

NUKREWATCH PATHEMINDER

A publication of the Progressive Foundation — Fall 2003

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

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Sept. 19-21 — **Nonviolence Weekend** at Edgewood College, Madison, Wis. Father Roy Bourgeois, speaker, founder of the School of the Americas Watch. **Contact:** Sister Marge Eilerman; Phone: (608) 257-8753; Email: csn@igc.org

Sept. 20 — **Longing for Peace**, a day for peacemakers to reflect, uphold and embrace each other. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Merrill, Wis. **Contact:** (715) 536-5389

Sept. 25-28 — **NY, Washington, SE, LA...** **Global Day Of Protest** Against Occupation and Empire. In solidarity with those who resist - from Palestine to Iraq to the Philippines & Cuba. The A.N.S.W.E.R. Coalition expresses its solidarity with locally and nationally coordinated demonstrations. **Contact:** internationalanswer.org

Sept. 27 — **First Annual Northern Peace Initiative Gathering**, Luck, WI, Anathoth Community Farm. Camping, talking circles, drumming, bonfires, and more. **Contact:** Mike Miles, 740 Round Lake Rd. Luck, WI 54853; Phone: (715) 472-8721; Email: anathoth@lakeland.wi

Oct. 3-4 **Wisc. Network for Peace and Justice** "Mobilizes a State of Peace" Annual Assembly, Stevens Point, Wis. Event includes: peace vigil; panel discussion; music fundraiser; reports from the field and Peacemaker of the Year Awards. **Contact:** WNPJ, 122 State St. #404, Madison, WI 53703; Phone: (608) 250-9240

Oct. 4-11 — **Keep Space for Peace** — **International days of protest to stop the militarization of space.** The recent war in Iraq has dramatically shown how space technology is now the key element in modern warfare. There are local actions planned throughout the world. To find the action nearest you or to plan your own event, **contact:** Global Network, P.O. Box 652, Brunswick, ME 04011; Phone: (207) 729-0517; Web: space4peace.org; Email: globalnet@mind-spring.com

Oct. 16-19 — **World Conference on DU**, Hamburg, Germany, GAAA Web: uraniumweaponsconference.htm

Oct. 24 — **Trial of Mothers' Day ELF defendants**, Federal Courthouse, 1:30, 120 N. Henry, Madison, Wis.

Oct. 24-25 — **Northeastern WI Activist Training Project.** **Green Bay, WI.** Workshops to include Middle East, Colombia/School of the Americas, disarmament, civil liberties, military spending vs. human needs and skill training workshops. **Contact:** Peace Action Wisconsin; Phone: (414) 964-5158; Email: peace@peaceactionwi.org

Oct. 24-26 — **"Cry Justice!"** The All People's Activist Conference concurrently with the National Lawyers Guild's "Demand Democracy" national convention in Minneapolis, Minn. Strengthen and build our movements through coalition, networking, information sharing, and creating strategies for effective advocacy. **Contact:** Ted Dooley; (612) 339-1453; Web: cryjustice.org

Oct. 25 — **March on the Pentagon** — **The World Unites Against U.S. Militarism**, Washington, DC to Pentagon City, VA. Demand an end to looting of social programs by the war machine. Demand an immediate end to the new nuclear arms race. **Contact:** A.N.S.W.E.R., Web: internationalanswer.org

Nov. 14-15 — **Western WI Activist Training Project**, LaCrosse, WI. See Oct. 24 - 25 above. **Contact:** Peace Action Wisconsin; Phone: (414) 964-5158; Email: peace@peaceactionwi.org

Nov. 22-23 — **School of the Americas Vigil and Nonviolent Civil Resistance Action**, Fort Benning, GA. Join thousands from across the Americas & engage in nonviolent direct action. **Contact:** SOA, PO Box 4566, Washington DC 20017, Phone: (202) 234-3440; Email: info@soaw.org

Introduction by Jerry Mechtenberg-Berrigan
At 7 a.m. Thursday, July 17, Bonnie Urfer, Molly Mechtenberg-Berrigan and I left Anathoth Farm in Luck, Wisc. Over ten days we traveled 2,600 miles to and from Carlsbad, New Mexico, home of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), run by the U.S. Dept. of Energy. Opened in 1999, WIPP is the first permanent repository for waste generated by the U.S. nuclear weapons program. WIPP takes in around 20 shipments of waste per week, via trucks traveling on interstate highways, from the following national laboratories: Rocky Flats, Colorado; Los Alamos, New Mexico; Idaho National Environmental Engineering Laboratory (INEEL); Hanford, Washington; and Argonne National Lab in Chicago, Illinois.

