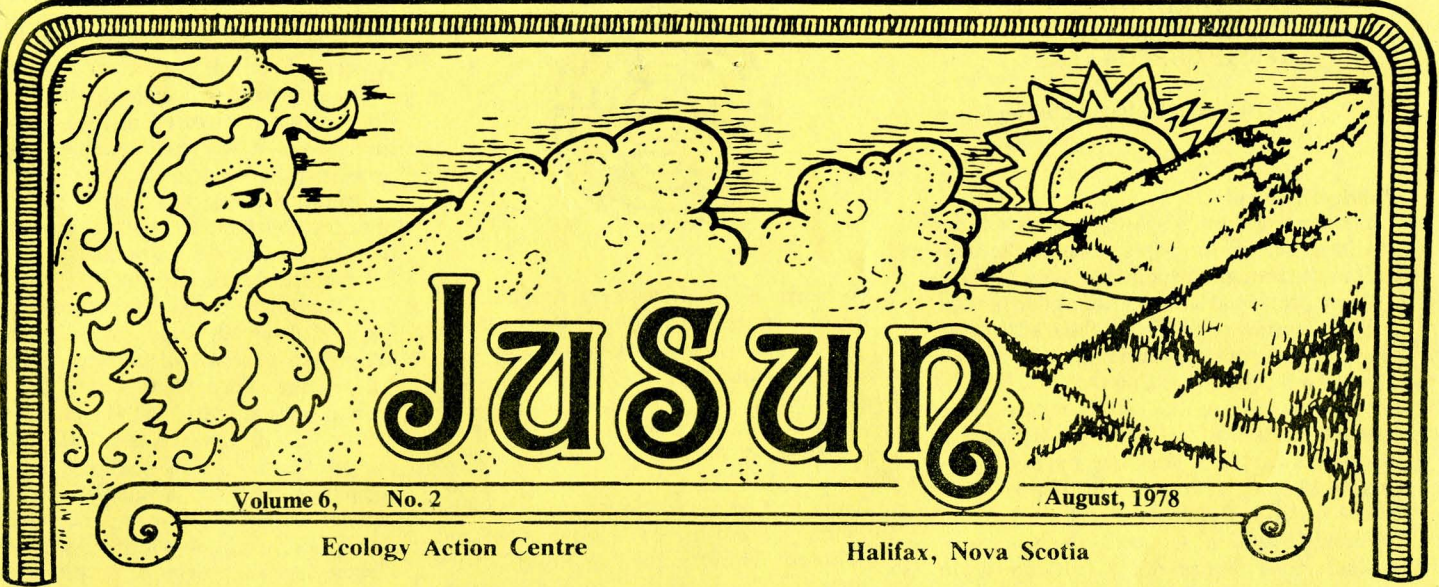


Sp. Coll



"GO SLOW" WARNS EAC

The following is an extract from the Ecology Action Centre's brief submitted to the Standing Committee on National Resources and Public Works, House of Commons concerning the Energy, Mines and Resources Canada Report EP 77-6 *The Management of Canada's Nuclear Wastes*. On the Centre's behalf Susan Holtz, the Centre's Energy Coordinator, and Dr. Om Kamra, Professor of Radiation Genetics, Department of Biology, Dalhousie University, appeared in person before this Committee in Ottawa March 8, 1978. A transcript of the entire verbal proceedings of their presentation and cross-examination are available at our Forrest Building offices, 5873 University Avenue.

In general, it is our conclusion that the Report EP 77-6 is altogether inadequate as a basis for discussion, or for a Green Paper. It lacks any rigorous discussion of what constitutes reasonable evidence of safety. There is a glaring example on Page 36, for example, in which it is stated "As we said above, if the repositories function as planned, there will be virtually no escape of radioactivity at the surface." (Our emphasis.) This is practically a tautology; of course if things go as planned, nothing will happen! The question is whether they will in fact be safe, and above all, how the risk is to be assessed in the absence of certainty, and by whom. We are of the opinion that since scientific certainty is not possible in this issue, due to the time span involved, the decision should be understood as in essence political. The Report cannot be accepted as providing guidelines for action in the absence of full and critical public debate. The Report, in addition, lacks scientific depth. There are a number of instances of the latter; for example, on Page 25, it is stated that "alpha particles are absorbed in the outer layer of skin and have no significant effect"; however, Gofman and Tamplin in **Poisoned Power** state that alpha radiation exposure to the skin can cause skin cancer (p. 60). The fact that the most critical exposure to different radionuclides is not usually from whole-body radiation but rather is from internal con-

centration in a particular organ such as bone marrow, thyroid, etc. from ingestion or inhalation is very much downplayed in that section.

