



# Nuclear Watch Tower

*“there must be some kind of way out of here . . .”*

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NUCLEAR WATCH SOUTH news | FALL 2019

*Nuclearism is a demonic, murderous, poisonous enterprise,  
operating beyond the reach of the law and the consent of the human community.*

*It craves secrecy.*

*It breeds impunity.*

*By enslaving the human psyche to the idolatry of power, nuclearism underwrites all  
of the other forms of state-inflicted mayhem on the planet, from the border, to the jail, to the drone base,  
to the sweatshop, to the oil pipeline, to the toxic waste dump, to the permanent war economy.*

*In 2017, Pope Francis clarified the official teaching of the Catholic Church on nuclear weapons,  
when he declared that not only the threat of their use, but their very possession  
is a moral evil that must be firmly condemned.*

MARK COLVILLE, KINGS BAY PLOWSHARES DEFENDENT, FROM PRISON, 2019

## TRIDENT ON TRIAL



**Six Trident submarines are homeported at Kings Bay, St. Marys, GA. Each nuclear-powered submarine carries nuclear-armed D5 missiles with the explosive power equivalent to 1,825 Hiroshimas.**

**by Sarah Cool**

ON APRIL 4, 2018, THE 50TH anniversary of the assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., seven Catholic Plowshares activists entered onto the Kings Bay Trident Nuclear Submarine Naval Base in St. Marys, Georgia, the largest nuclear submarine base in the world.

They split up into three teams and proceeded to occupy the entrance to the administration building, the D5 missile monument, and penetrate two fences to

the nuclear weapons storage bunkers. The activists symbolically disarmed the nuclear weapons at the base by hammering on various objects, spray painting slogans on sidewalks and buildings and hanging crime scene tape and banners. The defendants prayerfully poured their blood to make sacred that which has been desecrated. They delivered an indictment to the U.S. government for war crimes.

They acted out their Christian faith as commanded by the prophet Isaiah when he

said to “beat your swords into plowshares” (Isaiah 2:4).

The activists at the nuclear weapons storage bunkers were Elizabeth McAlister, Jonah House, Baltimore; Jesuit Father Stephen Kelly, Bay Area, California; and Carmen Trotta, New York Catholic Worker. Elizabeth “Liz” McAlister is the widow of Philip Berrigan who founded the Plowshares Movement with his brother Daniel. Father Steve Kelly participated in a similar action at

## TRIDENT ON TRIAL

*cont. from previous page*

the Kitsap Trident base in Bangor, WA, in 2009.

At the Strategic Weapons Facility Atlantic Administration building were Clare Grady, Ithaca Catholic Worker; and Martha Hennessey, New York Catholic Worker. Martha Hennessey is the granddaughter of Catholic Worker founder Dorothy Day who is currently under Vatican consideration for canonization.

At the Trident D5 missile monuments were Mark Colville, Amistad Catholic Worker, New Haven, Connecticut; and Patrick O'Neill, Fr. Charlie Mulholland Catholic Worker, Garner, North Carolina.

The Kings Bay Plowshares 7 were arrested and charged with conspiracy, trespass and destruction and depredation of property felonies and face 25 year sentences. They defended their actions with the U.S. Religious Freedom Restoration Act which was unprecedented in a criminal case (the Act has been most famously used by Hobby Lobby claiming religious reasons to deny coverage for contraceptives under the Affordable Health Care Act). The novel defense prolonged the proceedings and it was denied in August.

These seven activists have in fact succeeded in putting the Trident nuclear missiles and submarines, as well as the institutions that support them, on trial. For the past 18 months, three of the activists have been imprisoned at the Glynn County Detention Center in Brunswick. The other four have been held on home curfew while being mandated to wear ankle monitors. Court proceedings, public actions, local peace vigils, solidarity walks and fasts during this time have helped to keep Georgia's Trident base in the news and spread awareness and concern among folks near and far.

On October 21, 2019, the Southern District Court of Georgia in Brunswick will finally hold a trial for the Kings Bay Plowshares 7. Jury selection is scheduled for 9AM on Monday, October 21. Trial will follow, perhaps for a week or more.



**Kings Bay Plowshares 7: (l-r) Clare Grady, Patrick O'Neill, Liz McAlister, Father Steve Kelly, Martha Hennessey, Mark Colville, Carmen Trotta Photo @2018**

The defendants hope that the Brunswick Federal Courtroom at 801 Gloucester Street will be full of observers for the duration, while others fill the sidewalks surrounding the court house holding signs of support. The weekend before the trial will offer a peace vigil at the gates of the Trident base and Festival of Hope celebration with music, speakers and food. During trial week tribunals and art shows are planned. Nearby Camp Glynn has been reserved for the 200 people or more expected to converge to put Trident On Trial while U.S. puts our nonviolent peace activists on trial!

The action at Kings Bay is the third Plowshares action at a major U.S. nuclear weapons installation over the past 10 years. In 2009, five Disarm Now Plowshares activists occupied the West Coast Trident base, Kitsap, in Bangor, WA, going undetected for several hours. They were arrested, booked and released. In 2012, Sister Megan Rice, a Catholic nun then 82 years old, with two younger male activists, walked several miles in the dark on the Oak Ridge Nuclear Reservation in Tennessee, to occupy the Y12 Plant, the so-called Fort Knox of uranium. They, too, went undetected for several hours, to the great embarrassment of the U.S. government who arrested, incarcerated and tried the Transform Now Plowshares. The Kings Bay Plowshares 7 are receiving similarly harsh treatment from the U.S. government.

