

The CAN-Did Press

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

The Still Unfolding Saga of Massachusetts Climate Legislation

If I had a dollar for every time I've shaken my head at the workings of the Massachusetts legislature, I'd be a rich anti-nuclear activist! This year pretty much took the cake—or would that be the radioisotopes?

The legislature tried to update its climate legislation this past year. By the end of the formal session in August, all they had was a last-minute mish-mosh of all sorts of proposals. It was incoherent and didn't pass.

CAN noticed something that slipped into that mish-mosh: nuclear fission and fusion were on the list of "clean energy" sources approved for meeting the state's CO2 reduction goals.

From CAN's perspective, calling nuclear "clean" is a slap in the face of every community that has suffered from toxic proximity to the nuclear fuel chain. We sent out an alert to our members and contacted legislators to ask them to offer amendments to take nuclear off the list. Rep. Sabadosa (D-Northampton) and Senator Comerford (D-Northampton) tried, but the effort was made moot by the failure of the bill.

Activists all over the state were angry. The pressure to pass a bill was on!

The Joint (House and Senate) Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy Committee eventually worked out an agreement on a climate bill that still called nuclear "clean." Once a bill is jointly negotiated, no amendments can be offered; it's either yes or no. By this time, the legislature was in an "informal session" that happens at the end of every biennium. Bills taken up in informal session typically involve non-controversial issues. It's no place to deal with a complicated climate bill—only voice votes are taken, and even just one legislator can block a bill.

That's exactly what happened; the bill was blocked in both House and Senate. The Senate ended up calling a rare "formal session" and passed the bill in October, and eventually, so did the House, in November.

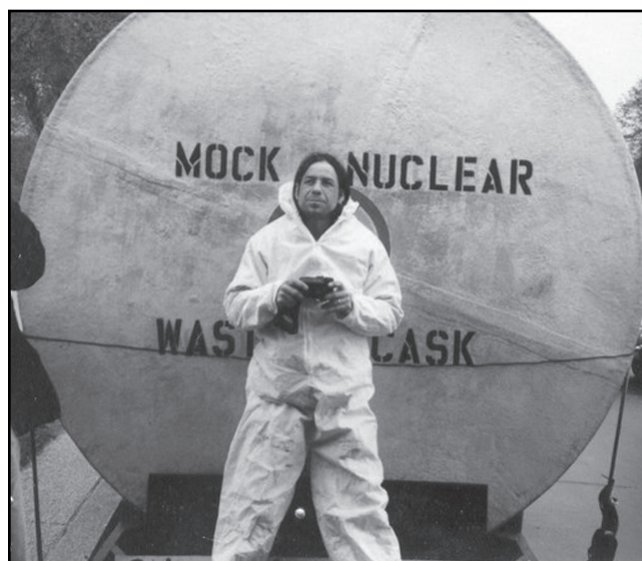
An "interesting" interstate quid pro quo occurred during this process. The bill has language restricting utilities to contracting
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In Memory of Sal Mangiagli, Road Warrior & CAN Board Member

I'm comfortable with public speaking. But talking about Sal, his life, and how he changed my life and others' feels daunting. There was a need to keep my loss to myself—a magical wish to hold on to him—to keep him with me.

The only way to hold on to Sal is to let him go, to share my sense of how Sal affected me. How he affected all those whose paths he crossed. Everyone has a story about Sal—about what he did for them, what they shared, what is lost.

Sal was a multifaceted diamond in the rough, he was a jack of all trades, an outlaw with a



profound sense of justice. He lived outside the lines. He had a big heart—a heart he willingly shared with others. He understood the suffering that life brings us, but suffering never broke him, never made him shut his heart.

He didn't brook fools; he was no saint. His sense of justice and a need to make things right were a North Star in his life. He fought for what he felt was right with courage and dedication. He was committed to a life on his terms. He battled his demons but never let them control him. I don't think he ever understood the profound effect he had on others.

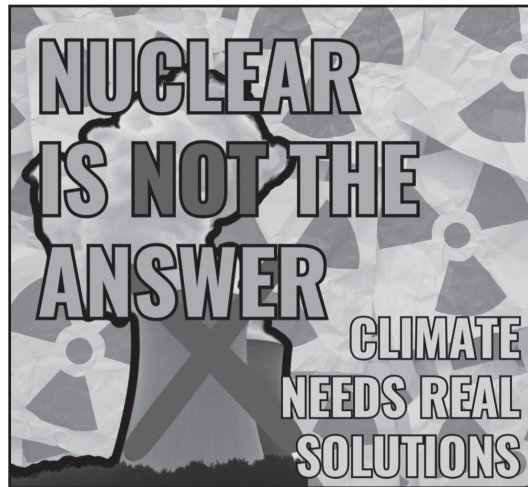
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The So-called “Nuclear Renaissance”

A growing number of politicians and organizations have joined the nuclear industry chorus in proclaiming a renaissance for nuclear power in America. This time around the hype involves Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) which now only exist as blueprints.

