



Spring 2008

Healthy Environment ALLIANCE of Utah

Protecting the Health of Utahns from Nuclear and Toxic Waste

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No Grazie!

HEAL Utah's attempts to stop EnergySolutions' proposal to dump nuclear waste from Italy in Utah had been termed a "David vs. Goliath" battle. But armed with public opinion and political allies, we have once again dealt EnergySolutions' plans a major blow.

Not content to have made Utah the place for the nation's nuclear waste, EnergySolutions wants to see our state become the nuclear dumping ground to the world as well. The global company applied to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to import 20,000 tons of nuclear waste from Italy, with plans to process it in Tennessee and dump the remainder in Utah.

But HEAL Utah led a campaign to raise public awareness and pressure our public officials to keep out Italy's nuclear waste. The Radiation Control Board, a regulatory body, was the first to urge the NRC to deny EnergySolutions' application. Congressman Matheson soon followed, and took a step further by co-sponsoring a bill to ban foreign nuclear waste disposal in America.

But Governor Huntsman struck the final blow. To block the Italian waste, he invoked his authority under the Northwest Interstate Compact, which regulates low-level nuclear waste in the region, to prohibit the disposal of any foreign nuclear waste in Utah.

EnergySolutions' application still awaits a final decision by the Nuclear Regulatory Commis-

sion (NRC), though they are now likely to deny it. But EnergySolutions won't go down without a fight. They may sue the Governor or the Compact, raising doubts as to whether it is subject to the Compact's authority. But if they choose to sue Utah's Governor to secure the Italian waste contract, the people of Utah will be standing behind him every step of the way.

However, Utah and the U.S. remain vulnerable to future requests to import foreign nuclear waste. Not one of the world's top nuclear

waste producing nations has a disposal site for all of its low-level nuclear waste. In many ways, the Italian waste proposal was a test case meant to determine whether countries like Great Britain, Germany, Mexico, Canada, and others, will be able to rely on Utah and the United States to take care of their nuclear garbage.

In fact, EnergySolutions' Italian waste request was many times larger than the combined total of all import

licenses previously approved by the NRC, and represents virtually the entire low-level waste burden of Italy's now-defunct nuclear waste program.

None of this should come as a surprise. When EnergySolutions went public at the end of last year, the company identified expansion into the international market as part of its business strategy. Given that EnergySolutions' Utah dumpsite is the single most profitable aspect of its business, we can bet that EnergySolutions

(No Grazie! continued on page 7)



A Note From the Director



Vanessa Pierce, Director



When I learned that energy-expert and nuclear waste guru, Arjun Makhijani, president of the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, had written a book on how the U.S. could wean itself from both carbon and nuclear power by 2050, it was as if the “Hallelujah chorus” of Handel’s Messiah started playing.

It’s been about six months since Utah State Rep. Aaron Tilton announced his plans to build a nuclear reactor in Utah – and throughout those six months, it feels like I’ve been beating my head against a brick wall when it comes to Utah’s energy policy.

I’ve had numerous conversations with legislators and other policy makers about why nuclear power is not a responsible or wise choice for Utah. Inevitably, the first response I hear is something like this: If you don’t like nuclear, and your other environmentalist buddies don’t like coal, where the heck are we supposed to get our energy from?

My response focuses on conservation, efficiency and renewables. But the legislators retort with the same frustrating answer.

Many legislators are willing to concede that the development of renewable energy is important, but they always make the point that the wind doesn’t consistently blow, nor does the sun always shine. Given the intermittent nature of these resources, they say, you can’t guarantee that the lights will come on with an all-renewable energy portfolio.

In other words, I’m asked if we expect Utahns to return to a hunter-gatherer way of life. And of course we don’t.

That’s where Arjun comes in.

Arjun is an electrical engineer by training – he specialized in nuclear fusion – and to the best of my knowledge, with his book *Carbon Free and Nuclear Free*, he has done the first analysis of what it would take to create an electrical grid powered 100% by renewable energy. Incredibly, he found that not only is it technically possible, but that it’s also economically

feasible.

At long last, we have a new model that grounds the vision many of us share for a bright, clean, pollution-free energy future in a technical and economic reality.

The vision in Arjun’s book contrasts sharply with the vision (or lack thereof) that we saw from the legislature this year as they failed to pass any meaningful policies to move Utah’s energy policy toward renewables. It’s clear that if we rely on the powers that be to determine Utah’s energy future, we can look forward to more of the same--coal, perhaps nuclear, a token amount of renewables, and some “alternative” energy like tar sands and oil shale.

