

# NUCLEAR POWER



- This is one of the most expensive ways of producing electricity. In the U.S. no private insurance company will cover a reactor, so the government (funded by us) has to subsidize the industry. Furthermore the cost of dealing with the waste for thousands of years is astronomical.
- Three Mile Island turned a \$2 billion asset into a \$1 billion clean up job in 90 minutes.
- A conservative estimate of what it would take to move the percentage of electricity supplied by nuclear power plants in the world from 16% to 20 % by the year 2050 would require that a new reactor be built somewhere in the world every 15 days.
- The use of nuclear power entails risks of nuclear proliferation, terrorism and serious accidents. It exacerbates the problem of nuclear waste and perpetuates vulnerabilities and insecurities in the energy system that are fully avoidable, if we will choose to eliminate nuclear power.
- An expansion of nuclear power could lead to the potential proliferation of nuclear weapons. It would be difficult to continue the double standard where some countries are allowed to have them and others, not.
- The U.S. Department of Energy has studied Yucca Mountain (Nevada) for the past two decades, in order to store all the past waste of U.S. nuclear power plants. About \$9 billion has been spent in the process and construction, yet, no license application has been filed (nobody can guarantee safety). No one wants nuclear waste in their back yards killing organisms for thousands of years!

For more info please email [sricdon@earthlink.net](mailto:sricdon@earthlink.net) or call 505 262 1862

# WHAT CAN WE DO?

- Communicate with people in other states that have nuclear power plants (AL, CA, CT, DE, FL, GA, IA, IL, KS, LA, MD, MI, MN, MO, MS, NC, NE, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, SC, TN, TX, VA, VT, WA, WI) to ask them two questions. The first question is about how they feel about using/benefitting from the nuclear power in their region, and the second is how you can help them deal with the social responsibility of the radioactive waste in their backyard.
- Become informed about nuclear energy and nuclear weapons by reading *Science for Democratic Action* (published by The Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, 6935 Laurel Ave, Suite 201, Takoma, Park, MD, 20912) and *Voices From the Earth* (published by Southwest Research and Information Center, P. O. Box 4524, Albuquerque, NM, 89196). See the graphic animated image of all things nuclear in the U.S. from 1942 to 2004:  
[www.AnimatedSoftware.com/poifu/poifu.swf](http://www.AnimatedSoftware.com/poifu/poifu.swf)
- Let our politicians in NM know that there are safer sources of energy to replace fossil fuels than nuclear power. Wind and solar power, for example, are sustainable, renewable, and clean. The wind and sun are abundantly available and easily accessed for human electrical needs in New Mexico.
- Remember, if the U.S. expands its nuclear energy appetite, there will be pressure to open the uranium mines. The indigenous peoples of this region have suffered a great deal already because of past mining. Also, there will be pressure to find places in the desert to store the radioactive waste material. Life in the Southwestern U.S. is jeopardized by U.S. nuclear power. If you truly care about the ability of humans to live and survive in this region, then you take action to protect the ability to live and survive here.
- For a safer and saner NM, work for the abolition of nuclear weapons as well!