



Winning the Fight against Crude Oil

At this time last year, we were working to stop 3 separate proposals for terminals in Grays Harbor that would receive crude oil by rail, store it in large tanks at the port, and ship it by vessel to West Coast refineries. According to the [Stand Up to Oil coalition](#): “Of all the places in the Northwest that would be affected by a ramp-up in oil transport, none stands to be as profoundly transformed as Grays Harbor. If these three terminals are built, the risk of collision and oil spills will surge due to the dramatic increase in shipping traffic: major vessel traffic by more than 5 times, and tank vessel traffic by 44 times.”

Thankfully, we have some heartening news to report! First, one of the companies who planned to receive and ship crude oil has decided not to, after all. Renewable Energy Group (REG) purchased Imperium Renewables, the original project applicant. We learned in January that REG does not plan to ship crude oil. However, they are [reportedly](#) still planning to expand operations at the site – which currently handles biodiesel – to handle other commodities. It is currently not known what those other commodities are.

Secondly, another company with plans for a crude-by-rail terminal in

Grays Harbor has withdrawn their “option to lease” agreement with the port. U.S. Development Group was planning to build a facility that could handle 42 MILLION gallons of crude oil. [As reported in the *Columbian*](#) on March 31, the company is no longer planning to handle crude oil in Grays Harbor! Though they did not renew their lease option, their permit application with WA State Department of Ecology is still in play.

Lastly, in February we learned that the Port of Longview chose to end consideration of an oil refinery and propane export terminal. Waterside Energy’s proposal would have sited the first new West Coast refinery in 25 years at Longview, on the

Columbia River. After a major showing of public opposition to the project, the port commissioners decided not to consider the project further.

Thank you to all of you who have been part of this fight to keep crude oil off of our railways and out of our waterways. Whether you attended a hearing, wrote to a port commissioner, or forwarded an email to a friend, your participation helped! Each series of public comment processes in the larger fight against oil in our region sees larger public opposition than the one before. All of our concerted, organized efforts are working! Let’s keep it up, and make sure that no new oil projects move forward in the Pacific Northwest!

Demonstrators call for the end of oil train terminal projects in the state at a January rally in Spokane.



Students Learn Realities of Hanford, Record Reactions

For months WPSR has been releasing the audio podcast, *Down By the River: Stories of Hanford*. These half-hour programs are a way to explore different aspects of the Hanford



Daniel Noonan and Mercer Middle School students research Hanford and record their thoughts.

nuclear reservation. While the podcasts have been enjoyed by people of all ages, they are geared toward the younger generation to help raise awareness of an issue few know exists.

Recently this program has expanded by getting younger people involved in the production of the podcast. A forthcoming episode will feature the work from students who researched Hanford as part of a Science, Technology, and Society class at UW Bothell. As part of her podcast, Erika Hiraiwa interviewed her grandfather, a former Hanford worker.

“From doing this project I learned so much about what he did and what Hanford actually is, because I knew it

existed, but I really didn’t know what it was about. It is kind of crazy to think I never asked,” she said, reflecting on the experience. “Doing this podcast was eye opening to learn about the different effects [Hanford] is having on different people.”

WPSR’s Hanford Project Manager, Daniel Noonan, has also been working with an afterschool program at Ira Mercer Middle School in Seattle, guiding students as they research Hanford, and recording them as they voice their thoughts about the nuclear legacy they will inherit.

To listen to these and other Hanford podcasts, go to wpsr.org and click on the Hanford tab.

Washington Senators Share Concerns about Nuclear Weapons

A few days prior to the final Nuclear Security Summit—held on March 31 and April 1—both Senators from Washington State and 4 other Senators (Merkley-OR, Markey-MA, Warren-MA, and Franken-MN) sent [a letter to the President, urging him to recommit to reducing nuclear stockpiles](#). They offered support for Obama’s work on the Iran deal and suggested further efforts to “discourage any additional nations from acquiring uranium enrichment materials.” They argued for bans on highly-enriched nuclear material, recommending new-comer nuclear nations “only produce low-enriched uranium,” for their “practical needs.” The Senators encouraged extending the arrangement with Iran beyond the 15-year expiration, with a larger agreement working through the IAEA, to lock down all nuclear material globally.

In a fairly comprehensive review of nuclear weapons issues, Cantwell and

Senator Maria Cantwell (left) circulated the letter to President Obama, and Senator Patty Murray was one of five others who signed the letter.



Murray stated that they are “ready to engage” in ratifying the Comprehensive Test Ban but more important still, want to see the U.S. and Russia reduce their arsenals to 1,000 warheads by 2021. An Obama Administration report made the case that the U.S. could further reduce its stockpile by one-third and maintain a “credible deterrent.”

