

SanOnofreSafety.org

HIGH BURNUP NUCLEAR FUEL

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MAKE RADIATION VISIBLE

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**GROUPS LAUNCH
TWO NATIONAL CAMPAIGNS**

**HIGH BURNUP NUCLEAR FUEL:
Pushing the Safety Envelope
and
MAKE RADIATION VISIBLE**

Organizations from across the country are kicking off two campaigns in Washington DC this week, calling on congress and regulatory agencies to address growing nuclear power hazards: the dangers of hotter-than-ever radioactive waste being generated at US nuclear power reactors, and the routine, invisible-yet-harmful radioactivity released from every nuclear power reactor.

The first, led by Dr. Marvin Resnikoff of Radioactive Waste Management Associates [VT], a renowned radioactive waste specialist and nuclear physicist, will bring awareness to the extra-hazardous high level radioactive waste referred to as High Burnup Fuel (HBF) – nuclear fuel that is used for longer than originally designed for and which has led to fuel failures and leaks in nuclear plants across the country and even greater storage and transport challenges. Resnikoff cautions that the policy of burning fuels longer to improve profits was accepted by the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) without adequate scientific evaluation or public knowledge. The consequences include zirconium fuel cladding corrosion in storage pools and dry storage casks. He cautions the continuance of this policy may be endangering public safety. ‘Burning’ longer in the reactors means the nuclear fuel becomes even more radioactive, as much as doubling its heat and radioactivity. The group declares nuclear fuel casings were not designed for this added stress. The resulting corrosion and cracks are allowing leaks and putting citizens at reactors and along transportation routes at risk. Dr. Resnikoff says, “My concern is the NRC is running an experiment in the field, increasing the transportation and disposal risk.”

The second campaign calls for steps to MAKE RADIATION VISIBLE. A group of concerned citizens in the Tennessee Valley, Mothers Against Tennessee River Radiation (MATRR), is proposing a plan to reveal these invisible toxins. First, they call on the NRC to upgrade monitoring rules, replacing outdated quarterly averaging currently reported only once a year with real-time online data about radiation levels around nuclear power plants. Second, just like odor markers for natural gas and propane, they call for florescent dyes to be dispersed with emergency radiation plumes, providing immediate warning about where the radioactive releases are traveling – which could be a critical life-saver for the public and first-responders. Third, they call for public health alerts when these known carcinogens and mutagens are released into the environment. Says the MATRR group’s co-founder, Gretel Johnston, “We have weather alerts, smog alerts, and even pollen alerts – why not radioactivity alerts when these poisons are both routinely and accidentally released into our air and water? We are alerted to other hazardous substance spills, why not radiation alerts?”

Among the groups meeting with government officials this week are the Coalition to Decommission San Onofre, Residents Organized For a Safe Environment (ROSE), Bellefonte Efficiency and Sustainability Team / Mothers Against Tennessee River Radiation (BEST/MATRR), Indian Point Safe Energy Coalition, the Coalition Against Nukes, and Nuclear Information and Resource Service.

See enclosed Factsheets:

[HBFactsheet01-09-2014.pdf](#) and [MakeRadiationVisible.pdf](#)

Links for more information:

[ResidentsOrganizedForASafeEnvironment.wordpress.com](#)

[CoalitionAgainstNukes.org](#)

[IPSECinfo.org](#)

[www.nirs.org](#)

[SanOnofreSafety.org](#)

[www.MATRR.org](#)

[www.rwma.com](#)