

Nuclear Shorts

Great Lakes Water Protectors They're Not

A loonie project dubbed “Space Port” is being promoted for the south shore of Lake Superior, the top of the chain of Great Lakes relied upon for drinking water by 40 million people. A group called Michigan Aerospace Manufacturers Association (MAMA) is pushing a rocket launching facility, and is eyeing a spot north of Marquette, on Michigan's Upper Peninsula. (<http://www.michman.org/Michigan-Launch-Initiative>). To promote its Michigan Launch Initiative, MAMA has held four “Space Summits” that have featured such well-connected rocket boosters as US Army Lt. Gen. Jos Kellogg (Ret.), Lockheed Martin's Stacey DeFore, Lt. Gen. Nina Armagnoa of US Space Force, the Federal Aviation Administration, Virgin Orbit, something called “SpaceFund,” Orbion Space Tech., and US Air Force Lt. Gen. David Buck (Ret.). MAMA's website says it has identified “Loma Farms ... as the vertical launch site.” Granot Loma as it's formally known is a picturesque estate listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Critics with the Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition and Citizens for a Safe & Clean Lake Superior are fighting any such use of Michigan's pristine coast because “such an intensely industrial use would damage the ecosystem, endanger public safety, harm the regional recreation-based economy, and severely degrade the quality of life ... near Lake Superior's beautiful south shore.” They report in the newsletter “UPEnvironment” that MAMA has not yet begun its license application for the proposed “vertical launch site” at Granot Loma, so there's still time to scrap the idiocy. The groups have produced great educational material and even a musical anthem. — Get information and sign their petition here: <https://citizensforasafeandcleanlakesuperior.org/petition/>



The Granot Loma site is located on the south shore of Lake Superior north of Marquette, Michigan.

for upgrades and as a result of the overheated climate. Rising temperatures have rendered France's river water too warm to cool its reactors and waste fuel. The shutdowns are consequential in a country that boasts the world's largest percentage of nuclear power production compared to other electricity sources. The cooling circuit cracks are reported to have been caused by stress corrosion and faulty welded seals: severely dangerous flaws that could lead to a loss-of-coolant and meltdowns. As reactors are currently being inspected and repaired, fixes are moving slowly. Replacement components need to be readjusted regularly, EDF said to Reuters. Many of the reactors are approaching the end of their 40-year licenses, but EDF is considering 10-year license extensions. Due to the location of the problems, workers carrying out the hazardous duty are exposed to higher doses of ionizing radiation. Consequently, government contractors have arbitrarily raised the allowable maximum dose limit, relaxing rules they said were overly protective in any case. France hopes to have all the reactors back on line by February 2023.

— Reuters, Sept. 16; *The Guardian*, Aug. 3; *New York Times*, June 18; *Express.co.uk*, June 15, 2022

“It's the End of the World as We Know it, and I Feel Fine”

What better way to herald the next nuclear detonation than with a rave? If the Bomb is going to fall, who doesn't want to feel surges of dopamine and serotonin in a mosh of warm electric bodies swirling in color? In the latest chapter of “nuclear war on drugs,” it seems that personnel at the Kleine-Brogel Air Base in Belgium might be down for that. Two

non-military suspects were arrested during a June 22nd police raid of an illegal laboratory producing the rave drug ecstasy, or MDMA, on base property. The Kleine-Brogel base is known to station ten to twenty US nuclear weapons for use by the Belgian Air Force, and the French Press Agency noted that the “base is often a target of Belgian anti-nuclear and anti-NATO protesters.” Belgian prosecutors reported that the lab was dismantled by federal officers. News of MDMA-assisted therapy for veterans has started to break down the stigmas around these drugs and expand the minds of the mental health profession. This June, Canada began a limited three-year trial decriminalizing small amounts of MDMA and several other drugs to try to help people suffering from addiction or mental illness. Maybe the Kleine-Brogel nuclear attack specialists are one step ahead of the curve, using ecstasy preemptively, since dope may be the only way to cope with insufferable military madness. — Song lyric by R.E.M.; Agence France Presse, June 28; BBC, June 1; and King's College London, April 11, 2022