This letter harkens to the 2007 *Wall Street Journal* article by Schultz, Perry and Kissinger, which suggested

that loose nukes and unaccounted for nuclear material may be some of the most dangerous aspects of the ongoing post-cold war nuclear arms race. Senators Cantwell and Murray deserve our thanks for raising these concerns and for pledging their support for significant arms control measures. If you have not yet let them know that you want a world without nuclear weapons, please contact their offices to let them know you support their efforts to reduce nuclear dangers!

Dr. Ira Helfand Challenges Individuals Not to Forget

Nuclear war is not only possible; it's becoming increasingly probable.

That's the message Dr. Ira Helfand delivered during his visit to Seattle last month. Dr. Helfand, who is the Co-President of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War and author of the 2013 report, "Nuclear Famine: Two Billion People at Risk," was in town to give the keynote speech at WPSR's Dinner & Fundraiser on March 19, and to speak at Seattle Town Hall the following evening.

In his talk at Town Hall, which expanded on his speech at the Dinner & Fundraiser, Dr. Helfand reminded the audience that the 1980s saw concentrated activism against the use and existence of nuclear weapons, which resulted in real policy change. In fact, he said, Mikhail Gorbachev credited the IPPNW—of which Physicians for Social Responsibility is the U.S. affiliate—for influencing his decision to reduce Russia's nuclear arsenal and help end the Cold War.

But, Dr. Helfand said, "When the Cold War ended, all of us acted as if these weapons went away."

They didn't. And neither did the risk of nuclear war.

The three highest-risk scenarios the world faces today, Dr. Helfand explained, are nuclear-armed terrorists, a limited nuclear war between states such as India and Pakistan, and full-scale war between the U.S. and Russia. In the smallest-scale attack, more than a million

people will die from the blast or be exposed to radioactive fallout. A limited war will see 20-30 million people die in the first week after the detonation of nuclear weapons. And in a nuclear war with Russia, 100 million people would die within the first 30 minutes of the initial attacks. At the very least, modern civilization will suffer irreparable damage. At worst, humans will wipe themselves off the face of the earth.

"It's not at all clear to me that we can survive this crisis," Dr. Helfand said. "What I can say is that if we don't try [to change course], nuclear war is going to be our own fate."

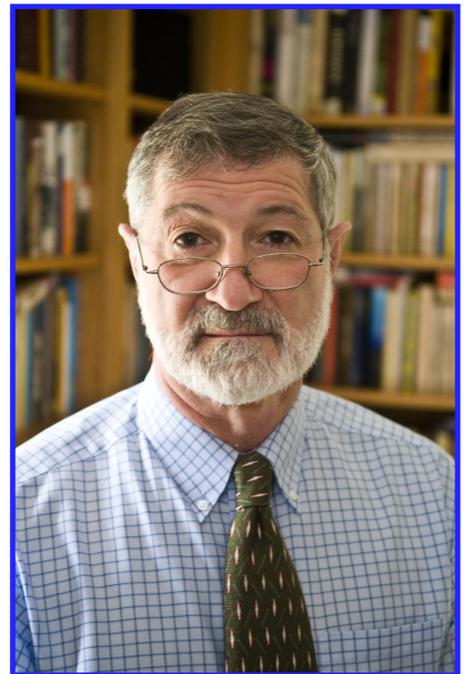
There is some hope that non-nuclear countries will come together to ban nuclear weapons the same way other "indiscriminate weapons" like chemical weapons have been outlawed. The new treaty has been endorsed by more than 140 nations, and the United Nations has formed a working group to draft a document that would ban nuclear weapons. If such a treaty was ever taken up, it would brand countries that have nuclear weapons as "rogue states" in violation of international law.

But at the same time, all nine nuclear states are "modernizing" (rebuilding) their nuclear arsenals. In the U.S., President Obama has proposed spending \$1 trillion over 30 years to update the arsenal. Dr. Helfand called for a national debate on whether to spend this money and continue on a path toward nuclear war, or to move instead toward disarmament. But first, he said, we must get past the barriers that prevent this debate: the general disbelief that nuclear war can actually happen, the misunderstanding of the magnitude of potential damage, and the belief that nuclear weapons protect us.

"In the 1980s, we were marching toward nuclear war. We stopped that. And we saved the world. And we can and must do that again," Dr. Helfand said. "Once you know about the danger we face, you have a responsibility to take action."

But the most important thing, Dr. Helfand said, is not to forget about the issue.

