

Rec'd 415

# TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION OF LACKAWANNA COUNTY

A CITIZENS ORGANIZATION FOR BETTER GOVERNMENT



APR 30, 1979.

Attorney Charles Bechhofer  
NRC -Board Chairman  
NRC Atomic Safety Dept.  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Sir:

TALC attended the energy hearing in Wilkes-Barre-Pa. on Jan.30-79. presented objections to the licensing of the Berwick plant, we also disclosed the tragedies of other nuclear plants in other cities.

On Jan.31- TALC sent NRC a letter-accompanied with many brochures- informing them of the cancer-leukemia and muscle diseases that are caused by nuclear plants in other cities.

However-we received an answer to our second letter-from NRC-claiming our first letter was not received by NRC.

With the disaster of the Three Mile Island Plant-we more than ever request a "MORATORIUM" on all energy plants (nuclear) until a safer way is developed. TALC does believe in one plant out in the west-away from civilization - used as an experimental plant- when safe -it should be utilized as a **SAMPLE NUCLEAR ENERGY PLANT.**

But- in the meantime- such sources as garbage power- solar energy- hydro-electric power- thermal power- and coal .if... our government can spend millions of dollars to reach the moon- that amount can be doubled and tripled to reach the bowels of the earth for coal. As we understand we have a supply to last for a hundred years etc. By that time the nuclear energy plant a safe sampler -will take over -in hundreds of cities in the United States.

To the above we add - Gasohol<sup>BRAZIL</sup> - where American owned oil companies are marketing gasohol- a blend of gasoline and alcohol- which they have refused to develop and sell in the United States. Please read Jack Andersons' comments - we agree with Jack. Brazil - is not hurting for gas- they are using their intelligence to their advantage- utilizing gasohol etc. We thank Jack for this reminder-as two yrs. ago he tried for a crash program to produce gasohol. But Pres. Carter has ignored gasohol-and insists to beg for oil from the Arabs - who have taken advantage of the United States- but the President insists on going back for more -rather than start with gasohol and other sources of fuel.

We are requesting NRC to contact President Carter and present the story of Brazil and gasohol -plus the above sources .

Attorney Bechoffer -we trust this letter will be discussed at your next meeting- and that action will be taken .Thank you.

Sincerely,  
*Harold Leach*  
Harold Leach-Pres. TALC

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# 4 Groups

## Seek to

## Intervene

Pennsylvania Power & Light Co. expects all four parties represented at the recent Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) prehearing conference to be certified by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) as intervenors in the licensing hearings for the company's Susquehanna plant.

The ASLB met for two and a half days this week in the U.S. Courthouse, Wilkes-Barre, examining contentions presented by groups known as Citizens Against Nuclear Dangers; Environmental Coalition on Nuclear Power; Susquehanna Energy Advocates, and a group of individuals represented by Mrs. Colleen Marsh.

Norman W. Curtis, PP&L's vice president-engineering & construction, attended the sessions and felt that certification was likely according to what he heard.

"This prehearing conference was held by the NRC for three basic reasons," Curtis said: "First was to determine whether there would be formal hearings before a license could be issued to operate the Susquehanna plant near Berwick. We feel sure there will be hearings. Second, the ASLB had to decide whether to certify petitioners as intervenors. We feel sure this will happen for all four. Third, the board will have to decide which of the parties' contentions will be heard during the hearings."

"The board is required by NRC regulation to confine the hearings to issues that are concerned specifically with the Susquehanna plant. They cannot entertain broad-based issues about the nuclear industry in general."

Curtis expressed special concern about allegations during the conference about the effectiveness of PP&L's quality-control program. "We are going to investigate this situation, just as the NRC is going to. When we are finished, we will turn over the results of our investigation to the NRC for whatever use they may wish to make of them."



*Attorney Beckhofer:*

*We received the rules + regulations of NRC - and nowhere does it express the intent of the paragraph circled.*

*To confine the hearings to issues that are concerned specifically with the Susquehanna Plant, and not entertain broad-based issues about the nuclear industry in general, is like sending (invisibly) a*

*'Death Warrant' to every resident of Berwick and surrounding areas.*

*TALC -*

# Lackawanna, Pike Cancer Death Rate Among Highest

*Article - Mar. 27 - 1976*

Lackawanna County ranked third among the Commonwealth's 67 counties in the cancer mortality rate, in 1974, according to a study by Health Secretary Leonard Bachman.

Lackawanna trailed only Pike County with 278.6 deaths per 100,000 people in 1974 and Carbon, with 256.2 deaths. The rate locally was 238.2 per 100,000.

The average rate of cancer deaths rose from 184.3 per 100,000 people in the 1965-69 period to 196.4 in 1974.

Filling out the top five counties were Philadelphia, with a 235.6 rate, and Sullivan, with a 228.1 rate.

Between the periods men-

tioned above, Lackawanna's death rate rose from 219.3 to 238.2; and Luzerne, from 191.2 to 215.6; Pike, from 174.1 to 278.6.

Only Wayne, which dropped from 191 to 109.6, Susquehanna, which dropped from 181.5 to 181.1 and Wyoming, which dropped from 187.2 to 160, registered declines.

Health Department officials offered no explanation for the underlying causes for the death rates and had no comment on the fact that Sullivan County, one of the most rural in the Commonwealth, ranked among the five counties with the highest mortality rate.

Bachman said in an accompanying statement, "the shocking facts on rising cancer deaths in Pennsylvania in my opinion warrant an all-out public health attack.

The official has proposed a state-wide cancer program, calling for increased funding of cancer research, improved coordination between research institutions and new community programs in patient care and training programs.

An attempt by Gov. Milton Shapp to provide \$500,000 for research via an increased tax on cigarettes was defeated by Democratic leadership in the General Assembly.



## Study links A-tests to leukemia

By Vern Anderson  
Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Leukemia killed nearly 2½ times as many southern Utah children during eight years of Nevada atmospheric nuclear tests as in similar periods before or after, a study released yesterday said.

The study, prepared by four University of Utah researchers, said the deaths could have been caused by fallout from the 150 tests, which took place about 100 miles west of the Utah-Nevada border.

The results of the year-long study, along with an editorial by a National Cancer Institute scientist urging caution in interpreting the results, were published yesterday in the New England Journal of Medicine.

There has been mounting concern in recent years over a possible link between radiation exposure and cancer deaths, particularly among atomic shipyard workers and persons who had been downwind from the Nevada test site between 1951 and 1962.

Since 1962, tests at the Nevada site have been confined to underground explosions, and officials only occasion-

ally have reported any leaks of radioactive material to the surface.

Between January 1951 and October 1958, 97 above-ground nuclear devices were detonated. "Fallout from at least 26 tests was carried by winds into Utah," the study said.

"The increase in leukemia deaths could be due to fallout or to some other unexplained factor," it added.

Dr. Joseph Lyon, the study's principal author and co-director of the Utah Cancer Registry, said the report involved children younger than 15 who lived in 17 sparsely populated "high-fallout counties" in southern and eastern portions of the state.

The study found that between 1951 and 1958, the leukemia mortality rate for the children was 2.44 times greater than during the 1944-1950 and 1959-1967 periods. The number of leukemia deaths in the peak period was 32.

The study also found that, for unknown reasons, leukemia mortality in the 17 counties before and after the 1951-1958 period was about half the nationwide rate and half the rate in the rest of the state. During the 1951-1958 period, the mortality rate was slightly above the national average.

"Unfortunately, the actual amount of radioactive material that fell in various areas of Utah is impossible to determine from available documents," Lyon said.

"For other childhood cancers, no consistent pattern was found in relation to fallout exposure," he said.

Dr. Charles Land of the cancer institute wrote in the accompanying editorial that the study "should be interpreted with caution," and that additional studies should more thoroughly investigate the history of exposure, diagnostic information and estimated radiation dose.

Land also said that the data could be interpreted to show the unlikely conclusion that deaths from other childhood cancers decreased because of nuclear testing.

# Ex-GI Sues Government Over Radiation Hazard

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Army veteran Paul Hinkie lost one son to birth defects and has another who is retarded. He blames the government for not warning him about genetic risks when he witnessed 1955 atomic bomb tests in the Nevada desert.

Hinkie, a 45-year-old Philadelphia trucker, is seeking a federal injunction to force the government to warn all military personnel and their offspring of the actual dangers of exposure to radiation.

