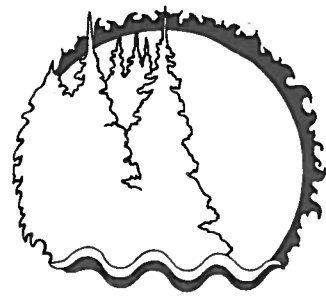


Jan. #/87

SPECTRUM

Vol. 18, No. 1, January, 1987



“WATER FOR TOMORROW”

Water, the essence of life. Not only for human life, but for all life. Can we afford to take it for granted? The issue of water quality in the Lower Mainland has been of concern to environmentalists for years. The diverse ecosystem of the Fraser River Estuary suffers each year as contaminated water flows out to sea. Burrard Inlet, Howe Sound, Boundary Bay, and the Fraser River are receiving waters for industrial discharges, land fill leachates, urban runoff, acid rain, untreated sewage...you name it! Industrial development, forestry and agricultural practices and mining activities all contribute to the detriment of our precious water resources in the Lower Mainland.

Who is responsible? Government and industry are well equipped with policies and legislation. We have, on the federal level, the environmental protection service, and on the provincial level, the Pollution Control Branch, the Waste Management Branch, the Fisheries Branch, and the Water Management Branch. We have the Environmental Contaminants Act, the Fisheries Act, the Waste Management Act, and now a brand new Environmental Protection Act is in the offing. Maybe this new act will help but the cold fact remains: WE STILL HAVE POLLUTION! Something is terribly wrong with the way the problem has been handled in the past.

Too much idle time has passed. Mucky waters are flowing and nothing short of strong organized public action is going to change that fact. Therefore, SPEC is focusing on the water quality issue in 1987 with its "Water For Tomorrow" campaign.

The goal for the campaign, simply put, is to expose the underlying problems of the water quality issue and to promote practical actions leading to the improvement of water quality. The campaign will include much public involvement, and SPEC will be responding constantly to local happenings related to this issue through the media, public forums, lectures, door to door campaigns... the works! SPEC is going to make sure that the public voice is heard LOUD and CLEAR, and we will be pushing hard for responsible action on the part of government and corporate decision makers.

Coordinator for the "Water For Tomorrow" campaign is Leslie Cuthbertson, formerly of the Conservation Council of New Brunswick. Working with her are SPEC researchers Terry Brown and Rob Rainer, along with SPEC resource people, Will Paulik and Bill Grainger, and a team of dedicated volunteers.

We need your help! If you share our concern about water quality in the lower mainland, there is plenty of hands on work available for those with the gumption to get involved! Let's do it.

URANIUM MINING—HERE WE GO AGAIN

In December the B.C. government announced the lifting of the seven-year uranium mining moratorium, effective February 28, 1987. That means, at the least, B.C. will be wide open once again for uranium exploration and mining, with all the associated hazards and implications.

The government's decision revolves around two factors, both economic. The moratorium, Energy Minister Jack Davis said, was discouraging exploration for other minerals found with or near uranium. In addition, he added, commercial deposits of uranium are few and far between and the likelihood of active exploration is slim.

This rational ignores public concern with uranium's role in the nuclear fuel path. The government and the mining interests need to be told loud and clear that uranium mining poses unacceptable risks to the health of workers, communities, and our environment. They need to understand that uranium's legacy is ultimately a contribution to global radiation, be it from nuclear reactors or nuclear weapons.

SPEC will be working with other groups to ensure uranium is never mined in our Province. A demonstration is being planned for February 28. For more information contact Rob Rainer at the SPEC office. Also, write Premier Vander Zalm, Energy, Mines, and Petroleum Resources Minister Jack Davis, Environment and Parks Minister Stephen Rogers, and Health Minister Peter Dueck at Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4; Mining Association of B.C. 860-1066 West Hastings, Vancouver, B.C.; B.C. Chamber of Commerce, 801-1199 West Pender, Vancouver, B.C.

An excellent primer on radiation is "Radiation Alert" by David Poch and Energy Probe, published by Doubleday Canada Ltd. (Toronto, Ontario 1985).

SPECTRUM

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NETWORKING

Future editions of SPECTRUM will allow space for B.C. environmental groups to communicate with others about the issue(s) they are working on. Groups across the province are invited to write about what they are doing. If there are issues that people think are important but aren't getting covered, and if there are individuals who are working on issues alone and need support, send in your data and be the first to contribute to our NETWORKING column! Address all communications to Kevin Washbrook at SPEC.

FEEDBACK

In future, we hope to make SPECTRUM a bi-monthly publication, and your input is invited. Space will be made available for our readers to air their views in our FEEDBACK column. If you would like to respond to SPEC's activities, or if you have concerns in your own community that need attention, write to us. We'll do our best to print what we can.

UPCOMING

CASINO NIGHT! A night of roulette and black jack! Come to this fun(d) raising event; support SPEC's "Water For Tomorrow" campaign.
Feb 21,22,23 7:30pm-1:30am, Fraser Arms Hotel, 1450 SW Marine Drive, Vancouver. Cash Bar, Admission: \$2.00.

◆◆◆ A demonstration regarding the lifting of the uranium mining moratorium in B.C. will be held on February 28th. A number of groups will be participating at different locations in southern B.C. For more information, contact Rob Rainer at SPEC.

◆◆◆ **RUMMAGE SALE:** Start collecting your valuable rummage (no clothes please!) for yet another Community Flea Market at Park Royal. Details about the sale have yet to be worked out, you'll be informed in the next SPECTRUM. Meanwhile, call Anne Ferries at 921-7950 for more information.

PEST or GUEST

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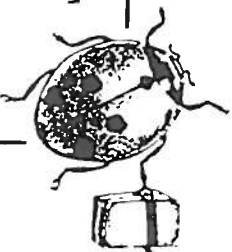
MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Be a part of the solution. Join SPEC today! Your membership is a commitment to environmental responsibility. Help SPEC strengthen B.C.'s environmental voice.

FEES

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| Corporation | \$500 |

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SITE C—ARE WE READY?

Last month Chester Johnson, Chairman of B.C. Hydro, stated in The Province that the infamous Site C dam project in northern B.C. was going to go ahead, "market or no market." He has been negotiating with U.S. power utilities in an attempt to funnel Site C energy to the Pacific states. It is clear that Hydro has the intention of constructing another massive dam, regardless of the environmental, social, and economic impacts guaranteed to occur.

Are we ready for this? We know what's at stake. Some of the finest agricultural land in Canada would be flooded. Wildlife and fish habitat would be severely disrupted. Archaeological, forest, and wilderness resources would be lost. The diversified economical nature of the Peace River country near Fort St. John would be forever changed.

Let's pour the letters into the offices of our representatives and give them the word on Site C. Flood B.C. Hydro and the B.C. Utilities Commission with our message. Hydro, in cooperation with our government, have mismanaged the supply and distribution of electrical power in this province. Should the land have to pay for Hydro's mistakes?

Write your MLA and Energy Minister Jack Davis, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4; B.C. Hydro, 970 Burrard St. Vancouver, B.C. V6Z 1Y3 B.C. Utilities Commission, 800 Smithe St. Vancouver, B.C. V6Z 2E1.

Available SPEC resources are presently committed - we need someone to take the Site C ball, create a game plan, and run with it.