

The CAN-Did Press

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

Action Alert for Massachusetts: Please Call Your Legislator Now!

Massachusetts legislators have added language to a draft climate bill (H.4503) that includes nuclear power as “clean energy.” We need to tell them loud and clear how wrong it is to talk about nuclear as “clean”—it is scientifically and ethically WRONG! Nuclear power is not carbon-free and climate solutions are not radioactive! Just because they say it’s clean, doesn’t make it true!

This bill as now written would authorize subsidies to Seabrook (NH) and/or Millstone (CT) by allowing utilities to have long-term contracts for up to 30 years—that would count toward the state’s carbon reduction goals. Power contracts must be “cost-effective,” but that criterion isn’t clearly defined—a wide-open door to justify the bailout of these aging nukes and saddle Massachusetts with a false solution! The bill also includes any future fusion projects as “clean.”

Massachusetts is looking for an easy way out to meet its clean energy goals while ignoring the elephant in the room. Nuclear power is a dirty technology that poisons our waterways and communities and leaves behind a forever-toxic legacy of intensely

Holtec Dumping and Evaporating Radioactive Wastewater in Cape Cod Bay

The hubris of Holtec is endless. This privately held New Jersey company came to Plymouth promising to be a “good neighbor” and work with the community with “openness and transparency” when they purchased the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station for decommissioning in 2019. In reality, it was the start of this manipulating and malingering company damaging our community and environment for their profit—no good neighbor at all. Holtec planned to dump over a million gallons of radioactive and chemically contaminated industrial wastewater into Cape Cod Bay!

Since the Environmental Protection Agency informed Holtec the current National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit (NPDES) prohibits dumping and requires a new permit to discharge, Holtec turned to forced evaporation of the highly

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radioactive waste. Right here, in or very near, Massachusetts are seven high-level waste dumps and nowhere for that waste to go!

Calling nuclear power “clean” seeks to make nuclear power’s contamination and waste as invisible as the radiation that caused it. We can and must do better than directing money to a failed industry and away from real solutions. We can’t let this happen.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

We are asking you to call or write your representatives and senators, as well as the following three legislators telling them that nuclear power isn’t “clean;” it’s a false solution that can’t be in any energy mix that Massachusetts supports to mitigate climate change. Don’t replace one polluting industry with another! Remove both fission and fusion from H.4503 and any other climate bills! See below for talking points.

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DPS Commissioner a Drag on HLNW Resolution

At the Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel (NDCAP) meeting May 13, Lissa Weinmann, chair of the Federal Nuclear Waste Policy Committee (FNWPC), a sub-committee of the Panel, was challenged outright by June Tierney, Commissioner of the Department of Public Service. Ms. Weinmann had just provided the Panel with a review of the Committee’s work in 2023. “Be careful!” Commissioner Tierney warned, “We’re not here to have a platform to involve ourselves in every aspect of national policy well beyond the borders of the state of Vermont.”

Were Ms. Tierney doing her job as a Panel member, which she acknowledged she isn’t (“I haven’t been that closely involved...”), she would at the least be acknowledging the depth of the work the Committee has been doing fulfilling its commission by the Panel. Virtually every meeting for the last three and a half years has dealt directly with federal nuclear waste policy.

At one of those meetings, Mark Holt, a nuclear energy analyst from the Congressional Research Service, made clear to the Com-

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Low-Level Waste Project

One of the things the nuclear industry tries very hard to hide from us is the fact that all nuclear power plants create millions of curies of what is euphemistically called “low-level waste” — anything that isn’t used fuel—including irradiated components, spent resins, and contaminated equipment. This waste is sent all over the country for processing and storage.

CAN’s job is to make the invisible visible and wake the world up to what’s really going on. In that vein, we’ve started a new campaign to research low-level waste (LLW) shipments from New England reactors, and it is already yielding some very telling results.

The information we’re after is actually a matter of public record, but—no surprise here—the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Department of Energy make it very hard to locate. CAN has recruited some very enthusiastic college students to slog through the data and create visualizations that will tell the LLW story quickly and powerfully. We really appreciate the support from Worcester Polytech and UMass/Amherst and would happily engage more students from other schools!

We started with gathering data from Pilgrim Nuclear near Boston. Here’s an example of what we’ve learned: In its 50 years

of operation and decommissioning, Pilgrim has sent 43,420 cubic meters of LLW with 220,000 curies of radioactivity in 2,556 trucks to processing and storage facilities in Andrews, TX, Oak Ridge, TN, Barnwell, SC, and Clive, UT, among others.

Imagine all the LLW from all US reactors, or even just from all the New England reactors! How many truck or train loads, over what routes? How much radiation risk travels with those shipments? What happens with the waste at these processing facilities? We do know that some have leaked.

