

Nuclear Shorts

Killing Our Own: Death Toll from Nuclear Weapons Tests Continues to Rise

While we will never know how many have died as a result of nuclear weapons testing, new studies reveal more information. In 1963 the Partial Test Ban Treaty marked an end to most above ground testing after 1,900 test bombs had already been exploded. The International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War released a study in 1991 predicting as many as 2.4 million deaths worldwide from the resulting radioactive fallout. In 2001 author Dr. Rosalie Bertell, using official radiation risk estimates from the International Commission on Radiological Protection and radiation exposure data from the UN Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, concluded there could be up to 175 million fatal cases of cancers due to the testing.

Bomb testing by the United States was done primarily at the Nevada Test Site (NTS) on Western Shoshone land and adjacent to Southern Paiute land, and on the Marshall Islands. A 2002 study by the US Department of Health and Human Services admitted that 11,000 US civilian deaths were caused by just the radioactive iodine-131 from the NTS. A new study related to the same nuclear tests conducted by University of Arizona professor Keith Meyer reports an estimated toll many times higher—as many as 695,000 deaths in the United States from 1951-1973. Using county radiation fallout maps, Meyer found a higher number of deaths related to the consumption of radioactive milk from cows grazing in areas of concentrated fallout. —Keith Meyers, June 2017; *The New Scientist*, Mar. 2002; *The Ecologist*, April 2001; International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, 1991

Nuclear War On Drugs: Minuteman Missile Base Guards Busted for Using LSD, etc.

Fourteen US Air Force guards have been linked to yet another drug ring at F.E. Warren Air Force Base in Wyoming, a base that controls land-based Minuteman III missiles. They have faced disciplinary actions including courts martial, according to the Associated Press. Military investigators cracked the ring in 2016, after one of the service members made the mistake of posting drug-related material to social media. Six of the airmen were convicted of using or distributing LSD—which the Pentagon has stopped screening for in drug tests, the AP reported. The news service found that the drug ring operated outside the Cheyenne, Wyo. base and that the airmen took an array of drugs including ecstasy, cocaine and marijuana during their off-duty time. At least one airman acknowledged that while under the influence of LSD, he wouldn't have been able to respond properly if he had been suddenly called to duty. The investigation came on the heels of other scandals involving the Minuteman missile corps including widespread cheating on missile launch

proficiency exams. The Air Force faced a related scandal in 2002 when two fighter pilots were court-martialed after a bombing they did in Iraq killed four and injured eight Canadians. In court it was disclosed that the pilots were given amphetamines to stave off fatigue on long bombing runs—a failed policy that was temporarily halted after the 1991 Persian Gulf War. Maj. Glenn MacDonald (USAF Ret.) editor of MilitaryCorruption.com, said about the 2002 courts martial, “The USAF was coercing its pilots to possibly become drug addicts and endangering their health.” —Associated Press, CBS News, *Los Angeles Times*, & National Public Radio, May 24, 2018; *Wired*, Feb. 10, 2003; & ABC News, Dec. 20, 2002

Fukushima Cesium Found in Calif. Wines

The journal *Technology Review* from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology reports that Fukushima's radioactive signature has been found in California wine. “The Japanese nuclear disaster bathed North America in a radioactive cloud,” the sub-title blares. Now the journal says, “Pharmacologists have found the telltale signature in California wine made at the time.” In 2001, the French pharmacologist Philippe Hubert discovered that cesium-137 produces distinctive gamma rays in proportion to the amount of isotope present. In 2017, Hubert and colleagues began examining California wines made between 2009 and 2012, in view of the March 2011 Fukushima radiation gusher. The team found “measurable amounts of cesium-137 above background levels in the wine produced after 2011.” Hubert's group concluded, “It seems there is an increase in [cesium] activity in 2011 by a factor of two.” The amounts are far below what government, industry and the military have declared “allowable,” but internal radiation exposures are thought by experts to be more harmful than external doses. Hubert earlier studied the cesium content in French wines made between 1950 and 2008 and found the amount directly corresponded to the volume of cesium dispersed in the atmosphere by bomb tests and reactor accidents. —*Technology Review*, July 19; and SkyNews.com, July 20, 2018

Pickering Reactors Win 10-Year Extension

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) has approved a 10-year extension to the aged Pickering Nuclear Station's operating license, meaning it could potentially operate until 2028 on the north shore of Lake Ontario north of Niagara Falls. The CNSC dismissed dozens of comments pointing out Pickering's terrible location surrounded by millions of people, the lack of adequate emergency planning despite 50 years of operations, and the absence of isolation plans for the tons of radioactive waste stockpiled at the site. Instead, the CNSC sided with Ontario Power Generation which claimed that no one has been harmed by the massive radiation releases from the Fukushima disaster, and that “some radiation” is actually good for you! The CNSC also ignored the findings of nuclear risk expert Dr.

