

## On the Bright Side

### England's and Germany's Renewables Producing More than Nuclear

In the first quarter of 2018, England's wind industry produced a record 15,560 gigawatt-hours (GWh) of electricity, surpassing nuclear production for the first time (by 30 GWh). Germany also hit a milestone by providing 100 percent of its electric power consumption with renewable energy for one hour on New Year's Day, and two years ahead of schedule, Germany reached its (2020) target of increasing renewable's share of power production to 36%.

### German Reactor Phase-out: Ten Down, Seven to Go

Germany's phase-out of nuclear power is moving ahead. The Dec. 31, 2017 shutdown of the Grunremmingen Unit B reactor was the 10th out of a total of 17 that will be retired with the last seven to power down by 2022. Grunremmingen and its still-operating twin Unit C are General Electric Mark I models identical to the three destroyed Fukushima-Daiichi reactors in Japan. Unit A shutdown in 1975.

### Six More US Reactors Shutting Down

In its article "The 60-Year Downfall of Nuclear Power in the US Has Left a Huge Mess," *The Atlantic* reported May 28: "Oyster Creek in New Jersey disconnects from the grid [this coming] October with 11 years left on its license. Indian Point in New York State is to shut by 2021 due to falling revenues and rising costs. In California, Diablo Canyon is being closed by state regulators in 2025. The reactor at Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania that survived the 1979 accident will finally shut in 2019." First-Energy Solutions has filed deactivation notices for three of its nuclear stations putting them on track for retirement: Davis-Besse and Perry in Ohio, in 2020 and 2021 respectively, and Beaver Valley in Shippingport, Penn. in 2021. However, such notices are often just a tactic used to garner sympathy from lawmakers who have secured taxpayer bailouts for the money-losing reactors.

### Investments in Solar Power Outstrip Coal, Nuclear and Gas Combined

According to a new report from the United Nations Environment Program, more money was invested in photovoltaic or solar power in 2017 than in coal, gas

and nuclear power combined. In addition, the world's solar power capacity exceeded nuclear capacity for the first time—reaching 402 gigawatts, compared to 353 GW of nuclear. Electricity from wind power, which far exceeds solar/photovoltaic generation, outstripped nuclear powered electricity back in 2014, and by the end of 2017 amounted to 539 GW.

### California's New Houses Must Have Solar Electric, Hawaii's Solar Hot Water

California is set to become the first state to require solar panels on all newly built single-family houses. The mandate is expected to save buyers money in the long run but also raise their upfront costs. The

rules were adopted May 8 by state's Energy Commission and are scheduled to take effect in 2020. The Commission said it expects the solar power initiative to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 1.4 million metric tons in the first three years. Back in 2008, Hawaii became the first US state to impose energy-saving rules in new house construction requiring them to have solar water heaters starting in 2010. Solar water heaters typically cost home buyers about \$5,000 extra on their mortgage, but supporters said that island residents would save thousands of dollars on their electric bills in the long run.

—Check the Nukewatchinfo.org website for sources.

## Cellphone Radiation and Cancer

Results of the largest-ever animal study of cellphone radiation have confirmed earlier evidence from human studies that the radio-frequency (RF) radiation increases the risk of cancer including brain tumors.

*Scientific American* reports, "The National Toxicology Program study dosed rats and mice of both sexes with RF radiation at either 1.5, 3, or 6 watts of [electromagnetic] radiation per kilogram of body weight, or W/kg. The lowest dose is about the same as the Federal Communications Commission's limit for public exposure from cell phones, which is 1.6 watts W/kg.

"When turned on, cell phones and other wireless devices emit RF radiation continually, even if they are not being actively used, because they are always communicating with cell towers. The dose intensity trails off with increasing distance from the body, and reaches a maximum when the devices are used next to the head during phone calls or in front of the body during texting or tweeting."

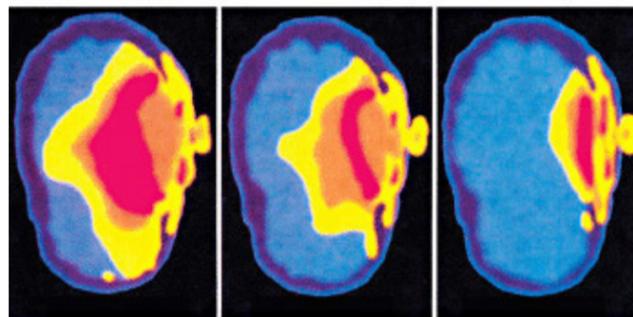
A panel of outside experts that reviewed the findings in March "concluded there was 'clear evidence' linking RF radiation with heart [tumors called] schwannomas and 'some evidence' linking it to gliomas [tumors] of the brain" *Scientific American* reported.

In a press release from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Dr. John Bucher said, "The tumors we saw in these studies are similar to tumors previously reported in some studies of frequent cell phone users."

Olga Naidenko, senior science advisor at the Environmental Working Group, told *Acres USA* magazine, "These studies should have been done before more than 90 percent of Americans, including children, started using this technology day in and day out."

