

school students. A special student project last summer (1981) resulted in the production of **Pathways**, a reference book and teaching manual on environmental issues in Nova Scotia. Subsequent teacher workshops were held to further ideas generated in **Pathways**.

Of course, there was also all the day-to-day education work of answering telephone or written requests for information in the office, or speaking upon request to university classes and so on.

**7. Research**

Implicit in this rundown of activities are the many hours spent on research work done at Ecology Action — the background reading and analysis of issues which enables EAC to take informed positions on issues as they arise. Research was clearly crucial for the ongoing development of the resource library; and the library was in turn fundamental for effective environmental action and committee work. For example, one area in which the Centre is increasingly involved in terms of developing an analysis of, and ultimately taking action on, is the critical problem of toxic materials; and the files have grown substantially on this subject in the past few years.

This not-so-visible, but essential work has augmented in the past two years by various major research projects directed by Susan Holtz, focusing on Soft Energy Paths, Municipal Energy Management, and Solar Access Law (Right to Light). Funded respectively through contracts with the Federal Department of Energy Mines and Resources, the Provincial Department of Mines and Energy, and the Nova Scotia Law Foundation, these undertakings added much depth to the Centre's expanding information base.

All in all, 1980-1982 were active years — ones which brought increased public recognition of environmental issues here in Nova Scotia, and one which brought renewed efforts to investigate and propose environmentally appropriate solutions to the problems we now face.



Susan Holtz and Susan Mayo in EAC offices, 1978 (left to right)

(continued from page 1)

amounts, staff could work (and sometimes do!) a 48 hr. day, and still never catch up with requests, issues to address, etc. This infrastructure role is often an invisible one, work done quietly in the background to support the more high profile stuff we all hear about. The funding crunch is related to this, as we struggle to articulate what we do and why it is important.

EAC's visible response to issues - advocacy role - is more readily seen (and reacted to), and therefore more controversial than the infrastructure role. **Both** roles are crucial and need support from a **broad** base of people and organizations. We have achieved, over these ten years, high credibility across the province and indeed all over Canada, and have no intention of compromising that.

So far, we have been lucky in terms of staff. They work long and hard, because they are committed to an idea. How long we can sustain this remains to be seen, but at some point, competitive salaries must inevitably become part of our resource base if we are to survive and grow.

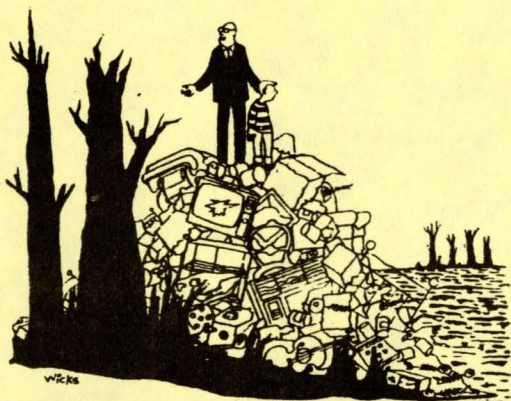
Finally, we are increasingly surrounded in Nova Scotia by issues which we ignore at our peril—notably uranium mining, herbicide sprays, or toxic waste mismanagement. The real fight has just begun, as we struggle to cope with a fundamental transition in the nature of our society and its implications for the environment over the next few generations.

In one sense then, we have "arrived"; yet in another, we have "just begun".

# PATHWAYS



A resource and teaching manual about current environmental issues affecting Nova Scotia and the world



**'Some day son, all this will be yours'**





## The First Ten Years

by Ginny Point

Along the half-lit basement corridor of the Forrest Building, Dalhousie campus, Ecology Action Centre is a sudden bustle of colour, people and information.

One phone is ringing; someone is answering a request for information about recycling on the other line; there is a Forestry Committee meeting in the front room, and a visiting researcher in the back room reading up on uranium mining. It is a typical day at Ecology Action Centre - like many other days in the Centre's ten year history.

And like any other day, the key words are: environmental protection, conservation, recycling, and resource management for a sustainable future. Taken together, these terms provide a framework for the ecologically oriented "conservator society" which is, and always has been, Ecology Action Centre's ultimate goal.

