

KICK NUCLEAR & NUCLEAR TRAINS

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REGULAR FRIDAY SOLIDARITY VIGILS

Every Friday (since August 2012): leafletting outside the Japanese Embassy, 101-104 Piccadilly (Green Park tube) from 10am-12.30pm; and then outside Tokyo Electric Power Co. offices, 14-18 Holborn (Chancery Lane tube) from 1-1.30pm. Held in solidarity with the anti-nuclear movement in Japan. Organised by: *Kick Nuclear* and *Japanese Against Nuclear UK (JAN UK)*

LEAFLETTING WORLD NUCLEAR SYMPOSIUM

Thursday 14th September, 8.15-9.15am: we shall be leafletting the delegates going in to the Park Plaza Hotel on first full day of the World Nuclear Symposium 2017 being held there from 13-15th September. The Hotel is on the roundabout at the south end of Westminster Bridge, with its entrance facing over the bridge. (Nearest stations: Waterloo or Westminster.) Come and help! Special leaflets will be available produced by Kick Nuclear.

NEXT JOINT KN/NTAG PLANNING MEETINGS

Mondays September 9th and October 2nd, 7pm, At CND Office. (address at top.)

JAPAN TO DUMP RADIOACTIVE WATER IN THE PACIFIC

Every day for some six years, some 300-400 tonnes of water have washed through the remains of the four nuclear reactors destroyed during the Fukushima nuclear disaster of March 2011. Some of the water is groundwater that scientists have failed to prevent running through the site, but a lot of it (300 tonnes at least a day) is water that is required to be poured continuously

down through the remains of the three reactors, whose nuclear fuel melted-down to or below the bottom of the reactor vessels, to prevent the cores heating up to the level where an uncontrolled chain reaction would occur. In either case the water becomes radioactive as it picks up radioactive isotopes on its way through the site.

Heretofore, TEPCO, the owners of the plant, have made strenuous efforts to try to prevent all this radioactive water from entering the Pacific – mainly by storing some 800,000 tonnes of it in large tanks.



Some of 580 tanks being used to store the radioactive water.

However TEPCO has now decided to give up the struggle and release all this this water into the Pacific. It's true that the Japanese government has to authorise such a release, but Takashi Kawamura the chair of TEPCO has announced that "the decision has already been made", which seems to suggest that he at least is confident of government authorisation.

But presumably TEPCO spent so many years of effort, and I would imagine oodles of money, trying to prevent this happening because it thought it would be disastrous for all this radioactive water to enter the Pacific and thus for its reputation. So what has changed?

It's claimed that some of the radioactive isotopes in the water have been

removed, though it would be useful to know how and which, and, more importantly, which remain.

It is admitted on all sides, however, that tritium, a radioactive isotope of hydrogen, has not been removed; the only dispute here is over how harmful tritium is.

According to the Japanese Nuclear Regulation chairman Tanaka, the chemical is “so weak in its radioactivity it won’t penetrate plastic wrapping”. (So plastic fish will presumably be safe if wrapped in plastic, provided the plastic is of sufficient thickness, however much that is.) And Simon Boxall, an oceanographer at the University of Southampton is reported by the *Guardian* as claiming “In the broad scale of things, if they do end up putting the material in the Pacific, it will have minimal effect on an ocean basin scale.”

This seems all too cosy. First, how much radioactivity can even the Pacific take without serious environmental harm? Two things should be remembered: that radioactivity is cumulative and some radioactive isotopes only decay in radioactivity by half over tens of thousands of years. It has also been shown that *any* increase in radioactivity means an increase of the risk of cancers such as leukaemia in humans, and why should fish, or indeed humans eating fish, be immune against this increase in risk?

Also, the impression that radioactive water fed into the Pacific will spread its radioactivity evenly throughout the Pacific, at least in any short term, is nonsense; the radioactive water will first contaminate the sea to the east of Fukushima and will be carried by the main ocean currents in the Pacific which will tend to take it in a north-easterly direction to Alaska and down the west side of Canada and the US.

Thus local fishermen are furious at plans to release the radioactive water since it will first contaminate their fishing grounds off their coast. David Polden

FRENCH POLICE USE STRONG ARM TACTICS AGAINST NUCLEAR WASTE SITE PROTESTORS

Police are reported to have used various weapons on 15th August against people protesting at plans to store highly radioactive waste 500 metres underground at a site near Bure in North-Eastern France. The National Agency for the Management of Radioactive Waste (ANDRA)

has announced construction of the storage site would start in 2022 at the earliest.

About 800 people (the organisers’ estimate) started walking to a rally to be held at a very important Neolithic site near the intended store to highlight the threat to it. On the way they went through fields around Bure to avoid riot vans parked at the entrance to the village. However, when the march got near to their proposed destination they were **confronted** by a water cannon and more riot vans and the police commenced to fire tear gas and rubber bullets, stun grenades and flash-bang grenades at demonstrators.

Protest organisers said six people were badly hurt and about 30 lightly injured in the clash. One person suffered a triple open fracture of the foot from a flash bang grenade

The authorities for their part estimated 300 demonstrators took part and claimed some were helmets (perhaps a wise precaution under the circumstances!) and wielded stones, sticks and Molotov cocktails and that two police had been hurt by a “home-made device thrown by protestors”.



A photo of a similar demo at Bure, in February 2017?