"The only way we're going to get out of this situation is if lots and lots of people start to think about this, put this information in the part of their brains that affects their behavior, and wake up in the morning saying 'Among all the other things I need to do today, what do I need to do to help get rid of nuclear weapons?' That's the mindset that millions of people had back in the 1980s, and we need to recreate that. And the key to it is holding on to this information, as horrible as it is. So please don't forget."



Dr. Ira Helfand, Co-President of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War

Interested in having a discussion or lecture about nuclear weapons with your class, in your church, or among your civic group? Please contact laura@wpsr.org or (206)547-2630.

Advocates, Utilities Companies Reach Compromise Over Coal



The Colstrip Power Plant in Eastern Montana has been in operation since the 1970s, and is the country's 15th highest producer of greenhouse gases.

Because of the advocacy of groups concerned about climate change, including the Washington and Oregon chapters of PSR, the future of energy in the Pacific Northwest will include a lot less coal-fired power.

A broad group of climate activists, including the Northwest Energy Coalition, of which WPSR is a member, successfully advocated for SB 6248 in the Washington Legislature, providing an important financing mechanism for decommissioning and cleanup after two Eastern Montana coal-fired power plant units are retired. It provides equity to past, current and future Puget Sound Energy (PSE) customers who will be covering the closure-related costs.

PSE itself strongly supported the bill, which Gov. Jay Inslee signed on April 1. However, the Governor vetoed a section that said PSE

couldn't use the money if the plants close before the end of 2022.

The Oregon State Legislature had already passed a bill in early March, later signed by Gov. Kate Brown, that requires large utilities in Oregon to completely transition away from coal power as a source of electricity by 2030. When combined with Oregon's existing hydro power, this means Oregon utilities customers will get more than 80% clean, renewable electricity by 2040. Oregon PSR's staff and members actively advocated for this law as part of Renew Oregon, a statewide coalition of groups concerned about climate change and the main group advocating the compromise law which, like the Washington law, had active utility support.

The focus for earlier shut down of these coal-fired plants has been on Colstrip Power Plant Units 1 and 2,

which have been operating since the 1970s and are partially owned by PSE. The plant as a whole (the second-largest coal-fired plant in the Western U.S.) is currently ranked as the 15th highest producer of greenhouse gases in the nation. Units 1 and 2 are the worst polluters at the plant. They currently provide 35% of PSE's energy.

Setting the stage for Washington's legislative action on Colstrip was a March 4 Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) public comment hearing on PSE's long-range electricity plan, at which the commission received a record number of attendees and public comments, overwhelmingly calling for the transition to cleaner, renewable energy sources. Chuck Johnson, director of Oregon and Washington PSR's joint task force on nuclear power, spoke on behalf of WPSR about the health and environmental effects of climate change, declaring it a public health emergency. The hearing was well-orchestrated by the Washington chapter of the Sierra Club and had its intended impact, Johnson said.

A couple of weeks later, PSE requested an extension from the UTC to present its rate case, committing to include its plan for retiring and cleaning up the Colstrip units. Instead of presenting the case on April 1, PSE will now have until Jan. 17, 2017, to submit it. We will need to stay tuned and keep the pressure on.

For now, let's celebrate striking a blow against coal-powered electricity! Collective action against coal power in our region, in concert with our work blocking the export pathways of fossil fuels, is getting noticed across the nation and around the world.

A Successful Night of Celebration, Fundraising

After a several-year hiatus, we resumed our long tradition of dinners with a resounding response. There were two changes in the event this year. For the first time, we built the program and speakers around a theme - choosing to celebrate 37 years of anti-nuclear activism. And, we added an explicit fundraising emphasis, exploiting our great support to strengthen our programs and expand our staff.

The nuclear theme provided a platform to honor those who have sustained this work in spite of waning of public attention to the continuing nuclear risks: founding board members, past leaders, national PSR presidents from WPSR, executive directors and long-term (two to three decades) members. For many, the evening was an opportunity to reconnect and to honor the values and life-long commitments that characterize WPSR members. It was a joyful time, a pause to celebrate, which change agents don't do often enough.

We were joined by award-winning documentarian, Jean Walkinshaw, who 40 years ago, produced a remarkable documentary called *Trident: Super Sub or Dinosaur?* It was produced during the public

The theme of the night celebrated WPSR's long history of anti-nuclear activism.



Photo by Aditya Ganapathiraju

debate that resulted in the siting of the west coast submarine base at Bangor. Jean's careful editing produced a few minutes of footage that both showed the inane arguments that nuclear war could be survived and how little has changed in terms of ridding the world of these immoral Trident monsters. Jean's passion for ridding the world of nuclear weapons gave us all a lesson in activism!