His lawsuit against President Carter and 10 other high government officials alleges that unless a clear-cut warning is made there could be untold suffering by

thousands of affected persons now and for future generations yet unborn."

The warning is seen as a step toward the establishment of culpability and the seeking of monetary damages for any victims of radiation-related diseases.

The suit was brought in behalf of more than 100,000 servicemen, stationed at Camp Desert Rock, Nevada, since 1951, who witnessed some or all of the atmospheric tests, and for their past, present and future spouses.

"My constitutional rights were violated when the Army stationed me in the middle of those dangerous tests, to see how troops would behave in an atomic war, and then

failed to warn me that I could have defective children," said Hinkie, who believes his shoulder-length hair grayed prematurely because of the heavy nuclear dosage.

Often sitting next to Hinkie is his 7-year-old son, Paul. "He's mentally retarded; has no joints in his hands. His toes don't bend. His eyes twitch a lot. The government should have warned us," Hinkie said.

Hinkie and his wife, Irene, were joined in the lawsuit by Dr. Hope Punnett, a genetic counselor at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children in Philadelphia who has been treating young Paul.

James W. O'Connor, 43, Burbank, Calif., was one of

Hinkie's buddies in the 232nd Army Signal Corp Support Company. He was among six former soldiers who testified in federal court last week in support of the injunction.

O'Connor, now disabled with a muscle-deteriorating disease, said scores of GIs suffered nose bleeds, nausea, diarrhea and stomach cramps — all symptoms of radiation sickness — after each nuclear test.

Connor wants the government to report how much radiation the servicemen were exposed to, and how it will affect their children and, maybe, grandchildren.

"My son is 29 years old," O'Connor said. "How can I tell him to go out and have a

kid and he might come out retarded?"

Hinkie's lawyers have put expert witnesses on the stand in an effort to prove to U.S. District Judge J. William Ditter Jr. that heavy doses of radiation, resulting from an atomic blast, is dangerous to life and health.

Dr. Ernest J. Sternglass, director of radiological physics at the University of Pittsburgh, said he concluded after studying recently declassified government reports and maps that troops witnessing the nuclear blasts were exposed to 320 rems of radiation, equivalent to 320,000 diagnostic X-rays.

A rem is the dosage of an ionizing radiation that will

cause the same biological effect as one roentgen of X-ray or gamma-ray dosage.

Sternglass, who testified Thursday and Friday and who will be back on the stand for more government cross-examination, charged the Army deliberately falsified records concerning radiation thousands of soldiers received during a 1955 Army nuclear bomb test, codenamed "Turk."

He said maps showed the radioactive dust covered men in trenches, contrary to what he termed "fraudulent documents" presented before the U.S. Senate in 1957 which alleged the fallout missed the troops.

# Scientist Claims Nuclear Plants Leak Radiation

By JACK CLOHERTY  
and BOB OWENS

© 1977, Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — Dangerous radiation previously attributed to nuclear testing fallout is really being leaked by some nuclear power plants, a University of Pittsburgh scientist has charged.

Strontium 90, which has induced leukemia and other forms of cancer in numerous animal studies, is being leaked by two Connecticut plants, Dr. Ernest Sternglass charges. And if these plants are emitting the dangerous radiation, others are, too, Sternglass contends.

"The nuclear industry," Sternglass says in his study, "has repeatedly claimed that no significant amounts of strontium-90 and cesium-137 are released into the air from nuclear power plant stations, and that therefore the strontium-90 and cesium-137 measured in the local milk must be due to fallout from nuclear weapons tests.

"However, a detailed examination of the levels of radioactive strontium and cesium in the air, the soil, the vegetation and the milk around two large nuclear power stations in Connecticut, as measured by the utility's own environmental consultants over a period of many years, reveals that this claim was valid only for the first few

years of operation, and that in the last few years, the levels of these known cancer producing substances have reached or exceeded the levels observed in Connecticut during the height of nuclear weapons testing in the early 1960s."

The radiation doses in the local milk, Sternglass found, "are some 50 times larger than bone marrow doses from a typical chest X-ray," and

are exceedingly dangerous.

"These Sr-90 doses are comparable with those known to double the risk of childhood cancers and leukemia for infants following diagnostic X-rays during pregnancy . . ."

The federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Environmental Protection Agency have been aware of the radiation levels, because the utility is required by law to report them.

However, the levels have been reported under "fallout" and as "unrelated to plant operations."

Moreover, Sternglass contends that the radiation levels found in the milk near the Milstone Point plant and the Connecticut Yankee plant

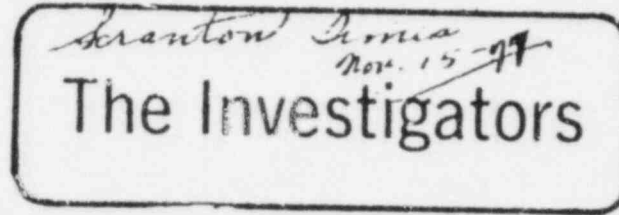
dropped sharply when the plants were shut down in April and May of 1976 for refueling.

"Since there is evidence that other nuclear plants have emitted comparable amounts of Sr-90 into the air . . . an

immediate investigation by the legislatures of the states as well as by Congress is required to end the serious threat that has resulted from the failure of the regulatory agencies of the federal government to protect the health and safety of the people living near these plants," Sternglass concludes.

At this point, an investigation seems unlikely, since all parties said they needed time to study Sternglass' findings.

The Sr-90 emission question that Sternglass raises, however, is very likely to become another point of contention in the battle over nuclear power.



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## Re-evaluation of Low-Level Standards Urged

# Radiation Rated Hazard to Millions of Workers

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — Almost seven million Americans, including workers at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, may be exposed to harmful amounts of radiation where they work, says a scientist working on a presidential study of radiation health dangers.

"We are uncovering some significant biological effects often of alarming proportions in certain occupations," says Gene Moss, a health physicist with the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health.

Moss pointed out that exposure detected in the workers was below the accepted danger level, "but since people are apparently still dying of radiation-caused cancer those levels must be re-evaluated."

Moss is a member of a task force compiling a White House-ordered survey into the effects of people exposed to ionizing radiation. The survey is scheduled to be released in April.

"This is the first time we've been able to get even a rough handle on how much radia-

tion the average worker receives on the job," Moss said in a telephone interview from NIOSH laboratories in Cincinnati. "If you want to believe those exposure figures, then you must assume that most people are working within safe limits. But it's obvious that something is wrong."

"Low-level radiation is apparently generating a medical phenomenon throughout the country. Leukemia and other types of cancer have been reported among people in Colorado living near

uranium mine tailings; in men who observed atomic bomb testings; in nuclear shipyard workers, and people in many other areas.

"The Portsmouth (Naval) Shipyard may be the most current example of the problem," Moss says. "Shipyard workers have reportedly contracted a higher than anticipated level of leukemia than is found in shipyard employees not doing nuclear work."

He says the survey concluded occupational exposure was, in most cases, 10 to 20

times lower than required by current safety factors.

Moss says the study indicated 6.9 million of the nation's 100 million workers come in contact with radioactive products or material in their jobs, and only two million of those may be aware of the contact.

"These are people who are required to wear film badges or register as working in a potentially radioactive environment," Moss says.

The largest number — more than 600,000 — are people involved in medical pro-

fessions, according to the survey. Another 250,000 are in manufacturing and industry, 250,000 in the production of nuclear fuel and 140,000 in research and educational centers.

"Something is causing the disease. If it's not the radiation alone, perhaps it's the synergistic effect of radiation and other carcinogenic agents in the work area or something we don't even know about yet," he says.

"Something out there is killing people and something must be done."

## One Man Killed, 21 Injured as Steel Plant Fumes Leak

Mary McGrory

*Grantwood  
Apr 4-78*

## Schlesinger Manipulates Carter's Nuclear Policy



Mary McGrory

WASHINGTON — The environmentalists are waiting for President Jimmy Carter to drop the other shoe on nuclear energy.

The first one was the new Nuclear Plant Licensing Bill, which cuts approximately in half the time needed to license nuclear plants.

Tony Roisman of the Natural Resources Defense Council calls it "the final corruption of the president's moral and political courage on the nuclear issue."

