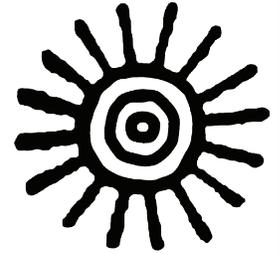


WINTER 2018

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The CAN-Did Press

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

2018 Anti-Nuclear Waste Tour

Twenty years ago, teams of activists from across the country drove a fleet of mock nuclear waste casks to hundreds of communities in an effort to educate the public about the plan to transport thousands of proposed high level radioactive waste shipments to Yucca Mountain, Nevada.

We learned that when people heard of the plans they overwhelmingly opposed the shipments. First responders, educators, politicians, and concerned citizens let us know that railyards, highways, truck stops, and waterways were no place for decades long waste shipment campaigns.

The waste has continued to pile up around the country and now the nuclear industry is proposing to build temporary parking lot dumps in West Texas and New Mexico. The new plan proposes to move the waste twice!

So, after a long break at least one cask is back on the road. The newly refurbished CAN cask made it on the front pages of newspapers and filled television screens in Vermont and Massachusetts. Knowledgeable speakers impressed and educated audiences. The waste tour of September 2018 marked the beginning of a new round of education and activism.

- Chris Williams
VYDA/NIRS/CAN Board



2018 Anti-Nuclear Waste Tour Across the USA

In September 2018, Kerstin Rudek participated in the CAN Waste Tour—The Road from New England to West Texas and New Mexico with our mock nuclear waste cask, attending numerous events. This is her travel journal.

Even Americans don't know where to store the nuclear waste. The problematic disposal plans at Yucca Mountain have been delayed for decades. The nuclear industry wants nuclear waste from the Northeast—where many nuclear plants operated—transported thousands of miles to Texas and New Mexico, for temporary storage.

At the events I talked about the risks of transporting the nuclear waste, Germany's point of view about repositories, and the resistance in Gorleben, Germany.

There are fundamental differences between our two countries. Germany only has seven remaining nuclear power plants, while in

the USA there are 98 and a broad acceptance for nuclear power. And yet, there are similarities—completely inadequate interim storage and no plans for a final disposal.

The main purpose of my trip with the Citizen Awareness Network "nukebusters" in New England was to create awareness of the dangers of nuclear waste transportation and discuss nuclear waste disposal. Our images of strong, diverse, creative and determined Castor storage protests said more than a thousand words. There are three central places with interim storage in Germany—Ahaus, Lubmin and Gorleben, plus decentralized interim storage facilities at numerous nuclear power plants. The Gorleben Resistance has received a great deal of extraregional and international support over the past four decades. To this day, people and groups regularly travel to our area, Wendland, to learn about the anti-nuclear movement here.

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CAN welcomes our newest board member, Leona Morgan from Albuquerque, NM

Leona Morgan is a Diné (Navajo) community organizer and activist who has been fighting Nuclear Colonialism since 2007. She grew up on the Navajo reservation in Fort Defiance, Arizona. Her family lineage originates from “Eastern Navajo” — a part of the Navajo Nation located in present-day northwestern New Mexico. The Navajo Nation lies inside the greater Diné traditional homelands, within the Four Sacred Mountains in the Southwest, and is naturally rich with uranium. When the price of uranium hiked in 2006-2007, Leona became aware of the threats by mining companies to extract uranium from an aquifer in Eastern Navajo and from Mount Taylor, a sacred mountain near Grants, New Mexico. She then understood the connection between cancers and uranium mining and how Diné people were and still are impacted by American imperialism since most of the past mining was used for nuclear weapons. Since 2007, Leona has been actively engaged in monitoring and stopping new uranium mining. Starting out, she helped to organize Diné folks, working for several years with many entities, successfully stopping a new In Situ Leach (ISL) uranium mine in 2014.

In 2012, she became more involved with the national “anti-nuclear” movement in the United States—broadening her work from uranium mining to energy and waste issues. In early 2014, she co-founded indigenous-led Diné No Nukes to address the overall “nuclear fuel chain” industry from uranium mining to energy or weapons production, and resulting waste. As part of those efforts, Leona helped to establish the Radiation Monitoring Project (RMP) in 2014 and the Haul No! campaign in 2016. RMP works to put radiation monitors into the hands of front-line communities and to provide training on radiation and citizen-monitoring at no charge to the participants. Haul No! is aimed at stopping uranium

transport between the Canyon Mine and White Mesa Mill, by stopping the mine from operating and supporting efforts to shut down the mill. Also in 2016, Leona co-founded the Albuquerque-based Nuclear Issues Study Group that works state-wide to address uranium mining, nuclear weapons proliferation, and the cleanup and prevention of radioactive waste dumps.