A far superior report on the same issue for the U.S. Energy Research and Development Administration done by Mason Willrich (draft completed in September, 1976) is not even cited in the bibliography. A major theme in the Willrich report, the necessity not to let political considerations play the determining role in this issue, is in our estimation what is above all lacking in Report EP 77-6. In fact, taking into consideration the overall reassuring tone of the Report as well as its other shortcomings as noted above, it is our considered conclusion that one of its main purposes is to quiet public fears on the issue of nuclear wastes rather than to explore the issue to see if and what safe solutions might exist. A three-person team of which one member is or has been a senior executive for AECL is hardly an "independent" study.

We would conclude with two quotes. The first is in a private communication to the chairperson of Ecology Action Centre's Board of Directors from P.J. Savage, President of the Canadian Geoscience Council. He wrote, "Thank you for your comments concerning radioactive waste disposal. You are right, it is fraught with difficulty; so much so that the Council has decided to make it the subject of a forum rather than attempt a definitive statement. I am beginning to suspect the latter is not humanly possible." We feel at this time that that is a far sounder position that the Report's positive statements.

An additional warning is sounded by Mason Willrich in his report to ERDA: he states, "the tendency of many of those involved in the resolution of nuclear issues to interpret current public sensitivity to waste management issues as public pressure for quick resolution may be misguided. An alternative argument is that the current ill-defined sensitivity will eventually articulate itself into a clearly stated desire for slower but surer resolution." (page 3-38). We are among those who endorse a much slower approach than that suggested by Report EP 77-6.

ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE STUDY BEING CONDUCTED

An in depth study evaluating environmental damage is being done by Charlie Spencer. Though primary concern centers on damage within 500 feet of waterways and roadways in the province it is requested that environmental disturbances of any kind be reported to the study center.

Please explain the nature of the damage, pinpoint the location, the names and addresses of those responsible, if known, plus a photograph of the damage inflicted, preferably black and white. If you are without a camera it is suggested you call your local newspaper or a friend.

A deadline of November 1, 1978 has been set, allowing ample time for submitting information.

If you come across a situation causing or threatening a condition of deterioration, such as poor forest cutting practices, dumping, pollution, construction, waste, etc. please report it to the study center. It will be documented and published. A written report and pictorial expose is being planned.

All names will be withheld, to include reporters and those responsible for causing the damage, unless otherwise specified.

The quality of our own life is very much dependent upon the quality of life around us, to include all life forms. Nature is the only real thing ever given to us. As we have become caretakers of the earth it is to our own advantage to do so.

Your cooperation would be appreciated as I personally propose your help in this project.

All information should be sent to Charlie Spencer, R.R. No. 1, Shelburne, Nova Scotia BOT 1W0

THE STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION OF THE MARITIME ENERGY CORPORATION

By Susan Holtz and Susan Mayo

Political Control

The key question is by what means will the Maritime Energy Corporation be publicly accountable through the political process?

Some provincial utilities are under greater public scrutiny in terms of their expansion plans and capital expenditures than others. The Nova Scotia Power Corporation (NSPC), for example, is a public utility incorporated by Chapter 233 of the Revised Statutes of Nova Scotia, 1967. The Corporation came under the jurisdiction of the Nova Scotia Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities on July 16, 1976. As well, the provincial cabinet must approve of any significant financial requests put forward by NSPC.

Thus there are at least two avenues for public accountability currently with regard to provincial utilities. It is extremely important for an even larger organization, possibly organizing such huge projects as Fundy Tidal Power, to be under specific political control with an open door to appropriate public input. Thus we are endorsing regulation, cabinet accountability, and direct citizen participation all as means toward public accountability.

One possible solution would be to have a cabinet minister from the federal level of government as well as from each of the provincial governments become responsible for the Maritime Energy Corporation (MEC) and its decisions. For example, the Nova Scotia Minister of Mines and Energy, Dr. William Gillis, is the most likely provincial cabinet minister who would be delegated responsibility for the operational activity and direction of the MEC within Nova Scotia and that cabinet minister would have the power to issue directives to MEC.

Thus it is our recommendation that any major capital expansions will be subject to these federal and provincial cabinet ministers for ultimate approval.

Energy Policy

One main concern is whether the Maritime Energy Corporation will support and press toward a centralized, all-electric scenario.

Although this is one possible policy direction, it is by no means the only one. Energy policy planning is too important to be decided by default or by having any one organized body making major decisions.