We will continue to gather data on New England reactors (Vermont Yankee is next!) and begin researching the methods and histories of waste disposal sites. One of our ultimate goals is to connect reactor communities with communities near waste sites. These witnesses to waste and contamination, when united, could lend a voice of conscience to organizing efforts across the country.

If you would like to know more about our campaign, please contact Ann Darling via the CAN website: www.nukebusters.org under the Contact tab.

- Ann Darling, CAN Board of Directors

Holtec dumping radioactive wastewater in Cape Cod Bay

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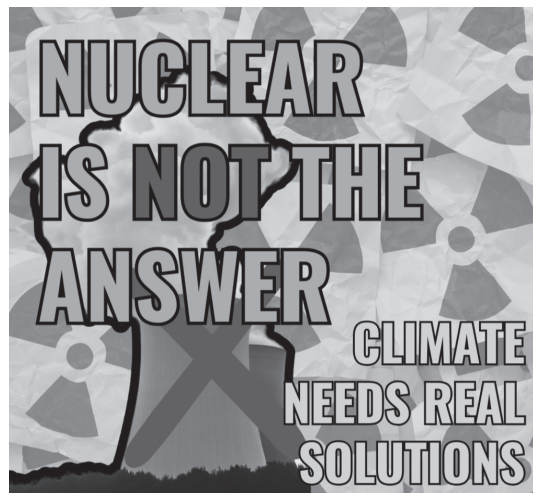
radioactive spent fuel pool wastewater using immersion heaters under the guise of heating ambient air for “worker comfort”. This released dangerous radioactive effluent into our air, dosing the public and the bay.

Even Holtec admits evaporation is a hazardous action. “Evaporation releases higher levels of radioactive materials due to the concentration and lack of dilution when water becomes a gas,” cited Holtec spokesperson John Delmar when Holtec dumped into Barnegat Bay in NJ without residents’ knowledge.

In the meantime, Holtec is gaming the system and has submitted an amendment for the dumping permit STILL under review by the EPA and Mass Department of Environmental Protection, which requires a separate Surface Water Discharge permit. Holtec needs both permits. While the MassDEP has given a “tentative denial” of their permit last August, the final decision is still in question.

It’s not over yet!

In Massachusetts, the tentative denial cites the Ocean Sanctuaries Act, which clearly identifies discharging both liquid and gaseous materials in protected areas as prohibited. The Act defines waste to include “any unwanted, discarded, or environmentally harmful solid, liquid, or gaseous materials resulting



from commercial, municipal, domestic or industrial activities.” It’s illegal!

In addition, the MA-Holtec Settlement Agreement requires Holtec to abide by state laws and regulations; “Holtec shall comply with all applicable environmental and human-health based standards and regulations of the Commonwealth.” Time for enforcement!

The Commonwealth has the authority to halt Holtec. When MA Gov. Maura Healey was on the campaign trail in 2022, she pledged, “We’ve come a long way on this issue, and I’ll be damn sure, in whatever capacity I serve, that we’re not going to have radioactive waste dumped down here.” She continued, “I

will continue to hold Holtec accountable and make them live up to the conditions of the agreement.”

We need our governor to step up today to protect our communities and Cape Cod Bay.

Contact Governor Maura Healey and demand she enforces state laws that prohibit Holtec from discharging and evaporating Pilgrim’s radioactive and chemically contaminated industrial wastewater into our environment and immediately deny the state Surface Water Discharge Permit.

- Diane Turco, Executive Director Cape Downwinders (www.capedownwinders.info), CAN Board of Directors

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Find your legislator in Massachusetts: <https://malegislature.gov/Search/FindMyLegislator>

TALKING POINTS

1. We need renewable, sustainable sources of energy. Nuclear power is neither. By incentivizing investment in nuclear power, the state is stealing resources away from far cleaner energy like solar, wind, hydro, and geothermal, among others.

2. When the nuclear industry and state and federal governments claim that nuclear power is “carbon-free,” and therefore “clean,” they are taking advantage of the fact that many people don’t know the difference between a “carbon footprint” and “direct carbon emissions.” That limited and simplistic approach is scientifically and mathematically incorrect. In fact, nuclear power has the largest carbon footprint of any energy source other than fossil fuels. Very large carbon emissions are generated by different stages in the production of nuclear energy, from mining to milling to fuel production to multiple shipping processes.

3. Carbon emissions are not the only thing that can poison the earth. Nuclear power produces hundreds of thousands of tons of radioactive waste that get into the water and air and are toxic for thousands of years, causing cancer, birth defects, fertility problems, miscarriage, etc. Entire regions, mostly in Indigenous, poor, and/or rural areas, have been sacrificed by the leaks and lies of the nuclear industry. Calling nuclear “clean” is an attempt to make this damage as invisible as the radiation that caused it. It is a deeply insulting betrayal of all the lives sickened and lost along the nuclear fuel chain.

