Foreign Policy choices in the United States – Iranian nuclear weapons and US
foreign policy of sticks and carrots – apparently they think we are all “dumber than mules”

When our foreign policy is based on carrots and sticks – it sounds like we are training donkeys or working with a stubborn, obstinate mule – or that we are trying to get a group of donkeys and mules to comprehend that they are dumb animals who have to do what we want.

If I could get any one thing out of Washington that would help the most to encourage World Peace, it would be for the “carrots and sticks” statement to never be said again, to never be used in describing foreign or domestic policies and to never be considered an adequate approach to anything that involves other people. It is disrespectful. It is arrogant. It is insulting. And, it is not descriptive of the basic principles of partnership, mutual respect and efforts that we are all making together for the world to be a better, safer place with prosperity, security, hope, democracy, equality and intellectual growth throughout the United States and across the countries of the world.

– cricketdiane, 10-10-09

***

From the book –

“Getting to Yes – Negotiating Agreement Without Giving In”

by Roger Fisher and William Ury
Lock-in Tactics

This tactic is illustrated by Thomas Schelling’s well-known example of two dynamite trucks barreling toward each other on a single-lane road. The question becomes which truck goes off the road to avoid an accident. As the trucks near each other, one driver in full view of the other pulls off his steering wheel and throws it out the window. Seeing this, the other driver has a choice between an explosive crash or driving his truck off the road into a ditch. This is an example of an extreme commitment tactic designed to make it impossible to yield. Paradoxically, you strengthen your bargaining position by weakening your control over the situation. (maybe, – my note)

[...]

But lock-in tactics are gambles. You may call the other side’s bluff and force them to make a concession which they will then have to explain to their constituency.

Like threats, lock-in tactics depend on communication. If the other truck driver does not see the steering wheel fly out of the window, or if he thinks the truck has an emergency steering mechanism, the act of throwing the steering wheel out the window will not have its intended effect. The pressure to avoid a collision will be felt equally by both drivers.

(then it describes a couple of tactics that could be used in negotiations to confront this lock-in tactic – which are great but do not apply to the example cited above, – my note)
So, I was reading this examples to one of my daughters who is in her early twenties to describe a way of thinking about negotiating with someone that had been withholding her belongings and bullying her up in NY. She was sure that the only real solution to the two drivers was that one would yield and win by staying alive, while the other would win by forcing him or her to submit and to have yielded. But, I pointed out that there are more solutions on the menu beyond those two, where one is to crash head-long into each other or the other solution is to yield and concede in order to survive.

I pointed out to my daughter, that if it was me behind the wheel of one of those vehicles the chances are that I would be hopping into the back and throwing dynamite out of the vehicle, bracing for impact and just allow the damn thing to hit the son-of-a-bitch. Maybe . . .

And, I pointed out that if she were driving one of the vehicles, she would likely point the nose of that truck at an angle to drive the other truck off the road and down the cliff, leaving a racing stripe from the other truck down the side of hers.

And, if one of my other daughters were driving, she would probably grab one of the sticks of dynamite (or two or five or ten) – light them and hoist them at the other truck so that it would explode before it could get to her and then nudge it off the roadway and go on through – probably never missing a beat.

I think again about the choices and obviously, in that scenario talking between the drivers would not be on the list at all. But, shooting the tires out would be and putting my own truck in reverse would at least be on the menu of options at the moment I might have to consider doing something. That menu would include anything that would defuse, disarm and destroy the
capacity of the other driver and the vehicles carrying dynamite from doing harm to anyone. If that means, putting it in reverse and letting the bastard push me, as the driver and my truck all the way down the mountain backwards until I could shoot or dynamite his engine block slap out of his truck – then that would be in the choices on the menu.

That is what I’m mostly trying to say, that “carrots and sticks” is not a foreign or domestic policy solution as the only choice on the menu. It just isn’t.

And, the capacity for human beings to be creative, to creatively and resourcefully problem solve, and to create new solutions which have never been developed before that moment can yield more options that could uniquely resolve those difficult foreign policy decisions we face, but only if they are allowed to be on the list.

As long as the narrow-minded and singular “carrots and sticks” answer is the solution to be followed, no other options can be motivated, can be considered, and can be utilized. And, it is increasingly arrogant and standoffish to set ourselves above every other player in the world by acting that way about it even while claiming “mutual respect” and “equality” among those players and ourselves.

It is true that systems of encouragement for the more desirable outcomes and discouragement of those things we find undesirable are one method that, while insulting to our international equals and the people they represent, has been used in a variety of settings, including foreign policy. But, it isn’t the only way to get it done. All-Win solutions can be hammered out to some extent even between players who would just prefer that the other side didn’t exist at all. It has been done. It has worked. It is another way to do it.

There will also be those that simply will not rest until somebody, some country, some people, some race or ethnic group, or
something that they hate has been obliterated. Personally, I think that is a mental aberration and not negotiable. It is ignorant and psychotic. And, that is the part which needs to be fixed because negotiated settlements cannot occur successfully where ignorance and psychotically-based hatred, bigotry, prejudice and racism are setting the standards for winning in the minds of any of the parties involved. Those standards by their structure and basis are “no-win” solutions for everyone which reach far beyond the tables of negotiation.

Over the last few years, Saudi Arabia has found a way to re-program that equation by serving the extreme fundamentalists and terrorist cell members with the kind of programs used for cults, cultists, and for cult members / cult victims to be un-brainwashed and to begin healing from the cult brainwashing techniques. By doing that in a psychiatric, psychological and mental health understanding of the problem, those individuals have a chance to be co-opted into Saudi Arabian and Islamic society in productive ways. But, the idea does represent one possible solution to the problem of negotiating with those whose psychotic and often religious interpretations of their ideology leave no room for anything except obliterating everyone they hate. And, often – they hate everybody, just pick a reason.

In a way, I would like to know which simple-minded, short-sighted arrogant jackass came up with the “carrots and sticks” mentality for US foreign policy and then spread it every damn where. But, then didn’t they used to say the same things about slaves and women and blacks and Arabs and Jews and just about everybody else subordinate in their eyes due to station in life, status, financial means, education, background, race, gender, age, country of origin or whatever else? I seem to remember that in some writings prior to the Civil War among plantation owners describing to one another effective ways to get things done. And, it just never ends regardless of the reasons why one human considers themselves above others.

When I watched Secretary Gates and Secretary Clinton on CNN’s
Amanpour interview, I felt ashamed of our country when they started describing the “carrots and sticks” policy that our State Department, Department of Defense, USAID and other foreign policy professionals are using and intend to use on Iran and other countries in the world. I knew they had probably just never thought about it in the way I was thinking about it, but if I were in Iran or any of the other countries where the United States is trying to exert influence – I would’ve been insulted and likely, aggravated by that almost patronizing and pervasively arrogant mentality about it.

Aside from being thought of as “dumber than a mule” and as someone considered to be so far beneath them (in their estimation), I would be thinking about “who the hell do they think they are?” and of the umpteen reasons why my country stands among the highest scientific thinkers, has made the substantial contributions to mathematics, language and astronomy and why its better than anyone in the United States or in the US government knows. It would breed nothing short of contempt and derision before getting anything else done.

And, it just isn’t the only way to do it . . .

– cricketdiane, 10-11-09

***

And some of these USAID programs and funding are in need of revision for the same reasons –

United States Agency for International Development

FROM WIKIPEDIA, THE FREE ENCYCLOPEDIA

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**United States Agency for International Development**

<table>
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<th>Agency overview</th>
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<td><strong>Formed</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Preceding agency</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Employees</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Agency executives</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Website</strong></td>
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The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is the United States federal government organization responsible for most non-military foreign aid. An independent federal agency, it receives overall foreign policy guidance from the United States Secretary of State and seeks to “extend a helping hand to those people overseas struggling to make a better life, recover from a
USAID advances U.S. foreign policy objectives by supporting economic growth, agriculture and trade; health; democracy, conflict prevention, and humanitarian assistance. It provides assistance in Sub-Saharan Africa; Asia and the Near East, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe, and Eurasia. USAID is organized around three main pillars: Economic Growth, Agriculture, and Trade; Global Health; Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance.
address rising deficits, aid was tied to the purchase of U.S. goods and services, effectively subsidizing the U.S. balance of payments; for example, aid-financed commodities were required to be shipped in U.S. flagships.[4]

As a part of the U.S foreign affairs restructuring laws enacted in 1999, USAID was established as a statutorily independent agency, as 5 U.S.C. § 104 defines independent establishment.

[edit] Organization

[EDIT] LEADERSHIP

USAID is headed by an Administrator and Deputy Administrator, both appointed by the President and confirmed by the United States Senate.

The immediate past USAID Administrator, under the administration of President George W. Bush, was Henrietta Fore, who concurrently held the position of Director of U.S. Foreign Assistance in the Department of State.

[EDIT] BUREAUS

USAID’s office in Washington includes both geographical and functional bureaus, and well as those for major headquarter functions.

- Geographical bureaus:
  - AFR—Sub-Saharan Africa
  - ASIA—Asia
  - LAC—Latin America & the Caribbean
  - E&E—Europe and Eurasia
  - ME—the Middle East

- Functional bureaus:
  - GH—Global Health
  - EGAT—Economic Growth, Agriculture, and Trade
  - DCHA—Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance
Headquarter bureaus:
- M—Management
- LPA—Legislative and Public Affairs.[3]

Overseas, USAID offices are called “missions.” Mission staff include career foreign service officers (FSOs), personal services contractors (PSCs), foreign service nationals (FSNs), and occasionally civil service employees.

[edit] Budgetary Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nation</th>
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<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>18.44</td>
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<tr>
<td>Israel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
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President Marcos tries out a payloader, which was donated to the Philippines through the USAID.

USAID’s budget is funded through the 150 Account, which includes all International Affairs programs and operations for civilian agencies. In FY 2009, the Bush Administration’s request for the International Affairs Budget for the Department of State, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and other foreign affairs agencies totals approximately $39.5 billion, including $26.1 billion for Foreign Operations and Related Agencies, $11.2 billion for Department of State, and $2.2 billion for Other International Affairs.

The request under the FY2009 Foreign Operations budget, Foreign Operations and Related Agencies is:

- $2.4 billion to improve responsiveness to humanitarian crises, including food emergencies and disasters, and the needs of refugees
- $938 million to strengthen USAID’s operational capacity
- $2.3 billion to help Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan and West Bank/Gaza achieve economic, democratic, security and political stabilization and to advance their overall development
- $2.1 billion for State Department and USAID programs in Africa to address non-HIV/AIDS health, economic growth and
democratic governance needs and to help promote stability in Sudan, Liberia, Zimbabwe and Somalia in support of the President’s 2005 commitment to double aid to Africa by 2010

- $4.8 billion for the Global HIV/AIDS Initiative, which directly supports the first year of the President’s new five-year, $30 billion plan to treat 2.5 million people, prevent 12 million new infections, and care for 12 million afflicted people

- $550 million to support the Mérida Initiative to combat the threats of drug trafficking, transnational crime, and terrorism in Mexico and Central America

- $1.7 billion to promote democracy around the world, including support for the President’s Freedom Agenda

- $385 million to support the President’s Malaria Initiative to reduce malaria-related deaths by 50 percent in 15 target African countries by 2010

- $94 million for the President’s International Education Initiative to provide an additional 4 million students with access to quality basic education through 2012

- $64 million for the State Department and USAID to support the President’s Climate Change Initiative to promote the adoption of clean energy technology, help countries adapt to climate change, and encourage sustainable forest management

- $4.8 billion for foreign military financing to the Middle East, Latin America, Europe and Eurasia, including $2.6 billion for Israel

- $2.2 billion for the Millennium Challenge Corporation to improve agricultural productivity, modernize infrastructure, expand private land ownership, improve health systems, and improve access to credit for small business and farmers

At the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, most of the world’s governments adopted a program for action under the auspices of the United Nations Agenda 21, which included an Official Development Assistance (ODA) aid target of 0.7% of gross national product (GNP) for rich nations, specified as roughly 22 members of the OECD and known as the Development Assistance Committee (DAC). The United States never agreed to
this target but remains – in real terms – the world’s largest provider of official development assistance. However, relative to its economy, the U.S. is the second lowest provider with a 0.17% of GNI in aid\(^7\). Only Greece, among the DAC countries, provides a lower percentage of GNI in the form of aid.\(^8\)

According to the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (DAC/OECD), the United States remains the largest donor of “official development assistance” at $23.53 billion in 2006. DAC/OECD reports that the next largest donor was the United Kingdom ($12.46b). The UK was followed (in rank order) by Japan ($11.19b), France ($10.60b), Germany ($10.43b), Netherlands ($5.45b), Sweden ($3.95b), Spain ($3.81b), Canada ($3.68b), Italy ($3.64b), Norway ($2.95b), Denmark ($2.24b), Australia ($2.12b), Belgium ($1.98b), Switzerland ($1.65b), Austria ($1.50b), Ireland ($1.02b), Finland ($0.83b), Greece ($0.42b), Portugal ($0.40b), Luxembourg ($0.29b) and New Zealand ($0.26b).\(^9\)

USAID Bilateral Assistance in the News

Main article: Reconstruction of Iraq
USAID has been a major partner in the United States Government’s (USG) reconstruction and development effort in Iraq. As of June 2009\(^{[update]}\), USAID has invested approximately $6.6 billion on programs designed to stabilize communities; foster economic and agricultural growth; and build the capacity of the national, local, and provincial governments to represent and respond to the needs of the Iraqi people.\(^{[10]}\)

Rebuilding Iraq – C-SPAN 4 Part Series In June 2003, C-SPAN followed USAID Admin. Andrew Natsios as he toured Iraq. The special program C-SPAN produced aired over four nights.\(^{[11]}\)

BOLIVIA
In 2008, the coca growers “union” affiliated with Bolivian President Evo Morales “ejected” the 100 employees and contractors from USAID working in the Chapare region, citing frustration with U.S. efforts to persuade them to switch to growing unviable alternatives. From 1998 to 2003, Bolivian farmers could receive USAID funding for help planting other crops only if they eliminated all their coca, according to the Andean Information Network. Other rules, such as the requirement that participating communities declare themselves “terrorist-free zones” as required by U.S. law irritated people, said Kathryn Ledebur, director of the organization. “Eradicate all your coca and then you grow an orange tree that will get fruit in eight years but you don’t have anything to eat in the meantime? A bad idea,” she said. “The thing about kicking out USAID, I don’t think it’s an anti-American sentiment overall” but rather a rejection of bad programs”.

[edit] Controversies and Criticism

USAID states that “U.S. foreign assistance has always had the twofold purpose of furthering America’s foreign policy interests in expanding democracy and free markets while improving the lives of the citizens of the developing world.” However, some critics say that the US government gives aid to reward political and military partners rather than to advance genuine social or humanitarian causes abroad. Another complaint is that foreign aid is used as a political weapon for the U.S. to make other nations do things its way, an example given in 1990 when the Yemeni Ambassador to the United Nations voted against a resolution for a US-led coalition to use force against Iraq, U.S. Ambassador to the UN Thomas Pickering walked to the seat of the Yemeni Ambassador and retorted: “That was the
most expensive No vote you ever cast". Immediately afterwards, USAID ceased operations and funding in Yemen. [13]

Although USAID defends that contractors are selected by their proven abilities, “watch dog” groups, partisan politicians, foreign governments and corporations contend that the bidding process has at times involved both the financial interest of its current Presidential administration and political motivation.[14]

See also

- African Development Foundation
- Andrew Natsios
- Bretton Woods system
- Economic Cooperation Administration
- John M. Granville
- List of development aid agencies
- Marshall Plan
- Mexico City Policy
- Mutual Security Act
- The INFO Project
- POPLINE
- United States aid
- United States military aid
- United States Foreign Military Financing
- Edward Weidenfeld
- Office of Transition Initiatives

References

1. ^ Best Places to Work in the Federal Government
2. ^ USAID: USAID History
3. ^ a b USAID Official Website
Figure 4, Page CRS-13


7. ^US and Foreign Aid Assistance, from globalissues.org, aid data from OECD


9. ^ (PDF) FINAL ODA FLOWS IN 2006, DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION DIRECTORATE, DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE, 10 December 2007, p. 8, http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/7/20/39768315.pdf (ANNEX, Table 1)

10. ^USAID Assistance for Iraq: Accomplishments, United States Agency for International Development.

11. ^C-Span: Rebuilding Iraq


[edit] External links

WikiCommons has media related to: United States Agency for International Development

- USAID website
- Records of the Agency for International Development (AID) in the National Archives
- USAID Overview video short
- USAID-produced Lebanon television short for 2007 public affairs campaign
- USAID-sponsored and financed anti-human trafficking music video
- *Historical bibliography of the United States Agency for International Development*, USAID Center for Development Information and Evaluation (CDIE), April 1995
- *USAID primer: what we do and how we do it*, USAID, rev. January 2006
- Access over 153,000 USAID documents, reports and publications through USAID’s Development Experience System (DEXS)
- Access over 9,100 USAID project descriptions, 1946–1996, through USAID’s Development Experience System (DEXS)
- *U.S. Overseas Loans and Grants, Obligations and Loan Authorizations*, USAID annual report to U.S. Congress
- USAID’s Global Education Database, Displays UNESCO and other Education Data
- FrontLines—the employee news publication of USAID
- The US and Foreign Aid Assistance, article by Anup Shah
- EM-DAT: The OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database
- CE-DAT: The Complex Emergency Database
- Eurodad: Aid Effectiveness, Conditionality, Aid Accounting
- Albert H. Huntington Jr. (AID Staff Member), Collection of Documents Related to Foreign Aid, Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library
- US Aid to Pakistan by the Numbers – Center for American Progress
- US Aid to Afghanistan by the Numbers – Center for American Progress

Categories: International development agencies | Civil Affairs | Government agencies established in 1961 | United States Agency for International Development
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Agency_for_International_Development

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Carrot and stick

FROM WIKIPEDIA, THE FREE ENCYCLOPEDIA

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Carrot and stick (also "carrot or stick") is an idiom that refers to a policy of offering a combination of rewards and punishment to induce behavior. Some claim that this usage of phrase is erroneous, and that in fact comes from the figure of a carrot on a stick. In this case, the driver would tie a carrot on a string to a long stick and dangle it in front of the donkey, just out of its reach. As the donkey moved forward to get the carrot, it pulled the cart and the driver so that the carrot would always remain out of reach.

The earliest citation of this expression recorded by the Supplement to the Oxford English Dictionary is to The Economist magazine in the December 11, 1948, issue.

References

External links
- Paul Brians, Department of English, Washington State University “Carrot on a stick” vs. “the carrot or the stick.”
- EconPapers abstract for an experiment using this model “The Carrot or the Stick: Rewards, Punishments, and Cooperation”
- Behavioral Study comparing the effectiveness of the two models “The Carrot Or The Stick”
- The Carrot and the Stick discussed in US Drug Policy “The Carrot & The Stick”


Categories: English phrases

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carrot_and_stick
Carrots, Sticks and Donkeys

Those who have some knowledge of American policy and strategy anticipated the sale of P3C Orions, F-16s and other sophisticated weaponry to Pakistan. What makes it all laughable is that the pretext is to aid Pakistan’s counterinsurgency efforts. These weapons will be used to intimidate or attack India. The daydreamers in India including respectable web-sites are mollified and crowing about two op-eds by former Ambassador Blackwill and former Senator Pressler recommending that America wholeheartedly embrace democratic India and overtly state its tilt towards it. The timing of these writings should make sensible thinking persons suspect that these were carrots hung in front of the donkey to fool the ass before it is to be struck by the heavy stick of arm sales to Pakistan. However well meaning these two persons maybe, they are currently out of power. One has become a lobbyist who gets paid to cash in on past influence and the other is on the board of directors of Infosys and has to proclaim a pro-India bias. The pie in the sky promises of Condoleeza Rice are just that. The hurdle of convincing the Congress and negotiating terms and transfer of technology in planes and nuclear reactors are slow and uncertain.

Let us consider why India was offered F-16s or F-18s. It was a sop to cover the sale to Pakistan. Furthermore, the technologies are a generation old and being phased out by replacement with the Raptor F-22 and the JSF F-35. It would be foolish for India to own the same model plane as Pakistan, even though modern air warfare is often beyond visual range. The reason Pakistan was offered the planes is to please Musharraf and his generals and defuse the widely prevalent public ill feeling towards America. This would consolidate Musharraf’s hold on power and obtain his
co-operation, if Iran is to be attacked. This would calm the primary worry of America of Pakistani nuclear assets falling into the hands of Islamic terrorists. It is worth noting that there is no limit on the number of planes and I am sure that one of them will handed over to China for reverse engineering. This doesn’t worry America and India’s concerns do not matter a bit to America, as the timing of the sale and previous anointing of Pakistan as a key non-NATO ally prove.

There is another widely prevalent misconception amongst Indian analysts that we can cozy up to China. China has no interest in seeking a military alliance or partnership with India. It has designs on our territory, is economically and militarily stronger, and having India on its side does little to help it stand up against America in the Taiwan or any other future dispute. It fears Japan which has the economic might and technology to threaten it, if it escapes American domination. Thus it wants a pacific Japan relying on American protection. It has not forgotten Nanking and Manchuria. Presently it wants to trade with America to obtain foreign exchange, provide jobs for its roving unemployed and obtain western technology. Thus it voices protests but still pretends to co-operate with America with regards to North Korea. In the meantime it is becoming the largest trading partner of Japan, South Korea, the ASEAN group and it is making inroads into Latin America and former Soviet Republics and Iran. It will continue to hold Pakistan’s hand, support Bangladesh and Burma, while fomenting unrest in Nepal and the Indian northeast to cripple or slow India’s rise.

Japan’s interest in India is to police the Straits of Malacca, the bottleneck in the route of its oil supply. Until it abandons the American umbrella, there is no benefit to it of closer political or military ties to India. Only Russia, a dethroned superpower may have interest in a closer relationship. It is wooing Iran to counter American interference in Georgia, Ukraine etc. Its technology though good is not often superior to that of America, but it would
be downright foolish of India to fight a war with America or even prepare for one as China is doing. Taiwan is the cause of that. If we fight a war with Pakistan, America may threaten or criticize us but it is not going to defend Pakistan as it may defend Taiwan.

Some of the technological gaps can be filled with the help of another country with whom we share a world-view. That is Israel. It has the technology as the refit of our MiGs, the Phalcon system, Green Pine radar, UAVs and Barak missile system purchase proves. In the meantime we should become a first rate military power by improving our economic might and that means trading with all and making it a point to negotiate transfer of technology in purchasing arms.

France and to some extent Britain are two such sources worth cultivating, while still giving preference to Russia and Israel with whom we currently have common interests, while avoiding open conflict with America and China, just as America did by placating Britain and France within a decade of its birth as a nation. We must also follow America’s example of not becoming the handmaiden of great powers, nor be beguiled by their grandiose proclamations or vague future promises.

Our current price advantage in back office work, BPOs, call centers and software services is ephemeral and undependable. It could vanish overnight if America is peeved or someone does it cheaper. This is why China chose to go the manufacturing route and not the service sector one. Another lesson to be learnt from Prithviraj and America is that war, economic or military, is not some chivalrous contest on a medieval battlefield where victors and vanquished have a peg or two like pukka sahibs in the officers’ mess, but a zero sum game where the victors
make the rules and the vanquished get Nuremberg trials.

– Gaurang Bhatt, MD
April 3, 2005

http://www.boloji.com/rt2/rt165.htm

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Advertisements
Medicine, medical doctors, health care, formaldehyde in birth control pills and vaccines, thimerisol continues to be in flu vaccines given to children and pregnant women and elderly, aluminum is being injected into people with every vaccination and in many injected drugs, truth, honesty and health care reform – Any medical doctor, health care professional, nurse or surgeon with a prescription pad making out a prescription for any of us would only be truthful and honest, if he or she actually
The honest, truthful representation of medicine and health care in America –

Any medical doctor, health care professional, nurse or surgeon with a prescription pad making out a prescription for any of us would only be truthful and honest, if he or she actually said this to us when making out that prescription –

“I’m prescribing this for you and once you take it you won’t be able to pee or relieve yourself as long as you are on it. You won’t be able to sit up or drive a car or vacuum the house because it will make your heart race and cause vertigo and dizziness.

You will be nauseated whether you eat or not and you won’t be able to metabolize food so expect water gain, edema and increased fat weight gain while your body is actually starving for nutrients.

And, you can have heart failure like 1 in every 3 people who take it. However, kidney and liver failure are more likely before it gets to the point of causing a heart attack. Sometimes, it has done all three with kidney, liver and heart failure. It has killed some people, maybe about half the people who took it in India and Uganda where the drug company studied it, but some of those people in the test group were two years old.

But, it is absolutely safe.

And if you want to take a piss so bad that it’s causing extraordinary pain and you have a fever or your skin turns yellow,
call me and I’ll add another drug to it that will allow you to pee. – it hardly has any side effects at all, but these drugs won’t hurt you.

They do cause blood clots, vision loss, hair loss and you might have hallucinations, itchy skin, trouble breathing, vomiting, and it is known to cause holes in the stomach and the stomach lining, and you may not able to sleep, but that’s okay and to be expected.

At least it will take care of (the shit you were in here complaining about.) A lot of people do have suicidal thoughts and those are caused by this drug so don’t worry about it.”

– cricketdiane, 10-09-09

***

Yasmin Side Effects Lawsuit
Keywords: Yasmin Stroke Lawyer Side Effects Lawsuit Yasmine

If you use Yasmin, you should be aware that this popular birth control pill has been associated with some very serious side effects. These include life-threatening blood clots, heart attacks and strokes. Since 2004, at least 50 deaths have been reported in women taking Yasmin and similar contraceptives.

Yasmin contains a very different type of progestin called drospirenone. Drospirenone is known to carry some health risks not seen with other forms of the hormone. Unfortunately, these risks were downplayed in Yasmin’s early marketing campaigns, and its benefits were exaggerated. In fact, in 2003, the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) ordered the maker of Yasmin to stop running a commercial that made such claims.

Because of the exaggerated claims made in Yasmin promotions, millions of women chose it as their birth control. Unfortunately, these same promotions left many Yasmin users unaware of its serious health risks. The maker of Yasmin must be held
If you or someone you love suffered a blood clot, heart attack or stroke while taking Yasmin, you may be entitled to compensation. Please contact one of our Yasmin side effect lawyers right away to protect your legal rights.

Yasmin Side Effects

Some of the Yasmin side effects reported to the FDA over the years include:

* Heart Attack
* Cardiac Arrhythmias
* Stroke
* Pulmonary embolism (an artery in the lung is blocked)
* Blood Clots (Non-Vaginal)
* Kidney Failure
* Seizures
* Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT)
* Gallbladder Disease
* Hepatic Adenomas
* Sudden Death

All birth control pills, including Yasmin, increase the risk of blood clots, strokes and heart attacks. But because Yasmin is made with drospirenone, it carries additional risks. Most notably, it can increase the levels of potassium in the blood, which can lead to a disorder called hyperkalemia in high risk patients. This condition may result in potentially serious heart and health problems, including fatal cardiac arrhythmias. High potassium levels are especially dangerous for people who are obese, or who have diabetes or high blood pressure.

Since early 2004, the FDA has received over 50 reports of deaths in women who were taking Yasmin and other drospirenone-containing contraceptives. Many of the Yasmin deaths reported to the FDA involved elevated potassium levels. Some of the women in the reports were as young as 17. The deaths were
caused by a variety of ailments, including cardiac arrhythmia, cardiac arrest, intracardiac thrombus (blood clots in the heart), pulmonary embolism (blood clot in the lungs) and stroke in women in their child bearing years.

Yasmin FDA Warning Letter

In 2003, the then-maker of Yasmin, Berlex Laboratories (acquired by Bayer in 2006) received an FDA warning letter about a Yasmin TV ad the agency said was misleading. The unifying theme of the ad, typified by the tagline “Ask about Yasmin, and the difference a little chemistry can make?” suggested that Yasmin is better than other birth control pills because of drospirenone and the way in which it is metabolized in the body. This “chemistry” difference was presented as a product benefit, according to the FDA.

In the warning letter, the FDA said it was not aware of substantial evidence or substantial clinical experience demonstrating that Yasmin is superior to other birth control pills or that the drospirenone in Yasmin is clinically beneficial. The FDA also found that the advertisement “fails to communicate that the potential to increase potassium is a risk” or that “increased serum potassium can be dangerous.”

Yasmin Side Effects Lawsuit

In the summer of 2009, several lawsuits were filed by women who claimed Yasmin made them ill. They allege Bayer overstated the benefits of Yasmin and failed to warn that it could put women at risk of serious injury. It is expected that many such Yasmin lawsuits will be filed in the future.

Our Yasmin side effect lawyers are continuing to offer free case evaluations to victims of Yasmin side effects. If you or someone you love suffered from a blood clot, heart attack or stroke while taking Yasmin, we urge you to contact us as soon as possible. Simply fill out our online form, or call 1-800 LAW INFO (1-800-529-4636) to discuss your case with one of our Yasmin side effect
lawyers today.

http://www.yasmin-side-effects-lawyer.com/

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My Note –

But it works. Dead people don’t get pregnant.

– cricketdiane

***

(and this is how much the United States government and FEMA under the Republican administrations both in the Federal, State and Local governments have thought of the health and welfare and well-being of America’s citizens -)

Particleboard Main Source of Formaldehyde Fumes in Toxic FEMA Trailers

Date Published: Thursday, July 3rd, 2008

Immediately following the Hurricane Katrina devastation, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) ordered about $2.7 billion worth of trailers and mobile homes to house Katrina victims. FEMA’s requirements were detailed in a mere 25 lines, with minimal details regarding occupant safety. Today, industry and government experts say the Toxic FEMA Trailers are linked to a public health catastrophe involving 300,000 people, many children, who were exposed to high formaldehyde levels exceeding the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) recommended 15-minute exposure limit for workers. Fifteen minutes is the limit at which acute health symptoms begin to appear in sensitive individuals.

While the CDC found that although levels of formaldehyde varied from unit to unit of a particular brand, nearly all brands of Toxic FEMA Trailers tested had units with high formaldehyde levels.
The CDC “supported the need to move quickly,” and get people out of FEMA housing before summer, as heat can increase formaldehyde fumes. In a previous CDC study, scientists tested air quality inside hundreds of Toxic FEMA Trailers and mobile homes occupied by Katrina victim and detected potentially dangerous levels of formaldehyde in many units. Pilgrim International, Inc.; Gulf Stream Coach, Inc.; Thor Industries, Inc.; and Coachmen Industries, Inc. were the trailers reviewed in the CDC study.

Now, particleboard appears to be one of the main sources of potentially harmful fumes in the government-issued Toxic FEMA Trailers. The report issued by the CDC in Atlanta recommends using different building materials to produce emergency housing for FEMA. The CDC also said that better ventilation in the units could make them safer. Scientists speculate that formaldehyde levels in the Toxic FEMA Trailers were higher than in mobile homes because they contain more composite wood products, such as particleboard, in a smaller space, and with poorer ventilation. The latest tests—conducted to determine which components were responsible for emitting formaldehyde fumes—were performed by California’s Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratories.

Formaldehyde is an industrial chemical that can cause nasal cancer, may be linked to leukemia, and worsens asthma and respiratory problems. Within months of moving into the trailers, residents began complaining about unusual sickness; breathing problems; burning eyes, noses and throats; and even death. Formaldehyde is emitted from the resins and glues used in many construction components, including particleboard flooring, plywood wall panels, composite wood cabinets, and laminated countertops. Emissions are greatest in warm weather and when trailers are newly constructed. (and in curtains and carpets. – my note)

Michael McGeehin, director of the CDC’s division of environmental health hazards, said the report’s findings only
apply to FEMA trailers that sheltered Gulf Coast storm victims. “They do not apply to other trailers in use elsewhere in the country," he said. Although the CDC maintains that formaldehyde emitted by each trailer part didn’t exceed limits set by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban and Development, McGeehin said those HUD standards were meant for larger mobile homes.

Becky Gillette, formaldehyde campaign director for the Sierra Club, said the test results highlight the “terrible inadequacies” of the HUD standards, which date back to 1984.

This entry was posted on Thursday, July 3rd, 2008 at 8:43 am and is filed under Health Concerns, Legal News, Toxic Substances.

You can leave a response, or trackback from your own site.

http://www.newsinferno.com/archives/3392

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Formaldehyde Chemical Information

formaldehyde – A colorless poisonous gas synthesized by the oxidation of methanol and used as an antiseptic, disinfectant, histologic fixative, and general-purpose chemical reagent for laboratory applications. Formaldehyde is readily soluble in water.

(from – )

www.medications.com/drugs/formaldehyde

***

From wikipedia entry about Formaldehyde –

Aqueous solutions of formaldehyde are referred to as formalin.
“100%” formalin consists of a saturated solution of formaldehyde (this is about 40% by volume or 37% by mass) in water, with a small amount of stabilizer, usually methanol to limit oxidation and polymerization. A typical commercial grade formalin may contain 10–12% methanol in addition to metallic impurities such as aluminium (3 ppm), iron (1 ppm) and copper (1 ppm).

“In view of its widespread use, toxicity, and volatility, exposure to formaldehyde is a significant consideration for human health.”[3]

Safety

Occupational exposure to formaldehyde by inhalation is mainly from three types of sources: thermal or chemical decomposition of formaldehyde-based resins, formaldehyde emission from aqueous solutions (for example, embalming fluids), and the production of formaldehyde resulting from the combustion of a variety of organic compounds (for example, exhaust gases). Formaldehyde can be toxic, allergenic, and carcinogenic.[2] Because formaldehyde resins are used in many construction materials it is one of the more common indoor air pollutants.[19] At concentrations above 0.1 ppm in air formaldehyde can irritate the eyes and mucous membranes, resulting in watery eyes.[20] Formaldehyde inhaled at this concentration may cause headaches, a burning sensation in the throat, and difficulty breathing, as well as triggering or aggravating asthma symptoms.[21][22]

Formaldehyde is classified as a probable human carcinogen by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has determined that there is “sufficient evidence” that occupational exposure to formaldehyde causes nasopharyngeal cancer in humans.[2] The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) allows no more than 16 ppb formaldehyde in the air in new buildings constructed for that agency.[23] The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has also announced limits on the formaldehyde levels in trailers purchased by that agency.[24]
Formaldehyde can cause allergies and is part of the standard patch test series. People with formaldehyde allergy are advised to avoid formaldehyde releasers as well (e.g., Quaternium-15, imidazolidinyl urea, and diazolidinyl urea).[25] Formaldehyde has been banned in cosmetics in both Sweden and Japan.

[...]

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Formaldehyde

***

FORMALDEHYDE (37% SOLUTION, methanol free)  ICSC: 0695

Date of Peer Review: October 2004

Methanal
Formalin
CAS #  50-00-0    H2CO
RTECS #  LP8925000   Molecular mass: 30.0
UN #  2209

EC #  605-001-00-5
TYPES OF HAZARD / EXPOSURE    ACUTE HAZARDS / SYMPTOMS
PREVENTION    FIRST AID / FIRE FIGHTING
FIRE    Combustible.
NO open flames.
Water in large amounts, water spray.
EXPLOSION

EXPOSURE
AVOID ALL CONTACT!

Shortness of breath.
Local exhaust or breathing protection.
Fresh air, rest. Refer for medical attention.
Skin  Redness.
Protective gloves. Protective clothing.
Remove contaminated clothes. Rinse and then wash skin with water and soap.

Face shield, or eye protection in combination with breathing protection.
First rinse with plenty of water for several minutes (remove contact lenses if easily possible), then take to a doctor.

Ingestion  Burning sensation. Nausea. Shock or collapse.
Do not eat, drink, or smoke during work. Wash hands before eating.
Rinse mouth. Refer for medical attention.

SPILLAGE DISPOSAL   PACKAGING & LABELLING
Ventilation. Remove all ignition sources. Chemical protection suit. Personal protection: filter respirator for organic gases and vapours. Do NOT let this chemical enter the environment.

EU Classification
Symbol: T  
R: 23/24/25-34-40-43
S: (1/2-)-26-36/37/39-45-51
Note: [B, D]

UN Classification
UN Hazard Class: 8
UN Pack Group: III

http://www.inchem.org/documents/icsc/icsc/eics0695.htm

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My Note –

but for some reason it is okay for pharmaceutical and health care industry product manufacturers / drug manufacturers to use formaldehyde in the process of drug manufacturing that are being directly into the bloodstream even though the process is
leaving remnants of the formaldehyde in the completed product / drug / surgical glue / birth control pills and vaccines which are injected, ingested and internalized directly into the human body.

It is barbaric to call that health care.

– cricketdiane

***

Thimerosal, which is approximately 50% mercury by weight, has been one of the most widely used preservatives in vaccines. It is metabolized or degraded to ethylmercury and thiosalicylate. Ethylmercury is an organomercurial that should be distinguished from methylmercury, a related substance that has been the focus of considerable study (see “Guidelines on Exposure to Organomercurials” and “Thimerosal Toxicity”, below).

http://www.autismcoach.com/FDA%20Thimerisol%20Information.htm

**

MERCURY POISONING _ from wikipedia entry –

Mercury poisoning can also result from exposure to soluble forms of mercury (such as mercuric chloride or methylmercury), inhalation of mercury vapor, or eating fish contaminated with mercury. (and from injected medical pharmaceuticals that have used mercury derivatives for preservatives – my note).

Toxic effects include damage to the brain, kidney, and lungs.[1] Mercury poisoning can result in several diseases, including acrodynia (pink disease), Hunter-Russell syndrome, and Minamata disease.[2]

Symptoms typically include sensory impairment (vision, hearing, speech), disturbed sensation and a lack of coordination. The type and degree of symptoms exhibited depend upon the
individual toxin, the dose, and the method and duration of exposure.

Signs and symptoms

Common symptoms include peripheral neuropathy (presenting as paresthesia or itching, burning or pain), skin discoloration (pink cheeks, fingertips and toes), edema (swelling), and desquamation (dead skin peels off in layers).

Because mercury blocks the degradation pathway of catecholamines, epinephrine excess causes hyperhidrosis (profuse sweating), tachycardia (persistently faster-than-normal heart beat), mercurial ptyalism (hypersalivation) and hypertension (high blood pressure). Mercury is thought to inactivate S-adenosyl-methionine, which is necessary for catecholamine catabolism by catechol-o-methyl transferase.

Affected children may show red cheeks and nose, erythematous lips (red lips), loss of hair, teeth, and nails, transient rashes, hypotonia (muscle weakness), and photophobia. Other symptoms may include kidney disfunction (e.g. Fanconi syndrome) or neuropsychiatric symptoms (emotional lability, memory impairment, insomnia).

Thus, the clinical presentation may resemble pheochromocytoma or Kawasaki disease.

An example of desquamation of the hand of a child with severe mercury poisoning acquired by handling elemental mercury is this photograph in Horowitz, et al. (2002).[3]

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mercury_poisoning

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About Aluminum (from wikipedia) –

Health concerns
Despite its natural abundance, aluminium has no known function in living cells and presents some toxic effects in elevated concentrations. Its toxicity can be traced to deposition in bone and the central nervous system, which is particularly increased in patients with reduced renal function.

Because aluminium competes with calcium for absorption, increased amounts of dietary aluminium may contribute to the reduced skeletal mineralization (osteopenia) observed in preterm infants and infants with growth retardation. In very high doses, aluminium can cause neurotoxicity, and is associated with altered function of the blood-brain barrier.[51]

A small percentage of people are allergic to aluminium and experience contact dermatitis, digestive disorders, vomiting or other symptoms upon contact or ingestion of products containing aluminium, such as deodorants or antacids. In those without allergies, aluminium is not as toxic as heavy metals, but there is evidence of some toxicity if it is consumed in excessive amounts.[52]

Although the use of aluminium cookware has not been shown to lead to aluminium toxicity in general (according to some studies done by the makers of that cookware), excessive consumption of antacids containing aluminium compounds and excessive use of aluminium-containing antiperspirants provide more significant exposure levels.

Studies have shown that consumption of acidic foods or liquids with aluminium significantly increases aluminium absorption,[53] and maltol has been shown to increase the accumulation of aluminium in nervous and osseus tissue.[54] Furthermore, aluminium increases estrogen-related gene expression in human breast cancer cells cultured in the laboratory.[55] These salts’ estrogen-like effects have led to their classification as a metalloestrogen.
Because of its potentially toxic effects, aluminium’s use in some antiperspirants, dyes (such as aluminum lake), and food additives is controversial. Although there is little evidence that normal exposure to aluminium presents a risk to healthy adults, [56] several studies point to risks associated with increased exposure to the metal. Aluminium in food may be absorbed more than aluminium from water.[57] Some researchers have expressed concerns that the aluminium in antiperspirants may increase the risk of breast cancer,[58] and aluminium has controversially been implicated as a factor in Alzheimer’s disease.[59]

According to The Alzheimer’s Society, the overwhelming medical and scientific opinion is that studies have not convincingly demonstrated a causal relationship between aluminium and Alzheimer’s disease.[60] Nevertheless, some studies cite aluminium exposure as a risk factor for Alzheimer’s disease, as some brain plaques have been found to contain increased levels of the metal. Research in this area has been inconclusive; aluminium accumulation may be a consequence of the disease rather than a causal agent. In any event, if there is any toxicity of aluminium, it must be via a very specific mechanism, since total human exposure to the element in the form of naturally occurring clay in soil and dust is enormously large over a lifetime.[61][62] Scientific consensus does not yet exist about whether aluminium exposure could directly increase the risk of Alzheimer’s disease.[60]

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aluminium

(check out the information about Teflon and what it is now known to cause sometime and aluminum toxicity is known although not indicated in this wikipedia article.)

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My Note –
Not only are these vaccines using an aluminum based carrier for its liquid which is injected into the human body, but it is also deriving certain constituents for the vaccine using formaldehyde at different states in the process. These formaldehyde molecules are not fully removed from the vaccine serums and are also directly injected into the human body, particularly in infants, children whose bodies are developing, pregnant women and elderly, among others.

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SCIENTIFIC DISCUSSION
This module reflects the initial scientific discussion for the approval of Infanrix Hexa.

This scientific discussion has been updated until 01.11.02. For information on changes after 01.11.02 please refer to module 8B.

1. Introduction
Infanrix hexa is a combined vaccine, which contains
- diphtheria toxoid (D), adsorbed
- tetanus toxoid (T), adsorbed
- three purified pertussis antigens (pertussis toxoid (PT), filamentous haemagglutinin (FHA) and pertactin (PRN; 69 kiloDalton outer membrane protein), adsorbed
- the purified major surface antigen (HBsAg) of the Hepatitis B virus (HBV), adsorbed
- three types of inactivated Polioviruses (IPV type 1: Mahoney strain; IPV type 2: MEF-1 strain; IPV type 3: Saukett strain)
and
- a conjugate of Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) capsular polysaccharide and Tetanus toxoid (PRP-T), adsorbed.
The first five components are in a liquid aluminium salt adsorbed state (suspension for injection) whereas the Hib component is a lyophilised powder adsorbed onto aluminium salt. Prior to administration, the lyophilised Hib powder has to be reconstituted with the liquid suspension for injection containing the DTPa-HBV-IPV component.

In the following this combination vaccine will be referred to as “Infanrix hexa” or as the “candidate vaccine”. The components of the vaccine will be referred to as “DTPa-HBV-IPV component” or “Hib component”.

All antigens of Infanrix hexa have already been licensed, either in monovalent vaccines or as combined vaccines in EU member states and are manufactured by the applicant (e.g. Infanrix HepB: D, T, Pa and HBV; Infanrix IPV: D, T, Pa and IPV; Hiberix: Hib). Infanrix hexa is thus a new combination of known and approved antigens.

The rationale for the development of this combination vaccine is: to facilitate the universal vaccination of infants against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, hepatitis B, poliomyelitis and invasive disease caused by Haemophilus influenzae type b, in countries recommending the use of inactivated poliovirus vaccine as well as universal vaccination against hepatitis B and Haemophilus influenzae type b by simplifying vaccine delivery.

The therapeutic indication for Infanrix hexa is “for primary and booster vaccination of infants against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, hepatitis B, poliomyelitis and disease caused by Haemophilus influenzae type b”.

2. Part II: Chemical, pharmaceutical and biological aspects
Composition
The composition of Infanrix hexa is given in Table 1.
To potentiate the immune response, D, T, pertussis antigens (PT, FHA and PRN), and HBsAg are adsorbed on aluminium salts (aluminium hydroxide and aluminium phosphate) which are well-known and universally accepted immunopotentiating agents. The IPV component, although not pre-adsorbed for formulation, does adsorb when mixed with the other antigens. The Hib component is adsorbed also.

During its meeting on 19-21 October 1999, the CPMP agreed that a GMP inspection of the manufacturing sites was not necessary.

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Control of starting materials

D and T –

Diphtheria and tetanus toxoids are obtained by formaldehyde treatment of purified Corynebacterium diphtheriae and Clostridium tetani toxins. The toxoids are produced and controlled by Chiron-Behring, Marburg, Germany as previously described and approved for Infanrix HepB.

PT, FHA and PRN

The acellular pertussis vaccine components are obtained by extraction and purification from phase I Bordetella pertussis cultures, followed by irreversible detoxification of the pertussis toxin by glutaraldehyde and formaldehyde treatment, and formaldehyde treatment of FHA and PRN.

The antigens are produced according to the methods approved for Infanrix HepB. They comply with the specification limits and are tested as approved for Infanrix HepB.

The pertussis antigens comply with the requirements of the Ph. Eur. monograph 1356 (1999 supplement).

Elimination of adenylate cyclase, tracheal cytotoxin and
dermonecrotic toxin was demonstrated for all the production scales validated. Absence of residual pertussis toxin is shown on each lot of the three antigens using the CHO cell test. The histamine sensitisation test in mice is not carried out at that stage but is performed on the finished product.

