

GANESAYER

GEORGIANS AGAINST NUCLEAR ENERGY

WINTER 1997

THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS Rob and Glenn's Adventures in NRC Land

by Robert Johnson & Glenn Carroll

By this time most of you already know about our ongoing battle to shut down Georgia Tech's nuclear reactor, located right in the middle of their downtown Atlanta campus. In our last mailing we described our persistent efforts that paid off when Georgia Tech agreed to shut the reactor down and move the fuel off-site for the Olympics. On May 20th the next chapter of the saga began: An official Nuclear Regulatory Commission Administrative Hearing concerning Tech's application for a 20-year renewal of their NRC license.

It is worth mentioning that this is the first time in many years that GANE has taken an intervention to such a high level. Some of you may remember our intervention at Plant Vogtle, which resulted in numerous improvements to their emergency safety features. Our activism on the issue of the Tech reactor had already started to bear fruit before the start of these hearings, but this process was the only way to get an outside authority like the NRC to close down the facility. The negative attention brought on by our work and the work of others like Pamela Blockey O'Brien may yet convince Georgia Tech that they should *voluntarily* shut down the reactor at the Neely Nuclear Research Center (NNRC), but this process is the last word if we wish Tech's license renewal request to be denied by the regulators. So Glenn and Rob, two lay activists, entered the arcane NRC system for some high adventure with the nuclear law of the land.

GANE took the stand first. Our first witness was Brian Copcutt, Manager of the Office of Radiation Safety (MORS) at Georgia Tech for four months in 1990. It would not be overstating his testimony to say that he resigned in disgust because he wasn't being allowed to pursue safety concerns.



◀ before GANE

SIGN OF THE TIMES

after GANE ▼



photos by Glenn Carroll

The next witness we called to the stand, NRC Region II Inspector Rebecca Long, is still settling a sexual discrimination suit she filed against the NRC in 1993, which added an interesting twist to her appearance. While she was inspecting the Tech reactor in 1987, Rebecca found numerous violations and what she characterized in her testimony as a "disregard for NRC regulations" at the Neely facility. While this statement enraged Georgia Tech counsel Al Evans, he was unable to discredit it despite Herculean efforts to do so. Unfortunately, we also "lost a round"

during Ms. Long's testimony when we were not allowed to pursue a line of questioning about what Rebecca called a "good old boy network" between Georgia Tech and the NRC's Region II administration, headquartered right here in Atlanta. Although it was our contention that inadequate enforcement by the regulators may have contributed to Georgia Tech's lax behavior, it soon became

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ISRAELI WHISTLEBLOWER VANUNU SUBJECT OF FEBRUARY 25 TALK BY GIDEON SPIRO AT GSU

Mordechai Vanunu is a former Israeli nuclear technician who fled Israel when they began to develop nuclear weapons in the early '80s. In England, Vanunu revealed the existence of the Israeli weapons program and was subsequently kidnapped by Mossad agents and returned to Israel. He was then convicted of espionage and treason and placed in a 6 by 9 foot cell where he has remained for over a decade.

In recent months Israel has again made tacit acknowledgment of nuclear capability. We ask: Why is it necessary to hold Vanunu any longer? In a move to step up efforts to secure the release of Vanunu, Israeli war veteran and peace activist Gideon Spiro is on a speaking tour of the U.S. The GSU Chapter of Amnesty International is hosting a talk by Spiro on Vanunu, nuclear disarmament and peace in the Middle East on Tuesday, February 25th from 5:30 to 6:30 PM in Room 203 of GSU's Urban Life Building. Drinks and sandwiches will be served at the meeting. All are welcome. For more information call David McBride at 404-378-GANE.

You may write to Vanunu, Israeli officials or get more information through U.S. Campaign to Free Mordechai Vanunu, 2206 Fox Avenue, Madison, WI 53711. 510-644-4222.

LOOKING GLASS ADVENTURES

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abundantly clear that an NRC court was not going to sit in judgment of the NRC's own inadequacy. At one point Judge Klein said on the record, "The NRC may well be evil, but that has no bearing on our decision here" (curiouser and curiouser).

It was during our strenuous and frustrating efforts to draw out testimony from Ms. Long on poker games involving NRC and Georgia Tech employees and absurd sexual allegations made about her in an effort to cloud her investigations that Rob's native talent for legal convention emerged and he stepped into the lead role in examining the witnesses.

It was disappointing to lose the NRC angle on Georgia Tech's mismanagement, but still the impact was not lessened of Ms. Long's other testimony, which was, if anything, strengthened by Georgia Tech's repeated and unsuccessful attempts to discredit her and her views.

Bob Boyd's testimony was interesting and important for several reasons. One was that he was the last truly independent safety officer at Georgia Tech before the reorganization that placed reactor Director Dr. Ratib Karam above the safety function, making all future safety personnel Dr. Karam's "employees." Mr. Boyd's knowledgeable testimony about the dangerous and foolish nature of this decision was very helpful to our case. His confusion over his new role fol-



Glenn and Rob, fresh and fearless at outset of grueling three weeks of NRC hearings. Photo by Joan King.

lowing the reorganization was echoed by many others, including Georgia Tech's own witnesses! Another reason that Mr. Boyd's testimony was uniquely important to our case was that he had inside knowledge of the latest transgression of safety protocol at Georgia Tech. The Friday before the hearings were scheduled to start, Mr. Boyd was attending a meeting of radiation safety professionals from all over the Southeast when he got an unusual phone call from Les Petherick, one of Georgia Tech's safety personnel. It seems that the staff of the Neely Center, at the request of Dr. Karam, was preparing to move some cobalt-60 from a site called Crenshaw's Mountain to the Center, and Mr. Petherick wanted Mr. Boyd's opinion on how best to do so, seeing as Rodney Ice, the current MORS at the NNRC, was out of town. Mr. Boyd pointed out that Dr. Karam's plan involved moving radioactive material on state roads which requires proper permits and trained hazmat personnel. In consultation with 43 radiation safety professionals present at the meeting, Boyd received unanimous agreement that this would be an unwise and dangerous move. Dr. Karam and Georgia Tech proceeded with the improper transfer anyway! Georgia Tech fought to keep this testimony out of the record, but we were able to introduce this highly damaging example of Dr. Karam's "management style" — ignore what the experts say when their suggestions seem inconvenient, and proceed with your plans despite their earnest warnings. GANE says

this is NOT an adequate standard for nuclear facilities!