The WIPP facility, built on "geologically stable" salt formations, consists of large buildings on the surface of the desert

Our tool for measuring radiation was a RadAlert nuclear radiation monitor purchased from International Medcom in Sebastapol, Calif., Serial #92484. We calibrated the monitor to read Radiation Allowed Doses (RADs) per minute. Forty-five minutes into the trip we read 6 counts per minute (CPM) in Taylors Falls, Minn. Later in the day we read 11 CPM in Des Moines, Iowa. The CPMs increased slightly as we drove west and increased again when we entered the mountains.

Over the weekend we attended the War Resisters' League National Conference in Colorado Springs where Molly gave a presentation on U.S. plans to develop "mini nukes." On July 21 we began our investigation. Molly, Bonnie and I will take turns reporting.

INSIDE: Special section on "depleted" uranium weapons, pp. 5 - 8.

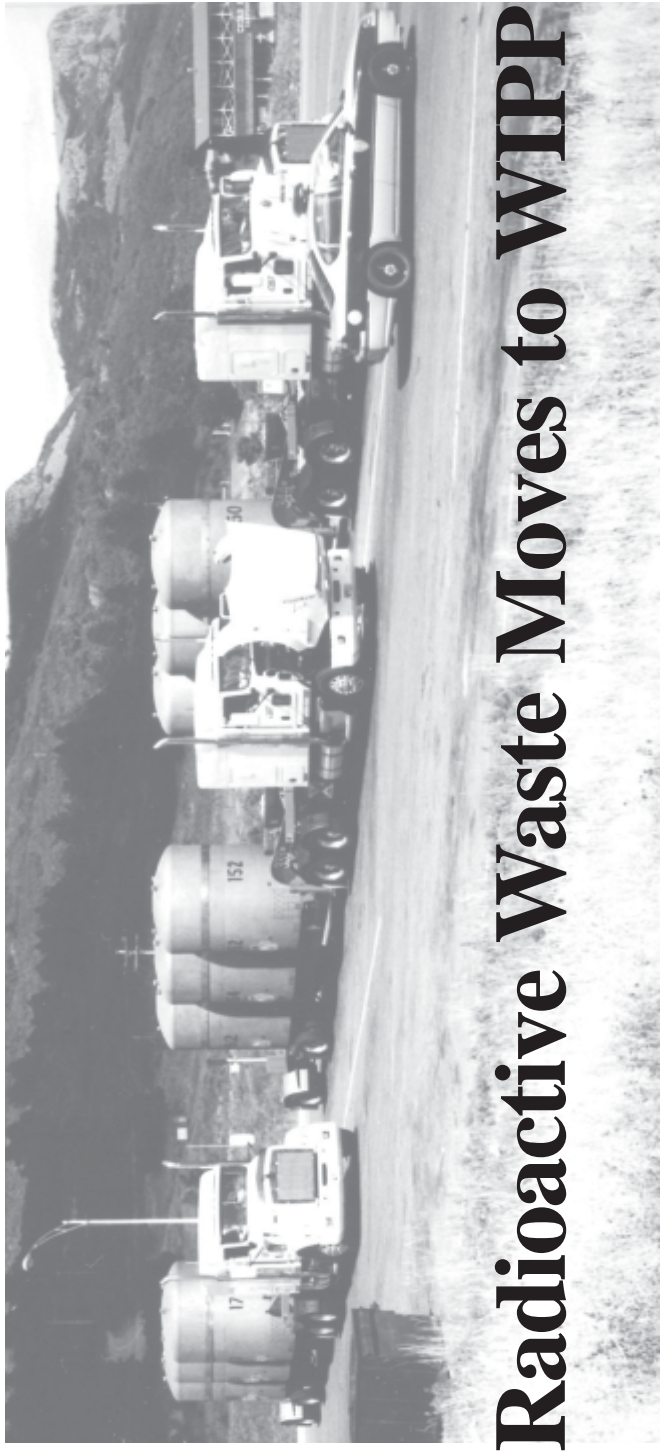


Photo by Bonnie Urfer

30 miles east of Carlsbad, centered around a large elevator. The waste, packed in steel drums, is lowered via the elevator 2000 feet underground, where it is stored in rooms mined out of the salt. In theory, the salt will collapse around the barrels, encasing them safely for the rest of time. Our mission was to find these trucks on the road, photograph them, monitor the radiation emitted by them, follow them to the WIPP facility and have a look around.

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