The Oak Ridge Transform Now Plowshares received 3-year and 5-year sentences but were released after serving two years.

The Plowshares Movement began as a Christian pacifist movement advocating active resistance to nuclear weapons and war. The first action was in 1980 at the GE nuclear weapons factory in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. The Kings Bay Plowshares 7's 2018 action brings the number of actions to more than 100 internationally.

Plowshares activists answer the call to take personal responsibility for exposing the sin and the crime of omniscidal nuclear weapons that exist in their name. These Plowshares actions nonviolently and

symbolically disarm our nuclear weapons. With the latest action coming to the State of Georgia, the Kings Bay Plowshares 7 are sounding the alarm for Americans near and far that it is beyond time to figure out a way to disarm and dismantle our stock pile of 6000+ nuclear weapons.

The sobering facts are that each Trident submarine at Kings Bay Naval Base in St. Marys, Georgia, carries the explosive power equivalent to 1825 Hiroshima bombs. That is the equivalent of 27 megatons, or 55 billion pounds, of TNT, which works out to seven pounds of explosives for every child, woman, and man on our planet. Each submarine could potentially kill 200 million to 300 million people. Consider also the ecological decimation that would accompany such a catastrophe. The U.S. has 14 Trident submarines, six homeported at Kings Bay, making Georgia the third largest nuclear weapons state in the world.

"Nuclear weapons are not just deadly when they are launched," says defendant Clare Grady. "They kill every day by their mining, refining, testing, and dumping on indigenous land. They are used like that cocked gun. Even when you never pull that trigger you are using that gun. And, to be clear, that is the enforcement mechanism for all those systems that Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King identifies in the triplets of white supremacy, and global capitalism, and global domination.... I'll call it the biggest bully stick. It's connected to every form of state-sponsored violence down to the police. Be clear that that's the connection."

By their actions, the Kings Bay Plowshares 7 seek to withdraw consent and complicity with these omniscidal weapons that are used to enforce the deadly triplets. Their aim is to act to counter the triplets and the fact that we are all complicit in the death and destruction that surrounds military weaponry, especially nuclear weapons. Besides their Christian faith, these activists are compelled to act in accordance with international laws that are in place, especially international humanitarian laws, which mandate acting morally towards all human beings and living things on our planet.

Liz McAlister, who turns 80 next month, said she wants her life to have some sense of meaning. "I want to witness to justice and peace and I want that to be a gift to my offspring, but also to all our offspring. They deserve to grow up in a world where they can breathe and drink water and enjoy sunlight and not work with the constant poisoning of the world that we are engaging in with these weapons."

Longtime environmentalist, Trident resister and resident of Brunswick, Robert Randall, has stepped up wholeheartedly to support the Kings Bay Plowshares 7 action in his home state and to maximize the effect of their bold action, stating, "It is important to support the Kings Bay Plowshares 7 because this is the way that the choice between nonviolence and nonexistence is presented to us right now, in this place, at this time."

Plowshares activists stand for the lofty goal of nuclear disarmament while ministering on the ground to the poor and incarcerated. At the recent New York City Festival of Hope in support of Kings Bay Plowshares 7 a letter from Father Steve Kelly was read to the crowd.

"I am among the wilderness of the incarcerated two and a quarter million folks comprising the human warehouses in the empire," the letter reads.

"It is resistance jailed, a price extracted by an empire. And I echo the words of Martin Luther King, Jr.: 'An empire in its death throes as it clings to and mouths obscene threats with its lethal arsenal, a fire that is a direct theft of trillions from the poor.... Your presence today clearly demonstrates that while you can jail the resisters you cannot destroy the resistance.' I am encouraged by your presence to ask that this small effort of ours not be the last word in nuclear abolition."

[www.kingsbayplowshares7.org](http://www.kingsbayplowshares7.org)

## Indictment of Trident

*KINGS BAY PLOWSHARES (Plaintiff) vs. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (Defendant).*

### INDICTMENT

Today, through our nonviolent action, we, Kings Bay Plowshares — indict the United States government, President Donald Trump, Kings Bay Base Commander Brian Lepine, the nuclear triad, and specifically the Trident nuclear program.

**WHEREAS**, This program is an ongoing criminal endeavor in violation of international treaty law binding on the United States under the supremacy clause of the U.S. Constitution (Article VI, Section 2):

*This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding.*

**WHEREAS**, The United States is bound by the United Nation's Charter, ratified and signed in 1945. Its preamble affirms that its purpose is to "save future generations from the scourge of war." It directs that "all nations shall refrain from the use of force against another nation." Article II regards the threat to use nuclear weapons as ongoing international criminal activity.

**WHEREAS**, The Nuremberg Principles, also promulgated in 1945, primarily by the U.S., prohibit crimes against peace, crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide. They render nuclear weapons systems prohibited, illegal, and criminal under all circumstances and for any reason.