But we can do better. And we deserve better.

To this end, Arjun has agreed to work with HEAL Utah and a coalition of other organizations concerned about the impact that Utah’s energy choices have upon our health and environment to develop a Carbon-Free Nuclear-Free policy specifically tailored to Utah’s electrical sector.

In the coming months, we will be working hard to complete the Carbon-Free Nuclear-Free plan for Utah. But the most challenging and most important work will only come after the completion of the study: creating the political will to implement it.

As the adage says, “when the people lead, the leaders will follow.”

Over 92% of Utahns, a super majority, unite around renewable energy. You, your neighbor, and I are all eager to embrace this technology. Armed with the Carbon-Free Nuclear Free Utah study, we can make a reality the vision we all share.

Please, help us lead the charge for a Carbon-Free Nuclear-Free Utah. And through our example, Utah can be a national leader for creating a carbon-free nuclear-free America.

For more information about Arjun’s national study, visit <http://www.ieer.org/carbonfree/index.html>

HEAL Utah Board of Directors

HEAL Utah extends a warm welcome to our newest board member, Ed Firmage Jr. While serving on the board, Ed hopes to focus on developing HEAL Utah's growing campaign to promote a clean, renewable, and efficient energy policy. He is interested in reaching out to specific communities, including cities, religious communities, and universities, to educate and inspire action around these important issues.

Ed Jr. and his family have long supported HEAL Utah. But recent backsliding by state leaders on our nuclear waste policy and the specter of a nuclear reactor have drawn Ed further into the fray. During the 2007 Legislative Session, he spoke at our "Raising the Red Flags" press conference, and helped remind us that when we talk about nuclear waste, we are dealing with time frames beyond our comprehension. For instance, while half-lives are measured in the tens of thousands of years, the pyramids of Egypt were only built 5,000 years ago.

Apart from his activities on HEAL Utah's board, Ed Firmage works as an outdoor photographer and tries to enjoy Utah as much as possible. Some of his work can be viewed at www.firmageditions.com.

Welcome, Ed!



Ed Firmage, Jr.

Volunteer Spotlight: Susan Dudley



"It's a good thing to do. It raises people's awareness and gives them a voice" says Susan Dudley about gathering signatures against the Italian nuclear waste proposal.

Lately, if you were to run into Susan Dudley at the gym or book club, she would ask you if you would like to help keep Italian nuclear waste out of Utah. Always a concerned citizen, whether it was about chemical weapons incineration or PFS, Susan was appalled when she read in the paper that EnergySolutions wanted to dispose of nuclear waste from Italy in Utah. Why should the United States and Utah be responsible for Italy's waste? But as she researched the issues, her concern grew beyond this one proposal. If approved, it could open the door to an endless flow of nuclear waste from around the world.

So, Susan attended our "No Grazie" Press Conference at Tony Caputo's in February. She took a couple postcards home with her to get her family to sign. But, she quickly ran out of them. So, Susan called up HEAL Utah and asked for more postcards—and then more postcards. Through her efforts and working through her sphere of influence, Susan has gathered over 300 signatures against EnergySolutions' proposal. "People respond immediately and are eager to sign the card." This positive reception has made her very comfortable asking anyone she sees, whether it's at the gym or local coffee shop, to sign the postcard. Susan believes that by one person contacting their sphere of influence and asking them to reach out to their sphere of influence that awareness can create action. She has recruited her nephew to gather signatures in his classes at Weber State, as well as the help of her sisters, mother, and friends.

HEAL Utah thanks Susan for being such a stellar volunteer and working with us to keep Utah from becoming the world's nuclear dumping ground.

If you are a concerned citizen like Susan and want to help protect Utah from being the dumping ground for the world, then sign up to gather 25 signatures against EnergySolutions' Italian Waste proposal.

Call 801-355-5055 or e-mail Jessica@healutah.org if you are interested.

Power Politics

Nuclear cowboy Rep. Mike Noel (R-Kanab) has been dreaming for years about bringing nuclear power to Utah; now it looks like those dreams may be closer to coming true than ever before.



Rep. Mike Noel

The Lake Powell Chronicle reported back in 2006 that Rep. Noel was talking with officials about building a nuclear power plant on school trust land near Lake Powell.



