



NATIONAL RADIOACTIVE WASTE COALITION

THE SPENT NEWS

SUMMER 2024

Urgent Action Needed!

RECA: The Radiation Exposure Compensation Act is set to expire on June 7th. We need Congress to vote to extend RECA immediately.



Example script for calling and emailing representatives:

I'm your constituent and am contacting you to urge you to pass the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) **NOW** before it expires on June 7th. Please request Speaker Johnson call for a House vote on RECA and encourage your colleagues to support RECA (and vote YES) before it's too late. Since the 1940s, our government has exposed its citizens to radiation from nuclear activities. The U.S. government bears responsibility for the health of uranium workers, atomic veterans, and downwinders. The Senate passed RECA along bipartisan lines in March. The President said he would sign it if when it gets to his desk. There is no time to lose. The House must do right by the American people and pass RECA today. Thank you!

Ask Speaker Johnson to bring SB 3853 to the floor for a vote
House Speaker Johnson's DC office number:
(202) 225-2777

Call Steve Scalise, who has influence over which bills are brought to a vote!
Majority Leader Scalise's DC office number:
(202) 225-3015

For more information and updates visit
[saveRECA.org](https://www.saveRECA.org)

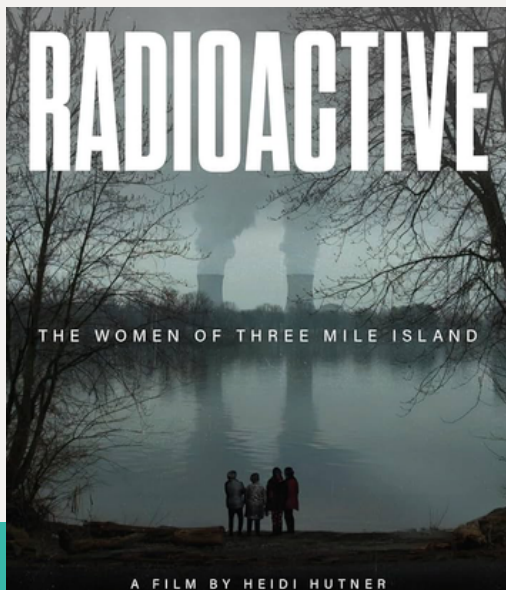
Films to watch

Radioactive: The Women of Three Mile Island

Now available for streaming on Apple TV and Amazon Prime! RADIOACTIVE: The Women of Three Mile Island is an award-winning film about the 1979 Three Mile Island meltdown – the worst commercial nuclear power accident in U.S. history – and its aftermath. It uncovers the never-before-told stories of four intrepid women who take their local community's case against the plant operator all the way to the Supreme Court – and a young female journalist who's caught in the radioactive crossfire.

RADIOACTIVE also breaks the story of a radical new health study that may finally expose the truth of the meltdown. For over forty years, the nuclear industry has done everything in their power to cover up their criminal actions, claiming, as they always do, "No one was harmed and nothing significant happened."

radioactivethefilm.com



SOS: San Onofre Syndrome

SOS is an empowering story of successful community action to shut down leaking reactors. But then they discover horrific amounts of high-level radioactive waste lethal for millions of years are being placed in thin canisters only 108 ft. from the rising sea. Criminal mismanagement of radioactive waste is a syndrome at all 93 reactors in the U.S. and beyond. Will safer alternatives be taken in time?

[Click here to register to stream SOS for free between June 3 through June 10.](#)

[Register here for a follow-up SOS Webinar with two of the filmmakers and a panel of experts.](#)
June 10, 2024 08:00 PM Eastern Time / 5:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