Access the study here: [niehs.nih.gov/news/newsroom/releases/2018/february2/index.cfm](https://niehs.nih.gov/news/newsroom/releases/2018/february2/index.cfm).  
—Sources: *Acres USA*, April 2018; *Scientific American*, March 29, 2018; National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences press release, Feb. 2, 2018.

### Microwave Cellphone Effects Absorption in the Brain According to Age



5 Year Old 10 Year Old Adult

Image courtesy of Dr. Om Gandhi, Professor Emeritus, Univ. of Utah, and Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

## Through the Prism of Nonviolence

By John Heid

The chambers of the Evo A. DeConcini US District Courthouse in Tucson Arizona have borne witness to innumerable immigration-related trials—for decades. Each day's court docket is posted prominently on a large screen near the grand entrance, just beyond the metal detectors. Most of the case names are Latino/a. Those individuals slated for a separate so-called "Streamline Court," which criminalizes, incarcerates, and then deports hundreds of people weekly, are not listed. This federal courthouse is a deportation mill.

The past month, however, courtroom visitors to DeConcini witnessed two different types of immigration related cases. These offer a wider lens into status of law, justice and conscience in the US-Mexico borderlands.

In October 2012, US Border Patrol agent Lonnie Swartz fired 10 bullets through the international border fence into the back of José Antonio Elena Rodríguez, a 16 year old, who was walking down a city street in Nogales, in the Mexican state of Sonora. On April 23 this year, Agent Swartz was found not guilty of 2nd degree murder.

Weeks later, Scott Warren, a humanitarian aid volunteer from Ajo, Arizona was in the same federal courthouse facing two counts of "harboring" and one of conspiracy to transport/harbor, all felonies, for providing food, water and clothing to two men who turned up in Ajo weary, hungry and cold after walking several days and nights in the desert. Mr. Warren is looking at 20 years in prison. His guests were deported.

One courthouse, two faces of justice. Murder gets a pass and compassion goes on trial. The juxtaposition of these cases lays bare the dissonance of law in the borderlands.

## Judicial Border Walls

I attended one of Mr. Warren's recent pre-trial hearings where he and his attorneys argued for dismissal of all charges based on the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) of 1993. The act says the "Government shall not substantially burden a person's exercise of religion even if the burden results from a rule of general applicability."

Mr. Warren testified for nearly two hours, articulating his spiritual belief in the inherent worth of every human being and his responsibility to provide life-saving care to anyone in need. He also spoke of having recovered the bodies of 16 people who had died of dehydration/exposure over his six years of walking desert trails. He testified, "My duty of conscience drives me to show up, to be present to the suffering. Living and dead."

Mr. Warren's testimony included reflections on the "soul of the desert." He holds sacred the Sonoran Desert even as it is being turned into a vast graveyard. And too he recognizes an inherent sacredness in the personal items people leave behind, or die with ... hand sown tortilla cloths, rosaries, photographs, blankets, silverware, dolls...

Mr. Warren's attorneys argued that under RFRA "...his conduct cannot legally constitute a crime because the government cannot prosecute any individual for exercising his/her sincerely held religious beliefs...." Even US Attorney General Jeff Sessions recently said, "[I]n the United States, the free exercise of religion is not a mere policy preference to be traded against other policy preferences."

The cross-examination by the federal prosecutors exposed a wide, familiar crevasse in ideology: conscience vs. the law. After Mr. Warren's moving spiritual testimony, the barrage of vapid "yes" or "no" questions from prosecutors rattled off the courtroom walls like ball bearings in a tin pan. Unable to refute

Mr. Warren's soul sharing, the prosecutors took aim with a "Why didn't you just call 911?" form of rebuttal. Justice was reduced to the level of television game show banality.

Trials, for me, are a litmus test of the health or illness of society. This particular courthouse is rife with examples of the later.

Scott Warren's testimony is a cry in the wilderness, a breath of fresh air in the belly of the proverbial beast. As his testimony echoed off the chamber walls I couldn't help but ponder what else these walls have absorbed, sounds that a court recorder will never write, nor a transcript ever reveal: The chain gang shuffle of shackled men and women marched in and out of Streamline Court. The deafening silence when the jury foreperson announced that Agent Lonnie Swartz was "not guilty" of the murder of José Antonio Elena Rodríguez—not to mention the gasps and sobs that followed.

Walls hold stories in stone. What happens in court echoes off these walls, and across the country and the hemisphere. These are the unseen border walls. Here the fist of US immigration policy is hidden in a silk glove. What can bring down these walls and the ideologies that prop them up? When will the weight of injustice be too much for them to bear?

There is plenty more in store for the Evo. A. DeConcini Courthouse this year. Magistrate Judge Bernardo Velasco will rule on Scott Warren's motion for dismissal in late June. Meanwhile, eight humanitarian aid workers, including Mr. Warren, await prosecution for the crime of placing water, food, and other life-saving supplies on public lands where high numbers of human remains have been recovered. What will the vaunted walls of DeConcini hear next?

—A long-time peace activist, John Heid works with the group No More Deaths in Ajo, Arizona