In two of these incidents within the last two years, Homestake-run operations have suffered accidents resulting in the release of 50,000 gallons of contaminated liquids onto New Mexico land.

On May 2, 1979, the federal House Interior Committee voted to withdraw the 69,000 acres of federal watershed where Homestake Mining Company wants to mine in Ojai; for a period of three years. Hopefully, the three-year freeze will give SUN and other groups in Ojai time enough to permanently withdraw the land from mineral exploration, thus effectively denying Homestake's claim once and for all.



# Is this Our Nuclear Future?

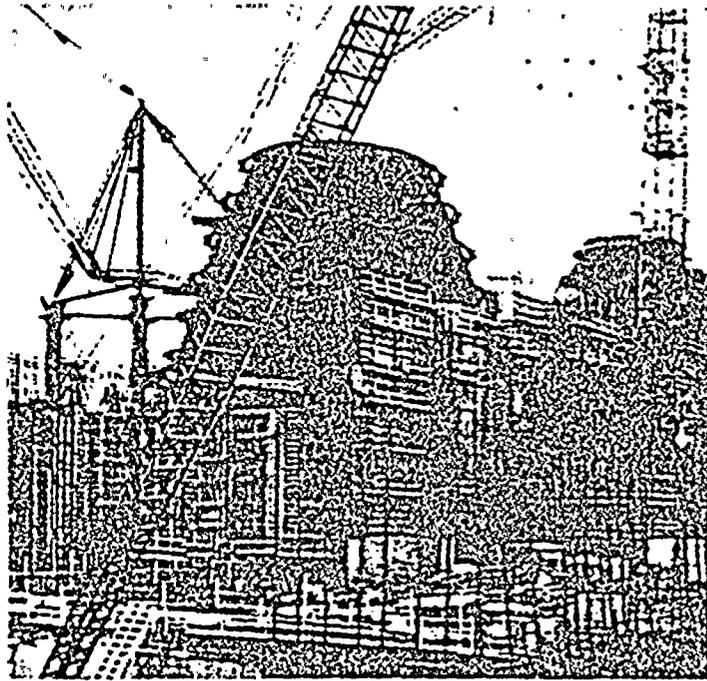


Anticipation/Gamma

There are alternatives to nuclear plants for the production of electric power without creating such serious threats for the health of our people, our children and grandchildren in the years, in the decades to come.

Your government, your utilities will develop the alternatives to nuclear power more quickly if you demand to know why the American people have not been told—

- ✓ that large commercial nuclear plants become poisoned with very high levels of radiation.
- ✓ that unless nuclear power plant construction is halted, hundreds of these radioactive nuclear hulks will be littering our nation in the years ahead, threatening lives for centuries to come.



New Jersey/AP

## Write

Dr. James Schlesinger  
Secretary of Energy  
Attn. James Bishop  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500  
Charles Warren  
Chairman  
Council on Environmental  
Quality  
722 Jackson Place, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
Senator Robert Byrd  
Majority Leader  
The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

President Jimmy Carter  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500  
Vice President  
Walter Mondale  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500  
Rep. Thomas P. O'Neill Jr.  
Speaker of the House  
The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

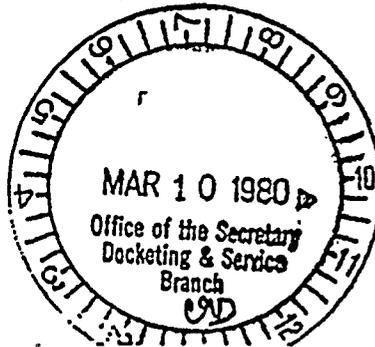
Write your Governor and ask him why your state utility commission has not warned the citizens of your state of the very ugly fact about every nuclear power plant.

**NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL:** a conservation organization dedicated to helping develop alternatives to nuclear energy for the production of electric power in the years ahead.