Twenty some years ago the nuclear industry and its supporters also proclaimed a “nuclear renaissance.” Cheap power was on the way for the USA. Massive government subsidies, loan guarantees, and upfront money from utility ratepayers, were put in place to pave the way for ambitious construction programs. That revival netted only two new power plants as a result of more than twenty years of massively expensive planning and construction programs.

The Vogtle power plants, Units 3 and 4, located in Georgia, cost thirty-five billion dollars to complete! That’s more than fifty percent over the projected cost and many years behind schedule. Meanwhile in South Carolina, a similar construction project at the VC Sumner Nuclear Power Station was canceled. Ten billion dollars was spent and a utility executive ended up in prison. Not a single watt of electricity was produced for SC utility customers.



The new attempt to revive the industry is centered on SMRs. All the usual promises of “cheap, dependable, and safe” power are being rolled out in support of technology that has not yet been sited, built, nor operated. In fact, we are already seeing bankruptcy filings and poor financial performance from prominent SMR companies. (See NuScale and Ultra Safe Nuclear).

As was the case last time around, a huge amount of money from taxpayers is flowing to the nuclear industry. Those resources could be better utilized supporting proven technologies that can be delivered efficiently and on time.

So, when we hear of advanced, cost-effective, problem-solving nuclear power on the way, it is important that we learn from recent experience with the technology. Nuclear power is not cheap. Nuclear power is not clean. The nuclear industry is rife with corruption. Nuclear power blueprints and construction are no guarantee the public will ever see a benefit.

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

MA Climate Legislation

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with only the Seabrook (NH, NextEra) and Millstone (CT, Dominion) nuclear power stations. As it turns out, MA Governor Healey wanted CT to stay in a joint offshore wind project and CT Governor Lamont wanted MA utilities to buy power from Millstone to help keep costs to CT consumers down after Millstone’s owner, Dominion, raised rates despite getting state subsidies. When the MA climate bill negotiations were done and the “clean nuclear” language was still there, Dominion executives rewarded Governor Healey with some significant contributions—not illegal, but really bad optics.

Our anti-nuclear allies in the legislature voted for the bill because it contains so many good things they worked hard for, things that the state really needs. On some level, their hands were tied. While we’re sympathetic, we’re disappointed. Far better that Massachusetts had followed in Vermont’s footsteps. There, the Governor wanted to use nuclear power to meet Vermont climate goals, and the legislature just kept saying no. Bravo!

- Ann Darling, CAN Board Member

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

- Bob Bady • Katelyn Beirne • Ilan Bryant • C-10 Foundation
- Center for Health, Environment & Justice (CHEJ)
- Paul Burton • Cape Downwinders • Lisa Clark
- Connie Childs • Dean’s Beans • Lionel Delevingne
- Court Dorsey • Florence V Burden Foundation
- Jerry Greenfield & Elizabeth Skarie • Greenfield Solar
- Guacamole Foundation • Gerry Hersh • Dan Keller
- Samuel Lawrence Foundation • Lintilhac Foundation
- Lynn Loffin & Stuart Wexelbaum • Sam Lovejoy
- Debbie Lynangale • 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
- Shantigar Foundation • Bob Stannard
- Jim Thornley • Seth Tuler • van Itallie Foundation
- Vermont Yankee Decommissioning Alliance
- UMASS Amherst • Western Mass Science for the People

Sal Mangiagli Road Warrior & CAN Board Member

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But his sense of justice, of righting what was wrong, made us kin. My husband Fred, now long dead, was a mentor to Sal, a friend, a father, a partner in crime. They were affectionately known as “crime wave and loop hole.” Fred gave Sal the right to live life on his own terms—living outside the lines was an art and an act of revolution against an unjust system that grinds people up.

He fought for people’s right for clean water, clean air, clean land, and a safe place to live. We criss-crossed America together with a band of organizers, pranksters, clowns, and people committed to a clean energy future.

We stopped in towns across the country—Barnwell (SC), Asheville (NC), Washington, Burlington, Chicago, Salt lake City—we crossed Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, Virginia, Georgia, Ohio, Minnesota, New Jersey... again and again, listening to people’s concerns and spread a message for environmental justice.

We shared many, many good times sitting around kitchen tables in different towns breaking bread with people. Through all, Sal made us feel safe. He was a rock that will never be replaced on the road or in our hearts. We were comrades.

There is a Native American saying that when a dog dies, he takes a piece of our heart with him and a piece of his heart stays with us. Sal tore a chunk out of all of our hearts with his passing, wrenched it out way too soon. A piece of his heart stays with us, holds us in our pain and loss, carries us when we need carrying, and laughs with us in the good times. He would want us to live fully and enjoy the life we have.

Rest in power Sal.

- Deb Katz, CAN Executive Director



Wanted: CAN Organizer for Massachusetts

CAN wakes people up in a world that wants them to stay asleep. Grassroots organizing is the heart of our work. We work to open the public square and validate peoples’ right to express their concerns and objections. We provide leadership in successful campaigns that harness grassroots power to take on the powers that be. Our campaigns are positive, framing the work around what’s worth fighting for—clean water, air, and land—and offer positive actions people can take. We create bridges between reactor communities and targeted communities; communities facing continued radioactive contamination. Our organizing work highlights the need for impacted communities to work together to be the voice of conscience for a clean environment and sustainable communities—and for democracy itself.

