

FULL DISCLOSURE BY CALIFORNIA'S NUCLEAR INDUSTRY

Support Efforts to Make the Nuclear Industry Accountable for the Waste it Produces

The Bay Area Nuclear (BAN) Waste Coalition and other environmental and social justice groups and Native American tribes ask for your support to require the nuclear industry in California to fully disclose all waste generated, stored, treated, released to the environment and disposed of. Full disclosure will enable communities to respond to radioactive hazards and protect their health.

THE PUBLIC HAS A RIGHT TO KNOW!

At present, the nuclear industry in California is shielded from reporting its waste generation data. During the last 20 years, every other toxic waste industry has been required to disclose how much of what hazardous substances they generate, how they are treated and disposed of. Public disclosure has been shown to result in source reduction and more responsible disposal practices.

Radioactive waste generated within and outside of California is being dumped at the Buttonwillow and Kettleman hazardous waste sites in farmworker communities in the Central Valley. Other radioactive wastes from California are being desposited in leaking dumps in Barnwell, South Carolina and Clive, Utah, disproportionately impacting poor people, communities of color and indigenous communities.

All communities have a right to know what wastes are being generated, stored, treated, released into the air, land and water, and disposed of in the environment, especially when those facilities are located nearby. The nuclear industry is currently permitted to incinerate radioactive waste, release wastes into sanitary sewer systems, discharge waste into the atmosphere, conduct waste treatments which expose workers to unsafe working conditions, and dispose of wastes containing long-lived radionuclides in shallow landfills.

California law currently allows the nuclear industry to keep this information secret from the public. The state should mandate full disclosure of waste generation data annually. Efforts by a broad coalition are underway to educate the public, policy-makers and the governor regarding the importance of this policy shift and to create regulations that would force the nuclear industry to comply. Other advantages of full disclosure are that it fosters waste reduction, safer storage of waste, and on-site storage of waste, and impedes illegal dumping of waste and efforts by the nuclear industry to open new waste sites based on faulty information minimizing risks. In the decade-long struggle to stop the proposal for a nuclear waste dump at Ward Valley, the industry repeatedly lied about the kinds of wastes that would be buried there because there was no official accounting.

At the same time, the nuclear industry is attempting a comeback by trying to take advantage of the energy crisis. Mandating full disclosure of all facts about the generation of nuclear waste will assist in revealing the full negative impacts of nuclear energy.

CONTACT US if your organization can sign onto letters of support, attend or testify at hearings, make telephone calls or write letters. For more information contact Phil Klasky at (415) 752-8678 or pklasky@igc.org or Ward Young (415) 868-2146 or wyoung7777@aol.com.

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Full disclosure will enable communities to respond to radioactive hazards and protect their health and will result in oversight of an industry that is responsible for massive contamination of the environment.

We would like to list your organization as a sponsor of efforts to make the nuclear industry accountable.

Name of organization _____

Contact person/telephone and email _____

Organization address/telephone/fax/email _____

Can your organization sign onto or write letters of support? _____

Can your organization attend press conferences and hearings in Sacramento? _____

Other organizations we should contact: _____

Please return this sheet to:

**The Bay Area Nuclear (BAN) Waste Coalition
2760 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, California 94118
(415) 752-8678 o (415) 868-2146**