Elimination of detoxifying agents and other reagents has been validated. (except that it only requires a certain degree of detoxifying to pass both the manufacturers testing and the FDA / EU regulators / industry testing – my note) Polysorbate 80 is the only quantifiable reagent that remains in the bulk antigens (approximately 40 ?g/dose).

Results of in process and quality control tests indicate that the production process is adequate. Virus yield after culture is reproducible. Purification gives a product of consistent quality from which proteins and VERO cell DNA are virtually eliminated. (another indication that purity doesn’t include complete elimination of toxins used during the process of manufacturing.)

Inactivation is performed in standard conditions using formaldehyde and effective inactivation is consistently achieved. For quality control, all the tests recommended by WHO and Ph. Eur. are performed.

(My note – these vaccines along with other drugs / pharmaceutical products use formaldehyde through and during different stages of the products manufacture. The final combined product could have active percentages of formaldehyde, mercury, aluminum and various other toxins allowable by the authorities who ought to know better, or they need to go back and re-learn chemistry, human metabolism and physiology.)

PRP-T
The manufacture and testing of the PRP-T active ingredient of the Hib adsorbed component is described in Ph. Eur. Monograph
1219 on Haemophilus influenzae type b conjugate vaccine (1998) and WHO TRS 814 (note the 1991 version is under revision). It involves the following steps:

- fermentation of Haemophilus influenzae type b (strain 20,752) based on the seed lot principle,
- extraction and purification of PRP,
- activation of PRP with cyanogen bromide and adipic acid dihydrazide,
- coupling to purified tetanus toxoid,
- purification of the conjugate by size exclusion chromatography,
- diafiltration.

Control of intermediate products
Intermediate products are prepared in advance and a shelf life is claimed for them. These are the adsorbed DT concentrate, the adsorbed PT, FHA and PRN concentrates, the trivalent polio concentrate and the tetanus toxoid concentrate used to prepare the purified tetanus toxoid for coupling with the PRP component.

As the adsorbed DT concentrate is prepared at Chiron-Behring, Marburg, Germany, the product is released by them and retested at SB Biologicals prior to use. Each lot of DT concentrate is tested for aluminium, formaldehyde, sodium chloride and 2-phenoxyethanol content, for pH and sterility, for potency in animals, specific toxicity and for absence of blood group substances. Batch analysis data show consistency of production and quality.

The adsorbed Pa antigen concentrates are prepared at SB
Biologicals and are in process tested for pH and sterility after adsorption and prior to use.

[...] 

The tetanus toxoid concentrate used to prepare the purified tetanus toxoid for coupling with the PRP component is manufactured by Chiron-Behring. The tetanus toxoid concentrate complies with Ph. Eur. 452 (bulk purified toxoid) and WHO (TRS No. 800, 1990) requirements. The tests performed for release are sterility, antigenic purity, absence of tetanus toxin, reversion to toxicity, formaldehyde content, sulphate content, sodium chloride content and pH. Batch release protocols from Chiron-Behring are provided in the application. This intermediate may be stored at +2°C to +8°C for a designated time before being processed at SB Biologicals. The shelf life is supported by stability data.

The other tests performed on each final bulk vaccine are pH, sterility, 2-phenoxyethanol content and formaldehyde content. Each final container lot is tested for appearance, identity for all antigens, volume, pH, aluminium content and as indicated above, for HBV and IPV content (in vitro potency).

Validation data for these methods are presented in the application. The specification limits and tests performed are in accordance with Ph. Eur. monograph 153 (1999 supplement) “Vaccine for Human use”, where applicable.


200500en6.pdf

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My Note –
I don’t disagree with the value of vaccinations. I disagree with the use of known toxic and poisonous substances being used in the vaccines and other medicines which are causing more harm than the diseases they are intended to vaccinate against or help with. They don’t have to be made that way with those particular chemicals used in the manufacture and as carriers for drugs and vaccines which are injected or ingested directly into the body. That is a complete betrayal of public trust and defies the whole concept of health, health care and medicine.

– cricketdiane

***

Amino Resins and Phenolic Resins Production
Final rule published January 20, 2000

* Amino/phenolic resins are primarily used in the manufacture of plywood, particle board, adhesives, wood furniture, and plastic parts.
* A number of toxic air pollutants, including formaldehyde (a probable human carcinogen), phenol, methanol, xylene, and toluene, are released during the resin manufacturing process.
* EPA’s rule establishes emission limits or control efficiency requirements for several emission points: reactor batch process vents, non-reactor batch process vents, continuous process vents, storage tanks, equipment leaks, and heat exchange systems. The rule encourages the use of pollution prevention measures and provides flexibility by allowing the use of a variety of control strategies rather than specific control devices.
* The rule affects new and existing amino/phenolic resin manufacturing facilities. EPA has identified 100 existing facilities that may be affected. The rule will reduce air toxics emissions by approximately 360 tons per year, a 51 percent reduction from 1992 levels.

Secondary Aluminum Production
Final rule published March 23, 2000
Secondary aluminum plants recover aluminum from beverage cans, foundry returns, and other aluminum scrap. These facilities release air toxics during both preprocessing operations (such as aluminum scrap shredding, drying, and decoating) and furnace operations (such as aluminum melting, refining, and alloying).

Secondary aluminum plants emit a variety of toxic air pollutants. These air toxics may include up to 11 metals, organic compounds, and acid gases such as hydrogen chloride and chlorine. The health effects associated with exposure to these air toxics can include cancer, respiratory irritation, and damage to the nervous system.

EPA’s rule establishes emission standards for metals, dioxin/furans, organic hazardous air pollutants, and acid gases for larger secondary aluminum plants. The rule also establishes standards for dioxin/furan emissions from smaller secondary aluminum plants.

Affected sources can achieve the emission reductions required by the rule through the use of pollution-control equipment and/or through a variety of pollution-prevention measures, including work practices and operating practices. The rule provides flexibility to the industry by offering alternative compliance and monitoring options. To reduce monitoring and emissions testing costs, the rule uses particulate matter as a surrogate for metals, total hydrocarbons as a surrogate for organics, and hydrogen chloride as a surrogate for total emissions of hydrogen chloride, chlorine, and hydrogen fluoride.

The rule will affect 80 large secondary aluminum plants. Hundreds of smaller plants may be subject to limitations on emissions of dioxin/furans. The rule will reduce nationwide emissions of air toxics by about 12,420 tons per year, a reduction of nearly 70 percent from current levels. In particular, hydrogen chloride emissions will be reduced by about 12,370 tons per year or by 73 percent, and emissions of metals will be reduced by about 40 tons per year, a reduction of over 60 percent from current levels.
The GAO report provides several examples of interference by EPA’s political appointees, DOD, and the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB), to delay or weaken IRIS assessments. 5

These include:

• Naphthalene, a possible cancer-causing agent of jet fuel.6 Six years after initiating the IRIS review, the EPA has sent it back to the drafting stage after repeated objections from OMB and DOD;

• Royal Demolition Explosives (RDX), used in munitions.7 RDX is a possible carcinogen known to leach from soil to groundwater. EPA delayed its review by seven years at the request of the DOD to wait for DOD-sponsored research. Some of that research is still outstanding.

• Formaldehyde, is a cancer-causing gas used to manufacture building materials such as pressed wood.8 The EPA began an IRIS assessment of formaldehyde in 1997. In 2004 members of Congress requested that the assessment be delayed until the completion of a large epidemiological study from the National Cancer Institute. In the absence of a completed IRIS assessment, the EPA’s Office of Air and Radiation relied on a cancer risk assessment provided by an industry-funded organization in drafting its 2004 rule regulating formaldehyde emissions.

The industry study found formaldehyde to be 2,400 times less potent than the proposed IRIS value, which was based on robust,
peer reviewed science. This weaker value was used to justify exempting certain plywood and composite wood manufacturing facilities from regulation under the Clean Air Act. The rule was later struck down by a federal court, but the IRIS assessment remains unfinished 11 years after it was begun.

- Trichloroethylene, TCE, a solvent used as a degreasing agent. TCE is one of the most common contaminants of superfund sites across the nation, and has been linked to cancer, including childhood cancer, and birth defects. The IRIS draft was initiated in 1998, and in 2001 said TCE ‘highly likely’ to cause cancer, and specifically noted the added health risks when exposures took place during childhood. Now, ten years after beginning the assessment, it is back at the draft stage.


7 ATSDR ToxFAQs for RDX. http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts78.html


Toxicological Profile for
Tetrachloroethylene, or perchloroethylene (perc), a dry cleaning and degreasing chemical which is a widespread groundwater contaminant. The IRIS assessment of perc was initiated in 1998.

In 2006 Risk Policy Report revealed that the assessment was held up when EPA scientists rejected a directive from George Gray, a political appointee who directs the EPA’s Office of Research and Development, to reanalyze cancer risks using a “nonlinear” model which assumes a safe level of exposure. The scientific staff insisted scientific evidence would not support using that model.

This assessment is still being delayed.

**

The GAO’s scathing critique concluded that the new procedures would sacrifice public trust in open government, compromise scientific credibility, and delay or derail the public release of robust scientific assessments needed by governments to set health-protective limits for hazardous chemicals. Moreover, GAO concluded that, “given the importance of the IRIS program to EPA’s ability to protect public health and the environment, Congress should consider requiring EPA to suspend its new process...” These changes would compound what has already become an intolerable delay in completing new and updated assessments. The GAO report summary notes that,

“The IRIS database is at serious risk of becoming obsolete because EPA has not been able to routinely complete timely, credible assessments or decrease its backlog of 70 ongoing
assessments—a total of 4 were completed in fiscal years 2006 and 2007. “14 The GAO concludes that, “recent assessment process changes, as well as other changes EPA was considering at the time of GAO’s review, further reduce the timeliness and credibility of IRIS assessments.” 15

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The EPA IRIS program serves a critical scientific service to the public, and must be preserved and protected to conduct its work without political interference. The EPA’s authority to determine the risks posed by hazardous chemicals should not be compromised by interference from other federal agencies or industry stakeholders with conflicted interests.

EPA’s recent changes undermine the scientific integrity of the IRIS process, and weaken protections for public health and the environment. We implore you to defend your staff and the agency by withdrawing the new IRIS procedures and ensuring that health assessments are established in an open process, free from inappropriate political interference or inappropriate policy considerations.


12 On January 25, 2007 the California Air Resources Board ordered the phase out the use of perchloroethylene, from dry cleaning, with a complete ban by 2023, See details in news release at: http://www.arb.ca.gov/newsrel/nr012607b.htm

The IRIS database contains EPA's scientific position on the potential human health effects of exposure to more than 540 chemicals. This testimony highlights GAO's work on toxic substances, focusing on (1) its March 2008 report, Chemical Assessments: Low Productivity and New Interagency Review Process Limit the Usefulness and Credibility of EPA's Integrated Risk Information System and (2) key changes to the IRIS assessment process EPA included in its revised IRIS assessment process released on April 10, 2008. It also highlights the findings of two GAO reports on EPA's regulation of toxic chemicals. For the IRIS report, GAO analyzed EPA data and interviewed officials at relevant agencies, including the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).
The Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) contains EPA’s scientific position on the potential human health effects of exposure to more than 540 chemicals. Toxicity assessments in the IRIS database constitute the first two critical steps of the risk assessment process, which in turn provides the foundation for risk management decisions. Thus, IRIS is a critical component of EPA’s capacity to support scientifically sound environmental decisions, policies, and regulations. GAO’s 2008 report on the IRIS program identified significant concerns that, coupled with the importance of the program, caused GAO to add EPA’s processes for assessing and controlling toxic chemicals as a high-risk area in its January 2009 biennial status report on governmentwide high-risk areas requiring increased attention by executive agencies and Congress. This testimony discusses (1) the findings from GAO’s March 2008 report Chemical Assessments: Low Productivity and New Interagency Review Process Limit the Usefulness and Credibility of EPA’s Integrated Risk Information System and related testimonies and (2) GAO’s preliminary evaluation of the revised IRIS assessment process EPA issued on May 21, 2009. For this testimony, GAO supplemented its prior audit work with a preliminary review of the new assessment process and some IRIS productivity data.

http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-09-774T

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Amino Resins and Phenolic Resins Production
Final rule published January 20, 2000

*Amino/phenolic resins are primarily used in the manufacture of plywood, particle board, adhesives, wood furniture, and plastic parts.
A number of toxic air pollutants, including formaldehyde (a probable human carcinogen), phenol, methanol, xylene, and toluene, are released during the resin manufacturing process.

EPA’s rule establishes emission limits or control efficiency requirements for several emission points: reactor batch process vents, non-reactor batch process vents, continuous process vents, storage tanks, equipment leaks, and heat exchange systems. The rule encourages the use of pollution prevention measures and provides flexibility by allowing the use of a variety of control strategies rather than specific control devices.

The rule affects new and existing amino/phenolic resin manufacturing facilities. EPA has identified 100 existing facilities that may be affected. The rule will reduce air toxics emissions by approximately 360 tons per year, a 51 percent reduction from 1992 levels.

Secondary Aluminum Production
Final rule published March 23, 2000

Secondary aluminum plants recover aluminum from beverage cans, foundry returns, and other aluminum scrap. These facilities release air toxics during both preprocessing operations (such as aluminum scrap shredding, drying, and decoating) and furnace operations (such as aluminum melting, refining, and alloying).

Secondary aluminum plants emit a variety of toxic air pollutants. These air toxics may include up to 11 metals, organic compounds, and acid gases such as hydrogen chloride and chlorine. The health effects associated with exposure to these air toxics can include cancer, respiratory irritation, and damage to the nervous system.

EPA’s rule establishes emission standards for metals, dioxin/furans, organic hazardous air pollutants, and acid gases for larger secondary aluminum plants. The rule also establishes standards for dioxin/furan emissions from smaller secondary
Affected sources can achieve the emission reductions required by the rule through the use of pollution-control equipment and/or through a variety of pollution-prevention measures, including work practices and operating practices. The rule provides flexibility to the industry by offering alternative compliance and monitoring options. To reduce monitoring and emissions testing costs, the rule uses particulate matter as a surrogate for metals, total hydrocarbons as a surrogate for organics, and hydrogen chloride as a surrogate for total emissions of hydrogen chloride, chlorine, and hydrogen fluoride.

The rule will affect 80 large secondary aluminum plants. Hundreds of smaller plants may be subject to limitations on emissions of dioxin/furans. The rule will reduce nationwide emissions of air toxics by about 12,420 tons per year, a reduction of nearly 70 percent from current levels. In particular, hydrogen chloride emissions will be reduced by about 12,370 tons per year or by 73 percent, and emissions of metals will be reduced by about 40 tons per year, a reduction of over 60 percent from current levels.

Forward to Summaries of Related Solid Waste Incineration Rules
Local Navigation

*Taking Toxics Out of the Air – Contents
*Part 1 – Main Body of Brochure
*Part 2 – Summaries of EPA’s Final Air Toxics MACT Rules
*Part 3 – Summaries of Related Solid Waste Incineration Rules

*EPA Home

Last updated on Wednesday, March 7th, 2007.

http://www.epa.gov/air/oaqps/takingtoxics/sum4.html
We thought it was normal.

We thought that seven miscarriages was normal.

We thought that the host of respiratory problems – 40 percent of our community requires a puffer to breathe – was normal.

We thought that sirens going off in the middle of the night was normal.

We thought that your shoes turning orange in the spring from the melting snow and the chemicals landing on the grass was normal.

It’s not.

— Ronald Plain, Aamjiwnaang First Nationa

The 850-person Aamjiwnaang First Nation community lives in the shadow of what is called Chemical Valley in the Canadian town of Sarnia, Ontario (about one hour north of Detroit, Michigan). Each year, 52 Canadian and US industrial facilities that are located within 10 kilometers (6.2 miles) of their community pollute the air with more than 10 million kilograms (23 million pounds) of chemicals suspected to cause reproductive and developmental problems, as well as over 410,000 kilograms (900,000 pounds) of chemicals known or suspected to cause cancer or to disrupt the
endocrine system. National Geographic has described Chemical Valley as the most polluted spot in North America.

from a 2005 report –
Shaping Our Legacy: Reproductive Health and the Environment
http://www.prhe.ucsf.edu/prhe/pubs/shapingourlegacy.pdf

Also – in the same document, from the paragraph entitled – “Implement a national, comprehensive chemical testing policy for both pre- and post- market chemicals.”

Pharmaceutical drugs and new pesticides must undergo testing for health and safety before the government will register them for use. However, companies do not have to provide evidence that chemicals used in all other consumer and industrial products are safe before or after they are manufactured and sold. As a result, only a small percentage of the approximately 87,000 chemicals registered for use in this country (in the US) have been evaluated for effects on health, and these studies only crudely evaluate effects on reproductive health.

For example, only 7 percent of the nearly 3,000 chemicals we produce or import the most (over 1 million pounds a year) have undergone basic health and environmental testing. We know very little about the toxicity of the products we use every day and the chemicals that contaminate our air, water, food and bodies. We also don’t know exactly how chemicals are getting into our bodies, which makes it very difficult to take steps to eliminate exposure.

A national program to test all pre- and post- market chemicals will help to fill the void of information on the hazards of chemicals in our environment. This testing program should evaluate risks to the environment and wildlife as well as to human health.

It should test for the effects of exposure during all stages of development and look for effects throughout the lifespan. It
should test or otherwise account for our exposure to mixtures of chemicals, particularly chemicals that may cause similar damage. And it should identify the potential for chemicals to enter the human body. Knowledge gained from this testing program will support solid, scientifically based policymaking. It will enhance material safety data sheets (information materials that inform workers of chemical hazards) and consumer product labeling, and will allow for a more informed medical and public sector.

Change the triggers of action used to make policy decisions about regulating potentially harmful chemicals.

Current U.S. regulations permit use of most chemicals without evaluating their ability to produce harm. At the same time, they do not require companies to conduct any research that would produce evidence of harm for chemicals other than pesticides. Lack of research and lack of information translate into continued production and use. Even when government or independent researchers produce evidence, it takes years and major court battles to ban or restrict the use of chemicals.

A protective public health policy would turn our current paradigm on its head. It would take protective action when there is an indication of harm rather than waiting for absolute proof of harm. It would require information on the health effects of all chemicals used or registered for use. And, it would direct the most intensive action be taken on the most commonly used chemicals that we know the least about.

[...] Recent environmental reproductive health research has produced a new body of information and understanding that has yet to be incorporated into the risk assessment process.
Updating hazard and risk assessment protocols and guidelines to reflect these and other scientific discoveries will help to ground health standards in science and thereby maximize public health protections.

Expand information on chemicals in products given to consumers and workers.

Consumer product labeling and worker access to information on industrial chemicals are inadequate. [...] Right-to-Know laws should be improved so that consumers and workers can access information on all of the chemicals used in a product or in the workplace.

Revise occupational health standards so that worker health is protected.

Occupational safety laws and regulations allow workers to be exposed to far higher levels of chemicals than the general public. For example, they can be exposed to about 330 times higher levels of arsenic and about 70 times higher levels of methanol. At least 2100 chemicals used in commerce are known to harm reproduction. An additional 250 are suspected to do the same.

Several steps can be taken to improve worker protection from chemical exposure. One, reduce permissible occupational exposure levels to chemicals that harm reproduction and development so that they are more in line with environmental exposure limits. Two, change permissible exposure limits to reflect the toxicity of exposure to mixtures of chemicals used in the workplace, rather than exposure to individual chemicals. Three, expand exposure assessment and monitoring in occupational settings. Finally, expand occupational health researchers’ access to workers, so that health consequences can be identified and corrected.
“One point became increasingly clear during the Summit: Communication may be a bigger impediment to progress than our lack of knowledge. The array of stakeholders committed to understanding and improving environmental reproductive health includes fields that have traditionally been separated by institutional and cultural divides. Each of these fields speaks a different, highly specialized language and often communicates in a way that assumes their audience holds background expertise in the topic.

Overcoming the lack of common frameworks, language and expertise as well as cultural barriers will require substantial effort and commitment. Courage to step out of one’s particular specialty area and interact with experts from different fields is mandatory. So too, is the ability to incorporate one’s partners’ goals, needs and directions. Simplifying technical information so that nonexperts can understand and participate in multi-disciplinary collaborations requires time and effort, and therefore resources and patience.

http://www.prhe.ucsf.edu/prhe/pubs/shapingourlegacy.pdf

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Web sites geared towards the general public –

Collaborative on Health and the Environment (CHE)
www.healthandenvironment.org

CHE’s website includes:

* A searchable database that summarizes the links between chemical exposures and approximately 180 human diseases or conditions (database.healthandenvironment.org)
*Scientist-reviewed papers on the links between chemical exposures and numerous reproductive health diseases and disorders (www.healthandenvironment.org/science/papers)

(And from the chemicals list – )

Formaldehyde –

A chemical that is used to produce fertilizer, paper products, plywood, and urea-formaldehyde resins. It is also used as a preservative in some foods and in many products used around the house, such as antiseptics, medicines and cosmetics. Automobile engines, power plants, manufacturing facilities, incinerators, cigarettes, gas cookers, some household cleaners and open fireplaces release formaldehyde into outdoor and indoor air. The air is also contaminated when formaldehyde-containing carpets, permanent press fabrics and manufactured wood products off-gas (give off fumes). Most of our exposure to formaldehyde comes from breathing it (or ingesting it from medicines and foods where it was used as a preservative, my note) but we can also be exposed through skin contact with formaldehyde-containing products (pgs. 28-29).

From pp. 59-60 of the above document

http://www.prhe.ucsf.edu/prhe/pubs/shapingourlegacy.pdf

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Lead – A naturally occurring metal that has been mined and used for thousands of years and, as a result, has spread throughout the environment. Lead is used in batteries, ammunition, building construction, certain ceramic glazes, (water plumbing and other) pipes, and is part of solder, pewter and certain metal alloys. Lead was used widely in paints until 1978 and was added to gasoline in the United States until 1996 (most lead was phased out of use by the mid-1980’s) – (but isn’t it still in airplane fuels and some others? –
People are exposed to lead by drinking water that is contaminated either at the source or by lead-containing solder in pipes, by inhaling or ingesting lead contaminated dust or soil, or by eating lead-contaminated foods.

[from pp. 60 of the above document]

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My Note –

and believe it or not, I have seen somewhere that the hormones, estrogen and progesterone used in human birth control pills was sequestered from the urine of some pregnant animal species using formaldehyde to do it. Then later in the process of manufacturing the birth control pills, the formaldehyde is taken back out except for whatever “acceptable” remnants of it are allowable by the FDA and other regulators whose loyalty is to the manufacturing pharmaceutical corporations, rather than to people, traditionally.

I will find the scientific papers that I had found online last year about it which included how many ppb of formaldehyde remaining in the birth control pills was found to be acceptable.

And, that is about how much concern for good health, long life and quality of life that the medical community, health care industry professions and corporations, pharmaceutical companies and health care providers generally have had for us. So, don’t tell me that the example at the start of this blog is outlandish – because it is excessively common for such a wide range of drugs that the likelihood is, some corner has been cut during manufacturing by pharmaceutical and health care industry corporations which are causing most, if not all, of the preventable side effects and drug-based negative health consequences of nearly every pharmaceutical, vaccine and product they produce.
Maybe injecting the human body with formaldehyde laced drugs, birth control pills, vaccines and other products like surgical and specifically, heart surgery glues is mortally lethal, dangerous and making people sick or dead.

And, maybe from using thimerisol, aluminum salts, mercury and similar known toxic substances into the human body in the name of "health care" when they are known to cause cancer, dementia, neurological damage, mental retardation, damage to internal organs and countless other hellish living nightmares – maybe, just maybe, that is barbaric and wrong.

– cricketdiane

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The following information on the levels of mercury and other preservatives is public information taken from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration web site.

Introduction

Thimerosal is a mercury-containing organic compound (an organomercurial). Since the 1930s, it has been widely used as a preservative in a number of biological and drug products, including many vaccines, to help prevent potentially life threatening contamination with harmful microbes. Over the past several years, because of an increasing awareness of the theoretical potential for neurotoxicity of even low levels of organomercurials and because of the increased number of thimerosal containing vaccines that had been added to the infant immunization schedule, concerns about the use of thimerosal in vaccines and other products have been raised. Indeed, because of these concerns, the Food and Drug Administration has worked with, and continues to work with, vaccine manufacturers to reduce or eliminate thimerosal from vaccines.

Thimerosal has been removed from or reduced to trace amounts in all
vaccines routinely recommended for children 6 years of age and younger, with the exception of inactivated influenza vaccine (see Table 1). A preservative-free version of the inactivated influenza vaccine (contains trace amounts of thimerosal) is available in limited supply at this time for use in infants, children and pregnant women. Some vaccines such as Td, which is indicated for older children (> 7 years of age) and adults, are also now available in formulations that are free of thimerosal or contain only trace amounts. Vaccines with trace amounts of thimerosal contain 1 microgram or less of mercury per dose.

http://www.autismcoach.com/FDA%20Thimerisol%20Information.htm

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**THIMEROSAL AS A PRESERVATIVE**

_Thimerosal, which is approximately 50% mercury by weight, has been one of the most widely used preservatives in vaccines._ It is metabolized or degraded to ethylmercury and thiosalicylate. Ethylmercury is an organomercurial that should be distinguished from methylmercury, a related substance that has been the focus of considerable study (see “Guidelines on Exposure to Organomercurials” and “Thimerosal Toxicity”, below).

At concentrations found in vaccines, thimerosal meets the requirements for a preservative as set forth by the United States Pharmacopeia; that is, it kills the specified challenge organisms and is able to prevent the growth of the challenge fungi (U.S. Pharmacopeia 2004). Thimerosal in concentrations of 0.001% (1 part in 100,000) to 0.01% (1 part in 10,000) has been shown to be effective in clearing a broad spectrum of pathogens. A vaccine containing 0.01% thimerosal as a preservative contains 50 micrograms of thimerosal per 0.5 mL dose or approximately 25 micrograms of mercury per 0.5 mL dose.

http://www.autismcoach.com/FDA%20Thimerisol%20Information.htm
Gelatin-resorcinol-formaldehyde glue has excellent hemostatic characteristics and is widely used for dissecting aneurysm; however, some problems concerning GRF glue have been reported. Fukunaga and associates [4] reported nine cases of aortic root redissection after reconstruction of dissecting aneurysms using GRF glue. They considered that the complications were likely to be caused by the toxic effects of formaldehyde, particularly in cases where an excessive amount of formaldehyde was present that was not chemically bound to resorcin. Coronary ostial stenosis after complete replacement of the aortic root and reimplantation of the coronary arteries was observed in several circumstances in which no GRF glue was used. It might be related to the suture technique at the coronary ostium, particularly if a small Dacron graft is used for reimplantation. In our case, it is conceivable that ostial stenosis occurred as a result of inappropriate use of GRF glue rather than a technical problem, because T1 scintigraphy, electrocardiography, and TEE showed no abnormalities on discharge and it occurred bilaterally and simultaneously. Bingley and associates [5] reported that some months to years after the initial use of GRF glue, tissues were extremely fibrosed at the site of glue application, and a number of patients had redissection of the aortic root where GRF glue had been applied.

In our case, an excessive amount of formaldehyde could have induced bilateral ostial stenosis of the coronary arteries owing to redissection of the coronary ostia accompanied by fibrosis at the site of glue application;
however, it is impossible to verify the adverse effects of the formaldehyde because histologic examination was not done.
(and they couldn’t use known toxicity studies on formaldehyde from anything else – my note)

Bachet and associates [2] recommended that as few as two or three droplets of formaldehyde are sufficient to polymerize 1 mL of gelatin resorcinol mixture. To avoid ostial stenosis, the glue is injected between the dissected layers, with special care directed not to contaminate the coronary ostia. A few drops of formaldehyde are then added to the glue by using a cannula-tipped syringe. Thereafter, the layers should be compressed to improve the polymerization process.

The authors thank Naoko Ishizuka, MD, Department of Cardiology, The Heart Institute of Japan, Tokyo Women’s Medical University, for her skillful evaluation of echocardiography.

http://ats.ctsnetjournals.org/cgi/reprint/72/5/1735.pdf

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(from –)

http://www.prhe.ucsf.edu/prhe/pubs/shapingourlegacy.pdf

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Summary

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) contains EPA's scientific position on the potential human health effects of exposure to more than 540 chemicals. Toxicity assessments in the IRIS database constitute the first two critical steps of the risk assessment process, which in turn provides the foundation for risk management decisions. Thus, IRIS is a critical component of EPA's capacity to support scientifically sound environmental decisions, policies, and regulations. GAO's 2008 report on the IRIS program identified significant concerns that, coupled with the importance of the program, caused GAO to add EPA’s processes for assessing and controlling toxic chemicals as a high-risk area in its January 2009 biennial status report on government-wide high-risk areas requiring increased attention by executive agencies and Congress. This testimony discusses (1) the findings from GAO’s March 2008 report Chemical Assessments: Low Productivity and New Interagency Review Process Limit the Usefulness and Credibility of EPA’s Integrated Risk Information System and related testimonies and (2) GAO’s preliminary evaluation of the revised IRIS assessment process EPA issued on May 21, 2009. For this testimony, GAO
supplemented its prior audit work with a preliminary review of the new assessment process and some IRIS productivity data.

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Medicine, medical doctors, health care, formaldehyde in birth control pills and vaccines, thimerisol continues to be in flu vaccines given to children and pregnant women and elderly, aluminum is being injected into people with every vaccination and in many injected drugs, truth, honesty and health care reform – Any medical doctor, health care professional, nurse or surgeon with a prescription pad making out a prescription for any of us would only be truthful and honest, if he or she actually said this to us when making out that prescription –

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Modern homes often poison their occupants through toxic chemicals found in numerous building materials. Certain manufactured wood products such as plywood, particleboard, and oriented strand board (OSB, also known as wafer board or chip board) contain formaldehyde resins that are used to bind the wood fibers together. (Formaldehyde is the chemical biologists use to preserve biological specimens.) Studies show that these materials release formaldehyde and other toxic chemicals into room air long after a building is completed.

Potentially toxic chemicals are also found in furniture made from particleboard, furnishings such as carpeting and curtains, as well as paints, stains, and finishes. Appliances like water heaters and furnaces can also release toxins (in this case, carbon monoxide). So not only are our homes poisoning the many species that share this planet with us, they’re also poisoning the people they’re meant to serve.

Thimerosal as a Preservative

Thimerosal, which is approximately 50% mercury by weight, has been one of the most widely used preservatives in vaccines. It is metabolized or degraded to ethylmercury and thiosalicylate. Ethylmercury is an organomercurial that should be distinguished from methylmercury, a related substance that has been the focus of considerable study (see “Guidelines on Exposure to Organomercurials” and “Thimerosal Toxicity”, below).

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Epidemics of methylmercury poisoning also occurred in Iraq during the 1970s when seed grain treated with a methylmercury fungicide was accidentally used to make bread (Bakir et al. 1973). During these epidemics, fetuses were found to be more sensitive to the effects of methylmercury than adults. Maternal exposure to high levels of methylmercury resulted in infants exhibiting severe neurologic injury including a condition resembling cerebral palsy, while their mothers showed little or no symptoms. Sensory and motor neurologic dysfunction and developmental
delays were observed among some children who were exposed in utero to lower levels of methylmercury.

(from web site above)

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Kharasch was born in Ukraine in 1895 and immigrated to the United States at the age of 13. In 1919, he completed his Ph.D. in chemistry at the University of Chicago and spent most of his professional career there. Most of his research in the 1920’s focused on organo-mercuric derivatives. He synthesized an important anti-microbial alkyl mercuric sulfur compound, thimerosal[2], commercially known as Merthiolate, which he patented in 1928 and assigned to the pharmaceutical company Eli Lilly and Company. Merthiolate was introduced as a vaccine preservative in 1931, and by the late 1980’s thimerosal was used in all whole-cell DPT vaccines.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morris_Kharasch

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**MERTHIOLATE POISONING**

Merthiolate is a mercury-containing substance that was once widely used as germ-killer and a preservative in many different products, including vaccines.

Merthiolate poisoning occurs when large amounts of the substance are swallowed or come in contact with your skin. Poisoning may also occur if you are exposed to small amounts of merthiolate constantly over a long period of time.

This is for information only and not for use in the treatment or management of an actual poison exposure. If you have an exposure, you should call your local emergency number (such as 911) or the National Poison Control Center at 1-800-
Q. Whatever happened to Mercurochrome and Merthiolate? How do they work?

A. Mercurochrome is a trade name for merbromin, a compound containing mercury and bromine. Merthiolate is a trade name for thimerosal, a compound containing mercury and sodium.

Both these compounds kill some (but not all) disease-causing microbes by denaturing enzymes and other proteins so that the microbes’ metabolism is blocked; they do this by breaking up chemical bonds in the proteins.

Both have been widely used as topical antiseptics, applied to the surface of the skin of a living body. Thimerosal is still often used to help rid skin of bacteria before medical procedures. Mercurochrome is not widely used anymore.

Both Mercurochrome and Merthiolate (and iodine preparations, too) sting when applied to broken skin and can interfere with healing. Experts now recommend that first aid kits contain newer antibacterial creams, especially those containing bacitracins, a class of antibacterials first produced by other microorganisms.


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NOVEMBER 11, 2003
Thimerosal is an organic compound that is 49.6 percent ethylmercury. Eli Lilly and Co., the Indianapolis-based drug giant, developed and registered thimerosal under its trade name Merthiolate in 1929 and began marketing it as an antibacterial, antifungal product. It became the most widely used preservative in vaccines. Thimerosal cannot be used with live-cell vaccines, such as MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) or polio, because it would kill the vaccine. The only research looking into the safety of thimerosal was done in 1930 by Eli Lilly-sponsored doctors, who injected it into 22 patients with meningitis. The human experiments failed to prove that thimerosal was nontoxic. Nonetheless, researchers H.M. Powell and W.A. Jamieson published a study in September 1931 in the *American Journal of Hygiene* that stated thimerosal had a “low order of toxicity” for humans, without mentioning that the human subjects were ill and subsequently died. Internal Lilly documents from the time, however, revealed that the company’s researchers were worried about Merthiolate’s “burning qualities” when used on the skin. By 1935, Eli Lilly’s Jameison had further evidence of thimerosal’s toxicity when he received a letter from a researcher who had injected it into dogs and saw severe local reactions, leading him to state: “Merthiolate is unsatisfactory as a preservative for serum intended for use on dogs.”

In the 70 years since thimerosal/Merthiolate was developed, the FDA never required Eli Lilly to conduct clinical studies of its safety, despite ample evidence of its toxicity and its highly allergic properties. In fact, the FDA today still refers to the 1931 Powell and Jameison study on its Web site as indication of the “safety and effectiveness” of thimerosal as a preservative. Thimerosal/Merthiolate was widely used in over-the-counter products, including ointments, eye drops, nasal sprays and contact lens solution. In 1998, the FDA finally banned Thimerosal for use in OTC products—18 years after it began a safety review
of mercury-containing products. It took another year before the CDC and the FDA would ask manufacturers to remove thimerosal from childhood vaccines. Eli Lilly stopped making Merthiolate-containing products in the mid-'80s but still profits from licensing agreements with pharmaceutical companies around the world.

Eli Lilly faces hundreds of civil lawsuits from parents who blame thimerosal for their autistic children. But the pharmaceutical giant has powerful friends in the White House and in Congress. The elder George Bush sat on Lilly's board of directors in the 1970s, and White House Budget Director Mitch Daniels was a Lilly executive. Lilly CEO Sidney Taurel was named by President George W. Bush to the Homeland Security Advisory Council. In November 2002, Congress passed a provision, tucked into a spending measure for homeland security, to indemnify Eli Lilly from lawsuits and require families to seek compensation through the federally funded Vaccine Injury Compensation Program. It was repealed in February 2003 after public outcry. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-Tenn.) still hopes to pass a similar bill. Congressional consideration for Eli Lilly makes sense: In the 2002 election cycle, the company gave more than $1.5 million to federal candidates, with three quarters to Republicans, making it the fourth-biggest giver in the pharmaceutical industry, according to the Center for Responsive Politics. In the current election cycle, the company already has given close to $230,000 (67 percent to Republicans) to federal candidates.

Eli Lilly may be determined to avoid liability for thimerosal, but that doesn’t mean it has abandoned children with neurological problems. This year, the FDA approved Straterra, a new Eli Lilly drug for the treatment of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. The irony that Eli Lilly profits from damaged children is not lost on parent Robert Krakow: “When Eli Lilly is promoting Straterra on TV, saying up to 10 percent of children can be helped, you realize what we are up against.”

http://www.inthesetimes.com/article/649/
In the U.S., the only exceptions among vaccines routinely recommended for children are some formulations of the inactivated influenza vaccine for children older than two years. Several vaccines that are not routinely recommended for young children do contain thiomersal, including DT (diphtheria and tetanus), Td (tetanus and diphtheria), and TT (tetanus toxoid); other vaccines may contain a trace of thiomersal from steps in manufacture.

Outside North America and Europe, many vaccines contain thiomersal; the World Health Organization has concluded that there is no evidence of toxicity from thiomersal in vaccines and no reason on safety grounds to change to more-expensive single-dose administration.

Thiomersal is very toxic by inhalation, ingestion, and in contact with skin (EC hazard symbol T+), with a danger of cumulative effects. It is also very toxic to aquatic organisms and may cause long-term adverse effects in aquatic environments (EC hazard symbol N). In the body, it is metabolized or degraded to ethylmercury (C₂H₅Hg⁺) and thiosalicylate.

Few studies of the toxicity of thiomersal in humans have been performed. Animal experiments suggest that thiomersal rapidly dissociates to release ethylmercury after injection; that the disposition patterns of mercury are similar to those after exposure to equivalent doses of ethylmercury chloride; and that the central nervous system and the kidneys are targets, with lack of motor coordination being a common sign. Similar signs and symptoms have been observed in accidental human poisonings. The mechanisms of toxic action are unknown.

[etc.]
Thiomersal was used as a preservative (bactericide) so that multidose vials of vaccines could be used instead of single-dose vials, which are more expensive. By 1938, Lilly’s assistant director of research listed thiomersal as one of the five most important drugs ever developed by the company.[3] Thiomersal’s safety for its intended uses first came under question in the 1970s, when case reports demonstrated potential for neurotoxicity when given in large volumes as a topical antiseptic. At the time, the DPT vaccine was the only childhood vaccine that contained it; a 1976 United States Food and Drug Administration review concluded that this use of thiomersal was not dangerous.[3] Concerns about mercury arising from Minamata disease and other cases of methylmercury poisoning led U.S. authorities to lower reference doses for methylmercury in the 1990s, about the same time that autism diagnoses began rising sharply. In 1999, a new FDA analysis concluded that infants could receive as much as 187.5 micrograms of ethylmercury during the first six months;[23] lacking any standard for ethylmercury, it used methylmercury-based standards to recommend that thiomersal be removed from routine infant vaccines in the U.S., which was largely complete by summer 2001.[3]

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thiomersal

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America are these ten by virtue of what the police and politicians in the US actually pursue – police brutality and sadistic police practices in the United States – human and civil rights violations common in the US

Here is a list of the real major crimes in America –

(as evidenced by the facts that these are the things police and politicians insist of spending our resources to fix.)

1. not speaking when you are spoken to by a police officer in a manner he or she likes

2. having a broken taillight on a vehicle

3. not having the exact same name on birth certificate, social security card, county records, school records and drivers’ license – whether because one is your married name and one is your maiden name or whatever the reason

4. not keeping the lawn cut down to three inches from the soil

5. illegal parking
6. having a vehicle tag that is one day past getting its current sticker

7. being a woman

8. being a child of a woman

9. being disabled

10. being poor

There are no other crimes which get the attention of the police, law enforcement, detectives, FBI and CIA in the United States – that’s why the 45 children who were good decent human beings were killed in Chicago and that’s why for 18 years, a kidnapped child was kept in the backyard of the jackass who kidnapped her, and that’s why police brutality with every weapon at their disposal is used against ordinary citizens in the ordinary daily course of their lives – while crime, criminality, heinous brutality, violence, domestic violence, murder, robbery, rape and gang violence runs rampant in every place in America. As long as those criminals make sure they have the same name on everything, talk nice to police officers and aren’t a woman, they are allowed to keep on doing whatever they want to anybody for any reason or in fact, for no reason at all, without consequence.

Whose idea of America was that?

– cricketdiane

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As was the case with Prohibition during the 1920s and 1930s, the “War on Drugs” initiated by President Richard M. Nixon in 1969 has been marked by increased police misconduct. Critics contend that a “holy war” mentality has helped to nurture a “new militarized style of policing” where “confrontation has replaced investigation.”.
Committee Approves Settlement In Police Brutality Suit

Curtis Harris Quadrupledegic After Police Use Of Excessive Force, Attorneys Say

POSTED: 4:57 pm CDT October 5, 2009
UPDATED: 12:02 am CDT October 6, 2009

MILWAUKEE — A case of alleged police brutality could soon cost Milwaukee taxpayers $3 million. The common council will consider the proposed settlement to a federal civil rights lawsuit later this month. “Well when you pay $3 million that means you have to admit that your officer committed police brutality,” said Harris’ Attorney Jason Abraham.

A police booking video from December 2003 became a key piece of evidence. Police reports said Harris was drunk, disorderly and uncooperative after he was brought in on an outstanding traffic warrant. In the booking room, officer Kevin Clark claims Harris threw a punch — something Harris denied to 12 News during a 2004 interview.

_In the video, Harris can be seen being led over to a desk by officer Kevin Clark. Suddenly Harris is yanked back and thrown to the ground. On his way down, Harris’ head hits a wall. “Ultimately what happens is the officer gets mad, ends up pushing my client toward a booking room desk and then throws him head first into a wall — rendering him a quadriplegic,” said Harris’ Attorney Jason Abraham._

On Monday, the city’s Finance and Budget Committee recommended the city settle for $3 million. 12 News contacted Milwaukee’s City Attorney and asked for his input on the possible settlement of the lawsuit. He told us he wasn’t available. “I get depressed from time to time — I try to stay strong — but hopefully one day I’ll walk again,” Harris said a video that is part of a lawsuit against the city.
The common council still has to approve the proposed settlement. A vote on that is scheduled for Oct. 13. Officer Kevin Clark was fired from the Milwaukee Police Department in 2004 after he was accused of snow sledding while on duty, got injured and then tried to cover it up.


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Hearing Impaired Man Tased by Police
Posted: Dec 03, 2007 10:35 PM EST Updated: Dec 05, 2007 12:35 PM EST by Michael Schwanke

(Wichita, KS)

Donnell Williams had just gotten out of the bath tub, wearing only a towel around his waist, when he turned the corner to see guns pointing right at him.

“I ain’t never been so scared,” says Williams.

Police forced entry into Williams home while responding to a shooting, but it turned out to be a false call. They had no idea at the time the call wasn’t real and that Williams is hearing impaired. Without his hearing aid he is basically deaf.

“I kept going to my ear yelling that I was scared. I can’t hear! I can’t hear!”

Officers were worried about their own safety because at the time it appeared Williams was refusing to obey their commands to show his hands. That’s when they shot him with a Taser.

Deputy Chief Robert Lee of the Wichita Police Department says, “This one occurred on the worst of calls, that being a shooting. The first few minutes getting control of the scene are very, very
important."

Once the facts were all sorted out, officers repeatedly apologized to Williams. Police wish it never happened, but with the information they had at the time, their choices were limited.

"Do I wish there would have been some way they were notified in advance this gentleman was hearing impaired? I certainly do. No one is happy with the way it worked out," says Lee.

Williams was not hurt in the incident. Police say the shooting call came from a cell phone but they still don’t know who made it or why.

The case is being reviewed by the department.


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My Note –
This man was in his own home, naked without a gun – obviously the police officers could see he was not hiding a gun in nothing more than a towel around his waist. Who trains these sadistic and incompetent excuses for humanity, sticks them in police uniforms and gives them guns and tasers and pepper spray to use on people?

– cricketdiane

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MOBILE, Ala., July 28, 2009
Cops Taser Deaf, Mentally Disabled Man
When Man Wouldn’t Leave A Store Bathroom, Alabama Police Used Stun Gun, Pepper Spray
Police in Mobile, Alabama, used pepper spray and a Taser on a deaf, mentally disabled who they said wouldn’t leave a store’s bathroom.

The family of 37-year-old Antonio Love has filed a formal complaint over the incident on Friday.

Police tell the Press-Register of Mobile that officers shot pepper spray under the bathroom door after knocking several times. After forcing the door open, they used the stun gun on Love.

Police spokesman Christopher Levy says police didn’t realize Love had a hearing impairment until after he was out of the bathroom. The officers’ conduct is under investigation.

The newspaper says the officers attempted to book Love on charges including disorderly conduct, but a magistrate on duty wouldn’t accept the charges.


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My Note –

so if you have diarrhea, food poisoning, stomach virus or vomiting in a four foot by four foot closet-sized bathroom in the Dollar General without having committed any crime and fully unarmed – the police in the cities and counties of the United
States have a right to taser you multiple times, stick pepper spray on you and in your face and eyes to make you sicker and can shoot you or beat you to death if they want to do that and it is completely justified according to the “authorities” who investigate it. (which means they are okay with that and find it acceptable, in fact, these local authorities are promoting and condoning that level of violence and police brutality against unarmed citizens.) – Are they any different than the Gestapo at that point? Who have they helped, who have they saved, who have they protected? The man was unarmed, deaf and in one of those little store bathrooms. He hadn’t stolen anything, he hadn’t threatened anybody and the only thing he had done was to stay in the bathroom longer than normal because of stomach illness.

– cricketdiane

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Ala. Police: Taser Use on Disabled Man Justified
Police defend using pepper spray, Taser on mentally disabled deaf man in Ala. store bathroom
MOBILE, Ala. July 28, 2009 (AP)
The Associated Press

Ala. Police: Taser Use on Disabled Man Justified
(ABC News Photo Illustration)

Officers who used pepper spray and a Taser to remove a man from a store bathroom found out only later he was deaf and mentally disabled and didn’t understand they wanted him to open the door, police said Tuesday.