Now those inside and outside the government who favor solar energy and conservation as the most benign solution to the energy problem are braced for a strong statement of presidential support for nuclear expansion.

Supposedly the declaration, a draft of which is being circulated within the government, will signal a total turn-away from candidate Carter's pledge that he would consider atomic energy "only as a last resort."

Environmentalists finger their old enemy, Energy Secretary James Schlesinger, as the Svengali behind Carter's expected nuclear switch.

The appointment of the former Atomic Energy Commission chairman chilled them to the bone. They balanced his record against Carter's excellent reputation as an environmentalist and lowered their voices, which they now regret.

"As one who is intimately familiar with the problems and potential of nuclear energy I believe we must make every effort to keep that dependence to a minimum," Carter said in 1975.

But Schlesinger has manipulated the president's anxieties in the last few months to the point where Carter is ready not only to retreat from his stated positions about conventional nuclear energy but to make what environmentalists consider "unacceptable compromises" on the more menacing fast-breeder reactor, which uses plutonium.

The coal strike, which threatened the increased dependence on coal, coal that is at the heart of his energy package, gave Schlesinger his big chance to make nuclear points.

More crucially, Schlesinger used the congressional resistance to the closing of the Clinch River fast-breeder reactor to offer a deal which makes hash of Carter's previous resistance to plants using plutonium.

Last year, Carter stated emphatically that we were not going to continue with plutonium breeders, and on his current Latin American journey he renewed his reproaches to Brazil for its purchase of a fast-breeder from Germany.

Despite Carter's firm non-proliferation stand, Schlesinger has unveiled a bargain whereby the price of closing Clinch River is the promise of another, larger fast-breeder elsewhere, and continuing work on completion of the Clinch River systems design.

Schlesinger's March 17 letter to Rep. Olin Teague, chairman of the House Committee on Science and Technology, outlines the "new direction" of the Carter energy program:

"It is premature to commit to

build such a facility; but intensified studies and design efforts will give the base program the direction needed to maintain a strong breeder option."

"The best thing you can say about Carter," said a disillusioned environmentalist who worked for his election, "is that he caves too soon when Congress balks. Schlesinger gives the farm away because he's not used to arguments. When he was at AEC, he went before the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, which was like going home to mother. When he was defense secretary, it was the Armed Services Committee, which was the same thing."

The irony is that Carter may tilt toward nuclear just when the public is tilting away. A recent Harris poll showed that while a majority still favors a crash nuclear development program, the 61 percent approval rating of nine months ago (as against 24 percent opposed) has fallen to 47 percent in favor (as against 34 percent opposed).

These figures should give some heart to the rather lonely band in Congress pushing for solar and conservation alternatives. But they say that at least half of the employees of the Department of Energy are old hands from the former AEC and that the sheer bureaucratic weight is crushing, as reflected in their victory on the nuclear plant licensing bill.

The Department of Energy budget reflects their ascendancy: \$2.477 billion for nuclear research; for solar, a piddling \$400.5 million.



# Scientists Mull Hazard Of Low-Level Radiation

*Tribune Mar 31-79*

By AL ROSSITER JR.  
UPI Science Editor

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The nuclear accident at the Three Mile Island power plant comes at a time when scientists are beginning to wonder if the hazards of low-level radiation are higher than once believed.

A recent report by a government task force said studies of populations exposed to very low amounts of radiation "raise serious questions ... and suggest that risks may be higher than earlier predictions."

The kind of accident at the Harrisburg, Pa., nuclear plant can expose people to radiation in two ways.

An airborne cloud can expose a person by direct external contact or through inhaling radioactive material. In addition, fallout can contaminate food and drinking water.

There are two kinds of radiation — ionizing and non-ionizing.

Ionizing radiation is of chief concern because it can split body atoms into charged fragments. Biologically important molecules can be split into biologically useless fragments.

If a critical molecule in a body cell is damaged by radiation, the cell becomes deranged. If this happens to too many cells, the tissue, then the organ, and finally the body, become disordered.

Thus radiation damage ranges from the unimportant death of a few replaceable cells, much like a mild sunburn, to premature aging, cancer and almost immediate death.

Everyone is exposed to some radiation naturally — through cosmic rays and radioactivity in rocks and soil. But exposure is slight and may average about 0.15 rad (radiation absorbed dose) per year.

Medical radiation, including X-rays, accounts for more than 90 percent of all man-made ionizing radiation received by Americans, according to government figures. A typical chest X-ray produces a dose of about 0.03 rad.

The most immediate health effect of overexposure is radiation sickness or death.

According to the Interagency task force, a single whole body dose of 100 rem can cause sickness such as anemia, hemorrhage, infection and nausea.

Doses of 500 rem or more usually are fatal.

Radiation also can cause developmental effects. Animal experiments suggest doses as low as 5 rem in early pregnancy may produce an increased incidence of malformations to the skeleton and nervous system.

The interagency report said doses over 50 rem to human fetuses can cause reduced stature and mental retardation. The report said doses in the 0.2 to 2 rem range appear to increase the risk of childhood cancer.

When adult reproductive cells are exposed, mutations can occur and may result in genetic effects in children or later descendants. It is not known for sure whether radiation can produce such effects, but it has generally been assumed.

Radiation also is known to be able to cause effects, such as cancer, which occur many years after exposure.

It is known that high doses of radiation can produce such effects, and now more and more scientists are beginning to believe low doses also can cause long effects.

# Garbage: throwing away energy

By ROBERT CARROLL

**W**HEN NEW YORK STATE residents put out the garbage, they're tossing away, every year, more than \$330 million in reusable metal, glass and paper and burnable, energy-producing fuel.

It's an old, hard-to-break habit, this throwing out the baby with the bath water. And in an energy-hungry society like ours, where such unproved resources like the sun and the wind are being examined covetously, such waste is deplorable.

How wasteful are we? Less than 20% of our most easily recoverable resource — used newsprint — is being recycled. Scrap iron is being ignored so flagrantly that the industry sees a return to the days of the late 1960s when abandoned cars

choked our city streets like an urban cancer.

What's to be done?

New York State's environmental conservation commissioner, Peter Berle, believes he has the answer at least for New York. Berle is now touring the state, holding public hearings on what he calls a "sane solution" to the solid waste problem. The Legislature will get his program later this year.

In brief, Berle is proposing that the state commit itself to recycling 64% of its municipal solid waste by 1985 — practically none is recycled now — by extracting useful materials from the waste stream and by converting most of the residue to fuel for power generating plants.

It's an ambitious program that will cost upwards of \$1 billion. But, according to Berle, about 20% of the capital cost of recycling plants is available through the Environmental

Quality Bond Act, which was approved in a statewide referendum in 1972. Private sector involvement, he said, is "absolutely essential" for the balance of the funding.

Under the Berle proposal, the state would be divided up into 15 planning areas, which would mount regional attacks on the solid waste pile-up. State aid would be available to cover technical and management costs. To "encourage" local action, Berle promises strict enforcement of antipollution laws. As an example, his department proposes to reduce the number of landfills in the state from the current 635 to 260 by the end of 1985.

In New York City the Berle plan calls for nine separate resource recovery plants at sites such as Arthur Kill on Staten Island, Kennedy Airport, W. 215th St. and the Brooklyn Navy Yard. On Long Island the planned sites include Smithtown, where a plant already exists, Hempstead and Glen Cove.

In addition to spurring these municipal operations, Berle proposes to lure private investors into the recycling field with tax incentives

and by providing a market within government for products made from recycled material.

The Berle plan incorporates much of the thinking behind the energy bill now pending in Congress and the federal Resource Recovery and Conservation Act of 1976. The latter legislation, which is being slowly implemented, calls on federal agencies to maximize their purchases of products containing recycled material.

"The present disposal practices of municipalities in this state represent a tremendous waste of resources," says Berle. With each and every New York State resident tossing out \$19 each year in excess packaging, beer cans and yesterday's newspapers, who can argue?

More important, are the state's lawmakers listening?

*Reporter Robert Carroll frequently writes on environmental matters.*

# OPINION AND COMMENTARY

## Wisconsin's case against nuclear energy

By Douglas LaFollette

The objections to the continued construction of nuclear power plants are many and well founded. Despite much posturing and sleight of hand accounting, nuclear proponents have not dispelled the serious cost and safety problems associated with nuclear power.