Other important testimony that Bob Boyd gave included a precise technical description of the leaking radiation shield between the reactor and the biomedical facility. His testimony elicited a commitment from Georgia Tech to repair the leak before beginning the experimental cancer therapy that has become their rationale for relicensing the reactor.

Georgia Tech's witnesses, although steadfast in their defense of Dr. Karam, engaged in a lot of

"damning with faint praise" regarding the management structure at the NNRC. Two of Georgia Tech's witnesses, including current MORS Rodney Ice, testified under oath that they prefer changing the management structure to allow for more independence on the part of safety personnel at the Center. While they were always quick to point out that the management structure wasn't illegal or in violation of NRC regulations, they were very reluctant to say that it was the best possible arrangement. Even Dr. Karam betrayed the unnecessary nature of the current structure during his testimony. When Dr. Karam indicated that the current structure would probably have never come into existence but for the incompetence of certain individuals, GANE's question was simple and direct: "Now that the offending personnel are gone, why don't we change the management structure to give safety personnel more authority and independence?" Dr. Karam's stammering answer made it clear that he had not thought out the ramifications of the cheap shot he had taken against the former employees. These employees filed a lawsuit against Dr. Karam after they were removed from the Center, and much rancor still exists between the two parties. The final judgment in the case ruled that the two men in question had most likely been fired unjustly, but stopped short of awarding any damages since Georgia Tech had reinstated the men elsewhere on campus. Dr. Karam tried to assert that there wasn't any reason to change the structure

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Sources

AP Wire Service
Asheville Citizen Times
Atlanta Journal/Constitution
International Herald Tribune
New Journal of Nature Studies
New York Times
Science
The State (Columbia, SC)
The Sun News (Myrtle Beach, SC)
The Winston-Salem Journal

GANE Officers

Robert Paine *Coordinator*
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GANE IS 20!

That's right — GANE's illustrious history began in 1977. We are compiling GANE's story and would like to hear from you. Please write or call and share your memories, anecdotes, photos and vision of GANE — past, present and future.

now, but in light of his own words, GANE's skepticism is understandable and justified.

In other germane testimony, GANE cross-examined Georgia Tech's witnesses about the feasibility of Boron Neutron Capture Therapy, an 50-year-old experimental treatment for glioblastoma, a rare type of brain cancer. Dr. Ice testified that the Georgia Tech reactor was attractive because of its high power level (at 5 megawatts, it's the second most powerful research reactor in the U.S.), but that the leaking radiation shield would have to be repaired before it can be used. He also testified that the pharmaceutical aspect, the drugs to deliver the radiation to the tumor, had not yet been developed.

Two logical questions, now that the hearings are over and the Olympics have come and gone without radiological incident: What have we accomplished? Where do we go from here?

In response to the first, we should all feel proud that the reactor was shut down and additional security measures put in place at the Neely facility for the Olympics. These actions may have prevented a major Olympic catastrophe, and although we can obviously never know for sure, the tragedy at Centennial Park was an unfortunate reminder of how possible such random, violent acts are in this day and age. We can also point with pride to the attention we helped bring to this issue, attention that may yet persuade Georgia Tech to close the facility voluntarily rather than face more embarrassment over its checkered past. Although lo-

cal media coverage was spotty, to say the least, this was a Big Story in Europe and Japan, and was the subject of a 15-minute-long "60 Minutes" style exposé on German TV. ACOG and Georgia Tech both received a lot of negative publicity over the issue that they would have been happy to do without, and press coverage was probably a big factor in the decision to beef up security at the NNRC as much as was done during the Games.

We also offer thanks to all of you who called and wrote our elected officials, as we have reason to believe that this also made a difference. We recently heard through an anonymous but reliable source in the State government that when Vice President Gore visited Atlanta prior to the Games, he held a discussion with Governor Zell Miller about the Tech reactor and how it was going to be secured. Your concerns about this reactor were apparently noticed at the highest level, and we thank you for voicing them.

As far as the NRC is concerned — all the parties have submitted "Proposed Findings" and await the judges' decision. GANE believes the best we can hope for, and what we reasonably expect, is that the NRC (which has *never* denied any license request) will grant the 20-year license extension on the condition that Georgia Tech change its management structure to give the radiation safety personnel an independent chain of authority and that they fix the leaking radiation shield. The repairs will be around one to two million dollars. GANE strongly be-

lieves Georgia Tech will realize it is not a sound investment to repair and refuel the reactor. We hope they will realize that the nuclear industry is moving down the road to nuclear waste management and that their research and education efforts belong in that arena. We'll just have to wait and see.

Meanwhile, there's evidence that the paradigm has shifted. Georgia Tech has removed the word "nuclear" from the Neely Nuclear Research Center. The sign now proclaims, simply, **Neely Research!**

What you can do: Encourage Georgia Tech to invest wisely and defer refueling and repairing their research reactor. Emphasize that the future of the nuclear industry is in nuclear waste research.

You can write or call

Dr. Wayne Clough, President,
Georgia Tech, Atlanta, GA 30332.
404-894-5055. FAX 404-894-1277.
E-mail may be sent through Clough's
personal assistant Dr. Daniel Papp:
daniel.papp@carnegie.gatech.edu.

MANY THANKS!

DECATUR KWIK KOPY
404-378-4231
provided copies of GANE's
NRC exhibits for their cost

Russian Whistleblower Alexasandr Nikitin Freed

By David McBride

Reports of hard times for the Russian Cold War Nuclear Naval Base Leviathan have multiplied. Navy personnel at one point invaded a power station to restore electricity to bases that were hundreds of millions of dollars behind on power bills. Nuclear subs were sent out on mission undermanned with inexperienced crews. Other submarines languished without crews or funds to operate. Although Russia has approximately the same number of nuclear subs as the US, their nuclear troubles are double. This is due in part to the fact that each submarine has two nuclear reactors on board as opposed to one.

Aleksandr Nikitin, a retired Russian Naval Officer was acutely aware of the environmental disaster blooming in the fleet and its installations in the Kola peninsula. In an effort to come to the aid of his country, he

began work with other Russians and Norwegians on amassing all publicly available information on the disposition of the Russian northern fleet. A report "The Russian Northern Fleet - Sources of Radioactive Contamination" was the result.

