hearing and litigation process,licensing requirements for low and high level waste repositories,changes in the FOIA allowances,radiation protection standards,general Decommissioning standards,standards for the Emergency Core Cooling System(ECCS),finalization of a new level of waste that no longer needs to be watched, plus 49 other agenda items.

In another major event, the NRC is attempting to avoid an August 4th Court of Appeals decision,in a case brought by the Union of Concerned Scientists, that makes it illegal for the NRC to consider economics when developing safety regulations and design specifications for reactors. The NRC went ahead with a new proposed ruling that keeps the "Grandfather Clause" in for reactors so that new safety demands can be left out of operating reactors if if so chosen by the NRC.

The NRC also blocked a proposal to a study on the Ft. St. Vraine graphite reactor in Colorado. They claimed that the study would endanger the workers doing the study. They also rationalized that the chance of a Chernobyl-like graphite fire was unlikely there.(Federal Register,the Waste Paper,Monthly Planet)

OTHER CRACKING NEWS

** Opponents of plans to ram the evil Price-Anderson Act through the Senate before the year-end break were sucessfully stopped in December. Arch pro-nuclear Sen. Bennett (LA) was stopped in his plans to head off all of the proposed changes to the act and the Dept. of Energy (see past issues for more). Letters and calls to Cranston and Wilson are needed. Demands should include a 10 year renewal period for the law, an unlimited ceiling on claimed accident damages to the public, removal of the right of the nuclear industry to take out its legal fees before any damage claims are allowed and responsibility of vendors for faulty equipment. The move to reopen Breeder reactor projects should be stopped, and the plans to build an intermediate high level waste repository in Tennessee should also be blocked. Support for an 18 month hold on all DOE activities should be put in place, with a commission created to investigate how to clean up the current mess. Demand that no new Plutonum production reactors be allowed, that the shiping of Plutonium by air across Alaska to Japan be stopped. That the proposl to restart the reprocessing of high level nuclear waste be stopped. If that wasn't enough you should also call for independant agencies to monitor the NRC and the DOE safety programs. Shut 'em down language they don't understand yet.

** 320 people were arrested in a protest at the Rocky Flats Nuclear Arsenal in Colorado on August 9th. The protest resulted in the cancelation of the DOE's planned incineration of Plutonium. They are now tentatively agreeing to alternative methods of disposal.

** Namibia Update: The U.S. Treasury Dept. has agreed to not allow anything except Uranium Hexafloride into the U.S. This is still illegal. Challenges continue.(see last issue for details)

** In another important court victory, the Boston U.S. Court of Appeals struck down an attempt by the EPA to allow higher radiation contamination levels around high level waste areas.

** The state of Nevada's plans to keep a high level waste repository from being built there includes the creation of a new county named Bullfrog around the proposed site of the dump. It will have the highest allowable tax zoning in the state, in an attempt to stop the construction. The Cheyenne Sioux also recently rejected a federal request to build the repository on their land. The low waste repository situation continues to heat up across the country exept here in California, where a Sierra Club endorsed plan is quietly being developed.(The Waste Paper)

** Tom Hayden has called for an investigation into the proposal by PG&E to buy out the Sacramento Municipal Utility District. Meanwhile a federal probe has been started to look into potentially illegal mishandling of wastes at Rancho Seco. A recent poll in the local paper showed that just over 60% of the community wants the reactor shut down.(Sac Bee,SAFE)

ON A LIGHTER NOTE

** The Cal. Energy Comm. is currently testing a new car that can use a variety of different fuels. (NPR)

** Sycarne Cogeneration Co. has announced the completion of two 300 megawatt cogeneration facilities for So. Cal. Edison.

** Public Citizen released the results of a two year study that shows the viability of closing 85% of all U.S. reactors immediately without effecting electrical demand. The report also digs out all the hidden costs the nuclear industry is so good at hiding. This gives a better perspective on what continued operation means for the public.(Public Citizen).

** The industry is currently attempting to make it impossible for municipalization of private utilities by big cities. The Alliance testified before the S.F. board of Supes in opposition to the plan. S.F.'s new mayor has come out in favor of a study on potential municipalization of PG&E's property in San Francisco.(AA, Bay Guardian)

** On Oct. 28th, the Cal. PUC granted the Redwood Alliance $78,000 in legal fees for their sucessful role in the current Diablo Canyon Rate Case. Their presentation clearly showed that PG&E had no idea how expensive it would be to decommission Diablo Canyon at the end of its life. The decision resulted in establising a $54 million a year account to pay for decommissioning.(PUC)

** 3,500 sick people have been taking regular pilgrimages for "therapeautic reasons" to a radon mine in Boulder Montana. They elevator 85 feet down into Free Enterprise Inc's unused radon mine to expose themselves uh... hang out in the radon vibes. They claim it increases circulation and relieves pain. The EPA estimates 20,000 people die each year due to overexposure of radon pollution in their homes due to improper ventilation and leaky foundations that allow the deadly radon gases into people's homes(CCHW)

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