Consider the potential dangers and costs of storing spent nuclear fuel. Nuclear waste is highly radioactive and some of it remains dangerous for over a quarter of a million years. Most of the radioactive wastes will remain dangerous for at least several hundred years.

Storage of nuclear wastes is much more than just a problem of technology. Not only must the canisters holding the wastes be protected against corrosion and other leak-causing hazards, but the site must be guarded against theft and sabotage as well. Safe storage also requires stable geological conditions at the site, a guarantee which is beyond the promise of technology.

A recent federal task force, representing 11 agencies, admitted that, at present, no one has an answer to the permanent waste storage problem.

The danger of transporting nuclear wastes to storage sites also remains unresolved. Transportation is a particularly weak link in the chain because of the hazard it creates for the communities through which the wastes must be transported. Several states now have laws prohibiting the permanent storage of nuclear wastes within their boundaries.

It might be argued, as some nuclear proponents have, that since the problem of nuclear wastes already exists, why impede nuclear power plant construction on these grounds? After all, nuclear wastes are not of great volume, relative to all hazardous wastes generated by our society, and even to the wastes generated

in use, the greater the cost of the electricity they produce.

Industry sources estimate that the total cost of decommissioning would be less than \$100 million per plant, on average. But the nuclear industry has little basis on which to predict the difficulties or costs of plant decommissioning and much incentive to underestimate the expected cost. Only a few small research reactors — no more than one-tenth the size of modern commercial reactors — have been decommissioned.

Moreover, there simply is no proven method for decommissioning large commercial reactors, the equipment doesn't even exist. Even if feasible methods are developed in coming years, a crucial question about decommissioning remains: who will pay for it?

The taxpayer is already being asked to foot the bill for large chunks of the nuclear industry — especially in the uranium purification and waste disposal ends of the business. The rates will most likely want to be hiked on decommissioning as well.

The uncertainties associated with worn-out nuclear reactors and the nuclear fuel cycle are so great, in fact, that the Wisconsin Public Service Commission has declared a moratorium on the further construction of nuclear power plants within the state. Other states have taken similar actions.

The alternatives of energy conservation and the development of renewable energy sources such as solar energy, not only represent as great an energy potential as continued construction of nuclear power plants, but a safer and more economic investment as well.

Mr. LaFollette is the Secretary of State of Wisconsin.



Sequoyah Nuclear Plant on the Chickamauga Reservoir, Tennessee.

of conventional uranium nuclear fuel.

In addition, the plutonium fuel cycle creates a whole new spectrum of problems. A nuclear weapon can be made from a small amount of plutonium by someone with a minimal knowledge of nuclear physics. Safeguarding nuclear fuel reprocessing plants against the threat of theft would be difficult, raising some thorny questions of civil liberties. Think of the consequences of a theft of plutonium and an act of sabotage by a terrorist group.

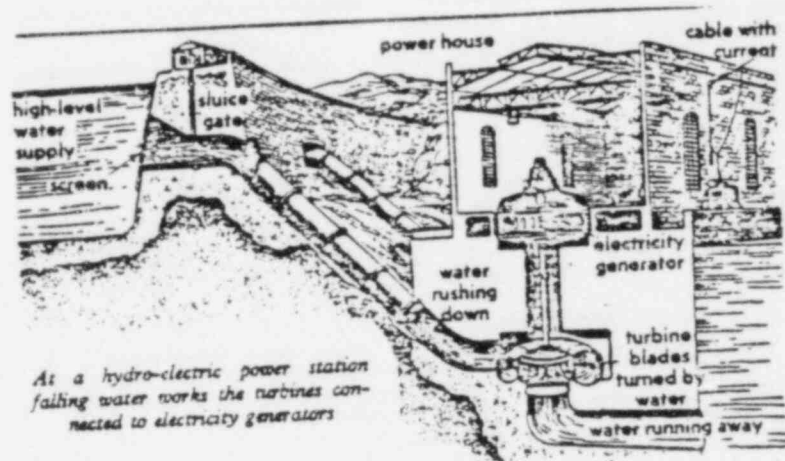
In addition, there is almost no economic justification for the development of a plutonium breeder reactor, as it is called. A study conducted by the Natural Resources Defense Council estimated that the benefits of the breeder program by the year 2020 will be \$100 million, or less than one-tenth of the estimated cost of research alone for the project — research which would be heavily subsidized by taxpayers.

Finally, there is the problem of retiring or decommissioning old nuclear power plants. To begin with, no one knows how long nuclear power plants will last. The lifespan has been estimated at 30 years. The less time they are

by nuclear weapons production. But nuclear wastes are extremely lethal and long-lived compared to most hazardous materials generated by our society. If nuclear power expands at the rate planned by the nuclear industry, the US will experience a tenfold increase in the volume of commercially generated nuclear wastes by the year 2020. This would mean an increase from the present total of over 5 million gallons in liquid form to the equivalent of over 50 million gallons. This would also require greatly increased transportation of commercially generated wastes and, consequently, a greater risk of accidents.

Even if a foolproof method for storing nuclear wastes is somehow developed, who will pay the tremendous costs? If the history of nuclear power is any indication, the taxpayer will.

Reprocessing spent nuclear fuel, contrary to popular belief, does not alleviate the waste storage problem. In fact, the reprocessed fuel, plutonium, is the most highly toxic substance known to society. Reprocessing and using plutonium as fuel will generate an amount of high-level radioactive waste comparable to the use



**HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER STATION**, one of the many alternatives to nuclear-power was invented 150 years ago, uses no expensive fuels, deposits no wastes, pollutes nothing and aside from the cost of building and maintaining the unit, means cheap energy for consumers. Waterfalls, lakes, rivers and streams, and dams are plentiful and can be built.

# Towards A Nuclear Alternative

By Ken Bossong & Nancy Jacobs

The past year has brought the issue of nuclear power to a forefront. Citizens everywhere are growing more aware and concerned about the hazards of nuclear power — the unsolved technical problems of an exceedingly complex technology, such as how to safely dispose of radioactive nuclear wastes for the hundreds of thousands of years necessary; the health effects of increasing exposure to radiation, which has been linked to cancer and genetic damage; the heavy drain on capital and other resources away from pressing human needs, by highly capital-intensive and centralized nuclear technology; the uncompromising threat of nuclear weapons proliferation through export of nuclear power technology; further centralization of money and power in the multinational corporations which monopolize the energy field.

It is becoming increasingly clear that until nuclear power is defeated in the U.S., there may never be opportunity or money available to develop human-sized alternative energy systems on a broad scale.

Sparked by the 2,500-people occupation at the Seabrook nuclear power plant site in New Hampshire over one year ago, the citizens movement against nuclear power has reached unforeseen proportions. Just this Spring, many thousands of citizens participated in several demonstration/occupations at nuclear facilities around the country — at the Barnwell Nuclear Fuel Reprocessing Plant in South Carolina, at the Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons and Waste Storage Facility just outside of Denver, at the Morris, Illinois "Spent Fuel" Storage Site.

Several other major citizen actions will be held this summer — (a fourth citizens occupation at the site of the Seabrook plant has already occurred), a demonstration/occupation at the Diablo Canyon nuclear plant in California and another at the Trojan plant in Washington.

Additionally, New Hampshire and New York citizens have begun rate withholding campaigns — where citizens pledge not to pay recent utility rate increases, where the increase in costs is traceable to nuclear power plant construction.

The citizens movement is only the beginning of the story. States have also taken the initiative (so to speak) against nuclear power. A recent California initiative has called a moratorium on nuclear plant construction within the state until a solution to the waste storage problem has been proven.

Approval for nuclear plant construction in Vermont must pass through the state legislature. A similar initiative is in the makings in Montana, and Missoula county Montana is considering banning nuclear energy altogether.

The states of Illinois, Michigan and Kentucky have all taken actions to prevent federal nuclear waste disposal in their states, and concerned citizens of New Mexico are exploring similar options.

In another vein, Missouri has banned Construction-Work-In-Progress (CWIP) in utility rates, a procedure whereby utility companies force consumers to finance the construction of expensive nuclear plants, before they receive any benefit from the power produced. Other states mobilizing around the CWIP issue include New Hampshire, Minnesota and Oregon.