When the report was released, thousands of copies were seized in St. Petersburg. The report was declared illegal and Nikitin was arrested by the FSB (formerly KGB). Charged with high treason, he faced the death penalty for his efforts.

During the past ten months we have worked sending letters and petitions to Yeltsin, the State Attorney's office in Moscow, and to various Russian ministries decrying the charges for being without foundation. Remembering the grim history of the KGB, we had little hope for the freedom of Aleksandr Nikitin.

But on December 14, 1996, for the first time in its history, the FSB was forced to release Nikitin for lack of evidence to support the charge that he had released secrets regarding the Navy. Additionally the argument that he would be charged under a secret military decree was struck down as he was retired from service and the Russian constitution does not allow the prosecution of citizens under laws which are secret and therefore not known to exist.

Upon his release, Nikitin said he would continue his efforts and environmental work.

"The Russian Northern Fleet - Sources of Radioactive Contamination" is on line at www.grida.no/ngo/bellona and is available for \$70 from the Bellona foundation at:

The Bellona Foundation
Boks 2141 Grünerløkka, 0505 Oslo
Fax: 22 38 38 62 E-mail: bellona@sn.no

DAVID MCBRIDE, EDITOR
ANN MAHONEY, RESEARCH

Source: *New York Times*
 unless otherwise noted

10/4/94 The Department of Energy (DOE) acknowledged that accidental chain reactions began at Savannah River Plant in South Carolina, Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico and the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory. Raises questions whether DOE has strengthened its management and procedures sufficiently to proceed with the delicate job of disassembly of nuclear warheads.

10/22/94 The President's Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments

reports that number of radiation experiments conducted by the Government and military from 1944 to 1974 likely to be "in the thousands," many times more than previously believed, including injection of radioactive plutonium into people's bodies, marching troops onto ground zero after a nuclear explosion, and releasing radioactive substances into the air to track their progress or effects.

10/26/94 In November 1970, 10 to 20 gallons of radioactive waste from nuclear reactor leaked into the sewer system in Madrid, Spain and from there into three rivers, contaminating farmland outside the city. Questions raised about level of contamination and whether population was properly notified.

11/6/94 Cost of decommissioning Yankee Rowe nuclear plant nearly 10 times construction cost.

11/15/94 Reactor in Lithuania shut down after terrorist threats made against it.

11/15/94 \$7.5 billion spent since 1989 to clean up radioactive waste at Hanford nuclear reservation and little has been accomplished. \$350 million spent in attempt to convert radioactive material into cement blocks or glass logs for storage, \$20 million trying to convert a plutonium plant into a waste processor, \$13,721 to provide jewelry with Westinghouse logo, and \$910,000 on chauffeur service in 1991 alone.

11/17/94 Ukraine Votes to Become a Nuclear-Free Country.

11/21/94 Russian scientists disclose three-decade-long and continuing practice of injecting billions of gallons of raw nuclear waste directly into the ground unshielded and uncontained.

11/25/94 Officials in Kazakhstan express gratitude to the US for taking control of 1300 pounds of enriched uranium, emphasizing that it had not been at risk of theft or diversion. US officials say they arranged the transfer to the US precisely because they feared diversion. *The State, Columbia, SC*

11/25/94 Uranium leaking from an old experimental reactor at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee has lodged in pipe outside reactor building, raising fears of accidental nuclear chain reaction. *The Winston-Salem Journal*

12/3/94 Oak Ridge residents oppose making their community into international nuclear waste dump in wake of Clinton decision to bring in radioactive material from Kazakhstan. *AJC (Atlanta Journal & Constitution)*

12/4/94 Researchers set new record with more than



Georgia's nuclear activist community held weekly vigils at the French consulate in downtown Atlanta during the French nuclear tests. Photo by Glenn Carroll.

20% efficiency solar cells. Major prototypes proposed and under development for producing electricity.

12/7/94 DOE announces 26 metric tons of plutonium at thirteen sites around the country placed in temporary storage posing leak threat.

12/9/94 US and Ukraine begin to break up Ukrainian nuclear arsenal.

12/9/94 Postal service drops plans to make stamp depicting a mushroom cloud with the caption: "Atomic bombs hasten war's end" at the behest of the White House. Ill effect on American-Japanese relations feared.

12/11/94 Worldwatch study finds spending on demilitarization and peace up from \$2.5 billion in 1989 to \$15.8 billion in 1994. Increase found to be due in part to aid to former Soviet republics for nuclear disarmament and labeling military operations "peacekeeping." *AJC*

12/13/94 TVA says it will not finish three partly built nuclear reactors and that it may close a completed plant.

12/15/94 The demise of the American nuclear industry can be traced to several factors — a slowdown in demand for electricity, public apprehension over nuclear risks, recurrent increases in the cost and time to build new plants, and a failure to operate as reliably and efficiently as expected.

12/17/94 *60 Minutes* reports radiation levels at Chernobyl still too dangerous to permit anyone to live within 20 miles of ground zero.

12/17/94 DOE finds 300-square-mile compound at Savannah River Plant to contain some of the most polluted sites on earth, estimates costs of cleanup to be billions of dollars. Some areas are said to be "literally sacrificed for the nation's defense." The compound contains over 33 million cubic yards of buried radioactive waste and more than 34 million gallons of highly radioactive liquid in tanks which are beginning to leak. *AJC*

12/21/94 DOE seeks legislation to allow it to avoid some of its cleanup responsibility to the states. White House seeks to balance personal income tax cuts by slashing \$4.4 billion in nuclear cleanup money.

1/1/95 Westinghouse secures contract for \$317 million to "improve safety" on two Czech reactors.

1/14/95 NRC levies Carolina Power & Light \$100,000 fine for repeatedly cooling reactor at a South Carolina nuclear plant too quickly. Pipes in the reactor may break from such treatment. *Clipping unlabeled.*

1/17/95 Georgia Tech Associate Professor bemoans collapse of U.S. nuclear power industry. Claims we'll lose the overseas market for reactors as a result.

