



THE FOLDED CRANE

Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility | Fall 2016

The New Economics of Energy

Chuck Johnson, Director, Oregon and Washington PSR Joint Task Force on Nuclear Power

Our economic consultant, Robert McCullough, continues to study the economic viability of the Columbia Generating Station (CGS), our region's last commercial nuclear power plant. Oregon and Washington PSR have been working in conjunction with other advocacy groups for the last four years to close this aging GE Boiling Water Reactor, which is similar in design to the reactors that exploded and melted down in Japan in March of 2011.

Recently, we asked McCullough and his staff to look into whether or not, with the dropping price of solar and wind energy, the CGS nuclear power plant could be replaced affordably without resorting to currently inexpensive natural gas-fueled electric generation.

On a conference call last summer, McCullough observed that "finding affordable solar energy is like finding Sasquatch — you've heard less-than-reliable reports that Sasquatch exists for years and, never having seen one, you have your doubts... then, suddenly you wake one morning to see Sasquatch sitting in your garden eating your carrots."

While the skeptics slept, the price of utility-based solar continued to drop down to the level where it is now competitive with any new electric generating source and, more importantly to our campaign to close the CGS, *new solar and wind power is actually projected by McCullough to be cheaper than continuing to operate our existing nuclear power plant.*



McCullough's staff is integrating input from economists and energy experts and we expect to release their final data very soon.

Using renewable energy cost estimates from the financial advisory firm Lazard and comparing them against Energy Northwest's own projected cost of power,

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Air Quality: Penny Wise and Pound Foolish

Joel Nigg, PhD, Oregon PSR Board Member

An eye-opening consensus statement just released by the National Institutes of Health confirms it: when we allow toxic chemical exposures under lax laws, children pay the price. The timing is a clarion call for Oregon. Portland, in particular, has a disappointing air quality rating for a city its size according to the most recent data. We continue to wrestle with lead in school drinking water and toxic air pollutants from factories. The statement hit home for me because of my own work. Research in my laboratory, and elsewhere, into the causes of neurodevelopmental disorders like ADHD and autism now



Children are especially vulnerable to the health impacts of poor air quality and toxics exposure.

implicates environmental chemicals as one part of the puzzle in these costly and often life-long conditions. I am an environmentalist not for the sake of birds, but for the sake of kids. I can't help children with scientific findings or

in the clinic and then ignore preventable risks from the air they breathe.

The NIH consensus statement, signed by three dozen science and health leaders, highlights that pollutants from diesel engines, wood smoke, fossil fuels, pesticides, and industry interfere with brain development. The growing human brain is "plastic" — that is, exquisitely responsive to its environment, particularly during critical periods in early life. For children who are especially susceptible, due to genetics or life adversity, even seemingly tiny exposures to pollutants alter brain development

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Dear Oregon PSR Supporters:

As we celebrate the 35th year of Oregon PSR, I wanted to share with you how grateful I am to be able to work with such an exceptional organization. What a privilege it is to make meaningful change on the most pressing issues of our time with such passionate, dedicated staff and volunteers.

Our chapter's founder, Dr. Karen Steingart, recently shared a story from the early days of the chapter, when a colleague insisted that she invest in a "push button phone," a tool every organizer needed to reach out to members quickly. We've come a long way since then. As you'll see in the coming months, we'll be significantly upgrading our website and online communication tools in order to better keep you in the loop.

I am thrilled to announce that our small staff is growing. We recently hired a new full-time Program Assistant, Damon Motz-Storey, for a year-long fellowship through the Quaker Voluntary Service. Damon is assisting with projects in all of our program areas, thereby increasing our capacity to do our work.

As we grow and change with the times, we always remember our roots as we continue our work for peace and a nuclear weapons-free world. In this issue, you'll find a report from our Hiroshima and Nagasaki memorial event, read about how we are engaging Oregon's youth through our Greenfield Peace Writing Scholarship (which this year focuses on gun violence as a public health issue), and learn about



Oregon PSR supports a **YES vote on Measure 97**, which would increase the corporate minimum tax for the largest corporations doing business in Oregon (those with more than \$25 million in Oregon sales). The measure dedicates new revenue to schools, health care and senior services.

Oregon PSR supports a **YES vote on Measure 26-184**, which would limit contributions to any Multnomah County candidate from any individual or PAC to \$500, limit the amount that can be spent independently supporting or opposing a candidate, and require that political ads disclose the identities of the principal funders.



Oregon PSR staff and our Board President meet with Oregon Senator Jeff Merkley to discuss our work.

our work to educate on the health impacts of the war by assisting an Iraqi boy who was injured in the US bombing of Fallujah.