**WHEREAS**, The U.S. government is obligated as well by the Non-Proliferation Treaty, in force since 1970 that requires the signers to pursue negotiations in good faith and to eliminate nuclear weapons at an early date. The U.S. government is also obligated by the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, which prohibits full-scale nuclear explosions.

**WHEREAS**, the members of the United Nations are currently negotiating a treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination.

**THEREFORE**, the work being at done at Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base violates all these agreements and is thus criminal.

Specifically, the Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base refits and maintains submarines, which carry Trident D5 nuclear missiles. The Trident D5 is a submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM), built by Lockheed Martin. The Navy currently operates 14 Ohio class submarines. Six have their homeport at Kings Bay. Each submarine carries the capacity to cause devastation equivalent to 600 of the nuclear attacks on Hiroshima, Japan. Thus, the six Tridents maintained at Kings Bay have the capacity to cause the devastation of 3600 Hiroshima-scale attacks.

From the initial mineral mining through testing, storage, and dumping, the production and maintenance of these weapons harms human beings, destroys the environment, and violates international and God's law. Moreover, each day this program steals from all in our nation and world by its theft of much-needed resources. Nor is the Navy or the nation retreating from this violation of international law. The Navy is currently preparing to spend at least \$100.2 billion of the public's money on a new class of 12 Trident ballistic missile submarines to replace the current Trident submarines.

Against these continuing violations of treaty law, we assert our right and duty to civil resistance against nuclear weapons. Furthermore, we affirm as crucial the human right to be free from these crimes. The Nuremberg Principles not only prohibit such crimes but oblige those of us aware of the crime to act against it. "Complicity in the commission of a crime against peace, a war crime, or a crime against humanity... is a crime under International Law." The United Nations Charter further reinforced this principle and made it part of the binding international law. Similarly, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, to which the United States is a signatory, makes it clear that private individuals can be held responsible for acts of genocide.

The ongoing building and maintenance of Trident submarines and ballistic missile systems constitute war crimes that can and should be investigated and prosecuted by judicial authorities at all levels. As citizens, we are required by International Law to denounce and resist known crimes.

For the sake of the whole human family threatened by nuclear weapons, and for the sake of our Planet Earth, which is abused and violated, we indict the Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base and all government officials, agencies, and contractors as responsible for perpetuating these war crimes.

# Ceremony at the Gates

We take our ritual positions  
on the traffic islands  
at the four corners of the intersection  
smiling our  
ceremonial smiles

bearing signs and banners of peace  
at the gates of the apocalypse

The turkey buzzard circles patiently  
overhead  
like the unsleeping angel  
of thermonuclear holocaust

Between Good Friday and Easter  
Sunday  
the martyred Prince of Peace  
descended into hell

We only stand waiting at its gates  
for the Saturday  
change of shifts,  
offering our messages of peace  
and possibility

Jobs in the thermonuclear  
holocaust sector  
pay well,  
keep the coastal economy alive  
amid the endless wetlands  
as the paper mills shut down

Thumbs up or thumbs down,  
peace salute or middle finger,  
honking, cursing,  
each passing driver plays a pivotal role  
in the ceremony of hope

even the ones who betray no sign

The submarines berthed beyond these gates  
in the calving sanctuary  
of the right whale  
descend into the depths off Saint Marys  
Sound

Each three-story submarine a launching pad  
for global annihilation,  
each D-5 missile carrying a payload of two  
hundred  
Hiroshimas,  
each multiple warhead independently  
targeting  
up to twelve cities

Their shallow channel routinely dredged  
in a solemn Satanic rite  
to allow the passage of Armageddon  
out to sea

We stand here bearing witness  
at its gates,  
representing the whales  
and their declining young



Photos ©2019 Glenn Carroll (top), Sarah Cool (bottom)

and all the other new and ancient innocents  
of this holy Creation

catching the sweltering April sun  
on our posterboards, angling its  
revelatory light  
across a blue line painted on the pavement  
that marks the boundary  
between legal protest and criminal trespass  
into a nightmare netherworld

where the poles of good and evil are  
reversed  
and diabolical warlords  
rehearse for doomsday, then  
go home to their children

The turkey buzzard circles hopefully  
overhead  
calculating the odds of peace,  
of death, of dinner

One year ago, exactly fifty years  
after Martin Luther King's own  
prophetic martyrdom,  
seven brave  
or ridiculous  
or dangerously deranged Catholics

carrying hammers  
made of melted handguns  
and baby bottles of their own blood

cut the wire and vandalized  
the unholy sanctum  
of Mutual Assured Destruction,  
a hair-trigger high-alert  
suicide pact  
of dueling genocidal empires, each  
accusing the other  
of threatening the planet with omnicide