Gordon Thompson about the ever-growing volume of highly radioactive waste on the Pickering waterfront—next to the Great Lakes, source of drinking water for 40 million people. Somehow it is OK with the CNSC that Pickering continues to produce close to 20,000 bundles of radioactive waste fuel every year despite a lack of fully secure storage facilities onsite, or any viable long-term plan for dealing with this deadly waste. We need an unbiased review of the true costs and benefits of continuing to operate this high-risk facility, which should have been closed years ago. Please email energy minister Greg Rickford <greg.rickford@pc.ola.org> and tell him that closing Pickering now is the best way to cut electricity costs while ensuring the safety of millions on both sides of the border. — Ontario Clean Air Alliance

RESOURCES

- * **Beyond Nuclear**, 6930 Carroll Av, #400, Takoma Park, MD 20912; (301) 270-2209; Web: beyondnuclear.org; Email: info@beyondnuclear.org
- * **Halt Holtec**, Email: protectnewmexico@gmail.com; Web: facebook.com/HaltHoltec/
- * **Institute for Energy and Environmental Research**, 6935 Laurel Av., # 201, Takoma Park, Maryland, 20912; (301) 270-5500; Email: info@ieer.org; Web: ieer.org.
- * **Nuclear Energy Information Service**, 3411 W Diversey Av, #13, Chicago, IL 60647; (773) 342-7650; Email: neis@neis.org; Web: neis.org;
- * **Nuclear Information & Resource Service**, 6930 Carroll Av, #340, Takoma Park, MD 20912; (301) 270-6477; Email: nirsnet@nirs.org; Web: nirs.org
- * **Ontario Clean Air Alliance**, 160 John St., #300; Toronto, Ontario, M5V 2E5; (416) 260-2080; Web: cleanairalliance.org; Email: contact@cleanairalliance.org
- * **Peace Action Wisconsin**, 1001 Keefe Av, Milwaukee, WI, 53212; 414-269-9525; Web: facebook.com/groups/PeaceActionWI
- * **Red Nation**, contact@therednation.org; Web: therednation.org
- * **Southwest Research & Information Center**, 105 Stanford SE, PO Box 4524, Albuquerque, NM 87196; (505) 262-1862; Email: Info@srhc.org; Web: SRIC.org
- * **Snake River Alliance**, PO box 1731, Boise, ID 83701; (208) 344-9161; Email: lford@snakeriveralliance.org; Web: snakeriveralliance.org
- * **Walking for Country**, (Australia) Email: walk4country@gmail.com; Web: walkingforcountry.com

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Stockholm International Peace Research Institute The leading think tank on global arms trade research. (sipri.org)

Costs of War Project facilitates debate about the costs of US wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, Pakistan and Syria. (watson.brown.edu/cost-sofwar)

National Priorities Project is a research organization that examines how much of our taxes go to wars and militarism. (nationalpriorities.org)



Nukewatch Quarterly

The Progressive Foundation & Nukewatch
740A Round Lake Rd., Luck, WI 54853
Phone: (715) 472-4185

nukewatch1@lakeland.ws / www.nukewatchinfo.org
ISSN: 1942-6305

submission deadlines: Nov. 1, Feb. 1, May 1 & Aug. 1
Please subscribe. \$25/yr.

~ Printed on 100% recycled paper ~

Nukewatch is a project of The Progressive Foundation a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization
founded in 1979 by Samuel H. Day, Jr. and others

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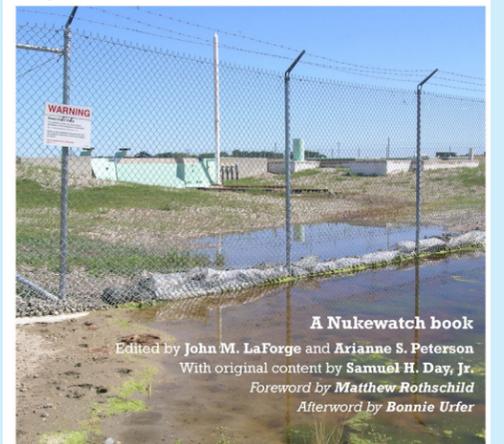
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