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Commentary: Sellafield, England: The Most Dangerous Place In Europe

2009-04-19 12:09:08 (55 weeks ago)
Posted By: Intellpuke
(Read 708 times || 1 comments)

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Intellpuke: *This commentary was written by Robin McKie, science editor for The Observer. In his commentary, Mr. McKie writes: "Last week the British government announced plans for a new generation of nuclear plants; but Britain is still dealing with the legacy of its first atomic installation at Sellafield - a toxic waste dump in one of the most contaminated buildings in Europe. As a multi-billion pound clean-up is planned, can Britain avoid making the same mistakes again?" A good question, and not just for Britain. Mr. McKie's commentary follows:*

Building B30 is a large, stained, concrete edifice that stands at the center of Sellafield, Britain's sprawling nuclear processing plant in Cumbria. Surrounded by a three-meter-high fence that is topped with razor wire, encased in scaffolding and riddled with a maze of sagging pipes and cabling, it would never be a contender to win an architectural prize.

Yet B30 has a powerful claim to fame, albeit a disturbing one. "It is the most hazardous industrial building in western Europe," according to George Beveridge, Sellafield's deputy managing director.

Nor is it hard to understand why the building possesses such a fearsome reputation. Piles of old nuclear reactor parts and decaying fuel rods, much of them of unknown provenance and age, line the murky, radioactive waters of the cooling pond in the center of B30. Down there, pieces of contaminated metal have dissolved into sludge that emits heavy and potentially lethal doses of radiation.

It is an unsettling place, though B30 is certainly not unique. There is Building B38 next door, for example. "That's the second most hazardous industrial building in Europe," said Beveridge. Here highly radioactive cladding from reactor fuel rods is stored, also under water. And again, engineers have only a vague idea what else has been dumped in its cooling pond and left to disintegrate for the past few decades.

During the miners' strike of 1972, the nation's nuclear plants were run at full stretch in order to supply electricity to a beleaguered nation. As a result, it proved impossible to process all the waste that was being generated. Cladding and fuel were simply thrown into B38's cooling ponds and left to disintegrate.

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Internet access for all EU wants restrictions

By: Anonymous

2009-05-03 18:27:15

On the 5th May the EU parliament will be voting what seems to me and to others as a camouflaged control of citizens' freedom on the net, with the false argument of protection, copyright and preventing harm.

European citizens are people with brains, I believe many are aware of this as I am and do not agree.

Taking away the internet, restricting it, limiting access will inevitably do more harm than good to all but essentially for business in a time of crises and cannot be defined as democratic.

One of my observations due to ideas like this one of the net is: Isn't Europe today distancing itself from democracy and reverting in the direction of 'Facism'?

I feel there are ulterior motives and a wish to dominate that might well be driven by the 'Bilderberg Club'.

Are politicians feeling intimidated by the the internet and citizens not being kept in the dark as many probably wish?

The internet service providers being able to limit citizens access to the net and only giving people access to those they wish, want or merely feel like doing is empowering monopolies, I believe friends and buddies of the politicians, and what I define as discrimination.

Internet the way it is today is about life and freedom, the freedom that seems, in my point of view, to generate discomfort in those that long to bring back fascism.

So the service providers will choose for us where we can date, chat, read jokes etc, and we pay for what the others want to feed us. This doesn't seem as evolution, it seems as regression.

What have Europeans achieved? Nothing it seems if these are the approaches.

This proposal places our future at risk.

As long as the service providers inform us they can do as they please and give us as little as they wish. I see this as an abuse of power and crushing democracy.

The internet is as much the citizens as anybody elses.

I see this as no one having the right to take away the sun from other people's lives.

If the EU members of parliament are representing

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We count on you for the good of all of us and for the evolution of Europe in the direction of rights for all and democracy not once again, benefiting monopolies and the chums. Ignorance to dominate is that the idea? The media seems to be too passive nowadays! Owned by the monopolies, what can we expect?

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