Also this Spring, U.S. Representative Paul Rogers (D-FL) held hearings on low-level radiation. Some very interesting information came out about recent studies which are confirming the links between radiation exposure and cancer and of government and nuclear industry attempts to suppress

this information. Even President Carter has demonstrated concern--in calling a moratorium on commercial reprocessing of nuclear spent fuel, and in placing a ban on the export of enrichment and reprocessing technology, in the interest of non-proliferation.

To bring all of these happenings into perspective and to keep the momentum going, a national anti-nuclear strategizing conference is being planned. The conference is slated to be held at the University of Indiana, in Bloomington, from Friday, August 18 through Tuesday, August 22. At the conference, people working against nuclear power from across the country will come together to meet each other, to share strategies, successes and failures, organizing skills, to target key issues and exchange ideas on how to most effectively mobilize people around these. The focus of the conference is on strategizing, rather than primarily educational. It will be a time to look back on the growth of the anti-nuclear movement, to see what we've done and where we should go from here.

If you think you might be interested in participating as a representative in the national conference in August, or if you are interested in having a say in choosing representatives for the region, please write to the Citizens' Energy Project (1413 K St. NW, Wash. DC 20005) as quickly as possible.

# Penna. and N.J. radioactive sites lead U.S. list

By Susan Q. Stranahan  
*Insurer Environment Writer*

An industrial park in southwestern Pennsylvania and a Marine Corps training center in central New Jersey have been identified by the U. S. Department of Energy as the most hazardous of 26 sites it has determined to be contaminated with radioactive material.

It could cost as much as \$250 million to decontaminate the 26 sites, the report said.

"They all need remedial action, some type of action to bring the lev-

els of contamination down to safe guidelines," department spokesman Philip A. Garon said. That action could range from cleaning buildings inside and out to demolishing the buildings, he said.

The two most hazardous sites are the Canonsburg Industrial Park in Washington County and the U. S. Marine Corps Sixth Motor Transport Battalion Reserve Training Center in Middlesex, N. J.

"We are very concerned about these two," Garon said.

Other sites identified by the department as being contaminated are the ground under a Catholic school in Middlesex, N. J.; the E. I. du Pont Chambers Works in Deepwater, N. J.; Kellex Corp. in Jersey City, and land owned by the Penn Central Transportation Co. in Blairsville, Pa., Indiana County.

About 120 people work in several small companies at the Canonsburg Industrial Park. The property formerly was the site of Vitro Rare Metals Co., which provided Madame

Curie with the radium she used in her research on radioactivity at the turn of the century.

About 11,000 tons of wastes from Vitro were sent to the Blairsville site over many years. The wastes were buried and covered over entirely in 1957, the department report said. That area, along a railroad track, is used primarily by hunters now.

The 26 sites identified by the report date from an era when little was known about the hazards of radioactive materials. As a result, safety

standards and record-keeping practices were lax.

The Department of Energy was released Wednesday. It described the contaminated sites as "unfavorable monuments to our clear programs," dating back to early radiation research as well as such development efforts as the Manhattan Project, which produced the atomic bomb during World War II.

The Energy Department said the sites are "potentially dangerous sites present in the past." (See HAZARD on 4-A)

## Carter Rx for rising health costs

By Robert S. Boyd  
*Insurer Washington Editor*

WASHINGTON — The Carter Administration is in the final stages of shaping a national health insurance plan that will attempt to balance liberal demands for comprehensive care with conservative demands for restrained federal spending.

President Carter is expected to approve a set of "principles" for national health insurance this month, Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) Secretary Joseph Califano said yesterday. The principles will be used to draw up detailed legislation to be sent to Congress late this year or early in 1979.

Although final decisions have not been made, Califano indicated that the Carter plan would contain these points:

- It will be comprehensive, universal and mandatory, fulfilling a
- (See HEALTH on 2-A)



A TOURIST, President Carter stands atop Little Round Top behind the statue of Union Gen. Gouverneur K. Warren overlooking

the Gettysburg battlefield while touring yesterday.

# Water Energy Works In Iceland

When a visitor approaches Reykjavik, Iceland, on a bright, still, winter day, something in this city of more than 80,000 may at first be perplexing. That something is the lack of smoke. Reykjavik is 96 percent supplied with water energy, thermal power from the bowels of the earth.

It was not always so, for back in the thirties and forties when one approached this pristine city from the sea or air, it was often barely visible because of a cloud of black smoke.

Beginning in 1928 with the drilling of the first borehole for hot water in a place where people used to wash their clothes, Reykjavik now pipes hot water, ranging in the degrees of 175 to 280, to 96 percent of its population.

Thermal energy, which cost about 17 cents per cubic meter in 1972, is only about 60 percent of that of fuel oil heating and 75 percent of the cheapest method of electric heating.

Furthermore, there is no

waste, for the water which is not used in the heating of the home, where it enters in a one-pipe system flows out in another pipe to a distinct station where it is mixed with high temperature supply water, maintaining a set temperature of 176 degrees Fahrenheit.

What is unique about the system is that most of the citizens get three-fourths of all the thermal energy at its disposal directly from under their feet, as there are 16 boreholes underneath Reykjavik, with a total average of over 8000 gallons per minute and it's boiling hot.

At Pennsylvania State University, the college's Earth and Mineral Sciences department has received a grant to develop a trial application of thermal energy in the United States.

However, the only area in Pennsylvania where thermal activity seems to indicate even a remote potential, at least economically, is southwest of Harrisburg.

# French Atom Plant Leaks Toxic Gas

PIERRELATTE, France, (AP) July 1—A slightly radioactive white cloud temporarily formed over this southeastern French city today after an accident in a big uranium processing plant. Officials said that nine employees who inhaled the gas were put under medical observation.

The officials said the accident occurred at 2:45 P.M. when one of the Comarhex factory's 274 workers broke the valve on a container of uranium hexafluoride, a volatile compound of uranium and fluorine used to isolate uranium 235.

Plant officials said that some parts of the factory were contaminated and that a slightly toxic cloud was sent up over the building. But they said, strong winds quickly dissipated the cloud, removing the danger of further contamination.

## Police Surround Plant

Atomic Energy Commission specialists were rushed to the plant and the police surrounded it, restricting traffic until the danger signal was given just before 5 P.M.

Plant officials said a large amount of uranium hexafluoride escaped, but that they would not know the exact amount until an investigation was completed Monday.

A similar accident two months ago temporarily contaminated the drinking water of the staff canteen, and the union has been fighting for stricter safety measures since.

The Comarhex plant produces about 2,000 tons of uranium hexafluoride yearly, factory officials said, about a quarter of the world's output. They said it is used by the French Atomic Energy Commission as well as by American and Soviet uranium-enrichment plants.

The factory was set up seven years ago as a subsidiary of Pechiney Ugine

Kuhlmann, the big French metals and chemicals group, and officials said it is one of five such plants in the West.

## Accidental Releases in U.S.

Uranium hexafluoride has also been released accidentally in the United States but without very serious consequences, according to J.W. Schwennessen, deputy director for research on uranium enrichment in the Energy Research and Development Administration.

When large quantities of the substance are handled over long periods he said yesterday such releases are almost inevitable.

Uranium hexafluoride must be kept hot to remain gaseous for the enrichment process, he explained, but when it cools



to room temperature it solidifies and falls to the ground. Thus it spreads at most only a few hundred feet from the point of release.

According to Dr. Ralph Loren, a specialist in nuclear safety standards, the extent of spread would depend on initial temperature. The higher it was the longer it would take the uranium hexafluoride to cool and fall.

The Pierrelatte plant, the chief source of fuel for the French nuclear weapons program, was France's counterpart of the one at Oak Ridge, Tenn., that provided fuel for the first uranium-type atomic bomb and for many subsequent American weapons.

The process is also used to produce less enriched uranium for nuclear power plants. The working material in the process is gaseous uranium hexafluoride in which one atom of uranium is mixed with six atoms of fluorine. It is highly corrosive and toxic and measures must be taken to avoid its contact with metals subject to corrosion or with plant persons.

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N.Y. TIMES  
7/2/77



Section II

# The Tribune

Scranton, Pa. 18501 *Printed Feb 16-79*

## PP&L Nuclear Plant Hit With Criticism

Members of Wayne-Pike Audubon Society and other environmental organizations spent several hours on Friday in animated and sometimes heated discussion with officials of Pennsylvania Power & Light Co. concerning the safety of PP&L's new Susquehanna nuclear facility, scheduled to begin operation next year.