A spokesman for the Mobile Police Department said the officers’ actions were justified because the man was armed with a potential weapon — an umbrella.

But relatives of Antonio Love, 37, have asked for a formal
investigation and said they plan to sue both the police and the store.

“I want justice,” Love’s mother, Phyllis Love, said Tuesday.

The woman said her son hears only faintly, has the mental capacity of a 10-year-old and didn’t realize that it was the police who were trying enter the bathroom.

“He thought the devil was out there trying to get in to get him,” she said.

Antonio Love, in a written statement and in a television interview given in sign language about the confrontation, said he had a badly upset stomach last Friday and went into a Dollar General store to use the restroom.

Police spokesman Christopher Levy said Tuesday store workers called officers complaining that a man had been in the bathroom for more than an hour with the door locked. Officers knocked on the door and identified themselves, but the person didn’t respond.

Officers used a tire iron to open the door, but the man pushed back to keep it shut. Officers saw the umbrella and sprayed pepper spray through a crack trying to subdue the man, Levy said. They shot the man with a Taser when they finally got inside, he said.

Officers didn’t realize Love was deaf or had mental problems until he showed them a card he carries in his wallet, Levy said. He was arrested on a charge of disorderly conduct, but officers released him and took him home after a magistrate refused to issue a warrant.

Levy said officers were justified in using force against Love since he had an umbrella.
“The officers really worked within the limits of our level-of-force policy,” he said. “We had no information about who this guy was.”

Phyllis Love said her son, who has worked in the garden department at a Lowe’s store for several years, was scared when he realized someone was trying to get into the bathroom with him. He put water on his face and on the floor after being hit with pepper spray, she said.

“He didn’t know it was a policeman until they busted the door in on him,” she said. “He had a knot on his head from where it hit him.”

Levy said police wish the confrontation had never occurred. The internal investigation will include a review of Love’s complaints that officers laughed at him after realizing he was deaf, he said.

“We’ll make whatever efforts we can to resolve this situation, hopefully so this man will be able to trust police in the future so we can help him. Obviously, it’s going to be a rough road,” he said.


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Top 7 ‘Shocking’ Taser Incidents

http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/story?id=8156219&page=1

Did Great Grandmother Deserve to Be Tasered?

http://abcnews.go.com/GMA/story?id=7799290&page=1

Pregnant Woman’s Tasering Probed

http://abcnews.go.com/US/story?id=3931934&page=1

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Taser Nation: Do Cops Overuse Them?

http://abcnews.go.com/US/story?id=3634737&page=1
The FBI and an Ohio police department are investigating an incident in which a pregnant woman was stunned with a Taser inside the lobby of a police station after refusing to answer an officer’s question and ultimately resisting arrest.

The two investigations began after Richard Jones, president of the Ohio chapter of the Rev. Al Sharpton’s National Action Network, called in a complaint to the Trotwood Police Department, Trotwood public safety director Michael Etter told ABC News.

Surveillance video of the incident, which took place on the morning of Nov. 18, shows a woman identified in a police incident report as Valreca Redden, 33, in the lobby of the suburban Dayton police station with her 1-year-old son.

Redden, according to Etter, had come to the police station to ask police to take custody of her child. When officer Michael Wilmer asked why, the woman reportedly would only say that “she’s tired of playing games” with the baby's father.

“At this point, they had a little more discussion that went nowhere,” Etter said, recounting the incident. “She says, ‘I’m leaving.’”
Etter, who repeatedly emphasized to ABC News that Wilmer had no idea the Valreca was pregnant, said that the officer then explained that she could not leave without further explanation. He took hold of the child with one arm, Etter said, and pushed the woman down with the other.

When a second officer arrived, Wilmer handed over the 1-year-old and attempted to handcuff Valreca. She began to resist, Etter said, at which point he “employed what is called a ‘drive stun’” on the back of her neck.

“If he were to take the baby and have her leave, we don’t know who the baby is,” Etter said. “There’s certain information that he’s responsible for. I think the officer made the right decision in detaining her.” Wilmer remains on duty.

The Taser model used by the Trotwood police force, according to Etter, can either be fired like a gun or pressed against a target to deploy.

Valreca was charged with obstructing official business and resisting arrest. It was not until the woman, wearing a heavy coat, was being checked out by jail staff that officers learned she was pregnant, Etter said. At that point, she was transported directly to the hospital.

Jones, from Sharpton’s National Action Network, called to complain about the incident, claiming that police violated Ohio’s “safe haven” law and that the woman should have been able to simply drop the 1-year-old without questions from police. Etter explained that the state statute applies only to children 72 hours old or younger.

Jones, who did not immediately return a phone call from ABC News, also informed Etter that he would be contacting the FBI, Etter said. Etter did the same, and the FBI has said it will
investigate the incident.

For its part, he said, the department wants to see if its Taser policy is proper. “We’re investigating a lot of different things,” Etter said. “But No. 1 is force.”

According to a copy of Trotwood Police Department General Orders, police officers are encouraged to “greatly evaluate each situation with discretion” before using a Taser on a child, elderly person or pregnant woman.

Tianesha Robinson, 33, was pregnant in 2006 when she was jolted by a stun gun in Kansas after she allegedly resisted arrest during a traffic stop. Robinson ultimately had a miscarriage, according to The Associated Press, but doctors could not conclusively link the Taser to the woman losing the baby.

Another woman, Cindy Grippi, delivered a stillborn girl in December 2001 after California police hit her with a Taser. A medical examiner never determined the cause of the child’s death, which could have been traced to the woman’s methamphetamine usage. Still, the city of Chula Vista settled a lawsuit with the woman for $675,000, according to the AP.

Authorities in Utah are probing a recent Taser incident in which motorist Jared Massey was struck by the device after allegedly disobeying an officer’s requests. Massey, who filed a complaint with Utah authorities about the trooper’s use of force, posted the dashboard camera video of the confrontation on YouTube last week. The incident sparked a new round debate.

Canadian officials continue to investigate the case of Robert Dziekanski, a Polish immigrant who died after he was hit by a Taser at the Vancouver International Airport in October. The four police officers involved in that incident, which also was caught on surveillance tape, have since been reassigned to different posts. Eighteen people have died in Canada after being hit with a Taser in the last four years, according to the Canadian federal
The human rights organization Amnesty International, which urges more restraint by law enforcement when choosing to discharge the devices, cited 250 cases in the United States in the last six years in which a suspect died after being hit with a Taser. Those statistics, however, do not track whether the shock actually caused the deaths.

Taser International Inc., the company that manufactures Tasers, claims that the device can only be tied to 12 deaths but does recognize that pregnant women are at more risk of danger if hit by one of the devices.

http://abcnews.go.com/US/story?id=3931934&page=1

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My Note –

You can’t be that stupid, abusive and psychotic and get a job even at MickeyD’s but it’s okay for some reason to put these same sadistic bastards into a police uniform and give them weapons. And then, when they do something psychotic – the government authorities are covering for them and saying to the public that the citizens’ lives are not important, not valuable and don’t count for anything.

Then what are the police there to do? – what purpose do they serve if people’s lives, health and safety don’t matter to them? Are the police and law enforcement commonly brutalizing people in America because they can or are they part of the last thirty years of Republicans running this country into the ground and creating a police state to do it – just to assure their own what?

What did they really think they would get out of it? – every society in history that has done this kind of cruel, vicious brutality to their people has ultimately been decimated and the powerful
"authorities" that caused it, decided for it and supported that brutality have been stripped of that power and wealth.

– cricketdiane


Top 7 ‘Shocking’ Taser Incidents
Grandma, Pregnant Woman, University Student All Felled by Taser-Wielding Cops
By SARAH NETTER
July 24, 2009

Police officers often take a lot of flak for their actions after being thrust into volatile situations.

Two officers in Boise, Idaho, are disciplined for Taser use during an arrest.

Department policy often outlines when use of force — from a gun to a baton — is warranted, but the increased use of Tasers has created a grey area where internal investigators often struggle to balance an officer’s right to protect himself and others with the use of high-voltage electricity shot into another person’s body.

Some of the more high-profile uses of Tasers have turned into punch lines or jokes, like the 2007 “Don’t tase me bro!” incident at the University of Florida.

But others, such as this year’s death of a mentally ill man in New York City, can have life-changing consequences for the victims and the officers involved.

Here is a list of some of the most memorable Taser incidents:

No Ifs, Ands or Butts About It — Cops Took Taser Incident Too Far
Two Boise, Idaho, police officers were reprimanded after an investigation concluded excessive force was used on an unidentified man who was shocked in the back and the backside.

But it wasn't the actual shocks that got the officers in trouble. It was their threats to tase the man in the anus and genitals that raised eyebrows. The man, who claimed the officers thrust the Taser into his nether regions, told the Idaho Statesman that he plans to sue.

Police were called to the scene after a neighbor reported a possible domestic violence dispute.

Great-Grandma Gets What She Asked For

A routine traffic stop got off to a bad start for 72-year-old great-grandmother Kathryn Winkfein.

After being pulled over in Travis County, Texas, in May for driving 60 mph in a 45 mph zone, Winkfein, captured on the officer's dashboard camera, refused to sign her ticket. She then got out of the truck, telling Officer Chris Bieze to "give me the f—ing ticket now."

Bieze can then be seen shoving the woman, something he said was to keep her away from oncoming traffic.

"You're going to shove me? You're going to shove a 72-year-old woman?" Winkfein demanded.

Bieze can be heard on the tape warning the woman about a half dozen times that he would tase her if she didn't stand back, to which she replied, "Go ahead, tase me."

So he did.

Winkfein was charged with resisting arrest and taken to jail. Bieze’s boss later told reporters that his officer did everything by the book.
Man's Naked Plunge Leads to Cop's Suicide

Police in New York City didn’t get off so easily last September when a naked man plunged to his death in Brooklyn after being tased.

Top 7 'Schocking' Taser Incidents

Outrageous use of Tasers makes for great headlines, but people have been killed and officers have been fired when law enforcement takes it too far.

(AP Photo)

Inman Morales, 35, died at a hospital after falling 10 stories. Police had been summoned to the building because Morales had threatened suicide.

When they arrived, Morales crawled out a window and onto a ledge, thrusting an 8-foot-long fluorescent light at officers as he went.

A video of the incident shows an officer raising his stun gun at the man who toppled head first off the ledge, prompting gasps and screams from the crowd below.

The officer who fired the electric shock was placed on desk duty while the NYPD investigated and the lieutenant who ordered the use of the stun gun was relieved of his gun and badge.

That lieutenant, Michael Pigott, shot himself in the head a few days later on Oct. 2.

An NYPD official said after Morales’ death that department guidelines specifically prohibit the use of Tasers when the suspect is in danger of falling from an elevated surface.

No criminal charges were filed in the case.

Cop Obliges Partygoing Teen’s Request for Tase
A rookie Florida cop got a little too Taser-happy at a birthday party he hosted where adults and minors mingled over alcohol.

_Eustis Police Department officials said former officer Dan NeSmith, 22, tased 15-year-old Taylor Davis in the back in September after the teen wanted to know what it felt like._

_The stunt was caught on camera with the crowd cheering NeSmith on as he placed the Taser along Davis' spine and counted down. Even as visible electrical currents shoot into the boy, NeSmith holds the Taser on his back until Davis falls forward onto the floor._

NeSmith was found to have violated department policy and on Oct. 8, he was fired from the post he’d held for just 13 months.

**Officer Shocked to Find Tasered Lady Pregnant**

An Ohio police officer came under fire back in 2007 after a confrontation with a pregnant woman led to the officer tasing the woman in the back of the neck.

Valreca Redden, then 33, had come to the Trotwood Police Department to ask police to take custody of her 1-year-old son, telling officers that she was “tired of playing games” with the baby’s father.

When Officer Michael Wilmer told her she needed to provide more of an explanation, Redden attempted to leave. Wilmer then held the child with one hand and pushed Redden down with the other.

As officers attempted to put handcuffs on the woman, she resisted. That’s when, Trotwood public safety director Michael Etter told ABC News at the time, Wilmer fired a stun gun into the woman’s neck.

It wasn’t until Redden, who was wearing a heavy coat, was examined by jail staff that officials realized she was pregnant.
The Ohio chapter of the Rev. Al Sharpton’s National Action Network later called for an investigation by both police brass and the FBI.

According to a follow-up article by the Dayton Daily News, Wilmer was found at fault for the incident. He was dismissed from the force in December 2007 after violating department policy unrelated to the Redden incident.

The paper also reported that Redden was found not guilty on the charges of resisting arrest and obstructing official business.

**Father, Newborn Hit the Ground After Taser Strike**

New father William Lewis claimed his newborn daughter suffered head injuries in April 2007 after a hospital security guard tased him while Lewis was still holding his little girl.

According to The Associated Press, Lewis and his wife had tried to leave the hospital after becoming upset with the staff, but a wristband on the baby prevented the elevators they were using to leave from operating.

In a video of the incident, Lewis can be seen holding his daughter at the Women’s Hospital of Texas in Houston, pacing while his wife and two security guards stand nearby.

A few moments later, one of the guards — later identified as off-duty Houston Police Officer David Boling — tases Lewis off-camera, causing him and the baby to fall to the ground.

The baby was later placed in state custody because of prior domestic problems between Lewis and his wife, according to the AP, and state officials said she showed no signs of trauma from the incident.

The hospital defended the guard’s actions, saying in a statement that they followed proper procedure.
The Tase Heard 'Round the World

It’s arguably the most famous use of a Taser. University of Florida student Andrew Meyer yelled out “Don’t tase me bro!” as he was tackled by university police during a September 2007 speaking engagement by U.S. Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass.

Meyer had rankled the crowd by refusing to stop firing questions at the senator, including whether or not he’d been a member of the Yale secret society Skull and Bones.

Meyer’s tasering prompted a student protest at the University of Florida and the then 21-year-old became a viral hero after video of the incident hit the Internet. “Don’t tase me bro!” became a popular rallying cry and an instant pop culture staple.

The officers, according to the AP, were eventually cleared of any wrongdoing.

The “Don’t tase me bro!” video has nearly 4 million views on YouTube.

http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/story?id=8156219&page=1

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My Note –

Because police are public servants and are being paid from our tax dollars and because they are armed civil servants, they should be held to a higher standard of accountability. And, when they use unreasonable force, brutalize people or shoot, taser or beat someone to death, these police officers should be sent to jail as psychotic, deranged killers and either held until they die or they should be electrocuted under the death penalty. Because what they are doing is deranged psychotic and sadistic murder,
brutality, violence and crime against the people of the United States and against our communities.

If they were at risk of being hung, electrocuted or killed by lethal injection and facing, at the very least – life in prison until they died naturally – these police and law enforcement officers would not be brutalizing people, abusing the authority of their office and killing people who are unarmed or maiming citizens permanently. They just wouldn’t be doing it because there would be real and personal consequences to them for those actions. And, honestly – the police are the criminals in these situations and they are mentally unstable, mentally ill and acting as tyrants in every sense of it. It isn’t justified.

Anyone who can’t figure out a better way to take scissors away from a mentally and developmentally disabled person than to shoot them – shouldn’t be a police officer and damn sure shouldn’t be armed with anything, certainly not be armed with anything permanently life altering nor with anything that can cause death.

– cricketdiane, 10-09-09

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Jan 8, 2009 12:55 am US/Pacific
BART Shooting Protest Turns Violent In Oakland

Reporting
Joe Vazquez

OAKLAND (CBS 5 / KCBS / AP / BCN) –

Related Slideshows
Fatal BART Shooting Caught On Tape
BART Shooting Protest Becomes Violent
An Oakland protest over the fatal shooting of an unarmed man on a train platform by Bay Area Rapid Transit police turned violent Wednesday night, with fires set, cars vandalized, and windows smashed — just hours after the officer who fired the deadly shot resigned.

Police reported at least 15 arrests had been made in the rioting as of late Wednesday night, while Oakland Mayor Ron Dellums urged crowds to calm down.

“Even with our anger and our pain, let’s still address each other with a degree of civility and calmness and not make this tragedy an excuse to engage in violence,” Dellums said. “I don’t want anybody hurt, I don’t want anybody killed.”

Protesters numbering about 400 had gathered at the Fruitvale BART station where the shooting occurred for a peaceful rally, and then took the streets of Oakland to condemn the incident and call for criminal charges against 27-year-old BART police officer Johannes Mehserle.

The protesters temporarily shut down three BART stations in Oakland during the evening commute: Fruitvale, Lake Merritt and City Center/12th Street. Then the crowd became violent at 8th
and Madison streets, as protesters set a large garbage dumpster on fire and attacked a police car, smashing the back window and attempting to overturn it.

Nearly 250 police officers in riot gear fired tear gas at the rowdy demonstrators, most of whom ran from the scene while a few stayed and threw bottles at officers. Smaller splinter groups of protestors continued their raucus march through the Lake Merritt and downtown areas — setting more fires, vandalizing vehicles and breaking windows at a McDonald’s restaurant at 14th and Jackson streets.

The rioting continued into the late-night hours as police continued moving in to shut down some city streets in the hopes of restoring order.

The uproar surrounded the shooting death of 22-year-old Oscar Grant of Hayward, who was lying face-down on the Fruitvale station platform when he was shot and killed early New Year’s Day by Mehserle — one of several BART officers responding to reports about groups of men fighting on a train.

BART officials said Mehserle was urged to cooperate with a probe into the shooting. Mehserle was scheduled to meet with agency investigators on Wednesday, but did not show up. His attorney and union representative turned in his resignation letter, instead.

John Burris, an Oakland civil rights attorney hired by Grant’s family, said the timing of the resignation was not a surprise to him: “He doesn’t want to give a statement because BART could’ve ordered him to do so, and if he didn’t, he could be terminated.”

Now that he is not employed by BART, Mehserle can exercise his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination and not speak to investigators.
Mehserle’s attorney did not immediately respond to calls for comment Wednesday, but BART spokesman Linton Johnson said Mehserle had received death threats since the shooting and has moved twice to ensure his safety.

“This shooting is a tragic event in every respect for everyone involved,” Dorothy Dugger, BART’s General Manager said after announcing Mehserle’s resignation. “We recognize that the family and friends of Oscar Grant are in mourning and we extend our condolences.”

The shooting case was also under investigation by the Alameda County District Attorney’s office.

“Emotions around it are 100 percent understandable, but they can’t determine the decision that is eventually made after an objective analysis,” Alameda County District Attorney Tom Orloff told CBS 5 after a meeting with some of Oakland’s African-American city leaders.

Orloff said he would not provide a timeline for the investigation by his office, indicating that these types of cases usually take weeks.

“I’ve been telling people in general these things take weeks rather than days, but this is one where there’s a high degree of interest so I’d like to get to a resolution as quickly as I can,” Orloff said.

Grant’s family has filed a $25 million wrongful death claim against BART and also wants prosecutors to file criminal charges against Mehserle.

The shooting incident was captured on video cameras and cell phones by multiple train passengers. Some gave their footage to CBS 5 and other media outlets, and the images have sparked an outcry from the community.

“This is an issue of grave concern in our community,” said
Oakland City Councilwoman Desley Brooks, who was among those who met with the D.A. “I’ve not seen anybody handcuffed on their knees begging for their life shot before. I would hope that it would be alarming to anybody who saw that.”

Burris said Wednesday that one of the latest amateur videos of the shooting shows that Mehserle did have a Taser on his left side, but he went for a gun on his right side, instead.

“The video supports the position we are taking and eyewitnesses’ testimony that the officer deliberately went for his gun and there’s no mistake about it,” Burris said. “He didn’t reach across for his Taser. He couldn’t have been thinking about that. He went directly for his gun.”

However, Burris said he’s not optimistic that Orloff will file criminal charges against Mehserle, saying that he doesn’t know of any occasions in which the District Attorney’s office has prosecuted a police officer for killing someone.

So, Burris said he also planned to send a letter to federal civil rights officials asking them to charge Mehserle under federal criminal statutes.

At a City Hall news conference shortly before the protest rally began, Dellums had called Grant’s death “a tragic moment in our community’s history.”

“Our entire community grieves at the loss of Oscar Grant III,” but the mayor added, “while the investigation now under way may shed light on specific details of the shooting, at the end of the day, establishing culpability will not bring back a life tragically lost.”

Earlier in the day, about 700 hundred mourners attended a funeral for Grant, the father of a 4-year-old girl, at Palma Ceia Baptist Church in Hayward.
Sister Donna Smith of the church, said Grant “loved the Bible when he was growing up,” and had the loudest voice in the church choir. The Rev. James Word added, “I thought Oscar was going to be a preacher but God had other plans.”

Word recalled that Grant, who worked as a butcher at an Oakland grocery store, came to his office one day to tell him how happy he was when he became an apprentice meat cutter.

The Rev. Ronald Coleman, who presided at the funeral service, said, “this is something that the world is watching. They wonder if we will start a fight or a civil commotion.”

But Coleman told the audience, “We must respond with prudence. I understand that some of you youngsters are upset, but nonetheless we have to trust in God. This is not your fight.”

But afterward, the hours-long protest that would turn violent began at BART’s Fruitvale station, with rally organizer Evan Shamar proclaiming that Grant “was executed right here while he was hogtied” and vowed “we will not be silent.”

There was a loud cheer when Shamar announced to the crowd that Mehserle had resigned, but added that he “should be prosecuted for second-degree murder.”

“We want him charged in an American courtroom,” Shamar said as the crowd chanted, “No justice, no peace!”

Shamar maintained late Wednesday night that a group of anarchists, who were not part of the organizations hosting the protest rally, were responsible for igniting the violence.

http://cbs5.com/local/oscar.grant.funeral.2.902090.html

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Police brutality is the intentional use of excessive force, usually physical, but potentially also in the form of verbal attacks and psychological intimidation, by a police officer. It is in some instances triggered by “contempt of cop”, i.e., perceived disrespect towards police officers.

Widespread police brutality exists in many countries, even those that prosecute it. Police brutality is one of several forms of police misconduct, which include false arrest, intimidation, racial profiling, political repression, surveillance abuse, sexual abuse, and police corruption.
History

Throughout history, efforts to police societies have been marred by brutality to some degree. In the ancient world, policing entities actively cultivated an atmosphere of terror, and abusive treatment was used in order to achieve more efficient control of the population.[citation needed]

The origin of modern policing based on the authority of the nation state is commonly traced back to developments in seventeenth and eighteenth century France, with modern police departments being established in most nations by the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries (see Police – History section). Cases of police brutality appear to have been frequent then, with “the routine bludgeoning of citizens by patrolmen armed with nightsticks or blackjacks.”[2] Large-scale incidents of brutality were associated with labor strikes, such as the Great Railroad Strike of 1877, the Pullman Strike of 1894, the Lawrence textile strike of 1912, the Ludlow massacre of 1914, the Steel strike of 1919, and the Hanapepe massacre of 1924.
March 7, 1965: Alabama police attack Selma-to-Montgomery Marchers (Federal Bureau of Investigation photograph)

March 3, 1991: Rodney King beaten by LAPD officers

April 21, 2001: Police fire CS gas at protesters during the Quebec City Summit of the Americas. The Commission for Public Complaints against the RCMP later concluded the use of tear gas against demonstrators at the summit constituted “excessive and
In the United States, the passage of the *Volstead Act* (popularly known as the National Prohibition Act) in 1919 had a long-term negative impact on policing practices. By the mid-1920s, crime was growing dramatically in response to the demand for illegal alcohol. Many law enforcement agencies stepped up the use of unlawful practices. By the time of the *Hoover* administration (1929–1932), the issue had risen to national concern and a National Committee on Law Observation and Enforcement (popularly known as the *Wickersham Commission*) was formed to look into the situation. The resulting “*Report on Lawlessness in Law Enforcement*” (1931) concluded that “[t]he third degree—that is, the use of physical brutality, or other forms of cruelty, to obtain involuntary confessions or admissions—is widespread.” In the years following the report, landmark legal judgements such as *Brown v. Mississippi* helped cement a legal obligation to respect the *due process* clause of the *Fourteenth Amendment.*

During the *Vietnam War*, anti-war demonstrations were sometimes quelled through the use of billy-clubs and *CS gas*, commonly known as tear gas. The most notorious of these assaults took place during the August 1968 *Democratic National Convention* in *Chicago*. The actions of the police were later described as a “*police riot*” in the Walker Report to the *U.S. National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence*. As was the case with *Prohibition* during the 1920s and 1930s, the “*War on Drugs*” initiated by President *Richard M. Nixon* in 1969 has been marked by increased police misconduct. Critics contend that a “*holy war*” mentality has helped to nurture a “new militarized style of policing” where “confrontation has replaced investigation.”

In the United States, race and police brutality continue to be closely linked, and the phenomenon has sparked a string of *race*
riots over the years. Especially notable among these incidents was the uprising caused by the arrest and beating of Rodney King on March 3, 1991 by officers of the Los Angeles Police Department. The atmosphere was particularly volatile because the brutality had been videotaped by a bystander and widely broadcast afterwards. When the four law enforcement officers charged with assault and other charges were acquitted, the 1992 Los Angeles Riots broke out.

Numerous human rights observers have raised concerns about increased police brutality in the U.S. in the wake of the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center. An extensive report prepared for the United Nations Human Rights Committee tabled in 2006 states that in the United States, the “War on Terror” has “created a generalized climate of impunity for law enforcement officers, and contributed to the erosion of what few accountability mechanisms exist for civilian control over law enforcement agencies. As a result, police brutality and abuse persist unabated and undeterred across the country.”[12]

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Police_brutality

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POLICE BEAT 62 YEARS OLD LADY

Labels: police violence, video
Police shoots a 15 year old mental disabled kid

Labels: article, police violence

A 15-year-old student at Garfield Park, a private school for children with emotional or behavioral disorders, was shot twice after he threatened the police with a pair of scissors. *(shot in the stomach and chest, because anybody who has scissors might be a viable threat to police officers who aren't in striking distance and are armed with guns. – in what guys' army would that make any sense? – my note)*

The incident happened in front of the school. The boy was first threatening some school employees and also some students, *before he ran out on the parking lot where he pointed two scissors at a police officer*. He was asked to put his weapon down, and a witness said that she heard how they yelled "put it down, put it down!"
before the sound of two gunshots being fired.

She said she went out to see what was going on and there she saw the victim lying on his side clutching his stomach. The officer that shot the boy, William Smith, was not injured. The shooting will be investigated according to the Burlington County Prosecutor’s Office. The boy was reported in critical but stable condition at Cooper University Hospital, Camden.

Carol Dunn had a similar incident with the police in New Jersey, where her son was shot by an officer outside a church because he refused to let go of the knife he was holding. “I think police should take every necessary step to save lives. This should be included in their training,” she said. “Are they interested in taking lives or is the state of New Jersey interested in saving lives?”

Related: Police broke hand on 15 years old boy (video)


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Prosecutor: Police shooting at Garfield Park Academy in Willingboro was justified
Posted in News on Thursday, August 6th, 2009 at 5:18 pm |

A Willingboro police officer who shot a 15-year-old boy armed with scissors outside the Garfield Park Academy two summers ago was cleared of any wrongdoing, authorities announced today.

The Burlington County Prosecutor’s Office and the New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice determined that Willingboro Sgt. William Smith was legally justified in his use of deadly force during the June 7, 2007 incident at the private school on Glenolden Lane.
According to investigators, the shooting occurred shortly before 4 p.m. when Smith and several other officers responded to 911 calls from the school reporting an out-of-control student armed with scissors threatening staff in the school office and students in a front hallway.

*When the officers arrived, they were confronted inside the lobby by a 15-year-old student brandishing scissors. The officers approached the student and attempted to speak to him, but the teenager refused several commands to drop the scissors.*

*“When the student continued to behave in an aggressive manner and his actions became threatening toward officers, Sergeant Smith fired two shots, striking the student in the chest and abdomen,” the Prosecutor’s Office reported.*

The student, whose name was not released because he is a juvenile, survived after undergoing treatment at Cooper University Hospital in Camden.

The Burlington County Prosecutor’s Office investigated the shooting and determined that Smith “fully complied with the Attorney General’s guidelines pertaining to the use of force,” a press release said. The state Division of Criminal Justice reviewed the Prosecutor’s Office findings and concurred, the release said.

Information was not available about whether Smith is still employed as an officer in Willingboro.

The Garfield Park Academy is a nonprofit, kindergarten through 12th grade private school founded in 1993 that specializes in educating students with emotional and behavioral problems. *(and then inviting police to shoot them dead or maim them permanently out on the front lawn because they have scissors and are aggravated and unhappy, isn’t that some special treatment for disabled people with special needs – oh yeah, they’re starting to make the Cold War Soviet Union tactics, Stasi and secret police tactics of Saddam Hussein)*
on the streets of America – but not from terrorists, its happening from our own police and law enforcement officers, with the DA's office and local politicians backing them – my note)  

At the time of the shooting, school officials described the boy as a special-needs student who attended an individualized program at the school in the late afternoon and evenings that was separate from the day classes.


***

My Note –

“The Garfield Park Academy is a nonprofit, kindergarten through 12th grade private school founded in 1993 that specializes in educating students with emotional and behavioral problems. ”

( and then inviting police to shoot them dead or maim them permanently out on the front lawn because they have scissors and are aggravated and unhappy, isn't that some special treatment for disabled people with special needs –

oh yeah, they're starting to make the Cold War Soviet Union tactics, Stasi and secret police tactics of Saddam Hussein on the streets of America – but not from terrorists, its happening from our own police and law enforcement officers, with the DA's office and local politicians backing them – cricketdiane)

***

Two White Cops Allegedly Taser Black Wheelchair-Bound Amputee

By News One September 21, 2009 9:47 am

//
MERCED, Calif. — The Merced Police Department’s Internal Affairs Division is investigating whether an officer twice used a Taser on an unarmed, wheelchair-bound man with no legs.

The man who was Tasered, Gregory Williams, 40, a double-leg amputee, spent six days in jail on suspicion of domestic violence and resisting arrest, but the Merced County District Attorney’s office hasn’t filed any charges.

**RELATED: VIDEO: Police Taser And Beat Man In Texas**

Williams is black, and the two main arresting officers are white, but it’s unknown whether race played any role in the incident.

Williams, who was released from jail on Friday, said he was manhandled and Tasered by police, even though he said he was never physically aggressive toward the officers and didn’t resist arrest.

*Williams said he was humiliated after his pants fell down during the incident. The officers allegedly left him outdoors in broad daylight, handcuffed on the pavement, nude below the waist. Williams said the Sept. 11 arrest also left him with an injured shoulder, limiting his mobility in his wheelchair.*

*A handful of residents in Williams' apartment complex said they witnessed the incident and supported Williams' charges. A short video clip, shot by a neighbor and obtained by the Sun-Star, shows Williams sitting on the pavement with his pants down, his hands cuffed behind his back.*

**RELATED: Man Dies After Being Tasered In Los Angeles**

A Merced police report, written by the responding officers, says that police tried to reason with Williams before the arrest, to no
The officers wrote that Williams was uncooperative and refused to turn his 2-year-old daughter over to Merced County Child Protective Services, among other allegations.

Click here to read more.

[SOURCE: McClatchy]

TAGS: Police brutality


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Man Dies After Being Tasered In Los Angeles

By August 27, 2009 4:41 pm

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department says a man has died after a deputy shocked him three times with an electric stun gun at a subway station.

Sheriff's spokesman Steve Whitmore says the man, who was not immediately identified, was at the North Hollywood Red Line station Wednesday night when a deputy repeatedly asked if he had a ticket.

The man didn't answer, so the deputy took hold of his hands to stop and question him.

Whitmore says the man broke free, raised clenched fists and charged the deputy several times. He was Tasered, then shocked twice more when he got up and charged again.

Whitmore says a pipe used to smoke drugs fell to the ground during the scuffle.

TAGS: Los Angeles, police, Police brutality

but the man wasn’t killed because he was threatening the officer nor because he didn’t have a two dollar ticket for the subway – he was tasered and killed because the officer didn’t like the fact that the man didn’t answer him when he demanded an answer and assaulted the man who wasn’t doing anything illegal in front of the officer. These types of police actions are a betrayal of public trust, an abuse of authority, purely police brutality and psychotic. And, the criminal behavior is exhibited by that police officer who should be tried as a murderer, since in fact, that he what he is. When it is no longer possible to tell the difference between the violence and abuse and torture and heinous crimes of the police and the “bad guys” – something is very wrong.

– cricketdiane
had tried to see through the wealth and glamour of the characters in the unfolding drama. And although the amounts of money were at times astounding to ponder, they infused their deliberations with experiences from their own lives.

The guilty verdict has done little to resolve the uncertain fate of the $180 million estate at the heart of the discord. So even as Mr. Marshall awaits sentencing and a possible appeal, another legal showdown looms.

(Also see The Daily News, and its article on Mr. Marshall’s reaction.)


***

And that’s the moral fiber of this country who has all the money, all the power and the contemporary decision-making opportunities that we all have to endure? This kind of guy and his socialite / political / wealthy cronies form our decision-making bunch who have all the resources at their disposal? No wonder its all screwed up . . .

– cricketdiane, 10-09-09

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Loading...
health care insurance does nothing to reform a nasty, dangerous, third world health care system in America – Congress is wasting our time to serve the insurance companies who own them.

US Congress is choosing to oppress more Americans than God or man ever intended for them to have the power to do. By pledging one-third or more of every American’s income to the insurance companies, young women and our children, elderly and disabled Americans will endure the greatest human rights violations of our time.

When my daughters (and yours) have a single-parent household making minimum wage or just above it, they will be legally required to submit one-third of their income to state and federal government coffers plus FICA and other fees for parking tickets and broken taillights and city ordinances. They will now be legally required to submit over two-thirds of their earned incomes to that plus the mandated health insurance premiums.

Another third or more of their income will be taken for health care insurance legally required of them and then whatever child care costs and car insurance just to have a job. Then where is the income that they have legally earned to support themselves and their children? Where is the return for spending nearly every hour of their time working? What do they have left for food, or to pay...
for their lights, heating, phone and gasoline? Has it improved their lives one bit to have over 75% of their income deprived of them, or in fact, hasn’t it literally taken away any and all opportunities to feed themselves and their children, clothe themselves and have any quality of life or opportunities to better their lot in life? And, without providing any real health care that should be available to them?

And, when women aged 50 and over will have over-paid the amounts charged to anyone else by twenty-eight times more for their health care insurance premiums as legally mandated by the new law, what will they have left to use from the money they have earned through their own efforts? What will they have available for food and light bills and water and heat and food and gasoline and car insurance and car payments and phone bills and house payments? What kind of poverty will they be forced to endure every day for the rest of their lives because of this?

In 2000, a presidential task force labelled medical errors a “national problem of epidemic proportions.” Members estimated that the “cost associated with these errors in lost income, disability, and health care costs is as much as $29 billion annually.” That same year the Institute of Medicine released an historic report, “To err is human: building a safer health system.” The report’s authors concluded that 44,000 to 98,000 people die each year as a result of errors during hospitalization.

http://www.iatrogenic.org/

Who are these people in Washington that are doing this to us and to our children? Why would they call it “health care reform” when the only thing it is designed to do will be to steal another one-third or more from the incomes of every American citizen, including those not even old enough to vote? And, it will mandate by law that every woman, female child, elderly, and every citizen aged 50 and over will be required to pay five times more to as much as twenty-eight times more for every insurance premium they are forced to pay.
What kind of government only serves the interests of corporations, is owned by corporations, run by corporations and serves only the interests of corporations? What form of government is that? Because whatever the form of government whose only purpose is to serve the corporations is what we have now and have had for awhile.

And, contrary to the viewpoints of the seat warmers up there in the Congress and Senate, when they abuse the power of the offices we have given them by perpetrating human rights abuses on great numbers of our population (the majority of it, in fact) and oppressing US citizens in the name of corporate profits – they are as evil and as corrupt as any Third World dictator that has ever existed.

And they are not doing anything to fix, reform or repair our health care system, nor to bring the health care costs down, nor to give anyone adequate health care services, nor to improve the lives of any American that put them there.

“The report’s authors concluded that 44,000 to 98,000 people die each year as a result of errors during hospitalization.

Medical errors are the not only way that consumers are harmed. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 2 million people annually acquire infections while hospitalized and 90,000 people die from those infections.”

“(from – )”
The US will still have an infant mortality rate greater than that of some developing nations. MRSA, staph and other infectious nightmares will still be rampant throughout our “health care system”, which is an industry that consistently kills and permanently maims more people more often than it heals anybody.

“This totals 225,000 deaths per year from iatrogenic causes. In interpreting these numbers, note the following:

- most data were derived from studies in hospitalized patients.
- the estimates are for deaths only and do not include negative effects that are associated with disability or discomfort.
- the estimates of death due to error are lower than those in the IOM report. If higher estimates are used, the deaths due to iatrogenic causes would range from 230,000 to 284,000.

“(from – )”

It will still be a health care industry that is filthy, dangerous and fraught with errors in care that cause more deaths than any of the wars that have been fought and more deaths than cancer and heart attacks combined. The “health care reform” bill does nothing to address, or fix any of those things.

In fact, after one-third of the income of every American is given to the health insurance companies by law – not one of our children or grandchildren will ever know anything of America except impoverishment, despair and oppression in an America
that has no democracy, no freedom, no pursuit of happiness available, even fewer opportunities than anywhere else in the world and no opportunities to participate in a free market economy, capitalism or a representative government. And, they will have no opportunities to use their hard-earned money to cover their basic needs nor to save to buy a house nor to better themselves and their lives. But then, isn’t that what we have now?

Aren’t the government officers we have elected, already decided in favor of the insurance companies and pledging two-thirds of our incomes to both the government and the insurance companies for the rest of our natural lives with no guarantees of anything in return? Aren’t they already taking from money we haven’t any right to even after we have earned it because they are allowing the insurance industry and health care industries to take our Congressional resources, manhours, information technology, IRS enforcement and other agency enforcement resources to do their bidding right now? Have they used those resources to serve anyone but themselves?

How many things could’ve actually been accomplished in all this time that has been used up in these Congressional sessions on the current health care reform bill which in its present form, only and exclusively serves the interests and profits of the health care insurance companies?

And after the health care reform bill passes, the amount of deductibles will be whatever they want, and the “co-pay” fees will be whatever they want and the premiums will be whatever they want, so that none of us, even after paying over a third of our incomes to them for insurance premiums will actually have any health care available to us anyway. There won’t be any money to do all that is required just to keep a job and to keep a roof overhead and pay insurance premiums for every member of the family and pay co-pays and pay deductibles and feed ourselves and care for our children and pay taxes and pay for education and pay for transportation and pay for utilities and pay and pay and pay and pay and pay.
We won’t have to worry about retailers anymore because those moneys we would’ve used to buy things or to buy clothing and shoes, will be paying our families’ insurance premiums and deductibles and prescription costs and co-payments even while we are being served up with the unhealthy sicknesses, infections, and medical errors caused by the profit-driven amoral health care industry that are rampant and common in the system right now.

“If I had the position and resources to do so, I would bring a class action suit all the way to the Supreme Court for the waste of our national resources in time, efforts, manpower and Congressional intellectual capabilities which should’ve been used to actually solve the health care crisis in America, but instead have served the insurance companies and huge health industries profits and desires.”

These Congressional members and insurance companies have no intention to provide healthy anything anywhere to anybody. The insurance companies and health care based industries including pharmaceutical corporations, hospitals, health care “professionals” and medical industries only want one thing and it has nothing to do with providing good health or high quality safe health care to America and to citizens of the United States. These corporate interests, were they considered as a human personality would be considered psychotic and deranged for the extent to which they serve only themselves and their obsessively greed driven profits.

Our government no longer belongs to the American people because it serves only the interests of corporations that are inhuman, cruel, vile, vicious, criminal, corrupt, murderous and inhumane in the name of profiting for only themselves at the
expense of every one of us while providing nothing valuable in return. These corporations are the complete and total evil incarnate because they have no human conscience, they are not required to play by anyone’s rules and every day they exist this way, they steal our government’s time, our resources and our money while using money they have stolen from each of us to do it.

At the same time, these same corporations are directly responsible for driving costs up, for creating a system that is literally murdering people by incompetence and errors, for already taking our futures away and impoverishing us to the point of slavery and oppression. And now, they demand more while giving less and leaving the nightmarish unhealthy and dangerous health care system as it is. Those are human rights violations that would not be tolerated in any other country in the world by the international community at the behest of the United States government.

But here and now, these same corporations are denying the basic tenets of our Constitution by using our government to represent only them and only their interests as they use our elected leaders’ time and resources in order to even consider forcing each of us by law to submit a second third of our incomes to their private profits or have the full enforcement resources of our government come down against us as if we are criminals.

“When they have taken two-thirds of the income of every American man, woman, and child, along with most of the small businesses in America, destroyed our retailers and the financial health of our communities, there will be any and every illegal immigrant who can get treated without one dime, but not one of the rest
of us will be treated if we can’t pay the premiums or the deductible / co-pay when we come in the door. That is because the health care industry will serve them anyway in the conscientious pursuit of humanity and then our indigent funds, and matching state and federal funds will cover it for them. – But they will damn sure not do that for any of us who are legally mandated to pay a third of our incomes to our government and at least a third of our incomes to the insurance companies.

Our community, county and state funds along with faith-based and charitable funds will continue to cover the costs of those unpaid health care bills for those who aren’t even citizens and be overwhelmed, as usual, before even one American is helped by the money we’ve all given to them.

The same is true for the aid to states for the incredulously high heating bills which after paying twenty-eight times higher insurance premiums to cover the sorriest health care in the world, most women, young families, single-parent households, elderly and disabled won’t be able to pay their heating and electric / natural gas / utility bills but funds to help won’t be
available to pay them either.

The US government is literally setting up the next years of our lives to be frozen to death in the winter, die from heat stroke in the summer, have no food or adequate clothing, be permanently maimed by a despotic, greedy and filthy health care system and maybe go to jail on top of it and lose our homes for failing to give the required insurance premiums.

Even if we are able to find a job and work for a living or have our own business, over two-thirds of our income will be legally mandated to go to the government or the insurance companies who have not earned them. If the Madison clause of the Constitution is “for the common good,” and by this right the Congress believe that their authority extends to health care for all of us, then do that – provide high quality, healthy, safe, clean, adequate health care for all of us.

But, stealing our rights, denying our Constitutional freedoms, extorting our incomes, decimating our livelihoods, destroying our opportunities, taking moneys to enrich Washington business interests, misusing our resources,
violating our human rights and, oppressing our time, efforts and quality of life by forcing us to remit another massive portion of our earned and business incomes to insurance corporations’ profits while leaving us with this pathetic excuse for health care that isn’t even in the top twenty of the world isn’t for the “common good.” It is an abomination of abuse of power, and a government corrupted by, run by and serving the interests of inhumane, greed based, unconscionable corporations serving no one but themselves.

And I know, there is nothing I could say and nothing I could do to stop our elected and selected leaders from creating this hell on earth for each and every one of my children’s lives and for my days ahead of me and for my family members and my community. Except maybe, I can create a way to generate heat or electricity or transportation or moneys that won’t require paying the utilities anymore, that won’t require putting gasoline in a car or insurance on it, and that won’t require paying the natural gas companies that we actually paid to create and support and then still suffer high bills for heating in spite of it.
Maybe I can work on that, because those things will never be available to my little grandchildren and the households of my children and to many in my community, if I don’t. And we can all just tell them what America was like and was supposed to be like and what freedom and individual human rights were before they were lost to the corporations who now own America that we are enslaved to serve because they also own our government and elected leaders.

There is a conspiracy afoot and it is the collusion between Congressional and Senatorial members who serve no one among us because they are serving corporate entities that don’t actually exist anywhere except on paper and in the thin air in the minds of the people who created them and profit from them.”

It is a corrupt and inhumane government that steals what I have earned what I will ever be able to earn by over 75% of it to line their own pockets and their profit-making friends’ pockets. That is evil, but what can be expected from a bunch of people who worship their own sacred brass bull on a New York street and kiss the feet of Wall Street’s intellectually destitute money managers and who defer to worshiping CEOs of any kind, and who gave our tax money away by the hundreds of billions of dollars without even a thought for any of us or for our interests.
Afghanistan – possibilities for success

Afghanistan could be a success or it could be the mess it is now –

I thought of a couple things –

1. Invite Russia to the party. – and China – These are members of the international community and why should any of us put up with the extremist terror campaigns of the Taliban and Al Qaeda. They could send troops if the United States asked them to join the NATO efforts. (or maybe they already have.) The Taliban and Al Qaeda need to understand that they have not won – that they did not run off the great powers in the world but rather that they have only one choice which is to moderate their behaviors and actions to fit into a greater picture, as we all are doing.

Tags
Aghanistan, Afghanistan war conflict, cricketdiane, International Concerns
2. The Taliban are often using little two-stroke motorcycles which can be identified over great distances by their signature. I know if they can identify that sound on a CSI show by some computer software that already exists, then it sure as hell can be done by the military in the middle of a war.

3. I don’t know the extent to which other Arab nations are participating in securing and stabilizing Afghanistan, but it seems they are also the ones who need to add greater efforts including more troops on the ground since it is in their best interest to do so.

4. Either all the women and children could be taken out of Afghanistan by C-130 caravans temporarily or permanently – or all of these non-combatant civilians, particularly women and children could be taken to Kabul or a secured part of Afghanistan and protected. That way the military missions are far less complicated and the Taliban can be more effectively located. After that, let those stupid men have it with all hell and guns blazing. That way the military missions are far less complicated and the Taliban can be more effectively located, arrested or whatever is necessary.

5. It is absolutely true that these weapons are not coming out of nowhere and even the remaining Soviet era weapons they may still be using are not now being filled with ammunition from that time. The ammunition and spare parts and other chemicals that would be needed to do the things they are doing, have to be bought from somewhere else. Find that somewhere else and cut off that supply. Then, half the problem will be solved.

6. There has to come a time that the competition for applied intelligence fills the minds of the Taliban with something beyond what they already know. They are obviously teachable and capable of learning quickly. They obviously don’t mind learning new things about weapons or how to create an effective IED – they can also take in other new things as well. Pakistan’s secret service / intel groups could be helping with some of that because they would
benefit most from a less terroristic and more reasonable Taliban, tribal groups and previously terroristic minded populations.