Rep. Aaron Tilton

As for wringing the vast quantities of water needed to cool the reactor core from Utah's parched landscape, he had water rights virtually earmarked for the project as Executive Director of the Kane County Conservancy District.

Although that project never panned out, Rep. Noel has found a willing nuclear disciple in erstwhile Viagra salesman Rep. Aaron Tilton (R-Springville).

In secret, the two men inked a deal that could lead to Utah's first commercial nuclear reactor.

By the terms of the deal, Rep. Tilton's recently-formed Transition Power Development company will purchase 10 billion gallons of water per year from Rep. Noel's water conservancy district, at a cost of \$1 million annually.

Rep. Tilton stands to make millions for himself and Rep. Noel stands to make millions for his employer. Despite the obvious potential gain, as well as the fact that the two men Co-Chair the legislative committee that decides Utah's energy policy, both have shrugged off the notion that there is any conflict of interest or impropriety. Yet, when this

scheme was revealed, it even shocked former Republican legislator and ethics reformer Jordan Tanner, who thought he had seen everything.

"The denial of the two that there is a conflict of interest is so contemptuous of the public interest, the degree and magnitude of money involved and the benefits to be derived by those two representatives—during my decade in the House I never saw anything hit that level." ---City Weekly "The Piggy Awards," 1/10/08

Although details about the project are scant, here's what we know.

Rep. Tilton's company has notified the Nuclear Regulatory Commission of its intent to submit an application in the spring of 2010. The proposed 3,000 megawatt nuclear installation is called the "Blue Castle Generating Project" and, based on recent cost estimates, would likely cost between \$15-18 billion to build over at least 10 years.

Rep. Tilton has subsequently marshaled another 8 billion gallons of water from San Juan County to satisfy the reactor's voracious thirst. In total, the reactor would use 18 billion gallons of water a year, which is equivalent to the amount of water required to satisfy the needs of 54,000 suburban families.

Remarkably, because the electricity will be so expensive and because the installed

capacity will far outpace Utah's demand (even in 10 years!), most of the power generated by Rep. Tilton's plants will

"The denial of the two that there is a conflict of interest is so contemptuous of the public interest, the degree and magnitude of money involved and the benefits to be derived by those two representatives—during my decade in the House I never saw anything hit that level."

--Former Rep. Jordan Tanner, City Weekly

likely be sold across state lines to our neighbors in Nevada, Arizona, and California. Like a giant radioactive parasite, this project will drain our water and deposit high-level waste on our land, while siphoning off electricity for the benefit of another state.

And while California would be happy to buy nuclear power from Utah, they are not willing to take on the risks of nuclear power themselves. Ironically, California has banned the construction of new nuclear power plants until a solution for the waste exists—meaning no more nuclear reactors in California until a permanent repository like Yucca Mountain opens.

Since neither the U.S. nor any other country in the world has an operating repository, high-level waste must be temporarily stored, usually on-site at the reactor.

Utahns have fought too long and hard to keep high-level waste out of our state. If Rep. Tilton's nuclear power play succeeds, we'll be left holding the radioactive bag, while other states get all the benefits.



Green River

Jessica Kendrick, HEAL Utah Field Organizer
Christopher Thomas, HEAL Utah Policy Director

(F)utility: Utah Lawmakers and Rocky Mountain Power Craft an Energy Policy to Forget

Faced with a choice of substance vs. sham, citizen will vs. corporate posturing, a window of opportunity vs. window dressing, the Utah State Legislature unanimously chose to settle for less.

This past legislative session, Utah had an opportunity to set a course for a clean, green, and fiscally responsible energy future. Unfortunately, that vision was derailed by the state's largest utility and a powerful Republican Senator.

HEAL Utah supported Senator McCoy's Senate Bill 173, a traditional renewable portfolio standard that would have set benchmarks for Rocky Mountain Power to ultimately achieve 25% of its Utah electricity sales from renewable sources by 2025. To address concerns that green energy may be more expensive, the legislation also included an escape clause for consumers. If increasing the share of renewable energy would cause an annual increase in electricity bills of 1.5% more than the non-renewable alternative, then the renewable requirement would cease to apply.

Otherwise, the utility would need to steadily increase the share of electricity from renewable resources or face a penalty payment decided by the state's Public Service Commission.

In front of a packed committee room, the Senate Workforce Services and Economic



Senator Scott McCoy unveils his "Real McCoy" renewable energy portfolio standard.

