

No More Bombs



Information and Advocacy for Nuclear Disarmament

Newsletter no. 16

September 2019

Dear Friends of Peace,

It's time to get back to work, after our summer adventures, and we are getting together for our first meeting in a while: **Wednesday September 11, at 7 PM in the Anacortes Library meeting room.** The feature event is a slide show and discussion representing the tours taken this summer at the Hanford Nuclear Reactor site in Eastern Washington by four of our members. Bud Anderson will be chairing the presentation, and it is truly an eye-opening experience. Here is Bud's introduction:

Title: The Unintended Consequences of Hanford: Clean-Up Nightmare

During WWII, the United States prioritized the construction of nuclear bombs. Unfortunately, the decision makers in charge of developing these weapons did not prioritize the safe long term storage of the vast quantities of radioactive waste what would be generated during the manufacture of these bombs. The waste products were simply vented to the atmosphere, pumped into storage tanks, or simple distributed into the ground. Specifically, Hanford is storing 56,000,000 gallons of high-level radioactive waste in 177 underground tanks and more than 1/3 of them have leaked. This summer four Skagit County residents toured the Hanford facility and will report on that they saw and present information detailing the progress (or lack of progress) on cleaning up this disaster.

We will all learn a lot, and I encourage everyone to attend, and share this with friends and family.

We are also planning to have the meeting video recorded, so it will be available for future viewing online. In addition, at this meeting we will announce our plans for holding future meetings on a regular basis, and we encourage you all to participate in our new activities. There is plenty of work for all.

On the subject of nuclear contamination, our state has the biggest site, at Hanford, but not the only one in the country. Los Alamos Laboratories in New Mexico is the home of the original Manhattan Project engineering and research that built the first bombs, and cleanup of the hazardous wastes left behind have been going on for decades. Recent revisions of the Dept of Energy's nuclear remediation project call for the same downgrading of hazard classification as at Hanford, which will allow much of the remaining waste to be

left out of future cleanup. According to [Nukewatch New Mexico](#), that would leave over 690,000 cubic meters of untreated contaminated waste buried in unlined pits perched above an aquifer. [Church Rock, New Mexico](#) is the site of an abandoned Uranium mine, on Navajo Tribal Land, where a containment dam failed in 1979, spilling nuclear waste that has never been cleaned up. Another site is [Rocky Flats](#), just north of Denver Colorado, where soil tests taken in preparation for a new highway project have uncovered dangerously high levels of Plutonium contamination, left behind after the nuclear weapons trigger manufacturing plant was shut down there years ago. The contaminated samples came from the Eastern edge of the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge. And there are many more legacies, more unintended consequences.

The Congressional Recess is almost over. There is still time to visit your Senators and Representative to express your views on the important issues of our time. One of these is certainly the Act to Maintain Limits on Russian Nuclear Forces, introduced in the Senate as by Sen. Robert Menendez, D, NJ, as **S. 845**, to extend the 2010 New START agreement, until 2026. This critical treaty is due to expire next year if not renewed. The companion bill in the House of Representatives is **HR. 2529**, introduced by Rep. Eliot Engel, D, NY16. Please contact Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell, and Representative Rick Larsen or Susan DelBene, and urge them to do all they can to make sure this treaty, the only one not already scuttled by Trump, can continue to keep our world safe from nuclear disaster, a little while longer. You can also remind them about No First Use (S.272 and HR. 921) and Hold the LYNE Act (S.3448 and HR. 6840)

[The texts of all these bills are on our website here](#)

And you can always contact them through their local offices, by letter, email, or phone, or personal meetings with their staff.

Washington Congressional Contacts

Senator Maria Cantwell

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Local office: **2930 Wetmore Ave. Suite 9B, Everett, WA 98201 (425) 303-0114**

Senator Patty Murray

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Local office: **2930 Wetmore Ave. Suite 9D, Everett, WA 98201 (425) 259-6515**

Representative Rick Larsen (District 2)

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Local Offices: **2930 Wetmore Ave. Suite 9F, Everett, WA 98201 (425) 252-3188**

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Representative Susan DelBene (District 1)

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Local Office: **204 W. Montgomery St., Mount Vernon, WA 98273 (360) 416-7879**

Want to wear an official **Washington Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons** T-shirt? I got mine, and I love it.



https://www.customink.com/designs/wanw/uta0-00bx-42wn/retrieve?account_id=33565947

Here is a compelling story about Gael Tarleton, who is not only a Representative in our Washington Legislature (D-36), and former analyst in the US Defense Intelligence Agency, but also a member of the Board of Directors in Ploughshares Fund. Her experiences in our nation's nuclear weapons history have informed all her work since then. As we know, Ploughshares Fund has been one of the most effective Peace organizations for many years, and they have benefited from her perspectives.

<https://www.ploughshares.org/issues-analysis/article/facing-nuclear-threats>

We are always eager to hear from you, so that we may better provide the information you need for your advocacy toward the common goal of nuclear weapons abolition. Contact us any time with your comments, suggestions, and complaints We will try to respond quickly : Bud Anderson, budathome2012@hotmail.com, Wim Houppermans wh5314b@gmail.com, Lyndon Greene anacomaritimectr@msn.com, or me tracy@nomorebombs.org or call or text me at 360-840-3826. thanks, tracy powell

Please share this with anyone you like. And if you want to be removed from this list, please tell me.

Peace quote:

"No one can live in isolation. Thus, whether we like it or not, our vast and diverse human family must finally learn to live together. Individually and collectively we must assume a greater sense of Universal Responsibility."

His Holiness the XIVth Dalai Lama, 1989 Nobel Peace Laureate