Yet, in some respects, the present day is unlike "any other day" in the past. Ecology Action Centre has experienced significant changes over the last ten years in terms of structure, funding, role, and public image. In this tenth anniversary year, we thought an "end of the decade" report would be of interest to friends and members of Ecology Action Centre.

### ISSUES

A quick look at the chronology of events below shows a wide variety of activities ranging from a Recycling Week Campaign to a brief at the Anil Hardboard hearings, the carpool project, the Spruce Budworm Symposium, the "Pointless Lepreau" float in the Halifax Natal Day Parade, or research projects, Solar Access Law for example.

As is evident, the scope of interest touches on matters of municipal, provincial and federal jurisdictions. The overriding theme however, has always been, "Think globally; act locally".

### APPROACH

Ecology Action Centre has always taken a three-pronged approach to the issues; with research, education and action the key words here. From work on the "Time for Transit" booklet, to interventions before the Public Utilities Board regarding electricity pricing, or research on "Soft Energy Paths", Ecology Action Centre's work has been both "proactive" and "reactive" over the past decade. The Centre has always stressed the importance of informed public input into decision-making.

### STRUCTURE

Despite a consistent philosophy and scope of interest through the years, Ecology Action Centre's structure has changed considerably over the last decade. Beginning as a spin-off project of an experimental course on "Ecology and Action" at Dalhousie University in 1971, the Centre at first depended on student involvement; its first coordinator, Brian Gifford, was a member of that ecology course. Funding came entirely from the Opportunities for Youth Program (OFY) of the Federal Government.

There was a small voluntary Board of Directors and a number of hardworking volunteers.

Between 1971 and 1974, the Centre maintained a staff ranging from one to seven people, thanks to intermittent OFY grants and LIP grants (Local Initiatives Project), with periods of no pay and much dedication.

When the LIP grants ended in 1974, EAC came to a major turning point. In recognition of the need for financial stability, independent of government, the Centre became a registered, private, non-profit society, dependent upon membership fees and donations for its core funding. This step immediately reduced staff to one. However, for the last several years, the Centre has maintained a staff of between two and three permanent employees. With such a small staff, it is clear that EAC owes its success to the many active members and volunteers in the office and on the committees. In fact, it was recently calculated that volunteer and staff time combined now equals about eighteen person-years.

### FUNDING

Looking specifically at funding through the years, it is again clear that 1974 was a critical year. From that point forward, membership fees, corporate donations and special fundraising events have been the mainstay of core funding, and this by deliberate policy. The change to diversified funding has made Ecology Action Centre free to pursue the interests of its members with no fear of "government cutbacks".

Financial independence has often meant financial insecurity however. In 1977, Susan Mayo was "laid off" for several months as Coordinator due to lack of funds.

1981/1982 was also a crisis year, as Bill Coffey notes in his financial report (see page 5). Thanks to special efforts by many, finances are again fairly solid.

### PUBLIC IMAGE AND ROLE

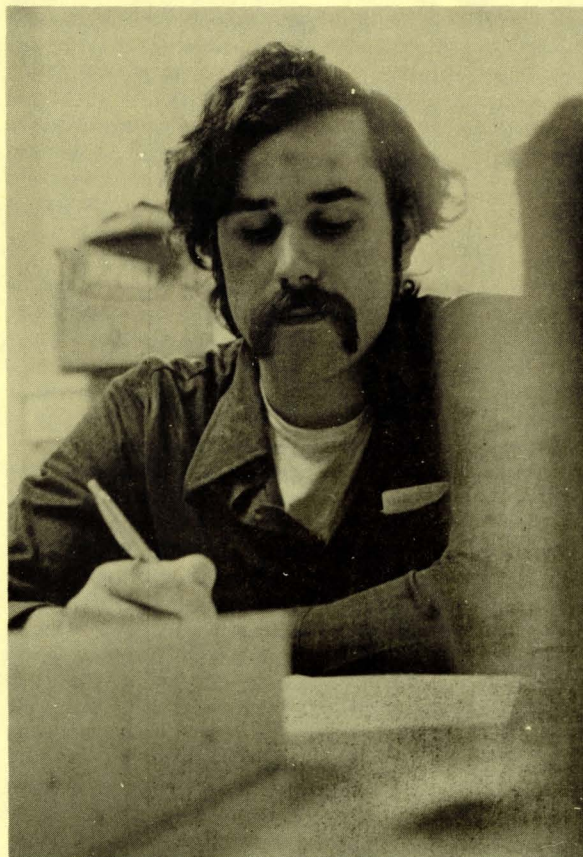
The last major change within Ecology Action Centre relates to its public image and role as an organization. As Bessa Ruiz writes in her President's report (see page 1) the Centre is no longer perceived as a bunch of "eco-freaks". Instead, the Centre commands considerable respect, if not support, from members of private industry, government, the academic community and the general public. It is not uncommon to hear words like:

*Ironically, there are probably a number of issues in which the Centre is involved in which we might have an opposing view, and that would probably be the case not only corporately, but from our farmer-shareholders as well. However, we recognize the importance of alternate viewpoints, and the need to support argument with good research and public communication. Also, in the final analysis, a company like ours is really based "in the land", and our objectives cannot be very divergent in the long run.*

That is a direct quote from one of the Centre's corporate members.

For people not part of the organization, the Centre's participation in the Public Utility Board hearings into electricity pricing and rate design marked a turning point in the Centre's image. Unlike earlier, highly controversial public hearings such as the Anil Hardboard plant,

(continued on page 7)



Brian Gifford, 1974



From the financial perspective, the years 1980 - 1982 can be characterized as ones of recurring crisis. Financial problems seem to be endemic to community organizations such as ours, which rely on membership fees and donations by individuals, corporations and non-governmental institutions for the vast majority of their support.

Difficulties in the past year were, however, more severe than usual. It may have been that in our enthusiasm to promote public awareness of pressing environmental issues we partially neglected the administrative aspects of the Centre; perhaps we attempted to exceed our limited resources; perhaps some of our usual funding sources began to feel the pressures of the constricting economy. Suffice it to say that times were hard.

Fortunately the story has a happy ending. In the last three months of this fiscal year the Centre was able to generate an unusually large amount of revenue. This was due to a combination of extremely hard work on the part of the staff, the generous response of members to our Christmas S.O.S., a highly successful benefit concert, and an unexpected bequest from the late, lamented MOVE organization. In the end, the Centre managed to show a modest surplus for the year.

For the Staff and the Board, the past year was both chastening and educational. As a result, we have instituted a series of measures designed to promote a higher degree of financial stability. These range from a comprehensive review of the role and goals of the Centre to more efficient office management systems. A large-scale campaign to recruit new members has been initiated, and a comprehensive fund-raising plan has been implemented. The latter has been made possible largely due to the addition to Staff of a part-time Fund-Raising Coordinator, Steve Young. Steve arrived at the Centre during the year-end frenzy and was instrumental in staving off disaster.

The above measures have already begun to show significant results. The financial prospects for the Centre are more positive than they have been for quite some time. With the short-term problems out of the way we may now turn to planning for long-term financial stability.

The accompanying auditor's report gives a full financial breakdown for the year 1980/1981. Pending completion of the formal audit for 1981/1982, our informal, internal audit shows a budget of about \$30,000 for core revenue and expenses, and that approximately 30% of the Centre's 1981/82 revenue was derived from membership fees, another 40% from other donations. The latter includes both corporate donations and grants from municipalities and institutions. Special fund-raising events, consulting fees, and the sale of publications accounts for the remainder.

In terms of expenses, the major portion of our modest budget for 1981/82 is devoted to Staff salaries. The cost of keeping members informed constitutes the second major group of expenses.

Let us bear in mind that these financial statements do not accurately reflect the magnitude or the value of the Centre's efforts. The essence of the Centre is the vast amount of time and energy contributed by its volunteers serving on its various committees and in the office.