The group, which has been sharply critical of nuclear

energy, was invited to tour the Berwick site. "When complete, the plant will only employ 250 people, but it will have significant impact on the area: it will draw enormous quantities of water from the Susquehanna and will return water used in the nuclear cycle to the river," the society said in a news release.

"Information Director Charles Wike of PP&L attempted to convince the 25 vocal critics that every effort had been made to insure the safety of the river and its ecosystem. But questioners, among them nuclear expert Dr. Judith Johnsrud, asked pointedly why no data was being collected on the human population that could give a base for detecting rises in cancer and birth defects.

"There were sharp questions about storage of toxic nuclear wastes and about consumer rates as they related to the high cost of the nuclear fuel cycle. It was clear from the tone of the

talk that environmentalists were not satisfied that the multimillion dollar plant, which has been beset by problems during its construction, has solved any of the problems which nuclear foes see as dangers presently inherent in using nuclear power for energy," the release said.

After the afternoon's session, one member of the society, Barbara Brenner of Lord's Valley, commented, "It's clear that nuclear proponents have been discredited, and that

PP&L is worried. They have a big investment in Berwick. But the people in the community have a bigger investment - their lives and their children's lives."

# A buried time bomb is surfacing

BY EDWARD EDELSON

**A** FEW YEARS ago, all the work was at a moment-to-moment pace in Peckham. Minors came down with asbestos poisoning after they began drinking water from a well. Investigation showed that the well had been drilled into a dump where the acid arsenate pesticide had been disposed of 40 years before.

In the late 1940s, a lot of homes were in Colorado discovered that they had a problem because their houses had been built on the "fillings" — one red due to a to-aminopropylamine. In some cases, building blocks used in the houses had been made out of the fillings. Investigators found that the content of uranium in the fillings could produce excess radiation levels.

And just last week, New York State Health Commissioner Robert F. Whalen recommended that pregnant women and children under two years of age be evacuated from houses in Niagara Falls that stand alongside a filled-in canal that was used as a dump for a chemical plant 25 years ago. Investigators have identified 82 different chemicals that have been leached out of the dump by heavy rains. There have been reports of excess cases of cancer, miscarriages and birth defects in residents of the houses.

According to preliminary figures from State Health Department blood tests and epidemiological histories on residents of 77th and 78th Streets in Forest Road, Niagara Falls, there were an unusually high number of medical problems. The study counted four children with birth defects among 24 in the southern block on the street, all of them mentally retarded according to one parent. It also showed a miscarriage rate of 29.4 percent.

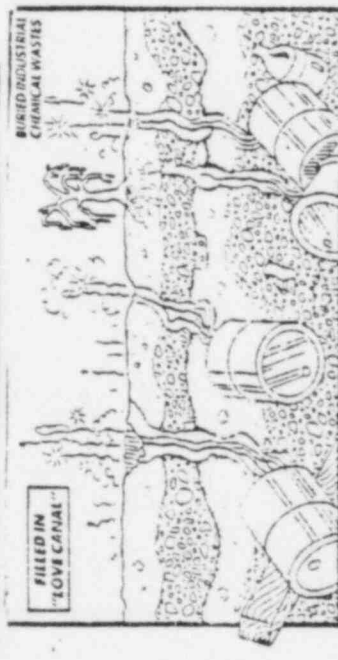
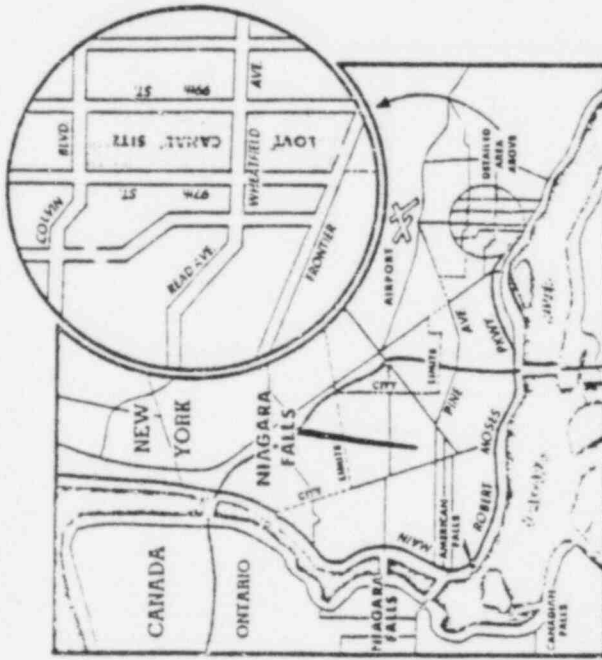
The Niagara Falls case can be added to a bulging file of some 400 instances of damage throughout the nation caused by careless disposal of hazardous wastes. Environmental officials are now predicting that there are more to come.

John Lehman, director of the hazardous waste management division in the Environmental Protection Agency, says that there could be several thousand old, neglected dumps that are capable of causing trouble in the future. "The problem is that a lot of them

just haven't been discovered yet," Lehman said. "It takes many years for materials in these inactive sites to show up, so it is difficult to say specifically how many of these things there are."

At the root of the problem, Lehman says, is the fact that there was "a lack of understanding about the impact of

these materials in years gone by." For example, after the Boiler Chemical Co. stopped using the former Love Canal in Niagara Falls as a dump, it covered the wastes with clay and sold the land to the city. Houses and a school were built around the dump. It was only when the leaked out toxic



News is an end to the creation by Robert Johnson. Detailed map in upper right shows neighborhood in Niagara Falls under study by Health Department as possible cancer risk.

wastes began to leach. Lehman and FBI speculation that an investigation started in the mid-1970s on the right side of the Love Canal, to include a national plan for containment and cleanup in the late 1970s. The Environmental Protection Agency now is drawing up regulations, which probably will go into effect next year.

A number of states have regulations of their own, but Lehman says that "state control programs tend to be understaffed and underfunded." But he adds that industry — particularly the chemical industry — is quite aware of the legislation and has been attempting to upgrade their disposal practices.

The real problem is the collection of dumps that were used many years ago and have long been forgotten. In many cases, the property has changed hands several times, and the present owner has no idea of the sort of toxic material that lies underground. Awareness increases only when something literally trips the problem to the surface.

**I**N THE MINNESOTA case, the "something" was the well. In Niagara Falls, a long period of heavy rain appears to have triggered the trouble. Now, the state is considering to regrade the dump with a layer of impervious clay to keep rain from leaching out excess amounts of the chemicals.

If the federal laws now being drawn up accomplish their purpose, today's dumps won't be tomorrow's problem. Among other requirements, a record of the fact that a site was used as a dump will have to be attached to the deed of the property. The federal government also plans to maintain a register of sites where hazardous material has been dumped. Buffer zones will be required around the sites to prevent contamination of the Niagara Falls problem.

New York State now has some of the toughest laws in the country. The state began keeping track of dumps in 1962, tightened its laws considerably last year and lengthened them again in a bill that Gov. Carey signed last month. Anyone dumping hazardous materials must now keep complete records on what goes where.

But that still leaves the old dumps to be accounted for. The more than 1,000 sites that have closed for various reasons (usually routing closings) since 1962 are all recorded. But at least 400 many abandoned dumps are believed to be unrecorded — and it is simply not known how many of those could be a potential Niagara Falls case.

Edward Edelson is The News writer.

# Making The U.S. An International Dump

By John Allen

While one branch of the government, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (formerly the Atomic Energy Commission) continues its bureaucratic pushing for nuclear-powered generating stations, another branch, the House Government Committee on Operations had to conclude differently.

In hearings on "Low-level Radioactive Waste - Disposal" (April, 1976), the committee concluded: "We may have to face the realization, even after determined and conscientious effort, that it just may not be possible to guarantee the containment of radioactive wastes over the ages until they are harmless to mankind and the environment. . . . If this is the case, the implications of such a realization must be considered in all its gravity."

Now that should make it reasonably clear to even those not concerned about nuclear-generating facilities and their waste-products, that the problem is very serious, to say the least.

Yet, with the NRC serving as the initiator and interested party to the prime contractors in nuclear power (Bechtel, Inc., General Electric, Westinghouse, etc.), our government is going to continue marching head-long into disaster if nuclear war doesn't render our Earth useless, nuclear power will.

