

12

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My name is Don Richardson, and I'm a retired pathologist with lapsed boards in nuclear medicine. I live in Brevard, NC, and am active with WNCPSR.

It's ironic that this hearing is about our nuclear future, because the US and the world have no nuclear future. Despite the propaganda campaign from the vested nuclear interests and the reluctance of our captive government to provide start-up funding, renewable energies are already outproducing nukes, are cheaper, decentralized, rapidly deployed, rapidly achieving economies of scale and of course, non-lethal, producing no by-products that threaten all life on earth.

Nukes have already contaminated Earth forever, and everyone in this room is carrying some radioactive particles in his or her body which is a threat to the health not only of yourself but to your progeny, even those not yet born.

The nuclear industry is dying, if not already dead. Efforts to revive it with those electric paddles may result in some muscular contractions, but it's still a corpse on a cold steel table. I have done some 700 autopsies and know death when I see it.

Some who gave birth to the bomb, like Robert Oppenheimer and Albert Einstein, had crises of conscience about what they had done. But others, like Edward Teller, ever the opportunist, saw the chance to perpetuate this monstrous technology by using nuclear heat to boil water and drive turbines, a cash cow for nuclear physicists. We were told our electricity would be "too cheap to meter," whereas it is in fact too expensive to matter. Teller then influenced Ronald Reagan to support Star Wars, the weaponization of space, and that useless program exists today at great cost in a failing economy.

Those of us who have lived through the entire nuclear age are aware of the thousands of incidents, large and small, that have occurred at the world's 432 nuclear plants. In 1945 we read reports of the destruction of two non-military cities in Japan and the deaths by radiation and vaporization of tens of thousands of Japanese civilians, including, as my mother said at the time, some of the cutest children in the world. This at a time when the Japanese leadership was desperately trying to surrender, but we dropped the bombs anyway, perhaps to demonstrate our power to the Russians to further our plan for world domination post-war, Pax Americana.

Today, we are aware of only the occasional mishap that makes the news, and we hear such names as Brown's Ferry, Davis Besse, Fermi, Diablo, San Onofre, TMI, Chernobyl, Indian Point, Fukushima, and very recently North Anna. TMI was reportedly close to a meltdown that might have made the

entire NE of the US uninhabitable for centuries--or longer. Chernobyl exploded to release radiation over much of Europe and eventually the entire globe. Fukushima is now believed to be even worse than Chernobyl, with no way to control continuing releases of lethal rays and particles, now detectable in the US. All 55 Japanese reactors are near or on fault lines. An earthquake in Virginia has damaged the plants at North Anna, which, like Indian Point in NY, are on or close to fault lines. Imagine a meltdown at Indian Point, just north of NYC, exposing huge populations to radiation.

Given the cost and lethal nature of nuclear energy, there is no justification for it when far better solutions are already online. But nuclear power and nuclear weapons are Siamese twins: if you have the power you will have the weapons, and the warmongers of our plutocracy want the weapons as part of their global dominance plan, massive military force no nation can challenge. And it is subsidized with public monies against the will of the majority of citizens, a massive welfare program.

And jobs. Dollar for dollar nukes are perhaps the most job-poor industry ever devised. The same money put into renewable energies would hire as much as twenty times more people. People in the nuclear industry are very bright, but they have an ideology which obscures their intelligence and violates basic morality and ethics. These people can easily be trained to do work in the public interest, rather than furthering the goals of the plutocrats for control of the world and its resources.

It is time to follow the example of countries like Germany, which has closed 8 of its 17 reactors and will phase out the remaining 9 by 2022. Much of the rest of Europe is poised to do the same. Japan, which should have learned the lesson in 1945, built 55 reactors, 6 of which were lost at Fukushima and it now appears that remainder will be shut down. TEPCO has responded to this crisis by raising the allowable level of exposure of their children to 20 mSv/yr, ten times the amount causing increased cancer rates among nuclear workers.

I believe there will be a domino effect shutting down all plants worldwide--forever. Let's face reality. We are committing suicide and leaving the planet to perhaps the only species that can survive our legacy of radiation: THE COCKROACHES.

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