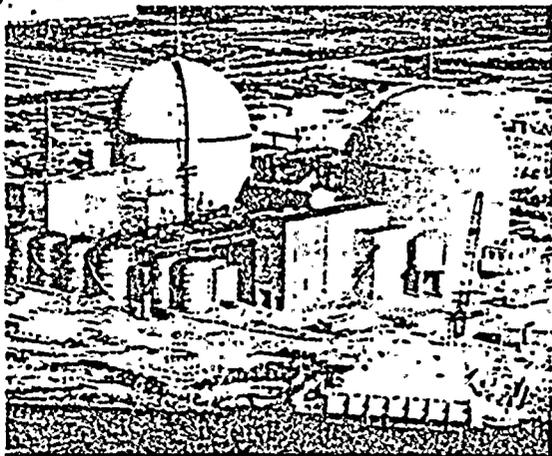
**NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL**  
1725 Eye Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006

Copies available \$5.00 per hundred  
NRDC, 1725 Eye Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006  
Order a supply of these pamphlets. Help to inform your friends.

**A very  
ugly fact  
about  
every  
Nuclear  
Power Plant**







New Jersey/AP

The electric power industry uses the income from your utility bills to construct generating plants to produce electricity to serve your needs.

In the decades ahead, the electric power industry would like to be generating a major portion of the nation's electricity from nuclear plants.

The electric power industry has already constructed 67 nuclear plants. Government surveys state that utilities would like to build over 250 more nuclear plants in the next 25 years.

Nuclear power plants have been built or are planned for construction in virtually every State in our nation—by streams, rivers and lakes, in bays and estuaries, near cities and in the countryside. Nuclear power plants are even being planned for offshore areas along our ocean coasts.

**Let us tell you a very ugly fact about every nuclear power plant ... a fact that your utilities do not tell you ... a fact that the United States Department of Energy has not told you.**

- After approximately 30 years of operation each nuclear power plant will no longer be operable. The plant will be so radioactive that it will have to be sealed and guarded for centuries.

- After approximately 30 years of operation each plant is so thoroughly poisoned with very high levels of radiation that each plant must be considered a permanent hazard to the public health for centuries.

The process of radioactive poisoning begins from the moment that the first atomic fuel core is inserted into a plant. The radiation levels in the plant structure rise steadily week after week, month after month, year after year as a succession of atomic fuel cores are inserted into a plant, used in the generation of electricity, and are extracted from the plant.

**Every nuclear plant operating today, or planned for construction, wherever that plant is located ... by a stream, a river, a lake, by a bay or es-**

**tuary, near a city, in the countryside or along our coasts ... every nuclear plant, costing hundreds of millions, usually billions of dollars, built with the electric utility bills you pay, becomes so poisoned with radiation after approximately 30 years of operation that it must be closed, then sealed and guarded for centuries to make certain that no one, child or adult, comes into contact with its lethal radioactivity.**

The radioactive poisoning of a plant is a normal part of the nuclear power generating process. This radioactive poisoning of a plant is *not* by accident. Plant employees work on shorter and shorter shifts over the years as radiation levels steadily rise in order to reduce their exposure to progressively higher radiation levels.

Nuclear scientists know that each plant becomes highly contaminated with radiation. Their term for the sealing process is "decommissioning."

**These inoperable plants cannot be dismantled or moved without monstrous expense and tremendous risk of exposure to radioactivity because of the tens of thousands of tons of steel and concrete in each plant that are permeated with intense radiation. Scientists estimate that the radioactivity in each of these poisoned nuclear structures will be a threat to health for at least 200 years. Thus for centuries, perhaps forever, these abandoned radioactive hulks will remain where they are being built.**

The electric power industry is pressing the government to spend tens of billions of your tax dollars to promote an entirely new type of nuclear plant to produce electricity—the Liquid Metal Fast Breeder Reactor (LMFBR). Breeder reactors will be plagued with the same lethal problems as traditional atomic power plants.

**Your utility bills which pay for current nuclear power plants and your utilities desires for the investment of tens of billions of your federal tax dollars in LMFBR plants can result in a nuclear wasteland.**



Brody/Environmental Action

