

# A Brief History of The RadioActivist Campaign

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# Summary

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- Organizational Background
- 2004-2005 Study Outcomes
  - 6 site studies
    - Key Conclusions
    - Community Results
- Historical Studies
  - 2002 - 2003 (5 studies)
  - Pre-2002 study highlights



# Organizational Background

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The RadioActivist Campaign (TRAC) is a non-profit project of the Tides Center of San Francisco. TRAC measures and publicizes radioactivity around nuclear facilities to promote site accountability and public safety. TRAC staff has conducted radiological surveys around 28 nuclear sites since 1983.



# 2004-2005 Study Outcomes

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## Hanford Site

- Joint sampled with Washington State Dept. of Ecology in Sept. 2004.
- Confirmed uranium-233 contaminates the Columbia Riverbed where salmon spawn.
- Work-in-progress to raise public awareness through mainstream media.



# 2004-2005 Study Outcomes (Continued)

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## Portsmouth/Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plants

- Produced a practical citizen's guide to monitor radioactivity around U.S. Nuclear facilities.
- Prompted the Sierra Club, PRESS, and local residents to develop citizen monitoring groups around two nuclear plants.



# 2004-2005 Study Outcomes (Continued)

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## Oak Ridge Reservation

- Discovered radioactivity in a local stream, that poses a human health concern.
- Found contaminated surface water is under-reported and unremediated.
- Empowered citizens to become active in setting nuclear priorities that address their concerns.



# 2004-2005 Study Outcomes (Continued)

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## Hanford Site

- First measurement and report of radium-226 in Hanford Reach clams.
- Determined official dose limits for aquatic and riparian biota are not protective.



# 2004-2005 Study Outcomes (Continued)

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## Los Alamos National Laboratory

- Analyzed samples for the New Mexico Environment Department.
- Confirmed low levels of cesium-137 leaking into the Rio Grande.
- Increased public awareness of this “early warning” of future contamination of the Rio Grande.



# 2004-2005 Study Outcomes (Continued)

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## Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

- Identified 4 previously unreported radioactive isotopes contaminating the environment.
- Identified a location for *cost effective*, citizen monitoring of laboratory releases.
- “Stopped” radioactive releases from the Laboratory, after TRAC’s initial radiological survey.



# Historical Studies

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## 2002 - 2003 Studies

- Identified recent radioactive fallout at the Savannah River Site. Revitalized local organizational interest in addressing radioactivity at the site.
- Discovered cesium-137, from the Los Alamos National Laboratory, seeping into the Rio Grande.
- Identified radium-225 in the Columbia riverbed.
- Detected uranium-233 in the Columbia Riverbed.
- Found Hanford radioactivity contaminating 60% of the Columbia Riverbed and 7 major salmon spawning sites.

# Historical Studies (Continued)

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## Pre-2002 Study Highlights

- Discovered the world's largest discharge of radioactivity into the open environment at the River Tom, Tomsk, Siberia, with the Government Accountability Project.
- Found americium-241 contaminates the aquatic environment in Amchitka, Alaska. That study prompted on-going remediation and a workers' compensation program.
- Found radioactivity from the French test site at Mururoa, French Polynesia, contaminated the marine environment, with Greenpeace. That study helped close the test site.
- Discovered dangerous levels of strontium-90 leaking from Hanford's N Reactor into the Columbia River. That study prompted on-going remediation.

