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Volume 1, Issue 2

# CCNS Leads WIPP Legal Action

by DANIEL GIBSON

CCNS, three other environmental organizations and the state of Texas notified the Department of Energy (DOE) on March 21, 1989 that they plan to sue DOE over the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant unless it is brought into compliance with three broad areas of federal law.

The notification came in the form of a document called a "Letter of Intent to Sue." It was delivered to DOE Secretary James D. Watkins and included a request to meet with him to discuss its contents.

Joining CCNS in the action are the Natural Resources Defense Council (a powerful legal and environmental group based in Washington, D.C. with over 100,000 members); the Environmental Defense Fund (their Colorado office); Southwest Research and Information Center (the Albuquerque-based organization which has been involved in the WIPP issue for over 14 years); and the attorney general of the state of Texas.

The concept of legally requiring DOE to demonstrate WIPP's ability to comply with specific federal regulations prior to any emplacement of waste in the facility was first raised by CCNS in the summer of 1988. As the national significance of WIPP and DOE's failures to protect its workers and facility environments became more and more evident during the summer and fall, discussions were opened with the other signatories to the action.

The letter to Watkins notes, "The current crisis in the DOE nuclear weapons production complex stems in large part from the Department's longstanding and intense resistance to compliance with federal environmental and safety requirements. For years, DOE has sought to avoid laws and regulations that private industry has been asked to meet. As the first major new facility in the complex in a quarter century, WIPP presents DOE with a unique opportunity to avoid mistakes of the past."

Notes Dan Reicher, senior project attorney for NRDC, DOE is under a great deal of political pressure to fast-track the opening of WIPP. We intend, however, to make sure the Department lives up to its safety and environmental responsibilities before accepting any waste at the site."

Caroline Petti, Southwest Research and Information Center (SRIC) representative in Washington, D.C., adds, "Compliance with environmental laws and regulations at WIPP is the best means of avoiding the kinds of safety problems we're

now seeing at older DOE facilities around the country."

Melinda Kassen, a senior attorney of EDF in Boulder, Colorado, says, "We will go to court, rather than stand by and watch plutonium-contaminated and hazardous wastes be placed in the WIPP before DOE shows that the facility can effectively isolate those wastes from the environment."

Texas has joined in the action, in part, because of concern over possible contamination of the Pecos River—which it has spent years litigating for rights to, and because two of the major shipping routes to WIPP cross Texas.

It is hoped that the action will prompt DOE to address the concerns contained in the document and that the issue will not end up in the courts. Notes Don Hancock, director of SRIC's nuclear waste safety project, "If the DOE agrees to meet these federal regulations, there will be no need for a lawsuit."

The "Letter of Intent to Sue" outlines three areas of law  
(continued on p.2)

## Word From Washington

by CAROLINE PETTI

Last year, legislation to authorize the opening of WIPP died for lack of support in the final days of the 100th Congress. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) was nowhere near ready to begin accepting wastes at WIPP and the New Mexico Congressional delegation could not agree on compliance with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards at the site. Compliance with state and federal safety precautions at WIPP, and with the EPA standards in particular, promises to continue as a source of contention in the debate over WIPP legislation in the 101st Congress.

To understand the significance of the EPA standards and their importance to WIPP, one needs to know a little about them. The Environmental Standards for the Management and Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel, High-Level and Transuranic Radioactive Wastes were issued by the EPA in 1985 to help minimize the risks from nuclear waste repositories like WIPP. They provide a means for assessing whether or not WIPP is safe.

Evaluating compliance with the EPA standards (a pro-  
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# CCNS Leads WIPP Legal Action

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which DOE must address or face litigation.

**1) RCRA:** RCRA stands for the **Resource Conservation and Recovery Act**. RCRA regulations state that hazardous wastes slated for land disposal should be "treated, stored or disposed of so as to minimize the present and future threat to health and the environment." As most of the wastes slated for WIPP contain hazardous substances like heavy metals and solvents in addition to the radioactive materials, RCRA standards are applicable at WIPP.

Under RCRA, WIPP's mixed and hazardous waste must be treated by DOE prior to disposal in a manner that reduces substantially their toxicity or mobility, or DOE must prove that the wastes will not migrate off-site if no such action is taken. As DOE, in many cases, has no clear knowledge of the contents of the waste barrels slated to be buried at WIPP and will therefore have a difficult time treating them to minimize their toxicity, the Department appears to be committed to the "no-migration" path.

An additional requirement of RCRA is the issuance of permits to both ship and accept mixed and hazardous wastes. At this time, no federal or state entity has the authority to issue such permits for WIPP. But, it appears that through recent action of the New Mexico state legislature, the N.M. Environmental Improvement Division will eventually be granted this authority by the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**2) EPA Radioactive Waste Standards:** EPA has issued regulations regarding nuclear waste disposal sites. However, in 1987, the First Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the portion of the regulations dealing with exposure limits for individuals and ground water contamination were inadequate—in part because they were not as stringent as regulations of the Safe Water Drinking Act. EPA's radioactive waste standards

are now being revised.

The intent to sue letter calls on DOE to comply with these yet-to-be published regulations, and to prove WIPP's ability to meet these standards before waste is emplaced. According to EPA, compliance ability "must be implemented in the design phase for [a] disposal system...because active surveillance cannot be relied upon in the future."

DOE is asking for a five-year "demonstration" phase and permission to "load" up to 12 percent of WIPP's capacity in order to prove it can comply with these EPA standards. Critics contend that if the facility proves unsuitable for permanent disposal, it may be impossible, or extremely difficult, expensive and dangerous to retrieve the experimental wastes.

**3) NEPA/SEIS:** NEPA stands for the **National Environmental Policy Act**. Among other things, NEPA regulation oversees the requirement for projects with potential significant impacts on the environment to issue Environmental Impact Statements to measure the pros and cons of such projects. If there are substantial changes in a project during the course of its development, the developer must also issue a **Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS)**. Such was the case with WIPP (see article focusing on the SEIS on p. 4).

The letter of intent to sue states that the signatories intend to ensure that the SEIS includes a "full and fair discussion of all relevant issues." It outlines specific areas the document must address, including alternatives to WIPP for waste storage and disposal; transportation issues; new geologic and hydrologic information at the site; the experimental plan; and socioeconomic impacts.

"It's a pity that we may have to go to court to force the government to comply with its own safety standards," says Richard Miller, CCNS Executive Director.

## There's No Place Like Home Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety Enjoying New Office

CCNS celebrated the arrival of Spring, 1989 with a flurry of sanding, painting and furniture moving. The group's new office is at **712 Calle Grillo** in Santa Fe, near the corner of Early Street, across from Tiny's Restaurant and the Market Place Natural Grocery.