While the less tangible outcomes from our dinner were important, the very measurable outcomes have to be acknowledged. Over 175 people attended the dinner, more than any WPSR dinner in recent memory. We enlisted a dozen sponsorships from members, hospitals and businesses. We raised over \$100,000, and netted

50% more than our goal for the evening.

Our board and staff are immensely grateful for these responses. My thanks are directed at our board members who fully engaged the recruitment of registrants, and also at our executive director and staff who did a highly professional job of event planning. Finally, I believe the response from our members to both attend and contribute so generously speaks to renewed confidence in WPSR's continuing program work. We are immediately deploying our new resources to expand staffing in support of two of our major programs - nuclear weapons and climate change.

*Bruce Amundson, MD
President*

The WPSR Dinner & Fundraiser was an opportunity to celebrate achievements and milestones in our advocacy work.



Photo by Anna Crowley

How Much Do YOU Spend on Nuclear Weapons?

United States population:
321,418,820
United States Nuclear Weapons
Expenditure: \$55.9 billion
Per capita income: \$28,555
United States per capita Nuclear
Weapons Tax: \$173.92

Washington State population:
7,170,351
Washington State Nuclear Weapons
Tax Expenditures: \$1,359,300,000
Per Capita Income: \$31,233
Income modifier: 1.09
Washington State per capita Nuclear
Weapons Tax: \$189.57

Seattle population: 668,342
Seattle Nuclear Weapons Tax
Expenditure: \$180,168,962
Per Capita Income: \$44,167
Income modifier: 1.55
Seattle per capita Nuclear Weapons
Tax: \$269.58

Olympia population: 49,218
Olympia Nuclear Weapons Tax
Expenditure: \$9,073,594
Per Capita Income: \$30,206
Income Modifier: 1.06
Olympia per capita Nuclear Weapons
Tax: \$184.36

Spokane population: 212,052
Spokane Nuclear Weapons Tax
Expenditure: \$31,716,872
Per Capita Income: \$24,511
Income Modifier: .86
Spokane per capita Nuclear Weapons
Tax: \$149.57

If your income is different from this,
you can calculate your income
modifier by dividing your income by
the national average.

For example: your income \$ /
\$28,555 = your modifier

Multiply this amount by \$173.92 to
get your tax contribution to nuclear
weapons programs this year.

Your modifier x \$173.92 = Your
Nuclear Weapons Tax Contribution

*Each April, Dr. Bob Dodge, of
Citizens for Peaceful Resolutions and
Physicians for Social Responsibility,
calculates the cost of nuclear
weapons to our communities. Dr.
Dodge provided the numbers and
formulas you see here.*

Upcoming Action Alerts!

Keep Toxic Coal out of Longview!

On Tuesday, **April 19**, WPSR
will co-sponsor a forum
coordinated by Oregon PSR
on the risks of coal exports.
Dr. Divya Bappanad, Dr.
Dan Jaffe, and Eric de Place
from Sightline Institute will
speak about the potential
effects of receiving and
shipping 44 million tons of
coal every year could have
on Southwest Washington
and beyond. It starts at 6:30
P.M. at Longview
Presbyterian Church.

On **April 29**, the draft
environmental impact
statement for Millennium
Bulk Terminals' proposed
coal export terminal in
Longview is expected to be
released.

Public hearings to gather feedback on
the environmental impact statement
will be held on **May 24 in Longview,**
May 26 in Spokane, and June 2 in
Pasco. If you are interested in
attending, please contact Laura
Skelton: laura@wpsr.org or (206)
547-2630.

Keep Explosive Crude Oil out of Vancouver!

The Port of Vancouver is considering
a proposal from Tesoro-Savage for
the nation's largest crude-by-rail
facility. Although efforts to persuade
Gov. Inslee to end the oil train
madness continue, the Port of
Vancouver Commissioners have the
authority to end Tesoro-Savage's
lease of port property where they
intend to build the facility. Join us in
emailing the Port of Vancouver
Commissioners **by Friday, April 15,**

and let them know we support them
in ending the lease with Tesoro-
Savage. **Send your email encouraging
the Port to do the right thing to:**
povcommissioners@portvanusa.com.

Support Nuclear-Inspired Artists!

Particles on the Wall, the traveling
art and science exhibit that explores
Hanford, will be featured at the
Mobius Art Gallery, which is part of
Cascadia College on the UW-Bothell
campus. The show will be on display
from **April 13-May 5.** Join us for
the opening reception on **April 13**
from 5-8 P.M.

In addition to the visual pieces that
will be on display, six authors will
read their poetry inspired by nuclear
work on **April 26** from 1:30-2:30
P.M. at the Mobius Gallery.