1/18/95 Clinton slashes \$10.6 billion from DOE environmental management budget. Experts note increased danger of uncontrolled nuclear reactions in plutonium storage facilities at Savannah River Plant.

1/19/95 Presidential panel unearths documents showing healthy US citizens were injected with radioactive substances as part of study to determine what humans could withstand in the event of nuclear war. The substances were placed in syringes without knowledge of doctors or experiment subjects. After all 18 people died false claims were made that the victims had all been terminally ill before tests were conducted.

2/2/95 In a vote 362 for and 490 opposed Apache tribe rejects reservation nuclear waste site proposal.

2/10/95 US Atomic Energy Commission "Office of Human Radiation Experiments" figures released — 9000 Americans including children and newborns were used in 154 human radiation tests. These figures do not include human radiation experiments conducted by the Pentagon or other federal agencies.

2/11/95 South Carolina House committee eyes potential profits from reopening Barnwell nuclear waste landfill. Offers to cut state property taxes to buy constituents. Chem-Nuclear says state could cash in on \$100 million a year in fees from states trying to get rid of radioactive waste. *AJC*

2/11/95 Following recent human radiation experiment revelations, figures of more than 150 other tests will be released. Director Weiss of the Office of Human Radiation Experiments said: "We are proud of shining a light on this previously untold part of the atomic age." Since the number of victims is unknown, the Task Force on Radiation and Human Rights is urging individuals who suspect they may have been used as guinea pigs to come forward. Test details include injection of 86 newborns with radioactive chromium-50, seven patients and two workers with strontium-85, and an unknown number of people age 6 to 50 given milk contaminated with radioactive iodine-131. *AJC*

2/24/95 New vote called on Mescalero Apache Indian reservation nuclear waste storage. *AJC*

3/3/95 Knoxville victims of US human radiation experiments begin testimony as part of "policy-shaping investigation." *AJC*

3/5/95 Jim Lynch and Karen Dom Steele win Polk Award for showing that most of \$7.5 billion cleanup funds for Hanford Nuclear Reservation was wasted.

3/5/95 Worker steals tritium gas filled beads and NRC scrambles to recover them after they are given out at parties. All 600 beads lost were recovered. *AP Wire Service*

3/5/95 Scientists say planned Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository poses danger of explosion which would release radioactivity. *AJC*

3/8/95 Senate hires scientists to attack thesis warning of dangers associated with the planned Yucca Mountain nuclear dump.

3/11/95 Mescalero Apache nuclear waste dump approved in new vote by tribe.

3/14/95 Cost of Chernobyl disaster threatens to bury

Ukrainian economy.

3/15/95 Documents show military knew civilians would be subjected to dangerous fallout near atomic tests but went ahead because it was decided they needed data on the effects for future planning.

3/15/95 Senate energy committee says cleanup of Hanford nuclear weapons complex impossible on any schedule or budget.

3/15/95 Grim faced NRC chief Ivan Selin bails out to work in natural gas industry saying "I'm not predicting that the nuclear power industry will pick up."

3/23/95 Savannah River weapons complex makes report available which shows buried plutonium blast threat possible.

3/24/95 Government officials call for the abolition of the DOE. *Science*

4/2/95 Nuclear power called a propaganda tool to provide a respectable veneer for nuclear weapons.

4/4/95 DOE contradicts GAO \$1.7 trillion nuclear cleanup estimate giving estimated cost between \$230 and 350 billion.

4/6/95 Nuclear powers "promise" not to use nukes against non nuclear powers. *AJC*

4/6/95 Security Council circulates draft of pact to assist any non-nuclear power in the event of a nuclear attack on it by a nuclear weapons state.

4/6/95 DOE nuclear cleanup cost estimate of \$230 billion called too low because it's inadequate and too high because congress won't pay it. "Nuclear sacrifice" zones expected. *AJC*

4/8/95 Desperate Ukraine seeks billions in western aid to prevent further disaster at Chernobyl as sarcophagus continues to crack. *Asheville Citizen Times*

4/13/95 Mutated owls found near Savannah River nuclear weapons complex. *The State*, Columbia, SC

4/17/95 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) talks open at UN. *AJC*

4/20/95 Nuclear sub builders report higher earnings.

4/21/95 Big 8 nuclear powers agree to ban all nuclear tests. *AJC*

4/23/95 Vermont power reactor to be put back on line with inch deep cracks found in reactor shroud. Plant spokesman says remaining steel sufficient for safe operation.

4/26/95 Japanese Governor seeks to block unloading of plutonium for burning in Japanese reactor experiments. Bows to pressure.

4/27/95 Ukraine observes ninth anniversary of Chernobyl disaster. *AJC*

5/2/95 South Carolina pressures North Carolina to build nuclear waste dump threatening to close its dump if North Carolina does not comply. *AJC*

5/4/95 Southeast Compact Commission rejects plan to reopen Barnwell South Carolina nuclear waste dump and bar North Carolina as punishment for not building its nuclear waste dump. *AJC*

5/16/95 China detonates nuclear bomb at Lop Nor test range as part of a series of blasts expected to continue into next year.

5/16/95 Japan, Australia, and Kazakhstan strongly condemn Chinese nuclear bomb detonations. *AJC*

5/17/95 Nuclear sub builders battle in Senate over \$60 billion project to build 30 new nuclear subs.

5/27/95 Kazakhstan finds small atom bomb which was lost during he breakup of the USSR. Agrees to destroy it. *AJC*

5/29/95 Huge reactor cooling tower at Browns Ferry nuclear plant in Tennessee destroyed in mysterious fire. FBI questions workers. TVA tells public no cause for alarm. *AJC*

6/1/95 Clinton administration agrees to creation of 1000-acre nuclear waste dump at Ward Valley, California just 20 miles from the Colorado River which provides water to much of Southern California in spite of promises to environmental groups that all lawsuits would be settled and hearings held before Federal action would be taken.

6/8/95 Cuba expected to restart construction on nuclear reactor. *AJC*

6/8/95 South Carolina wants multibillion tritium production contract to maintain US nuclear arsenal but rejects spent fuel waste storage trade-off plan proposed to benefit the nuclear industry. *The Sun News*, Myrtle Beach

6/11/95 Stealth F-117A crashes on Indian reservation in Zuni, New Mexico releasing toxic cloud. Depleted uranium released among other hazardous toxins.