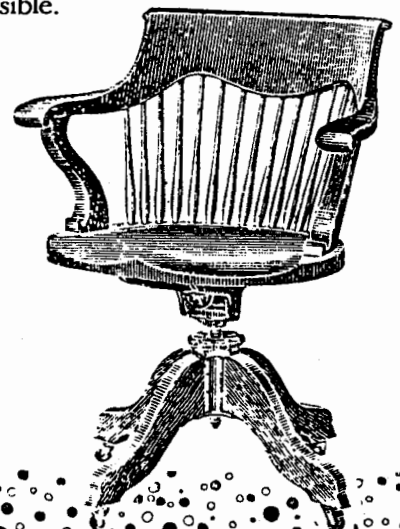
After nine months of sharing office space with our generous and patient friends at the Santa Fe Community Peace Forum, we decided to leave them in (guess what?) peace and seized the opportunity to expand into more spacious surroundings.

Many thanks are due to CCNS steering committee member Joni Arends, who now knows much more about plumbing, cabinetry and remodeling than anyone should have to. Generous donations of office furniture by Dave Matthews of Healy-Matthews Office Supply have been a big help too. CCNS member Mary Lou Cook did a marvelous job of rounding up all the donated furniture. CCNS's Bill & Jeri Gould made many round trips in their eye-catching pickup truck to deliver it all.

Many volunteer and staff hours were required to set up the new headquarters. Director Richard Miller and office manager Chris Brown worked hard to ensure a smooth transition. An anonymous donor graciously provided a new, more effi-

cient telephone system.

And last but certainly not least, CCNS deeply thanks member Wayne Wilcox whose vision and dedication really made the move possible.



POINT IN ACTION

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The Psychology of Nuclear Waste Dumping**'Unknown Knowns' and Other Phenomena**

by CHELLIS GLENDINNING

On February 27, the Department of Energy presented its promised progress report on WIPP to the Santa Fe City Council and County Commissioners. There, manager Jim Bickel explained some concepts he and his colleagues use at the DOE. They call predictable hazards like on-site dissolution of the 55-gallon drums "known knowns." "Known unknowns" are those accidents, like worker contamination or radiation leakage into the Pecos River, that could but may not happen, and "unknown unknowns" refer to events, like massive geological shifts, that they cannot predict.

This logic contains a gaping hole—one revealing in its absence. The missing element is the "unknown knowns": those health, safety and environmental events that *will* occur—indeed that already *are* occurring where waste is currently produced and stored—and that nuclear officials are consciously or unconsciously blocking from vision. A broader example of "unknown knowns" is the overall national policy of weapons production which is *already* irradiating workers and entire communities, at which the DOE for years has denied.

The act of blocking reality pervades the political process, at base it is a psychological issue—and needs to be viewed in terms of human psychology. Defense mechanisms are filters of attention that allow humans to avoid uncomfortable experiences. Built right into the structure of our minds, they originated to help people cope with danger, the barrage of daily stimuli, and the inevitability of death; as such, they are supposed to facilitate our sanity and our survival. Applied to nuclear technology, though, they do not. They keep us from awareness of realities we need to tend to, and they block access to needed psychic resources that *could* serve sanity and survival. In short, what originated for human good becomes pathological in its service to temporary comfort.

There is **repression**. When we repress, we blank out the facts and our feelings about the facts. As psychologist Daniel Keegan says, "One forgets, then forgets one has forgotten." Repression has been a common response throughout the nuclear Age. In fact, the history of the arms race is the story of men so enamored with the process of technological creation and war strategy that the problem of where to put the waste never crossed their minds. As Carroll Wilson, the first general manager of the Atomic Energy Commission, has said, "We just didn't think about it."

Then there is **denial**: the refusal to accept things as they are. This is distinct from repression because when we deny, we do not erase an entire situation from our minds. We merely adjust the facts to make the actual case more palatable. Denial has been identified as both a stage of mourning and an essential component of addictive/compulsive behaviors, like substance abuse and domestic violence.

Nuclear managers at the Savannah River complex who practice bulldozing cardboard boxes of plutonium-contaminated refuse into open ditches are practicing denial.

DOE officials who think their "Command and Control" and "First Responder" training for local emergency response personnel will be safe and adequate are practicing denial. Spokespeople who adamantly assert there is "no brine problem" at WIPP, in spite of serious scientific evidence, are practicing denial.

Sometimes the mechanism works so well that people transform the rejected fact into its opposite. After Three Mile Island, Metropolitan Edison officials asserted that the accident proved how safe nuclear power is. At the DOE hearing in Santa Fe, Jim Bickel said, "If we hadn't found problems with the TRU-PACT container, we'd be worried. We're *proud* of the fact that we shattered the seal!"

A third psychological mechanism people use to maintain comfort in the face of danger is **projection**: the act of splitting the content of one's perceptions into good and bad, and then externalizing either the traits deemed good or those deemed bad onto persons or objects outside oneself. This mechanism lays the ground for the creation of enemies ("the other," the evil empire, untouchables) and the creation of beyond-reproach superheroes (Rambo, Superman, gurus).

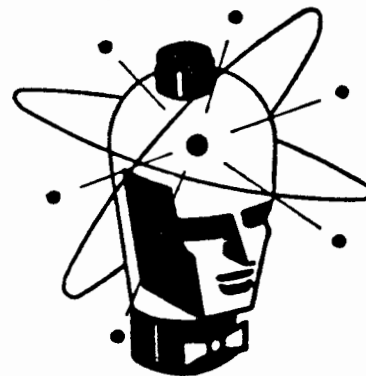
City officials in Carlsbad, where WIPP is located, use projection as well as denial. In an area where the economy is depressed, WIPP appears on the mental horizon—with its promise of jobs and prosperity—as a hero so great that with all its chrome, steel, concrete, remote fingers and high-tech elevators it can do no wrong. Discrimination and clear vision are lost; and the memory of what has occurred at other dumpsites is forgotten.

The flip side of projection is **introjection**: the act of taking in and identifying with whatever other people dish out. We use this mechanism when we incorporate attitudes and standards into our psyches that are not truly our own. At one time our governor, Garrey Carruthers showed deep concern about nuclear safety on New Mexico highways. Rumor has it that he even threatened to call out the National Guard if the waste-laden trucks were to cross into the state. Then Carruthers met with federal officials. In a sudden turnabout, he returned home more concerned about "national security" than about the safety of his constituents. Something happened at that meeting. We may never know, but we can ask, "Did Carruthers swallow someone else's opinion whole?"

Last, there is **rationalization**, the defense that provides a psychological alibi. It allows us to hide the truth by blocking real feelings and motives with reasonable-sounding explanations. Federal standards for exposure to radiation are constructed on rationalizations provided by scientific data, flow charts, and endless numbers.

In the 1960's Dr. John Gofman, doctor, physicist and a director of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and his colleague, Dr. Arthur Tamplin, demonstrated that there is no

(continued on p. 10)



**WIPP ROUNDUP...WIPP ROUNDUP...WIPP ROUNDUP...WIPP ROUNDUP**

by DANIEL GIBSON

Since the last issue of the Radioactive Rag in January, there have been many important developments in the WIPP saga.

