

issues

From: <nukenet-request@energyjustice.net>
To: <nukenet@energyjustice.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 16, 2007 11:00 AM
Subject: Nukenet Digest, Vol 827, Issue 1

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NukeNet Anti-Nuclear Network (nukenet@energyjustice.net)

Today's Topics:

1. Help release new high-level waste transport maps
 (Michael Mariotte)
2. Major Security Breach at Palisades Nuclear Plant (MoJo)
3. URGENT sign-on letter to support UC student hunger strikers
 (Marylia Kelley)

 Message: 1

Date: Tue, 15 May 2007 16:57:57 -0400

From: "Michael Mariotte" <nirsnet@nirs.org>

Subject: [NukeNet] Help release new high-level waste transport maps

To: <nukenet@energyjustice.net>

Message-ID:

<F843DDD6574AE54384B9A1F257E6B4970120B966@nirssrv1.NIRS.local>

Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

Please forward!
 ACTION ALERT

Nuclear Information and Resource Service

HELP RELEASE NEW HIGH-LEVEL WASTE TRANSPORT MAPS!

Dear Friends - Please help NIRS Southeast Office release to the media in your community a NEW set of MAPS showing projected high-level radioactive waste road, rail, and waterway routes from commercial reactors to two possible "interim" storage and reprocessing sites under the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) plan--Savannah River Site and Barnwell in South Carolina.

We are inviting you to hold a press conference in your community to unveil these new maps on May 22nd (or on a later date that works for you) to inform, and warn, your media markets. Please respond to Mary Olson (828-675-1792, nirs@main.nc.us) if you would like to participate! If a press conference is too much to pull off, please consider helping by sending out the report and a press release to your media list. The idea is to get the word - and the maps - out there!

If you can organize a press conference or distribution of materials to your press list, we will supply you with: the maps (hard copy and electronic), the link to the full report (embargoed until May 22), press advisory and press release. You can use our prepared materials, adapt them, or create your own. We encourage you to use your own letterhead/logos-and to add local details about the roads, rails and water routes to the materials, where possible.

This event is intended to be a second edition of a highly successful January 1995 event when the Nevada projection of waste transport routes to Yucca were released in 110 locations on the same day. I hope you will make the time to be part of this event.

Mary Olson

Kevin Kamps

NIRS Southeast Office

NIRS

P.S. If, in the coming weeks or months, you would like to host report author John Sticpewich, NIRS Southeast Office director Mary Olson, and/or NIRS nuclear waste specialist Kevin Kamps, in your community to present on high-level radioactive waste transport risks, please contact Mary Olson to make arrangements.

BACKGROUND

The report, produced by the NC Common Sense at the Nuclear Crossroads campaign, is a case study showing nuclear power plants north of the Carolinas and east of the Mississippi River (the vast majority in the U.S.) shipping their wastes by highway, railway, and waterway to South Carolina. It is not intended to dismiss other sites targeted for possible GNEP development, nor to discount the risks of transporting wastes outside that geographic scope to the Carolinas. Hopefully, the interest garnered by the publication of this case study will help attract further support and resources that could lead to additional analyses, examining other sites targeted for these GNEP facilities, and the transport routes that would be impacted by moving high-level radioactive wastes to those locations.

GNEP would require the shipment of highly radioactive irradiated fuel (high-level radioactive waste) from reactor sites to a central location (is GNEP just a new name for "centralized interim storage"/parking lot dump?). One of our most powerful tools in organizing opposition to the flawed and unsuitable Yucca Mountain dump has been the maps showing projected waste transport routes from atomic reactors across the U.S., through 45 states and the District of Columbia, to Nevada.

The new maps have been produced by John Sticpewich, of the Common Sense at the Nuclear Crossroads campaign. John used the U.S. Dept. of Energy's (DOE) database of irradiated fuel assemblies as of 2002 (the most current available, if you can believe THAT, considering that every year, 2,000 to 3,000 additional tons of high-level radioactive waste are generated at commercial reactors across the U.S.), and the DOE mapping program (TRAGIS) that plots primary and alternate routes for truck, train and barge. Because of the scale of the task, John defined a study area - and looked at the shipment of waste from reactors that lie East of the Mississippi River and North of Savannah River Site. The report shows that every state East of the Mississippi River will have transport of waste through it - by road, rail, or barge; however shipments originating at reactors in the states of MS, AL, GA and FL are not included in the analysis. We regret this-but since 2/3 of the US reactors are covered in the Study area, the decision was to go forward, given limited resources. We have to simply say, this is a "case study."