We only stand here  
outside the base

projecting neatly lettered  
prayers for sanity  
into the surveillance  
cameras  
of the private security  
force that guards  
the heresy  
of missile-worship  
until an affable deputy  
sheriff arrives  
to shoo us across the  
highway,  
from public property  
to public property,  
under threat of arrest  
as if the holy sacrament  
of wishful thinking

at the gates of the inferno  
made the U.S. Navy nervous

as if our slogans  
of demented optimism or sacrificial faith  
might somehow interrupt  
the high-tech video game  
called Thermonuclear Warplanning

distract them from their daily drills  
for a scientifically engineered first strike  
of hellfire and brimstone  
against their only world

while the humans assigned to carry it out  
come and go

Twice as many honks and waves  
as curses or middle fingers,  
tilting the odds toward hope  
for one more day

even though most of them betray no sign

The turkey buzzard circles hungrily  
overhead

— Stephen Wing  
April 20, 2019

Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base

## SAVANNAH RIVER SITE WATCH SPECIAL

# Tale of Three Bungled Boondoggles

## TRIFECTA OF U.S. NUCLEAR CONSTRUCTION DEBACLES

### DOE's Terminated Plutonium Fuel (MOX) Plant

### Dominion/SCE&G Canceled V.C. Summer Nuclear Reactor Project

### Georgia Power's Ongoing, Bungled Vogtle Reactor Construction

COLUMBIA, SC — Savannah River Site Watch has obtained new aerial photos of the three bungled nuclear construction projects in South Carolina and Georgia. The three projects comprise the trifecta of large, failed U.S. nuclear construction projects, according to SRS Watch.

The photos reveal the status of the terminated plutonium fuel (MOX) project at the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Savannah River Site (SRS), the canceled V.C. Summer nuclear reactor construction project of South Carolina Electric & Gas (SCE&G, now owned by Dominion Energy) and the far-behind-schedule and far-over-budget Vogtle nuclear reactor construction project by Georgia Power across the river from SRS.

The photos were legally taken in September 2019 by an anonymous South Carolina pilot who goes by the name "High Flyer," the "nom du plume" of a SC resident who wishes to remain anonymous to avoid the fallout that occasionally follows the subjects of his photos.

"We are pleased to facilitate distribution of the photos of the three failed nuclear projects in South Carolina and Georgia as close observation of them will reveal the status of the sites and where so much money has been needlessly wasted," said Tom Clements, Director of SRS Watch.

"It is stunning to realize that perhaps \$40 billion has been spent so far on the three sites, with the cost at all of them going up daily, money that should have been spent on



Georgia Power's Vogtle Nuclear Plant cooling towers are visible from Savannah River Site in South Carolina. The terminated MOX factory site is in the foreground at the far right. ©2019 High Flyer

projects of positive benefit to the public," added Clements. "The photos commemorate the three largest, failed nuclear construction projects in the U.S. and will be of use when the proper investigations into the failed projects are conducted."

The photos of the MOX site reveal a fence around the construction site and closure of temporary construction openings in the building as required by DOE's termination instructions, removal of the large construction crane and few cars which indicates little or no craft work on termination.

The V.C. Summer site appears much as it has for the past two years since the project was halted, with the costly steam generators still on the ground, many components in the laydown yards, the heavy lift derrick still in place and the reactor building and turbine buildings exposed to the weather.

In the SRS photos, various other facilities can be seen in addition to MOX, including the shuttered F Canyon, the still-operating H Canyon reprocessing

plant, the Salt Waste Processing Facility (undergoing start-up testing), large salt disposal units for by-products of high-level nuclear waste, the Defense Waste Processing Facility and tritium facilities which process and repackage tritium for nuclear weapons.

DOE's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) aims to convert the partially constructed MOX building into a Plutonium Bomb Plant to make

unnecessary plutonium pits for nuclear weapons, but NNSA has presented no evidence that the building can be converted to pit production, a project not authorized or funded by Congress.

SRS Watch is calling on Congress to conduct investigations into fraud, waste, abuse and mismanagement at the MOX boondoggle and joined with Nuclear Watch New Mexico, NRDC and Tri-Valley CARES to demand the required Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) on plutonium pit production.

SRS Watch is proud to have led the fight for termination of the MOX project, with help from such groups as Friends of the Earth, Nuclear Watch South and the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability. SRS Watch continues to call for congressional and agency investigations into fraud, waste, abuse and mismanagement by DOE and NNSA managers and contractors at the MOX project, including CB&I Areva MOX Services (Areva has since changed its name to Orano).