The developments reveal that the WIPP issue is "heating up" again after its winter hiatus. DOE has announced a deadline of September, 1989 to get the facility up and running. This is increasing pressure on the issue--from the halls of Congress to the sand covered hills of the WIPP site.

In no particular order of importance, here's a summary of what's been happening:

**Watkins's Priority:** On Feb. 22, during his confirmation hearings as Secretary of the Department of Energy, retired admiral James D. Watkins said before a Senate committee that opening WIPP would be his first priority in office. "We're serious about WIPP," he said. "We have to start the flow of waste."

## Environmental Impact Reassessed for WIPP

The Department of Energy (DOE) has announced that it expects in early April to release its Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for WIPP. This is a very significant step in the WIPP story.

DOE has been forced to prepare the SEIS because of the many changes and discoveries which have occurred in the WIPP project since the release, in 1980, of what was supposed to be its Final Environmental Impact Statement.

These include the revelation that water is seeping into what was thought to be a "bone dry" facility, the switch from rail transportation to truck shipping of the wastes to WIPP, the questions regarding disposal of "mixed" and hazardous chemical wastes as well as radioactive wastes, and a host of other developments.

By law, DOE is required to solicit public input on the SEIS and to hold public hearings on it. The department has stated that it plans hearings on the SEIS in Albuquerque; Atlanta; Denver; Boise, Idaho and Pendleton, Oregon. These will probably be held in late May.

CCNS met with DOE officials in March to discuss the content of the SEIS and made a strong case that Santa Fe should also be the site of hearings, as Santa Fe is the capitol of the "host" state and a major population center on the shipping routes. While DOE gave no assurance that there will be a hearing here, it seemed to agree that a Santa Fe hearing is justified.

It will be very important that the public turn out en masse to testify and provide input at these hearings. If only minimal public participation occurs, local, state and national political leaders will infer that WIPP is not really a concern for more than a handful of very vocal critics.

Input at the hearings can take almost any form one can think of--from written and oral testimony to enactment of a short dramatic play, a display of art, or the reading of a poem. Anyone can participate--from children to senior citizens.

If you would like to participate, we suggest you contact the DOE/SEIS office at 889-3038 to schedule your hearing time. We also suggest you request a copy of the SEIS in order to review the document in advance and to prepare your written, oral or other testimony/action.

You might also wish to contact the CCNS office to obtain assistance and suggestions for your participation. Even if you don't plan to participate in the hearing, you are urged to call the number above and DEMAND that a hearing be held in Santa Fe.

**Rocky Flats Transfer:** On Feb. 21, Troy Wade, then acting assistant secretary for the Department of Energy defense programs, told a Congressional committee that DOE is considering relocating its plutonium processing facility from Rocky Flats, Colorado to the WIPP site.

Governor Carruthers, responding to the news, said he finds the 6000 jobs associated with the facility "attractive." But, he noted that the first priority was getting the WIPP facility open. "Let's get the horse before the cart," said Carruthers.

Rocky Flats produces the plutonium triggers for nuclear bombs, and has a decades-long history of massive air, soil and groundwater contamination problems. Studies reveal that this has led to higher-than-normal cancer rates among residents near the facility. In late 1988 a main processing building had to be shut down after several workers and a DOE safety inspector were exposed to plutonium.

DOE is trying to put the cat back in the bag, and says any discussion of the WIPP site serving additional purposes is premature. One must wonder, however, if Troy Wade's slip of the tongue actually reveals DOE's "hidden agenda" for WIPP.

**Andrus OK:** On Feb. 23, at a meeting in Colorado, Governor Cecil Andrus of Idaho announced he would re-open Idaho's borders to shipments of radioactive wastes from Rocky Flats. Several months ago he told DOE he would not allow any more wastes to enter Idaho until a permanent solution for waste disposal was found--i.e., WIPP. This threatened to shut down the entire weapons production process, and Governor Romer of Colorado said their on-site storage space would be filled by March and that he would not allow the facility to generate wastes without space to store them.

Andrus's change of heart gives the DOE some "breathing room" but only until September, 1989. If WIPP is not opened by then, Andrus says he will once again seal Idaho's borders to Rocky Flats waste.

**Administrative Withdrawal:** DOE continues to threaten to "withdraw" the WIPP site and transfer its 10,000 acres from the Bureau of Land Management to DOE through actions by the Executive branch of the federal government, i.e., the Bush administration. This would circumvent much of the public process on the controversial transfer and allow DOE to open WIPP without requiring it to provide certain health and safety measures to New Mexico and at the facility itself.

Governor Carruthers, visiting Washington, D.C. on March 21, repeated his contention that DOE will take such action and leave the state out in the cold if Congress doesn't pass a land withdrawal bill.

Opponents of WIPP have stated that such a move would probably result in legal action to block it and would not be looked on favorably by Congress. But there is no telling what DOE might try.

**Santa Fe Shipping Moratorium?** At a meeting before the Santa Fe City Council on Feb. 27, two DOE representatives stated that the Department would refrain from shipping any wastes from Los Alamos through Santa Fe to WIPP during the project's proposed five-year demonstration phase.

On its face, this seems like a victory to those opponents of WIPP who have been calling for "no shipments" of WIPP wastes through Santa Fe until a by-pass is built.

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# Los Alamos Gets "Glowing" Reviews

by ELIZABETH BILLUPS

The recent television movie "Day One" was hailed as the definitive history of Los Alamos lab and the atomic bomb. It disclosed that even after the war was clearly won, scientists at the country's largest-ever scientific project could not stop themselves from working on these fascinating technical problems. There was great uncertainty about whether the bomb would explode, and if it did, what would happen. There was an outside chance that the atmosphere of the world would be rendered critical and the earth enveloped in fire. The decision was made to proceed with detonation. As quoted in Helen Caldicott's *Missile Envy*, one junior technician was astonished to hear the brilliant physicist Enrico Fermi taking side bets, as the Gadget was hoisted to the top of its tower, that "New Mexico would be incinerated."

To show Congress that the money hadn't been wasted, the bomb was dropped on a civilian population. U.S. military forces went to clean up Hiroshima and Nagasaki are now members of the National Association of Radiation Survivors suffering from a myriad of health problems the government refuses to correlate to radiation exposures.

Los Alamos, the most super-secret nuclear facility in the country, is the "first-born male child" of the weapons complex.

Los Alamos National Lab (LANL) and Livermore Labs are financed and operated by the Department of Energy under the academic sponsorship of the University of California. This convenient arrangement gives them a degree of independence and neutrality. These labs have designed every nuclear weapon in the US arsenal. LANL operates on a budget of \$421 million annually with 7,018 employees. There is a rivalry between the 2 labs--deliberate government policy to ensure better bombs. LANL has designed 2/3 of the weapons in the nuclear stockpile, including hydrogen bombs for air and submarine-launched cruise missiles.

One dissenting physicist, Hugh DeWitt at Livermore, calls the labs "repositories of hawkish views of the world, distrust of the Russians, faith in high technology to provide protection and strong

opposition to any measures that might limit nuclear weapons development." With access to classified information and extremely powerful influence within government circles, the labs have opposed all suggested nuclear arms cutbacks and test-ban treaties.

