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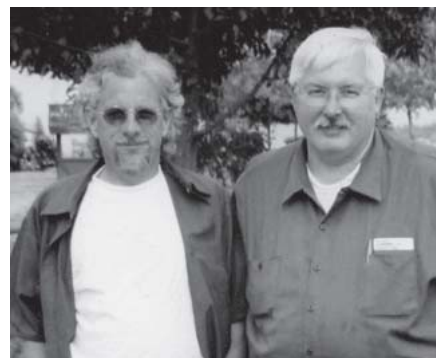
Crimes of State and Resistant Staph Infections

By John LaForge, FPC Duluth

In the office, we wondered what our late founder and mastermind Sam Day would have thought of going to prison over the torture scandal, when Nukewatch has been so pointedly focused on nuclear issues and the U.S. invasion du jour. We agreed that the demands of conscience have to be respected, but also that Sam and the membership would share the view that the Bush/Cheney White House's embrace of torture must be confronted. Indeed, Viktor Frankl even brought the two conspiracies together in a grim warning; "Let us be alert — alert in a twofold sense. Since Auschwitz we know what man is capable of. And since Hiroshima we know what is at stake."

Crossing the line at the malevolent Army School of the Americas (now called WHINSEC) was merely a recognition that, in the words of Eduardo Galeano, "The tortures of Abu Ghraib... are nothing new to us in Latin American. Our militaries learned their interrogation techniques from the SOA." But did the Abu Ghraib, Bagram air base and Guantanamo Bay torturers get their crime schooling from the SOA too? It does appear likely, if indirectly.

The SOA's infamous torture "manuals" were made public in September 1996, although Congress was given Spanish language copies in 1991 — the year that the Pentagon pulled them from circulation. As many as 1,000 copies were never recovered, and



John LaForge and Steve Clemens trespassed at the SOA opposing torture and spent time together at the FPC Duluth.

Michael McClintock found in 1991 that the manuals served "for use anywhere and anytime." The manuals "emerged from the 1960s Army Foreign Intelligence Assistance Program" that gives training materials to militaries "around the world," according to Leslie Gill in *The School of the Americas*.

These manuals advocated the use of fear, beatings, false imprisonment, executions and offers of bounties for enemy dead, all techniques that have been used by U.S. military, CIA and contract personnel against suspects in Cuba, Afghanistan and Iraq since 2001. Gill found that the manuals were distributed by

Special Forces Mobile Training teams. Special Forces are of course the pet project of Pentagon chief Rumsfeld and are being greatly expanded under the new, improved balance of terror.

The Bush administration's defenders of the torture system seem to be as immune to rational criticism as scary new bacteria are resistant to antibiotics. The two issues have come crashing together here at the Duluth federal prison camp, where at least 18 prisoners have come down with the infectious methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus, or MRSA.

Fear of infection is at a kind of understated age these days, while we take extra care with hygiene. Some guys sterilize the

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No Nuclear Waste in Utah!
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News & Information on Nuclear Weapons, Power, Waste & Nonviolent Resistance

Wisconsin's Kewaunee Reactor Contaminates Groundwater

By Paul Vos Benkowski and Bonnie Urfer

A tritium leak at the Kewaunee nuclear site on the shore of Lake Michigan has contaminated the groundwater beneath the reactor in eastern Wisconsin. A Nuclear Regulatory Commission report, issued on August 9, said the radioactive groundwater had infiltrated into narrow shafts beneath two buildings. The alarming notice and subsequent sketchy reports reveal that tritium contaminated water is leaking at the rate of one gallon every five minutes. No one knows when the leak began. Kewaunee is not the only leaking reactor in the country. To date close to one quarter of U.S. reactors have leaked tritium into the ground and in the case of Braidwood in Illinois, into drinking water.

The situation at Kewaunee was discovered when Dominion, owner and operator of the reactor, voluntarily investigated the site for signs of leakage. They found elevated levels of radioactive contamination onsite. Detected tritium levels were between 6,000 and 103,000 Pico curies per liter. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's safety limit for tritium is 20,000 Pico curies per liter. The source of the leak is unknown, but the cooling pool for irradiated fuel rods has been ruled out and investigators are looking at piping beneath the reactor.

Dominion contacted the State of Wisconsin's Department of Emergency Management and Department of Natural Resources Regional Office, the Kewaunee and Manitowoc County Emergency Directors and the NRC Resident Inspector.

An unacceptable number of tritium leaks have occurred within the past six months, shattering the notion that nuclear reactors are a safe and reliable source of energy. Reactors with tritium leaks include: Callaway, Missouri; St. Lucie, Florida; Diablo Canyon and San Onofre, California; Prairie Island, Minnesota; Braidwood, Dresden and Byron in Illinois;



A tritium leak at Wisconsin's Kewaunee nuclear reactor on the shore of Lake Michigan has contaminated the groundwater beneath the site. A Nukewatch press release alerted the media which resulted in limited coverage state wide.

Pickering (site of eight reactors), Ontario, Canada; Indian Point and Brook Haven Research reactor, New York; Palo Verde, Arizona; Connecticut Yankee, Connecticut; Sequoyah and Watts Bar, Tennessee and the Kewaunee reactor in Wisconsin. The groundwater beneath the Braidwood, Dresden, Brook Haven, Palo Verde, Indian Point, Diablo Canyon, San Onofre and Kewaunee sites are all at contamination levels above EPA and NRC standards.

The NRC investigates these reactor leaks, but always a little too late. These leaks have been steadily occurring for years. A case in point is the San Onofre nuclear reactor near San Clemente, California which has been shut down for 15 years but is still leaking tritium into the groundwater below the site. It is unknown how much has seeped out, where it came from or when the leak started, although the closest guess is 1968.

Tritium is a radioactive isotope of hydrogen which is produced in the reactor core. It has a half life of 12.5 years. It remains radioactive for 120 years. Even in low levels it has been linked to developmental problems, cancer, genetic defects, miscarriages and damage to fetuses as it crosses the placenta. A poison any way you look at it, yet the NRC and the nuclear industry have been slow to confront this growing problem and the agency assures the public that there is no danger.

It's Nukewatch's opinion that it's best to shut the nuclear industry down — before we drink the radioactive water.