

Anti-Nuclear Workshops at U.S. Social Forum, Detroit, MI on June 24, 2010

Please join us Thursday, June 24th at the U.S. Social Forum in Detroit at Cobo Hall. Beyond Nuclear, Coalition for a Nuclear-Free Great Lakes, Don't Waste Michigan & Nuclear Information and Resource Service will provide the four workshops listed below. National and International experts will be presenting. Great Lakes troubadour Victor McManemy will begin each workshop with a song to open our hearts and minds and remind us why we are in this struggle. Hope to see you in Detroit.

Please see U.S. Social Forum webpage at <http://www.ussf2010.org/register> for registration information. Registration provides access to over 1,000 workshops and events from June 22-26th. Please mention the above organizations when registering for a reduced rate. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. Please share this announcement and workshop notification.

Nukespeak in the Great Lakes Basin - An Overview

(10:00-11:00 am, Cobo Hall, Room W2-67)

The Great Lakes basin hosts every aspect of the nuclear fuel chain, from uranium mining and refining, to nuclear reactors, waste facilities and nuclear weapons production facilities. Radioactive materials are regularly shipped between these sites. Each stage of the nuclear fuel chain has its own enormous radioactive waste problem. In addition, routine emissions of radioactivity from these sites add to the degradation of the world's largest surface freshwater ecosystem. A major accident at any one facility could have a devastating impact on the entire Great Lakes basin. Even if a catastrophic accident is avoided, these nuclear hot spots will have to be isolated and monitored for many generations to come. This workshop will provide an Overview and History of Nuclear Power / Nuclear Weapons, and how they were sold to the public. It will also provide avenues of legal and political remedy.

Uranium Mining Impacts on the Great Lakes & Beyond

(11:00-12:00 noon, Cobo Hall, Room W2-67)

Uranium Mining Impacts on the Great Lakes & Beyond will examine the contamination and chronic threat posed to the indigenous peoples and other downstream/downwind residents by mining, milling, and processing of uranium. This workshop focuses on uranium mining and refining. Each stage of the nuclear fuel chain has its own enormous radioactive waste problems.

On the North Shore of Lake Huron in Ontario, Canada, the Elliot Lake uranium mines and tailings, Blind River uranium refinery, and Espanola uranium tailings threaten Lake Huron and points downstream. Uranium refineries at Port Hope, on the north shore of Lake Ontario in Canada, have caused the harbor to become contaminated with radioactive and toxic heavy metals at high levels. There are proposed uranium mining operations in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan that will threaten streams and the Lakes. Around the world indigenous peoples have been displaced from their ancestral lands and contaminated by uranium mining. This workshop will work to inform, and then to empower, people to take action to stop uranium mining and refining in the Great Lakes basin and beyond.

Reactorspeak - Nuclear Reactors in the Great Lakes Basin

(1:00-2:00 pm, Cobo Hall, Room 02-39)

This workshop will examine the health, environmental and economic threat of nuclear power while pointing the way to alternative and renewable energy as well as energy efficiency. The Great Lakes basin is ringed with nuclear power plants in the watershed and air-shed. These existing reactors chronically pollute the watershed and air-shed with radioactive isotopes and with other toxic chemical releases under NPDES (so-called “National Pollution Discharge Elimination System”) permits. Beyond this chronic “slow motion” contamination is the potential for a catastrophic nuclear disaster threatening 20% of the world's surface fresh water. The Great Lakes are threatened again with plans to build additional reactors on both the U.S. and Canadian sides of the border. This workshop will examine the dire consequence of a nuclear accident and will empower the audience to act to prevent additional reactors and to shutdown the existing reactors.

Nuclear Waste - Forevermore - Now What?

(2:00-3:00 pm, Cobo Hall, Room 02-39)

Nuclear power threatens our environment, economy and democracy with nuclear waste, long lasting and deadly. Learn how to stop it!

Nuclear power is not the answer to climate change because it is dirty, dangerous, and expensive. Nuclear power threatens our environment, economy and democracy. The whole uranium fuel chain makes nuclear waste that is long lasting and deadly. We have no way to isolate it for as long as it is hazardous/radioactively dangerous. This workshop will examine the ways that nuclear waste threatens us and what to do about it. When possible, examples will draw on Great Lakes basin situations. Nuclear waste threatens us all, especially lower income

communities. This workshop will be brainstorming, requesting feedback on existing knowledge and ideas on how to convey complex threats to the general public, along with action steps for concerned citizens. Presenters will be advocating clean, safe, and affordable alternatives (such as efficiency and renewables) to dirty, dangerous and expensive old energy schemes like coal, oil, and nuclear.