

Nuclear Weapons: Local Hazard/Global Threat

Colorado is not the only place in the U.S. where communities are endangered by the research, production, transport or deployment of nuclear weapons and weapons systems. Millions of Americans experience the arms race as something concrete and close to home (see map). More than 30 campaigns across the country are working to build a constituency for disarmament through organizing around these facilities.

The AFSC/FOR Project is coordinating a nationwide Task Force with the aim of making the nuclear weapons complex more visible both at the local level and in Washington, D.C. We have convened three national conferences and have sponsored Congressional briefings on the hazards of weapons production and first-strike policy. Along with the Task Force, the Project is publishing a report to document the Department of Energy weapons complex and is planning demonstrations at facilities around the nation in April 1981. In December 1980, the Project co-hosted a conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, to lay the groundwork for a campaign to stop all nuclear testing.

ROCKY FLATS/ NUCLEAR WEAPONS FACILITIES PROJECT



**“Rocky Flats is the place
where the next war—
the last war—will begin.
It is the trigger
not only of nuclear weapons,
but of the end
of civilization.”**

BARRY COMMONER
at Rocky Flats rally
April 19, 1980

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) and the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) are joint sponsors of a national effort, the Rocky Flats/Nuclear Weapons Facilities Project, based in Denver, Colorado and Nyack, New York. The Project is engaged in a variety of activities and organizing strategies described in this brochure, with the common purpose of building a constituency for disarmament and ending all nuclear threats.



Radiation: The Human Cost

Thousands of Americans have been exposed to radiation during the 35 years of the U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear power programs. Many are now suffering and dying from cancer and other diseases. The Citizens' Hearings for Radiation Victims held in Washington, DC on April 11-14, 1980, provided a national forum to dramatize the human costs of this technology.

Testimony was presented by individuals from more than 40 states: nuclear shipyard workers, Native American uranium miners, veterans exposed to atomic bomb tests, widows of nuclear plant workers, and victims of fallout. Their testimony was augmented by scientific and medical experts. A Citizens' Panel included Robert J. Lifton of Yale University, Karl Z. Morgan of Georgia Technological Institute, and Everett Mendelsohn of Harvard University. They responded to the testimony with a series of recommendations that were delivered to the White House.

The American Friends Service Committee and Fellowship of Reconciliation Nuclear Weapons Facilities Project convened a broad coalition of organizations and individuals to sponsor this historic event. Through local and regional hearings and a national letter-writing campaign,



Clara Harding and Martha Harding Alls with photos of Joe Harding "Survivors of former Paducah Enrichment Plant Worker."

**“Our nuclear program was built
in the name of national security—
protecting the lives of Americans.
One can't help but wonder,
who was protected
and at whose expense?”**

REP. PAT SCHROEDER (CO)
Sponsor, Citizens' Hearings
for Radiation Victims

we are continuing the struggle for recognition and compensation for radiation victims. This is especially crucial at a time when our nation is about to embark upon a renewed escalation of nuclear weapons and nuclear power development. As Lifton, who authored a study of Hiroshima victims, said to those who testified: "Our survival may depend on your telling the tale and our hearing it."

ROCKY FLATS/NUCLEAR WEAPONS FACILITIES PROJECT

Please send me more information on:.....

Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution payable to AFSC or FOR of \$....., earmarked for the Rocky Flats Project.

Name.....

Address

AFSC
1660 Lafayette St., Suite D
Denver, CO 80218
(303) 832-4508

FOR
Box 271
Nyack, NY 10960
(914) 358-4601

NWF Project/Midwest
2206 Fox Ave.
Madison, WI 53711
(608) 257-8649



CHARLES SCHEINER

Disarming the Nuclear Trigger

The Radiation Victims Hearings grew out of more than six years of work by the AFSC/FOR Project, focusing on the local and global hazards of nuclear weapons production and U.S. strategic policy. Based in Denver, Colorado, a broad campaign is under way to close and convert the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant, which fabricates the plutonium “triggers” (nuclear explosive components) for every warhead in the U.S. arsenal. The plant also does research and builds components for new warheads and weapons systems, such as the neutron bomb and MX missile.

Rocky Flats has been the site of numerous accidents and regular radioactive releases. A Department of Energy report in 1979 showed higher plutonium emissions from Rocky Flats than anywhere else in the world. Health studies have found high cancer rates and possible genetic defects among people living downwind from the plant.

Rocky Flats has become a national symbol of the threat of nuclear war—both immediate and long-term. The AFSC/FOR Project has as its goals the closing and conversion of Rocky Flats to peaceful, non-nuclear uses, along with a total freeze on the production and deployment of any new weapons. To advance these goals, the Project has helped to sponsor and initiate demonstrations at Rocky Flats over the past



three years, with thousands of people taking part. In conjunction with the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, we have filed shareholders’ resolutions and organized vigils at the annual business meetings of Rockwell International, corporate managers of the plant. We have done extensive public education and work with policymakers in Colorado and in Washington, D.C. Currently, the Project is coordinating a campaign to initiate the conversion planning at the state and local level, and to pressure federal authorities to set a time-line to phase Rocky Flats out of operation.

The Arms Race, Science and the Future

Scientists have special responsibilities and opportunities to speak out for peace and disarmament. In July 1979, the AFSC/FOR Project sponsored a “Plowshare” coffeehouse at the World Council of Churches Conference at the Massachusetts Institute on “Faith, Science, and the Future.” Since then, we have expanded our efforts to reach out into the mainstream of the scientific community and to forge working alliances with those who are trying to prevent the next technological escalation of the arms race.

In January 1980, the Project helped to secure passage of a resolution on disarmament at the annual meeting of the American Association for

“We must admit that we are intoxicated with our science and technology (and) deeply committed to a Faustian bargain which is rapidly killing us spiritually and will soon kill us all physically.”

JOSEPH WEIZENBAUM, MIT
at the WCC Conference
July, 1979

“This country is in the early years of the most expensive military boom in history. The expansion in military science and technology is the most ominous component of a defense budget that is dense with the ghosts of past and future wars.”

EMMA ROTHSCHILD, MIT
in The N.Y. Review of Books

the Advancement of Science. A day-long symposium on the arms race was part of the conference. The Project staff coordinated a campaign to support passage of the resolution, which established a working committee on peace and disarmament issues. The resolution specifically called for “the development of plans for the step-by-step conversion . . . of facilities for nuclear weapons production, research, and testing into science and technology facilities for peaceful uses.” Besides ongoing work, we helped to plan a series of symposia and public meetings on disarmament at the AAAS gathering in Toronto in January 1981.

Nuclear Weapons Facilities U.S.A.

- Research and Development
- ★ Manufacturer
- + Testing Sites
- Storage/Stockpiles
- ⊙ Military Reactors
- * Waste
- ◄ Fuel Processing
- Uranium Mine/Mill

