Here are some more articles and replies. In order to simplify, our comments are written in Times New Roman and in block while the letters and articles are in Arial.

From: alex.herbert@tidallagoonpower.com
To: cates1980@hotmail.co.uk
Sent: Mon, 15 Dec 2014 14:00:16 +0000
Subject: RE: 'Swansea Lagoon Tidal Project.'

Mr Piller,

I am rather surprised to see our email correspondence quoted and published (out of context, without your questions) in preference to the materials I have referred you to. I think it is clear that my emails were not intended to rebut your concerns themselves, but to direct you to technical information which provides the detailed rebuttal. Your concerns are not based on evidence. You suggest issues have not been addressed which have been addressed in great detail (based on extensive research and current data), but which you have not meaningfully referred to, and perhaps not read. My colleague advises me you found the ES chapters to be "all about blinding everyone with science and lengthy words" hence I also provided the Non-Technical Summary, which is not referred to either.

Your concern about PINS ("Didn't want too many awkward questions being forwarded would be my guess.") ignores my advice about the planning process and your correspondence having unfortunately 'missed the boat'. We have been asked countless awkward questions through the planning process and have answered them all (documents are all on the PINS website).

If you wish to discuss this further, please call. Many thanks.

Kind regards, Alex Herbert

Alex Herbert | Tidal Lagoon Power | m: 07887 423 148 | sw: 01452 303892 ext: 2048 | e: alex.herbert@tidallagoonpower.com | www.tidallagoonswanseabay.com

When voicing our concerns about safety the best they can come up with is this load of old flannel (below). The same or similar legislation, which has protected birds and bats but never once from wind-farms, is hardly going to protect marine-life from tidal either. It is <u>not</u> repeat <u>not</u> addressing issues one iota.

10.2 Legislation, planning policy and guidance.

10.2.0.1. All cetaceans (whales and dolphins) are protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (and amendments), under which it is an offense to take, injure or kill these species. Disturbance in their place of rest, shelter or protection is also prohibited. All species of cetacean are protected under the EU Habitats Directive 1992 at Annex IV and under the Bern Convention. Harbour porpoise and bottlenose dolphin are also protected under Annex II of the Habitats Directive 1992. In addition, harbour porpoise are also listed as an OSPAR threatened species listed in Appendix II of the Bonn Convention (Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals) 1982.

I did find the ES. chapters all about blinding everyone with science and lengthy <u>script</u> I think was what I said; pages and pages of bumf that could've been summed up on half a sheet. And all of this based on extensive research and current data. We don't need extensive research and current data telling us 47rpm is safe any more than we need a doctor telling us it's alright to smoke. These blade-speed issues, which have been addressed in such detail, <u>are</u> going to result in a blood-bath if not properly sorted out by the industry. Fish <u>are</u> going to be chopped and this <u>will</u> attract other fish which will also be chopped, along with Seals, Dolphins, Porpoises and Sharks etc. This is the simple basic fact of what we're dealing with here.

This Tidal Lagoon will not be directly situated in the wider sea environment but these self same turbines, that are being discussed here, will be used in other developments that will be located in the sea and river-systems themselves. So I urge everyone to conduct the same unscientific experiment as I carried out myself by swinging a three metre pole around on a three second rotation. That will give you some idea of just how fast these blade-tips will strike at 20rpms and you will all see for yourselves that it does deliver a very hefty clonk. Having then witnessed this for yourselves you can then just imagine what 47 will do.

I was a little late in dealing with the planning authorities, but I did actually received an invitation from this very department asking me to resubmit the information confirming that I'd be happy to have it published on their website. This I duly did together a full confirmation that I'd be willing to see it published only to find it had been disallowed the very next day. This not unreasonably led me to believe they simply hadn't liked what I'd had to say.

From: SwanseaTidal@infrastructure.gsi.gov.uk
To: cates1980@hotmail.co.uk
Sent: Mon, 8 Dec 2014 13:50:27 +0000
Subject: RE: 'Swansea Lagoon Tidal Project.'