Development Committee heard enthusiastic support for the bill from a host of environmental and public health advocates, including: HEAL Utah, the Sierra Club, Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment, Utah Moms for Clean Air, the Utah Medical Association, and the Intermountain Pediatric Society. But Republicans on the committee shot the bill down on a 4-1 partisan vote.

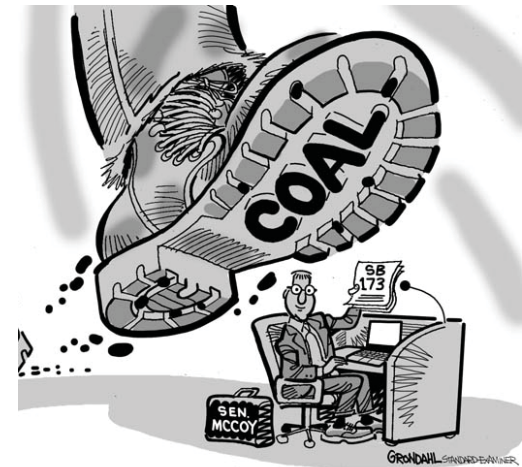
SB 173 was labeled "too tough," "a government mandate" and "bullying the utility." However, we felt this standard seemed a logical choice, given that Rocky Mountain Power's parent company—called PacifiCorp—has to live up to basically the same standard in Oregon. But apparently company executives believe that Utah consumers—just as excited about renewable energy as Oregonians—should settle for less.

Enter the bill favored by Rocky Mountain Power—Senator Bramble's Senate Bill 202.

Unlike the "Real McCoy," this bill was originally conceived of by the state's largest utility, Rocky Mountain Power, and heavily favored the utility's own interests. It set a goal of 20% renewable energy by 2025 with no benchmarks and no significant penalties for noncompliance.

It even included a backdoor for dirty energy—including nuclear and coal with carbon sequestration—by allowing these energies to shrink the total renewable energy goal. But what the bill lacked in commitment to renewable energy, it made up for in giveaways to Rocky Mountain Power, guaranteeing the monopoly first dibs on the state's best and biggest renewable resources.

HEAL Utah worked alongside a cadre of small renewable energy developers to moderate the bill's worst anti-competitive provisions; but our calls for an enforceable standard and the removal of dirty energy sources were ignored.



CARBON FOOTPRINT

Image courtesy of The Standard Examiner.

The bill's fatal flaw is that it does nothing to change the rules under which most of the state's energy choices are made, leaving in place the requirement that energy resource decisions are almost exclusively determined by cost—irrespective of the public health externalities and environmental impacts associated with conventional sources like coal and nuclear power. These rules have so far saddled Utah with an almost exclusively carbon-based electricity system and a huge financial liability, should greenhouse gas emissions be subject to a national carbon tax.

Fortunately, the bill's fatal flaw also turns out to be a blessing where nuclear power is concerned. Because nuclear power is turning out to be an extravagantly expensive choice, the state's largest electricity provider will have a hard time passing off a new nuclear reactor as a "least cost" choice under the current rules.

A recent announcement in Florida puts a \$14 Billion price tag on a 2,200 Megawatt power station there, double to triple the costs cited even a year ago.

Much to the chagrin of energy consumers there, the project will be partially financed through an average 3-4% cost increase to customer bills every year for the next decade—far in advance of ever seeing an additional watt of electricity.

((F)utility continued on page 7)

Federal (Non)Action On Climate Change

We are all familiar with double-speak like the “Clear Skies Initiative” or the “Healthy Forest Initiative.” Now, we can add another to the list: the Lieberman-Warner Climate Change Bill.

The public is beginning to demand action on climate change. Everything from grassroots campaigns to changing light bulbs to statewide Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards are popping up all over the country. Last April at the Step-It-Up Festival in Salt Lake City, thousands of Utahns demanded that Congress finally step up to the plate to cut carbon emissions 80% by 2050.

But the Lieberman-Warner Climate Change bill falls far short from what Utahns demanded and what leading scientists recommend. It only seeks a cut of 60-65% by 2050. And to add insult to injury, the bill encourages development of nuclear power.

An aide to Sen. Lieberman (I-CT) recently told the E&E Daily that the Lieberman-

Warner climate change bill (S.2191) “would be the most historic incentive for nuclear in the history of the United States.”

The bill’s complicated “cap-and-trade” carbon system could give as much as \$500 billion to so-called “zero or low-carbon” energy technologies, including nuclear power.