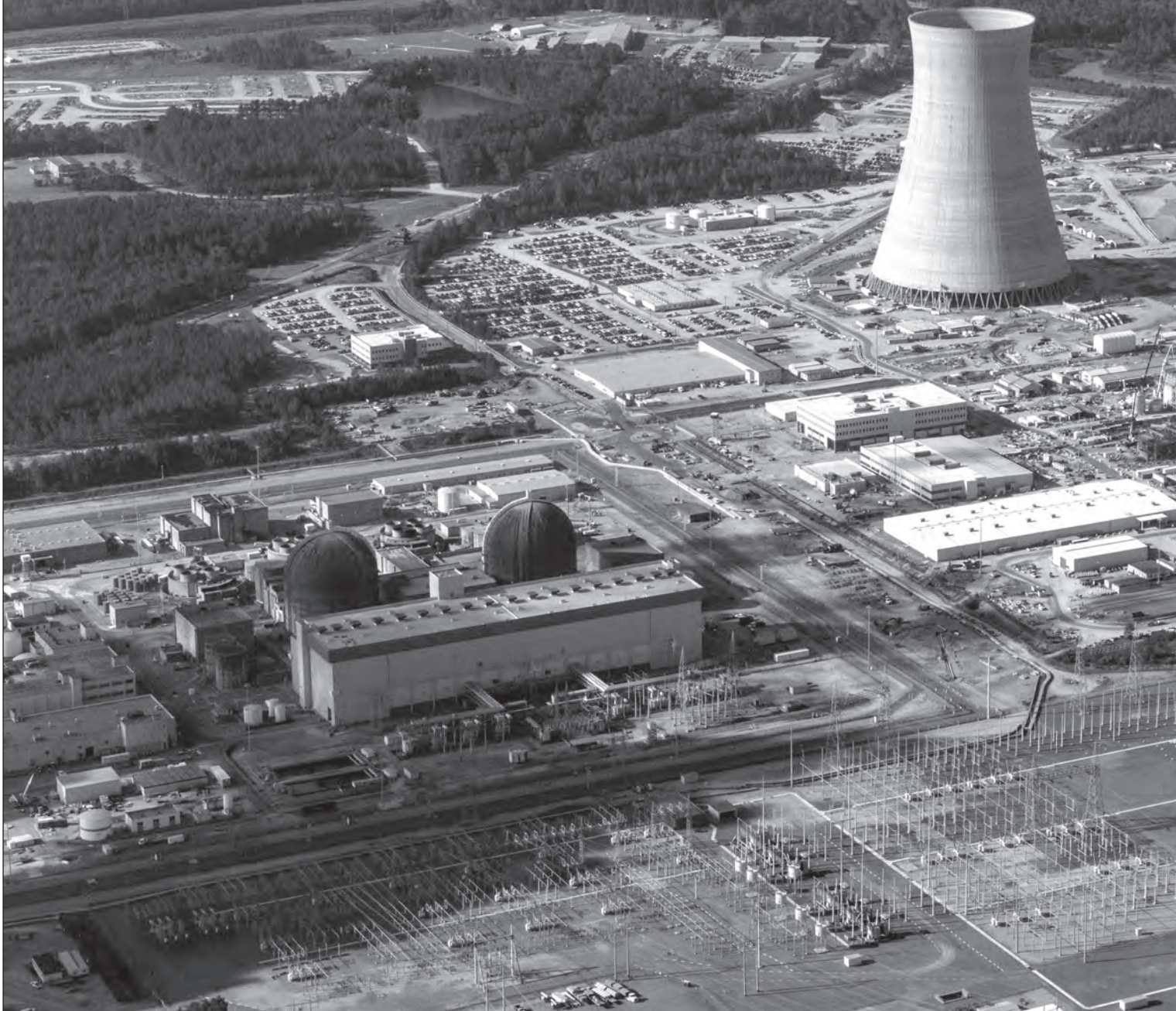
"Scene of the Crime" photos by High Flyer are linked on SRS Watch for viewing and distribution

[www.srswatch.org](http://www.srswatch.org)

# PORTRAIT OF A

## Georgia Power's Vogtle

*current cost to construct: \$2.648 billion per year*



**September 2019. Notice the solar array across the highway from the cooling towers, mandated by the PSC as part of its approval.**

# BOONDOGGLE

## Phase 3 and 4 Construction

Year, \$7.255 million per day, \$302,331 per hour



approval in 2017 to continue Vogtle construction despite 100% cost overruns and five-year delay.

Photo courtesy of High Flyer ©2019

# TRUTH TO POWER

## witness on record at the Georgia Public Service Commission

**FACT ONE:** Georgia Power's own annual reports show that only two-thirds of its existing generating capacity is needed to supply Georgia's declining demand for electricity.

**FACT TWO:** Georgia Power insists on building two new reactors at Plant Vogtle anyway, never bothering to explain why it is spending billions on unnecessary new capacity.

**FACT THREE:** The Georgia Assembly and the Public Service Commission have authorized Georgia Power to charge ratepayers in advance to finance this construction, instead of investing its own money.

**FACT FOUR:** The state of Georgia has guaranteed Georgia Power a 10.5% profit throughout the construction process, regardless of how efficient or cost-effective the project is.

**FACT FIVE:** Georgia Power's annual profits have climbed to unprecedented heights even as the construction of Vogtle 3 and 4 has shot ridiculously over budget and fallen woefully behind schedule.

These facts have been pointed out again and again by citizens testifying at so-called hearings like this one. Georgia Power has succeeded in striking this testimony from expert witnesses in the past, but it has never bothered to contest the data or the facts. Data, facts, logic and mathematics clearly have no influence in this room.

Since I'm not a lawyer or a politician, just an ordinary citizen with two eyes and a brain, I can only think of one way to add up these uncontested facts. Georgia Power wants our money and feels no need to disguise its gluttony by pretending to be serving any legitimate public interest. Not only is the Emperor wearing no clothes, but this is the ugliest emperor that ever paraded naked down Peachtree Street!

But why would elected officials like the Public Service Commission give their rubber-stamp of approval to a utility selling its customers something they don't need and can't refuse, at an undeserved profit?



*Vogtle 3 & 4 construction March 2019. Photo ©2019 Glenn Carroll*

Am I looking at five public servants who are that naïve and gullible, or is the Public Service Commission actually as corrupt as it appears?

Despite the overwhelming evidence pointing to one or the other of these two conclusions, I am embarrassed to live in a state that's run like a fiefdom of the Russian mob. Surely there is some more dignified explanation?