Dear Mr Piller,

Thank you for your emails dated 6 and 7 December 2014 concerning the Tidal Lagoon Swansea Bay application under examination. Please be advised that the examination of this application will close Wednesday 10 December 2014. Submissions to the examination can usually only be accepted from registered interested parties with a statutory right to do so, and/or other parties who registered prior to the start of the examination. We do not have any record of you being an interested party, and therefore the information provided cannot automatically be accepted into the examination. Any submissions made by non-interested parties will be put forward to the Examining Authority and it is at their discretion as to whether they are accepted or not.

Ideally submissions should not contain links to documents outside of the information published on the Inspectorate's project web page, and over which we have not control. Please confirm whether you wish to submit this information in the manner described, and whether in light of the advice given you intend to make any changes to it. The deadline for all final submissions to this examination is 5pm this evening.

Please be aware that the information you provide, cannot be passed to the Examining Authority for consideration, unless you confirm by the 5pm deadline today, that this is information that you would be happy to be published on our website. Please confirm you intention.

Yours faithfully

Tayo Olaitan (Ms)

Assistant Case Officer, Major Applications and Plans

The Planning Inspectorate, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square,Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6PN

From: SwanseaTidal@infrastructure.gsi.gov.uk
To: cates1980@hotmail.co.uk;
Sent: Tue, 9 Dec 2014 15:23:48 +0000
Subject: RE: 'Swansea Lagoon Tidal Project.'

Dear Mr Piller,

Thank you for your email. The case team have spoken with the Examining Authority to seek confirmation as to whether they wish to exercise their discretion in accepting your representation into the examination. They have decided not to accept your submission for the following reasons;

The representation is from an individual who has not previously registered an interest with the examination (ie. not an interested party), and;

The representation has been received at a late stage in the examination process where, if it was accepted and published, interested parties would not have an opportunity to comment on its content.

This should not impede communication between you and the applicant but this will not form part of the examination.

Kind regards,

Katherine Chapman, Case Manager, Major Applications & Plans

The Planning Inspectorate, Temple Quay House, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6PN
Direct line: 0303 444 5078, Mobile: 07527751100, Helpline: 0303 444 5000
Email: katherine.chapman@pins.gsi.gov.uk

Web: www.planningportal.gov.uk/planninginspectorate (Planning Inspectorate casework and appeals)
Web: www.planningportal.gov.uk/infrastructure (Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure Planning portal)

Twitter: @PINSgov

With the speed of internet communication and in light of the concerns raised, I should had thought there'd 've been reasonable enough time for interested parties' response, especially in light of the extensive research and current data they had at hand. Why ask for them to be submitted in the first place if they weren't going to use them?

…….....

The absolute dream of course would be to have vast areas of systems like these working well and for the good of everything. The tidal-speeds in regions around the planet are going to be known for eons, not for years or even centuries, but for eons. Tides, unlike wind where you can have gale-force one day and calm the next, are utterly predictable. The viscosity of water too, about 800 times greater than that of air, something a good deal more acceptable than we have at the moment could be designed and with very little trouble at all.

Machines geared up in places of slow tidal-speed and geared down where the tide-speed is higher; all the time keeping the overall blade-speed down through-out the entire networks to less than 16rpm. Then I believe we would be well on the way to having real green-energy instead of the currently run, profit-based, industrialised, wildlife slaughter establishments, with only the thinnest veneer of care possible which keeps everyone blissfully unaware and happy.

From: defenders@mail.defenders.org
To: cates1980@hotmail.co.uk
Sent: Mon, 15 Dec 2014 06:00:49 -0600
Subject: RE: Anti-wolf group running hateful ads: Help fight back

Billboards with hateful anti-wolf propaganda are popping up in Washington state.

Don't let fairytales based on superstition and lies set back the recovery of such an amazing creature.

Help us spread the truth.

Washington state has become the newest battleground in the war against wolves.

An anti-wolf group has begun running huge billboards filled with anti-wolf lies and propaganda intended to incite fear. They would have people in Washington believe that young children will be next on a wolf's "menu."

These lies must not go unanswered.

That's why Defenders is planning an all-out ad blitz to stop the damaging spread of lies and misinformation. We need to raise at least $50,000 to run this aggressive campaign - won't you chip in to help us run billboard and online ads that tell the truth about wolves?