NRWC Spring recap

Alliance for Nuclear Accountability DC Days 2024

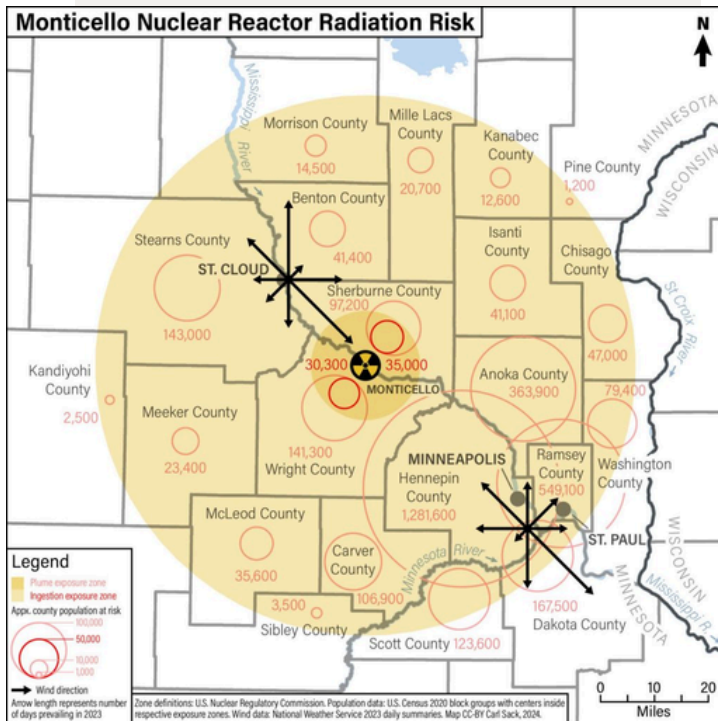


NRWC Member Organizations and our allies gathered in Washington, DC in May to campaign for just policy on nuclear issues with the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability. The waste-related recommendations included:

- No Cleanup on the Cheap - Protect People and the Environment
 - Lifecycle cleanup costs are growing faster than the annual budget. Face these liabilities to better manage increasing contamination and future costs.
 - Stop the shortcuts and do it right. Fight environmental injustice.
 - Protect and empower Frontline Communities now and in the future.
 - Fund meaningful public involvement - transparency is critical.
- Don't Fund Consolidated Interim Storage (CIS) for Commercial Irradiated Nuclear Fuel
 - Cut funding for federal interim storage.
 - Require Hardened On-Site Storage (HOSS). Keep the waste as close to the generating site as possible until there is a scientifically suitable repository.
 - Consent-based siting for nuclear waste facilities needs broad-based, full, free, prior, and informed consent. Bribery is not consent.
- No New Waste - No New Reactors, No Relicensing, Oppose Subsidies
 - Stop funding new nuclear reactors and closed reactor restarts. They create more waste. Oppose relicensing existing nuclear reactors. Oppose subsidies for bailouts at old reactors and for prolonging operations. These also create more waste.

Action item

HELP STOP EXTENDED OPERATION OF LEAKY MONTICELLO REACTOR Deadline: June 10



The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is requesting public comment on the proposed extension of the operation license for the 53-year-old Monticello nuclear power reactor on the Mississippi River in Minnesota. The operator, Northern States Power Minnesota/Xcel Energy, wants to run the reactor until 2050 when it would be 80 years old. The NRC seeks comments on its Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

[You can read the DEIS here](#)

Send comments to:
MonticelloEnvironmental@nrc.gov

Suggested Talking Points

- The NRC should extend the comment period an additional 60 days.
- Monticello has repeatedly leaked radioactive tritium-contaminated wastewater to the groundwater.
- Groundwater beneath the Monticello compound moves toward and combines with the Mississippi River, the drinking water source for Minneapolis, St. Paul, their suburbs, and 20 million people living downstream.
- In statements to the media, operator Northern States Power Minnesota and the NRC have falsely said tritium-contaminated wastewater cannot reach the Mississippi.
 - The DEIS (states on page 3-47: "Tritium detections in wells near the Mississippi Riverbank...in 2023 indicate tritium-impacted groundwater likely discharged to the river... Monticello is pumping groundwater at eight wells for tritium recovery and has installed a sheet pile wall along the riverbank to minimize discharges of tritium-impacted water to the Mississippi River.")
- The application should be denied.



Mothers for Peace Campaign to STOP Diablo

Diablo Canyon nuclear plant in California was scheduled to retire in 2024 and 2025. However, Senate Bill 846 – passed in 2022 – has enabled extended operation. State and federal subsidies have been granted to support this effort. Pacific Gas & Electric Company has applied to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for a 20-year license extension, although SB 846 asks for only 5 years.

Learn more on the [Mothers for Peace website](https://mothersforpeace.org).



Dismal Decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals

On April 29, 2024, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit made the unfortunate and unprecedented decision to uphold the NRC's exemption of Diablo Canyon from the Timely Renewal Rule. The NRC is allowing Diablo Canyon to operate INDEFINITELY while it performs safety and environmental reviews.

Mothers for Peace, Friends of the Earth, and Environmental Working Group will be filing for a rehearing.