In 2017, Leona started attending international anti-nuke gatherings and actions with initiatives that clearly connect uranium mining with their fights against nuclear power states, climate change, and nuclear weapons. All of this work Leona does through an indigenous lens, in order to help protect our Mother Earth and future generations from the destruction caused by Nuclear Colonialism.

Leona graduated from the University of New Mexico and currently lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

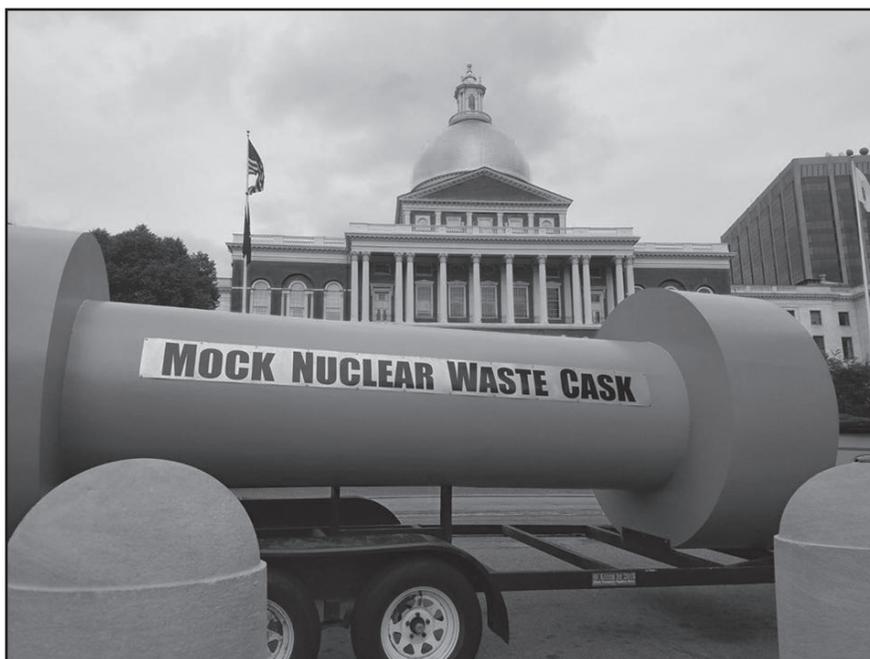
www.radmonitoring.org

www.haulno.org

[www.fb.com/NuclearIssuesStudyGroup](https://www.facebook.com/NuclearIssuesStudyGroup)



photo by Jake Hoyungwa



The waste tour was a powerful event, activating our connections from New Mexico to Germany and the common fight to protect our communities. The team of speakers reinforced the need for action on our part to continue our struggle for environmental justice and public safety against our own government and the corporations that feed off this dangerous plan.

- Diane Turco
Executive Director,
Cape Downwinders

On the Road Again

When I first got involved in CAN, we spend a lot of time out on the road. Like, literally on the road: going town-to-town, alerting people to the dangers of their local nuke and of radioactive waste shipments. And we made a big splash wherever we went, towing our mock nuclear waste cask. For years, we did tours throughout New England and the Northeast. We went all the way down to Georgia and South Carolina three times, and across the country to Utah. We schlepped all over the Midwest, and helped organize a “wagon train” of mock nuclear casks from the four corners of the country to Washington, DC.

Those cask tours were some of the most effective education and organizing the anti-nuke movement has ever done. They helped Stop Mobile Chernobyl legislation in the 1990s, to stop most dumping at the Barnwell rad waste dump in South Carolina, and to block a nuclear waste dump in Utah. Now that the industry is pushing for nuclear dumps, yet again, and making plans to start thousands of shipments of lethally radioactive waste crossing the country, we have to get back on the road.

The cask tour CAN held in September was a sign of big things to come. Everywhere we went, the cask drew people’s attention and made the dangers of nuclear waste real to them. It got newspapers and television stations to publicize the tour and report on the issues. And the tour helped get other groups throughout New England to hold events and rev up organizing in their communities.

That’s what it took in Germany, with massive protests against nuclear waste shipments that swayed the government to phase out nuclear power. We invited leading German activist Kerstin Rudek to join the tour, to show people how her small, rural community turned their fight against being targeted for a rad waste dump into a nationwide movement to stop waste transports and end nuclear power. We can do it here, too!

But if we’re going to stop nuclear waste dumps and put an end to nuclear power, we need to reach people where they live, raise awareness, and inspire them to act. And that means getting out on the road with more cask tours—not just in New England, but throughout the country. We’re not alone. NIRS kicked off our Don’t Waste America campaign last year, to start raising awareness of nuclear waste shipments nationwide. And groups in the Southwest and Midwest have started doing cask tours this year, too.

This is just the beginning. And once again, CAN is leading the movement from our little corner of New England.