We're hoping to raise enough to run eight billboard ads across Washington state as well as an aggressive online ad campaign to expose the lies that anti-wolf forces are spreading. We're confident that when people have the facts, they'll continue to support wolf recovery in the state. The more we can raise, the longer we can keep these ads running!

As of the last official count, there are only 52 wolves in all of Washington state – and they are being illegally killed as the hate-based claims become more and more farfetched.

It's a familiar tactic. Fuel old fears and prejudices to turn public opinion against wolves. Then, press for state wildlife rules that permit "kill first, ask questions later" tactics against these magnificent animals. That's what they did in Idaho – and they can do it here too if we don't nip this in the bud!

Here's the truth about wolves: They have more reason to be afraid of humans than we do of them. You are more likely to be attacked by your neighbor's poodle than to be attacked by a wolf.

Help us spread the truth! Donate now to help us run counter ads in Washington state and to help protect wolves and other wildlife. We have already lived in a nation where wolves had been pushed to the brink of extinction – we're not going to let it happen again. We can't let fairy tales based on superstition and lies set back the recovery of such an important native species.

We can't tell you how grateful we are for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Jamie Rappaport Clark, President, Defenders of Wildlife

Please do write your letters to the contact below. These people have declared war on the wolf so we have declare war on them. Please do all you can and send this contact out to anyone that might be interested. Thank you.

waresidentsagainstwolves@gmail.com

Please also write to these contacts below. The Fish & Wildlife Service are the ones who ultimately make the decisions as to whether hunting's allowed or not. Thank you.

nathan_zorich@fws.gov; melanie_steinkamp@fws.gov; william_ritchie@fws.gov; jennifer_a_wheeler@fws.gov; doug_forsell@fws.gov; angela_matz@fws.gov; ken_goddard@fws.gov; larry_martin@fws.gov; sheldon_myerchin@fws.gov; lori_nordstrom@fws.gov

To: cates1980@hotmail.co.uk
From: friends@mindocloudforest.org
Sent: Mon, 1 Dec 2014 00:12:53 +0000
Subject: Mindo Cloudforest Friends

Periodic Newsletter from the Field: December, 2014

Season´s Greetings from Mindo Cloudforest Foundation

Another year wraps up as MCF turns 13. Our directors and staff in Ecuador plus the team at our Friends organization in Vermont all send their warmest wishes and best hopes for the holiday season and the coming year. Our conservation activities in Ecuador keep going strong as we make new friends and enjoy new visitors to our reserves, our websites and in our social media. Thanks to all of you; your help makes what we do possible!

As those of you who have been on our mailing list for more than a year can attest, it´s been awhile since our last newsletter, longer than usual. The adage holds, no news is good news, and we´ve been very busy meantime. Before we get into details, we´d like to extend our most special heartfelt thanks to Nancy Kitzmiller Taylor for her generous donation of over 160 acres of stunning habitat in the Tandayapa valley, smack dab on the Equator and home to a several hundred beautiful bird species like this Gray-breasted Wood Wren. The same goes for all our other generous donors through 2014, and to those new donors who decide to be part of our conservation support network in coming days. -- As always, we´re happy to share more information about any of the subjects below and are open and available to discuss new project ideas or your particular interests: info@mindocloudforest.org

The Internal Revenue Service certified Friends of Mindo Cloud Forest´s 501(c)(3) status on October 22, 2014. This means that all donations to ´Friends´ are tax deductible. Please, help us celebrate this long awaited status by sending us your contribution. We accept credit cards via PayPal, or your check sent to:

Thanks to continuing support from the Butler Foundation MCF is building new housing for the staff at Milpe Gardens, part of the Milpe Bird Sanctuary. Here´s the gang raising palm wood columns into place. This wood and the bamboo for the roof structure were harvested responsibly in our area and much of the rest of the interior wood utilized is recycled from a torn-down house in Quito. Of course there´s some impact associated with building but we do try to minimize the harm where possible.

CO2 Reforestation Monitoring Event
In October representatives from the Belgian NGO BOS+ (www.bosplus.be) came to monitor initial results from our 1,250+ acre native species reforestation project. The goal was to establish 400 trees per acre or half a million trees if you do the math. After visiting all sites over a two week period and following the agreed upon sampling methodology, we were pleased to find a 91% effective rate. Some of the plantations are already little forests; things grow fast in the tropics!

