Federal investigators have confirmed that they are probing allegations that counterfeiter, substandard parts are currently being used in scores of nuclear reactors across the United States, and, further, that employees of the Minnesota Public Service Commission, the Minnesota State Police, and the Massachusetts State Police have been gagged by orders not to reveal that it is impossible to conduct a safe evacuation of the Seabrook reactor during an emergency.

In a January 15, 2021 email to We the People — a whistle-blower protection group in Rowley, Mass. — Malcom Bartley, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission’s Office of Inspector General’s (OIG) Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, wrote that his office “has an open investigation and is reviewing the concerns you provided and your supporting documents.” Bartley’s email, made public only recently, follows a December 14, 2020 letter in which Bartley confirmed, “The Office of the Inspector General, US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), is reviewing your allegation regarding counterfeit and substitute parts in nuclear plants around the United States.”

For over 35 years, We the People has demanded an investigation into the whistle-blower declarations that reactor manufacturers have installed counterfeit, substandard parts in reactors across the country. The allegations are based on tape recorded conversations with seven nuclear industry and NRC whistle-blowers. Mr. Bartley’s December 14 letter insists that We the People provide the OIG with personal contact information for the whistle-blowers who are being protected by We the People. The industry insiders have divulged to the group’s director, Stephen Comley, the sorts and locations of the fake parts that he says currently endanger the operations of the entire fleet of nuclear reactors in the United States.

Comley replied to the Inspector General’s office that because protection of the nuclear whistle-blowers is paramount, he needs guarantees from the NRC and OIG that no retaliation will be taken against them. We the People has refused to reveal any whistle-blower’s identity to the OIG unless the courageous informants give their permission.

The OIG’s Senior Special Agent William Johnson then wrote an email to We the People on December 17, 2020, complaining that his office was “disappointed that you are choosing not to provide said requested information unless certain conditions you insist upon are met by our office.”

The Christian Science Monitor reported in 1994 that the NRC had regularly retaliated against agency whistle-blowers who warned of unsafe operations. (“Whistle-Blowers on Safety Risks Betrayed by Nuclear Agency,” July 29, 1994) “NRC officials were turning over whistle-blowers’ identities to one of the nation’s largest utilities, the Tennessee Valley Authority” in violation of federal policy, the Monitor reported. The article noted that whistle-blowers “are a major source of vital information about safety risks at nuclear power stations” and that “the NRC is frequently charged by safety advocates with being too cozy with the multibillion-dollar nuclear industry.”

On August 26, 2021, special agent Johnson again wrote in an email to Comley that OIG’s “Report will be completed by the end of September 2021.” On Sept. 13, 2021, Johnson emailed, “Please forward to the OIG the contact information for these additional state troopers that you say you spoke with: … They are in law enforcement, and the NRC OIG is a law enforcement agency. We can be trusted.” After sharing his agency contact information, Johnson wrote, “I look forward to talking to these other state troopers who will confirm your allegation that no safe evacuation of Seabrook could be possible in an emergency.” The use of bogus equipment inside operating reactors, and a failed evacuation during a teaching incident at Seabrook, the consequences of a disaster at reactors across the country and particularly at Seabrook, located on the New Hampshire seacoast 40 miles north of Boston. We the People is waiting to hear whether its precautions are warranted — ensuring the anonymity and personal security of its whistle-blowers — will be granted by the OIG.

Launched: The National Radioactive Waste Coalition

Your group is invited to join a newly formed national organization, the National Radioactive Waste Coalition (NRWC) which was officially launched in November 2020 now has forty-one organizations from across the country. Among the members are the ACLU, National Environmental Information Service, Appalachian Project for a Nuclear-Free World, Citizens Awareness Network, Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment, and Nukewatch. See our new website at radioactivewastecoalition.org. (If it isn’t running yet, check back in a few days.)

This new coalition is working to build solidarity and unity across the country among various groups working on nuclear waste issues and others that support this work. The coalition will continue to work on current actions regarding legal, legislative, and regulatory issues while also bringing new people and groups into the movement. We are committed to building solidarity through strong collaboration and mobilizing organizations and individuals to achieve the following goals:

• Halt permanently the Yucca Mountain repository;
• Stop all consolidated interim storage;
• Keep high-level radioactive waste as close to its current sites and the Chernobyl “Chernobyl harden” the storage so it is as safe as it can be;
• Reduce the inherent dangers with storage of high-level radioactive waste at decommissioned nuclear reactors and other nuclear sites.

Principles

The National Radioactive Waste Coalition is committed to stopping the production and the reprocessing of radioactive waste. The isolation of radioactive waste is critical for protecting all living things, from the tiniest organisms in the soil and water to all the humans living on our planet. We are committed to working to ensure that isolation will continue and that we are committed to preventing the unnecessary movement of radioactive waste.

Our goal is to build solidarity through strong collaboration and honoring the needs of local communities.

Our work is grounded in respect for all people, and we respect oppressive decisions, actions, or the creation of sacrifice zones. We commit to ending environmental racism. We will continue to work to expand both the work of the campaign and the process to find effective approaches to isolate radioactive waste.

We will work together to hold the nuclear industry, government officials, and offices accountable for their actions, for enforcing our laws and treaties — and for keeping us all as safe as possible. We are committed to non-violence as a movement and the equitable distribution of resources to do our work together.

Help increase the strength of the coalition by becoming a working member.

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The Treaty People Walk for Water in Minnesota. We are working to ensure this isolation is accomplished.

People Walk for Water. On the walk we met Cou for a 30-mile portion of the 256-mile long Treaty trail. The children, a double stroller, bikes, and roller blades made the trail accessible for everyone.

In June, Nukewatch organized a local gathering to raise awareness of the need to support the Treaty People Walk. In August I joined a walk with my three children, a double stroller, bikes, and roller blades for a 30-mile portion of the 256-mile long Treaty People Walk for Water. On the walk we met Cou for a 30-mile portion of the 256-mile long Treaty People Walk. In August I joined a walk with my three children, a double stroller, bikes, and roller blades for a 30-mile portion of the 256-mile long Treaty People Walk. In August I joined a walk with my three children, a double stroller, bikes, and roller blades for a 30-mile portion of the 256-mile long Treaty People Walk.