- Tim Judson

Executive Director NIRS, President of the Board CAN



Anti-Nuclear Waste Tour

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The closing of nuclear plants in Germany is admired by many Americans. But it’s complicated. No one I met on the tour knew that Germany has a uranium enrichment facility and a fuel element facility, which are exempt from decommissioning and have permanent operating licenses.

Nuclear companies and their lobbyists work across borders. It is important that we form strong collective initiatives as well as being locally active. In the age of globalization the problems are the same everywhere; the solution is to learn from each other and with each other. After the Chernobyl disaster, many of us learned that just opposing our local reactor or home-based nuclear waste disposal center was not enough; radioactivity knows no borders. Our credo “Decommissioning of all nuclear facilities worldwide” succeeds only when we support each other internationally and work strategically. My desire is to give something back. The solidarity that has supported us all these years is a great motivation for my international networking. On my journey I’ve met so many open-minded people! It’s impressive how many people are interested in what we do. We’ve come this far. Onward!

- Kerstin Rudek, Gorleben, Germany



Solar Power in Massachusetts

Fortunately, Massachusetts has a grid.

Unfortunately, Massachusetts must modernize the grid to enable reliable resilient distributed generation.

Fortunately, Massachusetts has a solar policy.

Unfortunately, it will not get us to 100 percent renewable energy by 2050.

Fortunately, Gov. Baker is a nice guy.

Unfortunately, Gov. Baker has limited the success of solar by refusing to raise net metering caps, refusing to envision a democratic distributed energy system and refusing even to set a goal of 30 percent solar PV generation by 2050.

Fortunately, there is a large new class of house representatives to the statehouse.

Unfortunately, Speaker DeLeo is still likely to be in lock step with Gov. Baker.

Fortunately, climate change is the topic and the Commonwealth is where change will happen.

Fortunately, you have the voice to help make change happen.

Start a discussion with your state representative and senator during in district office hours.

Check out solarisworking.org

Contact your legislator:

<https://malegislature.gov/Search/FindMyLegislator>

- Claire Chang, Solar Store of Greenfield
CAN Board Member



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Cape Downwinders

It was a balmy midday on Saturday, September 22 when The Waste Tour arrived at Plymouth's First Parish Church, the oldest church in Plymouth, located right in the heart of America's Home Town—which is also host to the most recklessly managed nuclear plant in the country, Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station. My principal ally was Ken Stone, ardent head of the First Parish's peace and justice committee, and all-around program facilitator. He made sure the set-up was in order and embarked with me on the major challenge: how and where to park the mock dry cask. In our quest we spoke with officials far and wide, including the Town Manager, the Director of Parking, and the Fire and Police Chiefs. All were gracious but in reality there were few viable possibilities. A space adjacent to the Town Square in front of the First Parish would have been ideal but passage was too narrow. We even explored the possibility of angled parking right in front of the church entrance, but the grade of the tarmac nixed that. In the end we were directed to a suite of free four-hour parking spots in front of the John Carver Inn, just a stone's throw from the First Parish. Ken and I got there at 8 am to grab and hold two of the needed spots before they got parked up, a parishioner recruited by Ken secured the third spot. We heard that it turned out to be a good location—on the path of tourists and passers-by.

Inside the First Parish, the crowd was modest but highly motivated. Diane Turco drafted me on the spot to welcome everyone and to kick off the presentations. I focused on the reality of the waste situation at Pilgrim, which is on the verge of closing. Its legacy will be 66 dry casks, 17 of which are already full and sit, like bowling pins, barely 200 feet from the shore of Cape Cod Bay, each cask holding the equivalent of 1/2 the Cesium-137 released at Chernobyl. Our local mission is to make sure all the casks get moved several hundred feet further from shore and into secure hardened storage. That move alone will be risky enough—a move across the country to some temporary waste dump would be sheer insanity. Then came the star-studded cast of speakers, including Chris Williams, Deb Katz, Leona Morgan, Kerstin Rudek, and Tim Judson. They were all dynamic and the information was revelatory—especially what we learned from Leona Morgan of the Navajo Nation about effects of uranium mining and nuclear colonialism on indigenous lands and people. The audience was palpably moved. A flood of questions and comments followed the presentations.

I think it was a very successful program.

- Henrietta Cosentino
Cape Downwinders

Thanks!

We couldn't have done it without you:

Block Foundation • Boston Downwinders • Paul Burton

Cape Downwinders • Lionel Delevigne

Charlene Divoky • Enterprise Chicopee

Father Andrew & The Glastonbury Abbey

Green Fields Market • Guacamole Foundation

Hawks & Reed • Nina Keller • Gerry Hersh

Lintilhac Foundation • Leona Morgan • NE Grassroots

NIRS • Chris Nord • Kerstin Rudek • Sal Mangiagli

Safe and Green Campaign • Amy Shollenberger

Solar Store of Greenfield • Bob Stannard • Ken Stone

Van Itallie Foundation • VYDA • Wildcat O'Halloran Band