Los Bancos-Milpe Christmas Bird Count
We´re pleased to announce our third annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count hosted at the Milpe Bird Sanctuary and including the surrounding communities, forests, valleys and hills. In 2012-2013 we had an average 40 participants and 293 species and hope for more this January 3rd. If you´ll be in Ecuador, feel free to come and join us. BTW, you can still catch the New Hampshire Public TV documentary, “Counting on Birds,” featuring scenes from our first, 2012, count: http://www.nhptv.org/birds/. In Luis Yánez´s photo at Milpe, a Long-wattled Umbrellabird female doing something not nice to a glass frog.

Over the last couple years there´s been an upwelling of interest and relations between US universities and MCF. This summer we had the special visit from Sue Byrd and others of the University of Tennessee at Martin, and they´ve collaborated with our member Karen Schiltz´s ongoing arts and souvenir production with several community women from the village of Milpe. This kind group even donated a sewing machine and are fondly remembered.

We are about to sign another Memorandum of Understanding with another US university, but we´ll keep that under wraps until the next newsletter. Stay tuned! The general idea, as you might surmise, is to build a robust scientific and educational program, one of our statutory objectives and the long held dream of our first president, Paul Coopmans, who died of Cancer in early 2007.

In particular, we´re pleased to report on the continuing visits and studies carried out by our friends at the University of Wyoming’s Department of Zoology and Physiology. Since 2012, Dr. Dave McDonald has brought different combinations of undergraduates, graduate students and curious non-students to Milpe. Furthermore, he and his graduate student, Grady Harris, have been conducting research on the Golden-winged Manakins that lek (display in clusters) here.

Research on manakins and student projects on plant-hummingbird-moth interactions
Golden-winged Manakins sometimes engage in coordinated courtship displays on the mossy logs they use as “dance perches,” and one of the goals of the research is to understand the complex social behavior of these beautiful little birds.

Undergraduate students on Dave’s trips also conduct individual and group research projects on topics as disparate as army ants, mixed-species foraging flocks and hummingbird attendance at the feeders in the dining area. This year, a focused student project aims to deepen our understanding of the interactions between hummingbirds, plants and insect pollinators. If you are at Milpe, look for the sphingid (or hawk) moths that mimic hummingbirds and watch the Green Thorntail and Rufous-tailed Hummingbirds. Previous student groups noticed that the moths and hummingbirds have very different patterns of nectar-feeding. This year’s crew will measure nectar production while more intensively following moth and hummingbird visitation.

Botanical Garden at Milpe

In a newsletter the other year we mentioned the small botanical garden we´re building at Milpe, first with the leadership of an intern from Costa Rica´s Earth University (sponsored by the Butler Foundation). Then, as has been our habit, we didn´t stop there; thanks to a volunteer who since has become an MCF member, the garden continues to improve. In the photo below we see Elaine Simballa hard at work.

Special thanks to Luis Yánez for several of the photos. Gracias a Luis Yánez por algunas de las fotos, y a Nick Athanas por la del Saltarín. Thanks to Nick Athanas for the Golden-winged Manakin picture.