**BALANCE SHEET**  
**MARCH 31, 1982**

**ASSETS**

	1981	1980
<b>Current assets:</b>		
Cash	\$ 2,248	\$4,596
Accounts Receivable	11,980	250
Inventory of publications	782	1,000
	<hr/> 15,010	<hr/> 5,846
<b>Office Equipment, at cost</b>	<b>808</b>	<b>808</b>
Less - Accumulated depreciation	643	601
	<hr/> 165	<hr/> 207
	<hr/> <b>\$15,175</b>	<hr/> <b>\$6,053</b>

**LIABILITIES AND MEMBERS' EQUITY**

<b>Current Liabilities:</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 7,124	\$1,713
Members' equity:		
Accumulated excess of revenue over expenditures	8,051	4,340
	<hr/> \$15,175	<hr/> \$6,053

*Clarkson Gordon*

Chartered Accountants  
12th Floor, Maritime Centre  
1505 Barrington Street  
Halifax, N.S., Canada  
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AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members of  
Ecology Action Centre

We have examined the balance sheet of Ecology Action Centre as at March 31, 1981 and the statement of revenue and expenditures and members' equity for the year then ended. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included such tests and other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances, except as noted in the following paragraph.

In common with many charitable organizations, the organization reports an amount for donation revenue which is not susceptible to complete verification by audit procedures. Accordingly, our verification of revenue from this source was limited to a comparison of recorded receipts with bank deposits.

In our opinion, except for the possibility of adjustments had donations been susceptible to complete audit verification, these financial statements present fairly the financial position of the organization as at March 31, 1981 and its revenue and expenditures for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting principles described in note 1 to the financial statements applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

*Clarkson Gordon*  
Chartered Accountants

Halifax, Canada  
September 30, 1981



ECOLOGY ACTION CENTRE

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES AND MEMBERS' EQUITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1981

	Projects					Total	1980
	CORE	Recycling	Rights of Way	Environmental Law Text	Municipal Energy Management		
<b>Revenue:</b>							
Project grants	\$ 500	\$ -	\$-	\$ -	\$36,662	\$37,162	\$15,112
Donations and memberships	12,845	-	-	-	-	12,845	13,470
Information services	4,570	-	-	-	-	4,570	3,598
Government grants	2,000	-	-	-	-	2,000	1,000
Project revenues	-	1,843	-	-	-	1,843	1,991
Miscellaneous	1,761	59	-	-	-	1,820	1,704
Fund raising activities	1,603	-	-	-	-	1,603	4,224
	<u>23,279</u>	<u>1,902</u>	-	-	<u>36,662</u>	<u>61,843</u>	<u>41,099</u>
<b>Expenditures:</b>							
Salaries and benefits	11,183	101	-	50	11,413	22,747	23,815
Consulting and information services	230	-	-	-	18,796	19,026	1,010
Office supplies and services	6,251	104	-	210	882	7,447	4,244
Travel	1,877	923	-	-	440	3,240	795
Miscellaneous	1,698	147	-	8	46	1,899	1,857
Postage	1,424	-	-	20	-	1,444	670
Telephone	685	-	-	-	533	1,218	2,064
Fund raising activities	734	310	-	-	-	1,044	4,699
Depreciation	41	-	-	-	-	41	52
Publications	-	-	-	26	-	26	3,604
	<u>24,123</u>	<u>1,585</u>	-	<u>314</u>	<u>32,110</u>	<u>58,132</u>	<u>42,810</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	(844)	317	-	(314)	4,552	3,711	(1,711)
Members' equity, beginning of year	2,909	1,104	5	322	-	4,340	6,051
Members' equity, end of year	<u>\$ 2,065</u>	<u>\$1,421</u>	<u>\$5</u>	<u>\$ 8</u>	<u>\$ 4,552</u>	<u>\$ 8,051</u>	<u>\$ 4,340</u>

ECOLOGY ACTION CENTRE  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
MARCH 31, 1981

1. Significant accounting policies:

(a) Grants -

Grants are recorded as income in the year they are received from the granting institution.

(b) Fixed assets -

Fixed assets are recorded at cost. Depreciation is provided on a declining balance basis at 20% per annum.

(c) Inventory -

Inventory is valued at the lower cost or market with cost being determined principally on a first-in, first-out basis.

2. Income tax status:

The organization qualifies as a charitable organization under Section 149(1)(f) of the Income Tax Act and is therefore exempt from income tax.



the PUB hearing was more technical and less confrontational in nature. The Centre's input was well-researched, and credible, while at the same time recommending major changes in electricity pricing. It was so well received by the PUB that the Board ordered the Nova Scotia Power Corporation to investigate the concept of "marginal cost pricing" as recommended by Ecology Action Centre, although the Power Corporation has yet to implement the Centre's proposal.

