

## ***VALLEY ROUNDUP: August 19, 2004***

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### **Radiation Monitoring**

A watchdog group will measure radioactivity from the main U.S. nuclear weapons facilities, beginning in 2005. The RadioActivist Campaign (TRAC) announced its National Nuclear Monitoring Program (NNMP) Monday. NNMP will be the first program to independently monitor the U.S. nuclear weapons complex. TRAC's monitoring will identify and publicize previously undisclosed releases of radioactivity into public water, air, land, and vegetation. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) operates research, development, production, and testing facilities to produce next-generation "bunker busters." Each DOE site monitors itself, with limited checking by regulators. The U.S. nuclear weapons complex is not monitored, as a whole. According to TRAC's director, Norm Buske, "This monitoring will shift responsibility for and control over U.S. nuclear weapons facilities from the bomb builders to the public. An informed, concerned public can stop the harms nuclear weaponry does to our health, environment, and democratic process." In 2005, TRAC will monitor DOE sites in California, Nevada, New Mexico, South Carolina, and Tennessee. The RadioActivist Campaign has measured radioactivity from 27 nuclear sites, over the past 21 years. TRAC is a non-profit, public-interest organization, based in Belfair, Washington.

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