It is noteworthy that a number of states with no reactors nor high-level radioactive wastes within their borders-such as Indiana, Kentucky, and West Virginia-would still see high-level radioactive waste shipments travel through bound for GNEP sites in South Carolina. Also important to point out are the numerous barge routes possible on the Great Lakes, rivers, and Atlantic coastline.

As ever, NIRS brings the transport issue to the fore not because we oppose the movement of nuclear materials in every case-but because we see the transport of nuclear waste for a really bad plan or for plans that would result in extending or multiplying waste transport (the radioactive waste shell game), as reckless and wrong. We also see that the greatest number of people that will be impacted by implementation of GNEP (whether due to accidents, attacks, or even "routine" radiation exposures from "incident-free" shipments) are those along the transport corridors.

The groups taking part in this May 22nd day of action thus far include:

Common Sense at the Nuclear Crossroads, WNC
 Physicians for Social Responsibility of Western North Carolina
 STOP I-3, WNC
 NIRS, Takoma Park & WNC
 South Carolina Alliance for Sustainable Campuses + Communities, Columbia SC
 Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, NC, VA
 Nuclear Watch South, Atlanta, GA
 Atlanta WAND
 HIPWAZEE Columbia (SC)
 Environmentalists Inc. , Columbia SC
 Citizens For Environmental Justice, Savannah, GA
 South Carolina Chapter, Sierra Club
 North American Water Office, Lake Elmo MN
 Southern Nevada Group of the Toiyable Chapter of the Sierra Club
 Citizen Action Coalition of Indiana
 Yggdrasil/Earth Island, Kentucky
 NatCap Inc.
 Environmental Coalition on Nuclear Power (PA)
 Don't Waste Connecticut
 Connecticut Coalition Against Millstone
 GRAMMES
 Citizen Alert, Las Vegas NV
 Carolina Peace Resource Center
 Energy Justice Network (PA)
 Don't Waste Michigan
 Nuclear Energy Information Service (Illinois)
 Earth Day Coalition (Cleveland, OH)

What ELSE You Can Do

If your group hasn't already, please consider signing onto the "Statement of Principles for Safeguarding Nuclear Waste at Reactors." See the statement and current list of groups signed on at: <http://www.citizen.org/documents/PrinciplesSafeguardingIrradiatedFuel.pdf>

To sign on, email Michele Boyd at Public Citizen at mboyd@citizen.org or Kevin Kamps at NIRS at kevin@nirs.org. This statement, already signed by over 130 groups, urges Congress to require that high-level radioactive wastes stored on-site at reactors be better protected against accidents and attacks, as an alternative to rushing "Mobile Chernobyls" and "dirty bombs on wheels" onto the roads, rails, and waterways bound for "centralized interim storage sites" (radioactive waste shell game) or dangerous and dirty GNEP reprocessing plants.

Nuclear Information & Resource Service

Southeast Office PO Box 7586 Asheville, NC 28802

828-675-1792 nirs@main.nc.us

www.nirs.org

NATIONAL OFFICE ADDRESS AND PHONE:

Nuclear Information & Resource Service (NIRS)/World Information Service on Energy (WISE)

6930 Carroll Ave, Suite 340, Takoma Park, MD 20912

301-270-NIRS fax 301-270-4291 nirsnet@nirs.org

Think nuclear power can save the climate? Watch a video and slideshow with former NRC Commissioner Peter Bradford and Greenpeace nuclear safety campaigner Jim Riccio debating nuclear industry consultant Patrick Moore. Learn how nuclear power is dangerous, dirty, expensive and can't help the climate. Great for group watching, grassroots meetings, public education! <http://www.nirs.org/videodebate.htm>

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 Message: 2

Date: Tue, 15 May 2007 15:02:10 -0700 (PDT)