Appropriate and efficient end usage should be a major criteria in a rational energy policy for this region. A well-organized and well-funded institute, (such as MEC), which is largely devoted to centralized, large-scale, electrical generation projects is apt to distort the scope and direction of overall energy policy.

To ensure that such rational energy policies are made within the region, we propose that the Board of Directors of MEC have significant non-utility representation. Representatives from organizations already interested in energy policy planning should be given recognized status on the Board. Examples of such bodies include Ecology Action Centre, the Nova Scotia Energy Council, Prince Edward Island's Institute of Man and Resources and the Maritime Energy Coalition.

We are of course willing to have provincial utility representation on the Board as well.

Should the terms of reference for the Maritime Energy Corporation lean more toward a Maritime Electrical Corporation, it would be advisable to set up another body to which the Maritime Energy Corporation would be responsible. This second agency would be responsible for regional energy policy planning and specifically be composed of representatives of the above non-utility organizations with minority utility representation.

It should be underlined that such an agency be responsible for the total regional energy planning with no special bias toward centralized electricity. Whether such an agency is itself the Maritime Energy Corporation or a separate institution to which the former is financially answerable depends on the mandate given to the MEC.

While a second-level institutional structure might be more politically feasible, it is nevertheless our position that the Maritime Energy Corporation is probably a more efficient vehicle to undertake the task of total energy management for the region.

Public Participation

The establishment of the Board of Directors for the MEC is a new experience. There will be an innovative and immensely broad decision-making process. Citizen group representation can only assist this process. (See the Ecology Action Centre newsletter JUSUN Vol. 6, No. 1, which contained the article entitled "the Changing Political Significance of Citizen Groups").

It should also be emphasized that centralized, electrical generation planning and advisory boards for projects such as nuclear and tidal programs are composed of special interest groups which have a vested interest in the project.

Financing

We make the assumption that the large projects will be self-supporting.

The degree to which the Maritime Energy Corporation is involved in a planning function means it will not necessarily generate revenue from this division.

Overall, Canada has gone in the direction of the establishment of natural monopolies in the electrical-producing industry. But this is not necessarily true for the other energy sectors. On the contrary, many areas are part of large and small scale private enterprise. What then is the role of an energy utility?

It would appear that within the market economy there is presently a vacuum in the area of energy conservation. (Honeywell is one of the few firms that produce energy reducing electrical components.) This gap has partly been filled by the Federal Office of Energy Conservation within EMR, as well as several smaller provincial government agencies and private consultants.

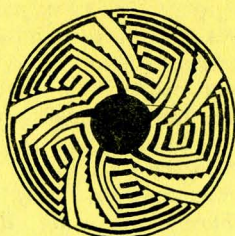
We wish to identify the fact that there exists different energy sectors. The question of financing of the Maritime Energy Corporation needs to be carefully thought through. One question that comes to mind in this regard is if MEC proceeds with a massive and expensive tidal power project and sells electric power elsewhere, should part of its role also be to design solar panels appropriate for the region and proceed to construct such units and either rent them or sell them at cost?

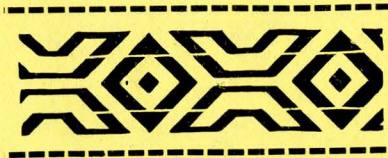
Would the MEC encourage local entrepreneurs to build renewable energy equipment?

Regulation of Maritime Energy Corporation

The National Energy Board may be inadequate as the sole regulator which would oversee and approve rate application requests put forward by the MEC. Evidence for this being the case is that the National Energy Board tends to be very closely associated with the companies it regulates. For example, the early 1970's gas and oil reserve forecasts were the result of oil company forecasts rather than an independent review.

Another reason is National Energy Board's failure to adequately cover all aspects of application requests. In the hearing of the application for an export license for the New Brunswick Electric Power Commission to sell electricity to Maine, the National Energy Board refused to hear evidence in what, in our estimation, was a pertinent issue, namely the cost of electrical power within New Brunswick, compared to export prices to Maine and the possible inference that New Brunswick residents were carrying more than their fair share of the cost to produce electricity for both their province and the State of Maine.





CBC, EAC AND THE CRTC

The following is a letter addressed to the chairperson of the Canadian Radio-Television Commission [CRTC].

