

## Nuclear Series Ignored Problem of Wastes <sup>6/15</sup>

The News series on nuclear power smacks of pro-nuclear propaganda on the safety of nuclear reactors in the United States. It boggles the mind how articles can repeatedly use utility rhetoric with headlines like: "Risk-Free N-Power Hobbled by Economy, Not Technology" and "Once It Works, Nuclear Power Provides Cheap Electricity." The reporter has been listening to too many utility public-relations people. He has glossed over the vicious monster — nuclear waste — that is the agonizing thorn in the nuclear industry's side.

Nuclear waste comes in all shapes, sizes and levels of toxicity. It can be found in the most unlikely places: in foundations of buildings and homes in

the Western states, where uranium is mined; in a rural, farming community at West Valley, just 35 miles south of Buffalo, and less than one mile from children who attend the Lew-Port School in Lewiston.

The Sierra Club Radioactive Waste Campaign is a project of the national Sierra Club, which for five years has been helping citizens who live near waste sites cope and take effective action in their community. Stories run rampant about cancers, leukemias and other illnesses, but health studies are never performed.

Nuclear waste is the crux of the problem with both nuclear weapons and nuclear power plants. By leaving this out of

his series, the reporter has seriously erred. Nearly every day we hear of a reactor leaking contaminated water into a local stream or a puff of radioactive steam being released into the atmosphere. Yet, these accidents have all become commonplace because reporters are not challenging utility spokesmen who claim there is no risk to the public.

These are all forms of nuclear waste entering our daily lives. With over 5 billion cubic feet of nuclear waste at reactors sites, at uranium mines, buried in the ground and being stored in tanks, how can we continue this nuclear madness?

LISA FINALDI

Co-Director, Sierra Club  
Radioactive Waste Campaign