Fusion is a pipe dream that is far off in the future, if ever. The cost is beyond huge. Our resources need to go to bringing affordable renewable energy options to scale NOW. We don’t have time to waste in addressing the climate catastrophe we’re facing.

- Deb Katz, Executive Director, Citizens Awareness Network, and Ann Darling, Board of Directors



Will Newcomb with UMASS students at the Science Fair 2024, photo by Ann Darling

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Thank You from CAN Board & Organizers We couldn't do it without you!

Bob Bady • Boston Downwinders • C-10 Foundation
• Center for Health, Environment & Justice (CHEJ)
• Climate Action Now • Paul Burton
• Cape Downwinders • Lisa Clark • Connie Childs
• Dean's Beans • Diane Curran • Lionel Delevingne
• Court Dorsey • Florence V Burden Foundation
• Jerry Greenfield & Elizabeth Skarie Foundation
• Guacamole Foundation • Gerry Hersh • Dan Keller
• Lintilhac Foundation • Sam Lovejoy • New England Coalition
on Nuclear Pollution • New England Grassroots Environment
Fund • Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS)
• Bonnie Raitt • Rothschild Foundation
• Nelia Sargent & Scott Neilsen • Sigrid Schmalzer
• Amy Shollenberger • Shantigar Foundation
• Bob Stannard • Seth Tuler • UMASS Amherst
• van Itallie Foundation • Vermont Yankee Decom-
missioning Alliance • Western Mass Science for the
People • Roberta Wilmore & Make-It Springfield

Vermont Renewable Energy Standard Bill

The Renewable Energy Standard Bill (RES) H.289, which was vetoed by Governor Scott, has been enacted into law as the legislature voted to override the veto. The law will significantly increase renewable energy production in Vermont. The original RES had not been updated in nearly a decade.

The Scott Administration had been spreading misleading and inaccurate cost information about the bill. The Governor had been touting a plan which would have delivered far less new renewables and tried to pass off NUCLEAR ENERGY as a “Clean” alternative. The aftermath of electricity production at Vermont Yankee is fifty-eight giant casks of high-level radioactive waste sitting on the banks of the Connecticut River with no destination or just resolution in sight. At a recent public meeting, staff from the Department of Energy estimated that the soonest the high-level waste could be moved is 2045!

The Citizens Awareness Network along with the Vermont Yankee Decommissioning Alliance joined with a large number of citizen-powered organizations in Vermont to support and push for the version of the Renewable Energy Standard that was the result of months of collaboration by a legislative working group charged with updating the Renewable Energy Standard. The result is an Act which will move Vermont towards one hundred percent renewable power for most Vermont utilities by 2035. Fortunately, the false concept of labeling nuclear power as clean and green failed. We will continue to monitor the legislative process in the coming years.

- Chris Williams, NIRS Chair, VCAN Organizer, CAN Board of Directors

DPS Commissioner a Drag on HLNW Resolution

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mittee the importance of a duly empowered entity like FNWPC contributing to the national debate on these issues. “A committee like this would have a lot of potential avenues and would be taken very seriously given its broad representation... and history.”

Were Ms. Tierney doing her job as Commissioner of the Department of Public Service, which hosts NDCAP (and whose job it is to represent the interests of the citizens of Vermont in these matters), she and DPS would be encouraging the Committee and the Panel, in true Vermont fashion, to step up and take the lead in helping Vermont and the nation cope with the legacy of nuclear power—High Level Nuclear Waste—from the perspective of a host, or “stranded” community.

Vermont nuclear waste policy is national nuclear waste policy, the discussion of which we, and the rest of the nation, are destined to be having for decades to come. Please contribute to this discussion at the next FNWPC meeting on September 9th. Access is through the VT NDCAP website here: <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/>.

- Schuyler Gould, CAN Board of Directors



Brattleboro Fourth of July Parade 2023, photo by Ann Darling

CAN Calendar

We’ve been attending some events lately—on April 29, Western Mass Science for the People invited us to join The People’s Science Fair at UMASS, Amherst. On June 19, our Board members Debra Stoleroff and Chris Williams had the pleasure to table at the Bonnie Raitt concert in Burlington, VT. We’ve been invited to Bonnie’s rock concerts before. Each year you can also find us driving our mock nuclear waste cask in the Fourth of July Parade in Brattleboro, VT.

Come see us at these events which we will attend with our mock nuclear waste cask.

- Yankee Homecoming Parade, Newburyport (MA), Sunday, August 4 at 12:00 – 2:00pm.
- Franklin County Parade, Greenfield (MA), Thursday, September 5 at 5:00 – 6:00pm.
- Bread & Puppet, Glover (VT), July/August Date TBD.

Check our website for more details on each event.

Drivers & Trucks

Drivers—if you’re looking for some fun with us this summer and like to drive this cask please let us know. Email info@nukebusters.org for more information.



Debra Stoleroff and Chris Williams Tabling at Bonnie Raitt Concert in Burlington, Vermont, June 2024