Also in this issue, you'll read about how our Healthy Climate Program has scored significant victories preventing coal and oil exports and our how our Nuclear Power Task Force got the Seattle City Council to support carbon-free, nuclear-free energy. Joel Nigg, PhD, who joined our Board of Directors this year, makes the case for strengthening laws related to air quality and toxic chemicals exposure.

In all of our work, Oregon PSR relies on sound science, collaborative efforts, direct engagement with elected officials and the powerful voice of health professionals and public health advocates like you. Your involvement as a volunteer and a donor is what allows this organization to create a healthier and more peaceful world. We are excited to continue building on our momentum, and we appreciate your continued support. Thank you!

In Peace and Health,

Kelly Campbell



The New Economics of Energy *(continued from page 1)*

the net present value of replacing CGS with a solar and wind portfolio is estimated to be \$323,883,703 over the period January 2017 through June 2026. This is a conservative estimate. Since 2007, CGS's actual cost of power has been 19.2% higher than the projections set out in Energy Northwest Long Range Plans; when accounting for this discrepancy, the net present value of replacing CGS with solar and wind power could be as high as \$587,449,174 for the same period.

These numbers are in line with the calculations made by California utility Pacific Gas & Electric and environmental groups Friends of the Earth and Natural Resources Defense Council in their

historic June 2016 agreement to replace the twin Diablo Canyon nuclear power plants with renewable energy and conservation, making California nuclear power free by 2025 at the latest. The agreement to close Diablo Canyon will leave the CGS as the last remaining commercial nuclear power facility, out of a total of eight, on the West Coast.

A Major Victory in Seattle

Most significantly, in our victory in June in convincing Seattle's City Council and Mayor to set closing the Columbia Generating Station as a goal of their municipal utility, the language specifically requires that the CGS be replaced by carbon-free electricity.

Seattle City Light is one of 27 utilities that helps to govern the nuclear plant as members of the board of Energy Northwest.

The dropping prices of wind and solar and availability of cheaper battery power will allow us to make an extremely compelling case to the rest of the Northwest's publicly-owned utilities that closing the CGS now is the safest and more cost-effective choice.

For more information or to get involved in our work to close the last commercial nuclear reactor on the West Coast, contact Chuck Johnson at 503-777-2794 or email chuck@oregonpsr.org.

Remembering Hiroshima & Nagasaki: Creating a Nuclear Free Future

Sean Tenney, Associate Director

Oregon PSR expresses our sincere appreciation to the speakers, performers, attendees, co-organizers, and supporters of our 2016 memorial event on the 71st anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Following an uplifting performance by the Unit Souzou taiko group and an invocation by Rev. Dr. Leroy Haines of the Albina Ministerial Alliance, our emcee, Lynn Longfellow, Executive Director of the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, spoke about the active threats to humans across the globe posed by nuclear weapons. Educator and artist Chisao Hata then led an interactive experience of solidarity and remembrance called *You Are Not Alone*.

Dr. Hideko Tamura Snider, a *hibakusha* who survived the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, spoke movingly about her personal experience of the bombing. She discussed how her life changed one day in a burst of white light from the

atomic explosion and how this shaped her decades as an anti-nuclear weapons activist, writer and educator.

Kelly Campbell, Oregon PSR's Executive Director, spoke about the current state of nuclear weapons, including plans to spend over a trillion dollars in the next three decades on nuclear weapons modernization. She discussed the relationship to the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, where materials for the bomb used at Nagasaki were produced, as well as threats posed by depleted uranium munitions, the effects of weapons testing in places like the Marshall Islands, and the toxic life cycle of nuclear weapons.

Our audience took action by signing a petition to President Obama encouraging him to sign the Humanitarian Pledge to abolish nuclear weapons. These weapons should be considered in the same class of morally unacceptable technologies as chemical and biological



Dr. Hideko Tamura Snider speaks at the 2016 Hiroshima and Nagasaki memorial event.

weapons, and we call on the United State's government to take a leading role in banning them.

Thanks again to all who attended and supported the event, and thanks so much to everyone involved in the planning of *Remembering Hiroshima & Nagasaki: Creating a Nuclear-Free Future*. With your involvement, we will continue our work towards a future where the sort of catastrophic loss of life that occurred at Hiroshima and Nagasaki never happens again.

Air Quality: Penny Wise and Pound Foolish *(continued from page 1)*

and predict future problems. These problems may be subtle — like a slightly lower IQ, a bit more impulsivity — or full-blown ADHD, learning disabilities, or intellectual disabilities.

The costs are borne by children, parents, schools, and health care systems. It's time to stop being penny wise and pound foolish. Let's invest in our children by reducing the hazards that we now know threaten their life-long health.