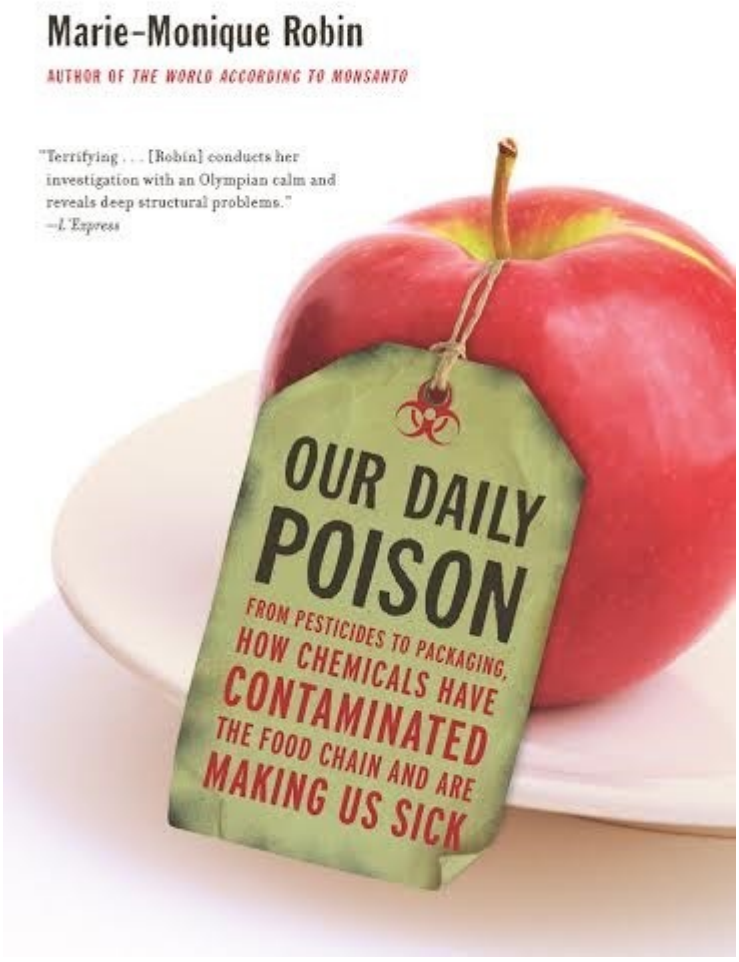
Our mailing address is: Friends of Mindo Cloud Forest, 103 Chestnut Hill, Brattleboro, VT 05301. Tel: (724) 650-7011

From: messenger@truthout.org
To: cates1980@hotmail.co.uk
Sent: Sun, 30 Nov 2014 15:49:34 -0500
Subject: Our Daily Poison: How Chemicals Have Contaminated the Food Chain

Our Daily Poison: How Chemicals Have Contaminated the Food Chain

Sunday, 30 November 2014 00:00

By Marie-Monique Robin, The New Press | Book Excerpt



(Image: The New Press)Kirkus Reviews praises "Our Daily Poison, From Pesticides to Packaging, How Chemicals Have Contaminted the Food Chain and Are Making Us Sick": "For readers with a strong interest in environmental and public health and food safety policy, this may be one of the most important books of the year. " Contribute to Truthout and receive the book now by clicking here.

In specific, Kirkus lauds Robin for ferreting out the origins of the modern chemical industry:

A few of the topics discussed include the origins of the chemical industry in chemical warfare; its history of "strategizing how to control and manipulate research on the toxicity of its products, while waging a merciless war on all the scientists wishing to maintain their independence in the name of the defense of public health"; the modern epidemic of cancers and other diseases that exploded at the end of the 19th century; the weaknesses of epidemiological studies; the idea of acceptable daily intake; case studies of specific chemicals; and the "cocktail effect."

There are several painful stories of poisoning victims' struggles for recognition and compensation, which serve to break up and humanize the flood of technical information. In her conclusion, Robin calls for a new precautionary approach to approving chemicals that errs on the side of protecting people rather than industry.

The following passage is an excerpt from Our Daily Poison:

DDT and the Beginning of the Industrial Age

"Can anyone believe it is possible to lay down such a barrage of poisons on the surface of the earth without making it unfit for all life?" Rachel Carson posed this question in Silent Spring, published in 1962, considered the founding work of the ecological movement. "They should not be called 'insecticides' but 'biocides.' " She went on: "This industry is a child of the Second World War. In the course of developing agents of chemical warfare, some of the chemicals developed in the laboratory were found to be lethal to insects. The discovery did not come by chance: insects were widely used to test chemicals as agents of death for men."

Fritz Haber's work on chlorinated gases did indeed open the way to the industrial production of synthetic insecticides, the most well-known of which is DDT (dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane), one of the large family of organochlorines. An organochlorine is an organic compound in which one or more hydrogen atoms have been replaced by chlorine atoms, forming an extremely stable chemical structure that is therefore resistant to environmental degradation. Some are considered "persistent organic pollutants" (POPs), because they accumulate in animal and human fatty tissue and because their extreme volatility enables them to move through the atmosphere to contaminate the remotest areas of the planet. I will return to the damaging effects of POPs, several of which—known as the "dirty dozen" (from the 1967 Robert Aldrich film)—were banned by the Stockholm Convention adopted on May 22, 2001, by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), but still pollute the environment and even mothers' milk. Among them are Monsanto's polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), along with nine pesticides, including DDT, the "miracle insecticide" that began its brilliant career during World War II, bringing in its wake many molecules developed between the wars.