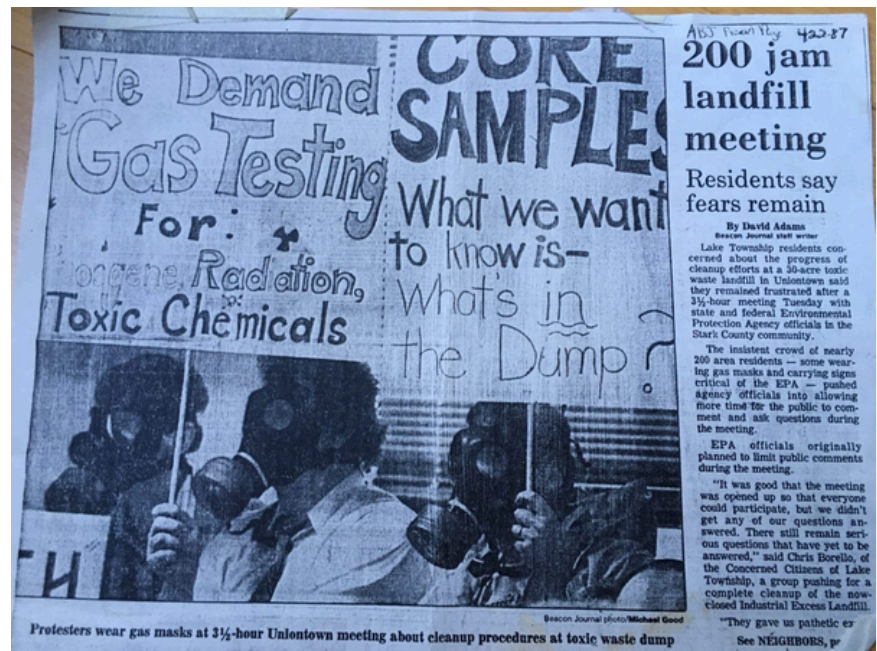
Lessons from the Uniontown Industrial Excess Landfill

A Four-Part Series: 2020 Hindsight Brings Corrupted Radiation Testing into Focus at the EPA

The radiation scandal regarding Tetra Tech at San Francisco's Hunters Point was preceded by the ongoing horror story in Uniontown Ohio, where radiation testing was repeatedly "botched" after Plutonium and high levels of Tritium were reported in private drinking water wells. The series, two years in the making by investigative journalist Greg Schwartz, meticulously took a deep dive into those details.

[PART ONE](#) [PART THREE](#)

[PART TWO](#) [PART FOUR](#)



Podcast spotlight: Inside the Decades-Long Fight Over an Ohio Superfund Site

Professor Yanick Rice Lamb of Howard University spent two years writing the original story regarding the Uniontown IEL Superfund Site located in NE Ohio between Akron and Canton. It was turned into this Podcast to further enhance and garner attention to this community's 40+ year battle regarding illegal disposal of radioactive materials, including Plutonium and Tritium, along with millions of gallons of toxic chemicals in the middle of the town in a former sand and gravel pit. USEPA bowed to the wishes of the polluters and government and killed off all containment measures planned in favor of continued flushing in a high water table used by both cities and private drinking water wells.

[LISTEN TO THE
INTEGRITY OUT LOUD
PODCAST HERE](#)

Meet NRWC Member Organization



San Clemente Green



In 2007, Gary and Laurie Headrick formed San Clemente Green to promote a sustainable future for their community. By 2010, their work with the city resulted in a Sustainability Action Plan that guides programs and policies to this day. San Clemente Green led the grassroots effort to shut down San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS), starting in 2010, when whistleblowers accurately predicted the demise of the nuclear power plant in 2012. Newly replaced steam generators released radiation into the environment, and SONGS was never to be restarted again. San Clemente Green continues to work with nuclear activists around the country and Gary currently serves on Representative Levin's Congressional Task Force on Nuclear Waste. They are currently promoting the award-winning documentary, San Onofre Syndrome, making some progress on California State Legislation to give residents more say over how nuclear waste will be handled, and pressuring California Coastal Commission to move waste to higher ground, on or near its present location, but somewhere in CA. San Clemente Green also intends to improve relations between the public and its Community Engagement Panel (CEP), so that it is not so one-sided.

Thank you for reading!



Want to be featured
in the next issue of
the Spent News?

We want to hear from
you! Any action items,
updates, news, events,
films to watch, resources
to share, etc. are
welcome additions.

[Submit completed
articles here](#)

Please review guidelines
before submitting

Support the NRWC
and other resources



- [Download our About Us postcard here.](#) Print and share at events!
- Encourage your allied organizations to [join us](#).
- **Attend meetings:** we want to hear from you! Member organizations meet on the first Tuesday of each month (1pm Pacific/4 pm Eastern). Please contact our coordinator mayssmithwick@gmail.com to be added to the email list.