Here's what I've come up with:

These five individuals in front of me are neither simpleminded nor engaged in collusion with the Russian mob. They are simply overzealous members of one of those bizarre religious cults my parents used to warn me about, blinded by a fervent devotion to money and a devout faith in technology.

Nuclear energy is the most expensive form of electricity ever devised. Without extravagant taxpayer subsidies at every step, from uranium mining to waste

disposal, the industry would never have generated a single volt, much less turned a profit. But thanks to those subsidies, Georgia Power and its fellow nuclear profiteers have grown obscenely rich and powerful. What fanatical worshipper at the altar of money could resist a deity as rich and powerful as Georgia Power?

Nuclear energy is also the most technically complex form of electricity ever devised. That's why it's so expensive. Even though renewable technologies like solar and wind are cheaper, safer, and more sustainable, they are far too simple. They don't lend themselves to centralized control of energy production, massive utility monopolies, or corporate welfare handouts. What true believer in the magical powers of technology could resist the spell of nuclear energy?

But regardless of what form of spiritual self-delusion the Public Service Commission practices, there are two additional facts we must consider. The five commissioners are charged with protecting the

interests of Georgia's electricity consumers, regardless of their personal religious affiliation. And the Constitution of the United States does clearly forbid basing public policy on religious doctrine.

I am neither a lawyer nor a politician, nor a Georgia Power stockholder, so it's obvious to me that this regulatory body has consistently and repeatedly violated the trust it was elected to uphold. Far worse, your blind idolatry of nuclear power has unnecessarily placed the people who elected you in danger of radioactive catastrophe in the event of an earthquake, terrorist attack, or simple human error. As the faithful devotees of Tokyo Electric Power Company and their government enablers discovered, their faith did not lift them up to the clouds when the apocalypse came.

But it's not too late to repent. You have time to think it over. At least I hope so.

— Stephen Wingeier

*PSC Testimony, December 18, 2018*



# Vogtle 3 & 4 FOR DUMMIES

*How the Georgia Public Service Commission and Georgia Power Company make decisions with your money*



\* "I wouldn't bet my house on it!" stated PSC Commissioner Stan Wise when he resigned in the middle of his 4th term right after voting for Vogtle 3&4 at twice the original price tag and construction timeline.

concept: Kay Drey artwork: Tom Ferguson ©2017

Can't turn your back on these facts!

## VOGTLE by the NUMBERS

Number of lead contractors on Vogtle 3&4 construction since 2011

5

Current Vogtle construction cost per year

\$2.648 billion

Current Vogtle construction cost per day

\$7.255 million

Current Vogtle construction cost per hour

\$302,331

Average amount of Nuclear Construction Cost Recovery (NCCR) tariff paid per year by Georgia Power electric customer

\$100+

Actual amount of NCCR tariff paid by DeKalb County Schools 2014-2018

\$3,321,742

Annual amount of NCCR tariff paid by Atlanta Public Schools

\$1,000,000+

Georgia Power average annual profit before Vogtle construction started

9.68%

Georgia Power average annual profit after Vogtle construction started

14.1%

Georgia Power annual profit guaranteed by the Georgia Public Service Commission

10.95%

Georgia Power CEO Paul Bowers salary per year

\$4,000,000

Bowers salary per day

\$15,385

Bowers salary per hour

\$1,923

Southern Company CEO Tom Fanning salary per year

\$12,000,000

Fanning salary per day

\$46,154

Fanning salary per hour

\$5,769

Georgia Power sales forecast used to justify Vogtle 3 & 4 construction

+4.1% per year

Actual Georgia Power sales since Vogtle 3 & 4 construction began

-1% per year

Average unused Georgia Power capacity per year since Vogtle 3 & 4 construction began

38.5%

Percent capacity Vogtle 3 & 4 will add to Georgia Power's total capacity

6%

Percent Vogtle 3 & 4 construction is over budget

100%

Percent Vogtle 3 & 4 construction is behind schedule

100%

Percentage of Vogtle 3 & 4 construction blueprints unreviewed by professional engineers

Unknown

## 40 Years Living with Church Rock Uranium Tailings Spill

TO BETTER UNDERSTAND the cradle to grave legacy of the Atomic Age, Nuclear Watch South board member, Joanne Steele, and supporter, James Sweeney attended commemorative events in Red Water Pond Road Community, Church Rock and Gallup, New Mexico, July 13 and 14, 2019.

The July 16, 1979, Church Rock uranium tailings pond breach and spill dumped more than 94 million gallons of highly acidic radioactive water into the adjacent Puerco River. The contamination reached Sanders, Arizona, and was recorded at least 80 miles away. The spill has never been cleaned up, and even now, while it has been declared a Superfund

site, it will take at least two years before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission finishes its review of the EPA's clean-up plan, and clean-up can't even begin until and unless the plan is approved. Cancers, losses of livestock, and health problems still plague the Red Water Pond Road community 40 years after the catastrophe which is considered the worst radiological disaster in U.S. history.

The gathering began at 7:00 AM with a healing ceremony for the land, water, people, all life. Over 100 people, former miners, grandparents, and children of the community, supporters from as far away as



Larry King worked at the Church Rock uranium mine before and after the spill.

