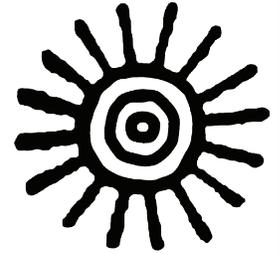


SUMMER 2019

www.nukebusters.org



# The CAN-Did Press

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CITIZENS AWARENESS NETWORK  
ACT TODAY TO CHANGE TOMORROW...

## On the Road Again: High-Level Nuclear Waste Tour

CAN is organizing a third High-Level Nuclear Waste (HLNW) Tour in New England with Safe and Green Campaign, Cape Downwinders, Boston Downwinders, and Vermont Yankee Decommissioning Alliance. New England is ground zero for the industry's attempt to make its nuclear waste problem disappear by foisting it on targeted vulnerable communities in the southwest. The Waste Tour addresses the abdication by the federal government and the nuclear industry to deal with HLNW stranded at nuclear sites throughout the country.

We will bring speakers to discuss the issues of nuclear waste, Federal policy, and environmental justice. Speakers include CAN Board member Leona Morgan, and Lorraine Villegas, both from New Mexico which is targeted by Holtec for a "parking lot" interim dump; Tim Judson (Nuclear Information and Resource Service), who will address the danger of HLNW and Federal policy; and Deb Katz (Citizens Awareness Network) to address the issues of NorthStar and Holtec decommissioning plans and hardened on-site storage (HOSS) at nuclear sites. All will address why parking lot dumps are a bad idea that must be opposed on the grounds of bad science and environmental justice. What is needed is a scientifically sound and environmentally just "final solution" to this monstrous problem and until the criteria of sound science and environmental justice drive any disposition, HLNW must remain protected and on-site.

### BACKGROUND

As the wrangling over Yucca Mountain continues, the industry is pressing for "interim storage" to make its waste problem disappear. Interim storage sites don't meet the strict environmental standards that have plagued Yucca Mountain. The sites targeted for "disposal," like the sites selected for operation, are routinely working poor, rural, people of color, and Native American communities. The nuclear industry pits reactor and dumpsite communities against each other. Reactor communities fear inadequate storage casks, lack of on-site protections and HLNW abandonment by the Feds. Targeted communities don't want dangerous nuclear waste in their backyard fearing "interim storage" will become "forever storage." Waste communities face unconscionable choices — short-term economic survival vs. long-term health and safety.

It is essential that reactor and waste communities work to-

*continued on page 2*



## The Plug Has Finally Been Pulled!

On May 31, 2019, the plug was finally pulled on the Pilgrim nuclear reactor in Plymouth. The week before, a scram kept the reactor running at 40 percent until the last day. There were federal safety violations documented right up to the closing. We can now breathe a sigh of relief... then onward.

While the shutdown of another G.E. Mark 1 is a cause for celebration, we have decommissioning and waste concerns as other closed reactor communities face. There are three main focus areas:

- We support Hardened On-Site Storage (HOSS), not interim storage nor Yucca Mountain. HOSS must meet the "gold standard" for public safety which it currently does not.
- Holtec International is planning to buy Pilgrim from Entergy which is of great concern. Holtec is a house of cards ready to raid the Decommissioning Trust Fund. Cape Downwinders is supporting the MA Attorney General's petition to intervene on the sale due to financial and safety concerns.
- Emergency planning must continue until the nuclear waste leaves the site. We are working with legislators to make that happen.

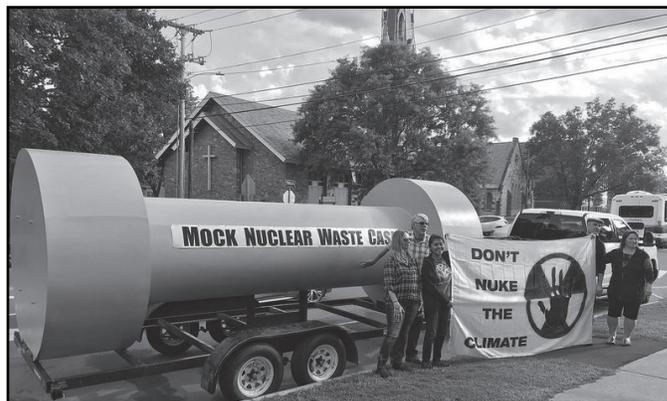
We thank everyone in CAN and look forward to continued activism on this next dangerous chapter together. Cape Downwinders will continue to press for public health and safety.

*- Diane Turco, Cape Downwinders*

# High-Level Nuclear Waste Tour

*continued from page 1*

gether to create effective strategies and actions to defeat industry initiatives that target vulnerable communities. We must provide protections for reactor communities forced to be guardians of the world's most toxic and long-lasting waste.



## HERE'S OUR EVOLVING FALL WASTE TOUR SCHEDULE

The Tour will run from October 1 – 6, 2019 and will travel through four states—Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire and Connecticut.

