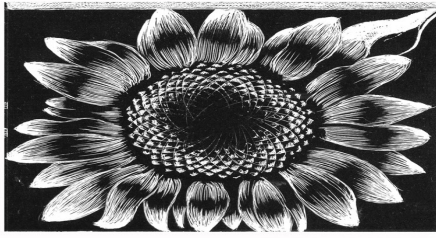


NUKEWATCH

QUARTERLY



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News & Information on Nuclear Weapons, Power, Waste, and Nonviolent Resistance

Coalition Seeks One Million Signatures to Stop Relicensure of Monticello Nuclear Reactor

On August 29 Nukewatch initiated the first meeting of the Coalition for a Nuclear-Free Mississippi River. Founding members include North American Water Office, Rainbow Warrior Collective, Resilient Indigenous Sisters Engaging (RISE) Coalition, and Women Against Military Madness (WAMM). The new coalition will work to maintain the 2030 closure date of Xcel Energy’s Monticello Nuclear Generating Station in Monticello, Minn., and educate the public on dangers of the Monticello reactor and safe alternatives.

This coalition unites groups with long histories of battling regional injustices and prioritizes the voices of local, Indigenous, and other affected communities. North American Water Office has been raging against dirty power companies, uranium mining in the Black Hills, and powerlines across the Midwest since the 1970s. The Rainbow Warrior Collective comprises individuals from the Monticello community concerned about the consequences of Xcel Energy’s reactor operations. Their shared commitment is to protect the planet, water sources, and the intrinsic rights of nature. RISE Coalition, led by Indigenous women inspiring a new path forward with Indigenous values, knowledge, and lifeways, has

been vital in the struggles against the Enbridge tar sands pipelines 3 and 5 in Minnesota and Wisconsin. WAMM has steadfastly opposed U.S. militarism and involvement in wars for 40 years, including a vigil to end war that has continued weekly since 1999. These groups working together are the beginning of a safe decommissioning of the Monticello reactor. Join this powerful coalition. Sign the petition at: sign.moveon.org/petitions/petition-for-a-nuclear-free-mississippi-river.

Petition for a Nuclear-Free Mississippi River

To Gov. Tim Walz, Atty. Gen. Keith Ellison, Minneapolis and St. Paul City Council, and Minnesota Department of Commerce:

Demand for 2030 Monticello Nuclear Reactor Closure: We demand the Public Utilities Commission modify Xcel Energy’s 2024-2040 Integrated Resource Plan to keep the 2030 closure date for the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant.

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Indigenous Sovereignty Stops Uranium Shipments, for Now

By Kelly Lundeen

On Tuesday, July 30, Navajo Nation police attempted to stop a truck shipment of radioactive uranium ore on the reservation. Energy Fuels Resources, Inc. successfully crossed the Nation going from the Pinyon Plain Mine near the Grand Canyon in northern Arizona to the White Mesa Mill in southeastern Utah more than 300 miles away. The truck crossing was in violation of the Nation’s “Radioactive and Related Substances Equipment, Vehicles, Persons, and Materials Transportation Act” passed by the tribal government in 2012, which prohibits such transports.

Navajo Nation president Buu Nygren told Four Corners Public Radio KSUT, “Once they enter the boundaries of the Navajo Nation, they’re on Navajo land. They need to follow Navajo law. They snuck through the Navajo Nation, and they made it to the Utah side, outside of the reservation. So to me, they operated covertly to travel the Navajo Nation illegally.”

The illegal two-truck shipment not only broke Navajo Nation law, it was an infringement on an agreement that Energy Fuels had made to notify the Tribe and other entities two weeks prior to any transport. While Energy Fuels asserts that it briefed stakeholders of the ore transport with adequate notice, neither of the appropriate tribal authorities, the Navajo Nation EPA and the Havasupai Tribal Council, were ever contacted, deepening a lack of trust. Energy Fuels is a Canadian company that owns the Pinyon Plain mine and the White Mesa Mill.

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Members of the Coalition for a Nuclear-Free Mississippi River and Women Against Military Madness advocate to protect the river, drinking water for 20 million. Photo: Women Against Military Madness

Growing Calls to Scrap ICBMs

By John LaForge

The Pentagon is preparing to replace all of today’s 400 long-range, land-based nuclear-armed missiles with a new missile dubbed “Sentinel.” In the face of widespread expert criticism of the plan, the new intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) are being built by Northrup Grumman to replace the Minuteman III missiles now in underground launch silos spread across 40,000 square miles of Montana, Wyoming, Nebraska, Colorado, and North Dakota.* *Popular Mechanics* has reported that the program “will involve a total overhaul of the entire ICBM system, including new missiles, new launch control buildings, and the logistical and communications infrastructure.” The Air Force admits that thousands of miles of new fiber-optic cabling, connecting launch centers to the missiles, is also planned.

This spring, the program’s projected cost-per-missile grew to \$214,000,000, or 81% over the 2020 projection. The skyrocketing costs triggered the federal Nunn-McCurdy Act, which terminates a program unless the Pentagon determines it is “essential” to national security. On July 8, the Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, previously with the weapons giant Raytheon, issued the certification. Taxpayers for Common Sense lambasted the Pentagon’s review, saying it was based on “antiquated” Cold War hokum about a supposed “need” for three types of nuclear attack systems — land, air, and sea-based.

The fantastically expensive program, with an estimated long-term cost of \$264 billion, has been called unnecessary, dangerous, and redundant by hundreds of military and civilian authorities. In dozens of news articles, position papers, declarations, editorials, commentaries, and sign-on letters, scientists, Ivy League authors, think tanks, military officials, U.S. senators, and even former cabinet secretaries have called for the cancellation of Sentinel and the permanent elimination of ICBMs.

Written appeals for the permanent elimination of land-based missiles, issued over the last 15 years, have come from no less than former Secretaries of Defense William Perry and James Mattis, former head of the Strategic Command Gen. George L. Butler, former Vice Chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and former commander of U.S. nuclear forces Gen. James Cartwright, Senator and later Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel; and former Secretary of

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The Progressive Foundation
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