6/14/95 France to resume nuclear test bomb detonations amid protests. *AJC*

6/21/95 Declassified documents from before 1957 show Atomic Energy Commission mounted secret program to collect bone and tissue from dead children and others without the knowledge of next of kin in order to measure strontium-90 uptake from atmospheric nuclear weapons tests.

6/21/95 6000 people march through Paris to protest the resumption of nuclear bomb tests.

6/24/95 Federal appeals court knocks down an injunction which was to require an environmental study prior to the shipping of 151 highly irradiated spent fuel rods from Europe to South Carolina. DOE anticipates transport of 24,000 highly radioactive spent fuel rods to the US from abroad. *AJC*

6/25/95 Birth defects have doubled in Ukraine region of Chernobyl. Miscarriages, cancers, heart disease, and other illnesses have risen sharply. Belarus reports roughly 2 million people have been affected in some way by the disaster. *AJC*

6/25/95 First 16 giant canisters containing Russian bomb uranium arrive in Ohio to become fuel for US power reactors as part of disarmament deal. *AJC*

6/30/95 NRC chief resigns saying nuclear industry will only make a comeback if nuclear waste dumping is allowed to advance.

7/3/95 Protesters arrested after pouring human blood and ashes on the Enola Gay Bomber in Washington, DC. *AJC*

7/9/95 Greenpeace protest ship Rainbow Warrior nears French atom bomb test site. Greenpeace again urges President Chirac to reconsider decision to test bombs.

7/10/95 10th anniversary of French attack on Rainbow Warrior I which killed Greenpeace photographer Fernando Pereira approaches as French commandos storm Greenpeace ship en route to nuclear bomb test site and uses tear gas against Greenpeace crew.

7/11/95 Protesters arrested around world as French nuclear tests move forward. *AJC*

7/12/95 French riot police crack down on protesters outside summit meeting between Germany's Helmut Kohl and French President Chirac in Strasbourg. *AJC*

7/13/95 Surfers flee for their lives as nuclear reactor discharge pipe sucks in their vehicle at Florida St. Lucie Plant. The surfers were in restricted area. *AJC*

7/13/95 US Nuclear Weapons Cost study finds cost of

nuclear arms approximately \$3.9 trillion to date using \$385 billion cleanup cost figure.

7/14/95 Leading French volcanologist warns that French nuclear bomb detonations could activate dormant Mururoa Volcano. *AJC*

7/16/95 Thousands of Tahitian protesters welcome arrival of Greenpeace to Mururoa. 500 German and other scientists publish an appeal to Chirac to stop bombing the atoll. *AJC*

7/17/95 Committee finds US secret human radiation experiments unethical and urges compensation to unwitting citizens who fell victim to government tests. Finds conditions still exist which could allow such practices to continue.

7/17/95 On 50th anniversary of the detonation of the first atom bomb, Trinity, protester spills fake blood on monument at test site, is thrown down and handcuffed by guards, then released without charge.

7/18/95 Protesters stage demonstration against nuclear testing at French consulate in Atlanta. *AJC*

7/21/95 Japan summons French ambassador to demand that nuclear testing be called off. *AJC*

7/22/95 Error at Indian Point nuclear plant in New York causes radiation spill into the Hudson River. Thousands of gallons of water become contaminated after flooding into soil already contaminated by leaks from the plant.

8/1/95 New \$2.5 billion nuclear sub USS Maine comes to base in Kings Bay, GA to be armed with 24 missiles carrying eight nuclear warheads each.

8/1/95 US drops objections to Asian nuclear free zone. *International Herald Tribune*

8/5/95 Saluda, North Carolina mayor surprised to hear highly radioactive spent fuel rods to be shipped through his town. *AJC*

8/8/95 Georgia Power to end conservation incentive rebate plan next month. Plan once lauded as cheaper way to meet demand than building new power plants. *AJC*

8/16/95 Greenpeace campaigners at Tianamen Square unfurl banner against planned Chinese nuclear test and are detained pending deportation from China.

8/17/95 China detonates nuclear weapon in underground test despite protests. *AJC*

8/18/95 Japanese protesters gather in demonstration outside Chinese embassy in Tokyo against nuclear testing. *AJC*

8/20/95 Acknowledged number of victims of DOE human radiation experiments doubled to 16,000. Children, prison inmates, pregnant women and retarded people subjected to radiation tests. Some received very high doses, some doses lethal, pregnant women about to have therapeutic abortions were given radioactive substances so the effects on the fetuses could be studied.

8/25/95 Plant Vogtle seeks contract to produce tritium for US nuclear weapons production. *AJC*

8/26/95 Shipping of international high-level radioactive waste to South Carolina for indefinite storage time to resume despite protests by the state. *AJC*

8/30/95 Japan starts up new plutonium breeder reactor amid public protests. Japanese utilities oppose the breeder reactor due to expense — critics oppose re-

continued next page

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continued from previous page

processing as it produces more plutonium. *AJC*

9/2/95 French commandos storm Greenpeace ships

9/6/95 French detonate nuclear bomb larger than Hiroshima blast. *AJC*

9/8/95 Tahiti anti-nuclear protests turn violent. More than 20 reported injured in battles between Polynesian protesters and French riot police.

9/10/95 Days of French colonialism in Polynesia may be numbered as pro-independence movement gains momentum in outrage over nuclear tests.

9/15/95 French scientists join protest against nuclear testing releasing 1200 signatures on petition over Internet. Number of scientists signing has grown to 2600. *Science*

9/15/95 Britain agrees to complete ban on nuclear tests. *AJC*

9/16/95 French commandos capture and arrest legislators from five countries for entering 12-mile test exclusion zone. *AJC*

9/18/95 Pentagon and Defense Department seek to expedite transfer of advanced weapon development supercomputers to China and Russia. *AJC*

9/19/95 New Zealand protestors sail into French Port Brest to demonstrate against nuclear testing.

9/26/95 Clinton decides to keep all nuclear weapons research labs open.