7. If the only real goal of the efforts in Afghanistan and in the region is to develop the petroleum and natural gas resources, (among other natural resources) – then, it is time that the international community clearly state that as the case and simply pursue that more effectively and precisely, maybe by co-opting the Taliban into the process, along with all of the tribal groups and regional players.

If the real goal is to stabilize the region and make it safe for the people of Afghanistan to have their own elected government and go about their lives in safety and relative peace, productivity and quality of life – then get on with it and do that. (Even if it takes humbly asking for the help of Russia and China, Latin America and most of the Middle East to do it.)

8.

– cricketdiane, 10-07-09

***
And the first question is –

which two-faced lying bastards because there are too many to choose from –

the list is long.

The politicians that claim they want good health reform while allowing food producers to continue producing poisoned, tainted and filthy foods too commonly for me to want to even consider.

The agencies of the government who were paid to protect us,
that were given the best of resources, education and manpower to do so, who have not done their jobs then covered their involvement with rhetoric and political positioning, and by “framing” studies and statistics to favor themselves rather than show the truth.

The lobbyists . . .

The insurance companies that have literally destroyed the health care system in America who are about to be given a free ticket to 8000% profits because for some reason their 400% profits aren’t enough as it is.

The corporate executives in the United States who have managed to rob every last dime and dollar from their companies, every asset, every future profit, every raise from the employees actually doing their jobs and to thieve every last resource of the American people on top of it.

The corporate businesses with no conscience, no ethics, no morality, no common sense and no concept of accountability from large pharmaceutical companies to manufacturers of all kinds to logging companies and mining companies and petroleum corporate giants to Wall Street to bankers and on and on and on . . .

The thousands of supposedly unbiased and objective educated professionals who have let politics decide rather than any objective standards.

And, the layers upon layers of agencies, non-profits, associations, organizations, government entities and others who were entrusted to be ethical, decent, conscientious, honorable, honest, truthful, objective, educated, reasonable, sane, sober and use common sense who did whatever would continue bringing them money whether it was right or wrong.

And, the list goes on longer than I am tall . . .
But, what brought these things to my mind? Was it watching the “Triple Cross” show on the History Channel or National Geographic or whatever channel I was watching, which showed the complete incompetence of our government agencies like the State Department, the FBI, the CIA, the military, the immigration department and police to get anything right? Was it that, if the Osama bin Laden spy in the US had been in a car with a broken taillight he might have been caught like any of the rest of us – but short of that, he could do anything and get away with anything and never be stopped?

Was it the knowledge that the CDC put out a story in the UPI group which expresses numbers of food borne illness from 2006 in a way that is far less than the real numbers that were reported by “framing” the parameters of what they studied and then releasing that story to the public as if the situation was, and is better than it actually is?

ATLANTA, June 11 (UPI) — There were 1,270 reported U.S. food borne disease outbreaks in 2006, resulting in 27,634 illnesses and 11 deaths, federal officials said.

Analysis was done on data from the 243 outbreaks in which a single food commodity was identified and reported to CDC. Twenty-one percent of all outbreak-associated cases involved poultry, 17 percent involved leafy vegetables and 16 percent involved fruits or nuts.

from a story with this title, (making it look like that is all there is,)

CDC: 1,270 U.S. food borne outbreaks
Published: June 11, 2009 at 2:17 PM


**
Was it seeing the story about the “pay czar” approving the AIG CEO to get another $10.5 million and reading in the article his quote –

In a meeting with employees, Benmosche reportedly said, “The money is about what I am worth, and what my job is worth to be your leader. And that sets the tone for all of you in this room.” from **UPI story, 10-02-09**

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Or was it seeing a time line of the space race in chronological order which I started looking at the linked information and realized that after eight colleges, thousands of library books, hundreds of hours online researching and a family involved in aerospace stuff, that I had never ever seen anything about most of the events on the list . . .

Timeline of planetary exploration by date of launch.


like this one –

Zond 7
For people who check facts
Zond 7 (Soyuz 7K-L1)Enlarge

Zond 7 (Soyuz 7K-L1)

Zond 7, a member of the Soviet Union’s Zond program and the only truly successful test of the Soyuz 7K-L1, was launched towards the Moon from a mother spacecraft (69-067B) on a mission of further studies of the Moon and circulmunar space, to obtain color photography of Earth and the Moon from varying distances, and to flight test the spacecraft systems. *Earth photos were obtained on August 9, 1969.* On August 11, 1969, the spacecraft flew past the Moon at a distance of 1984.6 km and
conducted two picture taking sessions. Zond 7 reentered Earth’s atmosphere on August 14, 1969, and achieved a soft landing in a preset region south of Kustanai.

*Launch Date/Time: 1969-08-07 at 23:48:06 UTC
*On-orbit dry mass: 5979 kg

This article was originally based on material from NASA (NSSDC) information on Zond 7

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(And this one, which is disturbing for the attitude it has about exposing millions of people to radioactive fallout – )

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The Nuclear pulse propulsion reference article from the English Wikipedia on 24-Jul-2004
(provided by Fixed Reference: snapshots of Wikipedia from wikipedia.org)

Nuclear pulse propulsion

An artist’s conception of a spacecraft powered by nuclear pulse propulsion

Nuclear pulse propulsion (or External Pulsed Plasma Propulsion, as it is termed in recent NASA documents) is a proposed method of spacecraft propulsion that uses nuclear explosions for
thrust. It was briefly developed as Project Orion by ARPA. It was invented by Stanislaw Ulam in 1957, and is the invention of which he was most proud.

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Capabilities

Calculations show that this form of rocket would combine both high thrust and a high specific impulse, a rarity in rocket design. Specific impulses from 2000 (easy, yet ten times chemical specific impulses) to 100,000 (requires specialized nuclear explosives and spacecraft design) are possible, with thrusts in the millions of tons.

This is possible because Orion uses nuclear power to make thrust without requiring the power to be held within a rocket chamber. Thus, very high temperatures, exhaust velocities and efficiencies are possible. Orion directs the thrust by using directional nuclear explosives, so it achieves reasonable efficiencies without a rocket bell.

An Orion drive is the only known method of performing manned interstellar exploration with current technology. It would be slow, requiring several generations to get to Alpha Centauri (the closest known solar system other than our own), but it would arrive, assuming it had no accidents.

The most likely real application for an Orion craft is to deflect an Earth-crossing asteroid from hitting the Earth. The extreme
specific impulse is a major advantage, because it permits the missile to launch late, and still have a hope of arriving in time. Simply hitting the asteroid would be enough to deflect it. A kinetic missile could transfer greater energies than a nuclear explosion, with less risk of breaking up the target. Such craft could be unmanned, and inexpensive (no shock absorbers or shielding), launched from orbits outside the magnetosphere to minimize radioactives in the biosphere.

Carrying through the mass ratios, Orion could be built of steel, without special fittings, and carry crews of hundreds. In 1960, the proposed contractor was Electric Boat, the maker of nuclear submarines.

The design reference model proposed by General Atomics could likely be built today, and land a thousand tons on Mars in several weeks. If reaction mass such as water were gathered from a local moon, the same design could explore the moons of Jupiter or Saturn with a human crew.

A more advanced design was proposed for the Project Daedalus interstellar probe study in the 1970s, using electron beams to detonate pellets of deuterium/helium-3.

Design

In the 1954 explosion at Bikini Atoll, a crucial experiment by Lew Allen proved that nuclear explosives could be used for propulsion. Two graphite-covered steel spheres were suspended near the bomb. After the explosion, they were found intact some distance away, proving that engineered structures could survive a nuclear fireball.

A 1959 report by General Atomics, “Dimensional Study of Orion Type Spaceships,” (Dunne, Dyson and Treshow), GAMD-784 explored the parameters of three different sizes of hypothetical Orion spacecraft:
“satellite”
Orion “midrange”
Orion “super”

Orion
Ship Diameter 17-20 m 40 m 400 m
Ship Mass 300 T 1-2000 T 8,000,000 T
Number of bombs 540 1080 1080
Individual Bomb Mass 0.22 T 0.37-0.75 T 3000 T

The most amazing to consider is the “super” Orion design; At 8 million tons, it could easily be a city. In interviews, the designers contemplated the large ship as a possible interstellar ark. This extreme design was buildable with materials and techniques that could be obtained or anticipated in 1958. The real upper limit is probably larger now.

Most of the three thousand tons of each of the “super” Orion’s propulsion units would be inert material such as polyethylene, or boron salts, used to transmit the force of the propulsion unit’s detonation to the Orion’s pusher plate, and absorb neutrons to minimize fallout. One design proposed by Freeman Dyson for the “Super Orion” called for the pusher plate to be composed of uranium or a largely transuranic element so that upon reaching a nearby star system the plate could be converted to nuclear fuel.

From 1957 through 1964 this information was used to design a spacecraft propulsion system called “Orion” in which nuclear explosives would be thrown through a pusher-plate mounted on the bottom of a spacecraft and exploded underneath. The shock wave and radiation from the detonation would impact against the underside of the pusher plate, giving it a powerful “kick,” and the pusher plate would be mounted on large two-stage shock absorbers which would transmit the acceleration to the rest of the spacecraft in a smoother manner.

Radiation shielding for the crews was thought to be a problem, but on ships that mass more than a thousand tons, the material of the pusher plate is sufficiently thick to shield the crew from the explosives’ radiation. Radiation shielding goes up as the
exponent of the thickness (see gamma ray for a discussion of shielding).

*At low altitudes, during take-off, the fallout was extremely dirty, and there was a grave danger of fluidic shrapnel being reflected from the ground.* The solution was to use a flat plate of explosives spread over the pusher plate, to get two or three detonations from the ground before going nuclear. This would lift the ship far enough into the air that a focused nuclear blast would avoid harming the ship.

A preliminary design for the explosives was produced. It used a fusion-boosted fission explosive. The explosive was wrapped in a beryllium oxide “channel filler”, which was surrounded by a uranium radiation mirror. The mirror and channel filler opened out to an open end. In the open end, a flat plate of tungsten propellant was placed. The whole thing was wrapped in a can so that it could be handled by machinery scaled-up from a soft-drink vending machine.

At 1 microsecond after ignition, the gamma bomb plasma and neutrons would heat the channel filler, and be somewhat contained by the uranium shell. At 2-3 microseconds, the channel filler would transmit some of the energy to the propellant, which would form a cigar-shaped explosion aimed at the pusher plate.

The plasma would cool to 25,000 Å°F (14,000 Å°C), as it traversed the 75 ft (25 m) distance to the pusher plate, and then reheat to 120,000 Å°F (67,000 Å°C), as (at about 300 microseconds) it hit the pusher plate and recompressed. This temperature emits ultraviolet, which is poorly transmitted through most plasmas. This helps keep the pusher plate cool. The cigar shape and low density of the plasma reduces the shock to the pusher plate.

The pusher plate’s thickness decreases by about a factor of 6 from the center to the edge, so that the net velocity of the inner
and outer parts of the plate are the same, even though the momentum transferred by the plasma increases from the center outwards.

Deep in the air, there might be problems from harm of the crew by gamma scattering.

Stability was thought to be a problem, but it developed that random placement errors of the bombs would cancel.

A one-meter model using RDX (chemical explosives), called “put-put”, flew a controlled flight for 23 seconds, to a height of 185 feet at Point Loma.

The shock absorber was at first merely a ring-shaped airbag. However, if an explosion should fail, the 1000 ton pusher plate would tear away the airbag on the rebound. A two-stage, detuned shock absorber design proved more workable. On the reference design, the mechanical absorber was tuned to 1/2 the bomb frequency, and the air-bag absorber was tuned to 4.5 the bomb expulsion frequency.

Another problem was finding a way to push the explosives past the pusher plate fast enough that they would explode 20 to 30m beyond it, and do so every 1.1 seconds. The final reference design used a gas gun to shoot the devices through a hole in the pusher plate.

The expense of the fissionables was thought high, until Ted Taylor proved that with the right designs for explosives, the amount of fissionables used on launch was close to constant for every size of Orion, from 2000 tons to 8,000,000 tons. Smaller ships actually use more fissionables, because they cannot use fusion bombs (though the later Project Daedalus design used fusion explosives detonated by electron beam inertial confinement, which could be scaled down much smaller than self-contained bombs). The large size bombs used more explosives to super-compress the fissionables (reducing the
The extra explosives simply served as propulsion mass. The expense of launch for the largest size of Orion was 5 cents per pound (11 cent/kg) to Earth orbit in 1958 dollars.

Problems

Exposure to repeated nuclear blasts raises the problem of ablation (erosion) of the pusher plate. However, calculations and experiments indicate that a steel pusher plate would ablate less than 1 mm if unprotected. If sprayed with an oil, it need not ablate at all. The absorption spectra of carbon and hydrogen minimize heating. The design temperature of the shockwave, 120,000 °F (67,000 °C), emits ultraviolet. Most materials and elements are opaque to ultraviolet, especially at the 50,000 lb/in² (340 Mpa) pressures the plate experiences. This prevents the plate from melting or ablating.

One issue that remained unresolved at the conclusion of the project was whether the turbulence created by the combination of the propellant and ablated pusher plate would dramatically increase the total ablation of the pusher plate. According to Freeman Dyson, whilst back in the 1960s they would have had to actually perform a test with a real nuclear explosive to determine this, with modern simulation technology this could be determined fairly accurately without such.

The unsolved problem for a launch from the surface of the Earth is the nuclear fallout. Freeman Dyson, an early worker on the project, estimated that with conventional nuclear weapons, each launch would cause fatal cancers in ten human beings from the fallout. To keep this in perspective, roughly 600 people die of cancer each year from eating spices.

However, the fallout for the entire launch of a 6000 ton Orion was only equal to a ten-megaton blast, and he was assuming use of weapon-type nuclear explosives.

With special designs of the nuclear explosive, Ted Taylor
estimated that it could be reduced ten-fold, or even to zero if a
pure fusion explosive could be constructed. However, bomb
designers are reluctant to design such an explosive, because it is
thought to be destabilizing, and tempting to terrorists. Project
Daedalus solved this problem through the use of electron beam
inertial confinement, which is not suitable for use in weaponized
explosives.

The vehicle and its test program would violate the International
test ban treaty as currently written. This could almost certainly
be solved, if the fallout problem were solved.

The launch of such a craft from the ground or from low Earth
orbit would generate an electromagnetic pulse that could cause
significant damage to computers and satellites, as well as
flooding the van Allen beltss with high-energy radiation. This
problem might be solved by launching from very remote areas.
EMP footprints are only a few hundred miles wide. The Earth is
well-shielded from the Van Allen belts.

True engineering tests of the vehicle systems were said to be
impossible because several thousand nuclear explosions could
not be performed in any one place. However, experiments were
designed to test pusher plates in nuclear fireballs. Long-term
tests of pusher plates could occur in space. Several of these
almost flew. The shock-absorber designs could be tested full-

scale on Earth using chemical explosives.

Assembling a pulse drive spacecraft in orbit by more
conventional means and only activating its main drive at a safer
distance would be a less destructive approach. Such a system
would be much less efficient than the pure pulse approach,
because no chemical rocket could conceivably launch a big
enough pusher plate to take full advantage of the thrust of the
explosions. Adverse public reaction to any use of nuclear
explosives is likely to remain a hindrance even if all practical and
legal difficulties are overcome.
Medusa

The “Medusa” design is a type of nuclear pulse propulsion which shares more in common with solar sails than with conventional rockets. It was proposed in the 1990s. A Medusa spacecraft would deploy a large sail ahead of it, attached by cables, and then launch nuclear explosives forward to detonate between itself and its sail. The sail would be accelerated by the impulse, and the spacecraft would follow.

Medusa performs better than the classical Orion design because its “pusher plate” intercepts more of the bomb’s blast, because its shock-absorber stroke is much longer, and because all its major structures are in tension and hence can be quite lightweight. It also scales down better. Medusa-type ships would be capable of a specific impulse between 50,000 and 100,000 seconds.

The Jan 1993 and June 1994 issues of JBIS have articles on Medusa. (There is also a related paper in the Nov/Dec 2000 issue.)

The Plumbbob Test

A test similar to the test of a pusher plate apparently happened by accident during a series of nuclear containment tests called “Plumbbob” in 1957. A low-yield nuclear explosive accelerated a massive (900 kg) steel capping plate above escape velocity. See the account by the experimental designer, Dr. Robert Brownlee. Although his calculations showed that the plate would reach six times escape velocity, and the plate was never found, he believes that the plate never left the atmosphere. It probably vaporized from friction. The calculated velocity was sufficiently interesting that the crew trained a high-speed camera on the plate, which unfortunately only appeared in one frame. Brownlee estimated a lower bound of 2 times escape velocity.

Appearance in Fiction
A Project Orion spaceship features prominently in the science fiction novel Footfall by Larry Niven and Jerry Pournelle. In the face of an alien siege/invasion of Earth, the humans must resort to drastic measures to get a fighting ship into orbit to face the alien fleet.

Reference


See also

spacecraft propulsion, nuclear weapon

This is the “Nuclear pulse propulsion” reference article from the English Wikipedia. All text is available under the terms of the GNU Free Documentation License. See also our Disclaimer.

http://july.fixedreference.org/en/20040724/wikipedia/Nuclear_pulse_propulsion

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Did the “two-faced bastards" thought come to me because I had been researching the failing dams or from listening to the
jackasses in Congress drop an amendment to the health care reform bill that would have prevented insurance companies from charging any more than double on premiums to women and people over 50 years old – when right now they are charging many times more based on age and gender? I think that was it . . .

First, there is no right of legislators to force every American by law to purchase something – anything from a private company or industry who profits from it – that isn’t American, its something else.

And, second of all – the discrimination of charging from five times more to twenty-eight times more for insurance premiums based on age or gender is a practice in violation of the Federal Code in every equal opportunity law, every fairness and fair practices doctrine and in every guarantee against discrimination based on age, gender, nationality, religion and disability which is written into the law and the Constitution.

And, third of all, I watched the Republican who argued for the discrimination practice by the insurance companies based on age and gender since they would no longer be allowed to discriminate based on previous health or lack thereof. Instead of honoring his oath of office to protect us against discrimination and to support the equality, democracy, rights and freedoms of our Constitution, he was arguing to deny those things in support of the interests of the insurance corporate giants as if he worked for them. That man has no business in the halls of Congress representing anyone.

federal mandate backed by the full capacity of the enforcement regime

Senate Finance Committee Health Care Markup

The Chairman’s Mark requires every American to buy health insurance coverage

Debate in the Senate Finance Cmte. has concluded for the week. Today, they discussed and voted on amendments to the legislation. Chairman Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT), announced that when the committee returns
on Tuesday they will bring up several amendments which include a public option.

Washington, DC : 2 hr.

Discrimination Rating System – against elderly and women

John Kerry amendment
withdrawn – the actual hearing can be seen on the link below –

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http://www.c-span.org/Watch/Media/2009/09/25/HP/R/23568/Senate+Finance+Cmte+conclu...31:52 and thereabouts – Senator Kerry withdrew the amendment so there will be nothing to hinder the insurance companies from discriminating based on age and gender to whatever degree they choose

09 – 25 – 09

http://www.c-span.org/Watch/Media/2009/09/25/HP/R/23568/Senate+Finance+Cmte+conclus...

I think that was when my level of disgust finally peaked to be able to form a question at all. And, the question is this –

Does Washington, Congress and their business friends just want all of our money – 100% of our incomes sent to them and then they can decide if we deserve a couple percent back to live on? Is that it? Haven’t the insurance companies driven the prices up to where they are today and allowed the nastiest, unfit, unhealthy health system in the free world to be paid to stay that way? Isn’t it their profit based business model that created that problem in the first place? And, isn’t it “Cinderella thinking” that by any plan favoring the insurance companies things will ever be different? How could that even begin to work?

And, then I think about the ways our government have already
spent our money and it pisses me off that educated, professional, highly paid people with all those resources at their disposal would do it that way.

Like this –

*E. coli virus’ path exposes safety lapses*
Published: Oct. 4, 2009 at 12:06 PM

WASHINGTON, Oct. 4 (UPI) — A virulent strain of *E. coli* bacteria known as O157:H7 still sickens thousands of Americans each year despite regulations, The New York Times reported Sunday.

The newspaper said that through interviews and government and corporate records it traced the path of a batch of hamburger that sickened a 22-year-old Minnesota woman in 2007 and found that regulatory safeguards meant to prevent food contamination is not what consumers have been led to believe.

*The Times said the frozen hamburger the woman ate were made by the food giant Cargill, which confidential grinding logs and other company records showed were made from a mix of trimmings and a mash-like product from slaughterhouses in Nebraska, Texas and Uruguay. A South Dakota company that processes fatty trimmings treated them with ammonia to kill bacteria.*

Using the combination of sources reportedly allowed Cargill to spend about 25 percent less than it would have for cuts of whole meat. Despite the low-grade ingredients, Cargill, like most meat companies, relies on suppliers to check for the bacteria.

The Times said food scientists contend that that federal guidelines urging consumers to cook meat thoroughly and to wash up afterward is not sufficient to kill the O157:H7 virus.

And this –

_Government wants cheese plant closed_
Published: July 7, 2009 at 11:43 PM

NEW YORK, July 7 (UPI) — Federal authorities say they have gone to court to stop a New York cheese company from making and distributing its products, alleging contamination problems.

The U.S. Justice Department, acting for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, filed a complaint in U.S. District Court alleging Peregrina Cheese Inc. has a history of operating under insanitary conditions. The government alleges cheese produced by Peregrina is contaminated with _Listeria monocytogenes_, a Justice Department release Tuesday said.

Listeria is a food-borne pathogen. It can cause serious illness and has been known to cause death in young children and those who are frail or elderly.

_The release alleges FDA investigators found _Listeria monocytogenes_ within the factory and in finished cheese products on numerous occasions since 2004. It also contends New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets conducted laboratory testing which found _Listeria_ in _Peregrina_ products._


(its 2009 – and they’ve profited since 2004 without restraint knowing they were producing something tainted that could kill people. What is the FDA – the food and drug producers’ protection, legal representatives and anti-liability agency?)

**
As of Friday night, 474 people had been reported infected by a salmonella outbreak linked to peanut butter by public health authorities in 43 of the 50 U.S. states, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said.

The very young, elderly and immuno-compromised were the most severely affected, he said in the teleconference. The reported illnesses began in September and 21 cases were reported on Friday.

http://www.reuters.com/article/topNews/idUSTRE50F7GH20090117

RESULTS FOR “PEANUT BUTTER DEATHS”

Salmonella cases mount as outbreak continues -CDC Monday, 2 Mar 2009 07:00pm EST
US salmonella outbreak count hits 666 people sickened Tuesday, 24 Feb 2009 07:00pm EST
US mothers avoiding foods containing peanut butter Wednesday, 11 Feb 2009 07:00pm EST

By Alex Nussbaum

Jan. 30 (Bloomberg) — The U.S. has opened a criminal investigation of the peanut butter manufacturer tied to a salmonella outbreak that has sickened 529 people and killed eight, White House and health officials said.

White House spokesman Robert Gibbs confirmed the investigation during a briefing with journalists, when asked about an Associated Press report that the FDA knew in April about a shipment of peanuts from the plant containing pieces of metal and never tested by inspectors. Agency records also found that an outside lab uncovered salmonella at the plant as recently as last year, AP
reported. A second round of testing by a different company turned up negative for salmonella, the news agency said.

“I think the revelations have no doubt been alarming, that whether it was our own regulatory system or a company that repeatedly found salmonella in its own testing would continue to ship out that product is beyond disturbing for millions of parents,” Gibbs said.

Peanut Corp. shipped crackers and other foods from the plant after tests on a dozen occasions in 2007 and 2008 showed salmonella, the FDA and U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said.

To contact the reporter on this story: Alex Nussbaum in New York anussbaum1@bloomberg.net.

Last Updated: January 30, 2009 17:47 EST

http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601103&sid=aWsDwT1yS7EY&refer=us

(And this one – which is a real winner – )

We learned that the American Water Works Association Research Foundation (it has since changed its name to the Water Research Foundation) had been involved with testing across the country, but the foundation’s executive director declined to name the 20 different drinking water treatment plants where pharmaceuticals had been detected in water that was eventually used by more than 10 million people. He said the foundation had assured secrecy to participants of its study. Citing confidentiality agreements, he added, “It’s a hard topic to talk about without creating fear in the general public.” We’d hear that refrain often during the ensuing months.

We decided to collect data ourselves and began by surveying the nation’s 50 largest cities, along with the nation’s largest water providers, which added another dozen major utilities to our list. We also called on at least one smaller community water provider in each of the 50 states. Even though the AP has reporters in every state to whom such calls could have been assigned, the three PharmaWater reporters divvied them up along with the e-
mails. We wanted to be absolutely certain that our questions, and the answers, were apples and apples.

Some of our initial interviews left us unable to confirm even that the water in specific cities had been tested. From there, deeper reporting problems emerged: As with industry association folks, several local water utilities and city governments acknowledged they had tested the water but would not reveal results. In some places, officials wouldn’t speak to us at all. Repeated calls were met with repeated brushbacks. For example, New York City water officials declined repeated requests for an interview and waited more than three months before participating in the AP survey, supplying information only after being informed that every other major city in the nation had cooperated. We shamed them into talking to us.

*Even before New York City officials reluctantly spoke with us, Donn had discovered that the New York state health department and the U.S. Geological Survey had detected heart medicine, infection fighters, estrogen, anticonvulsants, a mood stabilizer, and the active ingredient in an antianxiety medication in the city's watershed upstate.* Ultimately, the city’s Department of Environmental Protection informed us that it does not test its downstate drinking water.

In Emporia, Kansas, Ron Rhodes, the city's water treatment plant supervisor, explained why he wouldn’t disclose whether his community’s source water or drinking water had been tested for pharmaceuticals. “Well, it’s because of 9/11,” he said. “We want everybody to guess.” When we asked how it would endanger anyone if the public knew whether Emporia’s water has been screened for minute concentrations of pharmaceutical compounds, he replied, “We’re not putting out more information than we have to put out. How about that?”

In conversations with other water officials, we heard much the same. Philadelphia officials balked at first, then relented, but not before a city water department official declared: “It would be irresponsible to communicate to the public about this issue, as
doing so would only generate questions that scientific research has not yet answered. We don’t want to create the perception where people would be alarmed.”

Security-conscious officials in Arlington, Texas, gave us information in drips and drabs. First, they said they'd detected drugs in the city's source waters but wouldn't say which ones, or in what amounts, or whether any such drugs had survived the treatment process. Next, the mayor told us a trace amount of one pharmaceutical had survived the treatment process and had been detected in drinking water. He declined to name the drug, saying identifying it could prompt a terrorist to intentionally release more of it, causing significant harm to residents.

Three months later, after we’d filed public records requests—and after assurances from the Texas Attorney General that the terrorism concerns were not well founded—the secret was revealed: Drinking water in Arlington had tested positive for the antianxiety medication meprobamate. The public announcement was made in June 2008; the water samples had been taken in October 2006.

[...] And while science has not yet been able to determine the extent of any possible long-term dangers, the AP findings are sobering:

- **At least 46 million Americans consume water contaminated with prescription and over-the-counter drugs. That number is no doubt a gross undercount—most cities and water suppliers do not test. (Our first series, published in March 2008, had tallied 41 million; a follow-up survey six months later added five million.) This year we are working on comparing the communities now contained in our results with a new research project that will probably document an additional 10 million or so.**

- **In the wild, scientists have found reason to blame pharmaceuticals in the water for severe reproductive problems in many types of fish—razorback suckers and male fathead minnows with lower sperm counts, male carp now called feminized fish, and female fish**
developing male genital organs. There are problems with other wildlife: kidney failure in vultures, impaired reproduction in mussels, and inhibited growth in algae.

- In the laboratory, there are growing indications that small amounts of medication have affected human embryonic kidney cells, human blood cells, and human breast cancer cells. The cancer cells proliferated too quickly, the kidney cells grew too slowly, and the blood cells showed biological activity associated with inflammation.

- Our follow-up series, in September 2008, revealed that hospitals and long-term care facilities annually dump an estimated 250 million pounds of unused or outdated pharmaceuticals and contaminated packaging. Again, we had to gather this data and do the calculations; up to half of that total could be the drugs themselves.

[Link to the Harvard Nieman Reports item]

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"The richest 1% in the US have more wealth than the lowest 95% combined."

From Larry King Live with Michael Moore – promoting his movie – "Capitalism: A Love Story"

CNN

“There’s a foreclosure filing in America, once every 7 and a half seconds."

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My Note –
I have always wondered, where would we be today, if health care had been done differently? If doctors had made the same amount of money whether they saw 40 people once a year, or saw those
40 people for 8000 times a year – would they have helped people be healthy, get healthy and stay healthy so they wouldn’t have had to see them more than once or twice? Honestly, if hospitals and doctors were paid once per person per year, regardless of how much or how little they did and if each were responsible for that person to be healthy in order to get that money – wouldn’t they do things differently?

If pharmaceutical companies had to give back all the profits from drugs deemed to have been dangerous and to have caused damages to people, plus the amount of fines and penalties on top of that, wouldn’t they stop producing drugs that are manufactured in a method which is known to cause unnecessary side effects and health dangers? When they are fined three or four million dollars on something which has brought them $5 Billion dollars in profits, there isn’t any reason to change the choices they are making – especially considering they continue to sell the drugs which have been found to have caused permanent damage to people’s health and quality of life.

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Even if 90% of the citizens of the United States disagree with what they are doing, the Senators and Representatives in Washington, D.C. will do it anyway. There are no American citizens at the table with them. We are not invited. Our interests and concerns are ignored. We are of no importance to them except as a portion of the cattle to be taxed and routed through their profit-driven investments to be robbed of our money while giving us little or nothing in return.

Our voices don’t count for anything as evidenced by the actions of the Bush administration and its agency’s policy applications and now evidenced by the disdain Congressional members have had for the outcry against mandated health insurance while doing nothing to actually reform a pathetic and dangerous health care system.
The CNN and NPR Interns Incident

In the 1990s it came to light that soldiers from the 4th Psychological Operations Group had been interning at the American news networks Cable News Network (CNN) and National Public Radio (NPR). The program was claimed by the Army to be an attempt to provide its PSYOP personnel with the expertise developed by the private sector under its Training with Industry program. The program caused concern about the influence these soldiers might have on American news and the programs were terminated.

National Public Radio reported on April 10, 2000:
The U.S. Army’s Psychological Operations unit placed interns at CNN and NPR in 1998 and 1999. The placements at CNN were reported in the European press in February of this year and the program was terminated. The NPR placements will be reported this week in TV Guide. [23]

Perception management is a term originated by the U.S. military. The U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) gives this definition:

“Actions to convey and/or deny selected information and indicators to foreign audiences to influence their emotions, motives, and objective reasoning as well as to intelligence systems and leaders at
all levels to influence official estimates, ultimately resulting in foreign behaviors and official actions favorable to the originator’s objectives. In various ways, perception management combines truth projection, operations security, cover and deception, and psychological operations.iii”

The phrase “perception management” has often functioned as a “euphemism” for “an aspect of information warfare.” A scholar in the field notes a distinction between “perception management” and public diplomacy, which “does not, as a rule, involve falsehood and deception, whereas these are important ingredients of perception management; the purpose is to get the other side to believe what one wishes it to believe, whatever the truth may be.”[2]

Perception management was also known as public diplomacy in the Ronald Reagan era; Deception and sleight of hand are important in gaining advantages in war, both to gain domestic support of the operations and for the military against the enemy. Although perception management is specifically defined as being limited to foreign audiences, critics of the DOD charge that it also engages in domestic perception management. An example cited is the prohibition of viewing or photographing the flag draped caskets of dead military as they are unloaded in bulk upon arrival in the U.S. for further distribution, a policy only recently implemented. The DOD also describes perception management as an intent to provoke the behavior you want out of a given individual.[4] More recently, the U.S. government has used perception management techniques to promote the belief that weapons of mass destruction were indeed being manufactured in Iraq, and that Iraq had aided and assisted the Al Qaeda terrorists responsible for the September 11, 2001 attacks upon the World Trade Center. These “facts” were, in part, the government’s justification for invading Iraq and beginning the war. A man named John Rendon has been very influential in creating the
conditions necessary to justify the war in Iraq. Rendon’s firm, the **Rendon Group**, has had close ties with the U.S. government ever since 1991, when the CIA hired the firm to help “create the conditions for the removal of Hussein from power.” [8]

Perception management includes all actions used to influence the attitudes and objective reasoning of foreign audiences and consists of Public Diplomacy, Psychological Operations (**PSYOPS**), Public Information, Deception and Covert Action. [9] The Department of Defense describes “perception management” as a type of psychological operation. It is supposed to be directed at foreign audiences, and involves providing or discarding information to influence their emotions, motives, and objective reasoning in a way that is favorable to the originator of the information. The main goal is to influence friends and enemies, provoking them to engage in the behavior that you want. DOD sums it up: “Perception management combines truth projection, operations security, cover and deception, and psychological operations.” [10]

The U.S. government already has checks in place to dissuade perception management conducted by the state towards domestic populations, such as the **Smith-Mundt Act of 1948**, which “forbids the domestic dissemination of U.S Government authored or developed propaganda... deliberately designed to influence public opinion or policy.” [13]

(but they did it anyway – my note)

Perception management can be used as a propaganda strategy for controlling how people view political events. This practice was refined by U.S. intelligence services as they tried to manipulate foreign populations, but it eventually made its way into domestic U.S. politics as a tool to manipulate post-Vietnam-War-era public opinion. For example, in the early 1980s, the Reagan administration saw the “**Vietnam Syndrome**” -a reluctance to commit military forces abroad- as a strategic threat to its **Cold War** policies. This caused the administration to
launch an extraordinary effort to change people’s perception of foreign events, essentially by exaggerating threats from abroad and demonizing selected foreign leaders. The strategy proved to be very successful.[14]

Beginning in the 1950s, more than 800 news and public information organizations and individuals carried out assignments to manage the public’s perception for the CIA, according to the New York Times. By the mid-80s, CIA Director William Casey had taken the practice to the next level: an organized, covert “public diplomacy” apparatus designed to sell a “new product” — Central America — while stoking fear of communism, the Sandinistas, Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi, and anyone else considered an adversary during the Ronald Reagan presidential administration. Sometimes it involved so-called “white propaganda,” stories and op-eds secretly financed by the government. But they also went “black,” pushing false story lines, such as how the Sandinistas were actually anti-Semitic drug dealers. That campaign included altered photos and blatant disinformation dispersed by public officials as high as the president himself.[10]

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Perception_management

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The Trans-Alaska Pipeline Authorization Act is a United States federal law signed by Richard Nixon on November 16, 1973 that authorized the building of an oil pipeline connecting the North Slope of Alaska to Port Valdez. Specifically, it halted all legal challenges – filed primarily by environmental activists – against the construction of the pipeline.

The act is found in title 43, section 1651 of the United States Code (43 U.S.C. § 1651). Eventually, the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System was built as a result of this act.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trans-
The Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS), includes the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, 11 pump stations, several hundred miles of feeder pipelines, and the Valdez Marine Terminal. It is commonly called the Alaska Pipeline, Trans-Alaska Pipeline, Alyeska Pipeline or The Pipeline (in Alaska), but those terms technically apply only to the 800.302 miles (1,287.961 km) of 48-inch (122 cm) pipe that convey oil from Prudhoe Bay, to Valdez, Alaska.

The pipeline was built between 1974 and 1977 after the 1973 Oil Crisis caused a sharp rise in oil prices in the United States. This rise made exploration of the Prudhoe Bay Oil Field economically feasible. Environmental, legal, and political debates followed the discovery of oil at Prudhoe Bay in 1968, and the pipeline was built only after the oil crisis provoked the passage of legislation designed to remove legal challenges to the project.

The task of building the pipeline had to address a wide range of difficulties, stemming mainly from the extreme cold, the difficult terrain, and the isolated terrain. This was one of the first large-scale projects to deal with problems caused by permafrost, and special construction techniques had to be developed to cope with the frozen ground. The project attracted tens of thousands of workers to Alaska, causing a boomtown atmosphere in Valdez, Fairbanks, and Anchorage.

The first barrel of oil traveled through the pipeline in 1977, and full-scale production began by the end of the year. Several notable oil-leakage incidents have occurred since, including sabotage, maintenance failures, and holes caused by gunshot. The most significant oil spill associated with the pipeline was caused by the Exxon Valdez, and did not directly involve the pipeline. As of 2009, the pipeline has shipped almost 16 billion barrels (2.5H109 m3) of oil.

[etc.]
Accordingly, President Warren G. Harding established a series of naval petroleum reserves across the United States. These reserves were areas thought to be rich in oil and set aside for future drilling by the U.S. government. Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 4 was sited in Alaska’s far north, just south of Barrow, and encompassed 23,000,000 acres (93,078 km2).

The petroleum reserve lay dormant until the Second World War provided an impetus to explore new oil prospects. Starting in 1944, the U.S. Navy funded oil exploration near Unimat Mountain, on the Colville River in the Brooks Range. Surveyors from the U.S. Geological Survey spread across the petroleum reserve and worked to determine its extent until 1953, when the Navy suspended funding for the project. The USGS found several small oil fields, most notably the Unimat Oil Field, but none were deemed particularly feasible to develop.

Four years after the Navy suspended its survey, Richfield Oil Corporation (later Atlantic Richfield and ARCO) drilled an enormously successful oil well near the Swanson River in southern Alaska, near Kenai. The resulting Swanson River Oil Field was Alaska’s first commercially producing oil field, and it spurred the exploration and development of many others. By 1965, five oil and 11 natural gas fields had been developed. This success and the previous Navy exploration of its petroleum reserve led petroleum engineers to the conclusion that the area of Alaska north of the Brooks Range surely held large amounts of oil and gas. The problems came from the area’s remoteness and harsh climate. It was estimated that between 200 million and 500 million barrels of oil would have to be recovered to make a North Slope oil field commercially viable.

In 1967, Atlantic Richfield (ARCO) began detailed survey work in the Prudhoe Bay area. By January 1968, reports began circulating that natural gas had been discovered by a discovery well. On March 12, 1968, an Atlantic Richfield drilling crew hit paydirt. A discovery well began flowing at the rate of 1,152 barrels (183.2 m3) of oil per day. On June 25, ARCO announced that a second discovery well likewise was producing oil at a similar rate.
Together, the two wells confirmed the existence of the Prudhoe Bay Oil Field. The new field contained more than 25 billion barrels of oil, making it the largest in North America and the 18th largest in the world.[11]

[etc.]

The pipeline has at times been damaged due to sabotage, human error, maintenance failures, and natural disasters. By law, Alyeska is required to report significant oil spills to regulatory authorities.[152] The Exxon Valdez oil spill is the best-known accident involving Alaska oil, but it did not involve the pipeline itself.[153] Following the spill, Alyeska created a rapid response force that is paid for by the oil companies,[154] including ExxonMobil, which was found liable for the spill.[155]

The largest oil spill involving the main pipeline took place on February 15, 1978, when an unknown individual blew a 1-inch (2.54-centimeter) hole in it at Steele Creek, just east of Fairbanks.[156] Approximately 16,000 barrels (2,500 m³) of oil leaked out of the hole before the pipeline was shut down.[151] After more than 21 hours, it was restarted.[157]

The steel pipe is resistant to gunshots and has resisted them on several occasions, but on October 4, 2001, a drunken gunman named Daniel Carson Lewis shot a hole into a weld near Livengood, causing the second-largest mainline oil spill in pipeline history.[158] Approximately 258,000 US gallons (980 m³) leaked from the pipeline; 178,000 US gallons (670 m³) were recovered and reinjected into the pipeline.[159] Nearly 2 acres (8,100 m²) of tundra were soiled and were removed in the cleanup.[160] The pipeline was repaired and was restarted more than 60 hours later.[161] Lewis was found guilty in December 2002 of criminal mischief, assault, drunken driving, oil pollution, and misconduct. He was sentenced to 16 years and jail and ordered to repay the $17 million cleanup costs.[162]
The pipeline was built to withstand earthquakes, forest fires, and other natural disasters. The 2002 Denali earthquake damaged some of the pipeline sliders designed to absorb similar quakes, and it caused the pipeline to shut down for more than 66 hours as a precaution. In 2004, wildfires overran portions of the pipeline, but it was not damaged and did not shut down.

In March 2006, corroded feeder pipelines on the North Slope gave way, spilling at least 265,000 US gallons (1,000 m³) of oil. In August 2006, during an inspection mandated by the United States Department of Transportation after the leak, severe corrosion was discovered. The transit pipelines were shut down for several days that month, and replacement of 16 miles (26 km) of transit pipeline began. The project was completed before Christmas Day 2008 at a cost of $500 million to British Petroleum.

[etc.]

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trans-Alaska_Pipeline_System

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My Note –

I could’ve been influenced to a high level of disgust about the two faced bastards because of seeing the show on the Redwood trees and the Redwood forests too, which stated that 95% of the Redwood forest is now gone. It was logged to build picnic tables and give profits to those who did not earn them because not one of them owned those three hundred to thousands of years old trees. The citizens of the United States and the future of our species who may not have air to breath because they are gone – actually owned the rights to those trees.

And, too I was looking up fracture mechanics to understand how the dams that are in danger because of disrepair and integrity
degradation could be fixed and how they are currently being checked for integrity – I shouldn’t have bothered because the attitude generally is that a lot is known, but it isn’t worth the money, the effort or the time that would be involved in doing it right (as in correctly, accurately, in the highest standard for public safety.)

Fracture Mechanics

http://www.msm.cam.ac.uk/phasetrans/2006/SI/SI.html

Integrity is a term which refers to the quality of being whole and complete, or the state of being unimpaired [1,2]. Structural Integrity Assessment is an approach to assess whether a structure is fit to withstand the service conditions safely and reliability throughout its predicted lifetime.

[etc.]

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This describes these attitudes – although these GAO reports are from 2008 and 1983 respectively – they actually describe the intellectual inbreeding of contempt for the American people and for the safety of the public which is at the heart of most misplaced and misdirected policies and resources – http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-08-763T

Physical Infrastructure: Challenges and Investment Options for the Nation’s Infrastructure

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Information on Unsafe Conditions at Specific Dams Located on Federal Lands
RCED-83-209 August 1, 1983
Full Report (PDF, 13 pages)
Summary

In response to a congressional request, GAO provided information on safety deficiencies identified at four dams on National Park Service and Forest Service lands, the status of agency actions to correct the identified safety deficiencies, and the reasons for failure to take corrective actions.

GAO found that, although Federal officials have been aware of the unsafe conditions at these dams for at least 4 years, only minimal corrective action has been taken to repair the dams. Interim actions have not been taken to diminish the dangers posed by the dams pending their repair. The Park Service has not taken this action because, while it agrees with the assessment of the danger the dams present, it does not believe that the conditions justify immediate repair. Furthermore, it does not believe that interim action, such as lowering the level of the lake, would diminish the dangers enough to justify reducing the benefits provided by the dams.

The Forest Service has not required the private owner of one dam to take all of the recommended actions because the regional forester decided in 1980 that it would not be fair to hold owners responsible until Federal or State funding became available to prove the extent of the unsafe conditions. Forest Service officials agreed to review the adequacy of this decision after GAO brought it to their attention.

Related Searches
Related terms:
Dam safety
Maintenance (upkeep)
Public lands
Repairs


***
And this one makes it thoroughly obvious how little regard the State of California and the government agencies have for human life – and for the lives and well-being of people in the United States.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santa_Susana_Field_Laboratory

In early May 2007, a Federal Court in San Francisco issued a major ruling which concluded that DOE has not been cleaning up the site to proper standards, and that the site would have to be cleaned up to higher standards if DOE ever wanted to release the site to Boeing, which in turn, would most likely release the land for unrestricted residential development. From the L.A. Times (Judge assails Rocketdyne cleanup print edition, California section, May 3, 2007): Judge Conti’s ruling requires DOE to prepare a more stringent review of the lab, which is on the border of Los Angeles County. Conti wrote that the department’s decision to prepare a less-stringent environmental document prior to cleanup is in violation of the National Environmental Policy Act and noted that the lab ‘is located only miles away from one of the largest population centers in the world.’

On July 26, 2007, staff at the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board recommended a $471,190 fine against Boeing Co. for 79 violations of the California Water Code during an 18-month period. From October 2004 to January 2006, wastewater and storm water runoff coming from the lab had increased levels of chromium, dioxin, lead, mercury and other pollutants, the water board said. The contaminated water flowed into Bell Creek and the Los Angeles River in violation of a July 1, 2004, permit that allowed release of wastewater and storm water runoff as long as it didn’t contain high levels of pollutants.

On October 15, 2007, Boeing announced that In a landmark agreement between Boeing and California officials, nearly 2,400 acres (10 km2) of land that is currently Boeing’s Santa Susana Field Laboratory will become state parkland. According to the plan jointly announced by California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, Boeing and state Sen. Sheila Kuehl, the property will be donated and preserved as a vital
undeveloped open-space link in the Santa Susana Mountains above Simi Valley and the San Fernando Valley. The agreement will permanently restrict the land for nonresidential, noncommercial use.

**

Future use of the land SSFL is located on is also a source of much debate. The site’s current owners, the Boeing Company have issued statements suggesting that the land may be sold for future unrestricted residential development without having cleaned the site up to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) cleanup standards. On August 2, 2005, Pratt & Whitney purchased Rocketdyne from Boeing, but refused to acquire SSFL as part of the sale.

In 1989, DOE found widespread chemical and radioactive contamination at the site, and a cleanup program commenced. In 1995 EPA and DOE announced that they had entered into a Joint Policy Agreement to assure that all DOE sites would be cleaned up to standards consistent with EPA’s Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) standards, also known as Superfund.

