

Great Projects To Fix The Water Crisis

Since the very inception of his political movement, Lyndon LaRouche has placed a primary emphasis on the high-technology development of the Earth's water resources—notably through nuclear-powered desalination—as vital for continued human life on this planet. Here are a few of the major interventions.

1978: Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., “The Grand Design for World Development: The Nuplex and U.S. Vital Interests,” *Fusion*, August 1978:

This article focused on the creation of nuplexes, as the best means for using nuclear power to deal with problems of power generation and water supply in the developing world, including water desalination. He wrote:

“A nuplex is a new agroindustrial city built around paired nuclear energy plants, each in the 0.5-gigawatt to 1.5-gigawatt range (by present standards). To economize on distribution costs, and to exploit the waste heat produced, industrial consumers of output will huddle around the plants, creating a new sort of ‘clean’ industrial (and employment) center. With the growing importance of the ‘clean water’ problem, and with the opportunity to replicate California’s Imperial Valley in many parts of the world, desalination and other water-purification exploiting waste heat will make nuplexes key in meeting agricultural and population clean-water requirements. . . .”

1979: The Fusion Energy Foundation, co-founded by LaRouche, produced a study outlining a 40-year development program for India, which specified water development as a major component of the plan.

1982: Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., “Won’t You Please Let Your Grandchildren Have a Drink of Fresh Water?” National Democratic Policy Committee (NDPC) pamphlet:



“Preface—Our Greatest Environmental Danger

“Next to a general thermonuclear war, the greatest single environmental danger to the American people over the coming two decades is the danger that whole regions of our nation will simply run out of usable freshwater supplies. This is an acute danger in a region within a hundred-mile radius of New York City. The greatest area of present danger lies in the area west of the Mississippi.

“This problem has been seen coming, at least by more far-sighted people, for most of the post-war period. Unfortunately, the general public has been kept in ignorance of this policy issue, and certain among influential political circles have sabotaged sound policies and programs, each for one of a variety of reasons.

“Now, unless we act quickly, the Great American West is going to die, suffocated by a swirl of dust and sewage. Already much of our agriculture is in danger, as the drought of 1980 ought to warn us. A few more years ahead, the water shortage will grow to become the most acute environmental danger to many facets of our life, as well as our nation’s supplies of food and fiber.

“There are three basic approaches which must be combined to overcome this problem.

“First, there is the approach which Texas Congressman Jim Wright supported in a book he published back during the middle of the 1960s, the so-called North American Water and Power Alliance (NAWAPA). That is the immediate action on which this NDPC policy outline concentrates. Better management of the available

freshwater supplies of the North American continent will not only solve this particular problem over the decades ahead, but will become the foundation for an explosion in wealth throughout a region west of the line of the Mississippi River, in Canada, the United States, and northern Mexico.

“Second, by creating the conditions for growing denser populations of crops, shrubbery, and trees in presently arid regions, the vapor transpiration from plant-life will recycle freshwater through improved rainfall patterns. This would

occur largely as a by-product of implementing NAWAPA and related regional and local freshwater management actions.

“Third, over the longer period, nuclear-energy technologies will provide us unlimited freshwater supplies, as improvements in technology lower the costs of desalinating seawater on a large scale, and aid us in turning polluted waste water into pure fresh water for re-use many times over on the way to the sea. With such technologies, the vast Sahara region can be transformed into a rich, habitable region, together with the Gobi desert in Asia.

“As the NAWAPA example shows, the investment in improvement of freshwater supplies is a highly profitable investment. Every dollar wisely spent on NAWAPA will increase the production of wealth in our Western states many times over during the course of the coming decades. It is the same with nuclear-energy technologies.”

1984: *The Independent Democrats’ 1984 Platform: Five Crises Facing the Next President, Presidential Campaign Platform of the LaRouche-Davis Ticket*, September 1984:

“Crisis 4—The World-Wide Food Shortage Now Erupting

“...5. Immediate action to develop freshwater management systems in areas suffering or threatened by major water shortages.

“Candidate LaRouche has co-sponsored revival of proposals to develop a continental water-management system, to include bringing water now flowing into the Arctic Ocean down through the Western states: one line running in the arid region between California and the Rocky Mountains, and the second to the east of the Rockies, across the river-systems flowing eastward into the Mississippi. . . .

“The indicated, immediate measures of emergency action would give priority to those parts of the proposed system whose existing agricultural potentials require prompt remedies for a serious and worsening subsidence of water-tables. . . .”

July 1990: LaRouche’s “Oasis Plan” for the Middle East.

In the context of the buildup to the First Gulf War, LaRouche spoke of an “Oasis Plan” approach for the Southwest Asian region. He stated on July 12, 1990: “To avoid a conflict which would be ruinous for all peoples and nations of the Middle East, an effective series of common interest proposals must be made in accord

with the rights of all parties. Debate around such proposals is inherently healthy and confidence-building. Although to some, an Oasis Plan seems an unlikely proposition under the present circumstances, the price of failing to implement such a program will be staggering. Therefore, there is no obstacle so great, nor so difficult, that we should not seek to overcome it in order to further economic cooperation.”

Aug. 6, 2000: LaRouche wrote a policy document, “Water as a Strategic Flank: Wherein Clinton Failed,” on the necessity of a “desalination-based economic development program we first presented to relevant Arabs, Israelis, and others a quarter-century ago”—the “Oasis Plan.” He warned, “In most of the region, and especially for the largest portions of the area, there simply do not exist sources of supply of usable water sufficient to meet the elementary needs of the population. Hence, without large-scale desalination programs being put immediately into operation, there is no hope for durable peaceful relations among the populations of this region.”

2003: The LaRouche-in-2004 Presidential campaign released a pamphlet entitled “The Sovereign States of the Americas: Great Infrastructure Projects,” which delineated the great water-transfer projects required to deal with the increasing blight of the “Great American Desert,” which runs from the American West into Mexico. Leading elements of the program were reviving NAWAPA, and implementing two major water projects in Mexico, the PHLINO and PHLIGON. (See *EIR*, Sept. 26, 2013.)

2012: Based on extensive further work on updating NAWAPA, to include the use of nuclear energy, the LaRouche Political Action Committee released the proposed NAWAPA XXI Act, which called for establishing “a Congressionally authorized body, North American Power and Water Alliance XXI Authority, with the authority to design the most efficient means of utilizing excess rainfall in Alaska, British Columbia, and Yukon, through a Rocky Mountain Reservoir system, for the primary purpose of agricultural use in the U.S. Southwest and Northern Mexico, and for the additional purposes of improving the navigability and providing for the flood control of River Basins involved in a continental water management plan; to provide for greening and forestation of arid regions of the Great American Desert, and the proper use of marginal lands in all lands encompassed by the NAWAPA XXI continental water-management plan.”