10/2/95 Last Greenpeace boat is captured by French commandos as 2nd French bomb detonated. *AJC*

10/4/95 French army map shows underground nuclear test site full of cracks. Notes scientific hypothesis pointing to ecological disaster should the atoll break up and release radioactivity. *AJC*

10/4/95 Britain found to have dumped 75,000 tons of nuclear waste in the North Atlantic. *AJC*

10/5/95 Southern Company's Farley Nuclear Plant in Dothan, Alabama shutdown because of tornado. *AJC*

10/7/95 Tahitian group points out the mass destruction of fish by French nuclear testing. *AJC*

10/8/95 Rioting and nuclear explosions cause decline in tourism to Tahiti.

10/9/95 South Carolina becomes nuclear dumping ground for 37 states as local government forces reopening of Barnwell dump amid protests. *AJC*

10/14/95 British physicist Joseph Rotblat, peace advocate and founder of SANE/Freeze, wins Nobel Peace Prize. Calls on scientists to consider the impact of their work. *AJC*

10/15/95 State officials give Brookhaven National Laboratories permit to dump radioactive water on Long Island amid strong protests.

10/22/95 US, Britain, France announce intentions to sign South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty.

10/24/95 Armenia to restart unsafe reactor in quake zone in desperation for more electricity.

10/28/95 France explodes another nuclear bomb as Chirac calls on the world to "be patient, just five more A-bomb tests are planned."

10/29/95 Greenpeace enters the Louvre post office to mail 7,000,000-signature petition to Chirac. The petition, weighing 2.5 tons, calls for an end to nuclear testing in the Pacific. *AJC*

11/2/95 Television crews breach security at Georgia Tech nuclear reactor in heart of 1996 Olympic Village. Risk of terrorism during games highlighted. *AJC*

11/3/95 German Kalkar fast breeder reactor never opened to be turned by a Dutch investor into an amuse-

ment park. *AJC*

11/11/95 Thousands demonstrate in British commonwealth nations as British leadership refuses to condemn French nuclear testing.

11/17/95 French wine market nearly collapses in Japan, the Netherlands and Scandinavia. Total boycott of French products in Australia and New Zealand in response to continued nuclear tests. *AJC*

11/21/95 France detonates fourth warhead. 40 kiloton yield nearly three times that used on Hiroshima. *AJC*

11/22/95 Thyroid cancer among children has increased 100-fold in area most exposed to radiation from Chernobyl.

11/24/95 Russian authorities discover buried radioactive material in park. Chechen rebel leader claims to have hidden numerous nuclear waste packages with explosives in Moscow which may be detonated at will.

12/2/95 Maria Telkes, 95, one of first researchers to use solar energy dies in her native Budapest. In 1940s she teamed with architect Eleanor Raymond to build first solar-heated home.

12/12/95 Japan investigates liquid sodium leak at Monju plutonium breeder reactor, drains 270 tons of radioactive coolant.

12/20/95 NRC shuts Maine Yankee in response to evidence that company engineers created fraudulent data to support operating the plant at dangerously high power levels.

12/21/95 Ukraine agrees to close Chernobyl nuclear plant expecting \$2.3 billion to aid in the permanent shutdown of facility.

12/21(26?)95 Japanese officials caught in cover-up of extent of accident and damage to Monju breeder reactor. Officials admit to they withheld, and denied existence of, videotape which revealed mishandling of serious accident December 8. *AJC*

12/26/95 France explodes fifth nuclear bomb in Pacific test series. *AJC*

1/7/96 Savannah River nuclear waste vitrification program hits equipment failure snags. Has yet to start up after \$2 billion expenditure and preparation since 1983.

1/14/96 Japanese nuclear power plant manager Shigeo Nishimura who discovered and reported his company's cover-up of nuclear accident at Monju plutonium plant writes a note of apology to his employer then leaps to his death from the top of a Tokyo Hotel. *AJC*

1/14/96 Three tons of liquid sodium leaked at Japan plutonium reactor, Monju. Officials edited video tape to cover up magnitude of disaster.

1/16/96 South Carolina nuclear waste dumping at Barnwell continues. Officials use radioactive revenues to offer scholarships. *AJC*

1/24/96 France acknowledged radioactive material has leaked into the sea from bomb detonations but insists no harm done. *AJC*

2/7/96 DOE weighed down by vast amount of secret documents. Agency unsure what to release, is spending \$3 million on a computer program to scan and make an initial assessment of 100 million pages of classified material.

3/15/96 Battle continues to turn Ward Valley, California into nuclear dumping ground despite evidence that groundwater contamination could begin in 200 years or less. *Science*

4/4/96 Ukraine begins to find radioactive contamination from Chernobyl in its main waterways as it continues its spread throughout the region's groundwater. *AJC*

4/11/96 Group of Seven leading industrialized nations pledge \$3.1 billion to aid in closure of remaining reactors at Chernobyl.

4/12/96 Representatives of more than 40 African nations meet in Cairo, Egypt and declare their continent a nuclear free zone. The treaty concludes 30 years of work that followed French nuclear tests in the Sahara. *AJC*

4/13/96 Human error and equipment failures result in fire at Nuclear Fuel Services plant in Erwin, Tennessee. *AJC*

4/14/96 US-Russian negotiations on nuclear security deadlocked over Russian plan to burn plutonium in power reactors.

4/18/96 Watts Bar nuclear plant has emergency shutdown. Cause unknown. Watts Bar took 23 years to build and cost \$7 billion. *AJC*

5/9/96 3,000 protesters in Germany face thousands of police officers with water cannons, tear gas and baton charges in showdown over container of reprocessed nuclear waste which has been brought by rail from France. The protests succeed in slowing truck which carries the 120-ton canister so that it takes six hours to cover the 12 miles to a storage depot. 110 such shipments are planned over next eight years.

5/28/96 Fire rages through deserted villages around the Chernobyl nuclear plant in Ukraine, sending radioactive particles skyward on 10th anniversary of the world's worst nuclear accident. *AJC*

6/5/96 Sunflower seeds sown at Ukraine missile site to officially complete nuclear disarmament. Defense secretaries of US, Russia and Ukraine sow seeds in ceremony after the last of 1,900 strategic warheads in Ukraine arsenal loaded on train and sent to Russia for destruction.