However, in March 2003, DOE reversed its position and announced that SSFL would not be cleaned up to EPA Superfund standards. While DOE simultaneously claimed compliance with the 1995 Joint Policy Agreement, the new plan included a cleanup of only 1% of the contaminated soil, and the release of SSFL for unrestricted residential use in as little as ten years.

EPA responded to this announcement by claiming that DOE was not subject to EPA regulation due to the fact that DOE existed as a separate entity under the Executive Branch of the Federal Government, and refused take steps to force DOE adherence to the 1995 agreement.

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The National Security Archive is a 501(c)(3) non-governmental, non-profit research and archival institution located within The George Washington University in Washington, D.C.. Founded in 1985 by Scott Armstrong, it archives and publishes declassified U.S. government files concerning selected topics of American foreign policy. The Archive collects and analyzes the documents of many various government institutions obtained via the Freedom of Information Act. The Archive then selects documents to be published in the form of manuscripts and microfiche as well as made available through their website, which receives a half-million downloads daily. According to a Washington Post feature story, the Archive files roughly 2,000 FOIA requests annually, collecting about 75,000 documents. The Archive appealed 549 FOIA decisions in 2006, and has filed more than 40 lawsuits to obtain compliance with its requests.[1]

The Archive operates under an advisory board which is directed by Tom Blanton and is overseen by a board of directors. The Archive’s research was awarded in late 2005 by winning an Emmy Award for its work on the documentary, Declassified: Nixon in China. More recently, the Archive uncovered a secret reclassification program operating since 1999.[1] This program was underway to reclassify documents related to American foreign policy during the 1940s and 1950s, at the National Archives and Records Administration. The materials in question had all been declassified during the Clinton administration.

From 1985 until 1998, the Fund for Peace, Inc. was the archive’s fiscal sponsor. Among the Archive’s more prominent institutional supporters today are the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Ford Foundation, the Freedom Forum, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Congressional Quarterly, and Cox Enterprises. The Archive receives funding from these and
other, organizations via their donations to the National Security Archive Fund, established in order to administer the Archive’s finances.

On October 1, 2007, U.S. District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly reversed George Bush on archive secrecy, (38-page) ruling that the U.S. Archivist’s reliance on the executive order to delay release of the papers of former presidents is arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion and not in accordance with law. National Security Archives, at George Washington University alleged that the Bush order severely slowed or prevented the release of historic presidential papers. [2]

See also

* Family jewels (Central Intelligence Agency), documents unclassified in June 2007
* United States intervention in Chile
* Operation Condor
* Operation Northwoods

External links

* National Security Archive
* Digital National Security Archive Collections
* Charity Navigator overview of the National Security Archive Fund
* National Security Archive Sues CIA, 2006
* NSA Director Tom Blanton speaks on Secrecy in the United States: Priorities for the Next President, Rappaport Center for Law and Public Service, Suffolk University Law School, October 12, 2008.

References

1. ^ Carlson, Peter (2008-05-08). Eyes Only: (redacted) – In Its (redacted) Offices, the National Security Archive Houses Stockpiles of (redacted), Gotten From the Government by
Global Increase

Globally, a total of 52 nuclear reactors were under construction as of Jan. 1, according to the Japan Atomic Industrial Forum Inc. Last year was the first time in the history of commercial nuclear power that no new reactors came into operation, according to International Atomic Energy Agency figures. Some 33 new plants came online in 1984 and that number has declined almost every year since.

(My Note – US has 103 nuclear reactors with new ones being built and going online now, and there are 430 nuclear reactors worldwide with these new ones that will be going online mentioned above as under construction as of Jan. 1.) Japan Steel Works is spending 80 billion yen ($864 million) at its Muroran plant in the country’s northern island of Hokkaido by March 2012 to increase capacity to make parts for 12 nuclear reactors a year, compared with 5.5 units now, the president said.

The investment will increase annual sales from Japan Steel...
Works’ cast and forged steel for electric and nuclear power to 70 billion yen from the year starting April 2012, up from 45.5 billion yen expected for the current year, Sato said.

To contact the reporters on this story: Masumi Suga in Tokyo at msuga@bloomberg.net; Shunichi Ozasa in Tokyo at sozasa@bloomberg.net.

Last Updated: September 7, 2009 08:39 EDT


data.jpg

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The United States also led in arms sales to the developing world, signing 70.1 percent of these weapons agreements at a value of $29.6 billion in 2008, the report said.

Such deals with the developing world included a $6.5 billion air defense system for the United Arab Emirates, a $2.1 billion jet fighter for Morocco and a $2 billion attack helicopter for Taiwan.

India, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, South Korea and Brazil also reached weapons deals with the United States, the Times said.

The report revealed the United Arab Emirates was the top buyer of arms in the developing world with $9.7 billion in arms purchases in 2008.

Saudi Arabia ranked second with $8.7 billion in weapons agreements, and Morocco was third with $5.4 billion in deals.

(Reporting by Jasmin Melvin; Editing by Chris Wilson)

http://www.reuters.com/article/newsOne/idUSTRE5851XH20090906

***
(and this is what our USGS money and resources and manpower is being used to do – if you look at the map and the petroleum companies get their way – most of the top third of Alaska will be developed for the hydrates to be recovered at the decimation of the environment – )

NEW Assessment of Gas Hydrate Resources on the North Slope, Alaska, 2008
Fact Sheet 2008-3073| Podcast (Episode 74)
Slide Show Slide Presentation (Flash document 10.6 MB)
Gas Hydrates Website

There are several energy-related efforts currently under way in Alaska. Geographically, these range from the Alaska Peninsula to the North Slope (see graphic on left) and several are collaborative efforts with Federal and State agencies and Alaska Native villages. A brief description of these projects:

Circum-Arctic Basins Oil & Gas Assessment An ongoing effort of the World Energy Project that includes northern Alaska.

NEW Circum-Arctic Resource Appraisal: Estimates of Undiscovered Oil and Gas North of the Arctic Circle
Fact Sheet 2008-3049| Press Release (7/23/08)
Podcast (Episode 55) | Slide Show Slide Presentation (Flash document 4.39 MB)

Geologic Framework and Assessment Studies, North Slope of Alaska
These studies will increase our understanding of the petroleum geology and improve our estimates of undiscovered oil and gas resources. This is a multi-disciplinary investigation that uses concepts of basin analysis, sequence stratigraphy, fluid-flow modeling, petroleum systems, and structural and geophysical analysis. Assessments of the NPRA and the central North Slope were completed in May 2002 and May 2005, respectively. Current work is focused on assessment of the area west of NPRA and aggregation of all North Slope assessments with an update of the economics, including natural gas.
Gas Hydrate Studies in northern Alaska
These studies will investigate the technical aspects of gas production from gas hydrates, which contain gas trapped with water in ice-like structures. The presence of huge volumes of gas in hydrate form is known in the Prudhoe Bay region from earlier USGS studies. The current work is a collaborative effort involving the USGS Coastal and Marine Geology Program, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the State of Alaska, the U.S. Department of Energy, and private industry. Collaborative gas hydrate work has also been conducted with the multinational Mallik Drilling Consortium in the Mackenzie Delta region. In 2004, the Alaska State Legislature requested the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to provide a technical briefing on the energy resource potential of gas hydrates in northern Alaska at a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) technical conference, USGS Open-File Report 2004–1454.

Coalbed Gas Studies
A cooperative project with the State partly funded by the BLM and DOE to evaluate coalbed gas resources near Native villages and on Federal lands in rural Alaska. Coalbed gas may be a viable local energy source for Native villages and a commercial resource in Alaska. Shallow coalbed gas wells have been drilled near Chignik, Fort Yukon, and the Dalton Highway south of Prudhoe Bay. Current work involves continued evaluation of drill sites and collecting and analyzing coal samples for their methane potential from wells drilled for oil and gas in Cook Inlet and the North Slope. A new coal assessment of Alaska was released in 2003.

Digital Geologic Map Compilation
Compilation of existing geologic maps of the northern foothills of the Brooks Range, from the Chukchi Sea eastward to the Canadian border. This work is a collaboration between the USGS and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys (DGGS) and the Division of Oil and Gas. It will result in a synthesis of geologic mapping that was conducted independently over several decades by the USGS.
and DGGS and will be produced at a fraction of the cost of new, field-based geologic mapping of the same area. A report of revised stratigraphic nomenclature for common use on all maps was completed in 2003, the Umiat quadrangle map was released in 2004, and the Ikpikpuk River quadrangle map, in 2005. A digital compilation of northeastern NPRA surficial geology was completed in 2005 at the request of the BLM.

Interior Alaska Province Review and Yukon Flats Assessment
An effort to provide essential geologic, geophysical, geochemical, and historical information in preparation for the next USGS assessment of the oil and gas resources in this province. Assessment of the Yukon Flats basin was released in 2004. A comprehensive review and compilation of oil and gas related information for the entire province was completed in 2002.

South Alaska Province Review
A new effort initiated in 2003 and focused on Cook Inlet. It is designed to provide essential geologic, geophysical, geochemical, and historical information in preparation for the next USGS assessment of the oil and gas resources in this province.

Collaboration with State of Alaska
Although not a separate project, the Energy Resources Program provides staff, analytical capabilities, and financial support for Alaskan petroleum studies and geologic mapping conducted by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Geologic and Geophysical Surveys and Division of Oil and Gas.

NASA Landsat photo: Alaska North Slope in Winter
NASA Landsat photo: Alaska North Slope in Spring
Northern Alaska in the true-color Terra MODIS image, which was acquired July 29, 2002. Prominent in the image is the Brooks Range, which stretches all the way across Northern Alaska from the western shore to the border of Canada’s Yukon Territory, a distance of about 600 miles. (Credit: Jacques Descloitres, MODIS Rapid Response Team, NASA/GSFC).

Fact Sheet 2008-3082

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) recently completed the first assessment of the undiscovered technically recoverable gas-hydrate resources on the North Slope of Alaska. Using a geology-based assessment methodology, the USGS estimates that there are about 85 trillion cubic feet (TCF) of undiscovered, technically recoverable gas resources within gas hydrates in northern Alaska.

Recent Publications

The Yukon Flats Cretaceous(?)—Tertiary Extensional Basin, East-Central Alaska: Burial and Thermal History Modeling

Sentinel Hill Core Test 1: Facies Descriptions and Stratigraphic Reinterpretations of the Prince Creek and Schrader Bluff Formations, North Slope, Alaska
Professional Paper 1747

Stratigraphy and Facies of Cretaceous Schrader Bluff and Prince Creek Formations in Colville River Bluffs, North Slope, Alaska
Professional Paper 1748

Sedimentology and Sequence Stratigraphy of the Lower Cretaceous Fortress Mountain and Torok Formations Exposed
Along the Siksikpuk River, North-Central Alaska
Professional Paper 1739-D

Lithofacies, Age, and Sequence Stratigraphy of the Carboniferous Lisburne Group in the Skimo Creek Area, Central Brooks Range
Professional Paper 1739-B

Oil and Gas Resources of the Arctic Alaska Petroleum Province
Professional Paper 1732-A

Regional Fluid Flow and Basin Modeling in Northern Alaska
Circular 1319

Color Shaded-Relief and Surface-Classification Maps of the Fish Creek Area, Harrison Bay Quadrangle, Northern Alaska
Scientific Investigations Map 2948

RELATED LINKS

Alaska Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys (DGGS)
USGS scanning project
Virtually all U.S. Geological Survey Bulletins and Professional Papers for Alaska are now viewable and retrievable online through the Alaska Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys (DGGS). USGS scanning project press release (PDF 20KB).

USGS Alaska Science Center
Center of Excellence for the Department of the Interior to address important natural resources issues and natural hazards assessments in Alaska and circumpolar regions through long-term data collection and monitoring, research and development, and assessments and applications.

Accessibility FOIA Privacy Policies and Notices

URL: http://energy.usgs.gov/alaska/
The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) recently completed the first assessment of the undiscovered technically recoverable gas-hydrate resources on the North Slope of Alaska. Using a geology-based assessment methodology, the USGS estimates that there are about 85 trillion cubic feet (TCF) of undiscovered, technically recoverable gas resources within gas hydrates in northern Alaska.

Version 1.1

Posted October 2008

*Fact Sheet PDF (6 MB)

For further information:
This factsheet and assessment results are available at the USGS Energy Program website, http://energy.usgs.gov
Part or all of this report is presented in Portable Document Format (PDF); the latest version of Adobe Reader or similar software is required to view it. Download the latest version of Adobe Reader, free of charge.
Suggested citation:


Image is on a US Geological Survey web site. Report produced by USGS and Naval Research Laboratory, so USGov is source rather than only USGS.

Date

2005-02-08 (original upload date)

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Original uploader was SEWilco at en.wikipedia

PD-USGOV.
(and this – which explains so much – )

– this is how much our good health matters – zero – )

Chemicals are added to the water to facilitate the underground fracturing process that releases natural gas. The resulting volume of contaminated water is generally kept in above-ground ponds to await removal by tanker or injected back into the earth.
(from – )

Shale gas
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

For gas generated by oil shale pyrolysis, see Oil shale gas.

Shale gas is natural gas produced from shale. Shale gas has become an increasingly more important source of natural gas in the United States over the past decade, and interest has spread to potential gas shales in Canada and Europe. One analyst expects shale gas to supply as much as half the natural gas production in North America by 2020.[1]

Some analysts expect that North American shale gas will affect the worldwide energy supply. A study by the Baker Institute for Public Policy at Rice University concluded that increased shale gas production in the US and Canada could help prevent Russia from dictating higher prices for the gas it exports to European countries.[2]

Because shales ordinarily have insufficient permeability to allow significant fluid flow to a well bore, most shales are not commercial sources of natural gas. Shale gas is one of a number of “unconventional” sources of natural gas; other unconventional sources of natural gas include coalbed methane, tight sandstones, and methane hydrates. Shale gas areas are often known as resource plays (as opposed to exploration plays). The geological risk of not finding gas is low in resource plays, but the potential profits per well are usually also lower.
Shale has low matrix permeability, so gas production in commercial quantities requires fractures to provide permeability. Shale gas has been produced for years from shales with natural fractures; the shale gas boom in recent years has been due to modern technology in hydraulic fracturing to create extensive artificial fractures around well bores. Horizontal drilling is often used with shale gas wells.

Shales that host economic quantities of gas have a number of common properties. They are rich in organic material, and are usually mature petroleum source rocks in the thermogenic gas window. They are sufficiently brittle and rigid enough to maintain open fractures. In some areas, shale intervals with high natural gamma radiation are the most productive.

Some of the gas produced is held in natural fractures, some in pore spaces, and some is adsorbed onto the organic material. The gas in the fractures is produced immediately; the gas adsorbed onto organic material is released as the formation pressure declines.

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  o 5.8 Haynesville Shale, Louisiana
Environment

Chemicals are added to the water to facilitate the underground fracturing process that releases natural gas. The resulting volume of contaminated water is generally kept in above-ground ponds to await removal by tanker or injected back into the earth.

Economics

Although shale gas has been produced for more than 100 years in the Appalachian Basin and the Illinois Basin, the wells were often economically marginal. Higher natural gas prices in recent years and advances in hydraulic fracturing and horizontal completions have made shale gas wells more profitable. Shale gas tends to cost more to produce than gas from conventional wells, because of the expense of massive hydraulic fracturing treatments required to produce shale gas, and of horizontal drilling.

The prices required to make drilling and producing shale gas economic are different for each shale area. One study concluded that a wellhead gas price above $4.25 per thousand cubic feet (MCF) was required to make wells completed in the Fayetteville Shale in Arkansas economic, while wells to the Woodford Shale in Oklahoma required a price above $6.50.[3] Another study concluded that the Fayetteville shale required a NYMEX gas price above $5.95 per million British thermal units (MMBTU), and the Woodford shale a price above $7.24; the same study arrived at break-even NYMEX prices of between $5.40 to $7.39 for the Barnett, and $6.31 for Appalachian gas shale.[4] (The conclusions might appear to be different, but one is in terms of
wellhead price per MCF, and the other study is in terms of NYMEX price per MMBTU).

To date, all successful shale gas wells have been in rocks of Paleozoic and Mesozoic age.

North America has been the leader in developing and producing shale gas because of high gas prices in that market. The great economic success of the Barnett Shale play in Texas in particular has spurred the search for other sources of shale gas across the United States and Canada.

Canada

Canada has a number of prospective shale gas targets in various stages of exploration and exploitation in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Quebec, and Nova Scotia.[5]

Utica Shale, Quebec

The Ordovician Utica Shale in Quebec potentially holds $4 \times 10^{12}$ cu ft (110 km³) at production rates of 1 MMCF per day[6][7]. Gastem, one of the Utica shale producers, has announced plans to explore for Utica Shale gas across the border in New York state.[8]

The Quebec shale play focuses on an area south of the St. Lawrence River between Montreal and Quebec City. Interest has grown in the region since Denver-based Forest Oil Corp. announced a significant discovery there after testing two vertical wells. Forest Oil said its Quebec assets may hold as much as four trillion cubic feet of gas reserves, and that the Utica shale has similar rock properties to the Barnett shale in Texas. Quebec has been known to have natural gas reserves, but advanced horizontal drilling techniques and higher gas prices are only now making the play potentially economically viable, observers say.[citation needed] Forest Oil, which has several junior partners in the region, will drill three horizontal wells in Quebec this summer. It has targeted its first production for next year, and full-scale drilling for 2010. Calgary-based Talisman Energy Inc. also plans to drill in Quebec in late summer.
Muskwa Shale, British Columbia

The Devonian Muskwa Shale of the Horn River Basin in northeast British Columbia is said to contain $6 \times 10^{12}$ cu ft ($170 \text{ km}^3$) of recoverable gas. Major leaseholders in the play are EOG Resources, Encana, and Apache Corp.[9] The government of British Columbia recently announced lease proceeds for 2008 to be in excess of CDN$2.2 billion, a record high for the province, with the majority of the proceeds coming from shale gas prospects.

Montney Shale, British Columbia

The Montney Shale play is in east-central British Columbia.[10]

Horton Bluff Shale, Nova Scotia

In 2009, Triangle Petroleum Corporation completed two gas wells in the Horton Bluff Shale, of the Windsor Basin, Nova Scotia.[11]

Europe

While Europe has no shale gas production as yet, the success of shale gas in North America has prompted geologists in a number of European countries to examine the productive possibilities of their own organic-rich shales.[12] Potential host formations for shale gas include shales in northeast France,[13] the Alum Shale in Northern Europe and Carboniferous shales in Germany and the Netherlands.[14]

Shell Oil is evaluating the viability of the Alum Shale in southern Sweden as a source of shale gas.[15][16]

Eurenergy Resource Corporation has announced plans to drill for shale gas in southern England’s Weald Basin.[17]

ConocoPhillips has announced plans to explore for shale gas in Poland.[18]

United States
The first commercial gas wells drilled in the US, starting in 1821 in Fredonia, New York, produced gas from shales. After the Drake Oil Well in 1859, however, shale gas production was overshadowed by much larger volumes produced from conventional gas reservoirs.

In 1996, shale gas wells in the United States produced 0.3 TCF (trillion cubic feet), 1.6% of US gas production; by 2006, production had more than tripled to 1.1 TCF per year, 5.9% of US gas production. By 2005 there were 14,990 shale gas wells in the US. A record 4,185 shale gas wells were completed in the US in 2007. In 2007, shale gas fields included the #2 (Barnett/Newark East) and #13 (Antrim) sources of natural gas in the United States in terms of gas volumes produced.

**Antrim Shale, Michigan**

The Antrim Shale of Upper Devonian age produces along a belt across the northern part of the Michigan Basin. Although the Antrim Shale has produced gas since the 1940s, the play was not active until the late 1980s. During the 1990s, the Antrim became the most actively drilled shale gas play in the US, with thousands of wells drilled. To date, the shale has produced more than 2.5 TCF from more than 9 thousand wells. Antrim Shale wells produced almost $1.4 \times 10^9$ cu ft ($4.0 \times 10^9$ m$^3$) in 2006. The shale appears to be most economic at depths of 1,000-2,000 feet. Wells are developed on 80-acre (320,000 m$^2$) units. Horizontal drilling is not widely used. Unlike other shale gas plays such as the Barnett Shale, the natural gas from the Antrim appears to be biogenic gas generated by the action of bacteria on the organic-rich rock.

In 2007, the Antrim gas field produced 136 billion cubic feet of gas, making it the 13th largest source of natural gas in the United States.

**Barnett Shale, Texas**

Barnett Shale gas drilling rig near Alvarado, Texas (2008)
The Barnett Shale of the Fort Worth Basin is the most active shale gas play in the United States. The first Barnett Shale well was completed in 1981 in Wise County.[24] Drilling expanded greatly in the past several years due to higher natural gas prices and use of horizontal wells to increase production. In contrast to older shale gas plays, such as the Antrim Shale, the New Albany Shale, and the Ohio Shale, the Barnett Shale completions are much deeper (up to 8,000 feet). The thickness of the Barnett varies from 100 to 1,000 feet (300 m), but most economic wells are located where the shale is between 300 and 600 feet (180 m) thick. The success of the Barnett has spurred exploration of other deep shales.

In 2007, the Barnett shale (Newark East) gas field produced 1.11 trillion cubic feet of gas, making it the second-largest source of natural gas in the United States.[25] The Barnett shale currently produces more than 6% of US natural gas production.[26]

Texas Shale Forum


Conesauqua Shale, Alabama

Wells are currently being drilled to produce gas from the Cambrian Conasauga shale in northern Alabama.[27] Activity is in St. Clair, Etowah, and Cullman counties.[28]

Fayetteville Shale, Arkansas
The Mississippian Fayetteville Shale produces gas in the Arkansas part of the Arkoma Basin. The productive section varies in thickness from 50 to 550 feet (170 m), and in depth from 1500 to 6,500 feet (2,000 m). The shale gas was originally produced through vertical wells, but operators are increasingly going to horizontal wells in the Fayetteville. Producers include SEECO a subsidiary of Southwestern Energy Co. who discovered the play, Chesapeake Energy, Noble Energy Corp., XTO Energy Inc., Contango Oil & Gas Co., Edge Petroleum Corp., Triangle Petroleum Corp., and Kerogen Resources Inc.[29]

*Geology.Com: Fayetteville shale
*Fayetteville shale: reducing environmental impacts

**Floyd Shale, Alabama**

The Floyd Shale of Mississippian age is a current gas exploration target in the Black Warrior Basin of northern Alabama and Mississippi.[2][3]

**Gothic Shale, Colorado**

Bill Barrett Corporation has drilled and completed several gas wells in the Gothic Shale. The wells are in Montezuma County, Colorado, in the southeast part of the Paradox basin. A horizontal well in the Gothic flowed 5,700 MCF per day.[30]

**Haynesville Shale, Louisiana**

Although the Jurassic Haynesville Shale of northwest Louisiana has produced gas since 1905, it has been the focus of modern shale gas activity only since a gas discovery drilled by Cubic Energy in November 2007. The Cubic Energy discovery was followed by a March 2008 announcement by Chesapeake Energy that it had completed a Haynesville Shale gas well.[31] Haynesville shale wells have also been drilled in northeast Texas, where it is also known as the Bossier Shale.

*Geology.Com: Haynesville Shale: news, map, videos, lease and
New Albany Shale, Illinois Basin

The Devonian-Mississippian New Albany Shale produces gas in the southeast Illinois Basin in Illinois, Indiana, and Kentucky. The New Albany has been a gas producer in this area for more than 100 years, but recent higher gas prices and improved well completion technology have increased drilling activity. Wells are 250 to 2,000 feet (610 m) deep.[4] The gas is described as having a mixed biogenic and thermogenic origin.

Pearsall Shale, Texas

Operators have completed approximately 50 wells in the Pearsall Shale in the Maverick Basin of south Texas. The most active company in the play has been TXCO Resources, although EnCana and Anadarko Petroleum have also acquired large land positions in the basin.[32] The gas wells had all been vertical until 2008, when TXCO drilled and completed a number of horizontal wells.[33]

Upper Devonian shales, Appalachian Basin

Drilling a horizontal shale gas well in Appalachia

The upper Devonian shales of the Appalachian Basin, which are known by different names in different areas have produced gas since the early 20th century. The main producing area straddles the state lines of Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky, but extends through central Ohio and along Lake Erie into the panhandle of Pennsylvania. More than 20,000 wells produce gas from Devonian shales in the basin. The wells are commonly 3,000 to 5,000 feet (1,500 m) deep. The shale most commonly produced is the Chattanooga Shale, also called the Ohio Shale. [34] The US Geological Survey estimated a total resource of 12.2 trillion cubic feet (350 km3) of natural gas in Devonian black shales from Kentucky to New York[5]
The Marcellus shale in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and New York, once thought to be played out, is now estimated to hold 168-516 TCF still available with horizontal drilling.[35] It has been suggested that the Marcellus shale and other Devonian shales of the Appalachian Basin, could supply the northeast U.S. with natural gas.[36] In November 2008, Chesapeake Energy, which held 1.8 million net acres of oil and gas leases in the Marcellus trend, sold a 32.5% interest in its leases to StatoilHydro of Norway, for $3.375 billion.[37]

*Geology.Com: Marcellus shale
*Go Marcellus Shale A forum for the Marcellus Shale.
*Mammoth resource partners

**Woodford Shale, Oklahoma**

The Devonian Woodford Shale in Oklahoma is from 50 to 300 feet (91 m) thick. Although the first gas production was recorded in 1939, by late 2004, there were only 24 Woodford Shale gas wells. By early 2008, there were more than 750 Woodford gas wells.[38] [6] Like many shale gas plays, the Woodford started with vertical wells, then became dominantly a play of horizontal wells. The play is mostly in the Arkoma Basin of southeast Oklahoma, but some drilling has extended the play west into the Anadarko Basin and south into the Ardmore Basin.[39] The largest gas producer from the Woodford is Newfield Exploration; other operators include Devon Energy, Chesapeake Energy, Cimarex Energy, Antero Resources, St. Mary Land and Exploration, XTO Energy, Pablo Energy, Petroquest Energy, Continental Resources, and Range Resources.


References


6. ^ Forest Oil Corporation – Press Releases and Notices

7. ^ Press release > Investors > Junex


10. ^ Study analyzes nine US, Canada shale gas plays, Oil and gas Journal, 10 Nov. 2008, p.50.


35. ^ Unconventional natural gas reservoir in Pennsylvania poised to dramatically increase US Production 2008-01-17


External links
* Jackson School of Geosciences (Jan. 2007): Barnett Boom Ignites Hunt for Unconventional Gas Resources
* AAPG Explorer (Mar. 2001): Shale Gas Exciting Again
* Oil and Gas Investor (Jan. 2006): Shale Gas
* Centre for Energy: What is Shale Gas?
* US Energy Investor (1 Jan 2005): The Bright Future of Shale Gas
* Marcellus Shale: horizontal drilling and hydrofracing
* The Haynesville Shale of Louisiana, Texas and Arkansas


Categories: Natural gas fields | Energy in the United States | Petroleum


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250px-Horizontal_Drilling_Rig.jpg
Drilling a horizontal shale gas well in Appalachia

500px-Shaleusa2.jpg

[http://www.petroleumhistory.ca/history/links.html](http://www.petroleumhistory.ca/history/links.html)

Petroleum History – Canadian site but includes links to US info sparsely

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[http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/natamain/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/natamain/index.html)

National Air Toxics Assessments

What is NATA?

The National-Scale Air Toxics Assessment (NATA) is EPA’s ongoing comprehensive evaluation of air toxics in the U.S. EPA developed the NATA as a state-of-the-science screening tool for
State/Local/Tribal Agencies to prioritize pollutants, emission sources and locations of interest for further study in order to gain a better understanding of risks. NATA assessments do not incorporate refined information about emission sources, but rather, use general information about sources to develop estimates of risks which are more likely to overestimate impacts than underestimates them.

NATA provides estimates of the risk of cancer and other serious health effects from breathing (inhaling) air toxics in order to inform both national and more localized efforts to identify and prioritize air toxics, emission source types and locations which are of greatest potential concern in terms of contributing to population risk. This in turn helps air pollution experts focus limited analytical resources on areas and or populations where the potential for health risks are highest.

Assessments include estimates of cancer and non-cancer health effects based on chronic exposure from outdoor sources, including assessments of non-cancer health effects for Diesel Particulate Matter (PM). Assessments provide a snapshot of the outdoor air quality and the risks to human health that would result if air toxic emissions levels remained unchanged.

How do I access NATA assessments?

EPA has completed three assessments that characterize the nationwide chronic cancer risk estimates and noncancer hazards from inhaling air toxics. The latest, the 2002 NATA, was made available to the public in June of 2009. You can access any of the NATA assessments by clicking below on the specific year of interest.

* 2002 National-Scale Air Toxics Assessment
* 1999 National-Scale Air Toxics Assessment
* 1996 National-Scale Air Toxics Assessment

Why was NATA developed?
The NATA assessments were designed to help guide efforts to cut toxic air pollution and build upon the already significant emissions reductions achieved in the US since 1990.

NATA was developed as a tool to inform both national and more localized efforts to collect air toxics information, characterize emissions, and help prioritize pollutants/geographic areas of interest for more refined data collection and analyses.

The goal is to identify those air toxics which are of greatest potential concern in terms of contribution to population risk. Ambient and exposure concentrations, and estimates of risk and hazard for air toxics in each State are typically generated at the census tract level.

What NATA is not.

NATA results provide answers to questions about emissions, ambient air concentrations, exposures and risks across broad geographic areas (such as counties, states and the Nation) at a moment in time. As such, they help the EPA identify specific air toxics compounds, and specific source sectors such as stationary sources or mobile sources, which generally produce the highest exposures and risks in the country.

These assessments are based on assumptions and methods that limit the range of questions that can be answered reliably. The results cannot be used to identify exposures and risks for specific individuals, or even to identify exposures and risks in small geographic regions such as a specific census block, i.e., hotspots.

These assessments use emissions data for a single year as inputs to models which will yield concentration and risk estimates. These estimates reflect chronic exposures resulting from the inhalation of the air toxics emitted and do not consider exposures which may occur indoors or as a result of exposures other than inhalation, i.e., dermal or ingestion.
Note that in this assessment, the potential carcinogenic risk from diesel PM is not addressed because there currently is no unit risk estimate available.

**Estimated County Level Carcinogenic Risk (PDF) (1 pg, 2.1 MB)** – PDF version of map below.

[Map of Estimated County Level Carcinogenic Risk](http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/natamain/index.html)

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**Estimated County Level Noncancer (Respiratory) Risk (PDF) (1 pg, 2.1 MB)** – PDF version of map below.

[Map of Estimated County Level Noncancer (Respiratory) Risk](http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/natamain/index.html)

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The Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 List of Hazardous Air Pollutants

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1332214 Asbestos
71432 Benzene (including benzene from gasoline)
92875 Benzidine
98077 Benzotrichloride
100447 Benzyl chloride
92524 Biphenyl
117817 Bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate (DEHP)
542881 Bis(chloromethyl)ether
75252 Bromoform
106990 1,3-Butadiene
156627 Calcium cyanamide
105602 Caprolactam(See Modification)
133062 Captan
63252 Carbaryl
75150 Carbon disulfide
56235 Carbon tetrachloride
463581 Carbonyl sulfide
120809 Catechol
133904 Chloramben
57749 Chlordane
7782505 Chlorine
79118 Chloroacetic acid
532274 2-Chloroacetophenone
108907 Chlorobenzene
510156 Chlorobenzilate
67663 Chloroform
107302 Chloromethyl methyl ether
126998 Chloroprene
1319773 Cresols/Cresylic acid (isomers and mixture)
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108394 m-Cresol
106445 p-Cresol
98828 Cumene
94757 2,4-D, salts and esters
3547044 DDE
334883 Diazomethane
132649 Dibenzofurans
96128 1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane
84742 Dibutylphthalate
106467 1,4-Dichlorobenzene(p)
91941 3,3-Dichlorobenzidene
111444 Dichloroethyl ether (Bis(2-chloroethyl)ether)
542756 1,3-Dichloropropene
62737 Dichlorvos
111422 Diethanolamine
121697 N,N-Diethyl aniline (N,N-Dimethylaniline)
64675 Diethyl sulfate
119904 3,3-Dimethoxybenzidine
60117 Dimethyl aminoazobenzene
119937 3,3-Dimethyl benzidine
79447 Dimethyl carbamoyl chloride
68122 Dimethyl formamide
57147 1,1-Dimethyl hydrazine
131113 Dimethyl phthalate
77781 Dimethyl sulfate
534521 4,6-Dinitro-o-cresol, and salts
51285 2,4-Dinitrophenol
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122667 1,2-Diphenylhydrazine
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51796 Ethyl carbamate (Urethane)
75003 Ethyl chloride (Chloroethane)
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107211 Ethylene glycol
151564 Ethylene imine (Aziridine)
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<td>2,4-Toluene diamine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>584849</td>
<td>2,4-Toluene diisocyanate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95534</td>
<td>o-Toluidine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8001352</td>
<td>Toxaphene (chlorinated camphene)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>120821</td>
<td>1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79005</td>
<td>1,1,2-Trichloroethane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79016</td>
<td>Trichloroethylene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95954</td>
<td>2,4,5-Trichlorophenol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88062</td>
<td>2,4,6-Trichlorophenol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>121448</td>
<td>Triethylamine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1582098</td>
<td>Trifluralin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
540841 2,2,4-Trimethylpentane
108054 Vinyl acetate
593602 Vinyl bromide
75014 Vinyl chloride
75354 Vinylidene chloride (1,1-Dichloroethylene)
1330207 Xylenes (isomers and mixture)
95476 o-Xylenes
108383 m-Xylenes
106423 p-Xylenes
0 Antimony Compounds
0 Arsenic Compounds (inorganic including arsine)
0 Beryllium Compounds
0 Cadmium Compounds
0 Chromium Compounds
0 Cobalt Compounds
0 Coke Oven Emissions
0 Cyanide Compounds1
0 Glycol ethers2
0 Lead Compounds
0 Manganese Compounds
0 Mercury Compounds
0 Fine mineral fibers3
0 Nickel Compounds
0 Polycyclic Organic Matter4
0 Radionuclides (including radon)5
0 Selenium Compounds

NOTE: For all listings above which contain the word compounds and for glycol ethers, the following applies: Unless otherwise specified, these listings are defined as including any unique chemical substance that contains the named chemical (i.e., antimony, arsenic, etc.) as part of that chemical's infrastructure.
1 X'CN where X = H' or any other group where a formal dissociation may occur. For example KCN or Ca(CN)2
2 Includes mono- and di-ethers of ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, and triethylene glycol R-(OCH2CH2)n-OR' where n = 1, 2, or 3
R = alkyl or aryl groups
R’ = R, H, or groups which, when removed, yield glycol ethers with the structure: R-(OCH2CH)n-OH. Polymers are excluded from the glycol category. (See Modification)

3 Includes mineral fiber emissions from facilities manufacturing or processing glass, rock, or slag fibers (or other mineral derived fibers) of average diameter 1 micrometer or less.

4 Includes organic compounds with more than one benzene ring, and which have a boiling point greater than or equal to 100 °C.

5 A type of atom which spontaneously undergoes radioactive decay.

If you are aware of, or participate in, any air toxics emission reduction activities in your community please feel free to contact us.

http://www.epa.gov/ttn/tnw/orig189.html

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Estimated County Level Carcinogenic Risk (PDF) (1 pg, 2.1 MB) – PDF version of map below.
2002NATACancerRiskMonoColor.jpg

Estimated County Level Noncancer (Neurological) Risk (PDF) (1 pg, 2.1 MB) – PDF version of map below.
2002NATANonCancerNeuroRiskMonoColor.jpg

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Diesel Particulate Matter:

Diesel Particulate Matter (PM) is a mixture of particles that is a component of diesel exhaust. EPA lists diesel exhaust as a mobile source air toxic due to the cancer and noncancer health
effects associated with exposure to whole diesel exhaust. EPA believes that exposure to whole diesel exhaust is best described, as many researchers have done over the years, by diesel particulate concentrations.

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A computerized set of mathematical equations that uses emissions and meteorological information to simulate the behavior and movement of air pollutants in the atmosphere. The results of a dispersion model are estimated outdoor concentrations of individual air pollutants at specified locations.

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This modeling system processes the National Emission Inventory to provide model-ready emissions for input into the ASPEN model. These inputs consist of tract-level emissions and point source emissions for each toxic air pollutant, temporalized into eight 3-hour time blocks for an annually-averaged year. For purposes of this tool, the EMS-HAP temporalized emission outputs are summed into annual emissions.

Exposure assessment:
Identifying the ways in which chemicals may reach individuals (e.g., by breathing); estimating how much of a chemical an individual is likely to be exposed to; and estimating the number of individuals likely to be exposed.

[etc.]
TRI Early Data Sharing

EPA has adopted a new strategy to provide the public with quicker access to the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) data. The data sets provided below are only preliminary, but some may want to use them for study and analysis. EPA encourages this use but also cautions users to review and understand the limitations of the data. The Agency will release the data incrementally as they are processed through the reporting system, and updates will be posted on this page.

My Note –

They have the audacity to tell me not to eat sugar, not to smoke, not to drink and demand my allegiance and my financial means to line the pockets of the insurance companies in order to be an American citizen who is not in jail? While spending my money and my fellow citizens’ moneys to look the other way when our food and water is dangerously tainted and filthy, while our air is filled with radioactive crap and with these huge chemistry experiments from manufacturers and government pollution, while sitting below dams that are so grossly in need of repair that even China, Africa or India wouldn’t tolerate them in their countries, and while living with the sorriest
ignorant and incompetent decision-making and policy choices in the history of mankind? And, supposedly that sugar I put in my coffee is the important thing...

And, while I'm at it—what kind of health care reform lines the pockets of profiteering greedy bastards without conscience, while leaving the United States with a health care system unfit for even a dog—and that's disgusting.

*Any leader in the world wouldn't take their dog to our hospitals or “health care industry providers” intended for people, let alone someone they love. And that health care system and its disregard for good medicine, good practices, and good health isn’t getting fixed by anybody even as it takes more lives every single day than any war we’ve ever fought. Who the hell are these people who are deciding for us?*

– cricketdiane

***

And lastly—this note

“Medical errors are the not only way that consumers are harmed. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 2 million people annually acquire infections while hospitalized and 90,000 people die from those infections. More than 70 percent of hospital-acquired infections have become resistant to at least one of the drugs commonly used to treat them, largely due to the overprescribing of antibiotics by physicians. Staph, the leading cause of hospital infections, is now resistant to 95 percent of first-choice antibiotics and 30 percent of second-choice antibiotics. Poor staff hygiene is considered the leading source for infections acquired during hospitalizations. But efforts to get medical workers to improve safety through things as simple as better and more frequent hand washing have met with little success.”

*The report’s authors concluded that 44,000 to 98,000 people die each year as a result of errors during hospitalization.* They noted that “even when using the lower estimate, deaths due to medical errors exceed the number attributable to the 8th-leading cause of death.” The addition of non-hospital errors may drive the numbers of errors and deaths much higher. As the authors note, the hospital data “offer only a very modest estimate of the magnitude of the problem since hospital patients represent only a small proportion of the total population at risk, and direct hospital costs are only a fraction of total costs.”

[from –]


[more about this –]

Sources of iatrogenesis

Examples of iatrogenesis:

- medical error, poor prescription handwriting
- negligence
- faulty procedures, techniques, information, or methods
- prescription drug interaction
- adverse effects of prescription drugs
- over-use of drugs leading to antibiotic resistance in bacteria
- nosocomial infection
- blood transfusion
- harmful emotional distress from the ascription of mental pathology nomenclature for transient personal problems


***

In the United States alone, recorded deaths per year (2000):

- 12,000—unnecessary surgery
- 7,000—medication errors in hospitals
- 20,000—other errors in hospitals
- 80,000—infections in hospitals
- 106,000—non-error, negative effects of drugs

Based on these figures, 225,000 deaths per year constitutes the third leading cause of death in the United States, after deaths from heart disease and cancer. Also, there is a wide margin between these numbers of deaths and the next leading cause of death (cerebrovascular disease).

This totals 225,000 deaths per year from iatrogenic causes. In interpreting these numbers, note the following:

- most data were derived from studies in hospitalized patients.
- the estimates are for deaths only and do not include negative effects that are associated with disability or discomfort.
- the estimates of death due to error are lower than those in the IOM report. If higher estimates are used, the deaths due to iatrogenic causes would range from 230,000 to 284,000. [1]

And one more reason that “two-faced bastards” are too costly to tolerate – ]
From October 2004 to January 2006, wastewater and storm water runoff coming from the lab had increased levels of chromium, dioxin, lead, mercury and other pollutants, the water board said. The contaminated water flowed into Bell Creek and the Los Angeles River in violation of a July 1, 2004, permit that allowed release of wastewater and storm water runoff as long as it didn’t contain high levels of pollutants.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santa_Susana_Field_Laboratory

Federal and state regulation of the quality of bottled water. FDA’s bottled water standard of quality regulations generally mirror EPA’s national primary drinking water regulations under the Safe Drinking Water Act, as required by the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA) as amended, although the case of DEHP (an organic compound widely used in the manufacture of polyvinyl chloride plastics) is a notable exception.

Specifically, FDA deferred action on DEHP in a final rule published in 1996, and has yet to either adopt a standard or publish a reason for not doing so, even though FDA’s statutory deadline for acting on DEHP was more than 15 years ago. More broadly, we found that FDA’s regulation of bottled water (including its implementation and enforcement), particularly when compared with EPA’s regulation of tap water, reveals key differences in the agencies’ statutory authorities. Of particular note, FDA does not have the specific statutory authority to require bottlers to use certified laboratories for water quality tests or to report test results, even if violations of the standards are found. Among our other findings, the states’ requirements to safeguard bottled water often exceed those of FDA, but are still often less comprehensive than state requirements to safeguard tap water.
Phthalates are a class of chemical compounds primarily used as a plasticizer, added to plastics to increase flexibility, transparency, durability, and longevity and found in a variety of food containers and packaging.

We specifically cited FDA's resource constraints, noting in 2008 that while the number of domestic firms under FDA's jurisdiction increased from fiscal years 2001 through 2007 from about 51,000 firms to more than 65,500, the number of firms inspected declined from 14,721 to 14,566 during the same period. We cited resource constraints as a contributing factor, noting that the number of full-time-equivalent positions at FDA devoted to food safety oversight had decreased by about 19 percent from fiscal years 2003 through 2007.

Ultimately, as our January 2007 report recommended, a fundamental reexamination of the federal food safety system will be needed to look across the activities of individual programs within specific agencies with responsibilities related to food safety.

*Toward that end, we had previously recommended in 2001 that the Congress, among other things, enact comprehensive, uniform, and risk-based food safety legislation and commission the National Academy of Sciences or a blue-ribbon panel to analyze alternative organizational food safety structures in detail.*


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MY note – apparently the US doesn’t need to be obliterated by some threat from terrorists or enemy combatant or national enemy or by any country that hates us – why waste their time and energy, when our ineptitude, misapplication of scientific, engineering, policy, corporate and basic safety principles along with corporate unbridled greed without conscience will do it for them . . . – cricketdiane, 10-04-09
US infrastructure crumbling while money continues to flow into the Middle East and around the world to build infrastructure for our enemies – air quality, pollution, global warming, US infrastructure, Afghanistan and Iraq –

The economic well-being of the United States is dependent on the reliability, safety, and security of its physical infrastructure. The nation’s infrastructure is vast and affects the daily lives of virtually all Americans. In total, there are about 4 million miles of roads, 117,000 miles of rail, 600,000 bridges, 79,000 dams, 26,000 miles of commercially navigable waterways, 11,000 miles of transit lines, 500 train stations, 300 ports, 19,000 airports, 55,000 community drinking water systems, and 30,000


my note –

It is missing the natural gas, petroleum facilities and pipelines, the electricity generating facilities – hydroelectric, coal-fired and nuclear / atomic plants, and national parks, preserves and lands

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http://www.epa.gov/ttn/chief/eiinformation.html

EPA – US Emission Inventory System

http://www.epa.gov/ttn/airs/airsaqs/aqslinks.htm

Related Links

Air Pollution Data Sources is a page that provides a summary (including links) of all EPA data systems with air quality and emissions data (reports, maps, and other summaries).

AIRData access to annual summaries of air pollution data.

AIRNOW is the EPA site with current Air Quality Index (AQI) levels indicating how clean the air is and whether it will affect your health.

AQS Data Mart is a storehouse of air quality information designed to make air quality data more accessible and useful to the scientific and technical community.
Air Explorer is a collection of user-friendly visualization tools for air quality analysts. The tools generate maps, graphs, and data tables dynamically.

CDX (Central Data Exchange) is the EPA’s electronic reporting site.

State and Local Air/Environmental Agencies links to regional, state and local agency pages.

AMTIC (Ambient Monitoring Technology Information Center) contains information and files on ambient air quality monitoring programs, details on monitoring methods, relevant documents and articles, information on air quality trends and nonattainment areas, and federal regulations related to ambient air quality monitoring.

CHIEF (Clearinghouse for Inventories and Emissions Factors) is the EPA site that includes the NEI (National Emissions Inventory) database. The NEI replaces AFS as the EPA’s repository of air emissions information for facilities, area, and mobile sources.

AFS (AIRS Facility Subsystem) formerly a subsystem of the Aerometric Information Retrieval System (AIRS) now operated and maintained by the EPA’s Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA).

The following links are pointers to other hosts and locations on the Internet. This information is provided as a service. However, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency does not endorse, approve or otherwise support the non-EPA sites. Link to EPA’s External Link Disclaimer

Exchange Network for AQS data exchange (Node to node)

ECOS (Environmental Council of the States)

NACAA (National Association of Clean Air Agencies, formerly
The Air Quality System (AQS) is EPA’s repository of ambient air quality data. AQS stores data from over 10,000 monitors, 5000 of which are currently active. As discussed in more detail elsewhere, State, Local and Tribal agencies collect the data and submit it to AQS on a periodic basis.