Historically, LANL shares the abysmal track record that is now being revealed about the entire DOE. In the race to build the bomb, no waste burial records were kept from 1944-48. These areas were left unattended for the next 30 years. Today, vegetation above the site contains a radical range of radioactivity. From 1944-1964, untreated radioactive liquid wastes were dumped into Acid-Pueblo Canyon.

Several scientists have been involved in "criticality accidents," which is LANL's way of saying fatality. In 1976, an "operational error" in the Cryogenics Building, allowed 22,000 curies of tritium gas to escape through a vent. In 1977, an estimated 30,800 curies of tritium were accidentally released to the atmosphere as a result of a loose fitting. Southwest Research also reports airborne contamination from the testing of conventional high explosives. An estimated 226,500 pounds of natural and depleted uranium, and other chemicals including mercury, beryllium, and lead have been dispersed over the past 35 years.

Southwest Research sources report that tritium (radioactive hydrogen) is routinely leaking from the labs' principle solid waste site. Officials say they're unable to contain tritium, as it moves with water vapor; they can only delay this migration.

The Radioactive Waste Campaign's 1988 book *Deadly Defense* (compiled exclusively from government documents) reports that LANL has 14 known solid waste sites, storing radioactive waste in pits, trenches, and shafts. Many kinds of radioactivity are handled there, including transuranics, low-level waste, mixed fission products, uranium and tritium. The substances are mixed with flammable materials, although the lab replaces the word flammable with combustible. This is the type of waste that will be transported down St Francis Drive to the WIPP site if the promised bypass is not built in time.

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## WIPP ROUNDUP...WIPP ROUNDUP...WIPP ROUNDUP...WIPP ROUNDUP

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Skeptics of DOE feel the proposal was made to try and diffuse political opposition to WIPP in Santa Fe and say that it holds no meat. A city councilor, noting that DOE has promised many things to New Mexico during the WIPP project which haven't come true, asked if DOE would put the WIPP ban assurance in writing. The DOE representatives responded that they thought this could be done. It has yet to arrive...

Critics also point out that a by-pass around Santa Fe could take as long as a decade to complete. This would mean WIPP shipments down St. Francis Drive--one of the city's busiest and most accident-prone roadways cutting through the heart of town.

**TRUPACT Woes:** After more than \$25 million in expenditures and three series of redesigns and tests, the shipping container to be used to transport WIPP wastes has yet to be perfected. The latest series of tests again proved to show that the container as designed, called TRUPACT II, cannot withstand a serious accident without "breaching," that is, exposing its contents to the environment.

The container is now undergoing minor modifications and will be tested again in the near future.

Having a container pass certification standards by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is a central requirement for WIPP to become operational.

**Press Coverage:** WIPP is finally beginning to get the print and electronic media coverage it deserves. In recent months there have been articles published on WIPP in magazines such as *Sierra*, *High Country News*, and the *Utne Reader*. It has also received coverage in a major article on radioactivity in the April issue of *National Geographic*. There are also a handful of other major magazines now working on or completing articles on WIPP for publication.

Newspapers have also been following the story. There has been continued coverage by the *New York Times*, as well as papers like the *Denver Post*.

Locally, articles continue to run regularly in *Crosswinds*, *Santa Fe Sun*, and *Santa Fe Spirit*, as well as the weekly *Santa Fe Reporter* and daily *New Mexican* and *Journal North*.

Radio coverage has included a piece by National Public Radio, as well as local stations like KLSK--by its news director Bob Barth and through on-air programming, such as Alan Hutner's program "Cosmosis."

Albuquerque media have also devoted radio, television and print media coverage, ranging from KKOB radio to the Albuquerque Tribune and all three network television stations.

A team of Santa Fe videographers have also released their production entitled "The WIPP Trail" and shown it at numerous public screenings. It is generating a lot of new interest in the subject. (See p. 11 for details.) ✓

# Young People Learn about Nuclear Safety

## Outreach to Zuni Pueblo

by COLLEEN KELLEY

Our educational outreach program at CCNS has had the wonderful opportunity of being invited to speak at a number of schools locally in Santa Fe, and with the schools and community of Zuni Pueblo, south of Gallup, NM near the Arizona border.

Because of the global environmental crisis, new forms of education and information dissemination are needed to keep pace with—and, we hope, avert—some of the dangers we find challenging us.

One of the biggest challenges is educating people about the highly dangerous radiation effects from our energy and defense industries' effluent and garbage.

Craig Hanecke, an elementary school teacher at Zuni Pueblo, has been having his students do environmental research. On a recent field trip to Santa Fe in March, he invited us to talk to his students (1st through 6th grades) about radioactivity, health and environmental effects, and to talk of our concerns about the transport of waste and underground waste storage.

A total of 65 students, parents and teachers went on the field trip. Together we wrote two 12 foot long letters, one to Governor Garrey Carruthers and the other to the people of Santa Fe (addressed to "Dear Everyone") about our concerns. Our letter to the governor requested a reply for which we are still waiting.

At the conclusion of our time together in Santa Fe we were invited to visit Zuni.

Joni Arends and I traveled to Zuni at the end of the month and spoke to more children in the elementary school, the high school and the community. Hayes Lewis, the Zuni Superintendent of Schools, arranged for us to meet with the Zuni governor and Tribal Council.

It was a busy and powerful time as we shared our concerns and fears and dreams for the future with one another. We also had the good fortune to visit when the Kachinas were dancing and bringing their blessings to the pueblo.

"It is an interesting time. We have spent our lives and technology trying to dominate nature and now we are finding we have to become her protectors."

--Robert Lewis, Governor, Pueblo of Zuni

"Dear Joani & Calleen,

Thank you very much for the presentation you gave me

and Group II. I liked it very much but it was sort of depressing. Right now I hardly got anything on my mind except questions sort of like: What would happen if the trucks fell over? What if a truck exploded? With all these question running around in my head I am very worried about it. And on top of that I don't see why they have to put it here. Do you? Sometimes the govonormnt makes me sooo mad!! Any way, thanks a lot and I hope W.I.P.P. does not come into New Mexico and, I hope I see more of you."

--Your Friend, Miranda B. Lewis, DY Elem., Zuni N.M.

## Other Youth Programs

CCNS's Mary Lou Cook was involved in the recent "Vida Nueva" project originated by Paquita Hernandez, a program for kids of all ages who meet weekly one afternoon after school to work on a jointly written article for the Sunday *New Mexican*. The young people's groups in Santa Fe, Espanola and Pojoaque choose their own topics and their opinions run as a "Youth Voices" column. Each group is advised by a citizen with expertise on the chosen topic. In addition to WIPP, articles have addressed suicide, drinking and driving, family problems, drugs, the environment, Satanism and self-esteem. Says Mary Lou, "I really liked my afternoons with the Espanola kids. They had chosen WIPP as a subject and were truly interested in what I had to say. They wrote the column all by themselves and it detailed their feelings about possible nuclear disaster."