I urge state regulators and legislators to take the following actions:

1. Revise the way we set limits on industrial pollution. I applaud the Governor's effort to bring health and environmental agencies together to do this. The DEQ must complete its effort to better monitor industrial pollution and set limits on permits

in ways that are truly protective of community health.

2. The legislature must vigorously support healthy environments in the schools. A healthy school is safe not just from lead in drinking water, but also from radon, pesticides, cleaning agents, lead in paint, and other air quality concerns.
3. Bring Oregon up to par with neighboring states in limiting air pollution from diesel vehicles and engines, and reducing wood smoke. Newer diesels are 95% cleaner, as our neighbors are already proving.

Shifting to a healthy environment will not be cheap, or fast. Support for school repairs, assistance for owner-operator truckers and other vulnerable workers, and other costs will require attention. But the investment is likely to pay dividends for decades. Children

who learn better in school become adults who perform better in the workplace.

Communities of color disproportionately live where there are more toxic exposures and other health risks. Reducing pollutants helps level the playing field for children so that they need not start life with an unfair challenge.

The time is right for Oregon to aim for a healthy environment in a bigger way. I look forward to Oregon leading as we have before — by establishing health-based policies to protect the developing minds of our children.

The author, Joel Nigg, PhD, is an Oregon PSR Board Member and a Professor and clinical scientist at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU). The opinions here are his own and not those of OHSU.

Medical Aid for Mustafa Abed

Maxine Fookson, RN, Oregon PSR Peace Working Group Member

As you may recall from Oregon PSR announcements over the summer, Mustafa Abed is a 13-year-old in Fallujah, Iraq. In 2004, during the catastrophic US bombing of Fallujah, Mustafa was severely wounded. He lost a leg and part of his pelvis and his intestine was severed. Through a non-profit group called No More Victims, Mustafa and his father, Ahmed, were brought to Portland in 2008 for four months so that Mustafa could receive life-saving medical care and a prosthetic leg. Mustafa returned home to Iraq stable, but with serious chronic renal problems.

Due to the ongoing warfare in Iraq and the very difficult situation there, we lost contact with Mustafa and his family in 2010. In early July of this year, Mustafa was featured on an episode of *PBS Newshour*. In that report, we



Mustafa Abed at a refugee camp near Fallujah.

learned that the family had to evacuate Fallujah due to the warfare between ISIS and the Iraqi army and, like tens of thousands of others, are living in a refugee camp outside of the city.

Upon seeing the PBS story, we immediately contacted the reporter, Jane Arraf. She and her colleagues on the ground assisted us in contacting the family. Since July, through the generosity of many of your donations and via contacts made through Oregon PSR and through Mercy Corps, we arranged for Mustafa to have a medical exam, sent the medical supplies he requires and have sent three installments of cash to enable the family to get basic medical supplies that they otherwise would not be able to afford.

When Mustafa and Ahmed were in Portland they won our hearts, and it has been so wonderful to be in contact again. To learn more and to donate to Oregon PSR's Mustafa medical assistance fund, visit www.oregonpsr.org.

A Momentous Year for a Healthier Climate

Regna Merritt, Healthy Climate Program Director

Thanks to so many stellar activists working tirelessly to protect our communities and our climate, 2016 has been filled with tremendous victories. By submitting thousands of comments, testifying at massive hearings and organizing public health forums, Oregon PSR has provided the voice of public health to the incredibly effective climate movement in Oregon, Washington, and beyond.

In solidarity with the Standing Rock Sioux and over 300 tribes and First Nation groups working to stop the Dakota Access Pipeline, we've ramped up our fight to halt the export of fossil fuels and to protect those communities most vulnerable to the disastrous impacts of climate change.

Stopping the Oil Industry in Its Tracks

In June, Oregon PSR brought together physicians, elected officials, and tribal representatives to stand with Mosier's Fire Chief after a fiery derailment of eight oil tanker cars in the Columbia Gorge. Union Pacific (UP), responsible for the derailment, began running oil tankers before burnt rail cars were even removed from the site! Governor Brown and ODOT joined our call to halt this dangerous oil train traffic.

Today, Mosier struggles with groundwater contamination and with the potential contamination of the Columbia River. Dozens of communities, including Mosier, face new threats as UP plans to double the tracks to accommodate more oil and coal traffic. Oregon PSR has joined in a legal challenge of Wasco County's decision to permit this expansion.

The good news? City councils in San Luis Obispo and Benicia, CA called

Mosier a "game-changer" and voted to deny permits for oil-by-rail facilities. Other cities will surely follow suit. Then, Shell shocked us when it abruptly backed off plans to expand its oil facility in Anacortes, WA. Days later, Tesoro-Savage offered to cut by half the amount of crude oil proposed to be shipped to Vancouver, WA. Every shipment of oil by rail poses an unacceptable threat to Columbia River communities and to a stable climate.