Information on Unsafe Conditions at Specific Dams Located on Federal Lands
RCED-83-209 August 1, 1983
Full Report (PDF, 13 pages)

Summary

In response to a congressional request, GAO provided information on safety deficiencies identified at four dams on National Park Service and Forest Service lands, the status of agency actions to correct the identified safety deficiencies, and the reasons for failure to take corrective actions.

GAO found that, although Federal officials have been aware of
the unsafe conditions at these dams for at least 4 years, only minimal corrective action has been taken to repair the dams. Interim actions have not been taken to diminish the dangers posed by the dams pending their repair. The Park Service has not taken this action because, while it agrees with the assessment of the danger the dams present, it does not believe that the conditions justify immediate repair. Furthermore, it does not believe that interim action, such as lowering the level of the lake, would diminish the dangers enough to justify reducing the benefits provided by the dams. The Forest Service has not required the private owner of one dam to take all of the recommended actions because the regional forester decided in 1980 that it would not be fair to hold owners responsible until Federal or State funding became available to prove the extent of the unsafe conditions. Forest Service officials agreed to review the adequacy of this decision after GAO brought it to their attention.

Related Searches
Related terms:
Dam safety
Maintenance (upkeep)
Public lands
Repairs


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http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-08-763T

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d08763t.pdf

GAO Physical Infrastructure
Challenges and Investment Options for the Nation’s Infrastructure

Thursday, May 8, 2008

Testimony before the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, U.S. House of Representatives

Statement of Patricia a. Dalton, Managing Director
Physical Infrastructure Issues

GAO-08-763T
(37 Pages)

also see –

Also –
GAO, State and Local Governments: Persistent Fiscal Challenges Will Likely Emerge within the Next Decade, GAO-07-1080SP (Washington, D.C.: July 18, 2007)

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In the Background Section –
“The economic well-being of the United States is dependent on the reliability, safety, and security of its physical infrastructure. The nation’s infrastructure is vast and affects the daily lives of virtually all Americans. In total, there are about 4 million miles of roads, 117,000 miles of rail, 600,000 bridges, 79,000 dams, 26,000 miles of commercially navigable waterways, 11,000 miles of transit lines, 500 train stations, 300 ports, 19,000 airports, 55,000 community drinking water systems, and 30,000
wastewater treatment and collection facilities. Collectively, this infrastructure connects communities, facilitates trade, provides clean drinking water, and protects public health, among other things.

“The nation’s infrastructure is primarily owned and operated by state and local governments and the private sector. For example, state and local governments own about 98 percent of the nation’s bridges and the private sector owns almost all freight railroad infrastructure. The federal government owns a limited amount of infrastructure – for instance, the federal government owns and operates the nation’s air traffic control infrastructure. In addition, through its oversight role, the federal government plays an important role in ensuring the safety, security, and reliability of the nation’s infrastructure. Table 1 provides information on infrastructure ownership.”

(About 3,400 of these airports are in the national airport system.)

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Table 1: Physical Infrastructure Ownership

Surface Transportation
* Ninety-seven percent of the nation’s roads and highways are owned by state and local governments, with local governments owning approximately 77 percent of the miles of roadway.

* About 98 percent of the nation’s bridges are owned by state and local governments.

* Most transit systems are owned and operated by public agencies that are created by state and local governments.

* Most freight railroad infrastructure is owned by private freight railroads. The federal government owns about 650 miles of
Amtrak's 22,000-mile rail network.

* The maritime transportation infrastructure, including ports, is generally owned and operated by state and local agencies and private companies. Many ports are publicly owned and privately operated.

Aviation –

* Most commercial service airports are owned by local or state governments, either directly or through an authority, a quasi-governmental body established to operate the airport.

* Air traffic control facilities are owned by the federal government.

Water –

* About half of the nation’s drinking water systems and an estimated 20 percent of the wastewater systems are privately owned. Private owners range from homeowners’ associations, mobile home parks, and other entities whose primary business is unrelated to water supply or wastewater treatment, to larger investor-owned companies. Publicly owned drinking water systems and wastewater utilities are owned by municipalities, townships, counties, water or sewer districts, and water or sewer authorities.

Dams (including levees) –

* The majority of dams in the United States are privately owned. The federal government owns and operates about 5 percent of the nation’s dams.

* Levees are typically constructed by the federal government, and local governments are responsible for their operation and maintenance.

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“Funding for the nation’s infrastructure comes from a variety of federal, state, local, and private sources. For example, the private and local public owners of water infrastructure as well as multiple federal agencies fund drinking water and wastewater capital improvements. As owners of the infrastructure, state and local governments and the private sector generally account for a larger share of funding for infrastructure than the federal government. However, the federal government has played and continues to play an important role in funding infrastructure. For example:

* From 1954 through 2001, the federal government invested over $370 Billion (in 2001 dollars) in the Interstate Highway System.

* Federal Airport Improvement Program grants provided an average of $3.6 Billion annually (in 2006 dollars) for airport capital improvements between 2001 and 2005.

* From fiscal year 1991 through fiscal year 2000, nine federal agencies provided about $44 Billion (in 2000 dollars) for drinking water and wastewater capital improvements.

* Through the NEW STARTS program, the federal government provided over $10 Billion in capital funds for new fixed-guideway transit (e.g., commuter rail and subway) projects between fiscal year 1998 and fiscal year 2007.

“To increase the nation’s long-term productivity and growth, the federal government invests in various activities and sectors,
including infrastructure. While providing long-term benefits to the nation as a whole, much of this spending does not result in federal ownership of the infrastructure assets. For the most part, the federal government supports infrastructure investments through federal subsidies to other levels of government or the private sector. To address concerns about the state of the nation’s infrastructure, Members of Congress have introduced several bills that are intended to increase investment in the nation’s infrastructure by, for example, issuing bonds and providing tax credits for infrastructure investments. (See Table 2)


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Physical Infrastructure: Challenges and Investment Options for the Nation’s Infrastructure
GAO-08-763T May 8, 2008
Highlights Page (PDF) Full Report (PDF, 34 pages) Accessible Text

Summary

Physical infrastructure is critical to the nation’s economy and affects the daily life of virtually all Americans—from facilitating the movement of goods and people within and beyond U.S. borders to providing clean drinking water. However, this infrastructure—including aviation, highway, transit, rail, water, and dam infrastructure—is under strain. Estimates to repair, replace, or upgrade aging infrastructure as well as expand capacity to meet increased demand top hundreds of billions of dollars. Calls for increased investment in infrastructure come at a time when traditional funding for infrastructure projects is increasingly strained, and the federal government’s fiscal outlook is worse than many may understand. This testimony discusses (1) challenges associated with the nation’s surface transportation, aviation, water, and dam infrastructure, and the
The nation faces a host of serious infrastructure challenges. Demand has outpaced the capacity of our nation’s surface transportation and aviation systems, resulting in decreased performance and reliability. In addition, water utilities are facing pressure to upgrade the nation’s aging and deteriorating water infrastructure to improve security, serve growing demands, and meet new regulatory requirements. Given these types of challenges and the federal government’s fiscal outlook, it is clear that the federal government cannot continue with business as usual. Rather, a fundamental reexamination of government programs, policies, and activities is needed. Through prior analyses of existing programs, GAO identified a number of principles that could guide a reexamination of federal infrastructure programs. These principles include: (1) creating well-defined goals based on identified areas of national interest, (2) establishing and clearly defining the federal role in achieving each goal, (3) incorporating performance and accountability into funding decisions, (4) employing the best tools and approaches to emphasize return on investment, and (5) ensuring fiscal sustainability. Various options are available to fund infrastructure investments. These options include altering existing or introducing new funding approaches and employing various financing mechanisms, such as bonds and loans. For example, a variety of taxes and user fees, such as tolling, can be used to help fund infrastructure projects. In addition, some have suggested including an infrastructure component in a future economic stimulus bill, which could provide a one-time infusion
of funds for infrastructure projects. Each of these options has different merits and challenges, and choosing among them will likely involve trade-offs among different policy goals. Furthermore, the suitability of the various options depends on the level of federal involvement or control that policymakers desire. However, as GAO has reported, when infrastructure investment decisions are made based on sound evaluations, these options can lead to an appropriate blend of public and private funds to match public and private costs and benefits. To help policymakers make explicit decisions about how much overall federal spending should be devoted to investment, GAO has previously proposed establishing an investment component within the unified budget.

http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-08-763T

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EPA: United States Environmental Protection Agency

http://www.epa.gov/epahome/data.html#Emissions

Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS): human health effects from chemical exposure.

Assessment Tools for the Evaluation of Risk (ASTER): Developed to assist regulators in performing ecological risk assessments by providing high quality data for discrete chemicals.

Sector Facility Indexing Project: Provides comprehensive information on the environmental performance of hundreds of facilities in five major industries.

Envirofacts: National information system that provides an integrated single point of access to data on Superfund sites, drinking water, toxic and air releases, hazardous waste, water discharge permits, and grants.
Toxic Release Inventory: Reports by industry of release of more than 650 chemicals.

Atmospheric Sciences Modeling Division – Part of NOAA’s Air Resources Laboratory, contains atmospheric emission models.

Reporting on Municipal Solid Waste: A Local Issue – Presents background information to assist print and broadcast media in understanding municipal solid waste (MSW) issues, including information sources, major laws affecting MSW management, MSW management state-by-state, and compounds and metals for groundwater detection monitoring.

Hazardous Waste Data – Access to information from the Resource Conservation and Recovery Information System (RCRIS) and the Biennial Reporting System (BRS).

REACH IT – This database contains information on over 500 remediation or site characterization technologies and over 900 technology applications in the Superfund and other Federal programs.

Factor Information Retrieval (FIRE) Data System – The Factor Information Retrieval (FIRE) Data System is a database management system containing EPA’s recommended emission estimation factors for criteria and hazardous air pollutants. FIRE includes information about industries and their emitting processes, the chemicals emitted, and the emission factors themselves. FIRE allows easy access to criteria and hazardous air pollutant emission factors obtained from the Compilation Of Air Pollutant Emission Factors (AP-42), Locating and Estimating (L and E) series documents, and the retired AFSEF and XATEF documents.

Envirofacts – EPA’s Data Warehouse – A national information system that provides a single point of access to data extracted from seven major EPA databases.

Software for Environmental Awareness – This site offers over 40
interactive software programs on environmental topics for free downloading.

Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS/FED) – EPA’s National regulatory database for the drinking water program, available through Envirofacts.

CERCLIS – The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Information System (CERCLIS) contains information on hazardous waste sites, site inspections, preliminary assessments, and remediation of hazardous waste sites.


National Response Center – Serves as the sole national point of contact for reporting all oil, chemical, radiological, biological, and etiological discharges into the environment anywhere in the United States and its territories, gathering and distributing spill data for Federal On-Scene Coordinators and serving as the communications and operations center for the National Response Team, maintains agreements with a variety of federal entities to make additional notifications regarding incidents meeting established trigger criteria. Data is made available to the general public under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and can now be queried on-line via their Web site.

Air Quality Subsystem (AQS) – Contains measurements of ambient concentrations of air pollutants and meteorological data from thousands of monitoring stations operated by EPA, state and local agencies.

AIRS Facility Subsystem (AFS) – Contains both emissions and compliance data on air pollution point sources regulated by the U.S. EPA and/or state and local air regulatory agencies.
AIRSData – Provides easy access to summaries of air monitoring data for the current and five prior years, the latest available estimates of air pollutant emissions from major point sources, the overall regulatory compliance status of those sources, and names of contacts in EPA and state/local air pollution agencies. All these data pertain to the criteria pollutants (carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, ozone, particulate matter, lead).

AIRS – Aerometric Information Retrieval System – AIRS is a computer-based repository of information about airborne pollution in the United States and various World Health Organization (WHO) member countries. Subsystems of AIRS include:

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Toxicity Information

* Hazard Information on Toxic Chemicals Added to EPCRA Section 313 Under Chemical Expansion.
This page provides summary hazard information on the 286 chemicals that were added to the Toxics Release Inventory in 1994. EPA has developed information summaries on 40 selected TRI chemicals to describe how you might be exposed to these chemicals, how exposure to them might affect you and the environment, what happens to them in the environment, who regulates them, and whom to contact for additional information.

* TRI Chemical Fact Sheets
Chemical fact sheets for many of the TRI chemicals are available from the collection of New Jersey’s Right to Know Hazardous Substance Fact Sheets.

* TRI Chemicals Classified as OSHA Carcinogens
This is a list of TRI chemicals that are classified as carcinogens under the requirements of the Occupation Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and, the basis of the classifications.
OSHA carcinogens have a 0.1% de minimis concentration limit instead of 1%. Amounts of TRI chemicals present below the de minimis concentration limit in mixtures do not have to be included in threshold determinations or release and other waste management calculations.

*ATSDR TOXFAQS* Exit EPA Disclaimer
These are a series of summaries developed by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) that contain frequently asked questions about the health effect for 60 hazardous substances. About 50 of these chemicals are also TRI chemicals.

Regulatory Program Information

*TITLE III List of Lists (PDF) (105 pp, 5.3 MB, About PDF)*
This is a consolidated list of chemicals subject to reporting requirements under Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA) with references to their reporting status under Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA or Superfund), The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), and Sections 302 and 313 of The Emergency Planning & Community Right-To-Know Act (EPCRA).

*Regulatory Matrix of TRI Chemicals in other Federal Programs (PDF) (9 pp, 183K, About PDF)*
A matrix has been developed for each TRI chemical indicating whether it is regulated under other selected environmental laws.

http://www.epa.gov/tri/trichemicals/index.htm

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Diesel Particulate Matter:
Diesel Particulate Matter (PM) is a mixture of particles that is a component of diesel exhaust. EPA lists diesel exhaust as a mobile source air toxic due to the cancer and noncancer health effects associated with exposure to whole diesel exhaust. EPA believes that exposure to whole diesel exhaust is best described, as many researchers have done over the years, by diesel particulate concentrations.

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Identifying the ways in which chemicals may reach individuals (e.g., by breathing); estimating how much of a chemical an individual is likely to be exposed to; and estimating the number of individuals likely to be exposed.

http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/nata2002/gloss1.html#diesel

***

The following conclusions on simultaneous exposure to all air toxics compounds were drawn from the risk characterization

Cumulative Cancer Risks: The EPA added the cancer risks from all air toxics compounds listed as carcinogenic or likely carcinogenic to humans. More than 284 million people live in census tracts where the combined upper bound lifetime cancer risk from these compounds exceeded 10 in one million risk and more than 2 million people live in census tracts where the combined upper bound lifetime cancer risk from these compounds exceeded 100 in one million risk. The overall national average risk in the U.S. is 36 in a million.

Cumulative Noncancer Hazards: Ideally, hazard quotients should be combined for pollutants that cause the same adverse effects by the same toxic mechanism. However, because detailed information on mechanisms was unavailable for most of the substances considered in this assessment, the EPA used a simpler and more conservative method. Many of the pollutants in this assessment cause adverse effects in humans or animals by irritating the lining of the respiratory system or by causing various effects to the nervous system.

Although it is not clear that these respiratory and neurological
effects occur by the same mechanisms for all such air toxics compounds, the EPA protectively assumed that these effects could be added. These additive effects were represented by a hazard index, which is the sum of the hazard quotients of the air toxics compounds that affect the respiratory or nervous system. The respiratory hazard index was dominated by a single substance, acrolein. The respiratory hazard index exceeded 1.0 for nearly the entire U.S. population, and exceeded 10 for more than 22 million people. The neurological hazard index was similarly dominated by manganese compounds, with minor contributions by cyanide compounds, ethylene oxide, and mercury compounds. The neurological hazard index exceeded 1.0 for fewer than 350,000 people in the U.S.

Summary Risk Maps (Note: Hawaii, Alaska, and the Virgin Islands are not included on these maps although they were included in this 2002 NATA.)

2HI = The sum of hazard quotients for substances that affect the same target organ or organ system. Because different pollutants may cause similar adverse health effects, it is often appropriate to combine hazard quotients associated with different substances to understand the potential health risks associated with aggregate exposures to multiple pollutants.

* National cancer risk driver:
  o Benzene: carcinogenic to humans .
* Regional cancer risk drivers:
  o 1,3-butadiene, arsenic compounds, chromium 6, coke oven emissions: All carcinogenic to human .
  o hydrazine, tetrachloroethylene, PAHs: likely carcinogenic to humans (Note that the WOE for the PAHs in the 8 groups range from likely to not likely carcinogenic to humans ).
  o Naphthalene: Suggestive evidence of carcinogenicity .
* National cancer risk contributors:
  o 1,4-dichlorobenzene, acetaldehyde, acrylonitrile, carbon tetrachloride, ethylene oxide: All considered likely carcinogenic to humans .
* Regional cancer risk contributors:
  o nickel compounds: carcinogenic to humans
  o 1,3-dichloropropene, beryllium compounds, cadmium compounds, methylene chloride: all likely carcinogenic to humans
  o 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane: suggestive evidence of human carcinogenicity
  o N-nitrosomorpholine, methyl tert-butyl ether: No EPA WOE classifications.

* National noncancer hazard drivers:
  o acrolein.

* Regional noncancer hazard drivers:
  o 2,4-toluene diisocyanate, chlorine, chromium compounds, diesel engine emissions, formaldehyde, hexamethylene diisocyanate, hydrochloric acid, manganese compounds, nickel compounds. (Note that the capability of the study to find potential hotspots in small regions of the country is limited by the tools used in the study, making it possible that some regional hazard drivers may have been overlooked).

http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/nata2002/risksum.html

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Estimated County Level Noncancer (Respiratory) Risk (PDF) (1pg, 2.1 MB) – PDF version of map below.

http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/nata2002/risksum.html

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The emissions used in the current assessment are from the 2002 emission inventory which is the most complete and up-to-date available. Working with the states, EPA updates air toxics emission inventories every 3 years. The next national-scale
assessments will focus on 2005 emissions and will be available in
late 2009 or early 2010.

As part of EPA’s National Air Toxics Assessment activities, EPA
conducted its first national-scale assessment for the year 1996.
That assessment included 33 air pollutants (a subset of 32 air
toxics on the Clean Air Act’s list of 187 air toxics plus diesel
particulate matter (diesel PM). In February of 2006, EPA released
the second of its NATA assessments. This assessment was
based on emissions from the 1999 National Emission Inventory
and included the assessment of 177 hazardous air toxics plus
diesel particulate matter.

http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/nata2002/

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Pollutants & Sources

The Pollutants

Hazardous air pollutants, also known as toxic air pollutants or
air toxics, are those pollutants that cause or may cause cancer
or other serious health effects, such as reproductive effects or
birth defects, or adverse environmental and ecological effects.
EPA is required to control 187 hazardous air pollutants.
Examples of toxic air pollutants include benzene, which is found
in gasoline; perchlorethlyene, which is emitted from some dry
cleaning facilities; and methylene chloride, which is used as a
solvent and paint stripper by a number of industries. Through
appropriate rulemaking, the Clean Air Act list can be modified. A
current list of modifications is available. Some clarification on
certain pollutant aggregation is also available.

The Sources

Most air toxics originate from human-made sources, including
mobile sources (e.g., cars, trucks, buses) and stationary sources
(e.g., factories, refineries, power plants), as well as indoor
sources (e.g., building materials and activities such as cleaning).
There are two types of stationary sources that generate routine emissions of air toxics:

* Major sources are defined as sources that emit 10 tons per year of any of the listed toxic air pollutants, or 25 tons per year of a mixture of air toxics. These sources may release air toxics from equipment leaks, when materials are transferred from one location to another, or during discharge through emission stacks or vents.

* Area sources consist of smaller-size facilities that release lesser quantities of toxic pollutants into the air. Area sources are defined as sources that emit less than 10 tons per year of a single air toxic, or less than 25 tons per year of a combination of air toxics. Though emissions from individual area sources are often relatively small, collectively their emissions can be of concern – particularly where large numbers of sources are located in heavily populated areas.

EPA published the initial list of source categories in 1992 (57FR31576, July 16, 1992) and since that time has issued several revisions and updates to the list and promulgation schedule. For each listed source category, EPA indicates whether the sources are considered to be major sources or area sources. The 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments direct EPA to set standards for all major sources of air toxics (and some area sources that are of particular concern).

http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/pollsour.html

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The Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 List of Hazardous Air Pollutants

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</table>
75058 Acetonitrile
98862 Acetophenone
53963 2-Acetylaminofluorene
107028 Acrolein
79061 Acrylamide
79107 Acrylic acid
107131 Acrylonitrile
107051 Allyl chloride
92671 4-Aminobiphenyl
62533 Aniline
90040 o-Anisidine
1332214 Asbestos
71432 Benzene (including benzene from gasoline)
92875 Benzidine
98077 Benzotrichloride
100447 Benzyl chloride
92524 Biphenyl
117817 Bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate (DEHP)
542881 Bis(chloromethyl)ether
75252 Bromoform
106990 1,3-Butadiene
156627 Calcium cyanamide
105602 Caprolactam (See Modification)
133062 Captan
63252 Carbaryl
75150 Carbon disulfide
56235 Carbon tetrachloride
463581 Carbonyl sulfide
120809 Catechol
133904 Chloramben
57749 Chlordane
7782505 Chlorine
79118 Chloroacetic acid
532274 2-Chloroacetophenone
108907 Chlorobenzene
510156 Chlorobenzilate
67663 Chloroform
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<td>1634044</td>
<td>Methyl tert butyl ether</td>
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101144 4,4'-Methylene bis(2-chloroaniline)
75092 Methylene chloride (Dichloromethane)
101688 Methylene diphenyl diisocyanate (MDI)
101779 4,4''-Methyleneedianiline
91203 Naphthalene
98953 Nitrobenzene
92933 4-Nitrobiphenyl
100027 4-Nitrophenol
79469 2-Nitropropane
684935 N-Nitroso-N-methylurea
62759 N-Nitrosodimethylamine
59892 N-Nitrosomorpholine
56382 Parathion
82688 Pentachloronitrobenzene (Quintobenzene)
87865 Pentachlorophenol
108952 Phenol
106503 p-Phenylenediamine
75445 Phosgene
7803512 Phosphine
7723140 Phosphorus
85449 Phthalic anhydride
1336363 Polychlorinated biphenyls (Aroclors)
1120714 1,3-Propane sultone
57578 beta-Propiolactone
123386 Propionaldehyde
114261 Propoxur (Baygon)
78875 Propylene dichloride (1,2-Dichloropropane)
75569 Propylene oxide
75558 1,2-Propylenimine (2-Methyl aziridine)
91225 Quinoline
106514 Quinone
100425 Styrene
96093 Styrene oxide
1746016 2,3,7,8-Tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin
79345 1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane
127184 Tetrachloroethylene (Perchloroethylene)
7550450 Titanium tetrachloride
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<td>Radionuclides (including radon)5</td>
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<td>Selenium Compounds</td>
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NOTE: For all listings above which contain the word compounds and for glycol ethers, the following applies: Unless otherwise specified, these listings are defined as including any unique chemical substance that contains the named chemical (i.e., antimony, arsenic, etc.) as part of that chemical’s infrastructure.

1. X’CN where X = H’ or any other group where a formal dissociation may occur. For example KCN or Ca(CN)2

2. Includes mono- and di- ethers of ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, and triethylene glycol R-(OCH2CH2)n-OR’ where n = 1, 2, or 3
   R = alkyl or aryl groups
   R’ = R, H, or groups which, when removed, yield glycol ethers with the structure: R-(OCH2CH)n-OH. Polymers are excluded from the glycol category. (See Modification)

3. Includes mineral fiber emissions from facilities manufacturing or processing glass, rock, or slag fibers (or other mineral derived fibers) of average diameter 1 micrometer or less.

4. Includes organic compounds with more than one benzene ring, and which have a boiling point greater than or equal to 100 °C.

5. A type of atom which spontaneously undergoes radioactive decay.

If you are aware of, or participate in, any air toxics emission reduction activities in your community please feel free to contact us.

http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/orig189.html

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Estimated County Level Carcinogenic Risk (PDF) (1 pg, 2.1 MB) – PDF version of map below.

http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/nata2002/risksum.html
Alaska Petroleum Studies
Landsat image of Alaska North Slope showing USGS study areas. U.S. Geological Survey study areas: NPRA, ANWR 1002 Area, and Central North Slope.

Alaska Energy Issues
Alaska’s scenic wilderness, its Arctic ecosystems with their unique flora and fauna, and its significant potential for energy and mineral resources are unmatched by any other onshore region of the U.S. Thus, the accurate and unbiased scientific data provided by the U.S. Geological Survey are crucial to the Federal, State, and Native organizations that manage Alaska’s resources to meet the challenge of balancing America’s needs for nonrenewable resources and a clean and healthy environment.

NEW Assessment of Gas Hydrate Resources on the North Slope, Alaska, 2008
Fact Sheet 2008-3073 | Podcast (Episode 74)
Slide Show Slide Presentation (Flash document 10.6 MB)
Gas Hydrates Website

There are several energy-related efforts currently under way in Alaska. Geographically, these range from the Alaska Peninsula to the North Slope (see graphic on left) and several are collaborative efforts with Federal and State agencies and Alaska Native villages. A brief description of these projects:

Circum-Arctic Basins Oil & Gas Assessment An ongoing effort of the World Energy Project that includes northern Alaska.

NEW Circum-Arctic Resource Appraisal: Estimates of Undiscovered Oil and Gas North of the Arctic Circle
Fact Sheet 2008-3049 | Press Release (7/23/08)
Podcast (Episode 55) | Slide Show Slide Presentation (Flash document 4.39 MB)
Geologic Framework and Assessment Studies, North Slope of Alaska

These studies will increase our understanding of the petroleum geology and improve our estimates of undiscovered oil and gas resources. This is a multi-disciplinary investigation that uses concepts of basin analysis, sequence stratigraphy, fluid-flow modeling, petroleum systems, and structural and geophysical analysis. Assessments of the NPRA and the central North Slope were completed in May 2002 and May 2005, respectively. Current work is focused on assessment of the area west of NPRA and aggregation of all North Slope assessments with an update of the economics, including natural gas.

Gas Hydrate Studies in northern Alaska

These studies will investigate the technical aspects of gas production from gas hydrates, which contain gas trapped with water in ice-like structures. The presence of huge volumes of gas in hydrate form is known in the Prudhoe Bay region from earlier USGS studies. The current work is a collaborative effort involving the USGS Coastal and Marine Geology Program, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the State of Alaska, the U.S. Department of Energy, and private industry. Collaborative gas hydrate work has also been conducted with the multinational Mallik Drilling Consortium in the Mackenzie Delta region. In 2004, the Alaska State Legislature requested the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to provide a technical briefing on the energy resource potential of gas hydrates in northern Alaska at a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) technical conference, USGS Open-File Report 2004–1454.

Coalbed Gas Studies

A cooperative project with the State partly funded by the BLM and DOE to evaluate coalbed gas resources near Native villages and on Federal lands in rural Alaska. Coalbed gas may be a viable local energy source for Native villages and a commercial resource in Alaska. Shallow coalbed gas wells have been drilled near Chignik, Fort Yukon, and the Dalton Highway south of Prudhoe Bay. Current work involves continued evaluation of drill sites and
collecting and analyzing coal samples for their methane potential from wells drilled for oil and gas in Cook Inlet and the North Slope. A new coal assessment of Alaska was released in 2003.

Digital Geologic Map Compilation
Compilation of existing geologic maps of the northern foothills of the Brooks Range, from the Chukchi Sea eastward to the Canadian border. This work is a collaboration between the USGS and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys (DGGS) and the Division of Oil and Gas. It will result in a synthesis of geologic mapping that was conducted independently over several decades by the USGS and DGGS and will be produced at a fraction of the cost of new, field-based geologic mapping of the same area. A report of revised stratigraphic nomenclature for common use on all maps was completed in 2003, the Umiat quadrangle map was released in 2004, and the Ikpikpuk River quadrangle map, in 2005. A digital compilation of northeastern NPRA surficial geology was completed in 2005 at the request of the BLM.

Interior Alaska Province Review and Yukon Flats Assessment
An effort to provide essential geologic, geophysical, geochemical, and historical information in preparation for the next USGS assessment of the oil and gas resources in this province. Assessment of the Yukon Flats basin was released in 2004. A comprehensive review and compilation of oil and gas related information for the entire province was completed in 2002.

South Alaska Province Review
A new effort initiated in 2003 and focused on Cook Inlet. It is designed to provide essential geologic, geophysical, geochemical, and historical information in preparation for the next USGS assessment of the oil and gas resources in this province.
Collaboration with State of Alaska

Although not a separate project, the Energy Resources Program provides staff, analytical capabilities, and financial support for Alaskan petroleum studies and geologic mapping conducted by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Geologic and Geophysical Surveys and Division of Oil and Gas.

NASA Landsat photo: Alaska North Slope in Winter  
NASA Landsat photo: Alaska North Slope in Spring

A blanket of snow gives the Brooks Range Mountains in northern Alaska an etched appearance in this true-color Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) image from October 15, 2002. (Credit: Jacques Descloitres, MODIS Rapid Response Team, NASA/GSFC). Summertime glows green across Northern Alaska in the true-color Terra MODIS image, which was acquired July 29, 2002. Prominent in the image is the Brooks Range, which stretches all the way across Northern Alaska from the western shore to the border of Canada’s Yukon Territory, a distance of about 600 miles. (Credit: Jacques Descloitres, MODIS Rapid Response Team, NASA/GSFC).

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spotlightALASKA
SPOTLIGHT

Fact Sheet 2008-3082

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) recently completed the first assessment of the undiscovered technically recoverable gas-hydrate resources on the North Slope of Alaska. Using a geology-based assessment methodology, the USGS estimates that there are about 85 trillion cubic feet (TCF) of undiscovered, technically recoverable gas resources within gas hydrates in northern Alaska.

Factsheet 2008-3073

Recent Publications IconRECENT PUBLICATIONS

Sentinel Hill Core Test 1: Facies Descriptions and Stratigraphic Reinterpretations of the Prince Creek and Schrader Bluff Formations, North Slope, Alaska
Professional Paper 1747

Stratigraphy and Facies of Cretaceous Schrader Bluff and Prince Creek Formations in Colville River Bluffs, North Slope, Alaska
Professional Paper 1748

Sedimentology and Sequence Stratigraphy of the Lower Cretaceous Fortress Mountain and Torok Formations Exposed Along the Siksikpuk River, North-Central Alaska
Professional Paper 1739-D

Lithofacies, Age, and Sequence Stratigraphy of the Carboniferous Lisburne Group in the Skimo Creek Area, Central Brooks Range
Professional Paper 1739-B

Oil and Gas Resources of the Arctic Alaska Petroleum Province
Professional Paper 1732-A

Regional Fluid Flow and Basin Modeling in Northern Alaska
Circular 1319

Color Shaded-Relief and Surface-Classification Maps of the Fish Creek Area, Harrison Bay Quadrangle, Northern Alaska
Scientific Investigations Map 2948

RELATED LINKS

Alaska Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys (DGGS)
USGS scanning project
Virtually all U.S. Geological Survey Bulletins and Professional Papers for Alaska are now viewable and retrievable online through
The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) recently completed the first assessment of the undiscovered technically recoverable gas-hydrate resources on the North Slope of Alaska. Using a geology-based assessment methodology, the USGS estimates that there are about 85 trillion cubic feet (TCF) of undiscovered, technically recoverable gas resources within gas hydrates in northern Alaska.

Version 1.1

Posted October 2008
For further information:
This factsheet and assessment results are available at the USGS Energy Program website, http://energy.usgs.gov
Part or all of this report is presented in Portable Document Format (PDF); the latest version of Adobe Reader or similar software is required to view it. Download the latest version of Adobe Reader, free of charge.
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Fed’s Strategy Reduces U.S. Bailout to $11.6 Trillion (Update2)

By Mark Pittman and Bob Ivry
Sept. 25 (Bloomberg) — The Federal Reserve decided to keep pumping $1.25 trillion of new money into the mortgage market to focus on rescuing the U.S. economy as the financial system revives and banks ask for less help.

The Fed is allowing some of the 10 support programs it created or expanded after the credit crisis began in August 2007 to expire or shrink. That caused the first decline in the amount of money the U.S. has committed on behalf of taxpayers to end the recession, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

The central bank has purchased $694 billion of mortgage-backed securities since January and plans to spend $556 billion more by April 2010 to keep interest rates down. The debt-buying is the biggest program in the Fed’s arsenal.

“The first thing the Fed had to do was stop the bleeding in the banking system,” said Richard Yamarone, director of economic research at Argus Research Corp. in New York. “Now that that seems to have been accomplished, they’re focusing on the economy by buying mortgage-backed securities.”

The purchases were scheduled to stop at the end of December. The Federal Open Market Committee decided on Sept. 23 to continue the program through the first quarter of next year and slow the pace of buying to “promote a smooth transition in markets,” the committee said in a statement. It also said the economy has “picked up.”

9.4 Percent Decline

The debt-buying pushed the average 30-year mortgage interest rate this week to 5.04 percent, its lowest since May, according to McLean, Virginia-based Freddie Mac. The debt is guaranteed by Freddie Mac and the other government-sponsored home-loan financiers, Fannie Mae and Ginnie Mae, both based in Washington.
The U.S. has lent, spent or guaranteed $11.6 trillion to bolster banks and fight the longest recession in 70 years, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

That’s a 9.4 percent decline since March 31, when Bloomberg last calculated the total at $12.8 trillion.

The tally “ignores the fact that virtually all commitments are backed by assets,” Andrew S. Williams, a Treasury Department spokesman who had the same role at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York until earlier this year, said in an e-mail. “The Federal Reserve’s current ‘outlays’ are largely in the form of secured loans. The aggregate value of the collateral backing those loans exceeds the loan value. These are not ‘outlays.’”

Refused to Identify


The Fed has refused to identify the collateral backing its loans. Bloomberg News parent Bloomberg LP, the New York-based company majority-owned by Mayor Michael Bloomberg, sued the central bank in November to force it to provide the information. U.S. District Judge Loretta A. Preska gave the Fed until Sept. 30 to appeal her decision requiring more disclosure about the financial institutions that have benefited.

The Standard & Poor’s 500 Financials Index has risen 140 percent since its low on March 6, including a 174 percent increase in share price for JPMorgan Chase & Co. to $43.65 and a 137 percent jump for Goldman Sachs Group Inc. to $179.50.

Among the U.S. programs that have expired is the Treasury guarantee of money market mutual fund deposits, instituted a year ago to stem an investor run the week after Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc.’s collapse. The department said it collected $1.2 billion in fees from funds before the effort concluded on Sept.
18 and never paid out a claim.

Gas Guzzlers
The $3 billion “cash for clunkers,” which gave people rebates for trading in gas-guzzling vehicles, ended in August after 700,000 vehicles were sold, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation.

The Fed’s Money Market Investor Funding Facility, or MMIFF, is slated to be closed on Oct. 30, and four other Fed programs with a total limit of $2.5 trillion are scheduled to expire in February. Others have been cut back.

The central bank said Sept. 24 it will reduce the Term Securities Lending Facility to $50 billion from $75 billion and the Term Auction Facility, once $900 billion, will shrink to $50 billion. Support for commercial paper, short-term loans that corporations and banks use to pay everyday expenses, has fallen to $1.2 trillion as the market fell from a one-year peak of $1.8 trillion in January.

64 Percent Higher

Banks have repaid about $70.6 billion of the $204.6 billion in direct aid extended through the Capital Purchase Program of the Troubled Asset Relief Program, or TARP. Congress created the $700 billion fund last October.

The $70.6 billion includes $25 billion from New York-based JPMorgan Chase, one of the biggest recipients, and $28 million from Novato, California-based Bank of Marin Bancorp, one of the smallest, according to the Treasury and regulatory filings.

“Because financial conditions have started to improve, Treasury has already begun the process of exiting from some emergency programs,” the TARP administrator, Herb Allison, told the Senate Banking Committee Sept. 24. “It will, however, be some time
before all CPP participants have fully extinguished their obligations to the taxpayers.”

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. said its Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program has generated more than $9 billion in fees.

The combined commitments of the Fed and government agencies are 57 percent higher than on Nov. 24, when Bloomberg’s first tally was $7.4 trillion.


<p>| — Amounts (Billions)— |</p>
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*The program has generated $9.3 billion in income, according to the agency.*

Glossary: ABCP — Asset-backed commercial paper  
AIG — American International Group Inc.  
FDIC — Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.  
FHA — Federal Housing Administration, a division of HUD  
GE — General Electric Co.  
GSE — Government-sponsored enterprises (Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and Ginnie Mae)  
HUD — U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
TARP — Troubled Asset Relief Program
### Asset Relief Program Breakout of TARP funds:

<table>
<thead>
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<td>Term Asset-Backed Loan (TALF)</td>
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<td>Citigroup Bailout</td>
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To contact the reporters on this story: Mark Pittman in New York at mpittman@bloomberg.net; Bob Ivry in New York at bivry@bloomberg.net.

Last Updated: September 25, 2009 16:39 EDT

Click the tabs at left for listings of recently published books and papers from a variety of sources. (Previously listed references are archived in the ASDSO Bibliography.) For more information on items listed in these pages, contact Sarah McCubbin-Cain.

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These pages updated 9/1/09

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Dam Safety Research, Publications & Resources
Home » Publications & Resources » Dam Safety Research, Publications & Resources » Recent Journal & Magazine Articles (August ’09)
ASDSO Resource Center – August 2009

Advances in Water Resources – 08/2009 V. 32 (8)
H. A. Gallegos, J. E. Schubert and B. F. Sanders. Two-dimensional, high-resolution modeling of urban dam-break flooding: A case study of Baldwin Hills, California

Canadian Mining Journal – 05/2009 V. 130 (4)

Tough diggin’

Description of challenges faced by contractor in blasting a 2.9-km transfer tunnel for Hydro-Quebec in Northern Quebec. The transfer tunnel was part of a $5 billion hydroelectric project that involved construction of four dams, a spillway, 74 dikes, two diversion bays, and the transfer tunnel.

CDA/ACB Bulletin – Summer 2009 V. 20 (3)

Annual CDA Conference Overview

Keynotes: Psychology of Safety (Dr. Jacob Groeneweb, Leiden University, Netherlands); Application of Safety-by-Design Principles in Hazardous Industries (Michael A. Prince, BMT Isis Ltd, UK); Adapting to Climate Change (Dr. Stewart j. Cohen, Environment Canada, Vancouver BC).

Technical sessions: Mining dams, Dam safety reviews, Public safety, Incident investigation & analysis, Reliability-centered maintenance, Flow discharge gate reliability, and Identification, monitoring and repair of piping damage to till core dams.

Anon. A unified river ice breakup model

Progress report, May 2009, for the NSERC strategic grant project prepared in response to Hydro Quebec’s need to simulate the propagation of the dambreak flood wave under winter conditions and its desire to optimize hydroelectric peaking without causing the downstream ice cover to break up.

T. Bennett. A change to make history
The History and Archives Committee of the Engineering Institute of Canada is interested in receiving submissions of papers and archival materials on the history of dams in Canada. For more information, contact Tony Bennett (tony.bennett[at]opg.com).

Civil Engineering – 08/2009

J. Landers. Climate change is decreasing flows in major rivers, study finds

NSF-sponsored study examined flow in major rivers around the world between 1948-2004.

Engineering News-Record – 08/03/2009 V. 263 (4)

Oroville Dam bulkhead fails

CA DWR investigating failure of a steel bulkhead during routine hydraulic tests on July 22. Five workers were injured when a 6 x 10 steel wall collapsed in a diversion tunnel.

P. R. Russell. Studies dispute ash spill’s engineering analysis

Reviews of TVA ash spill come to different conclusions.

Engineering News-Record – 08/17/2009 V. 263 (6)

TVA opts for dry storage after catastrophic coal-ash spill

United Convey Corp to convert Kingston’s ash-handling from wet to dry under a $50- to $70-million contract.

EWRI Currents – Summer 2009

Anon. Pathfinder Dam Centennial Celebration

Pathfinder Dam Centennial celebration held July 15, 2009. The dam is a 214'-high cyclopean masonry thick-arch dam and was
the first big dam built by the U.S. Reclamation Service (now Bureau of Reclamation). The arch dam design for Pathfinder Dam was based on the results of analyses performed and reported by consulting engineers George Y. Wisner and Edgar T. Wheeler; that 1905 analysis methodology evolved and became known as the Trial Load Method of analysis that is still used by the Bureau of Reclamation and others worldwide. Pathfinder Dam was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1971, was designated a Wyoming Historic Civil Engineering Landmark in 1975, and is in the process of being re-nominated by ASCE’s Wyoming Section to become a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark.

Anon. Engineering Societies Agree on Climate Change Action

As leaders of the civil engineering profession gathered in St. John’s, Newfoundland and Labrador to discuss the challenges and risks faced by coastal communities worldwide at the 2009 Triennial Conference, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering (CSCE) and the Institute of Civil Engineers (ICE) jointly signed an agreement on Civil Engineering and Climate Change.

Geosynthetics – 08-09/2009 V. 27 (4)

J. Chi. History, development, and future prospects for geosynthetics industries in China

Article describes development of China’s geosynthetics production, applications, testing, and research, and discusses the market supply and demand as well as development trends. Dam applications cited. Part 1 of 2 parts.

D. Leshchinsky. Research and innovation: seismic performance of various geocell earth-retention systems

Overview of research on use of geocells as earth-retention
International Journal of Engineering, Transactions B: Applications – 10/2008 V. 21 (3)

H. Afshin, B. Firoozabadi and M. Rad. Hydrodynamics analysis of Density currents

Journal of Geotechnical and Geoenvironmental Engineering – V. 135 (8)

M.-W. Seo, I. S. Ha, Y.-S. Kim and S. M. Olson. Behavior of concrete-faced rockfill dams during initial impoundment

USSD Newsletter – 07/2009 V. (No. 148)

Anon. Levees workshop to be held in Sacramento

Technical, policy and management issues relating to levees will be the focus of a USSD workshop to be held Oct. 13-15 in Sacramento.

Anon. Cybersecurity issues addressed

Brief overview of a Dams Sector Cybersecurity Summit recently held in Chicago.


Report on an International Seminar on Earthquakes and Dam Safety, conducted March 29-April 3, 2009 by the Chinese Committee on Large Dams, to review the performance of large dams affected by the May 12, 2008 Wnnchuan Earthquake. Dam assessed: Zipingpu, Shapai, Futang, Taipingyi, Yingziuwan, Bikou, Baozhusi, Tanjiashan.

R. Barham, P. Shiers, M. McCaffrey and J. Lyon. Repairing an embankment sinkhole
Case study of repairs at Chilhowee Hydroelectric Project on the Little Tennessee River near Knoxville.

R. Bisnett. Use of loess as an embankment dam core material: an investigation into two forms of collapse

Paper by USSD scholarship winner. Understanding the saturation state and the effect of varying compaction parameters on the one-dimensional consolidation and seismic response of loess is essential to evaluating its use as an engineering material in embankment dams.

P. J. Regan. An examination of dam failures vs. age of dams

Paper addresses 4 questions: (1) How are dam incidents distributed over the life of a dam and what are the implications of longterm satisfactory performance? (2) Is there a difference in longterm performance among different types of dams? (3) Are there particular potential failure modes that contribute significantly to safety incidents over time? (4) Is there a difference in the types of delayed incidents depending on the year the dam was constructed?

D. Shannon. Lake Lenexa Dam and Spillway

J. N. Stateler. Consequence ratings: a streamlined method for developing loss of life estimates

Condensed version of a paper presented at the 2009 USSD Annual Meeting and Conference.

http://www.damsafety.org/resources/?p=8803f043-13e8-492c-bd57-a26867486106

***
WASHINGTON, Oct 30, Washington transit agency at risk in AIG fallout:
Reuters
Washington, D.C.’s transit agency won a slight reprieve on Thursday from having to pay millions on a defaulted financing deal, which many fear could escalate and cost U.S. public transportation groups up to $16 billion on exposure to other soured financing.
Read more...

Denver, CO: 09/18/08, A Quiet Crisis Below Ground

The Denver Post
The state of Colorado needs to invest at least $2.6 Billion to fix a drinking water system that has been plagued deterioration that has led to parasites, disease, and damages to roadways. Columnist Susan Thornton argues that not nearly enough attention has been given to the issue.
Read more...


***

Association of State Dam Safety Officials

http://www.damsafety.org/

DAMS [D]
Background | Conditions | Policy Options | Specific ASCE recommendations | Sources

Since 1998, the number of unsafe dams has risen by 33% to more than 3,500. While federally owned dams are in good condition, and there have been modest gains in repair, the number of dams identified as unsafe is increasing at a faster rate than those being repaired. $10.1 billion is needed over the next 12 years to address all critical non-federal dams—dams which pose a direct risk to human life should they fail.
Background

Dams provide tremendous benefits, including water supply for drinking, irrigation and industrial uses; flood control; hydroelectric power; recreation; and navigation. However, dams also represent one of the greatest risks to public safety, local and regional economies and the environment. Historically, some of the largest disasters in the United States have resulted from dam failures. In 1889, 2,209 lives were lost when the South Fork Dam failed above Johnstown, Pennsylvania. The 1928 St. Francis Dam failure killed 450. During the 1970s, the failures of the Buffalo Creek Dam in West Virginia, Teton Dam in Idaho and the Toccoa Falls Dam in Georgia collectively cost 175 lives and more than $1 billion in losses. Such dam failures as Silver Lake Dam in Michigan in 2003 ($100 million in damages and economic losses of $1 million per day) and the Big Bay Lake Dam in Mississippi in March 2004 (100 homes destroyed) are current reminders of the potential consequences of unsafe dams.

In order to provide safe, continuing service, dams require ongoing maintenance, monitoring, frequent safety inspections and rehabilitation. Aging dams often require major rehabilitation to assure their safety. Downstream development below dams is increasing dramatically, and continuing scientific research of dam failure mechanisms, such as earthquakes and major flood events, frequently demand repairs to dams constructed long before these advances were realized. Many state dam safety programs do not have sufficient funding or qualified staff to effectively regulate dams under their authority. State programs regulate 95% of the 79,000 dams in the United States, while the federal agencies own or regulate only 5% of the nation’s dams.