Synthesized by the Austrian chemist Othmar Zeidler in 1874, DDT was left in a laboratory drawer until 1939, when the Swiss chemist Paul Müller, who was working for the Geigy company, identified its properties as an insecticide. His discovery had such

great success that, only nine years later (record time) he won the Nobel Prize in Medicine. Appearing in solid form, insoluble in water—to be used it has to be dissolved in an oil—DDT was first used by the U.S. Army in Naples in 1943, to contain a typhus epidemic; the disease, transmitted by lice, was decimating Allied troops. The massive operation was repeated in the South Pacific to eradicate the anopheles mosquito, the carrier of malaria, and later as an antiseptic for death camp survivors, Korean prisoners, and the German civilian population when the defeated country was occupied.

Yet the organochlorine pesticide was never used for military purposes during World War II, because it seems all high commands had learned the lesson of the Great War. In any event, this is what Major William Buckingham suggested in a book published in 1982 by the U.S. Office of Air Force History, where he notes that "the Allies and Axis in World War II abstained from using the weapon either because of legal restrictions, or to avoid retaliation in kind." But in the aftermath of the war, DDT was universally celebrated as a "miracle insecticide" able to defeat any harmful insect. I have been able to consult some hallucinatory audiovisual archives in which one can see entire cities in the United States treated with DDT in the 1950s. Sprayers go up and down the streets spewing huge white clouds, while housewives are asked to disinfect their cupboards with sponges soaked in the insecticide. Authorized in agriculture in 1945, DDT was later used massively in the treatment of crops, forests, and rivers, in an impressive expenditure of resources.

In 1955, the WHO launched a vast campaign against malaria in many parts of the world—Europe, Asia, Central America, and North Africa. But initial successes, sometimes accomplishing complete eradication of the disease, were followed by disillusionment, because the mosquitoes carrying the parasite that causes the disease very rapidly developed resistance to DDT, resulting, in particular in India and Central America, in a spectacular resurgence of the scourge. But for the chemical industry, with Monsanto and Dow Chemical in the lead, it was a jackpot: from 1950 to 1980 more than forty thousand tons of DDT were sprayed around the world every year, with production reaching a record of 82,000 tons in 1963 (making for a total of 1.8 million tons between the early 1940s and 2010). In the United States alone, some 675,000 tons were sprayed before the agricultural use of DDT was banned in 1972.

As Rachel Carson pointed out in Silent Spring, "the myth of the harmlessness of DDT rests on the fact that one of its first uses was the wartime dusting of many thousands of soldiers, refugees, and prisoners, to combat lice." In addition, there is its low acute toxicity in mammals: classified as "moderately hazardous" by the WHO, its LD50 is only 113 mg/kg (for rats). On the other hand—I will come back to this in Chapters 16 and 17—its long-term effects are terrible: acting as an endocrine disruptor, it leads to cancer, birth defects, and reproductive disorders, in particular for those subject to prenatal exposure.

Boosted by the success of DDT and other organochlorine pesticides, a second category of insecticides appeared in the wake of World War II. These were the organo-phosphates, whose development was directly connected to research on new poison gases, but which, for the same reasons as for DDT, were never used for military purposes. As the official site of the French Observatory for Pesticide Residues (Observatoire des résidus de pesticides, ORP), established by the French government in

2003, soberly states: "not having been used during hostilities, they were used against insects." Designed to attack the nervous system of insects, these molecules have a much more elevated acute toxicity than organochlorines, but they degrade more quickly. In this family are highly hazardous insecticides like parathion (LD50: 15 mg/kg), used as early as 1944, malathion, dichlorvos, and chlorpyrifos, as well as carbaryl (responsible for the Bhopal disaster), and sarin (LD50: 0.5 mg/kg), a highly toxic gas developed in 1939 in the IG Farben laboratories and now considered a "weapon of mass destruction" by the United Nations.

