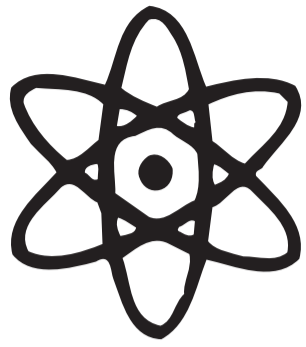


THE URANIUM RADIOACTIVE



CIRCUITS

COMING
SOON TO A
VENUE
NEAR YOU!

THE URANIUM INDUSTRY

Australia is the sixth largest producer of uranium in the world. The three currently operating mines supply 30% of the world's uranium.

Uranium is used as a fuel for nuclear reactors and weapons.

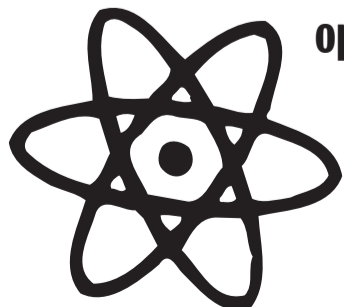
DANGERS OF URANIUM MINING

The Environment

☹ The process of uranium mining creates radioactive mine tailings that must be isolated from the environment for thousands of years before reaching a stable state. These tailings stored in dams; leaks cause contamination of wetlands, river systems and waterways through runoff and leaching, wind can spread radioactive dust particles to nearby townships.

☹ In arid zones such as Roxby Downs (South Oz), disruption of groundwater supplies (basin resources) and natural springs is a common problem

☹ In-situ leach mining a.k.a. solution mining, involves pumping large quantities of sulfuric acid into groundwater systems to dissolve uranium. The radioactive slurry solution is then pumped to the surface for processing. Vast amounts of liquid wastes are dumped into the water table leaving long-term, often permanent groundwater contamination. This is a cheaper



option than conventional mining techniques and little research has been done into controlling the toxic impacts. Furthermore it

allows multinational companies to do the damage then leave, as there are no rehabilitation requirements.

Health Impacts

* Radioactive dust and radon gas (released in the mining process), increase the risk of lung cancer and damage to the lining of the lungs

* Reproductive health is affected, increases risk of several cancers and respiratory complications

* There is a growing international scientific consensus that there is NO safe level of radiation exposure

* There is no Government compensation for exposure to radiation

* Radioactive wastes for uranium mining can be spread through the wind and rain



Indigenous culture in Jabiluka

NO WASTE DUMPS!!!

-All nuclear technology produces radioactive waste

- Nuclear waste dumps would remain radioactive for 250,000 years

-The Federal Government has so far refused to legislate against Australia becoming a site for an international radioactive waste dump. At the same time European company Pangea Resources has identified Australia as a potential international radioactive waste dump.

-The Federal Government wants to build a National Nuclear Waste Dump in South Australia. This 'out of site out of mind' solution would allow ANSTO to get rid of the thousands of spent fuel rods, which have built up at the Lucas Heights Reactor as well as facilitate future waste disposal from the new reactor.

-Despite the South Australian Government opposing this proposal and passing legislation against any dumping, the Federal Government can override this decision by dumping on Commonwealth land.

HOWARD'S PRO-NUCLEAR COALITION

Australia is the only western nation to approve in-situ mining. The Federal Government are thus facilitating the practice of in-situ mining, by opening up the door for multinational companies, who would otherwise be banned from using the in-situ technique in their own countries.

There is strong opposition to the establishment of a new research reactor in suburban Sydney. Local government conservation organisations and the community are against the building of a Reactor which would produce high level radioactive waste for the next 10 years and continue to discharge radioactive contaminants into the air and water. Despite opposition and inherent dangers, the Federal cabinet made the decision to build prior to any assessment process.

We the taxpayers are paying for an unsafe and unnecessary nuclear industry. Why doesn't the government listen to the people they are supposed to represent?