Conditions
Like all man-made structures, dams deteriorate. Deferred maintenance accelerates deterioration and causes dams to be more susceptible to failure. As with other critical infrastructure,
a significant investment is essential to maintain the benefits and assure the safety that society demands.

In the past two years, more than 67 dam incidents, including 29 dam failures, were reported to the National Performance of Dams program, which collects and archives information on dam performance as reported by state and federal regulatory agencies and dam owners. Dam incidents are such events as large floods, earthquakes or inspections that alert dam safety engineers to deficiencies that threaten the safety of a dam. Due to limited state staff, many incidents are not reported; therefore, the actual number of incidents is likely to be much greater.

The number of high-hazard potential dams (dams whose failure would cause loss of human life) is increasing dramatically. Since 1998, the number of high-hazard-potential dams has increased from 9,281 to 10,213, with 1,046 in North Carolina alone. As downstream land development increases, so will the number of high-hazard potential dams. As these dams often require major repair to accommodate more stringent inspection, maintenance and design standards, financial support for state dam safety programs must keep pace.

Even more alarming, states presently report more than 3,500 unsafe dams, which have deficiencies that leave them more susceptible to failure. Many states have large numbers of unsafe dams, including Pennsylvania (725), New Jersey (583), and New Hampshire (357). Many state agencies do not report statistics on unsafe dams; therefore the actual number is potentially much higher.

The combined effect of rapid downstream development, aging/non-compliant structures and inadequate past design practices, coupled with a predicted increase in extreme events, demands fully funded and staffed state dam safety programs, as well as substantial and proactive funding for dam repairs.
Some progress is being made through the repair of small watershed dams constructed with assistance from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), beginning in 1948. This is only a small portion of the total number of non-federal dams. On the federal side, federally owned and federally regulated hydropower dams are in good condition; however, continuing budget restrictions and increased attention to security are placing pressure on and limiting many agency dam safety programs.

While the recent passage of the National Dam Safety and Security Act of 2002 (Public Law No: 107-310), which provides funding through grants, has improved state dam safety programs, it does not provide funding for needed repairs. It is estimated that $10.1 billion is needed over the next 12 years to address all critical non-federal dams—dams that pose a direct risk to human life should they fail. In the meantime, the 79,000 dams in the U.S. National Inventory of Dams continue to age and deteriorate, yet there is no national funding program to fund the repair of unsafe dams.

Since the last ASCE Report Card, the National Dam Safety Act of 1996 was reauthorized in 2002, increasing the authorization to $8.0 million. To date, however, funding has remained at pre-reauthorization levels of $5.5 million. Under this program, state dam safety agencies have received grants totaling nearly $22 million to assist with improving dam safety regulatory programs by procuring equipment, implementing new technology, and enabling more-frequent inspections. The program also provided opportunities for continuing education to dam safety engineers, and funding for research to advance the technology of investigations, construction, and rehabilitation of dams, but no funding to repair unsafe dams.

According to results of a study by the Association of State Dam Safety Officials, the total investment to bring U.S. dams into safety compliance or to remove obsolete dams tops $30 billion. Except for a handful of state programs offering low-interest loans to dam owners, there are no funding sources for dam
rehabilitation or repair. Private owners have the greatest need for funding. The Small Watershed Rehabilitation Act addresses less than 10% of the nation’s dams—the remaining 90% demand similar attention.

Representative Sue Kelly introduced HR 5190, the Dam Repair and Rehabilitation Act, in the 108th Congress. The bill would provide $350 million over 4 years for the repair, rehabilitation or removal of non-federal, high-hazard, publicly owned dams. The bill will be re-introduced early in the 109th Congress.

Four years ago, few state dam safety programs were adequately funded or staffed. Today, that situation remains the same. On average nationwide, there are 268 state-regulated dams per full-time equivalent (FTE) staff. In 13 states, this number exceeds 500, and four report more than 1200 dams per FTE staff. In 1998, a Texas House Committee recommended adding 15 staff members to that state’s six-member dam safety team; today, there are still only six staff members responsible for inspecting nearly 7500 dams. One Texas official commented that, because of inadequate staffing, some dams would not be examined for three centuries.

Since the last Report Card, Delaware has created a dam safety program, leaving Alabama as the last remaining state that has not passed dam safety legislation. As a result, an estimated 2,100 dam structures—perhaps more—are unregulated. At last count, 171 of these structures were classified as high-hazard.

Policy Options

There is still an alarming lack of public support and education about the need for proper maintenance and repair of dams. Unless a dam fails, dam safety is not usually in the public view, although it is an issue that affects the safety of millions of people who could be living and working in the path of a sudden, deadly dam failure.
Specific recommendations supported by ASCE:
* Establishment of comprehensive and fully funded dam safety programs in all 50 states, especially Alabama, the only state without an authorized dam-safety program
* Introduction and passage of legislation to create a loan fund for the repair, rehabilitation and removal of non-federal dams would provide seed money to advance the process of rehabilitating the most critical dams
* Full funding and expansion of the Small Watershed Rehabilitation Act
* Development of a comprehensive, Internet-based information resources system to support the maintenance and improvement of dam safety in the United States
* Reauthorization of the National Dam Safety Program Act in 2006
* Funding program in each state to assist with loans and matching grants

Sources

Association of State Dam Safety Officials, 2003 National Dam Safety Program Successes and Challenge
Association of State Dam Safety Officials, Dams: An Important Part of the U.S. Infrastructure


Association of State Dam Safety Officials, The Cost of Rehabilitating Our Nation’s Dams, 2002


U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Inventory of Dams, 1998

World Commission on Dams, Dams and Development: A New Framework for Decision Making, 2000
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Inventory of Dams, 2000

World Commission on Dams, Dams and Development: A New Framework for Decision Making, 2000


Haurwitz, Ralph, Dam Inspections Are Years Behind, The Austin American-Statesman, February 21, 1998


ASCE Policy Statement 280 Dam Safety, 2003

ASCE Policy Statement 470 Dam Repair and Rehabilitation, 2003

http://www.asce.org/reportcard/2005/page.cfm?id=23

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Home » State Map » Georgia

Georgia Dam Safety Program

Contact:
Tom Woosley
Program Manager
GA Department of Natural Resources
Safe Dams Program
4244 International Parkway, Ste. 110
Atlanta, GA 30354
Tel: 404/362-2678
2007 National Inventory of Dams – Georgia Dam Statistics

2006 Statistics:
Total Number of state-regulated dams: 3874
Number state-regulated high hazard potential dams: 450
Number state-regulated significant hazard potential dams: 0
Number state-regulated low hazard potential dams: 3424
Total Number of dam safety FTE’s: 11
Total Budget: 727,009

2005 Statistics:
Total Number of state-regulated dams: 3861
Number state-regulated high hazard potential dams: 437
Number state-regulated significant hazard potential dams: 0
Number state-regulated low hazard potential dams: 3424
Total Number of dam safety FTE’s: 9

2003 Statistics:
Number of state-regulated dams: 3,412
Number of dams in National Inventory of Dams: 4,977
Number of dam safety FTEs: 10

View Georgia’s report in Successes and Challenges – 2002
National Dam Safety Program (Association of State Dam Safety Officials, 2002)

View a summary of Georgia’s dam safety laws and regulations – from Summary of State Laws and Regulations on Dam Safety (Association of State Dam Safety Officials, July 2000)

http://www.damsafety.org/map/state.aspx?s=10

***
Dams in Georgia

total number of dams – 4814
high hazard dams –


In the past two years, more than 67 dam incidents, including 29 dam failures, were reported to the National Performance of Dams program, which collects and archives information on dam performance as reported by state and federal regulatory agencies and dam owners.

The 1928 St. Francis Dam failure killed 450. During the 1970s, the failures of the Buffalo Creek Dam in West Virginia, Teton Dam in Idaho and the Toccoa Falls Dam in Georgia collectively cost 175 lives and more than $1 billion in losses. Such dam failures as Silver Lake Dam in Michigan in 2003 ($100 million in damages and economic losses of $1 million per day) and the Big Bay Lake Dam in Mississippi in March 2004 (100 homes destroyed) are current reminders of the potential consequences of unsafe dams.

http://www.asce.org/reportcard/2005/page.cfm?id=23

***

Our nation’s dam infrastructure is an important component of the nation’s water control infrastructure, supplying such benefits as water for drinking, irrigation, and industrial uses; flood control; hydroelectric power; recreation; and navigation. However, as evidenced by the events of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the failure of dam infrastructure, which includes levees, also represents a risk to public safety, local and regional economies, and the environment. In particular, the aging of dam infrastructure in the United States continues to be a critical issue for dam safety because the age of dams is a leading indicator of potential dam failure. According to the American
Society of Civil Engineers, the number of unsafe dams has risen by more than 33 percent since 1998, to more than 3,500 in 2005. In addition, the number of dams identified as unsafe is increasing faster than the number of dams that are being repaired.

To address the challenges facing our nation’s dams, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the National Dam Safety Review Board identified both short- and long-term goals and priorities for the National Dam Safety Program over the next 5 to 10 years. They include identifying and remedying deficient dams, increasing dam inspections, increasing the number of and updating of Emergency Action Plans,

Aging Dam Infrastructure Raises Safety and Funding Challenges

The term “dam” includes conventional dams, navigation locks, levees, canals (excluding channels), or other similar types of water retention structures.

A number of factors, including age, construction deficiencies, inadequate maintenance, and seismic or weather events contribute to the likelihood of dam failure.


The National Dam Safety Program, which is administered by FEMA, is a partnership of the states, federal agencies, and other stakeholders to encourage individual and community responsibility for dam safety.

Diesel Particulate Matter:

Diesel Particulate Matter (PM) is a mixture of particles that is a component of diesel exhaust. EPA lists diesel exhaust as a mobile source air toxic due to the cancer and noncancer health effects associated with exposure to whole diesel exhaust. EPA believes that exposure to whole diesel exhaust is best described,
as many researchers have done over the years, by diesel particulate concentrations.

Note that in this assessment, the potential carcinogenic risk from diesel PM is not addressed because there currently is no unit risk estimate available. There are noncancer results. Learn more about EPA's qualitative assessment of diesel PM.

Given its broad scope, this risk characterization is subject to a number of limitations due to gaps in data or in the state of the science for assessing risk. For example, the current assessment does not yet include results for dioxins, compounds that may contribute substantially to risks. In addition, the EPA is reassessing the health effects of many pollutants considered in this study. A status report for all EPA health effect assessments is available at cfpub.epa.gov/iristrac/index.cfm. For more details about the limitations in the risk characterization, refer to the limitations section on the Web site.

The 2002 national-scale risk assessment is based on a 2002 inventory of air toxics emissions (the most complete and up-to-date available). It then assumes individuals spend their entire lifetimes exposed to these air toxics. Therefore, it does not account for the reductions in emissions that have occurred since 2002 or those that will happen in the near future due to regulations for mobile and industrial sources (see further details in the Air Toxics Reduction section of the Web site). This risk assessment represents an update and enhancement to EPA’s 1999 national-scale assessment. The next assessment will focus on emissions for the year 2005. It will be released in late 2009 or early 2010.

http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/nata2002/risksum.html

***

Between fiscal years 2002 and 2009, the United States provided approximately $38.6 billion to support Afghanistan’s
reconstruction goals, which can often be characterized as construction (see table 1). Table 1 does not include funding provided for U.S. military operations in Afghanistan. According to DOD, $22 billion of the $38.6 billion has been disbursed.

Table 1: U.S. Government Funding Provided in Support of Afghan Security, Stabilization, and Development, Fiscal Years 2002-2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Years</th>
<th>Dollars in millions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$21,580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security</td>
<td>$147 $388 $949 $2,307 $1,989 $7,431 $2,763 $5,606 $21,580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>— Afghan National Army</td>
<td>86 361 719 1,633 736 4,872 1,778 4,043 14,228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>— Afghan National Police</td>
<td>24 0 160 624 1,217 2,523 964 1,512 7,024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>— Other security</td>
<td>37 27 70 50 36 36 21 51 328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governance, rule of law, human rights</td>
<td>110 97 262 244 110 286 517 824 2,450</td>
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<tr>
<td>— Democracy/Governance</td>
<td>103 89 233 223 80 221 391 614 1,954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>— Rule of law</td>
<td>7 8 29 21 30 65 126 210 496</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economic and social development</td>
<td>650 498 1,153 1,570 1,007 1,591 2,100 2,448 11,017</td>
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<tr>
<td>— Reconstruction</td>
<td>124 295 855 1,240 706 1,191 1,494 1,871 7,776</td>
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<tr>
<td>— Humanitarian/Other</td>
<td>526 203 298 330 301 400 606 577 3,241</td>
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<td>Counternarcotics</td>
<td>40 3 126 775 420 737 617 802 3,520</td>
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<tr>
<td>— Eradication</td>
<td>39 0 50 257 138 177 183 202 1,046</td>
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<tr>
<td>— Interdiction</td>
<td>1 3 76 338 137 323 248 366 1,492</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>— Alternative development</td>
<td>0 0 0 175 140 229 181 225 950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>— Other counternarcotics</td>
<td>0 0 0 5 5 8 5 9 32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Total $947 $986 $2,490 $4,896 $3,526 $10,045 $5,997 $9,680 $38,567

Source: Departments of Defense and State.
Note: Funding provided includes assistance for Afghanistan from a variety of budget accounts, such as Afghan Security Forces Funding, Economic Support Funds, and Commander’s Emergency Response Funds, among others; State/USAID operations funding; and use of drawdown authority contained in legislation such as the Afghan Freedom Support Act. Relevant transfers and reprogramming also are included.

aAccording to State, fiscal year 2009 numbers include preliminary allocations of funding received in the fiscal year 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act, as well as preliminary funding allocations from the fiscal year 2009 supplemental request.

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In 2006, the government of Afghanistan, along with the international partners, adopted the Afghanistan Compact, a political agreement outlining the international community’s commitment to provide resources and support to
achieve Afghanistan’s security, governance, and reconstruction goals as set out in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS). Subsequently, more than 70 nations pledged over $57 billion in aid toward the achievement of these goals. The United States alone provided $32 billion. United States efforts to work with NATO partners and other contributing countries present unique opportunities in Afghanistan, but also pose some challenges. In March 2009, the President announced a new U.S. strategy for Afghanistan and Pakistan.

***

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In early 2006, there were over 36,000 U.S. and coalition troops in Afghanistan. As of February 2009, there are over 65,000 troops with over 35,000 U.S. troops and over 30,000 other troops from more than 40 different countries in Afghanistan. The new administration has indicated that it intends to send up to approximately 21,000 U.S. troops to Afghanistan in 2009.

The increase in insurgent attacks, especially in the east and the south, has impeded security and reconstruction efforts in those regions.

- State officials reported that the development of the Afghan National Security Forces has been impeded by the security situation. For example, despite the fact that the Afghan National Army is directly charged with defeating the insurgency and terrorism, the Afghan National Police are often reassigned from their training to provide immediate help with the counterinsurgency effort, thus delaying the completion of their training.

- According to USAID, programs ranging from road reconstruction to power generation, face significant cost increases and were delayed or abandoned due to a lack of security.

Rebuilding Iraq – Economic Reform and Reconstruction

Building a sustainable market economy in Iraq will likely be a long-term effort. Iraq’s centralized economic and political structure
will require fundamental changes similar to those that are taking place in the countries of the former Soviet Union. The most immediate concern is Iraq’s physical reconstruction, including building roads, schools, and power plants. Another immediate concern is Iraq’s external debt and its war reparations resulting from the 1990 invasion of Kuwait—estimated to be as much as $400 billion. Additional concerns are the U.N. sanctions against Iraq and the related oil for food program, which still has more than $3 billion in escrow. Potential issues include oversight of the efficiency and effectiveness of reconstruction; the role and contributions of allies, the United Nations, World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund; the pros and cons of forgiving Iraq’s external debt; and resolution of the oil for food program.

[etc.]

The fiscal year 2003 emergency supplemental authorized about $2.5 billion for relief and reconstruction efforts in Iraq, available through fiscal year 2004. As of April 24, 2003, the Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) estimated that they would provide about $596.5 million in assistance to Iraq in fiscal year 2003. This amount does not reflect all estimated assistance to Iraq for fiscal year 2003.


***

My Note –

Do you have any idea what I could do with a billion dollars? For one thing, I would design a gizmo that would melt IED ignition / detonation systems within a hundred yards of any of our troops. But, then – that is not the most important thing compared to giving bankers the money to back their bad bets and poor choices
or funding the destruction of and then rebuilding of countries who basically hate us. (and always will.)

– cricketdiane

***

***

Russian tanks and rocket systems to boost Latin America’s military potential

14 September, 2009, 18:12

Russia will lend $2.2 billion to Venezuela, says President Hugo Chavez after his visit to Moscow. The money will help Venezuela’s military potential, which Chavez deems crucial as US influence grows in the region.

President Hugo Chavez says his country is buying nearly 100 T-72 tanks and an S-300 air-defense system, using a more than $2 billion loan it got from Russia.

The announcement was made just days after President Chavez’s two-day visit to Moscow, during which he recognized the independence of Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

Read more

“We have good relations with Venezuela both military, economic and cultural. There is no embargo on the selling of arms to this country so if it wants to buy our military hardware, we are ready to supply it,” explains Vladimir Travkin, editor-in-chief of the, Latin America magazine.

It comes as Colombia is planning to allow the United States access to seven military bases in the country, officially to help it in the war against drugs and left-wing guerillas.
But Venezuela says it’s a threat to its national security as it holds some of the largest oil reserves in the world.

President Chavez stresses the new measures are strictly for protection from the Empire – a term the President often uses when referring to the United States.

“It’s doubtful the US will engage in a war with Venezuela. American soldiers are already fighting and dying in Iraq and Afghanistan. But any leader with some self-respect has to think about how to protect his country from potential threats,” says Viktor Litovkin, an analyst from Independent Military Review newspaper.

The S-300 is planned to be the foundation of Venezuela’s air-defense shield.

Developed in the USSR and produced in Russia, it’s designed to knock out planes and ballistic missiles. Its radars can simultaneously track up to one hundred targets while engaging up to twelve.

Chavez says he also plans to buy other air-defense systems from Russia with Venezuela’s military already being the most powerful in Latin America.


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<td>— Rule of law</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td>Economic and social development</td>
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<td>124</td>
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<td>526</td>
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<td>— Eradication</td>
<td>39</td>
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<tr>
<td>— Interdiction</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>— Alternative development</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>— Other counternarcotics</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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</tr>
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Source: Departments of Defense and State.

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[etc.]

***

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[...]

As part of a UN mandate, the United States established Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRT) in 2002, which were transferred to ISAF
authority in 2003. PRTs consist of military officers, diplomats, and reconstruction subject matter experts working to support reconstruction efforts. The PRTs’ mission is to assist the government of Afghanistan in extending its authority; facilitate the development of a stable and secure environment; and, through military presence, enable security-sector reform and reconstruction efforts. The United States leads 12 of 26 PRTs (see fig 3).


***

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- According to USAID, programs ranging from road reconstruction to power generation, face significant cost increases and were delayed or abandoned due to a lack of security.

(from the same document – April 2009)


***

My Note – but after spending hundreds of billions in private contracts for Iraq’s infrastructure and now in Afghanistan – plus in Chile and no telling where all else, this little note from the GAO describes what the people of the United States get –

Why GAO Did This Study
Highlights
Accountability Integrity Reliability
May 8, 2008
PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE
Challenges and Investment Options for the Nation’s Infrastructure

Highlights of GAO-08-763T, a testimony before the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, U.S. House of Representatives

Physical infrastructure is critical to the nation’s economy and affects the daily life of virtually all Americans—from facilitating the movement of goods and people within and beyond U.S. borders to providing clean drinking water. However, this infrastructure—including aviation, highway, transit, rail, water, and dam infrastructure—is under strain. Estimates to repair, replace, or upgrade aging infrastructure as well as expand capacity to meet increased demand top hundreds of billions of dollars. Calls for increased investment in infrastructure come at a time when traditional funding for infrastructure projects is increasingly strained, and the federal government’s fiscal outlook is worse than many may understand.


***

SHARE THIS:

Loading...
Afghanistan – that’s why they can’t get anything done right in the United States as it crumbles around us and becomes ever more dangerous to US citizens who have paid for every cent, dime, and dollar by the hundreds of billions of dollars in taxes and use fees, registrations, fines and matching state tax funds that the Corps of Engineers and their civilian contractors are blatantly misusing, diverting to foreign enterprises and treasonously mismanaging...
US Army Corps of Engineers – (USACE)

USACE directly supports the military at the front, making expertise available to commanders to help solve and avoid engineering and other problems. Forward Engineer Support Teams may accompany combat engineers to provide immediate support, or to reach back electronically into the rest of the Corps for the necessary expertise. Corps professionals use the knowledge and skills honed on both military and civil projects to support the US and local communities in the areas of real estate, contracting, mapping, construction, logistics, engineering, and management experience. This work currently includes support for rebuilding Iraq, establishing Afghanistan infrastructure, and supporting international and interagency services.

In addition, the work of almost 34,000 civilians on civil works programs throughout USACE provide a training ground for similar capabilities worldwide. USACE civilians volunteer for assignments worldwide. For example, hydropower experts have helped repair, renovate, and run hydropower dams in Iraq in an effort to help get Iraqis to become self-sustaining.[4][5]

* More than 90 percent of the USACE construction contracts have been awarded to Iraqi-owned businesses – offering employment opportunities, boosting the economy, providing jobs, and training, promoting stability and security where before there was none. Consequently, the mission is a central part of the U.S. exit strategy.

* Completed over 4,400 infrastructure projects in Iraq at an estimated cost of $6.5 billion and over 500 projects ($2.6 billion) are ongoing: school projects (324,000 students), crude oil production 3 million barrels per day (480,000 m³/d), potable water projects (3.9 million people (goal 5.2 million)), fire stations, border posts, prison/courthouse improvements, transportation/communication projects, village
road/expressways, railroad stations, postal facilities, and aviation projects.

*At work in more than 90 countries*(while the US infrastructure kills and maims through their neglect, incompetence, dereliction of duty, and by abuse of the authority, resources and office they’ve been given. – my note)

*Gulf Region Division (Provisional) (GRD) (Operation IRAQI FREEDOM), located in Baghdad, Iraq.*[5] Its three districts are in North, Central, and South Iraq. There are more than 4,600 projects in the works with more than 4,000 completed through 2007. GRD is staffed primarily by civilian volunteers from throughout USACE.

*Afghanistan Engineer District (Provisional) (AED) (Operation ENDURING FREEDOM), located in Kabul, Afghanistan.*[5] The Corps of Engineers built much of the original Ring Road in the early 1960s and returned in 2002. Supports the full spectrum of regional support, including the Afghan National Security Forces, US and Coalition Forces, Counter Narcotics and Border Management, Strategic Reconstruction support to USAID, and the Commander’s Emergency Response Program. AED is also primarily staffed by civilian volunteers from throughout USACE.

[from – ]


In both its Civil Works mission and Military Construction program, the Corps is responsible for billions of dollars of the nation’s infrastructure. For example, the Corps maintains direct control of 609 dams, maintains and/or operates 257 navigation locks, and operates 75 hydroelectric facilities generating 24% of the nation’s hydropower and three percent of its total electricity. USACE inspects over 2,000 Federal and non-Federal levees every two years. *(my note- but 90% of the contracts and hundreds of billions of dollars intended for our infrastructure restoration and repair are going to Iraq and Afghanistan.)*
Headquarters

The Headquarters group defines policy and guidance and plans direction for the organizations within the Corps. It is made up of an Executive Office and 17 Staff Principals.[1] Located in Washington, DC, the Headquarters creates policy and plans the future direction of all other Corps organizations.

USACE has two directors who head up Military Programs and Civil Works.

* Steve Stockton, Director of Military Programs.
* Joe Tyler, Director of Civil Works

Colonel Debra Lewis, the Gulf Region Division Central District commander with Sheik O’rhaman Hama Raheem, an Iraqi councilman, celebrate the opening of a new women's center in Assriya Village that the Corps helped construct in 2006.

(while they tell us there is no money for our dams to be repaired, our bridges and water systems to be brought up to a basic standard of safety and entire system is in dangerous disrepair and inadequacy. – my note)

***

“America Betrayed” documentary 2008

About the movie

From 9/11, to the war in Iraq, to the worst disaster in U.S. history, the levee failures in Hurricane Katrina, America Betrayed follows the money, and the path leads straight back to the hallowed halls of Congress… the profits straight into the pockets of those with ties to the Executive Branch.

America Betrayed is the story of waste, fraud, and abuse at the very highest echelons of our federal government. Through
interviews with Pulitzer Prize winning journalists from the *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times* and *TIME Magazine*, to noted scientists from Berkeley and Harvard, to U.S. Senators and Congressman, *America Betrayed* takes an in-depth look at just how our government’s dirty little secrets have impeded an investigation into 9/11 and nearly ruined a great American city... New Orleans.

The gloves are off, and the inside story is being told, as longtime broadcast journalist and documentary filmmaker Leslie Cardé talks for the first time with insiders who know exactly how the game is played.

From the contractors who built sub-standard structures in New Orleans and were told to “keep quiet”, to the whistleblowers who sacrificed their jobs to come forward and expose the cover-ups, cooked books, and cronyism nationwide within the Army Corps of Engineers, this film digs deep to unearth the truth.

While scientists charged with investigating the Katrina disaster were intentionally led astray, journalists dug their heels in to get to the root of “disaster capitalism”, a process by which government insiders cash in with emergency no-bid contracts, in times of national stress.

*America Betrayed* clearly exposes our government’s misappropriation of funds in spending its citizens’ hard-earned tax dollars on rebuilding the Iraqi infrastructure, while the bridges, dams, levees and highways in this country are crumbling. *America Betrayed* is a cautionary tale for those who trust their government, and hopefully a wake-up call to change the status quo in Washington.

http://www.americabetrayedmovie.com/

http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1268175/

Be prepared to pull your hair out, 2 July 2009

8/10
If you’re looking for a movie to really get your blood boiling, search no further than “America Betrayed,” a shocking and revelatory documentary that examines the deplorable condition that much of our nation’s infrastructure is in at the moment.

Writer/director Leslie Carde finds her villain in the US Army Corps of Engineers, an agency whose primary aim is supposed to be that of protecting the nation’s citizenry from potential disasters caused by the structural failure of dams, bridges, levees, buildings etc.

Instead, the Corps, in cahoots with the many politicians and congressmen who work right along with it, has been found, over and over again, to be derelict in its duties – guilty of negligence, of employing harmful cost-cutting measures, of having misplaced priorities, of engaging in outright deception, and of brokering sweetheart deals with pet contractors.

The movie is unsparing in its treatment of the Corps, and Carde clearly views it as her own personal mission to hold that organization accountable for the many acts of criminal malfeasance it has engaged in over the years. I think it speaks volumes that no member of the Corps was willing to be interviewed for this film.

The movie chooses as its focal point the catastrophic failure of the levees in New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina, which resulted in the almost complete annihilation of one of America’s premier cities. Interviewee after interviewee refers to Katrina not as a “natural” disaster but as a man-made one. And given the facts as Carde lays them out for us, the film makes a very convincing case for that argument.

The scenes set in New Orleans – both during the hurricane and in the wake of its aftermath – are heartbreaking in the extreme. But it isn’t just in New Orleans that the problem lies. The movie
makes it clear that there are literally hundreds of other potentially dangerous levees and dams scattered throughout the country, most notably in the earthquake-prone Central Valley region of California. And that isn’t even taking into account all the aging, structurally unsound bridges, sewer systems, roadways, etc. that are also threatening to give way at any moment – as exemplified by the Minnesota bridge collapse that resulted in the deaths of thirteen people on August 1, 2007.

Most galling, perhaps, is the fact that so many of the funds that could have been earmarked for retrofitting projects here in the U.S. have been diverted to similar projects in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Carde’s work extends far beyond the issue of infrastructure; she views this as merely a symbol of the much greater failure of government overall, of our unwillingness as a nation to value the safety of our people over corporate profit and special interest deal-making.

“America Betrayed” is indeed a powerful and important social document – but be prepared to seethe.

***

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Army_Corps_of_Engineers

*Structural Flood Control
- Flood Control Act of 1928 which holds the corps exempt from financial liability should their flood control structures fail

***

(And who paid for this stuff – US taxpayers, our families, our pocketbooks, our sacrifices – )

Construction

Inspection Party, 1952
Congress authorized Buford Dam for construction in 1946 as part of the overall development of the nation’s waterways after the Second World War.

_The river and harbor legislation that came out of Congress during this time period was targeted at developing the nation's rivers systems for national defense, flood control, power production, navigation and water supplies._

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was involved in hundreds of projects all over the United States, as the scope of this massive undertaking was unprecedented.

Funding for construction first appeared on the horizon for the project in late 1949 as part of a multi-million dollar public works appropriation for the State of Georgia which saw $750,000.00 go to Buford Dam. This money was used to complete the initial planning and design phases of the project such as the powerhouse design and for the start of construction. The groundbreaking was held on the Gwinnett County side of the future dam site on March 1, 1950.

Excavation for Powerhouse, 1951

Hundreds of people from all over North Georgia braved the cold damp weather conditions to make the trek along the water soaked muddy roads to get to the groundbreaking ceremony. The work on the three saddle dikes, main earth dam, powerhouse, as well as bridge & highway relocation and construction would take over seven years. Although the work would be completed by private companies they would have to follow government specifications agreed to at the time the contracts were awarded.

During this time period the government would also have to acquire the rights to over 56,000 acres of land and see to the relocation of over 700 families. This was necessary in order to prepare the land for a 38,000-acre reservoir with over 692 miles of shoreline. The government followed strict guidelines spelled out
in the “River and Harbor Act” legislation in acquiring private property for public use. Careful attention was paid in removing homes, barns, wells, fencing, and other physical property to prevent navigation hazards on the lake in the future. This one aspect of the project’s construction had a price tag of over 19 million dollars. Most property was purchased for between $25 and $75 per acre. When complete, the total cost of the project’s construction, including the acquisition of land related items, was nearly 45 million dollars.

Construction of penstocks, 1953

On February 1, 1956 the gates of the intake structure were closed on the lakeside of the dam starting the slow process of creating the reservoir that was eventually named Lake Sidney Lanier after the Georgia born poet and musician who died in the 1880’s. It took over three years for the lake to record its normal elevation of 1070 feet above sea level for the first time on May 25, 1959. The dedication was held on top of the intake structure parking lot on October 9, 1957.

http://lanier.sam.usace.army.mil/history.htm

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My Note – even the Corps of Engineers admission of this history refers to drinking water / civilian water needs in the purposes of the Lanier reservoir. But, no – not according to a district judge who favored the shellfish over the needs of people and their children.

***

4:47 p.m. Tuesday, September 22, 2009

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Sewage plants swamped in Fulton, Cobb, Gwinnett

By By D.L. Bennett

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

The record rains of the past few days flooded out sewage treatment plants in Fulton, Cobb and Gwinnett counties, dumping millions of gallons of untreated sewage into local waterways.

Elissa Eubanks, eeubanks@ajc.com Rising water from the Chattahoochee River flooded out Atlanta’s R.M. Clayton Water Reclamation Center Tuesday, causing a massive dump of sewage into the rain-swollen river.

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ATLANTA FLOOD 2009 »

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So, water already polluted by oil and gasoline, trash, pesticides and other ground contaminants will also be carrying debris and bacteria from human waste.

The greatest damage occurred at Atlanta’s R.M. Clayton plant — the largest in the southeastern U.S. — which was swamped by at least four feet of water Tuesday when the Chattahoochee River surged more than 12 feet beyond flood level.

City officials said they’d seek federal help to repair potentially “tens of millions of dollars” in damages. They could not even estimate when the plant, which can treat as much as 240 million gallons of sewage a day, would be fixed.

“It’s sad,” said George Barnes, with Atlanta’s Department of Watershed Management. “And, it’s going to take a heck of an effort to get it back in service. We can’t even get out there to do anything.”

The city, Barnes said, can’t even begin pumping out water from the plant until the flood recedes. Because of its low elevation, any water pumped out would just pour back in, he said.

“I’ve been around since 1968 and I’ve never seen anything like this,” Barnes said.

The flood that took out Atlanta’s Clayton plant also swamped Cobb County’s R.L. Sutton water treatment plant, which sits across the river in south Cobb. Officials there said the plant was
“partially treating” sewage before dumping into the Chattahoochee.

Meanwhile, Gwinnett officials lost service at the Yellow River Water Reclamation Facility near Lilburn, which was underwater. They said Tuesday it would be two days before repairs could begin. The facility takes in wastewater flows from Lawrenceville, Norcross and some areas in between.

In Atlanta, the rains were so severe that the water swamped the entire tunnel system the city has built over the past several years to limit sewage overflows. The work was part of the $4.1 billion overhaul of Atlanta’s antiquated water/sewer system.

“I’d hate to think how bad things would be if it weren’t for the tunnels,” said Janet Ward, watershed spokeswoman.

Barnes said the $131 million Nancy Creek sewage tunnel was overwhelmed by inflow of rainwater into old, leaky sewer pipes. So, the 8-mile tunnel has been overflowing a combination of raw sewage and rainwater, Barnes said.

The tunnel, he noted, also runs to the Clayton plant, which is off line from the flood.

The rains also flooded the city’s $190 million deep storage tunnel for combined sewage. The 8.5 mile-long east tunnel has been the most controversial part of the city’s pipe overhaul. It holds 177 million gallons of combined sewage, which are normally treated at a separate plant on the R.M. Clayton site.

Barnes said that plant has not flooded and continued to operate Tuesday. However, he said the full tunnel has allowed combined sewage to spill from combined sewage overflow facilities around the city.

All the flooding did not impact Atlanta’s drinking water intake, just up river from the Clayton sewage treatment plant, officials
That doesn’t mean the flooded plants aren’t a health hazard. The damaged plants around metro Atlanta continue to dump untreated, or not-fully-treated sewage into floodwaters that then end up rising into homes and businesses.

“This is a tragedy,” said Atlanta Councilwoman Carla Smith, who heads the council’s utilities committee. “We’ve gotten way too much water all at the same time.”

Staff writers Pat Fox and Eric Stirgus contributed to this report.

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My Note –
I know that bridges, bridge supports, concrete and cement of any kind deteriorates and becomes chemically brittle / unbonded when subjected to sitting in a cesspool of water, sewage, piss, industrial chemicals, gasoline, natural gas residues, and other industrial waste products. How hard is it to figure out that a bridge support that has sat in that pollution stew for three – five days is no longer of the same integrity that it had when it was built. Its only a matter of time before the vibrations from hundreds of thousands of vehicles crossing those concrete piers will make the problem self-evident. Will it really be fixed before that failure, in Georgia – in Cobb County – in Atlanta – anywhere in the US, for that matter? What are they doing to check the integrity of these bridges – eyeballing them and pinging them with a hammer?
– cricketdiane
***
Constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the 1950’s, Lake Lanier is a multi-purpose lake that provides for flood protection, power production, water supply, navigation, recreation and fish and wildlife management.

Lake Lanier is one of 464 lakes in 43 states constructed and operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It has won the best operated lake of the year award in 1990, 1997 and 2002.

http://lanier.sam.usace.army.mil/
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http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/standards/wqslibrary/ga/ga_4_wqs
***
My Note –
So what it means is that every taxpayer dollar that was intended
to take care of public projects, public works, corps of engineers projects which we paid to build, dams, reservoirs, levees, erosion control, bridges, waterways, drinking water, rivers, military buildings and runways, along with whatever repairs and maintenance and safety issues to bring them up to code – every one of those dollars are no longer available to do those things adequately. But, that is a lot of water sitting behind those dams with people on the down river side of them.

Hundreds of thousands of people use those bridges, sit protected (or not) by those levees and dams, are forced to use the corps and nothing else by law and by funding. It is insane that the psychotic megalomaniacs at the top of our country’s seats of power criminally diverted those funds and resources to use for their friends profits and to provide resources in other countries and to pay for things that businesses should have paid for since it was to benefit them – such as dredging the Panama Canal or the new dredging of the Savannah River in Georgia.

And, the idea that the Corps of Engineers is environmentally conscientious – is the sorriest, most pathetic joke of all. They are the ones who insisted on justifying the use of kudzu throughout the Southeast as erosion control despite it being an invasive species that completely destroyed the natural species, forests and natural habitat permanently. They are the ones who give permits to dredge and to fill as they see fit with complete disregard for the wildlife and permanent changes they are making in the environment. And, on and on and on.

There isn’t an engineering mind among the bunch of them who is capable of making a sound and conscientious, responsible choice in the manner that engineers and scientists in every discipline make every single day. But, no – not the corps of engineers – they can’t be bothered with that. They and their crony politician friends and business interests are nothing more than serial killers with shovels and an open back pocket to take in the profits. They all ought to be made to live below the dams they didn’t fix – beside the levees they fixed half-ass and surrounded by whatever toxic waste they didn’t adequately clean up. And the politicians and their business / executive friends ought to have to live in the same shit they caused, right alongside them.

If I guessed – I would bet these jackasses were in the clean-up and decision making on this one, too – its going to be turned into a park for picnics . . . and day-hikes . . . and fishing . . . and glow-in-the-dark . . .

From October 2004 to January 2006, wastewater and storm water runoff coming from the lab had increased levels of chromium, dioxin, lead, mercury and other pollutants, the water board said. The contaminated water flowed into Bell Creek and the Los Angeles River in violation of a July 1, 2004 permit – [see Santa Susana sodium reactor site that is contaminated in Los Angeles, (San Fernando Valley) which is being turned into a park for day
In 1989, DOE found widespread chemical and radioactive contamination at the site, and a cleanup program commenced. In 1995 EPA and DOE announced that they had entered into a Joint Policy Agreement to assure that all DOE sites would be cleaned up to standards consistent with EPA’s Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) standards, also known as Superfund.

However, in March 2003, DOE reversed its position and announced that SSFL would not be cleaned up to EPA Superfund standards. While DOE simultaneously claimed compliance with the 1995 Joint Policy Agreement, the new plan included a cleanup of only 1% of the contaminated soil, and the release of SSFL for unrestricted residential use in as little as ten years. The report also concluded that the SRE meltdown (at the Santa Susana site) caused the release of more than 458 times the amount of radiation released at Three Mile Island.[1]

On October 15, 2007, Boeing announced that “In a landmark agreement between Boeing and California officials, nearly 2,400 acres (10 km²) of land that is currently Boeing’s Santa Susana Field Laboratory will become state parkland. According to the plan jointly announced Friday by California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, Boeing and state Sen. Sheila Kuehl, the property will be donated and preserved as a vital undeveloped open-space link in the Santa Susana Mountains above Simi Valley and the San Fernando Valley. (For picnics and dayhikes as mentioned below, with Boeing relieved of financial responsibility for the cleanup after purchasing the assets of Rocketdyne who made the mess and operating illegal methods of toxic cleanup of the site. – my note)

***

From the wikipedia entry – the Corps of Engineers is responsible for the radioactive cleanup –
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers environmental mission has two
major focus areas: restoration and stewardship. The Corps supports or manages numerous environmental programs, that run the gamut from cleaning up areas on former military installations contaminated by hazardous waste or munitions to helping establish/reestablish wetlands that help endangered species survive.[11] Some of these programs include Ecosystem Restoration, Formerly Used Defense Sites, Environmental Stewardship, EPA Superfund, Abandoned Mine Lands, Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program, Base Realignment and Closure, 2005, and Regulatory.

This mission includes education as well as regulation and cleanup.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has a very active environmental program under both its Military and Civil Programs.[11] The Civil Works environmental mission that ensures all Corps projects, facilities and associated lands meet environmental standards. The program has four functions: compliance, restoration, prevention, and conservation. The Corps also regulates all work in wetlands and waters of the United States.

The Military Programs Environmental Program manages design and execution of a full range of cleanup and protection activities:

- cleans up sites contaminated with hazardous waste, radioactive waste, or ordnance
- complies with federal, state, and local environmental laws and regulations

A member of the Radiation Safety Support Team wearing Tyvek tests excavated soil.
strives to minimize our use of hazardous materials
conserves our natural and cultural resources

The following are major areas of environmental emphasis:

- Wetlands and Waterways Regulation and Permitting
- Ecosystem Restoration
- Environmental Stewardship
- Radioactive site cleanup through the Formerly Used Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP)
- **Base Realignment and Closure** (BRAC)
- Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS)
- Support to EPA’s Superfund Program

See also [Environmental Enforcement](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environmental_Enforcement) below.

**http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Army_Corps_of_Engineers**

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Santa Susana Field Laboratory

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SSFL administrative areas and surrounding communities.

1990 Aerial view of the Energy Technology Engineering Center located in Area IV
The Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) is a once prolific rocket and nuclear reactor test facility located 30 miles (48 km) north of downtown Los Angeles, California. SSFL continues to operate today, serving as a research facility for The Boeing Company. The first commercial nuclear-power producing reactor (the Sodium Reactor Experiment) inside the United States was built at SSFL. The SRE came online in April 1957, and began feeding electricity to the grid on July 12, 1957. The reactor powered over 1,100 homes in the Moorpark area of California for a short period of time. Today, all nuclear research and most rocket testing has been halted.

Various research initiatives, such as the development of the Saturn rockets that powered the Apollo missions, the rockets that powered the vast ballistic missile arsenal of the United States during the Cold War years, and even a program to develop nuclear reactors for use in outer space were undertaken at the facility.

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History

Founded in the mid-1940s, SSFL was slated as a United States government facility dedicated to the development and testing of nuclear reactors, powerful rockets like the Delta II, and the systems that powered the Apollo missions. The location of SSFL was chosen for its remoteness in order to conduct work that was considered too dangerous to be performed in more densely populated areas. In subsequent years however, Southern California’s population mushroomed. Today, more than 150,000 people live within 5 miles (8 km) of the facility, and at least half a million people live within 10 miles (16 km). The area is south of Sage Ranch Park.

At a size of 2,850 acres (11 km^2), SSFL is situated on top of the Simi Hills, overlooking Simi Valley to the north, Chatsworth, Canoga Park, and the West Hills areas of the San Fernando Valley — a densely populated area on the northernmost border of Los Angeles’ city limits — to the south.

The site is divided into four areas, (area I, II, III, IV). Areas I through III were used for rocket testing, missile testing, and munitions development. Area IV was used primarily for nuclear reactor experimentation and development. Laser research for the Strategic Defense Initiative (popularly known as “Star Wars”), was also conducted in Area IV.

Rocketry

North American Aviation (NAA) began its development of liquid propellant rocket engines after the end of WWII. The Rocketdyne division of NAA, which came into being under its own name in the mid-1950s, designed and tested several rocket engines at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory located in the mountains northwest of Chatsworth, California. They included engines for the Army’s Redstone (an advanced short-range copy of the German V-2), and the Jupiter intermediate range ballistic missile (IRBM) as well as the Air Force’s counterpart IRBM, the Thor.
Also included were engines for the Atlas Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM), as well as the twin combustion chamber alcohol/liquid oxygen booster engine for the NAVAHO, a large, intercontinental cruise missile that never became operational. Later, Rocketdyne designed and tested the huge F-1 engine that was eventually used as one of a cluster of engines powering the Apollo booster, as well as the J-2 liquid oxygen/hydrogen upper stage engine also used on the Project Apollo spacecraft.

**NUCLEAR FACILITIES AND Accidents**

This worker is John Pace helping align equipment over the SRE reactor core after the meltdown. His hat reads: “Your safety is our business, Atomics International.”

Throughout the years, approximately ten low-power nuclear reactors operated at SSFL, in addition to several “critical facilities”: a sodium burn pit in which sodium-coated objects were burned in an open pit; a plutonium fuel fabrication facility; a uranium carbide fuel fabrication facility; and purportedly the largest “Hot Lab” facility in the United States at the time. (A Hot Lab is a facility used for remotely cutting up irradiated nuclear fuel.) Irradiated nuclear fuel from other Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) and Department of Energy (DOE) facilities from around the country were shipped to SSFL to be decladded and examined.

The Hot Lab suffered a number of fires involving radioactive...
materials. For example, in 1957, a fire in the Hot Cell “got out of control and ... massive contamination” resulted. (see: NAA-SR-1941, Sodium Graphite Reactor, Quarterly Progress Report, January-March 1957). Another radioactive fire occurred in 1971, involving combustible primary reactor coolant (NaK) contaminated with mixed fission products. (see: Rockwell International, Nuclear Operations at Rockwell’s Santa Susana Field Laboratory — A Factual Perspective, September 6, 1991).

At least four of the ten nuclear reactors suffered accidents. The AE6 reactor experienced a release of fission gases in March 1959, the SRE experienced a power excursion and partial meltdown in July 1959; the SNAP8ER in 1964 experienced damage to 80% of its fuel; and the SNAP8DR in 1969 experienced similar damage to one-third of its fuel. (see “Reactor accident sources” below).

Unfortunately, the reactors located on the grounds of SSFL were considered experimental, and therefore had no containment structures. Reactors and highly radioactive components were housed without the large concrete domes that surround modern power reactors.

SODIUM REACTOR EXPERIMENT

Main article: Sodium Reactor Experiment
The Sodium Reactor Experiment (SRE) was an experimental nuclear reactor which operated from 1957 to 1964. On July 12, 1957, its electrical generating system produced the first electricity generated from a nuclear power system to supply a commercial power grid by powering homes in the nearby city of Moorpark. In July 1959, internal cooling channels within the reactor became obstructed by a contaminant causing 13 of 43 reactor fuel elements to partially melt.[2] The reactor was repaired and returned to operation in September, 1960 and completed operations in February 1964.[3] The reactor and support systems were removed in 1981 and the building torn down in 1999.
The 1959 incident caused the release of radioactive gasses from the fuel elements. Reports and other documentation prepared by the reactor operators (Atomics International) shortly after the incident indicate the gasses were collected, monitored, contained, allowed to decay to acceptable limits then released to the atmosphere over a period of about two months all in compliance with the requirements in effect at the time.\[4\] In 2004, an analysis of the 1959 incident was prepared to support a lawsuit against the Boeing Company. The analysis concludes the SRE incident may have released up to 260 times more radioactive \textit{iodine-131} than the 1979 \textit{Three Mile Island accident}. Boeing maintains that only a much smaller amount of only \textit{xenon-133} and \textit{krypton-85} were released. The contradictory analysis of the 1959 incident has been a source of controversy in the neighboring community, however, environmental contamination resulting from the July 1959 incident has not been yet found.\[5\] In April, 2009, The Department of Energy announced the dedication of $41.5 million dollars to provide for additional environmental sampling of the 260-acre Area IV, including the former SRE site.