Standing Up to Big Coal

We rejoiced in May when the treaty rights of the Lummi Nation were upheld. The US Army Corps halted the coal export facility proposed for Cherry Point, WA. At 48 million tons per year, it would have been the largest coal export facility in the nation.

Now only two coal projects remain in Oregon and Washington. Lighthouse Resources abandoned the Morrow Pacific proposal in October, leaving the Port of Boardman and the states of Montana and Wyoming to question whether they should continue to litigate in support of an abandoned project. Working with the Power Past Coal coalition, we will fight efforts to move this project to British Columbia.

Millennium Bulk Terminals (MBT) in Longview, WA, is now the largest (44 million tons) coal export proposal in the nation, and with your help, we're going to defeat it. In June, we mobilized dozens of health professionals to testify in opposition to the first of two draft Environmental Impact Statements. The Cowlitz Tribe and the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission came out in strong opposition, as did the City of Portland and dozens of other cities along the rail corridor.



Jim Appleton, Mosier's Fire Chief, speaks to media.

Multnomah County Commission Chair Deborah Kafoury stated: "...Multnomah County recognizes that changes in our climate will fall hardest on those who are already the most vulnerable members of our community, the same people the county serves every day... The Millennium Bulk Terminal is an investment in the energy of the past, and is a bad investment for the people of Multnomah County who will experience significant detrimental impacts without any benefits."

In mid-October, the City of Vancouver, WA, estimating that MBT's climate impacts would be the equivalent of seven coal-fired power plants, passed a resolution opposing it.

As we approach the end of this year, Oregon PSR is:

- preparing for two Army Corps hearings on the MBT proposal;
- supporting the participation of immigrant communities with bilingual public health forums;
- engaging in a Health Impact Assessment process; and
- pushing to translate the 2015 Portland City Council resolution into zoning codes that will prevent the building of coal and other dangerous fossil fuel terminals in perpetuity.

To learn more or to join our Healthy Climate Action Team, contact Regna Merritt at regna@oregonpsr.org.

Voices of a New Generation: Greenfield Peace Writing Scholarship

Sean Tenney, Associate Director

Through our annual Greenfield Peace Writing Scholarship, Oregon PSR highlights the voice of a new generation of peace activists by sharing the original ideas of Oregon high school students on some of the most pressing issues of our time.

Now in the ninth year of offering this scholarship opportunity, we reflect with admiration on the many hundreds of essays, poems, and narrative works that we have been so honored to receive and to share over the years. To see how the young people who have responded would address so many of the issues that we work on, in their own words and with their own unique perspectives, gives us a profound sense of hope for the future.

Within the past few years, we have asked high school junior and senior students in Oregon to contemplate questions regarding the role of young people in creating peace and in abolishing nuclear weapons, the disproportionate government spending on war and militarism instead of meeting the needs of our citizens, the importance of education in building a more peaceful world, and on the intersection of the climate and peace movements.



Oregon PSR Board President Dr. Patrick O'Herron and KBOO radio host Cecil Prescod with Caroline Friesen, Kaylor McLaughlin, and Nitan Avivi, the top three winners of our 2016 writing scholarship.

We are excited to announce that we are now accepting submissions for our ninth annual Greenfield Peace Writing Scholarship. Any 11th or 12th grade Oregon high school student may enter by submitting an original essay, poem, or narrative work in response to the following question:

"How would YOU solve the public health crisis of gun violence?"

Entries may be submitted online or sent by email or postal mail and are due by March 6th of next year. After our panel of judges has selected the winning entries, Oregon PSR will

host an awards ceremony on April 28th at which the scholarship winners will be honored, receive their awards, and share their winning submissions with our audience.

Visit our website to help us spread the word about our 2017 Greenfield Peace Writing Scholarship to students, teachers, parents, and other interested parties throughout Oregon. As always, we anticipate a great response, and we very much look forward to hearing the novel approaches that Oregon's young people would take to address the public health crisis of gun violence.

Meet Damon Motz-Storey, Our New Program Assistant



We are pleased to announce that we have brought on Damon Motz-Storey for a year-long fellowship as our new Program Assistant. Damon recently graduated from Haverford College in Pennsylvania, where he supplemented his studies in Math, Music, and Education with involvement in campus social justice movements. This included frequent visits to Washington, DC to lobby for a carbon tax, for peaceful

diplomacy with Iran, and on other peace and justice issues. A life-long Quaker originally from Denver, Damon's work is partially funded through a partnership with the Quaker Voluntary Service, which supports young people to give a year of work for social movements nationwide. He will be assisting with our healthy climate, peace, nuclear power and environmental health work.

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