

Energy Insider by William Engdahl

Nuclear activists and the NRC

'Participatory democracy' tactic at NRC hearings used threaten nation's electric power development.

I recently had the educational experience of attending official hearings of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. It was useful for examining a major problem of "national security," the threatened bankruptcy of the nation's entire nuclear generating capacity.

The hearings, over the future of two generating nuclear plants, Indian Point 2 and 3, which provide a major share of electricity for New York City and environs, were instigated by a motley collection of neo-Luddites calling themselves Public Interest Research Group (one of Ralph Nader's fronts), Friends of the Earth, Shad Alliance (presumably "friends of the fish"), Union of Concerned Scientists, and a gaggle of hand-picked "baby-waving" mothers wailing over the purported dangers of nuclear radioactivity. While I waited to testify on behalf of the need for the nuclear plants for the future health of the economy, I realized one obvious but rarely stated point: these entire proceedings are a calculated fraud.

The idea of extending construction time for needed electricity, forcing costs sky-high, holding hearings *ad nauseum* for any and every character who chooses to speak "his piece," is an application of the tactic made popular by Tom Hayden. This is "participatory democracy" in action, the old 1960s SDS ploy to "topple the establishment" by demanding ultra-demo-

cratic participation in each and every decision of government. The strategy's aim, largely successful, is to sabotage the economy by endless sessions with irrelevant NRC officials recording every belch.

But, what is significant and new about the Peekskill, New York attack on Indian Point is that, as I have learned, this plant is only one on a hit list totalling 47 nuclear plants, operating and under construction, across the United States. These 47 plants, which form an absolutely crucial component of the nation's electrical capacity, have been targeted for maximum participatory-democracy sabotage by the rabble of the anti-nuclear hysterics because of their proximity to cities.

What is new about this latest hit list is that the environmentalists are moving lock-step in parallel with Paul Volcker's Federal Reserve high-interest strategy to implement "controlled economic disintegration." As I demonstrated in this space in an earlier discussion of Robert O. Anderson, "environmentalism" is supported by the top level of strategy and corporate funding, a sophisticated weapon of economic warfare.

The operation to undermine this nation's development of the benefits of the peaceful atom begins well before Eisenhower's historic 1954 Atoms-for-Peace plan. We have to trace back to earlier attempts at subverting these goals such as the activities of people like

MIT's Carroll Wilson when, as manager of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission in the late 1940s, he gave the highest security clearance to a known security risk, the British spy Donald Maclean, second to Kim Philby, the British triple agent in the Soviet KGB. This clearance, which has been covered up, was not even given to General Groves, head of the Manhattan Project.

I bring up this seeming arcana to make a very contemporary point. Carroll Wilson is one of the most impassioned members of the Club of Rome, the foremost voice for a post-industrial society and mass death. The same Carroll Wilson authored the widely promoted 1980 World Coal Study. That study, which argues for a global shift to coal as the "bridge to the future," was part of a carefully orchestrated global economic power shift strategy to lock the industrial economies of Japan, Europe, and North America into a "revitalized" coal cartel dominated by Atlantic Richfield's friends in various London-Geneva financial houses.

It is a sophisticated operation, this destruction of the superior, potentially unlimited resource base offered by nuclear power. Ralph Nader, Jane Fonda and her gaggle at PIRG, and such are the lowest level of the operation.

In a future space, I will elaborate on this strategy behind the resource shift to coal. For now, it is not whether coal, a needed energy supplement, is bad as such, but that the same individuals who sponsored the Jane Fonda "baby-wavers" of the NRC are now behind a far more environmentally dangerous resource. It has nothing to do with this sacred cow known as the environment.