Holtec Buying Rad Waste as NRC Okays Firm's New Mexico Storage Site

The radioactive waste-handling conglomerate Holtec International is covering all the bases in its pursuit of a permanent revenue source. It's not just close to winning a license to build a ground-level dump in southeast New Mexico for highly radioactive waste fuel known as a “consolidated interim storage facility.” The shrewd operators have also purchased a few closed nuclear reactors, guaranteeing Holtec's own radioactive waste stream — potentially moving nation-wide along highways, railroads, and waterways, as if the storage site had already been approved. Holtec now owns Oyster Creek in New Jersey, Pilgrim in Massachusetts, Indian Point in New York, and both the Palisades and Big Rock Point nuclear stations in Michigan. The NRC has recommended the issuance of a license, after considering Holtec's Environmental Impact Statement for the project. Of course, the EIS reportedly examined various land use, geologic, public health, socioeconomic, and environmental justice impacts of the plan, and declared all of

them “small.” Although the current application is limited, if license amendments are approved later the site could store up to 173,600 metric tons of high-level radioactive waste from the country's power reactors. The proposed 40-year project life implies that a “permanent” dump site will be found. However, critics say the site will likely become *de facto* permanent, because there are no plans for a replacement location. Final license approval is expected in early 2023, although the company still faces legal challenges and needs additional permits for construction and transportation of waste across the country.

— Carlsbad *Current-Argus* & NRC, July 13, 2022 <https://holtecinternational.com/products-and-services/hi-store-cis/>

Nuclear Pretzel Logic and NATO's Threat to Prevent Coercion

At its June 29 summit in Madrid, NATO ministers approved a new “Strategic Concept,” the public rationale for its ready willingness to use nuclear weapons (known as “deterrence”). Self-contradictory and heavy with euphemism, the paper says “nuclear capability is to preserve peace, prevent coercion, and deter aggression,” painting nuclear weapons with a gloss of propriety using language identical to all nuclear weapons states including Russia, North Korea, and China. The “Concept” casually rejects NATO member states' binding obligation to disarm — agreed to in the 1970 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) — asserting: “As long as nuclear weapons exist, NATO will remain a nuclear alliance.” This promise to retain nuclear weapons indefinitely openly negates the paper's assertion of NATO's compliance with the NPT. The document claims that NATO is “strongly committed to [the NPT's] full implementation, including article VI, which is the promise to denuclearize,” and seeks “to create the security environment for a world without nuclear weapons.” Yes, of course, because the best way to prevent a fire in your house is to walk around carrying a lit torch. The “concept” openly admits that “NATO ... relies on the United States' nuclear weapons forward-deployed in Europe.” And to confirm that it is willing to commit mass destruction with radiation and firestorms, the ministers promised, “NATO will ... ensure the credibility ... of the nuclear ... mission”; “NATO's ... posture is based on ... nuclear ... capabilities”; and “We will ... deliver ... high-intensity, multi-domain warfighting against nuclear-armed peer-competitors.” Of course, the great majority of nation states find that nuclear weapons pose the most immediate and worst threat to human survival, as witness the 122 states that voted to adopt the 2017 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Common sense aside, NATO's “concept” says that “strategic nuclear forces, particularly those of the United States, are the supreme guarantee of the security of the Alliance.”

— Strategic Concept here: https://www.nato.int/nato_static_fl2014/assets/pdf/2022/6/pdf/290622-strategic-concept.pdf

— *Nuclear Shorts* were compiled by Nukewatch staff and Adrian Monty.



Veterans for Peace painstakingly restored the original *Golden Rule*, above, that in 1958 sailed the south Pacific to protest US nuclear weapons testing. Today *Golden Rule* continues its educational odyssey down the Mississippi River to “show that nuclear abolition is possible, and that bravery and tenacity can overcome militarism.” — Check out: VFPGoldenRuleProject.org

Radioactive Waste Endangers “Whole of Creation”

No degree of prosperity could justify the accumulation of large amounts of highly toxic substances which nobody knows how to make safe and which remain an incalculable danger to the whole of creation for historical or even geological ages. To do such a thing is a transgression against life itself, a transgression infinitely more serious than any crime.... The idea that a civilization could sustain itself on such a transgression is an ethical, spiritual, and metaphysical monstrosity. It means conducting the economic affairs of humanity as if people did not matter at all.

— E. F. Schumacher, *Small is Beautiful*