

December 1999

Dear Friend,

We normally write our friends and supporters about this time of year, updating them on Bridge the Gap's activities. Because of an emergency involving one of our key projects last year at this time, you didn't hear from us then. We apologize and cover the past two years in this letter. It has been an eventful period:

- We won a federal court case and other critical victories putting us right on the edge of defeating, once and for all, the dangerous proposal to dump long-lived reactor wastes at Ward Valley, California, less than 20 miles from the Colorado River.
- We stopped the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) from ending its only anti-terrorism program. Our victory helped protect nuclear reactors from terrorist attack.
- We helped block a key nuclear utility from using military plutonium as fuel. This success protected the traditional non-proliferation firewall separating commercial and military uses of nuclear technology.
- We initiated an important challenge to efforts by the nuclear establishment to relax national radiation protection standards.
- We contested efforts by federal agencies to recycle radioactively contaminated metals into consumer goods such as spoons, belt buckles, zippers, and jewelry.
- We helped initiate and oversee the completion and release of studies by UCLA researchers showing excess cancer deaths among workers at the Rocketdyne nuclear development and rocket engine testing facility.
- We spotlighted huge inadequacies in federal agency cleanup requirements for contaminated nuclear sites.

We do this work because lives are at stake. If the government allows the dumping of radioactive wastes in unlined trenches near the Colorado River, thousands could die over many generations. If Rocketdyne is not cleaned up properly, if spoons and jewelry come from radioactive junk, if radiation standards are made even less protective, then the public's health will be at risk. If we do not work to stop the proliferation of nuclear weapons and protect reactors from terrorist attacks, the results could be catastrophic.

Thank you for your continued support of our efforts. May your holiday season be joyous and peaceful.

With hope for the New Millennium,

Dan Hirsch