

# NASA PLANS ANOTHER DANGEROUS NUCLEAR LAUNCH

On January 11, 2006 the launch window opens for another controversial space mission carrying deadly plutonium on board. The New Horizons mission to Pluto **will carry 24 pounds of toxic plutonium** (plutonium-238 and plutonium-239). In recent weeks non-union replacement workers have been preparing the Atlas rocket for launch, raising additional concerns about the safety of the mission.

In NASA's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the New Horizons mission, they acknowledge there is a **1 in 300 chance** of an accident leading to the release of plutonium. The NASA illustration, called "Potentially Affected Area," indicates that a launch accident and release of the plutonium could be carried by the winds for a 60-mile radius throughout Central Florida. NASA warns that clean-up costs could range from \$241 million to \$1.3 billion **per square mile**. Homeowner insurance policies will not cover any plutonium accident. A space nuclear accident would be far more severe than any recent hurricane damage. The contaminated zone would have to be permanently evacuated as the nuclear wasteland would be **radioactive for thousands of years**.

The nuclear industry views space as a new market. Unfortunately, we know that space technology can and does fail from time to time. NASA intends to **expand the numbers of nuclear launches in coming years** in order to put nuclear-powered bases on the moon and send nuclear rockets to Mars. The military wants nuclear reactors in space to provide power for weapons in the heavens. **Will you feel safe** with all these nuclear missions being launched from the space center?

Does it not make more sense to demand that NASA fund the development of **alternative space power sources**? Shouldn't taxpayers demand that NASA not play **Russian roulette** with the lives of the people?

One serious space nuclear accident would kill the space program and **destroy the space coast economy and environment**. The time has come for the public to intervene on behalf of the future generations. Speak out before it is too late.



Potential Affected Area Surrounding Cape Canaveral Air Force Station.

Source: Final Environmental Impact Statement for the New Horizons Mission



Global Network Against Weapons  
& Nuclear Power in Space

[www.space4peace.org](http://www.space4peace.org)

Local Contact: (321) 632-5977