***“It’s too weak on climate....
It’s too strong on nuclear....”***

And, since the nuclear industry’s loan guarantees request wasn’t fully funded last year, Sen. Lieberman is also talking about amending the bill on the floor to insert loan guarantees and other incentives, as well as language to create an interim storage site for high-level nuclear waste or forcing Yucca Mountain to open.

As Utahns know, nuclear power is not a clean technology. And it will not be effective in helping us combat climate change

because reactors take too long and cost too much money to build, as Institute for Energy and Environmental Research documented in their study *Insurmountable Risks*. Thankfully, we already have the solutions to not only address climate change today, but work towards a carbon-free, nuclear-free energy future; see the Director’s Note of this newsletter or visit <http://www.ieer.org/carbonfree/index.html> for more information.

S.2191 will be debated later this spring on the floor of the U.S. Senate. Please let our Senators know now that you want a real climate change bill—one that drastically cuts carbon emissions by promoting truly sustainable energy technologies—not by resurrecting the failed nuclear power program of the last century.

Senator Hatch: (202) 224-5251
Senator Bennett: (202) 224-5444

Jessica Kendrick, HEAL Utah Field Organizer
Information provided by Nuclear Information Research Service (NIRS)

Riddle: What has 12 great speaking voices, 24 busy hands, and 1 PowerPoint presentation?

Answer: HEAL Utah’s Speakers Bureau

Every year, EnergySolutions brings candidates, legislators, and community leaders on tours of their facility. Reps. Tilton and Noel can talk nuclear power with their colleagues behind caucus doors. Now, HEAL Utah is launching a new program, the Speakers Bureau, to reach out to community, business and civic leaders.

Twelve stellar volunteers have learned to give our new presentation “Nuclear Utah.” The presentation focuses on educating Utahns about the impacts and alternatives to nuclear power. First it reviews how the nuclear industry targets our state. Then, it explains the economic concerns of building nuclear power in Utah, and finally

offers real energysolutions as alternatives. Through this presentation, the Speakers Bureau will educate a broad spectrum of Utahns, influence policymakers and opinion leaders, and encourage the public to become more involved in our work.

You can be a crucial part of this program as well!

The Speakers Bureau is only as good as the opportunities they have to present. Please invite the Speakers Bureau to present to your PTA, Rotary Club, book club, or business.

To schedule a presentation, call 801-355-5055 or e-mail john@healutah.org

Speakers
Bureau



(No Grazie!, continued from front page.)

stockholders will push hard to keep the trains of waste rolling into Tooele – even if their cargo was created outside of the U.S. Other countries will see it as convenient “off-site” solution to their nuclear waste problem.

To prevent this from happening, Congressman Matheson’s legislation (HR 5632) would ban foreign waste disposal, closing the door firmly on EnergySolu-

Thank you to all of you who spoke out against Italian waste proposal. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has already received a record-breaking 1000+ comments, overwhelmingly opposing the deal. The NRC public comment period is officially open until June 10, 2008. If you haven’t had a chance to register your opposition, you can still sign our petition online at www.healutah.org and join with fellow Utahns in saying “No Grazie” to EnergySolutions’ proposal.

((F)utility, continued from page 5.)

HEAL Utah helped successfully thwart a bill modeled on these same Florida laws that would have allowed Rocky Mountain Power to similarly finance a nuclear reactor here in Utah.

So in what direction is Utah’s energy policy headed? Rocky Mountain Power and its allies successfully sidestepped any of the hard questions we know are coming down the road. We are no worse and no better off than we were before.

However, over 92% of Utahns continue to demand government action to promote renewable energy, and HEAL Utah will continue to bring these demands to the table in the interim and next legislative session.

Christopher Thomas, HEAL Utah Policy Director



HEAL supporters say “No Grazie!” to Italian nuclear waste.

Last year, the U.S. imported \$35 billion worth of goods from Italy – items ranging from wine to tiles to fresh cut flowers. Some of those products ended up in local Italian restaurants like Lugano’s, Caputo’s and Cannella’s. Although these businesses love Italian goods, they don’t want to see their adopted home of Utah become Italy’s dumping ground. Stop by one of these fine establishments to sign the

petition in person, while enjoying the fine things we love about Italy.

Jessica Kendrick, HEAL Utah Field Organizer

tions’ ambitions to sell our West Desert as their “solution” for the world’s nuclear waste. We must remain vigilant and work to pass this important legislation.

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- Margene Bullcreek
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