EAC's current professional research projects and its concomitant move towards increased research capability may be subtly changing the Centre's image away from a more "grassroots" organization, towards a more "professional" organization. At the same time, however, the Centre is working to a far greater extent in cooperation with numerous local environmental groups which have emerged across the province in the last few years. Highly visible and effective at the grassroots level, these groups' members have spent hours at Ecology Action Centre's Resource Library, and in consultation with the Centre on strategy and effective action.

This complementary relationship which has developed between Ecology Action Centre and other grassroots groups is probably due to the increasing number and complexity of current issues, and to the increasing concern on the part of all Nova Scotians about the environmental consequences of our way of life.

To sum up, the changes that Ecology Action Centre has experienced over the last ten years are as much a reflection of the environmental movement and the political climate surrounding public participation, as they are of Ecology Action Centre itself. Both the Centre and the movement are at major turning points, in terms of funding, structure, role and image. And yet, with more urgency than ever, the issues continue to demand attention. With the threat of uranium mining, for example, or the reality of toxic waste mismanagement, the conserver society is still a concept only.

#### Highlights of EAC activities 1971 - 1980

**1971** - Canadian environmental kit for teachers revised and sent out to Nova Scotian schools;  
- Recycling Week co-sponsored, and recycling depot established in Halifax;

**1973** - Brief presented to Municipal Development Planning Committee recommending environment related policies for the Municipal Development Plan;  
- A Time for Transit pamphlet published;  
- Work undertaken with other environmental groups to oppose construction of proposed 12,000 megawatt Stoddard Island Nuclear Power Station; (Successful)

**1974** - Brief submitted to the Environmental Control Council regarding pollution at the Anil Hardboard Plant; (successful)  
- View Planes By-Laws passed by Halifax City Council with encouragement from EAC;  
- EAC recycling program folded due to market instability;

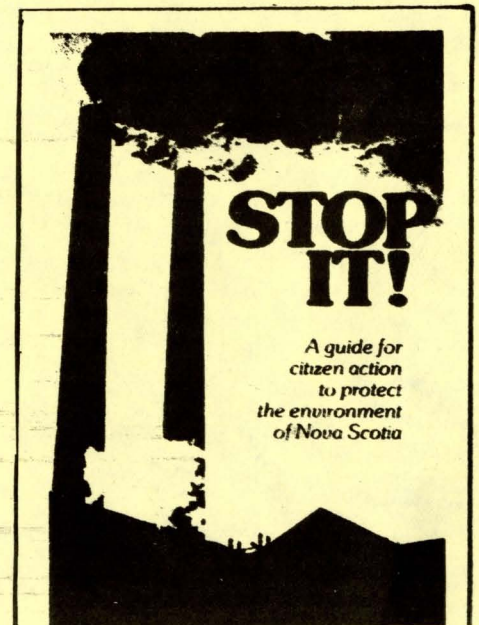


Ginny Point, John Scheibelhut, Susan Holtz, Susan Mayo, and Grant MacDonald in EAC offices, 1980

- 1975** - Susan Holtz given a part-time salary by Halifax Friends Association to join EAC staff as Energy Coordinator;
- Bring Back the Refillable Bottle Campaign launched by EAC, leading to modifications in the Nova Scotia Beverage Container Act;
- Report on waste analysis for Halifax and Dartmouth garbage prepared by EAC for the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission;
- Energy and People Conference co-sponsored by EAC, with over 200 in attendance;
- Report written regarding Wreck Cove Hydroelectric Project, environmental impacts;
- Report submitted to Halifax City Council regarding environmental impact studies in various North American cities, EAC invited to sit on Halifax Municipal Development Plan environmental subcommittee;
- Brian Gifford left EAC; Susan Mayo hired as coordinator;

- 1976** - Briefs presented by EAC and other local groups to Halifax City Council opposing proposed chemical spray program for Halifax City trees; (successful)
- Stop It: A Guide for Citizen Action to Protect the Environment of Nova Scotia produced;
- Intervention before the Public Utility Board undertaken regarding proposed Nova Scotia Power Corporation (NSPC) rate increases, which resulted in the PUB requiring an investigation into "marginal cost pricing" rate structures, as recommended by EAC;
- Spruce Budworm Symposium sponsored by EAC, open to the public;