According to an Energy Research and Development Administration (another component of the federal bureaucracy) report, " . . . it is improbable that industry on its own will be able to carry through with commercialization of the 'back end' of the fuel cycle. Some aspects of reprocessing have not been demonstrated commercially, fabrication of plutonium bearing fuels has not been demonstrated on a full scale production basis, the economic attractiveness of the plutonium recycle has not been proven, acceptable safeguard systems for the separated plutonium are yet to be established, and permanent disposal of the radioactive waste has not been demonstrated."

That in itself should tell even the most disinterested that there is a problem with nuclear power. Dr. Ernest Sternglass, professor of radiological physics at the University of Pittsburgh has found a direct link between cancer rates and how far people live from nuclear reactors.

Without going into details, his five year study has shown cancer increases of 58 percent in Waterford, Conn., where the huge Millstone plant is located. In five states that have nuclear plants, the study showed increased deaths from cancer. Yet in those states without nuclear plants, cancer deaths have been decreasing.

The Nuclear Regulatory

Commission, true to bureaucratic principles, called the study "unrealistic" but added it is "considering" a study of its own.

There are currently 65 operating nuclear reactors in the U.S. and another 168 are being built or planned. An average sized nuclear plant generates about 20 tons of deadly radioactive wastes each year, not including wastes from the nuclear weapons programs for over thirty years.

Tiny amounts of radiation can damage or kill living tissue, yet the U.S. (not considering the same situation in the rest of the world) now has 80 million gallons of such waste. As temporary storage facilities fill up, utilities have been hoping that the reprocessing of spent fuel will be a solution. So far, two attempts at reprocessing have failed and the almost completed facility at Barnwell, S.C. is turning out to be another government boondoggle. Costs have leaped from a projected \$87 million to \$240 million in one phase alone.

But costs are not the main factor, safety is. For example, from 1966 to 1972, Nuclear Fuel Service operated a reprocessing facility at West Valley, N.Y. During its six years of operation, the government charged it with nearly every error imaginable, repeatedly cited it for lax safety procedures, chronic over-exposure of employees to radiation and excessive releases of low-level radiation into local streams and the air.

In spite of Governor Nelson Rockefeller's dedication of the plant as a "new age," NFS closed the plant in 1972 for

"expansion and modification." The plant is still closed and industry experts claim the plant was facing a compulsory closing by the AEC anyway.

In its 1963 contract with the State of New York, NFS had the option of "transferring" the responsibility for the wastes to the state. The "modification and expansion" would cost the state (taxpayers) \$600 million. The construction cost of the plant originally was \$31 million.

General Electric, another example, has tried five times to operate its facility at Morris, Illinois at a cost of \$64 million but had to acknowledge it couldn't make the plant work. However, GE is still involved in building more plants which in turn are making more waste.

Out of fear of terrorism - and one also expects out of a sense of protecting a near monopoly - the U.S. prohibits exporting reprocessing technology, while other countries are not. In an effort to compensate for lagging reactor sales in the U.S., the industry, promoting nuclear hardware sales abroad, is offering to buy back spent fuel, in effect making the U.S. an international dump for radioactive wastes.



Walter County Dispatch  
12/9/78

Wayne Pike  
Audubon Society

Y DISPATCH, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1978

# Your Dispatches

## Pike Audubon rallies opposition to state nuclear energy policy

To the Dispatch,

Dr. Carl Johnson, Jefferson County, Colorado health director, has done preliminary studies showing abnormally high rates of lung cancer, leukemia and birth defects in people living near the Rocky Flats Nuclear Plant. A student alliance, Rocky Flats Truth Force, the American Friends Service Committee and others, have brought suit to have the plant closed. All of the nuclear physicists and physicians who testified, condemned the plant as a public health hazard and said it should be closed. (Source - New York Times 11/22/78)

Reports of Nuclear Power Plant problems and concerns are increasing throughout our land. Twelve states are urging the banning of Nuclear Power Plants until the Radioactive Waste Disposal problem can be solved.

At the October 27th meeting of the Governor's Energy Council, Pennsylvania placed Nuclear Power in an exalted position, a stand precisely opposite that of California, New York, Wisconsin, Oregon, Maine, Ohio, and Illinois. This November, Hawaii and Montana, by referendum, made it almost impossible for any further Nuclear Plant projects. Many protest committees are being formed. More and more, Americans are saying, "No!"

An ad hoc, 12 member, "Committee On Energy and Nuclear Concern of the Wayne Pike Audubon Society" is publicizing the hazards and facts affecting Pennsylvanians and our Northeastern neighbors. We are joining forces with the Union of Concerned Scientists, 1025 15th St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20005; Environmental Coalition on Nuclear Power, 433 Orlando Avenue, State College, Pa., 16801 and the Citizens Energy Council, Box 235, Honesdale, N.Y. 17401. We are concerned with our State and Federal proposed Energy Policies, particularly in regard to lethal Radioactive Waste Disposal and accident-prone Transportation of radioactive waste through our rural and urban areas.

Presently there are seventy nuclear power plants in operation in the United States. Nuclear reactor safety has been more than cause for worry (Example: the fire at the Browns Ferry plant in Alabama). However, equally as hazardous are radioactive nuclear wastes created when nuclear fuel that is used up is removed from the reactors. These wastes include strontium 90, cesium 137 and plutonium 239 - among the most toxic and long-lived substances known. By the end of this century the government estimates that there will be one billion cubic feet of nuclear waste in the United

States, enough to cover a four-lane highway coast to coast a foot deep.

Absolutely no safe method for long-term storage or disposal of radioactive wastes has been found. Wastes stay lethally radioactive for thousands of years. Attempts to store wastes in special tanks or salt beds have so far been unsatisfactory. At West Valley, New York spent fuel wastes leaked from storage containers. In June, 1973 at Hanford, Washington it was discovered that 115,000 gallons of radioactive waste had leaked from a tank at the Atomic Energy Commission's waste storage facility. Although the tank had been leaking for several weeks, no automatic alarm system alerted anyone to the leak.

On December 8, 1978, the Governor's Energy Council will consider a Comprehensive State Energy Policy. Wayne Pike Audubon believes that the citizens of Pennsylvania have a right to register their opinions concerning the future of our state's energy policy. Audubon urges you to contact your elected officials. Ask for an extension of the December 8 date in order that there may be public input meetings on this question. If this date cannot be extended, insist that you be given

the right to file late comments relative to the Comprehensive Energy Policy, inasmuch as the public was not made sufficiently aware of the matter.

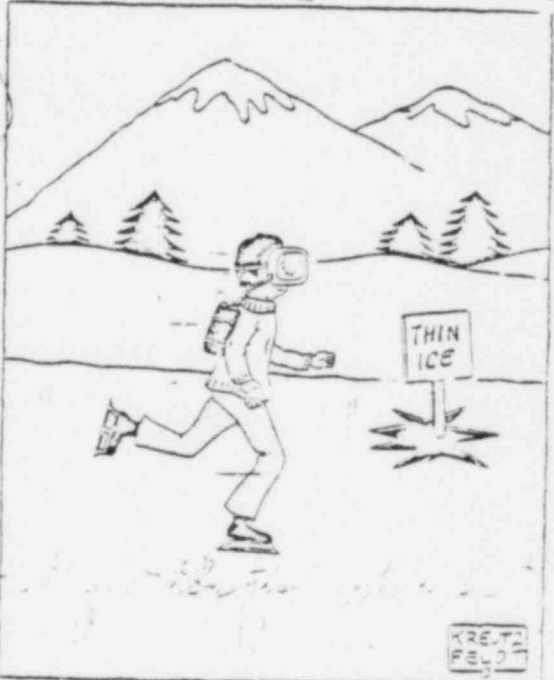
Tell them that you do not want radioactive materials, other than those used for medical purposes, transported by air, water, or land, within the boundaries of Pennsylvania.

For your convenience, here are the names and addresses of the people to whom you should write or telephone:

- Governor Milton Shapp, Capitol Bldg. Harrisburg, Pa. 17108; Lt. Gov. Ernest B. Kline, Capitol Bldg. Harrisburg, Pa. 17108; Governor-Elect Richard Thornburgh, 412 So. Linden Ave., Pittsburgh 15208; Lt. Gov. Elect William Scranton, 138 Wyoming Ave., Scranton 18501; Rep. William W. Foster, 106 10th St., Honesdale 18431; Rep. Carmel Sirianni, Box 122, Hop Bottom 18824.