- Tuesday, October 1: Greenfield, MA
- Wednesday, October 2: Burlington, VT
- Thursday, October 3: White River Junction, VT and Concord, NH
- Friday, October 4: Plymouth/Boston, MA
- Saturday, October 5: Hingham, MA
- Sunday, October 6: Millstone CT and Northampton, MA

For more information, or to help the campaign, contact CAN at 413-339-4374 or email: [can@nukebusters.org](mailto:can@nukebusters.org). We can use help with logistics and promotion of these events. Financial contributions are welcome, but not necessary or expected. Speakers need overnight housing and food.



**CLEAN UP PILGRIM!**

**DO IT ONCE.  
DO IT RIGHT.**

FOR MORE INFO  
ON MONITORING THE  
SAFE DISPOSAL  
OF RADIOACTIVE  
COMPONENTS

[www.capedownwinders.info](http://www.capedownwinders.info) [www.nukebusters.org](http://www.nukebusters.org)

A stylized graphic of a nuclear power plant with a radiation symbol on the cooling tower. The graphic is black and white, with the radiation symbol in white on a black background. The plant is depicted as a silhouette against a light background.

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# Nuclear Colonialism in New Mexico

As an indigenous person whose ancestral connections to the land are rooted in the occupied territories of “New Mexico,” and as an anti-nuclear activist, the connection between the marginalization and oppression of people of color in this state and the incidence of widespread radioactive contamination is unmistakable.

White settler colonialism has been perfected over centuries, and built upon deliberate institutionalized racism. The United States once mandated genocide and the forced removal of indigenous peoples to uplift an American society of privileged white men to make decisions about our future and the future of Mother Earth. With modern technology, the process of removal and genocide has taken new forms and may have slowed in pace, but has not ended.

The drive for nuclear domination, first military and later electrical, has left thousands of abandoned uranium mines, over a hundred aging reactors, the funding to continue for decades, and no safe place to put the radioactive waste. In New Mexico, we consider ourselves in the belly of the nuclear beast and July 16th is an anniversary that reminds us of the omnipresence of that beast.

## Trinity Test

July 16, 1945 was the day of the first atomic blast. The Trinity Test left countless victims with various cancers, health problems, and fallout that covered much of the state. The Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) compensates uranium workers during or prior to 1971, “onsite participants” of U.S. nuclear weapons test sites, and downwinders of the Nevada nuclear test site who developed compensable health problems. RECA does not cover uranium workers after 1971 or downwinders from other test sites, yet many are suffering from illness or have already died at the hands of the U.S. government. Rep. Ben Ray Lujan (NM) has been pushing for changes to RECA in Congress on behalf of post-1971 workers and those from the impacted area known as the Tularosa Basin.

Tina Cordova, founder of the Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium (TBDC), is an organizer and advocate for the impacted community. TBDC has done a Health Impact Assessment to get the support in Congress to expand RECA coverage. This year, TBDC is planning a National Trinity Day of Remembrance to bring attention to all downwinders. Cordova states, “We are hoping to get organizations representing the downwinders in places like Idaho and the Pacific Islands and the “post-1971” uranium miners/workers to hold candlelight vigils of their own in remembrance of the people who have lost their lives as a result of Nuclear testing and uranium mining around the country. The candlelight vigil in Tularosa is scheduled for 7:30 pm on July 20, 2019.

Cordova continues, “We never thought that it would take this long for Congress to pass the RECA Amendments to add the New Mexico Downwinders to the fund... We add new names every year to our list. People are dying... It is high time for the people of New Mexico to receive the justice they’ve been denied for 74 years.”

## Churchrock Mill Spill of 1979

It’s been over fifty years since the mining industry came to the homes of the Diné (Navajo) community located along Red Water Pond Road (RWPR), north of Churchrock, NM and started one of the largest superfund sites in the country with two uranium mines and a mill nearby.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the world’s largest uranium milling disaster, which occurred near RWPR. The uranium company United Nuclear Corporation (UNC) knowingly and willfully continued using a uranium mill waste tailings pond that had a cracked dam wall. In the early morning hours of July 16, 1979, the dam breached and over 90 million gallons of liquid radioactive waste and 1,100 tons of solid waste spilled into the environment, reaching the Puerco River and eventually Arizona.

Today, the RWPR community continues to demand reparations for the two mines where Mother Earth was raped decades ago, yet radiation remains. They are working with the U.S. EPA on the cleanup of one mine, formerly Kerr McGee (now owned by G.E.) and United Nuclear Corporation is proposing a cleanup of the other. UNC’s plan is to pile mine waste on top of the existing mill waste and cover it with clay to be stored there in perpetuity. The proposal does not include cleanup of any off-site contamination nor does it address the spill path. Residents living near the Puerco River say that when it rains today, they can still smell the chemicals from the spill.

Edith Hood, (Diné community organizer of RWPR Community Association) says, “We, the people of the Red Water Pond Road, are still waiting for equality and justice to be served. The toxic contamination of our Mother Earth and her people has not been addressed—a lot of talk and not enough action.” In Hood’s public testimony at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission’s public scoping meeting for UNC’s proposed cleanup, she stated, “They are just waiting for us to die.”