*"Nova Scotia's environment is our heritage and our future."*





- 1977 - Carpool Project undertaken with funding from the federal government; 18,000 commuters approached; the number of resulting carpoolers lower than hoped, but successful as a public information campaign;
- Support given to the Cape Breton Landowners Against the Spray; (resulted in government decision not to spray chemical insecticides on Nova Scotian forests);
  - Part-time salary donated to EAC by the Canadian Friends Service Committee for work on the energy library;

- 1978 - Report given to the Standing Committee on Natural Resources and Public Works of the House of Commons on the Management of Nuclear Waste;
- Further intervention before the Public Utility Board undertaken regarding electricity pricing and utility chemical spraying on power line rights of way;

- 1979 - Ginny Point hired as full time staff at EAC;
- Pointless Lepreau Float (borrowed from Fundy Area Concern for Tomorrow) awarded first prize in the Halifax Natal Day Parade, for depicting exhausted taxpayers dragging along a huge elephant while politicians begged for handouts;
  - Summer projects on "Common Lands/ Rights of Way" and "Law and the Environment" funded through federal government;
  - Spryfield paper recycling project begun;
  - Major anti-nuclear rally at Brudenell, P.E.I. organized by EAC and other members of the Maritime Energy Coalition (800 people) - over 15,000 signatures collected by EAC and other Nova Scotian groups on a petition calling for a moratorium on nuclear power construction, and a redirecting of federal moneys to renewable energy technologies;
  - Brief submitted to the People's Food Commission by EAC's newly formed Agriculture Committee;
  - Two public information sessions on nuclear power given by EAC following the Three Mile Island Accident, and 10,000 copies of a brochure entitled "It Can Happen Here" passed out at showings of *The China Syndrome*;
  - Environmental Lecture Series begun with topics ranging from "Sewage Waste Composting" to "Healthy Foods and a Healthy Land";

- 1980 - Recycling program discontinued due to poor business climate
- Appeal of Market Place Plaza launched before the Planning Appeal Board; (Unsuccessful)
  - Acceptance by Halifax City Council of EAC's recommendation that the Irving Arch in downtown Halifax be designated as a heritage resource. Demolition of the Arch two days later;
  - Briefs submitted to Hon. Marc LaLonde and Hon. John Roberts regarding eco-

nomics aspects of energy conservation and energy policy in conjunction with thirty-five other non-government environmental groups across the country;

- A first cut on a "Soft Energy Path for Nova Scotia" completed by Susan Holtz and Bill Zimmerman and published in *Alternatives*;
- Susan Mayo resigned as Coordinator; Elizabeth Greenhaves hired as part-time Office Manager;

**Ecology Action Centre  
cancels recycling service**

**Ecology Action  
Centre lecture  
set April 20**



## It's not that simple

For a long time, Ecology Action Centre has been saying that non-renewable or inefficient forms of energy are going to be costly both in dollars and environmental quality. Now that dollar costs are rising, this is not the time to forget about the environmental questions in the choices we'll be making.

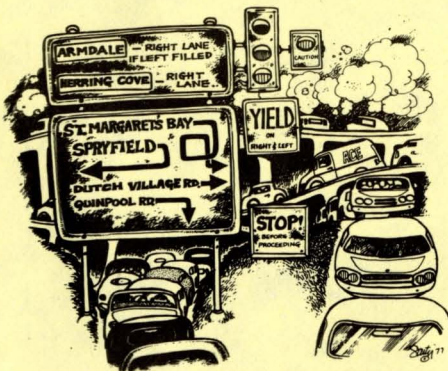
Consider joining us. The Centre needs the participation of all Nova Scotians concerned about the quality of our environment. Make your concern count.



Ecology Action Centre  
Forrest Bldg.  
Dalhousie University  
Halifax, B3 H 3J5

— All contributions are tax deductible. —

\$5.00 individual member      \$50.00 professional member  
\$25.00 contributing member      \$100.00 corporate member  
\$10.00 month; sustaining member



**15,000 signatures on petition opposing N.S.  
involvement in nuclear energy installation**