From: MoJo <mollypj@yahoo.com>

Subject: [NukeNet] Major Security Breach at Palisades Nuclear Plant

To: HD-Global <hd-g@lists.riseup.net>

Message-ID: <37113.67227.qm@web53308.mail.re2.yahoo.com>

Content-Type: text/plain; charset="iso-8859-1"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAY 15, 2007

8:56 AM

CONTACT: Nuclear Information and Resource Service
 Kevin Kamps, 301.270.6477 (o) or 240.462.3216 (cell)

Major Security Breach at Palisades Nuclear Plant

TAKOMA PARK, MD - May 15 - A story appearing in the June edition of Esquire magazine that reveals a major security breach at the Palisades nuclear power plant in Covert, Michigan, confirms that reactor security around the country is grossly inadequate according to specialists in the field. Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS) and its allies today called on the U.S. Congress to investigate the security breach at Palisades. The Esquire story, entitled "Mercenary," details how the head of Palisades security, William E. Clark, had largely fabricated his background, experience and security credentials presenting himself as an expert on armed deterrence. Clark has since resigned his position. "Mercenary" reveals that officials at the Palisades nuclear power plant failed to detect false assertions in Clark's resume that claimed he had high level security clearance from the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD). Clark also passed a Nuclear Regulatory

Commission (NRC)-regulated background check. He was hired by the plant's previous owner, Consumers Energy Company, and operator, Nuclear Management Company, a year and a half ago, but was kept on by the new owner and operator, Entergy, since it acquired Palisades one month ago. The article can be found at <http://www.esquire.com/features/mercenary0607>. "What's disturbing is not only that Palisades hired an individual who claimed to be an experienced assassin but that apparently no one verified his false claim to have DOD clearance," said Kevin Kamps, nuclear waste specialist at NIRS. "This has serious implications for security at all 103 reactors across the country. It begs the question as to what would have happened if Mohamed Atta had decided to fake a resume rather than fly a plane, and earned a top-level security job at a nuclear power plant." The article describes how Clark convinced NRC officials, as well as Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) agents, to support and even join his "Viper team," a supposedly "elite strike force" he set up at Palisades. According to Esquire, FBI agents and NRC officials attended a "Viper team" presentation by Clark hosted at DHS headquarters in Washington, D.C. The federal officials reportedly considered establishing Clark's "Viper teams" at nuclear power plants across the U.S., the article said. "If what Esquire says about Clark is true, I surely hope Entergy and Consumers have formally notified the NRC, FBI, and DHS of the revelations by now," said

Terry Lodge, an attorney based in Toledo, OH who represents citizens in interventions against Palisades. "Apparently a journalist can do a much better background check than Entergy and Consumers security officials. Entergy has also had security problems at the Indian Point reactors near New York City. The NRC must reconsider whether Entergy can guarantee the safe operation of Palisades, and one hundred per cent protection of the high-level radioactive waste still stored at Big Rock Point in northern Michigan," Lodge said. "Despite the NRC claim that the 9/11 attacks prompted a "top to bottom" security review, it did not detect Clark's deceptions or act upon his apparent erratic behavior as described in the article," Kamps added. "Palisades' reactor and waste storage facilities hold potentially catastrophic amounts of radioactivity, at continual risk of release into the environment due to accident or attack," said Kamps. "This incident clearly shows that private companies and government agencies who are supposed to protect public health, safety, security, and the environment are incompetent at doing so." NIRS has called on Congress to investigate the failures at NRC, FBI, DHS and the nuclear utilities involved at Palisades and to explore whether similar problems exist with security at other nuclear power plants across the country. It will also re-apply to NRC for hearings on its security-related contentions at Palisades and Big Rock, which had previously been rejected, based on the new information revealed by Esquire. ###
<http://www.commondreams.org/news2007/0515-03.htm>

 "Switching from coal to nukes," said Dan Becker, director of the Sierra Club's global warming program, "is like giving up smoking and taking up crack."

"Americans cannot escape a certain responsibility for what is done in our name around the world. In a democracy, even one as corrupted as ours, ultimate authority rests with the people. We empower the government with our votes, finance it with our taxes, bolster it with our silent acquiescence. If we are passive in the face of America's official actions overseas, we in effect endorse them." - Mark Hertzgaard

 Pinpoint customers who are looking for what you sell.