On the weekend of July 13-14, 2019, RWPR Community Association will hold a commemoration event to recognize 40 years since that disaster and the hard work done by the community, as well as that which remains left for the government and responsible companies to address.

## Holtec

With both past issues remaining today, New Mexicans are fighting a new nuclear threat. The Holtec proposal for a Consolidated Interim Storage (CIS) of radioactive waste is looming. The application to store all of the waste from every U.S. reactor was officially accepted by the NRC in 2018 on that infamous day of July 16.

From the onset of the Manhattan Project to CIS, New Mexicans live with nuclear colonialism. The radioactive injustices that were once focused on indigenous people now threaten everyone. With the splitting of the atom, the totality of the impacts to humanity is unknown. For those of us living in places with ionizing radiation, radiation does not discriminate, and we will forever pass on this history of nuclearism in our DNA.

- *Leona Morgan,*

*Diné No Nukes and Nuclear Issues Study Group*

[This article was previously published in Nukewatch Quarterly’s Summer 2019 edition.]

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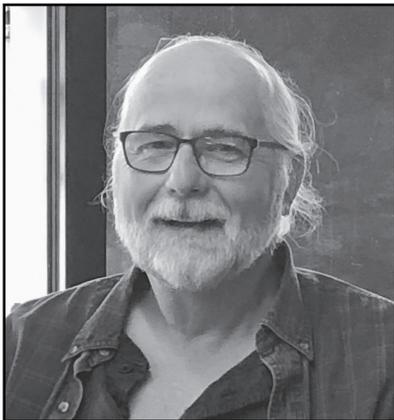
## Vermont Yankee is now owned by NorthStar, Inc.

The new Vermont Yankee owners have a plan to decommission the reactor over the next several years. They recently announced that the infamous cooling towers would soon be dismantled. Additionally, it is reported that Orano, a NorthStar partner, is preparing to begin cutting and dismantling the reactor and other internal components. Much of the reactor work will be done underwater. The company also reports that the rail spur at the site has been refurbished and will be used to ship radioactive contaminated water as well as containers filled with reactor parts and other radioactive internals.

The State of Vermont is said to be stepping up its oversight of the activity at the plant. State agencies have specific authority for non-radioactive contaminants such as PCBs, lead, and asbestos.

- Chris Williams  
Citizens Awareness Network

## Welcome to CAN's New Board Member, John Gauley



We met John Gauley at one of our East meets West regional meetings, where Western Massachusetts meets with Eastern Massachusetts' allies about nuclear problems.

John, Civic Engagement Coordinator and Lead activist for Occupy Hingham, has been doing anti-nuclear work for 10 years, and founded the group Occupy Hingham

in late 2011, the same year the Fukushima nuclear disaster occurred. The group's mission is to join with other communities that share ideas, actions, and support for the closing of the Plymouth nuclear plant.

John Gauley is the chef at Glastonbury Abbey, Hingham, Massachusetts. He is also a beekeeper and cheese maker.

### CAN Contacts

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VT: P.O. Box 16, Hancock, VT 05748 • 802-767-4276

[www.nukebusters.org](http://www.nukebusters.org)

## Let's Make Solar Happen in Massachusetts

To meet the 100 percent renewables goal by 2050 or 2040 in Massachusetts, solar needs to advance faster. The State House must eliminate Net Metering caps for all size PV systems. There are three classes for solar facilities. Rep. Haddad's House bill H2866 includes Class II and Class III facilities, but not Class I (up to 60kW). Please contact your state representative and senator to make sure they will include Class I solar PV facilities in H2866.

Find your representative online at <https://malegislature.gov/Search/FindMyLegislator>

- Claire Chang, Solar Store of Greenfield

## Help Wanted

CAN is looking for part-time help for the following (paid or volunteer) positions:

### Logistics Coordinator at Waste Tour Events

You're joining us on a week long tour through New England this October—or shorter day trips throughout the year—being the “stage manager” for our crew. Your tasks include:

- Orchestrate the itinerary
- Getting food for the road
- Arrange for setting up the sound system at events
- Outreach during events: run the literature table, hand out flyers, pass around donations containers and the email sign up list.

### Telephone Fundraiser

If you have an outgoing and energetic attitude, excellent communicative and listening skills, you are the right candidate to help us with our fundraising appeal by phone. This is a paid position. We supply you with a list of CAN supporters and donors to call and you are working with a script we provide for you.

Email: [can@nukebusters.org](mailto:can@nukebusters.org)

## Thanks!

*We couldn't have done it without you:*

*Boston Downwinders • Bob Bady • Paul Burton  
Cape Downwinders • Ann Darling • Lionel Delevigne  
Father Andrew & The Glastonbury Abbey  
Guacamole Foundation • Gerry Hersh  
Lintilhac Foundation • NIRS  
New England Grassroots Environmental Fund  
Rothschild Foundation • Amy Shollenberger  
Solar Store of Greenfield • TMTC  
Van Itallie Foundation  
Vermont Yankee Decommissioning Alliance*