6/8/96 Judge dismisses all 2000 health claims filed after Three Mile Island nuclear accident. *AJC*

6/8/96 Japan reconsiders plutonium fast-breeder program after December accident at Monju reactor. *AJC*

6/15/96 Plot to kill Suffolk County Republican officials by exposing them to radiation widens with the seizure of more radium which may have been stolen from the defense contractor Northrop Grumman, and the arrest of a third suspect, a government electrical inspector at the Long Island plant since 1973. *AJC*

7/7/96 Infant leukemia rates nearly tripled among Greek children exposed to radioactive fallout from Chernobyl while their mothers were in the early stages of pregnancy. Findings suggest that everyday exposure to low-level radiation contributes to cancer. *New Journal of Nature Studies*

7/9/96 World Court declares use or threat of nuclear weapons the "ultimate evil." Court could not decide to ban them in all cases.

7/15/96 Many of the two dozen US nuclear weapons facilities built in risky environmental zones during Cold War without regard to vulnerability to earthquakes and severe weather. Scientists warn of serious danger after conducting study at the behest of the DOE. *AJC*

7/21/96 Chem-Nuclear folds on North Carolina Wake County nuclear dump. The project cost \$90 million is three years behind schedule and is shutdown for lack of further funds to continue. *AJC*

7/24/96 Safety concerns shut down another nuclear plant. Northeast Utilities' Connecticut Yankee nuclear plant closes as nuclear industry nose-dive continues.

7/30/96 China declares moratorium after bomb detonation. Backs off of insistence on nuclear "nonmilitary"

testing they said was necessary to protect Earth from giant asteroids.

8/1/96 Senate votes 63 to 37 to dump nuke waste at Yucca Mountain. Clinton promises veto.

8/1/96 Reports from Teheran, Iran that 50 people suffer severe radiation exposure in July 31 accident at nuclear power station.

8/3/96 China conducts nuclear test beneath Lop Nor Desert. Blast registered magnitude of 4.3 with a 1-5 kiloton yield. *AJC*

8/8/96 NRC panel finds Millstone nuclear plant's "top management historically condoned a hostile work environment" towards whistleblowers. The NRC has shut the three Millstone reactors because of safety problems pointed out to the NRC by Northeast Utilities' employees. NRC says utility must repair not only its safety and maintenance problems, but its trust problems with employees before it can restart.

8/27/96 Florida Power and Light's St. Lucie nuclear plant cited by NRC. Employees discovered glue had been used to disable key components on backup control panels for both units. *AJC*

8/28/96 Vanderbilt University will have to go to court and face the 829 pregnant women to whom it allegedly gave radioactive iron isotopes in an experiment more than 50 years ago. A Federal judge found Vanderbilt may have purposely concealed "known facts" and "lost or destroyed records while on notice" of a possible lawsuit. *AJC*

9/9/96 British officials take an interest in bagged sand from a public beach near the Sellafield nuclear plant which Greenpeace collected and has stored in the backyard of its London headquarters. Authorities promise an investigation into whether Greenpeace's sand is dangerously radioactive. *AJC*

9/24/96 President Clinton signs Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty at UN calling the treaty "the longest-sought, hardest-fought prize in arms control history."

9/28/96 Sudden rise in radioactivity at Ukraine's damaged Chernobyl nuclear power station caused by chain reaction inside entombed facility. About 100 tons of nuclear fuel remain inside wrecked plant, but no decision has been made on how to safely remove it. *AJC*

10/10/96 Ukraine shut one nuclear reactor at Chernobyl this week but plans to restart another at the disaster-ridden plant. Under heavy pressure from the West, Ukraine has agreed to shut Chernobyl by 2000. *AJC*

10/10/96 Ralph Nader's Public Citizen issues "Nuclear Lemons" report. Southern reactors at the top of the list include both Sequoyah reactors near Chattanooga, Tennessee and Brunswick reactor near Wilmington, North Carolina. *AJC*

10/12/96 Accidental overexposure during radiation treatments at Costa Rican hospital endangered lives of 109 cancer patients. Accident called "national tragedy" includes seven children. The accident was caused by an error in calibrating a pump of radioactive cobalt.

10/16/96 Opposition lawmakers in Taiwan form human chain outside Parliament to protest restoring funds for nuclear power plant to be built by General Electric. Thousands of people barricade roads and anti-nuclear protesters clashed briefly with members of Taiwan Power Co.'s unions. The \$4.16 billion nuclear power plant budget had been killed in the legislature in May but is being brought for another vote. *AJC*

10/19/96 Hundreds of protesters battle with riot police outside Parliament in Taiwan after legislators vote to restore General Electric nuclear power plant project. 4,000 helmeted riot police use water cannons on angry crowd. The rioting was the worst in Taiwan since it began its transition to democracy in 1987. Violence also erupted inside Parliament between lawmakers.

11/13/96 Two workers at Connecticut Yankee inhale annual limit of radiation in 20 minutes when they stirred up highly contaminated paint dust while collecting radioactive paint chips by hand, without respirators. *AJC*

11/20/96 Opponents of proposed \$855 million uranium enrichment plant in Louisiana contend to NRC that it is unfair to locate the potentially dangerous plant between two black communities. *AJC*

11/20/96 A breast-cancer patient received 25 radiation treatments in Florida over five weeks, then learned that doctors had radiated the wrong breast. She was given the equivalent of 18,000 dental x-rays, enough to damage or kill healthy tissues and pose risk of cancer in future. Florida fined the private clinic \$250. *AJC*

12/3/96 Oldest active commercial nuclear plant, Connecticut Yankee in Haddam Neck on Connecticut River, taken out of service by Northeast Utilities after spate of safety problems including incident over Labor Day weekend in which cooling water in the reactor dropped four feet, nearly causing the fuel to overheat. The 28-year-old plant will never generate power again. The utility cites economic reasons for its decision.

12/6/96 More than a dozen employees at a St. Petersburg, Russia nuclear power plant took over the control room and threatened to shut down the plant that provides most of the city's power unless they receive months' worth of back pay.

12/6/96 General Lee Butler, USAF (Ret), former Commander-in-Chief, US Strategic Air Command and General Andrew Goodpaster, USA (Ret), former Supreme Allied Commander in Europe call for serious commitment to seek the elimination of all nuclear weapons and a world free of nuclear dangers.