CAN is looking for a Part-time (5 hrs/wk) Massachusetts Community Organizer who can help us with the successful execution of our climate disruption campaigns by networking, building alliances, mobilizing, and planning with other groups, allies, and community members.

For more info and to send your resume, please email:
info@nukbusters.org.

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ARE WE SAFE?

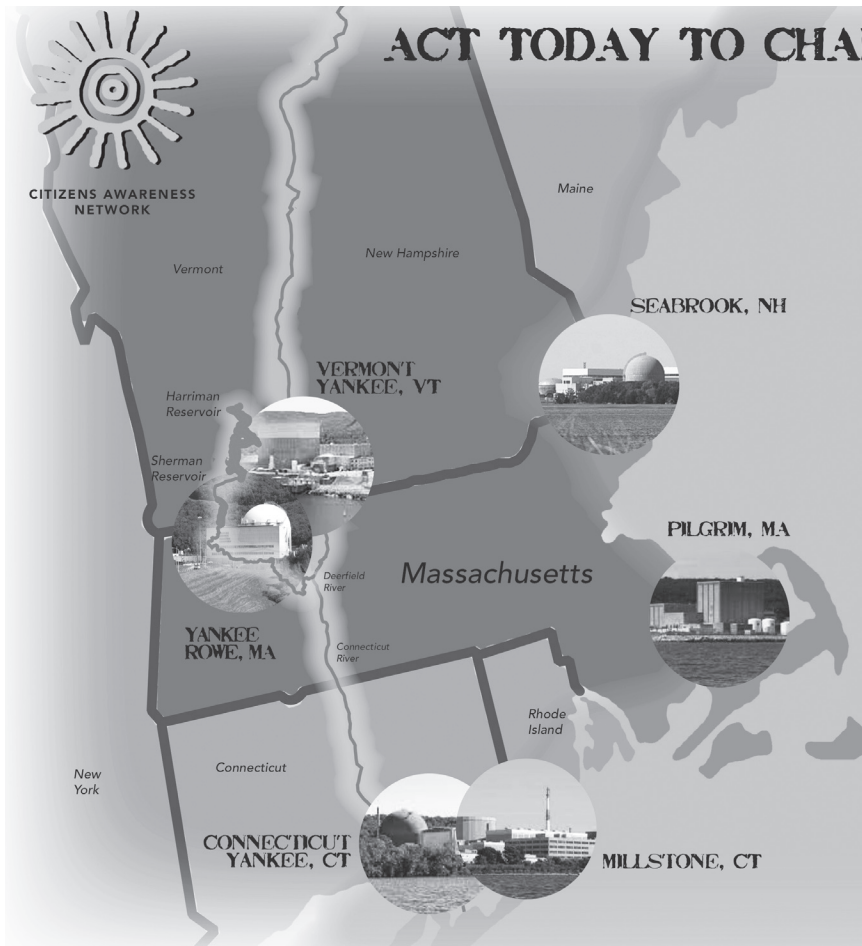
In Massachusetts, and on its borders, are seven nuclear reactor sites. Two are decommissioned, two are decommissioning, and three are operating. What do they have in common? They are de facto dumps for highly radioactive waste—each with millions of curies in waste casks sitting on river banks or the ocean. Even a partial radiation release could contaminate the region.

There is no scientifically sound and environmentally just solution for storing this waste. The nuclear industry and the Federal government abdicated their responsibility to find one. With no long-term solution, we are held hostage to toxic waste with nowhere to go.

And now, with escalating climate disruption, we must recognize that this waste is vulnerable to ever-larger storms, flooding, dam breaches, and disruptions to power and security systems.

Neither the nuclear industry, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), nor The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) address the consequences of a warming planet on reactors and their waste. Massachusetts' 2023 ResilientMass Plan to address climate change doesn't assess the vulnerability of high-level radioactive waste in any significant way. For instance, since the two dams above the decommissioned Yankee Rowe waste site in Western Mass are in Vermont, their risk for flooding the Rowe site are simply ignored. We are decades behind in addressing the problem.

As the people who would be the most affected by any release of radiation, it is now up to us to make our leaders aware of this threat and act to protect us. We are in jeopardy.



ACT TODAY TO CHANGE TOMORROW

WE ARE NOT SAFE!

What you can do—

Tell your legislator that they must address how the impacts of climate change can affect the nukes that surround our small state. The Commonwealth must step up and study the problem to determine how vulnerable we are.

The National Academies of Science's study of the effects of climate change on our energy infrastructure found that there is no up-to-date analysis on how nukes will be affected by maximum precipitation events causing massive flooding. The General Accounting Office's (GAO's) recently released report found the same—the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has no guidance in place to address climate disruption and nukes.

Reactor communities, as well as states, are vulnerable to the escalating consequences of climate change while regulators are asleep at the wheel. Ignoring the problem won't make it go away!

If the Feds won't act, the states must! Please call your legislator!

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