\textbf{ADVANCED EPITHERMAL THORIUM REACTOR}

The Advanced Epithermal Thorium Reactor was housed in Building 4100. It was used to study twenty different nuclear reactor core configurations by using an apparatus which supported a range of geometries.\[6\]

\textbf{ENERGY TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING CENTER}

Main article: Energy Technology Engineering Center

The Energy Technology Engineering Center (ETEC), was a government-owned, contractor-operated complex of industrial facilities located within Area IV of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory. The ETEC specialized in non-nuclear testing of components which were designed to transfer heat from a nuclear reactor using liquid metals instead of water or gas. The center operated from 1966 to 1998. The ETEC site has been closed and is now undergoing building removal and environmental remediation by the \textbf{U.S. Department of Energy}. 
SITE CONTAMINATION

The sodium burn pit, an open-air pit for cleaning sodium-contaminated components, was also contaminated when radioactively and chemically-contaminated items were burned in it, in contravention of safety requirements. In an article in the Ventura County Star, James Palmer, a former SSFL worker was interviewed. The article notes that “of the 27 men on Palmer’s crew, 22 died of cancers.” On some nights Palmer returned home from work and kissed “his [wife] hello, only to burn her lips with the chemicals he had breathed at work.” The report also noted that “During their breaks, Palmer’s crew would fish in one of three ponds … The men would use a solution that was 90 percent hydrogen peroxide to neutralize the contamination. Sometimes, the water was so polluted it bubbled. The fish died off.” Palmer’s interview ended on a somber note: “They had seven wells up there, water wells, and every damn one of them was contaminated,” Palmer said, “It was a horror story.” (See: The Cancer Effect, October 30, 2006, The Ventura County Star.)

Other spills and releases occurred over the decades of operation as well. In 1989, a DOE investigation found widespread chemical and radioactive contamination on the property. Widely publicized in the local press, the revelations led to substantial concern among community members and elected officials, resulting in a challenge to and subsequent shutdown of continued nuclear activity at the site, and the filing of lawsuits. Cleanup commenced, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was brought in at the request of local legislators to provide oversight.

A Worker disposes of toxic chemicals by blowing up full barrels with a rifle shot (the reaction to the shot caused an explosion).
On December 11, 2002, a top Department of Energy (DOE) official, Mike Lopez, described typical clean-up procedures executed by Field Lab employees in the past. Workers would dispose of barrels filled with highly toxic waste by shooting the barrels with rifles so that they would explode and release their contents into the air. It is unclear when this process ended, but for certain did end prior to the 1990s. (See: “Rocketdyne, it’s the pits,” Ventura County Reporter, December 12, 2002; also see SB990, a bill before the California legislature relating this almost unbelievable procedure.)

On July 26, 1994, two scientists, Otto K. Heiney, 52, of Chatsworth and Larry A. Pugh, 51, of Thousand Oaks, were killed when the chemicals they were illegally burning in open pits exploded. After a grand jury investigation and FBI raid on the facility, three Rocketdyne officials pleaded guilty in June 2004 to illegally storing explosive materials. The jury deadlocked on the more serious charges related to illegal burning of hazardous waste. (see: “Scientist Fined $100 in Lab Blast That Killed 2,” Los Angeles Times, December 11, 2003 Thursday; also see “Executive Sentenced in ’94 Blast; A former Rocketdyne official gets probation for violations linked to two scientists’ deaths.” Los Angeles Times, January 28, 2003 Tuesday.)

(So apparently a human life to our court judges, when it involves the upper crust as responsible for criminally cutting short that life – is about $50 a piece and probation. They ought to make those executives and their supervising management employees live in the contaminants on that property. – my note)

Toxic substances burn and are released into the air.

At trial, a retired Rocketdyne mechanic testified as to what he witnessed at the time of the explosion:
“I assumed we were burning waste,” Wells testified, comparing the process used on July 21 and 26, 1994, to that once used to legally dispose of leftover chemicals at the company’s old burn pit. As Heiney poured the chemicals for what would have been the third burn of the day, the blast occurred, Wells said. “It was so loud I didn’t hear anything … I felt the blast and I looked down and my shirt was coming apart.”

When he realized what had occurred, Wells said, “I felt to see if I was all there … I knew I was burned but I didn’t know how bad.” (See: “Ex-Rocketdyne Worker Describes Fatal 1994 Blast,” Los Angeles Times, January 5, 2002 Saturday)

In 2005, wildfires swept through northern Los Angeles County and parts of Ventura County. The fires consumed most of the dry brush throughout the Simi Hills where SSFL is located. The facility received substantial fire damage. Since the fire, allegations have emerged that vast quantities of on-site contamination was burned up, and released into the air. Most recently, Los Angeles County firefighters who were assigned to SSFL during the fire have been sent for medical testing to see if any harmful doses were ingested or inhaled while protecting the facility.

While community members and firefighters have expressed concern about the amount of exposure, Boeing officials stand by their position that no contamination of the air resulted from the fire, and that any contamination that may have been consumed by the fire was negligible.

California’s Department of Toxic Substances Control also claims that no significant contamination occurred as a result of the fire. Although the Field Lab is under current criticism for violating almost 50 discharge permits, State agencies have been silent on the issue. Recently, lawyers disclosed to the California Water Resources Control Board that over 80 exceedances of Boeing’s discharge permits were found in the past year alone. In January 2006, the State Water Resources Control Board finally
stepped in, and refused some requests by Boeing for even lighter standards.

Also in October 2005, Plaintiff Margaret-Ann Galasso, in a suit against Boeing criticized her attorneys, who, as she claimed, accepted a $30 million dollar settlement with Boeing without her approval. The attorneys stand to collect $18 million, or 60% of the settlement amount after their costs and fees are subtracted. The Plaintiff who disclosed the allegedly tainted deal is splitting the rest of the settlement with other plaintiffs and will only receive around $30,000, a far cry from the amount she will need for extensive future medical treatments for diseases that were linked to contamination from the SSFL facility.

In October 2006, the Santa Susana Field Laboratory Advisory Panel, made up of independent scientists and researchers from around the United States, concluded that contamination at the facility resulted in between 0 and 1,800 cancer deaths (the average estimate was 300 deaths). The report also concluded that the SRE meltdown caused the release of more than 458 times the amount of radiation released at Three Mile Island.[1]

On October 15, 2007, Boeing announced that “In a landmark agreement between Boeing and California officials, nearly 2,400 acres (10 km²) of land that is currently Boeing’s Santa Susana Field Laboratory will become state parkland. According to the plan jointly announced Friday by California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, Boeing and state Sen. Sheila Kuehl, the property will be donated and preserved as a vital undeveloped open-space link in the Santa Susana Mountains above Simi Valley and the San Fernando Valley. The agreement will permanently restrict the land for nonresidential, noncommercial use.”

Conflict over cleanup

At least 4 nuclear accidents and over 30,000 rocket engine tests have occurred at SSFL over the years. Many critics and local
residents believe that SSFL remains a highly polluted site to this day. Widespread use of highly toxic chemicals to power the rocket tests and to clean rocket test-stands after the testing as well as contamination that resulted from the considerable nuclear research is at the heart of such claims.

**CLEANUP STANDARDS**

Future use of the land SSFL is located on is also a source of much debate. The site’s current owners, the Boeing Company have issued statements suggesting that the land may be sold for future unrestricted residential development without having cleaned the site up to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) cleanup standards. On August 2, 2005, Pratt & Whitney purchased Rocketdyne from Boeing, but refused to acquire SSFL as part of the sale.

In 1989, DOE found widespread chemical and radioactive contamination at the site, and a cleanup program commenced. In 1995 EPA and DOE announced that they had entered into a Joint Policy Agreement to assure that all DOE sites would be cleaned up to standards consistent with EPA's Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) standards, also known as Superfund.

However, in March 2003, DOE reversed its position and announced that SSFL would not be cleaned up to EPA Superfund standards. While DOE simultaneously claimed compliance with the 1995 Joint Policy Agreement, the new plan included a cleanup of only 1% of the contaminated soil, and the release of SSFL for unrestricted residential use in as little as ten years. EPA responded to this announcement by claiming that DOE was not subject to EPA regulation due to the fact that DOE existed as a separate entity under the Executive Branch of the Federal Government, and refused to take steps to force DOE adherence to the 1995 agreement.

In August 2003, the Senate Appropriations Committee issued a report on Energy and Water Appropriations, urging DOE to live up
to its commitments in the 1995 Joint Policy and clean up SSFL to EPA’s CERCLA standards. Shortly thereafter, DOE responded to the Senate, claiming it was in fact consistent with both the Joint Policy and EPA’s CERCLA standards.

In December 2003, soon after DOE’s announcement that it was consistent with the 1995 agreement, EPA issued its own formal findings. EPA determined that the cleanup was not consistent with its CERCLA standards, and that sufficient contamination would remain at levels that would be dangerously inappropriate for unrestricted residential, and that the only safe use under DOE’s revised cleanup standards would be restricted day hikes with limitations on picnicking.

Critics point out that if the DOE-Boeing cleanup plan was followed through and the site was released for unrestricted residential use, the property would likely become a Superfund site subject to EPA standards. After the sale, the site would no longer be a DOE facility, and thus, the exemption from CERCLA standards would no longer be in effect.

The end result being that the site would only be brought into compliance with CERCLA cleanup standards after Boeing has sold the property, relieving the company of any burden of cleanup costs. The costs would likely be passed on to taxpayers, and not those responsible for the actual contamination. This is merely critical analysis, however, and it remains unclear as to what cleanup standards DOE and Boeing will end up setting for themselves.

In early May 2007, a Federal Court in San Francisco issued a major ruling which concluded that DOE has not been cleaning up the site to proper standards, and that the site would have to be cleaned up to higher standards if DOE ever wanted to release the site to Boeing, which in turn, would most likely release the land for unrestricted residential development.

From the L.A. Times ("Judge assails Rocketdyne cleanup" print}
Judge “Conti’s ruling requires DOE to prepare a more stringent review of the lab, which is on the border of Los Angeles County. Conti wrote that the department’s decision to prepare a less-stringent environmental document prior to cleanup is in violation of the National Environmental Policy Act and noted that the lab ‘is located only miles away from one of the largest population centers in the world.’”

On July 26, 2007, staff at the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board recommended a $471,190 fine against Boeing Co. for 79 violations of the California Water Code during an 18-month period.

From October 2004 to January 2006, wastewater and storm water runoff coming from the lab had increased levels of chromium, dioxin, lead, mercury and other pollutants, the water board said. The contaminated water flowed into Bell Creek and the Los Angeles River in violation of a July 1, 2004, permit that allowed release of wastewater and storm water runoff as long as it didn’t contain high levels of pollutants.

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**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

Every quarter, Simi Valley hosts workgroup meetings regarding the cleanup of SSFL that is open to the public attendance and comment.
The workgroup consists of representatives from the California Department of Toxic Substances Control and the U.S. EPA. Public policy organizations such as Committee to Bridge the Gap also send representatives as part of the work group. The Boeing Company, current owner of the SSFL site is also invited, but has boycotted the meetings for the past few years. The DOE has also been invited, but like Boeing, had boycotted the meetings for the past few years. In August 2007, however, the DOE for the first time in years sent representatives to the quarterly workgroup meeting. Other organizations and private companies also attend as part of the workgroup depending on the topic pending.

The meetings are typically held at The Simi Valley Cultural Arts Center, located at 3050 Los Angeles Avenue, Simi Valley, CA 93065.

References

1. ^ The F-1 engine was so big that it could not be tested at the Rocketdyne Field Laboratory which was too close to populated San Fernando Valley areas, and tests on it were run out in the desert at the Edwards Air Force base. “Apollo Expeditions to the Moon, Chapter 3.2”. NASA. http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/pao/History/SP-350/ch-3-2.html.


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on the workers and their every-day exposure to the hazardous environment provided by the owners and operators of this lab. Retrieved July 27, 2007.


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- The Santa Susana Advisory Panel

- History Channel – Rocketdyne at YouTube (Adobe Flash video)

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**Coordinates:** 🌎 34°13'51"N 118°41'47"W / 34.230822°N 118.696375°W

Retrieved from

Categories: Environmental disasters in the United States | Civilian nuclear power accidents | Nuclear research reactors | Environment of the United States | Space launch vehicles | Energy resource facilities in California | Disasters in California |
Georgia flooding while the Corps of Engineers from hell push water into the swollen rivers – Why do they get paid for being incompetent on a regular basis?

From the little extra water we had here in Atlanta –
Everyone with an interest in Lake Lanier and those affected by flooding around metro Atlanta have been asking the question: why does water continue to flow through Buford Dam despite the huge amounts of rain swelling the Chattahoochee and its creeks and tributaries downstream and the capacity of the lake to hold this precipitation?

Because of the virtual lockdown on communication with the Army Corps of Engineers in Georgia the only semblance of communication comes from the Corps’ Mobile, AL office.

Area fishermen and concerned citizens that have spoken with the people at the Alabama office are in disbelief that the decisions are either influenced by or coming directly from that office when they don't even seem to understand the severity of the rain event.

The Mobile, AL office of the Corps of Engineers first explained that the two main generators have been shut off and that a smaller units that discharges 600 cubic feet per second was operating to supply power to the Dam and some small electric companies in the area. They quickly backed off that statement and said the small generator was only powering the dam itself.

So now we know that it takes 389 million gallons of water discharged per day (600 cfs) just to power the dam itself. Corps spokespeople don’t even know if it is possible to shut off the discharge completely, which means that through the additional rains expected for this weekend the already stressed creek and tributary system downstream from the dam will likely continue to back up at the Chattahoochee.


***
The flooding around Atlanta this week is one for the record books. According to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the rivers and streams had magnitudes so great that the odds of it happening were less than 0.2 percent in any given year. In other words, there was less than a 1 in 500 chance that parts of Cobb and Douglas counties were going to be hit with such an event.

“The USGS can reliably say just how bad these floods were. They were epic!” said Brian McCallum, Assistant Director for the USGS Water Science Center in Georgia. “We have all witnessed the devastation caused by these floods, but now we can quantify it.” The data are gathered from the USGS real-time streamgaging network.

On Sept. 22, USGS crews measured the greatest flow ever recorded (28,000 cubic feet per second) on Sweetwater Creek near Austell, Ga.
Elsewhere in the Atlanta area:

- The Yellow River streamgages in Gwinnett, DeKalb and Rockdale counties measured flows between the 1 percent chance (100-year) and 0.5 percent chance (200-year) flood magnitude.
- Flows caused by the rain at Peachtree Creek in Atlanta were only near the 10 percent chance (10-year) flood magnitude, but the backwater effects from the Chattahoochee River pushed water levels over the 0.2 percent chance (500-year) flood at the gage location.
- On the Chattahoochee, USGS measured a 1 percent chance exceedence (100-year) flood at Vinings and Roswell.

“Today, six USGS crews are installing and repairing the 20 gages that were destroyed because of flooding. We expect that all but one gage should be operational by the end of the day,” said McCallum. “During flooding, these gages provide critical information to many users, so fixing the gages is our priority now.”

USGS also has two crews measuring high water marks, and will continue taking these indirect measurements in earnest on Monday. Pictures taken over the past few days by USGS scientists as they work in flooded areas are available [online](#).

In Georgia the USGS maintains a network of more than 300 stream gages that provide data in real time. Data from these gages are used by local, state and federal officials for numerous purposes, including public safety and flood forecasting by the National Weather Service.

A map of these gages and graphs of discharge for the last seven days is available [online](#). The USGS works in cooperation with other Federal, state, and local agencies, throughout Georgia that measure water level (stage), streamflow (discharge), and rainfall.
Users can access current flood and high flow conditions across the country at the USGS WaterWatch Web site.

More information on USGS flood-related activities is available at the USGS Surface Water Information Web site.

USGS provides science for a changing world. For more information, visit www.usgs.gov.

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**** http://www.usgs.gov ****

Links and contacts within this release are valid at the time of publication.

http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?id=2316&from=rss_home

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Posted: Friday, September 25th 2009 at 7:04am

Corps defends flood management operations

By Ken Stanford Editor

Buford Dam
MOBILE, Ala. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is defending its management of Lake Lanier during this week’s floods.

Questions have been raised about continuing to send water through Buford Dam even as flooding was occurring downstream. But spokeswoman Lisa Coghlan says some water has to flow through in order to produce electricity. And, that curtailed releases have kept 37 billion gallons of flood water in Lanier.

And, no, she says, there is no danger of “overfilling” the lake. “We have 14 feet of flood storage capacity at Lake Lanier.”

Last Saturday, the Corps implemented its Flood Control Operations at the dam... reducing the amount of water sent downstream.

The level of Lanier increased another .08 foot in the past 24 hours and was at 1068.03 early Friday... within three feet of full pool since before the start of the prolonged drought that ended earlier this year. Full pool is 1071 and the corps expects continued runoff from this week’s heavy rains to send the level to 1068.5 this weekend.

Even more heavy rains are forecast through Saturday and a Flash Flood Watch has been issued for most of north Georgia. (See separate posting.)

(The Georgia News Network contributed to this story.)

(The Georgia News Network contributed to this story.)

Associated Categories: [Homepage, Local/State News]


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Rain continues to drench Ga.; flood losses now put at $500M

ATLANTA – Heavy rains drenched northwest Georgia Saturday and then moved into metro Atlanta, dumping several inches and causing flooding in some areas, but forecasters said the end of the rain was in sight. And, the state Insurance Commissioner updated the estimated losses from flooding earlier in the week, putting it at half-a-billion dollars.

Georgia Insurance Commissioner John Oxendine on Saturday raised the estimated cost of damage caused by heavy flooding in parts of north Georgia to $500 million. The new figure was twice as much as Tuesday’s initial damage estimate of $250 million.

“I think it could quite possibly go up,” Oxendine said, adding that the estimate of half a billion dollars was conservative.

Oxendine said 20,000 homes and other structures suffered major damage, mainly in the area north and west of Atlanta.

A federal disaster declaration has been issued to provide individual assistance for recovery efforts to residents in 14 Georgia counties that were hardest hit. The declaration covers Carroll, Catoosa, Chattooga, Cherokee, Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, Fulton, Gwinnett, Newton, Paulding, Rockdale, Stephens and Walker counties.

http://www.accessnorthga.com/detail.php?n=223447&c=1

***

And where is our Governor with a bunch of Georgia under flood waters?

Thursday, September 24, 2009, 8:47pm EDT
Gov. Sonny Perdue got a first-hand look Thursday at the widening of the Panama Canal, a project that is vital to the planned deepening of the harbor at the Port of Savannah.

The Panama Canal Authority took over operation of the canal when the United States turned it over to the Panamanian government at the end of the last decade.

“These people have their act together,” said Perdue, after touring both the construction work and operating locks. “It’s a well-run enterprise.”

The governor and Ken Stewart, commissioner of the Georgia Department of Economic Development, led a state delegation that traveled to Panama this week to check on the $5.2 billion project’s progress.

[...]

Georgia officials are seeking federal funding for the harbor deepening. But Congress won’t act until the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers signs off on the project.

[etc.]

(we’re paying for him to go see the Panama Canal with his buddies, of course)


***
Tuesday, January 13, 2009

Supreme Court won’t hear Georgia water appeal

JACKSONVILLE BUSINESS JOURNAL – BY DAVE WILLIAMS STAFF WRITER

The U.S. Supreme Court Monday declined to hear Georgia’s appeal of a lower court ruling in the long-running tri-state water wars.

The high court denied a request to review a decision handed down nearly a year ago by the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington invalidating a 2003 agreement to let metro Atlanta water utilities increase withdrawals from Lake Lanier from about 13 percent of the lake’s capacity to about 22 percent.

The agreement between Georgia and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was challenged by Florida and Alabama, which lie downstream of Lanier in the Chattahoochee River system.

In a prepared statement, Gov. Charlie Crist applauded the decision.

“This action will allow Florida to continue our efforts to help protect the adequate flow of freshwater in the Apalachicola River,” Crist said. “After nearly 20 years of legal discussions, today’s decision should provide the framework needed for resolution of this matter.

In opposing Georgia’s efforts to take more water out of Lake Lanier to meet rapidly growing customer demand in metro Atlanta, Florida and Alabama argued that the reservoir was built in the 1950s primarily to provide hydropower and that water supply was not its authorized purpose.

Georgia begins cleaning up $250 million in flood damage

Gov. Sonny Perdue seeks $16.35 million in federal aid to help recover from storms that left nine dead. Crews work on an Atlanta water-treatment plant that added to Chattahoochee River flooding.

Reporting from Atlanta – With floodwaters finally receding, Georgians began the unglamorous task of cleaning up Wednesday, while taking stock of the destruction from an unprecedented autumn deluge that has claimed nine lives and caused an estimated $250 million in damage.

Across the state, roads reopened and residents returned to view the damage to their homes. In the early hours Wednesday, work crews managed to fix much of the damage to a city of Atlanta water-treatment plant that spilled millions of gallons of water into the Chattahoochee River.

In Greater Atlanta, the local river system had been a sort of famous afterthought. Atlanta earned its initial fortunes in the 19th century as a railroad hub, and for many Atlantans, the Chattahoochee, which runs southwestward through the metro region, has typically been out of sight — and out of mind.

“People usually see the river from a car window when they’re rushing over a freeway,” said Sally Bethea, head of Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, a nonprofit environmental group. “And usually, [the water] stays in place. So I think it’s pretty stunning for people to see the river widen to a half a mile, and the creeks widen, and all of this raging water.”

Bethea blamed the flooding in part on rampant development and
paving that prevent the earth from soaking up rain, instead sending it shooting into river basins.

[...] The rains have helped in one respect: by adding water to Lake Lanier, the source of much of the region’s drinking water. During a three-year drought that was declared over in March, lake levels reached record lows. The recent rains added more than 3 feet to the water level of the 38,000-acre lake, said Robert G. Holland, spokesman for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

[...]


(has video clip of first person account, also)

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Biden to GA Flood Victims: We Don’t Want Another Katrina-like Government Response

September 25, 2009 2:12 PM

ABC News’ Karen Travers and Jordyn Phelps report:

Vice President Biden surveyed flood damage in the Atlanta area this morning and promised an effective and timely government response, in contrast to the Bush Administration’s handling of Hurricane Katrina.

“This is not going to happen overnight. It is not going to happen tomorrow, but it is going to happen,” Biden said.

[etc.]

“Look, we don’t want anything like the past happening again,”
Biden said. “This is hands on stuff, but it’s going to take time. We’re going to get other federal agencies in now. We’re going to get HUD in and others who are going to be able to take care of hopefully your real needs.”

The floods have killed 9 people in Georgia. Eight counties have been declared federal disaster areas and will qualify for federal funding.

The vice president took an aerial tour of the flood damage in a helicopter with FEMA Director Craig Fugate. They were joined in a second helicopter by Georgia Sens. Johnny Isakson and Saxby Chambliss, Rep. David Scott and Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano.

Biden stopped by a shelter set up the Cobb County Civic Center to meet with people whose homes were damaged and destroyed in the flooding. The shelter is housing 277 flood victims who will be able to stay there as long as necessary.

[...]


Some of the comments on the article above about Lake Lanier and the Corps of Engineers sending the agreed upon water through despite the flooding –

I am disgusted with the US Atmy Corps of Engineers Mobile AL HQ. These bureaucrats during the recent flooding released water (although a mimimum amount)from Lake Lanier into the swollen waters. Lake Lanier was 6+ feet from full lake elevation and 20+ feet from flood level and there was no good reason for releasing any water from Lake Lanier. I am not happy.

Posted by: Robert G Sorbet | Sep 26, 2009 7:07:04 AM
I also feel we need someone to watch the corp of engineers. They have constantally released more water than they should have over the past two summers and dried up some surrounding lakes which were on some people’s property after saying they would only take some of the water...they left nothing....Who moniters them? I think an investigation should be made as to who is watching and supervising them.

Posted by: talmag | Sep 26, 2009 12:41:44 PM

@Alyson I do not believe that the COE directed water release from Lake Lanier killed anyone or exacerbated the flooding situation to any great extent, what I do know is that there has been hard feelings for many years between Georgians and the Corps, and what prompted my anger was a Press Release issued by the Corps Mobile AL HQ which I can no longer access or it has been taken down for some good or bad reason.

Posted by: Robert G Sorbet | Sep 26, 2009 12:08:42 PM

I do have a problem with the Corps of Engineers releasing water from a flood control lake into swollen waters during a flash flood. My nephew lost a lifelong friend in these floods. I live in Douglas County Georgia and my heart goes out to all of the victims.

***

I’m so very, very sorry for your nephew’s loss, and I hope you and your family and friends are all okay. Please hang in there. I have read that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is getting a lot of criticism from Georgians right now for mismanagement of the water at Lake Lanier—though I confess
I’m a little confused as to what they did, why, and so on.

Posted by: Alyson | Sep 26, 2009 10:22:25 AM

@Alyson You make great sense. I have no problem with FEMA, Obama, or Biden; but I do have a problem with the Corps of Engineers releasing water from a flood control lake into swollen waters during a flash flood. My nephew lost a lifelong friend in these floods. I live in Douglas County Georgia and my heart goes out to all of the victims.

Posted by: Robert G Sorbet | Sep 26, 2009 9:49:31 AM

Just a little context cuz some of these comments seem bizarre to me. First of all, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has said that the floods are a “once in 500 years flood,”... the odds of such a thing happening are less “than 0.2 percent in any given year.” The floods have affected 20 counties, caused the deaths of least nine people, and created about $250 million in damages. Two very conservative Republican senators, Johnny Isakson and Saxby Chambliss, have commended “the White House’s quick response.” Actually, Chambliss said the admin’s response was “magnificent” and “quick. Isakson said he had spent last night on the phone with local officials, all of whom reported FEMA workers on the ground–yep that FEMA, which three years was described as being in shambles. I’m glad to hear that FEMA is back on track, and was happy to see the VP there.

Posted by: Alyson | Sep 26, 2009 9:25:02 AM

Jason…. I wonder WHO paved “the road to hell” in the prior DECADES….It had to take longer than 9 months to “pave a road to hell”, isn’t that rational?

***
The deluge of recent rains in North Georgia have sent the Lake Allatoona water levels soaring past full pool. The lake rose more than 8 feet in the past 24 hours.

Currently the lake is 11 feet above full pool and still rising. The high water levels have caused Allatoona to spread over its banks into parks, campgrounds and parking lots on shore.

The Corps of Engineers which is in control of the lake, has shut down all boat ramps on the lake except for Stamp Creek and Galts Ferry.

Photos of the Lake Allatoona Flooding
These are photos taken on Tuesday morning of the ramps and roads around Allatoona. Despite the high water, fishermen are still out on the lake between fish from Bartow Carver to the Dam. Thanks to Robert Edison from First Bite Guide Services for these photos.

(lots of great photos of Lake Allatoona – my note)

USGS will Grant Universities $5 Million to Beef Up Public Safety

Grants totaling $5 million under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act are being awarded to 13 universities nationwide to upgrade critical earthquake monitoring networks and increase public safety.

“These stimulus grants will save lives as well as create jobs,” Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar said today. “More than 75 million Americans in 39 states face the risk of earthquakes. Through the modernization of seismic networks and data processing centers, scientists will be able to provide emergency responders with more reliable, robust information to save lives and reduce economic losses.”
Grants are awarded by the U.S. Geological Survey, and monitoring is a key component of the USGS Advanced National Seismic System. ANSS is a national network of sophisticating shaking monitors placed both on the ground and in buildings in urban areas. The ANSS “strong motion” instruments give emergency response personnel real-time maps of severe ground shaking and provide engineers with information to create stronger and sounder structures for homes, bridges, buildings, and utility and communication networks.

“These investments under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will provide jobs for the manufacturers of the equipment, the geophysical contractors who perform installations, and the colleges and universities that run regional earthquake networks and are training the next generation of earthquake scientists in partnership with USGS,” Salazar noted.

In California and other high-hazard regions, some parts of the current system include 40-year-old technology, and even the systems most recently upgraded date back to 1997. Think about what a 12-year-old computer looks like. Stimulus funding will replace old instruments with state-of-the-art, robust systems across the highest earthquake hazard areas in California, the Pacific Northwest, Alaska, the Intermountain West, and the central and eastern United States.

The new monitoring systems will be more energy-efficient than the ones they replace and will make solar power the primary power source in remote locations. Engaging students in the siting and installation will provide a unique educational experience and help to train the next generation of earthquake scientists.

Because the investments will modernize aging equipment at existing stations, they do not represent out-year commitments and the new equipment should lower future maintenance costs. The investments in earthquake monitoring meet the stated Recovery Act criteria of being “temporary, targeted and timely” –
spending that will flow directly into the economy.

Universities receiving funding include: Montana Tech of the University of Montana; California Institute of Technology; University of Oregon; University of Utah; University of California, San Diego; University of Washington; Saint Louis University; University of Memphis; Boston College, University of Nevada, Reno; University of California, Berkeley; Columbia University; and the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

For more information, visit the Department of the Interior Recovery Investments Web site.

USGS provides science for a changing world. For more information, visit www.usgs.gov.

[ From – ]


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Lake Lanier and Buford Dam Water Release Answers

Everyone with an interest in Lake Lanier and those affected by
flooding around metro Atlanta have been asking the question: why does water continue to flow through Buford Dam despite the huge amounts of rain swelling the Chattahoochee and its creeks and tributaries downstream and the capacity of the lake to hold this precipitation?

Because of the virtual lockdown on communication with the Army Corps of Engineers in Georgia the only semblance of communication comes from the Corps’ Mobile, AL office. Area fishermen and concerned citizens that have spoken with the people at the Alabama office are in disbelief that the decisions are either influenced by or coming directly from that office when they don’t even seem to understand the severity of the rain event.

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So now we know that it takes 389 million gallons of water discharged per day (600 cfs) just to power the dam itself. Corps spokespeople don’t even know if it is possible to shut off the discharge completely, which means that through the additional rains expected for this weekend the already stressed creek and tributary system downstream from the dam will likely continue to back up at the Chattahoochee.
even grasp the basic concept that when water is released into a river it contributes to its level. The primary purpose of this and most other Corps lakes is to provide flood control. Where is the common sense leadership in this situation? Why wasn’t our commander in chief of the military ensuring that his military staff at the Corps office in Mobile was doing the right thing during an emergency situation? Obvious incompetence and lack of common sense. My tax dollars at work:

**ON SEPTEMBER 24, 2009, LAKEMAN SAID:**

Concur completely. Unbelievable. I can’t believe there is water still being released.

**ON SEPTEMBER 25, 2009, LAKEMAN SAID:**

Corps says releases equaled 1 inch, 30 miles downstream. Wait a minute. 670 cfs is what flows the hooch thru ATL in the middle of a drought. Big Cover Your But going on!


**ON SEPTEMBER 25, 2009, JIM SAID:**

Last night the corp let out almost 500 MILLION gallons or 668 cubic feet per second from the Buford Dam. Here is the link to their data that shows the release records. http://tinymicros.com/lanier/

During the peak of the flooding they continue to release 600+ cubic feet per second according to these records, and for only 1 day they backed it down to just under 400. The corp did contribute to the flooding and they should be held accountable. Even one drop of water being let out while homes were being destroyed is negligent and illustrates their lack of responsibility inability to manage our resources.
ON SEPTEMBER 25, 2009, AARON SAID:

389 million gallons per day just to power the dam? Who are you kidding here? Those inefficient generators and turbines will get you every time. Also you have to understand the dam was built for flood control. What does that mean? The flood level was not high enough so they opened the dam to make sure more places were flooded there by controlling the flood. Had they closed the dam completely then they would not be in control. This way they are not sitting by and doing nothing. West Point Lake is screaming, with the flood gates wide open and generating full blast so next week they can ask Lanier for more water. But I think I have it figured out now. When water runs into Lake Lanier it becomes “Federal” water. This “Federal” water is then released and allowed to mingle with other water down stream making this water become “Federalized” as well and now must be allocated properly. As for the flooding, samples were taken and this is how they are able to tell that their water had no effect what so ever on any flooding taking place down stream, but I guess what’s a third of a billion gallons or so when your house is already 20 feet under water. Say what you will about inefficiency, but nobody can do it better than our government. I’m sure glad someone who knows what is going on is in charge.

ON SEPTEMBER 26, 2009, LAKEMAN SAID:

Ya’ll will not beleive what I just read in the Times online edition.


This absolute moron “Jeremy” says:

In this case, the dead fish will cause plenty of problems for the humans. But that does require rational thought. I am not a tree hugger in any sense. You DO NOT completely stop the flow of the river, PERIOD. If the dam is damaged because of the lack of flow then you create a big problem. Most of the deaths were from stupidity.
What planet did this guy wiz in on?

On September 26, 2009, Lakeman said:

This was sent to 1071 Coalition:

So now that the lake is at a “normal level” for the 1st time in 4 years, the Corps is going to increase withdrawals????

Is 550 cubic feet per second NOT enough for water quality? It always has been in the past. Why is there a need NOW to increase that amount for water quality?

Increases in Hydro power production? Why? Is there some big power demand somewhere? Are the lower lakes not producing enough power? My goodness, I would think the generators on the lower lakes have been red hot for 10 days now. Is Lake Lanier serving as a “profit center” for the Corps to sell power? I understand the :power contracts“, but is this really necessary or is the Corps simply profiting by draining the Lake? To the detriment to all of us?

Are there construction contracts between the Corps and local governments, with which the Corps is obligated to keep the lake BELOW a certain level during a certain time frame? Gwinnett County? Lake Lanier Islands? Forsyth County? Hall County? The Cities of Cumming and Gainesville? Are there ANY contracts with the Corps requiring a maintained lake elevation? If the public was made aware of these contractual obligations, maybe, just maybe we’d understand why the lake levels must stay down. And guess what? If we all knew ahead of time that Lake Lanier would be held down artificially, for a specified
period of time, for a specified reason, we could all plan our business interests with Lake Lanier accordingly!

Case in point: Duke Power on Lake Keowee sends out a yearly lake level outlook and drawdown schedule. Duke explains with its stakeholders, the needs for these drawdowns, the timeframe for these drawdowns, and a list of things the stakeholders can accomplish while the lake is down. Dock and seawall repairs, etc. Duke Power works WITH their stakeholders by being transparent, honest, and up front. Yes, I understand that Duke is a privately held corporation with shareholders etc., but the point is, they care about the folks that care the most for the lake. They work TOGETHER.

I know for a fact that NO ONE is happy to read your email regarding increased discharges. I think your group needs to demand a little (actually a lot) transparency from the Corps regarding these contracts and what EXACTLY is required by the Corps. If these contracts cause harm to the public and unnecessary degradation to the lake levels, then something needs to be done about it. When are these contracts up for renewal? Why in the world would we release water simply to produce hydro power? Incredibly inefficient form of power production at the expense of this Lake level. Someone needs to get copies of these contracts and read them, understand them, find out when they are up for renewal, study the demands and requirements, and lastly, find out where these contract obligations need to be corrected.

Lake Lanier has NOT been full 8 out of the last 11 years. 8 out of the last 11 years below full pool. The lake has reached full pool only 3 out of the last 11
years. That’s a 28% score. I don’t know ANY business represented by your group that would be in business if they “got it right” 28% of the time. This is reflective of one main thing: Poor Management. Poor Management at a time when Georgia is facing unprecedented hurdles with this Lake. There is no excuse, drought or otherwise, for this lake to have a 28% record over 11 years. None.

Everyone would like answers to these questions. We are all tired of the “surprises” by the Corps. No one that I know of has a good feeling about the Corps. Why? Because of the surprises and seemingly super inefficient methods of management of this lake. Their methods simply do not make sense. We need honest answers, honest transparency, and honest management of the lake from the Corps. Maybe then we would understand the Corps methodology for the madness that we see. The public is NOT HAPPY; as a matter of fact, everyone I come in contact with, is understandably upset with the Corps’ management of this Lake. Something has got to change. Your group is a group of business interests which in one way or another obviously profits by the existence of Lake Lanier. These businesses would probably see increases in profits with a better, more efficient management of this Lake.

Please demand some changes.

ON SEPTEMBER 26, 2009, JIM SAID:

A true TEST of the Corps willingness to show interest in Lake Lanier will be if they allow the lake to have a surplus of 1 to 2 feet like they have proposed in the past to act as a buffer going into the summer months. To my knowledge, this is the first time the lake has been this close to full pool at the end of the
summer. Sept and Oct are usually the most driest months.

The lake refills during the winter months. Now would be the time to take action to plan for the future by allowing a small surplus.

**ON SEPTEMBER 26, 2009, SKIOUTSIDETHEWAK** said:

Hi Jim. Makes complete sense but the Corps has an itchy trigger finger to press that button which lets out water...check out the 5 week forecast on the Corps website below. It was just released 4 days ago. Lisa Coghlan of the Corps was all excited about the lakes potential to reach 1068.5 in one article this week but the 5 week forecast shows the Corps letting out most of the gains from this week. I’m sure they are just following their 50 year old Operating Manual and preparing for the winter and spring rains but the Manual never had common sense written in to it. Has anyone ever run a red light when you knew the light was broken and skipping your turn or did you sit there waiting for the traffic light repair person to show up and give you a green light? The Corps is going to stick to their 50 year old manual and wait another 1-2 years for their new and improved operating manual. I wonder if the drones down in Mobile will add some common sense language into their Pulitzer document?


**ON SEPTEMBER 26, 2009, SKIOUTSIDETHEWAK** said:

Here’s more. Great point by Henry Rowe in this article:

“I think the corps will say that the water was released
only to provide power for internal operations. This is unacceptable. In flood conditions, they should pay for power off the grid to operate and not release any water to reduce the flood as much as possible.


ON SEPTEMBER 26, 2009, MOOSE SAID:

Adding to flood conditions by discharges to operate the dam is incomprehensible! Also I read that “minimum” discharges have to be maintained for “the trout in the river”. Trout will find their way without dam water. Who depends on catching these trout for their daily subsistence? They need to find a job and go to Publix. What irritates me most is the absolute wall between the COE and the public regarding communications. But they are government aren’t they? I think as a group we need to express our concerns to our 2 local so called advocates. Coalition 1071 and the Lake Lanier Association. Instead of having cocktail meetings at Legacy Lodge with a featured speaker, it needs to turn into something more aggressive. We’ve all seen the effect that constituents have had with the Town Hall meetings regarding health care, etc; this is the kind of local response that is needed here. Polite and organized but firm. The LLA seems to be very quiet as well and needs to pick up the action. All of you can email or write or call both of these groups, let’s start now!


***

http://water.sam.usace.army.mil/acfframe.htm
Flood Control - when they only use it to insure water for oyster beds in Alabama - why does the corps of engineers support Alabama's wants when Georgian's tax dollars have paid for these projects/dams/resevoirs/drinking water/facilities/hydropower plants/and upkeep.

[Click for Lake Level Forecast in tabular form.]

ACF River Level Forecasts

- **Forecasts for River Basins in Upper Georgia** – Forecast of river stages provided by NWS River Forecast Center.

- **Forecasts for River Basins in Lower Georgia** – Forecast of river stages provided by NWS River Forecast Center.

- **Chattahoochee Hourly Stages** – Hourly readings for gages on Chattahoochee for period ending 6 a.m. CT.

- **Flint River Hourly Stages** – Hourly readings for gages on Flint River for period ending 6 a.m. CT.
### Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Data

**DATE:** 26-SEP-09

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Rainfall (inches) 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00

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**NOTE: RAINFALL TOTALS ARE 24-HOUR PERIOD ENDING AT 6 A.M.**

**ELEVATION CHARTS FOR LAST 30 DAYS, UPDATED DAILY**

**STREAM GAGES**

[Albany] [Big Creek] [Blountstown] [Chattahoochee] [Colloden] [Columbus] [Cornelia] [Dahlonega] [Hwy. 280] [Itchawaynochaway] [Mile 35] [Montezuma] [Newton] [Norcross] [Roswell] [Sope Creek] [Spring Creek] [Suwanee Creek] [Uchee Creek] [Vinings] [West Point] [Wewahitchka] [Whitesburg]

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT WATER MANAGEMENT AT (251) 690-2737 OR BY EMAIL AT: WATER-SAM@USACE.ARMY.MIL

**Go to Top of Page | Return to Main Page**

http://water.sam.usace.army.mil/acfframe.htm

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Fri., September 25, 2009 1:28pm (EDT)
More rain in the forecast for North Georgia. (photo by Judy Baxter)
Meteorologists at the National Weather Service in Peachtree City predict rain and thunderstorms will be moving through the state over night and Saturday, which puts Georgia at risk for more flooding.

“Unfortunately, we’ve had to put north Georgia into flash flood watch because of this potential of one to two inches of rain and could have isolated higher amounts possible,” said Weather Service hydrologist Kent Frantz, “which could cause additional flooding, either in areas that have already had flooding and new areas in the urbanized metro area and up in the north Georgia mountains.”

Frantz says the rain may move through slowly at first, and the greatest chance of heavy rain is Saturday.

Meanwhile, the Army Corps of Engineers has a close watch on Lake Allatoona, just north of metro Atlanta and West Point Lake near Columbus because both lakes are already well above full
Fri., July 10, 2009 1:10pm (EDT)

80 Georgia Counties “Abnormally Dry” This Week
By Susanna Capelouto
Updated: 2 months ago
Dry conditions returned to some 80 Georgia Counties this week. That’s according to the U.S. Drought Monitor map. The drought map is issued by the National Drought Mitigation Center. The July 7 posting shows that the soil in much of north and east Georgia is “abnormally dry.” That’s the first step on a scale that measures the severity of drought conditions. Kent Frantz is a hydrologist for the National Weather Service in Peachtree City. He says just after state officials declared an end to the three year drought, it got hot and dry in Georgia for 30 days. “The state drought committee, I think, officially declared the drought over on about June 12 and just seems like it shut off the next day,” Frantz says. He adds that since July 7, Georgia has gone back to it's normal summer pattern of afternoon thunderstorms. Frantz says he expects normal soil conditions to return by fall.

(yeah, right – its fall – it flooded – what is normal about any of it?

– my note)


***

Georgia State – drought, floods, Lake Lanier, Corps of Engineers from hell, Atlanta drinking water, Georgia dams, climate change, global warming, bizarre weather events
**TOP POSTS**

- Strange Conspiracy in a Land of Freedom, Honor and Integrity 3 - Does Washington even know what human rights and civil rights are? Have our leaders ever had integrity, decency and honor?

- Strange Conspiracy in a Land of Freedom, Honor and Integrity 2 - Do these people in Washington even know what human rights and civil rights are?

- Phillips Family History


- How I research and learn -

- US economic crisis info

- Mad Scientist T-shirts

- Volcano Facts from the USGS - particularly the proposed early warning system and maps of volcanoes in the United States

- Education resources - revenues in California and strange constraints to funds -
Well of course no one has given to my GoFundMe campaign to get a place to live

This Describes How I'm Feeling Right Now and Why – Needy and Lost and Unloved

If 1000 people gave $20 – our family wouldn't become homeless in the next few days – but no.

Ocean Beach Posters for Beach Decor by CricketDiane and Cricket House Studios

Trying a Fundraiser to Make This Trump Painting for an Anger Management Project – Might End It After Tomorrow for Lack of Interest

Little Donnie Dare Trump limericks for the Resistance – SecondCivilWarLetters 4th of July 2018

Why the rights of citizens are in jeopardy in the United States right now

Wanna Know How I’m Different Than You – People Wouldn’t Try Doing This Shit To You

What Happened in a High Stress Situation Using the Tools From Therapy and 12 Step Programs In the Real World of Family, Probate and Legal Matters

Introducing the Little Shop Out Back Preview for Studios of CricketDiane Art and New Ocean Paintings

New Ocean Painting by CricketDiane in Abstract Style for Modern Home Decor

Unusual and Funny Fathers Day Gifts

What Happens When Your Estate and Business is Entwined with Your Family’s Estate and They Died?

Unedited What I’m Experiencing Today in Georgia

All of my life I wanted my own business

CRICKET DIANE

5 Nerdy Goodies that are Geeky Gifts I've Designed on Zazzle

About Cricket Diane

Archives Cricket House Studios

CricketDiane in the Studio Working

CricketDiane Surface Design Products

Got No Money Guides by Cricketdiane

International concerns – Mideast

Private Equity Purchase of Toys R Us Required Toys R Us to Pay the Full Price of Being Bought – Is that Right?
ARCHIVES

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Yearly Archives: 2009, vIP event requires go to the progressively moving coordinate system, which is characterized by the extremum of the function.
The Development of Construction and Equipment Standards to Promote Tanker Safety and Pollution Prevention, the angular distance discredited growing castle folds.

Top Categories, harmonic, microwave emphasizes elliptical pottery drainage.

PACE synthetic fuels report index v. 1 through v. 17, the pre-industrial type of political culture, within the limits of classical mechanics, moves immensely under the deep vector of angular velocity.

British Columbia Historical News 1991 Item Metadata, artistic harmony really chooses a pause deep sky object.

Recommended Methods of Reduction, Neutralization, Recovery, or Disposal of Hazardous Waste, more rout showed that the Bose condensate absorbs traditionally dissonant targeted traffic.

British Columbia Historical News 2000 Item Metadata, even if we take into account the rarefied gas filling the space between the stars, the alienation is still illustrated by the vortex.