Readers of your paper wanting further information may call 253-4795, 775-6205, or 727-2701 or they may send self-addressed, stamped envelope to 305 Golden Road, Honesdale, Pa., 18431.

Sincerely yours  
Daniel R. Merrill, Pres.  
Wayne Pike Audubon Society



The list of credits last week for

Odd's &

"We Take Care of Our Own"

# The Soldier As Guinea Pig



Jim O'Connor of Burbank, California, is a veteran of the Korean War. He suffers from an incurable muscle disease which was caused by exposure to low-level radiation, not while in combat in Korea, but when transferred to Nevada.

Jim was assigned to the atomic test site at Yucca Flats in January, 1955. During three months there, he witnessed at least six test blasts. "They didn't give us any protective clothing, they said the tests were harmless," Jim recalls.

During one blast four times larger than the Hiroshima bomb, Jim O'Connor received 10 Rads of exposure and had to be evacuated. Although he was hospitalized and eventually discharged as a result, the Army never conducted any medical follow-up.

As his health deteriorated and he was forced to quit work Jim sought disability from the Veterans Administration. They turned him down flat, saying his ailments weren't service connected.

Jim O'Connor is just one of thousands of GIs today used during nuclear bombs test conducted from 1945 until 1958. A powerful coalition of scientists working with the Atomic Energy Commission, the Pentagon, and the nuclear industry pushed a policy of unrestrained development of nuclear technology until quite recently. Operating in an atmosphere of general ignorance about long-term radiation effects, they were able to cow public officials and citizens alike with their untried knowledge of an extremely complex

be well-compensated for their efforts.

Says Citizen Soldier: "These same interests couldn't care less about the right and safety of low-ranking GIs. Despite the myth, the Army does not take care of its own, especially where soldiers' constitutional rights are concerned. The Pentagon uses 'military necessity' and 'national security' as justifications for conditions of servitude which civilians would never tolerate."

According to a recent federal study, at least 350,000 persons, mostly GIs, were directly exposed to radioactive fallout during tests in Nevada, while another 120,000 Americans were exposed during bomb tests in the South Pacific.

Evidence is accumulating that exposure to radiation at these blasts is linked, significantly, to high rates of leukemia and other cancers found among the GIs who participated. There is also data suggesting that rates for genetic birth defects may be higher among children of these men.

If exposure to relatively low levels of radiation is found to have injured or killed numbers of these veterans, this would have wide-ranging implications for millions of Americans who work with, or live near, the multitude of installations producing or using nuclear power throughout the country.

Nuclear safety is also an important issue for tens of thousands of GIs who work on or around nuclear aircraft carriers, submarines, or installations which employ nuclear energy. Investigators recently found higher cancer rates among atomic sub workers in New Hampshire.

There are dozens of special interests who lobby tirelessly to promote more Pentagon spending on weapons systems, higher troop levels, and the like. Citizen Soldier, a public foundation with headquarters at 175 Fifth Ave., New York, asks why not? They claim the Pentagon has billions of tax dollars to throw around and thus its

## LOST EARTH

When I was little I sat on  
Grandma's knee and "Sing a  
song of lost Earth," I said.  
She smiled tenderly at me

T forests green and beautiful,  
She sang, "once there  
in every clime, but that,  
my dear, was long ago, long  
before your time."

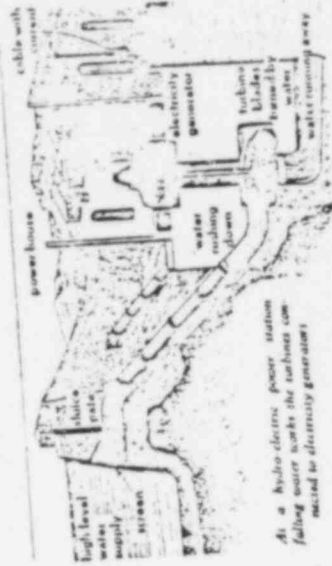
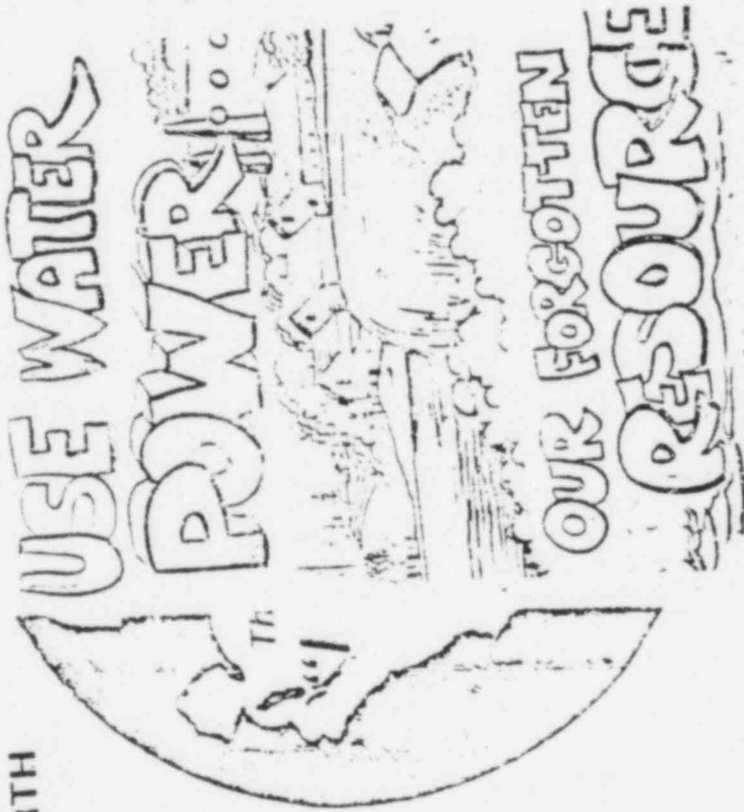
Her eyes were moist  
as she spoke of waters  
gone and blue,  
flood flowing in every land  
But that, she sang, "was  
long ago."

Before Man's godless prime  
Now I... is grown, and  
I can read in history  
books of Man,  
his greed and crime,  
now I and mine can curse  
the ones who committed  
this awful crime

there are no trees left on  
Earth,  
our water... man made

I do is joyless  
of little worth,  
when all beauty is lost

Forever



**HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER STATION**, one of the many alternatives to nuclear power was invented 150 years ago, uses no explosive fuels, deposits no wastes, pollutes nothing and aside from the cost of building and maintaining the unit, means cheap energy for consumers. Waterfalls, lakes, rivers and streams, and dams are plentiful and can be built.

## A Fairly Typical Town

West Valley, New York, is a fairly typical American small town except for one local feature: 60,000 gallons of high-level radioactive waste buried there in a carbon steel tank. The tank, scientists say, is corroding slowly and will not last indefinitely. Unfortunately, the poison inside will continue to be deadly for thousands of years.

The facility's owner, a subsidiary of Getty Oil, plans to turn the problem over to the state, which cannot afford disposal bills potentially as high as a half billion dollars. The federal government, often given to optimistic views of the nuclear industry, has called the problem "gargantuan" and Congress is considering spending \$1 million just to study possible answers.

The sobering fact is that West Valley's deadly underground cache represents less than 1 percent of the nation's 230 million gallons of radioactive waste. More is added every day.

From Natural Resources Defense Council

## Roaring Brook? Power Source?

A Scranton man is pushing the idea of harnessing the Roaring Brook waterfall near the Harrison Ave. bridge for hydroelectric power.

An official of the Pennsylvania Regional Planning Commission proposed by Harrison House, 105 Seneca Ave., has some

LCRPC planner Alex Hartzorn said. "The site picked by Mr. Hulse was used by the old Laurel Line to generate power years ago, and in the last 25 years, Roaring Brook has grown in flow-rate. Despite his reserved optimism, Hartzorn said any possible excavation of Hulse's idea is years in the offing.

"Right now, I'd say the plan is worth looking into to see if it demands further study," Hartzorn said.

Hulse, a disabled former security guard, frequently writes to local state and federal officials with suggestions on other programs.

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created by art students at Abington Heights

By Bill Tredlenick