July 30, 1978

Dear Sir/Ms.:

Spruce budworm spraying has been a highly controversial issue in Nova Scotia and the Maritimes for over 3 years. Tremendous political pressure has been brought to bear on Nova Scotia politicians to begin a spray program and to not begin such a program. Spray or Not to Spray has become a catch phrase. The pro-spray lobby has consisted, at least in the public's eye, of the large pulp and paper companies including the main spokesman, Nova Scotia Forest Industries Ltd., and such other learned bodies as all the forestry-related associations, Atlantic Provinces Economic Council, and the *Halifax Chronicle Herald* and *Mail-Star*. The anti-sprayers consist generally of individuals including a group called Cape Breton Landowners Against the Spray. The issue was fierce, and early in 1976 and again with more debate in 1977 the N.S. government decided not to spray.

In early 1978 a similar decision was again required and the pro-spray lobby pulled all the stops in late 1977 and a very public relations onslaught was launched on all fronts and almost daily the provincial newspaper had pro-spraying articles. It was in this atmosphere that a CBC Halifax-produced regional program called *Land and Sea* broadcast a half hour film called *Mr. Regan's Choice* on January 5, 1978. Promos for the show led many to expect a documentary style consideration of the 'choice.'

This was not the case. The film was made by Mr. Kingsley Brown, a Nova Scotia freelance film maker and broadcaster of considerable reputation. He obtained the majority of the funds (\$27,500) as an outright grant from Nova Scotia Forest Industries Ltd. Mr. Brown indicates that N.S.F.I. came to him through Mr. Ron Arel after Mr. Brown had had a letter to the editor published that supported the pulp company's position. He indicates that he was under no pressure from the company, that he submitted no advance scripts and that NSFI did not see the film until January 4, 1978. We accept this account. However, Mr. Brown's film is a very, very pro-spray statement, with almost no mention of the other counter-arguments.

The fact remains then that on January 5, 1978, *Land and Sea* broadcast a half-hour long, very biased piece of opinion with no countervailing arguments presented. This

film came at the height of the controversy and was a pro-spraying item which the opposite side could not counteract since *Land and Sea* and TV was not available to them.

The problem was compounded when cable television rebroadcast the film at least in the Halifax-Dartmouth area. Apparently a U.S. pulp company in Maine, we believe the Great Northern Paper Company, purchased a part of Brown's film and they or NSFI purchased a half-hour of TV time to have the film shown on cable for Canada (and possibly Maine?). We believe there may have been other cable TV showings in Nova Scotia engineered by the pro-spraying lobby but we are not certain. The fact remains that the anti-spray lobby just couldn't match this use of the electronic media nor was it invited or offered equal time.

The Ecology Action Centre considered the issue carefully and it seems appropriate now that the budworm issue is settled in all of the Atlantic provinces at least for this year to appraise you of the EAC's May 4, 1978, board motion and to formally request the stated redress and action by the CRTC:

"Motion of May 4, 1978 Meeting, Board of Directors"

That the Ecology Action Centre write to the Canadian Radio-Television Commission giving the details as we understand them of the showing of the NSFI-funded Kingsley Brown, pro-budworm-spraying film of early January and lodge an official protest over this use of the public airways. And further that the EAC request a formal investigation of the incident by the CRTC and request by way of redress:

- a public apology by CBC/Nova Scotia and CBHT Halifax for the presentation of biased material without equal time being given to the opposing view;
- an opportunity for the anti-spraying film *Budworks* to be broadcast both next fall and early spring 1979 in prime time;
- the development and imposition of CRTC policy to set guidelines for the control of such situations in future and for providing equal time to environmental groups when the opposing side is given air time on either radio, TV or cable, whether of foreign or domestic origin.

* The correct figure is now known to be \$27,500.



- and that we publicize our letter to the CRTC by way of a national press release.

The CRTC should be further disturbed by CBHT's and *Land and Sea's* action in view of subsequent events. Another film has been produced by a local film-maker named Neal Livingston, who works with the Atlantic Filmmakers Coop. This film, *Budworks*, is billed as "a documentary film on the controversy surrounding the Spruce Budworm aerial insecticide spraying in Eastern Canada." It is just that and presents a moderately well balanced series of viewpoints including two NSFI spokespersons, a N.B. Minister of the Crown, and a pilot. The film does convey to a certain degree Mr. Livingston's anti-spray feelings. It is a pretty well made film especially considering that the film is unsponsored and definitely low budget. It had its premiere April 27 at the NFB theatre in Halifax after N.S. had made its anti-spray decision for 1978.

Approaches have apparently been made to CBC in Halifax since then to have *Budworks* shown on CBC-TV and as we understand it there has been a negative response and the film has not yet received the CBC showing it deserves.