On March 7, four CCNS representatives, invited by Santa Fe Prep health teacher Jean Katihl, addressed morning and afternoon student assemblies on WIPP health hazards. Jean had prepared her students and they were receptive and well-informed. "The questions were remarkable for their maturity and thoughtfulness; they centered on the dangers of the WIPP site as well as the transportation issues," says CCNS's Richard Miller.

Tenth grader Wendy Renz attended the CCNS "town meeting" on March 21st and volunteered to coordinate a group testimony by Brunn School students for the hearings on the WIPP Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (see story on P. 4).

CCNS is developing teaching packets to help facilitate classroom discussions on nuclear technology, geology, political science and the democratic process. Teachers, please contact us. ✓

## The RADIOACTIVE RAG

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## CCNS

Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety

### CHARTER

**Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety (CCNS)** is a nonpartisan, non-profit organization based in New Mexico. We are dedicated to increasing public awareness and citizen involvement in nuclear safety. Our purpose is threefold: (1) To compile and disseminate information regarding the safety, environmental consequences, health effects, and economic implications of the production, transportation, storage and disposal of hazardous and nuclear materials; (2) To pursue legal and legislative options in upholding and enhancing local, state, and federal regulations and health/safety standards; (3) To promote exploration of alternatives to geologic disposal of nuclear waste.

CCNS is a non-membership organization composed of: scientists and laypeople; health care professionals; public employees and elected officials; parents, educators and students; and a cross section of the business, financial, civic, artistic and private sectors who share a commitment to increase awareness concerning the public issues posed by radioactive materials.

# The Land of Entrashment

WIPP-watchers have known for a long time now that the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant is not just an individual facility but part of a much bigger picture. As the nation's first underground nuclear dump, WIPP is intended as an integral, final component of a network of weapons plants around the country. The Energy Department's consistent track record of unacceptable public endangerment and environmental contamination at all of its other facilities has magnified the natural apprehension that New Mexicans feel at playing host for America's military hot trash.

But WIPP, it is increasingly evident, is part of another "big picture" too: the trashing of New Mexico. The state's vulnerability to garbage of all kinds has been a prime focus in the 1989 legislative session and in recent public discourse.

Much deliberation was provoked by Senate Bill 2, Senator Roman Maes's effort to regulate landfills. This bill addressed concerns that New Mexico is currently the least regulated state for solid waste disposal, increasingly eyed by out-of-state parties as an attractive and cheap place to dump untold volumes of garbage. SB2 included specific provisions to protect groundwater, prevent waste migration, tighten regulatory procedures, impose penalties for violations and require public hearings, economic impact studies and cleanup bond fees to be paid by dump owners. It also called for a one-year moratorium on new landfills to allow time to promulgate appropriate regulations. The bill passed 36-2, only to be vetoed by Governor Garrey Carruthers in an eleventh-hour move that outraged its proponents. Also, Carruthers evidently pressured Republican legislators to play party politics; enough of them obediently switched sides, and the override attempt fell short by three votes with a little time left in the session to alter and reintroduce the bill.

If proposed legislation was too abstract to grab everyone's attention, the more concrete shock of a prospective 24,000-acre megadump in Lordsburg, NM (which could be larger than the city of Santa Fe and would perhaps be the nation's largest private landfill) has created public furor that illustrates the state's garbage dilemma

as all too well. Citizens and elected officials in Lordsburg are virtually unanimous in their opposition to this dump, proposed by the Driggs Corporation of Baltimore. The site is adjacent and up-gradient from Lordsburg's municipal well system, its sole water source. 20,000 tons of refuse would arrive daily, by rail from the East. Mayor Clark Smith says the town is "mad, insulted and ticked off."

If the specter of this megadump (which will likely be defeated by the chosen community) isn't enough to alarm you, consider that permit applications are pending for several other huge dumps. And keep in mind that if New Mexico followed federal requirements for waste disposal, nearly 75% of the registered landfills in the state would have to close.

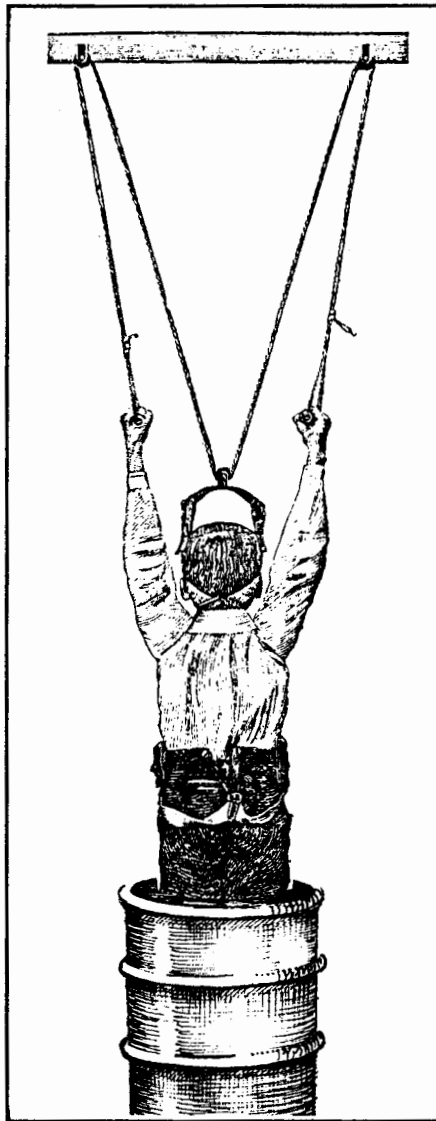
State senator Les Houston (R-Bernalillo) says it would be "unneighborly" for New Mexico to close its borders to out-of-state trash. He goes so far as to say that New Mexico is an "outstanding" site for dumps and adds, "It's as if the man upstairs made it for that purpose." No doubt these callous statements have endeared Houston to John Dendahl, the current Secretary of Tourism and Economic Development, who embraces the trashing of New Mexico—nuclear and otherwise—as an economic boon for the pitiful handful of jobs created.

Our state "authorities" would really be doing their jobs if they could figure out how to attract industries to New Mexico that would respect and enhance its greatest asset—its environment. In the meantime, the sacrifice of our unique landscape for thirty pieces of silver is occurring at a rate that only leaves room for hindsight.

Generations of New Mexicans have drawn strength and inspiration from the state's rich layers of culture and history. Like Europeans, we live amid mysterious ruins of long-gone

peoples and vivid traditions of recent centuries. How sad to think that we're not creating any works of art, architecture, literature, statesmanship, beneficial technology or humanitarianism that can hope to survive a fraction as long as the Pampers and plutonium we're producing...and importing.

