

## Plutonium i barns tänder

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PLUTONIUM FOUND IN TEETH OF CHILDREN THROUGHOUT BRITAIN;  
GREENPEACE CALLS FOR PLUTONIUM REPROCESSING PLANTS' CLOSURE

Amsterdam / London, 1 August 1997--- A new study funded by the  
British Department of Health has found plutonium in the teeth  
of children throughout England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and  
Wales. The study shows that radioactive discharges from the  
Sellafield plutonium reprocessing factory (1) have  
contaminated people throughout the region.

"This is a real wake-up call" said Damon Moglen of Greenpeace.

"We cannot be complacent. There is no possible excuse or  
justification for poisoning children with plutonium. The

British government should immediately [STOP REPROCESSING AT  
SELLAFIELD AND CEASE ALL RADIOACTIVE DISCHARGES TO THE  
ENVIRONMENT ."

The study, entitled "Variations in the Concentration of Plutonium, Strontium-90, and Total Alpha-emitters in Human Teeth Collected within the British Isles", has been published in The Science of the Total Environment Journal. The study involved the evaluation of over 3,300 teeth which had been extracted from adolescent children in the U.K.. Plutonium contamination found in the teeth ranged from 3 to 7 millibecquerels per kilogram. The levels of contamination are directly dependent on the distance at which the children live from the Sellafield plutonium reprocessing plant, on the Irish Sea coast of Cumbria.

The study's authors concluded that the source of plutonium has been radioactive discharges from the Sellafield plant, which is operated by the government-controlled British Nuclear Fuels Ltd (BNFL). The study suggests that the plutonium contamination is "consistent" with aerial discharges from the BNFL plant. Previous studies have shown that Sellafield's marine discharges have lead to plutonium contamination of the coastal environment.

In order for plutonium to accumulate in childrens' teeth, particles of the highly radiotoxic material would most probably be inhaled and filtered through the bloodstream

before being deposited in bones, teeth and/or the liver.

Plutonium, which is an alpha-emitter, is highly carcinogenic and remains an extreme health hazard for tens of thousands of years if released to the environment. Plutonium is effectively "man-made" and has been produced primarily for use in nuclear weapons.

The study's dramatic findings are reminiscent of revelations in the late 1950s, early '60s that above-ground nuclear tests had lead to radioactive contamination of childrens' bones and teeth. Public protest against this contamination lead to the negotiation of the 1963 Limited Test Ban Treaty (LTBT) which banned atmospheric nuclear tests.

"The international community moved decisively to stop the poisoning of children by nuclear weapons tests, now it must do the same with radioactive contamination and plutonium reprocessing" said Moglen.

The new revelations about pollution from Sellafield come in the midst of growing concern in France about the La Hague plutonium factory, which annually pumps some 230 million liters of nuclear waste into the Atlantic. A recent study has identified a leukaemia cluster among children living near the la Hague reprocessing plant. In addition, recent sampling by Greenpeace has revealed the discharges from the government-

controlled plant have turned the sea-bed into a nuclear waste  
dump.

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NOTE

(1) Beside UK domestic clients, Sellafield has signed  
plutonium reprocessing contracts with Japan, Germany,  
Switzerland, Italy, Spain, Sweden and The Netherlands.

Under hösten 2003 medger den brittiska regeringen att plutonium kommer från läckor vid Sellafield.

Aftonbladet:

## **Plutonium hittat i barnens tänder**

Brittiska barn har plutonium i tänderna. För första gången medger nu den brittiska regeringen att orsaken är läckor från ökända upparbeitungsanläggningen Sellafield, som dumpar avfall i Irländska sjön.

Undersökningen gjordes på tänder från 3.000 barn. Samtliga visade spår av plutonium - även hos barn i Skottland och Nordirland. Barn som bodde i närheten av Sellafield hade mer än dubbla mängden, skriver Observer.

Aftonbladet text-tv

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