There is one bright spot, however, since on June 27, WLBZ-TV in Bangor, Maine, which is seen on cable in the Maritimes, broadcast 15 minutes of *Mr. Regan's Choice* (5 pro-spraying spokesmen) and 15 minutes of *Budworks* (7 pro and 7 anti) then had a half-hour discussion with a balanced panel of three answering listeners' queries.

We think the sponsoring of a biased film for CBC-TV by a private firm presents CRTC with an obvious problem where policy is needed. We are aware of the problem *The Canadians* series has caused or Texaco's operas and we believe the use by *Land and Sea* of a half hour of such strongly biased material without rebuttal was reprehensible and deserving of your attention.

The purchase of TV time on an American channel to broadcast the same highly biased material into Canada on cable TV where CRTC regulations have no effect on content present CRTC with an even more difficult problem where policy is needed.

We look forward to your formal investigation and to your orders and recommendations on this matter. If we can be of further assistance, please contact us through Ms. S. Mayo, the centre's coordinator.

Yours truly,

Anne Martell
Chairperson
Ecology Action Centre

Dear Editor:

A recent article in your newsletter on vertical axis windmills has inspired me to comment on a recently completed horizontal-axis windmill built in Denmark.

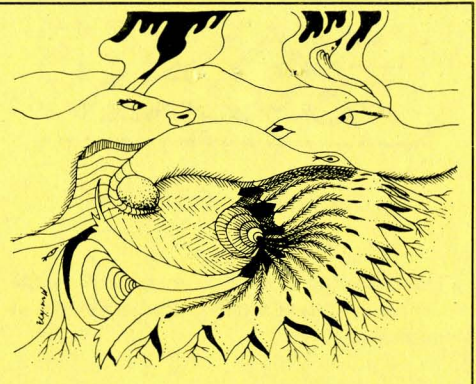
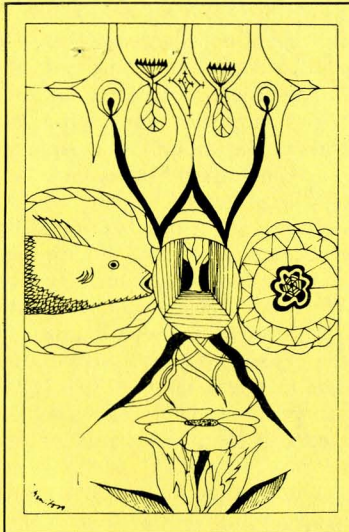
It is at present the world's largest windmill and began operating in February. Out of a rated capacity of 2000 KW, the first 500 KW generated will pass through a rectifier/inverter producing electricity for the local power grid. The remainder of the power generated will be used to heat water and supply the total heating requirements for the buildings at the Tvind college. Tvind is a small university town comparable in size to the Dalhousie campus complex.

The tower of this windmill is 53 meters tall with the three blades sweeping a 54 meter diameter arc. Some remarkable features of this power plant are that it is completely computer-controlled and features automatic shaft brake and blade pitch controls. The blades are constructed of epoxy-reinforced fiber and polyester foam as are modern helicopter blades. They weigh 5 tons each but this is considerably lighter than the 1.5 MW windmill built by Putnam in the U.S. in the 1940's.

Another remarkable factor is that the entire project was conceived, developed and financed with volunteer help and Tvind's teaching staff! The project received no government assistance. The total yearly output of this wind plant is expected to be around 3.6 million KWH. I wonder how that compares with Tuft's Cove plant in Halifax?

Regards,
Steve d'Apollonia

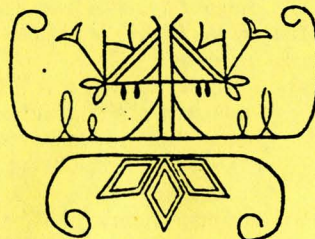
P.S. The total cost of the windmill came to approximately 4 million Danish kroner (\$660,000).



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JUSUN is the MicMac word for "wind". It also contains our English word "sun". As wind is the active agent of solar energy it is hoped that the JUSUN will serve as a medium for voicing environmental concerns throughout the Maritimes.

JUSUN STAFF
EditorSusan Mayo



Membership Form

I wish to join Ecology Action Centre and receive free copies of JUSUN, the E.A.C. newsletter.

- \$5.00 Subscribing membership
- \$25.00 Contributing membership
- \$50.00 Supporting membership
- \$100.00 Corporate membership
- Donations

All payments are tax-deductible. Mail your payment to Ecology Action Centre, Forrest Building, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