12/21/96 Chile and Bolivia continue to express fears that plutonium from Russia's doomed Mars probe may have contaminated parts of their countries after the spacecraft reentered the atmosphere on November 16. The South American countries doubt Russian and US assurances that the spacecraft probably splashed into the Pacific. *AJC*

12/22/96 Legal fees and increased construction costs are driving up the projected cost of proposed low-level radioactive waste dump that is nowhere near being built in Wake County, North Carolina. *AJC*

12/27/96 US District Court dismisses South Carolina's third lawsuit to bar DOE's bringing 19 tons of high-level spent fuel from 41 European and South American countries to Savannah River Plant. *AJC*

1/16/97 Taiwan Power Co. signs contract to transport 60,000 barrels of nuclear waste to North Korea over two years. South Korea protests plans claiming that North Korea's actions would turn Korean peninsula in to a nuclear waste dump. *AJC*

2/6/97 Sweden plans to shut one of its 12 nuclear power reactors, Barsebaeck plant, in a controversial and expensive attempt to begin implementing a referendum passed in 1980 to phase out all nuclear reactors by 2010. *AJC*

2/6/97 Dozens of former Chernobyl cleanup workers have begun hunger strikes in Russia to persuade the government to pay them months' worth of pensions and benefits. The strikers protested outside the regional government headquarters Wednesday, but no officials came out to listen. *AJC*

2/6/97 Westinghouse Electric Corporation will change its name to CBS after it spins off its industrial businesses later this year. The company ruled out names such as Westinghouse-CBS in favor of the familiar "eye" logo. *AJC*

YES! I'd rather be active than radioactive!

*I am a "Georgian Against Nuclear Energy."
I support the goals of phasing out the use of nuclear energy as soon as possible, optimizing the use of energy conservation and renewable energy, and opposing the use and manufacture of nuclear weapons.*

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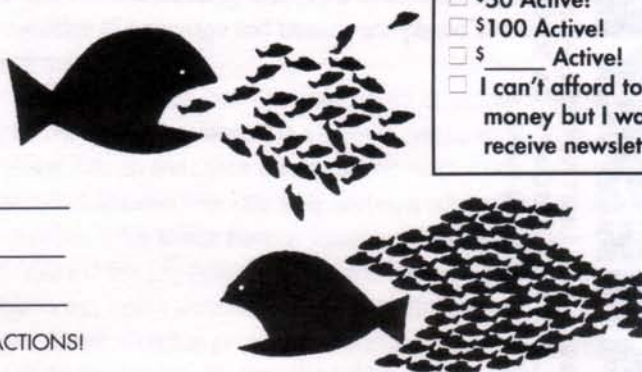
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Southern Company Seeks Nuclear Weapons Business

The Southern Company has taken a lead in a new electric industry scheme to create a need for obsolete nuclear energy by serving the needs of the nuclear weapons industry.

The Southern Company has pitched the services of Nuclear Plant Vogtle near Augusta to make tritium for hydrogen bombs. The U.S. Department of Energy, which produced nuclear weapons in a vast complex of aging factories around the country, was intrigued. For almost 10 years it has been trying to site and build a new factory to make tritium since the 45-year-old reactor across the Savannah River from Vogtle is too leaky and rundown to operate anymore. Now DOE has asked for proposals from other nuclear plant owners, but Vogtle's location makes it a top contender for the project.

Georgia is already contaminated from 40 years of tritium manufacture on its border. Tritium is radioactive hydrogen and behaves in the environment and our bodies just like hydrogen, the chief component of water, except the radiation harms living tissues instead of nourishing them. If our country must remain hooked on tritium, there is plenty to be extracted from the vast numbers of warheads we are sensibly retiring.

But retiring warheads poses another dilemma — and has inspired another industry scheme. The plutonium triggers from retiring warheads are highly radioactive, extremely lethal, long-lived nuclear waste for which we have discovered no long-term solution as yet. The responsible thing for industry and society to do is to finish the nuclear technology we've been using for 50 years by putting our minds and pocketbooks to it, and getting serious about nuclear waste.

Unfortunately, Southern Company wants to give this plutonium waste the allure of a desirable possession, a valuable asset, and use it to fuel Plant Vogtle. This "nuclear waste solution" would create a dangerous plutonium economy. Remember how the U.S. had a fit when we thought Iraq, or North Korea, or Iran, or Pakistan, or Brazil had a nuclear weapons program? Well, if the U.S. embraces plutonium as a valuable asset, you can guarantee that the rest of the world will want weapons-grade plutonium, too.

This nuclear waste scheme has a code-name — MOX — which stands for Mixed OXide fuel because it is a blend of uranium and plutonium. It is messy to make and creates even hotter nuclear waste with a higher content of plutonium than regular reactor waste.

For the short-term the plutonium waste can be mixed with other stuff that keeps it from being usable for bombs, makes it too hot to steal, and turns it into glass. What we'll do for the long-term is a mystery.

Wouldn't it be great if the Southern Company, instead of trying to milk the outdated nuclear weapons cow, put its formidable clout behind a genuine, earnest effort to figure this huge social problem out?

Tell the Southern Company (parent company of Georgia Power) if you don't want your electric company to get into the nuclear weapons business. Write to Bill Dahlberg, CEO, Southern Company, 270 Peachtree, Atlanta, GA 30303. Or call 404-506-0550.

NUCLEAR WASTE SEMINAR IN APRIL

The Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 says the Department of Energy must assume responsibility for 40 years of commercial radioactive waste by January of 1998. While the DOE as yet has not licensed a repository for the nation's spent fuel, the nuclear industry is pressing the government to take it off their hands — and a Federal court says they must comply.

If they do, and the waste begins to move from reactors in Florida, the Carolinas, Alabama and Tennessee, as well as from our own reactors at Hatch and Vogtle, to some temporary storage site in Nevada, Georgia will experience financial, environmental and health risks of unknown proportion.

GANE has joined a coalition which has formed to look at these questions. A two-

day seminar will be held at the Georgia Capitol on Friday, April 11 and at Georgia Tech on Saturday, April 12. We will be bringing together experts from business, government, academia and the activist community to discuss the impact nuclear waste transportation will have on Georgia communities.

The Friday session will provide information to our legislators. Saturday at Georgia Tech will include a variety of workshops and an afternoon open roundtable discussion.

For more information call 404-378-GANE or The League of Women Voters at 404-874-7352.

— Joan King

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