The Precursors of Agent Orange

Launched at top speed thanks to synthetic insecticides, the green revolution also involved the marketing of chemical herbicides developed in British and American laboratories during World War II. In the early 1940s, researchers succeeded in isolating the hormone that controls plant growth, and synthetically reproduced the molecule. They observed that, injected in small doses, the artificial hormone strongly stimulated plant growth, while, in contrast, high doses caused the death of plants. This led to the creation of two highly effective weed killers that initiated a veritable "agricultural revolution and laid the corner stone of present-day weed science," in the words of the American botanist James Troyer. The two herbicides were 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D) and 2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4,5-T), two chemical molecules in the chlorophenol family.

Researchers soon recognized the wartime potential of these extremely powerful weed killers, because they made it possible to destroy crops and thereby starve enemy armies and populations. In 1943, the UK Agricultural Research Council launched a secret testing program that bore fruit in Maylasia in the 1950s where, for the first time in history, the British army used herbicides to destroy the communist insurgents' harvests. At the same time in the United States the Fort Detrick, Maryland, Biological Warfare Center was testing Dinoxol and Trinoxol, mixtures of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T, the ancestor of Agent Orange, the defoliant used massively by the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War.

Indeed, although the Allies had renounced the use of chemical weapons, fearing above all an escalation that would have produced a terrible backlash, the emergence of the Cold War lifted this circumstantial taboo; for the White House any means were justified to combat the communist threat. So, from January 13, 1962, the launch date of Operation Ranch Hand, to 1971, some 80 million liters of defoliants were dumped on Vietnam, contaminating for decades more than 8 million acres and three thousand villages; 60 percent of the products used were Agent Orange, which is still causing birth defects thirty-five years after the end of the war.

The extreme toxicity of this chemical weapon is principally due to 2,4,5-T, a dreadful poison that is characteristically polluted by very small quantities of dioxin or TCDD. Considered the most toxic substance ever created by man—a by-product of industrial processes, it does not exist in nature—the molecule was isolated in a Hamburg laboratory in 1957. It is now known that its LD50 is 0.02 mg/kg (for rats) and that, according to a Columbia University study published in 2003, dissolving 80 grams of dioxin in a drinking water system could eliminate a city of 8 million people. And estimates agree that in Vietnam 400 kilograms of pure dioxin were dumped in the southern part of the country.

For the general public, TCDD emerged from the secrecy of laboratories on July 16, 1976, with a serious industrial accident known as the Seveso disaster. On that day, a reactor explosion in an Italian 2,4,5-T factory owned by the multinational Hoffmann-La Roche caused the release of an extremely toxic cloud in the Seveso region of Lombardy. Cattle died en masse, and officially 183 people contracted chloracne, an extremely serious condition resulting from dioxin poisoning, which manifests itself by an eruption of pustules all over the body, lasting several years and sometimes permanently.

The characteristics of this human-created disease had been widely discussed in the medical literature beginning in the late 1930s, after the entry onto the market of pentachlorophenol, a cousin of 2,4,5-T, made by Monsanto and Dow Chemical and used as a fungicide in the treatment of wood as well as in the whitening of paper pulp. For his 2007 book, How Everyday Products Make People Sick, Paul Blanc, professor of occupational and environmental medicine at the University of California, consulted the archives of the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), where he found many letters from doctors asking for advice on the treatment of patients suffering from this dreadful skin disease, which was then unknown. "Nowhere in the literature have I found any case of caustic or chemical burn which lasted over several years unless the patient was in constant contact with the agent," reported a baffled Dr. Karl Stingily of Mississippi in a paper presented at a conference of the Southern Medical Association. At the same conference, where this "new epidemic" was discussed at length, Dr. M. Toulmin Gaines of Alabama reported the case of a patient who worked in a lumber factory, a father of two young children: "He had acne . . . with comedones [medical term designating the specific lesions of acne] all over his face and back and shoulders and arms and thighs. His two children were a girl about five years old and a little boy about three. They had comedones all over their faces. They had a typical acne on the face. The boy had an indurated acne on the back of his neck such as you would see on a man about thirty years old... I diagnosed it as chlorine acne and the children got it from the patient's clothing. He said that when he came home with his overalls on, the children would grab him around the legs and hug him and he would take them up in his lap."