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 Message: 3

Date: Tue, 15 May 2007 17:58:43 -0800

From: Marylia Kelley <marylia@earthlink.net>

Subject: [NukeNet] URGENT sign-on letter to support UC student hunger strikers

To: marylia@earthlink.net

Message-ID: <[103130306c27015bfc9a5@\[192.168.1.11\]](mailto:103130306c27015bfc9a5@[192.168.1.11])>

Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

PLEASE READ THE LETTER, BELOW, ON THE UC STUDENTS' HUNGER STRIKE -- AND IF YOU OR YOUR ORGANIZATION CAN SIGN ON, SEND YOUR SIGN ON INFO ASAP TO:

"Nick Roth" <nroth@napf.org>

HERE ARE YOUR INSTRUCTIONS, LETTER FOLLOWS:

The following is a sign-on letter to the Office of the Secretary of the Board of Regents of the University of California. Currently, over 40 hunger strikers are protesting the University of California's involvement with the US nuclear weapons complex and the US development of new nuclear weapons. This act has already received a great deal of press including articles in the LA Times and San Francisco Chronicle. We ask that NGOs sign on to this letter to show support for the protesters and opposition to the development and production of new nuclear bombs. All signatures need to be submitted by 7:00am Pacific Standard Time (10am Eastern Standard) Thursday. However, Wednesday is better if you can do this right away! Please send sign-ons to Nroth@napf.org.

To: OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE REGENTS

For: DISTRIBUTION TO THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

On behalf of the undersigned organizations that work toward the elimination of nuclear weapons, we urge you, as a member of the University of California Board of Regents, to go on record at your May 17, 2007 meeting in San Francisco, opposing the development of new nuclear weapons, including the so-called Reliable Replacement Warhead (RRW) program. We also ask that you publicly oppose the ongoing preparations to design new nuclear weapons and conduct pit manufacturing to support the RRW program.

As you likely already know, more than 40 UC students and alumni are currently on a long-term fast to call attention to this timely issue. As you also no doubt know, the hunger fasters are asking Regents to introduce a resolution at the May 17th meeting calling for full and immediate severance >from the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), on the grounds that the Reliable Replacement Warhead program, including LLNL's development of RRW-1, and LANL's preparations to conduct plutonium pit manufacturing both violate Article VI of the 1970 nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Some of the fasters have pledged to go without solid food until you meet their demand for either an end to nuclear weapons development at LLNL and LANL or severance of the management ties between UC and the weapons labs.

Our organizations support them in their efforts, which are inspiring and,

unfortunately, necessary given the United States' continued maintenance and augmentation of nuclear weapons, the attendant weakening of the international Non-Proliferation Treaty, the global nuclear proliferation risks and the continued acquiescence of UC system giving academic respectability to the weapons labs' bomb-making enterprise.

Far from supporting "national security" through its management of LANL and LLNL, the UC is helping to foster dangerous programs that threaten not only the security of people living in the United States, but that of all other life on earth.

By designing the new RRW-1, LLNL is involved in sending a clear message to the international community that the United States intends to maintain a vast nuclear weapons arsenal for the indefinite future, despite its legal obligation to disarm and the global threat these weapons pose. By preparing to manufacture plutonium pits, LANL is responsible for the most pivotal step in the process of manufacturing new nuclear warheads, one which also stands to pollute the natural environment of New Mexico.

There has never been a more critical time for the UC Regents to take a principled stand against new nuclear weapons. You are in a very powerful position to do so: You can cast the UC's enormous political and intellectual weight on the side of international law and morality, and make a clear statement of opposition to these dangerous programs. You can refuse to continue managing the weapons labs unless and until genuine mission change to civilian science is put "on the table."

We, the undersigned organizations call on you to uphold UC's motto: "Let There Be Light." We call on you to let the light of reason, openness, and true academic accountability shine through your actions on May 17th and beyond.

Join us in supporting the hunger strikers and their aspirations for a nuclear weapons free world.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. Again, I strongly urge you to voice your opposition to new nuclear weapons -- and UC's continuing role in designing and developing them at your upcoming meeting.

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Marylia Kelley,
Executive Director

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End of Nukenet Digest, Vol 827, Issue 1