Photo ©2019 by James Sweeney

Japan, representatives from tribal agencies and environmental organizations, walked 1.5 miles to the United Nuclear Corporation spill site to offer prayers and testimonies. Following the walk, we gathered under the shade arbor for food, community education, speeches and a silent auction.

Larry King was working at the mine before and during the spill. He explained to us that cracks were seen in the dam of the tailings pond weeks before it broke, but United Nuclear Corporation pushed for more production over stopping to repair the problem. People were not evacuated, or warned as they and their livestock were

exposed to contaminated water, soil and air. No one was told about the dangers of radioactive contamination exposure.

Our Nuclear Watch South bumper stickers and newsletters were a hit, and we offered greetings of solidarity and sang "Our Precious Mothers" by our friend and Mohawk singer/songwriter, Teresa Bear Fox with children in the Youth Awareness tent and with the participants at the gathering. The event ended with a summer thunderstorm.

The Nuclear Nation Film Festival was held at the El Morro Theater in Gallup, New Mexico, the following day. Six

films about the toxic legacy of the Nuclear fuel and weapons chain were shown. Heavy stuff! Links to the films can be found at NuclearHotseat.com for the July 30 podcast #423 about Church Rock Commemoration. Local residents, Japanese activist, experts, and even James Sweeney are interviewed in the podcast.

Thank you to the Red Water Pond Road Community Association, Leona Morgan of Haul No! and Nuclear Issues Study Group, Navajo journalist and activist Mervyn Tilden, and Libbe Ha Levy of Nuclear Hotseat for information used in this article.

— Joanne Steele

## TRIDENT FACTS TO KNOW AND TELL

1. The Kings Bay Submarine Base in St. Marys, GA, is situated on the St. Marys Sound, the only known calving grounds for the near-extinct North Atlantic Right Whale
2. Each Trident submarine is five stories tall and two football fields long
3. The Sound must be dredged frequently to accommodate the gargantuan submarines
4. Trident is the ultimate first-strike nuclear weapons system, owned only by the U.S. and the U.K.
5. Each Trident submarine has 16 D-5 nuclear-armed missiles
6. Each D-5 missile has 8 independently targeted warheads
7. Each independent warhead can destroy 12 cities
8. The D-5 nuclear missile can travel 1,370 miles in 15 minutes
9. The U.S. has 14 Trident submarines
10. The Trident fleet as a whole can strike anywhere on Earth within 15 minutes
11. One Trident submarine has the total explosive power of 1,825 Hiroshimas
12. Six of the U.S.'s Trident submarines are based at Kings Bay

# DING DONG ... MOX is really, most sincerely DEAD!

## Plutonium is still a forever problem

MOX HAS FINALLY DIED a slow, agonizing and expensive death. Without missing a beat, the super-secret nuclear weapons agency within Department of Energy, NNSA, announced its intention to complete the unfinished MOX plutonium fuel factory and convert it to manufacture plutonium pits, cores for nuclear weapons.

There was already a hearing this summer!

For 17 years, Nuclear Watch South maintained a legal intervention opposing MOX before the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. We forced them to upgrade the security plan and seismic standards and to build a dedicated building for MOX waste. MOX was a bad business and it is good news that it is now terminated.

There are at least 13 tons of plutonium sitting at SRS, imported from Colorado, California, Washington and New Mexico — the leftovers of the Cold War frenzy to build bombs. It is dust and scraps and material of unknown composition packed in countless nine-kilogram canisters and stored in the crumbling, retired K reactor. Plutonium in any form is fissionable and capable of both explosive and environmental ruin. A small amount is a global security risk. And with a half-life of 25,000 years, plutonium is truly forever.

### The Plutonium Immobilization Alternative

Frankly, the plutonium in South Carolina is not suitable for MOX plutonium fuel or plutonium pits or anything. It is waste. Deadly waste.



**The plutonium fuel MOX factory is officially terminated after billions of dollars were squandered on half-baked designs and substandard parts for over a decade. Now the National Nuclear Security Agency, NNSA, is proposing to make plutonium nuclear weapons pits in the abandoned building.**

