

Galley
3/27/69

We'd like to draw the attention of the community to the proposed construction of a nuclear power plant at Easton, New York, about 25 miles from Bennington. We are not opposed to nuclear power used for the production of electricity, but we are concerned with public health and safety which may be adversely affected by the operation of such a plant.

1. What may the effects be of radioactive waste materials released by such a plant?
2. Would our natural habitat be affected by pollution due to radioactivity?
3. How might this affect the food chains leading to the diet of humans?
4. Could nuclear power plant operations result in an increase in birth defects and in certain forms of cancer as a result of radiation?

Radioactive waste materials released into the atmosphere by nuclear power plants can lead to a buildup in the concentration of strontium and iodine isotopes in plants and in animals. By eating these plants and animals, a further concentration could occur in humans and these isotopes, by further localization, could cause cancer of the bone marrow (leukemia) and of the thyroid gland.

There are many biological questions associated with nuclear power plants and yet utility companies continue to seek licenses for building more such plants. Is the public interest in health and safety adequately assured at the present time?

One of the primary by-products of the operation of a nuclear power plant is plutonium, a most important material used for building nuclear weapons. If nuclear power plants are exported, what happens to the plutonium produced in the recipient country? Could this have any effect upon the treaty preventing proliferation of nuclear weapons?

There are many questions of concern regarding nuclear power and the public interest. If you as a member of the Bennington community would like to know more about some of the questions and their possible answers, come hear Larry Bogart, Director of the Anti-pollution League speak Monday, March 31, in the Commons Theater at 8 P. M. We hope there will be interest in forming a committee to investigate the problems involved in the possible construction of a nuclear reactor in Easton. If you wish to be part of such a committee, there will be an opportunity to sign up after Mr. Bogart's talk or with Mrs. Kirkpatrick.

B. Abercrombie
P. Barnes
P. Gretchell
Mrs. Foster
Mrs. Kirkpatrick
Mr. Lyon
Mr. Wokrus