

# Moscow Protesters, Police Clash Over 'Radioactive Highway' Construction

March 20, 2020



Activists fear the road will release buried radioactive dust into the nearby Moscow River and into the air.  
**Telegram**

Moscow police clashed with dozens of activists protesting the construction of a new highway on top of a former nuclear waste dump, the Mediazona news website reported Thursday.

The planned eight-lane highway, whose route passes the Moscow Polymetals Plant's former waste dump in southern Moscow, has [riled](#) locals and activists alike since it was announced in 2018. They fear it will release buried radioactive dust into the nearby Moscow River and into the air.

Some 61 people were reportedly [detained](#) following the clashes, which saw officers in riot gear use [tear gas](#) against protesters.

**Embed:**

На юге Москвы сейчас так:

Видео: Avtozak LIVE <https://t.co/ACAxHUbMpY> [pic.twitter.com/aU5dymU9UB](https://t.co/aU5dymU9UB)

— Медиазона (@mediazzzona) [March 19, 2020](#)

Dmitry Sarayev, a Moscow City Duma deputy from the Communist Party, [said](#) the clashes broke out when police used force to break up the protesters' campsite.

Last fall, Greenpeace Russia [said](#) it found five locations on the highway route where topsoil emitted up to eight times the normal level of radiation.

**Related article:** [Will a Road Through a Nuclear Dumping Ground Result in 'Moscow's Chernobyl'?](#)

Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyenin in January [admitted](#) the existence of "radioactive spots" along the Moscow River and promised to move some of the contaminated soil outside city limits. Greenpeace Russia [accused](#) Sobyenin of not doing enough to prevent what they see as a radioactive incident waiting to happen.

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