*Photo courtesy High Flyer ©2019*

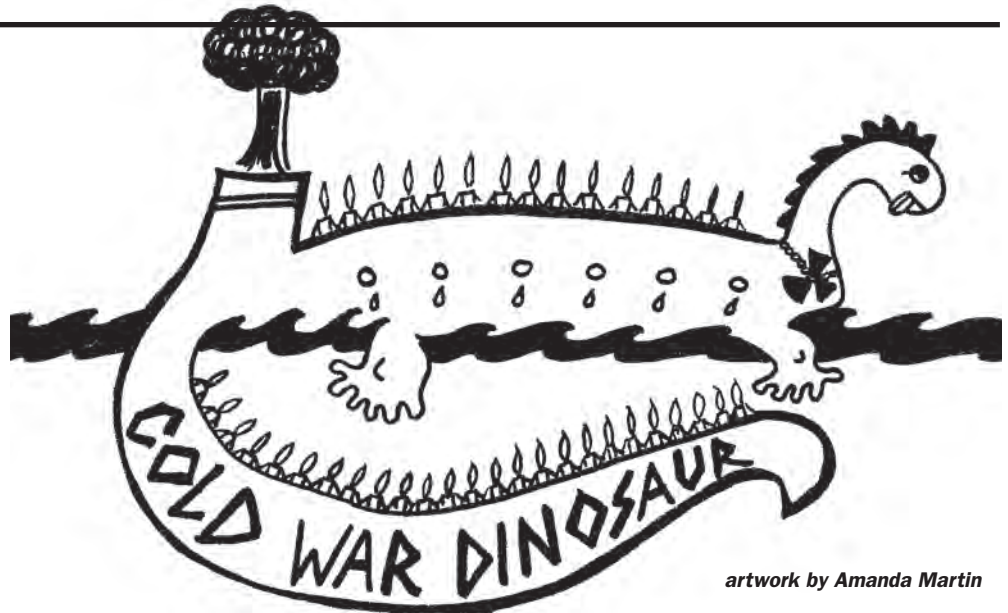
While NNSA tries to float yet another pig in a poke in its fifth attempt to site a plutonium pit factory over the past 30 years, Nuclear Watch South is still advocating the best idea which was left on the table 20 years ago when the decision to commit all plutonium disposition resources to MOX was made. Plutonium immobilization is a good option for SRS because it is a method for securing the plutonium at SRS in a process already underway to solidify into glass the liquid high-level radioactive tank waste which has been languishing in vast underground tanks at SRS for over 60 years.

The extremely radioactive waste makes an effective shield for the low-energy but highly explosive plutonium. The hot glass logs are also extremely heavy providing a practical barrier to theft or diversion.

Nuclear Watch South has been on the scene for the previous four failed government attempts to make plutonium pits at Savannah River Site (SRS). Serious challenges face the government's latest attempt to kick the plutonium can down the road. We will continue to keep our eyes on our plutonium.

— Glenn Carroll

- 13. The arsenal at Kings Bay makes Georgia the third largest nuclear power on Earth
- 14. Trident was first deployed in 1989
- 15. Georgia became the East Coast Trident base under President Jimmy Carter, a former U.S. Navy submariner
- 16. The U.S. Navy currently plans to spend \$100.2 billion to replace 12 of the Trident submarines



artwork by Amanda Martin

# GET OFF THE GRID FEST 2019

THE 2ND BIENNIAL GET OFF the Grid Fest (GOTG), held in mid-August 2019, at Warren Wilson College, inspired many to engage with others on topics like Climate

Change and Justice, Green New Jobs, North Carolina Energy Policy and Infrastructure, along with sharing in the arts through dance, music, food as well as health and wellness.

Bill Fleming, a visionary who has encouraged and facilitated these events, once

again helped many to enlarge their horizons and share with others of like minds and hearts in a setting designed to bring us together to share, debate and imagine a future crafted as sustainable, efficient, and creative.

The festival opened on August 9, Nagasaki Day, using the Peace Crane, a symbol of remembrance for Hiroshima and Nagasaki, as a touchstone. Tom Blue Wolf, from Stone People's Lodge and Earthkeeper

at One Tribe Trading Company called the spirits of our ancestors and world together. Words by Glenn Carroll, coordinator of Nuclear Watch South, reminded us of the

importance of moving away from nuclear power generation and production of materials used in manufacture of nuclear weapons.

A Crane Dance performed by Jacquelyn Howard encouraged our compassion and feelings of peace,

forgiveness and spirit. All joined in singing songs in our invocation to imagination as we began a three-day journey, powered by the sun, growing in our hearts and blossoming in a better world.

A wide array of artisans brought their works to share at this gathering. Great potions, foods, clothing, jewelry, sounds, and songs brought us closer together and shaped our work in thinking and talking about



ways to make our world cleaner, brighter and filled with love for our planet and home.

Legendary "Green Cowboy" S. David Freeman gave a lively and engaging keynote address in which he endorsed the "Green New Deal" and warned us that Mother Nature is unimpressed with good intentions.

The days were warm, and after dark the temperatures moderated and all shared with talented artists creating beats, melodies and harmonies to carry us forward, celebrating the seeds which were being planted to help us make our world a better place.

On Sunday, August 11, the festival closed in dance led by Sarah Thorsen of Dances of Universal Peace. The movement of our bodies resonated with the ideas we had shared, and as we left the festival grounds many were thinking of the time when we would gather together again: Get Off the Grid Festival 2021 in Chattanooga, Tennessee!

— David Fasano

[www.getoffthegridfest.com](http://www.getoffthegridfest.com)



Photos ©2019 Laura Love

## ***Nuclear Watch South supporters are amazing!!***

*You come out to protest and do stuff and spread the word and stand up to testify and sometimes you send donations without even being asked!*

*It is your financial support that underwrites all our events, campaigns and efforts.*

***And we have work to do.***

*Next year, 2020 will mark 75 years of the Atomic Age. The U.N. Treaty for Nuclear Weapons Abolition gives new hope. Our opposition to Vogtle remains firm and the plutonium problem at the Savannah River Site demands our attention.*

***Come and join us in the field! And please support Nuclear Watch South's efforts with your donation today!***



Donations to NUCLEAR WATCH SOUTH are fully tax-deductible and totally appreciated!  
Use the enclosed envelope and mail to P.O. Box 8574, Atlanta, GA 31106 or donate on-line at

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