The same symptoms were secretly observed by Monsanto after an explosion in a 2,4,5-T factory in Nitro, West Virginia, on March 8, 1949. Victims of dioxin poisoning, the workers present for the accident or called on to clean up the site, experienced nausea, vomiting, and persistent headaches, and developed a severe form of chloracne. On November 17, 1953, a similar accident occurred in a BASF factory producing the herbicide that was then flooding the fields of Europe and America. Followed just as secretly at the firm's request by Dr. Karl Schultz, the exposed workers developed the same skin disease, which the Hamburg physician named chloracne. Throughout the 1950s many cases of this extremely disfiguring disease were recorded in the four corners of the United States, while an "amazing rain of death" fell upon the surface of the earth.

Extensive footnotes to the above excerpt can be found in the book Our Daily Poison: How Pesticides to Packaging, How Chemicals Have Contaminated the Food Chain and Are Making Us Sick.

This excerpt originally appeared in Our Daily Poison: From Pesticides to Packaging, How Chemicals Have Contaminated the Food Chain and Are Making Us Sick, published by The New Press Reprinted here with permission.

Marie-Monique Robin

Marie-Monique Robin is an award-winning journalist and filmmaker. She received the 1995 Albert-Londres Prize, awarded to investigative journalists in France. Robin is the author of The World According to Monsanto: Pollution, Corruption, and the Control of Our Food Supply (also in DVD).

These days organochlorides have largely been replaced by organophosphates, said by governments and other authorities to be a safer alternative. Although species like Turtle Doves, Lapwings, Bullfinches and Red-backed Shrikes etc., etc., might beg to differ.

….....

Finally, I'll hand you over to the Reverend.

From: revbilly@revbilly.com>
To: h.pagan.pla@aim.com>
Sent: Sat, 29 Nov 2014 19:56
Subject: Welcome Home The Stop Shopping Choir

Reverend Billy & the Stop Shopping Choir

YOU CAN'T STOP THE REVOLUTION! We shouted and sang and prayed it all day in Ferguson. It reverberated in us on our bus trip a thousand miles back to the Apple. Part of what makes this declaration a clarion instruction for us, for our actions in the coming year: It was rhymed out hip hop style at Walmart and Target. It was sung in a church basement surrounded by cop cars beaming lights. And it was shouted in broad daylight, eating organic Thanksgiving dinner, at the headquarters of Monsanto.

http://www.revbilly.com/reverend_billy_s_mini_sermon_at_ferguson_police_department?utm_campaign=monsanto_joes3&utm_medium=email&utm_source=revbilly

http://www.revbilly.com/let_in_shine?utm_campaign=monsanto_joes3&utm_medium=email&utm_source=revbilly

http://www.revbilly.com/organic_thanksgiving_photos?utm_campaign=monsanto_joes3&utm_medium=email&utm_source=revbilly

We feel the coming together of Human Rights & Earth Rights. God knows the anemic environmental movement needs a shot of Ferguson. The justice movement concentrated here in Ferguson, this CONSCIENCE SITE, a vibration back and forth from Michael Brown's memorial on Canfield Drive to a whatever you are doing with your body at this moment before the police.

Our talk of the Earth and of the crimes of Monsanto came up sideways, in conversations between lungings by german shepherds and mace-weilding police under the Walmart logo. But the dots were connecting all day. The heat of Ferguson mixes with the long-game of the Earth activism.

Today, Black Friday 2014 - I feel the issues cross-fertilizing and rising up with forceful clarity. Soon we won't be locked in the isolation of those hundreds of separate issues that clog our computers. The word FREEDOM will return to us with its meaning clear and with it a revolution that cannot be stopped.

Reverend Billy Talen

www.revbilly.com

Concluding: We print any letters here from all sides of both arguments. So long as it's relevant to subject matters, and provided it's not obscene, we will print it. If you disagree with anything that's said, please write in. This is a public arena so please feel free to have your say.