In recent international climate change talks at The Hague, the Australian government argued that nuclear power should be part of the CDM (Clean Development Mechanism). Australia argued that developed nations should be able to earn credits under the Kyoto Protocol by assisting developing nations in establishing nuclear power. As it is one of the world's largest suppliers of uranium, one must question the government's vested interests. Why are we supporting nuclear power in the third world while opposing it in our own country? Because of public opposition to the danger.... but it's okay for other countries to suffer as long as we get the financial gains, and industry viability in Australia isn't compromised, right?

Shau Teo

URANIUM MINES IN AUSTRALIA: A Profile

OLYMPIC DAM

WHERE: Roxby Downs (Central South Australia)

TRADITIONAL OWNERS: The Arabana People

MINING OPERATORS: Western Mining Corporation Limited (WMC Ltd are an Australian multinational mining giant).

FACTS

-WMC have a licence to draw over 42million liters of water/day from the Great Artesian Basin (Licence granted from SA government and approved by the Federal Government)

- Impacts on ancient mound springs, which are supported by the Great Artesian Basin

-In 1997 the South Australian Government passed the Roxby Downs Amendment Bill, giving WMC Ltd control of Aboriginal Heritage over 1.5 million hectares of SA (well beyond the mine lease)

-In 1994 WMC reported that three billion litres of tailings effluent had leaked out from a retention facility.

-The mine is currently expanding its operations, which will see a doubling of uranium extraction, from 1,500 tonnes to 3,000 tonnes per year.

RANGER

WHERE: NT surrounded by Kakadu National Park (World Heritage Listed)

TRADITIONAL OWNERS: Mirrar People

MINING OPERATORS: ERA (Energy Resources of Australia)

FACTS

-Over 100 leaks and breaches reported

-A leak in early 2000 was not reported for an extended period. Hunting and fishing practices are commonly carried out by the traditional owners. Release of contaminated water puts their health, food source and lives at risk.

-Contaminates the Magela Creek System (a tributary of the East Alligator River)

-Devastating social and cultural impacts on the Aboriginal community

JABILUKA

WHERE: Within Kakadu National Park, NT (20 km North of the RANGER mine)

TRADITIONAL OWNERS: The Mirrar People

MINING OPERATORS: British Multinational Rio Tinto (68% owner of ERA)

FACTS

-Approval of the Jabiluka Project was fast-tracked when the Howard Government came into power

-Jabiluka project stalled since September 1999

due to a swarm of opposition from the Australian public and indigenous community.

- British Mining Giant Rio Tinto are now majority shareholders of ERA (last year buying former parent company North Ltd). RioTinto is considering selling ERA to a French Nuclear Company Cogema. Environment, anti-nuclear and indigenous groups are continuing to put pressure on Rio Tinto not to sell or further develop the mine

-European Parliament, UNESCO's World Heritage Committee, Traditional Owners and environmental groups are opposed to the mine.

-Because of water management problems, ERA have been pumping back contaminated water into mineshaft, threatening Kakadu's precious wetlands and the East Alligator River

BEVERLEY

WHERE: South Australia, 520km north of Adelaide

TRADITIONAL OWNERS: The Adnyamatha-nha people

MINING OPERATORS: Heathgate Resources Pty Ltd. (an affiliate of General Atomics of USA).

FACTS

"Commercially, it's positive news for SA. It's a new development and it has to be a boost for the mining industry, which has so many promising prospects ahead of it,"

Senator Hill (Federal Minister for the Environment)

-Use of in-situ mining technique (causes acid poison to leach in to aquifers), a cheap option that allows the company to free itself from any obligation to rehabilitate the area.

-Large-scale contamination of groundwater from sulfuric acid and radioactive waste. The pollution of aquifers poses a threat the both humans and wildlife that depend them for survival.

HONEYMOON

WHERE: Roughly 200kms South-east of the BEVERLEY mine

TRADITIONAL OWNERS: The Adnyamathanha People

MINING OPERATORS: Canadian company Southern Cross Resources (SCR)

FACTS: This is a trial mine, which has commenced operation using in-situ leach mining.

-A 'trial' mine means that no Environmental Impact Studies have been conducted and no approval from the Traditional Aboriginal Owners has been given

-Highly toxic liquid wastes are being discharged in to the groundwater.