==SP



# HOT FLASHES

## Let's rename it Sloppy Flats

The Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant in Golden, Co. is in the news once more. On February 23, chromic acid, including hexivalent chromium—a highly toxic metal—overflowed from a holding tank into the plant's water treatment system. The tainted water was then sprayed onto nearby fields. Colorado Department of Health's Patty Corbetta described "bad operating procedures...they found the waste and went ahead and sprayed before they had the analyses back." Countered Rocky Flats spokesman Pat Etchart, "We're continuing sampling and evaluating...we plan to assess and mitigate."

Don't forget that Rocky Flats is one of the facilities that the Energy Department now admits may be "irreversibly contaminated."

And the Sierra Club recently filed suit against Rocky Flats to force compliance with state and federal regulations governing the burning of mixed hazardous waste. Incinerators at the plant burn plutonium-contaminated weapons parts and equipment although the facility has never been licensed to treat or dispose of hazardous waste.

## And meanwhile, at Fernald...

Personnel from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have been barred from entering the DOE's Fernald, Ohio uranium plant because two EPA inspectors were contaminated with uranium there. U.S. Rep. Thomas Luken (D-Cincinnati) asked, "Who's protecting the public if the place is so bad it's too hot for the guardians? This is the ultimate safety test: The regulators are scared to death." He also told DOE, "I know where you stand. You stand on a thousand excuses."

## Crackin' Up

DOE's hopes of reopening its Savannah River Plant in South Carolina continued to slip away as two new cracks were discovered in the cooling system of a tritium-producing reactor. One had penetrated the half-inch thick stainless steel walls of the cooling unit.

## Bringing Up Baby

A study by the Centers for Disease Control reveals that 30,000 children living near the Hanford Reservation nuclear facility in Washington state in the 40's and 50's may have been exposed to more radioactive iodine than Soviet residents near the Chernobyl accident.

## Gas Gives DOE Pains

Despite their insistence on the need for new production reactors for tritium gas (see *NPR Scoping Hearings* article in the January RadRag) DOE admits that the federal government has sold American and foreign companies millions of dollars worth of tritium for commercial use. The Savannah River Plant tritium reactors have been closed for nearly a year for safety reasons; tritium decays at the rate of 5.5% a year, spurring debate over whether to produce more, recover it from existing weapons or gradually decrease our nuclear arsenal. Most of the commercially sold tritium has gone to foreign countries. Commercial sales suggest that the "shortage" is less serious than DOE would have us believe.

Other sources indicate the government has a large supply of tritium gas trapped in the heavy water that flows through the Savannah River reactors, unusable because no separation plant was built to extract it. The \$56 million worth of gas poses a health threat.

Massachusetts Congressman Edward Markey called the situation "appalling...(extraction) would not only help meet weapon requirements but would reduce the environmental and safety hazards at Savannah River."

During the scoping hearings conducted in the Northwest for new tritium facility sites, DOE intentionally suppressed evidence that tritium can also be produced in a linear accelerator.

## Whaddya Mean, Postage Due?

Under the Freedom of Information Act, Idaho environmentalists have requested federal documents pertaining to INEL (Idaho National Engineering Labs)—its accidents, safety and groundwater contamination, air emissions and health studies. No problem, says DOE, but in the name of safeguarding public funds we have to charge a little fee for the records. How about \$771,236? In addition to covering document search and review, the bill includes \$84,220 for travel and subsistence for DOE employees to go to Seattle, where some records are kept.

## Now That's Thinkin'

One way to eliminate the environmental and economic hazards of nuclear weapons production is to eliminate the weapons, said Colorado Governor Roy Romer in a Senate committee hearing. "The threat to security is not just nuclear, it's economic," he pointed out.

## Tribe Prays for Justice

In the January issue of the RadRag, we profiled the struggle of the Havasupai Indians of the Grand Canyon to prevent Energy Fuels Nuclear from constructing a uranium mine on their sacred sites. The case went back to court in early March and is now awaiting a decision. For more information, please contact: Joe Sparks in Scottsdale, AZ: (602)949-1339 or William Byler in Washington, D.C.: (202)659-2772.

## HOT LINES

•"People are consuming radiation constantly because they are consuming their own products."--Natalia Sych, nurse in Narodichski, 50 miles west of Chernobyl.

•"Not all emergencies consist of a single, dramatic accident like Chernobyl...though it is clear DOE has come dangerously close to precipitating disasters of that type. The present emergency is ...chronic, a kind of "creeping Chernobyl" happening at many sites...The map of the United States is, in effect, studded with radioactive and toxic Department of Energy footprints on the future."--Physicians for Social Responsibility, in a letter to the White House and DOE.

•"There is little risk in being careless, little incentive to excel."--Energy Secretary James Watkins, describing the current state of affairs in DOE weapons plants.

•"In hindsight, it's very clear we would not have entered the nuclear power business knowing the things we know now."--John Welch, Jr., chairman of General Electric.

•"There is no such thing as nuclear war--only radioactive suicide."--Wasserman, Soloman, Alvarez and Walters, Killing Our Own.

*Hot Flashes and Hot Lines are drawn from local and national news media as well as publications of such groups as Center for Atomic Radiation Studies, Hanford Watch and Nuclear Safety Campaign.*





# Nutrition and Radiation



by ELIZABETH BILLUPS

Understanding body chemistry in relationship to radiation begins with the law of selective uptake. Basically, the body would prefer quality, but will settle for less in order to survive. For example, calcium is needed to build bones, teeth and tissues, but in the absence of calcium, the body will absorb strontium-90 because it's atomically similar. If the body is deficient in protective vitamins and minerals, similar radionuclides will be absorbed instead. In the calcium case, strontium-90 will be deposited in bone. If vitamin and mineral stores are full, the radioactive similars will be eliminated with other excess substances.

From Diet For The Atomic Age by Sara Shannon, here is the list of stable elements that block the uptake of radioactive elements.

## Stable Elements      Radioactive Elements

Calcium	Strontium-90
Iodine	Iodine-131
Iron	Plutonium-238-239
Potassium	Cesium-137
Sulfur	Sulfur-35
Vitamin-B12	Cobalt-60
Zinc	Zinc-65



Not surprisingly, protective foods that strengthen the immune system are natural, traditional foods. Due to use of pesticides, all foods below are recommended to be organic.

**WHOLE GRAINS** - These foods are high in complex carbohydrates, B vitamins, iron, zinc, calcium, and trace minerals. Grains provide protein, but are low in sodium and fat. At least half of every meal should be grains.

**VEGETABLES** - Fresh vegetables are good sources of fiber, calcium, iron, vitamins A,C & B. Epidemiologic studies have shown the risk of cancer is inversely related to amounts of green and yellow vegies eaten. The vitamin A precursor, carotene, fortifies the thymus and immune system and is found in carrots, squash, corn, parsnips, kale, spinach and green beans. Sulfur vegetables also have strong protective power; they include broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, chard, kale, mustard greens, onions, parsley, watercress, radish, and turnips. A quarter of each meal should be vegetables.

**BEANS AND LEGUMES** - 5% of the daily diet, these foods constitute a concentrated source of vitamins, minerals, and protein, which complement the protein in grains. Beans contain phytates, a phosphorous compound, which combine with toxic and radioactive elements and eliminate them through the intestines. Pectin in beans also attracts, binds and eliminates heavy metals, like mercury, lead and cadmium. To eliminate the gaseous quality of beans, soak them overnight and discard water before cooking. This process leaches out the gas-producing material.

**SEA VEGETABLES** - Seaweeds are high in minerals, including iodine, calcium, potassium and iron. Seaweeds are also high in trace minerals which are no longer found in soil: chromium, zinc, magnesium, and manganese. They also contain sodium alginate, a chelating agent, that binds with radioactive substances and toxic metals and converts them to salts that the body can eliminate. Kelp tablets can be added to the diet for those taste buds that haven't developed an appreciation for seaweed.

**MISO** - This is one of the most high-powered protective foods and should be eaten daily. Consisting of fermented soybeans, often mixed with a grain such as rice or barley, it assists in maintaining intestinal flora, which aids in digestion and contributes to our ability to resist disease. Miso is high in calcium, iron, and B vitamins, particularly B12. Miso also contains zybicolin which binds with radioactive substances in the body and removes them.

**TOFU & TEMPEH** - These soy-based foods are low on the food chain, contain 8 essential amino acids, phytates and B12.

**NUTS & SEEDS** - High in vitamins B and E, calcium, magnesium, potassium, iron and zinc, they contain pectin and phytates.

**FRUITS** - Smooth skin fruits are purer than rough skin fruits, which should be peeled. Apples contain a high level of pectin.

**BREWER'S YEAST** - High in protein, minerals, and B-complex vitamins, studies show brewer's yeast given to people after radiation



exposure prevented a drop in hemoglobin. Needless to say, a "fast food" diet, full of refined, processed, denatured, high-fat, high-sodium, high-sugar, low-fiber foods only serves to deplete the protective vitamins and minerals and compromise our basic constitution. Never in the course of history has the physical body been under such an incredible assault, including radiation, toxic chemicals, heavy metals, air and water pollution, pesticides, noise, light and electromagnetic excess. As we now witnessing the decline of the immune system, it is more important than ever to practice protective nutrition.

A healthy diet is becoming a key to enjoyable survival. ✓

## LANL Gets Glowing Reviews

(continued from p. 5)

Deadly Defense also charges that certain canyons "decommissioned" by LANL for public use after long-term dumping are still radioactive. LANL states that the amount of radioactivity in the canyons is within federal guidelines for allowable doses. Plutonium has been tracked above background levels in the Rio Grande during snow melt-off. San Idelfonso Pueblo is also at risk of radioactive contamination. The lab's response: "In reality, small trace amounts of radioactive material were transported onto Pueblo land, but any resulting doses are less than 10% of radiation standards...risks to health are minute."

The July 1988 GAO Nuclear Health and Safety Report states the LANL groundwater has become contaminated with radioactivity at levels that exceed drinking water standards. Several liquid discharge locations are discharging unmonitored chemicals that can result in contamination of soils and sediments. Data from 14 air sampling sites at LANL may be questionable because of improper placement of the site

The December 1988 Environmental, Safety and Health Report prescribes a focus on environmental issues at LANL and the requirements for managing hazardous waste and controlling pollutants in outfalls. LANL clean-up and modernization may cost \$3 billion.

In 1980, the New Mexico Tumor Registry showed that Los Alamos County residents had breast and digestive tract cancer at twice the national average. The question becomes how much radiation is allowable for optimum human health. LANL officials operate as the rest of the nuclear industry, on the principle of an allowable dose. A report issued by Karl Morgan of the Physicians For Social Responsibility states that during the first years of the atomic age, 1942-1960, most health physics scientists believed in the threshold theory—that there is a safe level of exposure to ionizing radiation as long as the person does not exceed that level. From 1960 to the present, an overwhelming amount of data have been amassed to show there is no safe level of exposure and there is no dose so low that the risk of a malignancy is zero.

It is ironic that it has taken the WIPP project to focus attention on what's been happening all along in the elite enclave on the hill. LANL denies any problem. In light of recent disclosures at other DOE facilities, like Fernald and Hanford, it's difficult to believe that the pattern of mismanagement and deception is not found throughout the military-industrial complex.

The bomb and LANL are 46 years old; like anyone in a mid-life crisis, all past excess and denials must be paid for in preparing for a healthy old age. It's clean-up time and bad habits in the nuclear industry must be eradicated. We do not want to wake up in shock like the citizens in Fernald. New Mexicans do not want to be the next victims of National Security. ✓

*Elizabeth Billups has been working in the fields of holistic health, Oriental medicine and environmental action for 15 years.*

# Word From Washington. . .

(continued from pg. 1)

cess known as "performance assessment") involves identifying possible scenarios that could affect the long-term performance of WIPP, using computer models to predict possible radioactive releases from the facility and, finally, measuring predicted releases against release limits set in the EPA standards. If predicted release limits fall within the EPA limits, it's assumed that overall adverse health effects and damage to the environment will be low.

National and local environmental groups have long held that EPA standards are the only independent check on the safety of WIPP and that DOE should have to find out whether or not WIPP can comply with them before any waste goes underground. But, DOE, in what environmentalists think is a ruse to fast-track WIPP's opening, is arguing for permission to undertake a 5-year "experimental" program with radioactive waste before demonstrating compliance (or non-compliance) with EPA standards.

DOE claims that they can't show compliance with the EPA standards without putting waste underground, but, so far have failed to make a scientifically convincing case. New Mexico's Environmental Evaluation Group (EEG), for instance, says that compliance with EPA standards doesn't require underground experiments. And, the Scientists Review Panel on WIPP, a group of independent, New Mexico scientists, say that more meaningful data—such as data on rates of gas generation—can only be had by conducting rad-waste experiments in a controlled laboratory setting.

That line of argument debunked, DOE now claims they need to put waste underground to get "operational" experience. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to wonder why DOE can't just as easily use dummy drums of wastes and get all the operational experience they need.

Last year Representative Bill Richardson, to his credit, was the only member of the New Mexico Congressional delegation to insist on full compliance with the EPA standards before waste receipt at WIPP. There's every indication that he will hold firm in his views on this matter. It remains to be seen where other members of the delegation are going to come down on this issue although Senator Jeff Bingaman, in a recent meeting with environmentalists, did say that he is not convinced that any waste is needed for "operational" testing.

We won't really know what members of the delegation are willing to support until they introduce WIPP legislation. So far, only Representative Skeen has introduced a bill (H.R. 991) and it would allow DOE to load up to 8% of total WIPP capacity—close to 70,000 drums of waste—before compliance with EPA disposal standards.

Senators Bingaman and Domenici, Representatives Richardson and Schiff say they're waiting to see DOE's 5-year Experimental Plan before they introduce bills. The Plan is supposed to justify, in writing, why experiments with radioactive waste are necessary. It is due out in April.

## YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Now is the time to voice your concerns about WIPP and compliance with EPA standards. Let the New Mexico Congressional delegation know that WIPP land withdrawal legislation must require the following:

1) DOE must demonstrate that WIPP can comply with newly-issued EPA storage and disposal standards before any

waste is accepted at WIPP.

2) EPA must concur that DOE has adequately demonstrated compliance with storage and disposal standards.

3) The public must be given an opportunity to comment on DOE's and EPA's determination of compliance.

Write to:

Senator Pete Domenici  
Senator Jeff Bingaman  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Your Representative  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Or call them at (202) 224-3121

*Caroline Petti, our legislative correspondent, works in the Washington, D.C. office of Southwest Research and Information Center. SRIC is a non-profit environmental organization based in Albuquerque.*

## "Unknown Knowns"

(continued from pg. 3)

"threshold" level under which radiation is safe: it takes but one molecule to damage life. The 1987 Los Alamos Environmental Surveillance Report, though, rationalizes that elevated levels of cesium-137 documented in Los Alamos Canyon would not harm construction workers on proposed road improvements because any contaminated dust they breathe would be *below federal standards for worker exposure*.

The ability of the unconscious mind to block awareness of unpleasant facts becomes awesome when we view it in relation to the survival issues posed by nuclear war and radioactive waste. But let us look, for a moment, for the ray of hope. There is evidence that even the purveyors of the most rigid defenses may be losing faith in what they so assiduously repress, deny, project onto, introject into and rationalize. In a study of top defense planners, psychologist Steven Kull discovered that when questioned individually, Pentagon experts admit they do not believe that nuclear arms production can safely continue, yet when they are together with their colleagues, for the sake of group cohesion and peer identification, they never reveal the "big secret".

One must wonder. Can some nuclear officials also be losing faith in the WIPP project—but be finding themselves unable to admit it? At the City Council chambers in Santa Fe, Jim Bickel said, "In order to check out the safety of the WIPP site, we need to check it out the way a used car salesman checks out a car he's going to sell."

A used car salesman? Despite all the defense mechanisms nuclear officials are using to put forth the WIPP project, the unconscious mind sometimes lets the "unknown knowns" break through.

*Chellis Glendinning, Ph.D., is a psychologist and the author of Waking Up in the Nuclear Age (New Society) and the forthcoming When Technology Wounds (Morrow). Her area of expertise is the psychology of impending disaster.*



# THE WIPP TRAIL

A team of Santa Fe videographers has recently completed a documentary entitled, "The WIPP Trail: a Nation's Crisis Dumped on New Mexico." The hour-long program, narrated by actor Robert Redford, presents a balanced view of the controversy surrounding the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant by including interviews with representatives of all sides of the dispute. The team spent several months locating and interviewing government sources, independent scientists, lawyers, environmentalists, Native Americans, citizen activists and local elected officials.

The individuals who were interviewed were each given the opportunity to answer the question, "How far into the future does your responsibility extend?" Answers range from specific time frames stipulated by regulatory statutes to more philosophical discussions of the nearly permanent nature of radioactive materials.

"The WIPP Trail" explores the broad spectrum of scientific opinion regarding the suitability of the WIPP site to effectively contain waste for a 10,000-year control period, as well as the many concerns about waste transportation and routes which have drawn increasing public attention as the project's opening date has neared.

The videocassette comes with a booklet entitled, "WasteBOUND" which consists of photographer Michel Monteaux's still photographs of the interviewees and appropriate quotes, taken from the interviews but not necessarily present in the final cut of the video.

Copies of the VHS videocassette and accompanying book may be ordered for \$25 through CCNS (please see contribution form below). Also, if you would like to sponsor an additional copy for a public official, media personality, school or library, please contact CCNS or the videographers.

For information, contact Gay Dillingham or Penelope Place at THE WIPP TRAIL VIDEO, P.O.Box 15297, Santa Fe NM 87506. ✓

## Nation's Largest Public Health Group Votes to Delay WIPP

At its 116th Annual Meeting in November, the American Public Health Association, which represents 60,000 public health professionals throughout the United States, adopted the policy statement *Delay Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), A Nuclear Waste Repository, Until Safety Is Assured*. This statement, submitted to the national organization by the New Mexico Public Health Association (NMPHA), an affiliate chapter, was overwhelmingly endorsed by the Governing Council of APHA. The NMPHA had monitored Congressional WIPP debate throughout Fall 1988 with alarm, noting that important public health concerns such as federal environmental standards for nuclear waste storage, bypass routes around population centers, and baseline health studies were being compromised by Congressional committees.

Both the state and national levels of the organization observed that critical public health concerns were being left out of the WIPP debate. The resolution asks that the federal government not open WIPP until federal health agencies have declared it safe, that baseline health studies for affected communities be carried out immediately, that the EPA's new standards be developed before any waste arrives at WIPP and that no waste travel through population centers. The resolution cites both brine seepage at the site itself and DOE's selection of truck transport as potentially significant national health hazards.

The APHA has passed thirteen policy resolutions regarding radiation hazards since 1954. ✓

# YOUR CONTRIBUTION IS CRUCIAL

**HELP NOW! We Must Not Dump Our Radioactive Waste Problem On Our Grandchildren.**

Concerned about our nuclear future and its impact on human health and safety? **Show your support.** The time to make a difference is **NOW**. Send us a check today **in any amount** to CCNS and be a part of the nuclear safety movement and also keep receiving the RadRag.

----- detach -----

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- Here is my **contribution** to support CCNS and keep getting the RadRag\*. \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Send me \_\_\_\_\_ "Waste Not, WIPP Not" bumper sticker(s) at \$2 each. \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Send me \_\_\_\_\_ Information packet(s) at \$2 each to cover postage and printing. \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Send me \_\_\_\_\_ "Another Business Against Wipp" sign(s) (7"X11") at \$10 each. \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Send me \_\_\_\_\_ "Another Concerned Citizen for Nuclear Safety" sign(s) at \$10 each. \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Send me \_\_\_\_\_ VHS copy(s) of the WIPP TRAIL video (with book) at \$25 each. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL AMOUNT:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Thanks !

Please contact me by phone. Best time: \_\_\_\_\_  I want to commit to a monthly contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\* If we have already received your contribution we will continue to send you the Radioactive Rag.



If you would like to donate material goods to CCNS, you can deduct the value of the contribution from your taxes.

Specifically, we are currently looking for:

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office supplies  
world atlas, globe  
houseplants  
outdoor furniture  
table lamps

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fax machine  
cushions  
high stools  
wastebaskets  
small couch

Do you have a professional service you would like to share with CCNS? Along these lines, we could use:

professional grant writing  
fundraising  
conference coordination  
research assistance  
landscaping, carpentry

And finally, any non-profit group runs on the blood, sweat and labor of volunteers who perform a number of vital but non-professional duties. If you have some spare time on your hands and would like to play a role in CCNS, please contact us.

*The Radioactive Rag*  
is researched, written, designed, laid out and typeset  
by volunteer labor.

**Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety**  
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Address correction requested

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**And to all our other friends and supporters!**

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