

2021 IN REVIEW

Expanding our reach

Media hits

In a major pushback against the propaganda around nuclear power and the climate crisis, Beyond Nuclear got OpEds into *The Hill*, *Truthout* and *Counterpunch*. Our exposé on how the Nuclear Regulatory Commission had deleted all references to “critical knowledge gaps” in aging reactors from a federal lab report, got extensive coverage in the *Seattle Times*. Beyond Nuclear staff were also quoted in the press and published in peer-reviewed scientific and medical journals.

Wins

Despite ignoring our contentions, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission eventually agreed with our conclusion that the proposed new “Aurora” micro-reactor was unsafe, and refused to license it.

We joined with C-10 to challenge the concrete degradation at the Seabrook reactor as a reason not to relicense it. NextEra must now take samples from the reactor foundation itself before proceeding.



An inland tsunami and a nuke in the way

Beyond Nuclear is challenging Duke Energy’s request to extend the licenses for its three Oconee reactors in South Carolina. The reactors sit downstream of two dams which, if breached, could turn Oconee into a US Fukushima, sending a 19 foot inland “tsunami” of water straight at the plant. The second dam provides Oconee’s backup power and the facility is clearly unprepared to deal with an eventuality that becomes ever more likely under worsening climate conditions. Working with locals, lawyers and an insider whistleblower, Beyond Nuclear will take Duke to court if necessary.

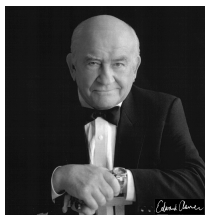
Engaging online events

Beyond Nuclear continued to reach out to new audiences with engaging online programming. Two webinars with our Canadian partners debunked the myths about small modular reactors, supported by our new articles and fact sheets on the topic. Through our collaboration with the Goethe-Institut and Heinrich Böll Stiftung, we established a new *Cultural Resistance* series, screening the documentaries *The Beekeeper* and *33 Days of Utopia* and interviewing the filmmakers and protagonists. This was followed by a second event in which we discussed the power of the arts to tell the anti-nuclear story, interviewing an artist, theatre director and fashion designer. During two events with our UK allies we explored the potential destruction of wildlife and habitat from proposed new reactors and reviewed the toll taken by Chernobyl. And we made the case during a Capitol Hill online briefing for lawmakers that decommissioned reactors should be “autopsied” to reveal the potentially fatal flaws in reactors still operating.

Reference Girl

Given the disproportionate susceptibility to harm from radiation exposure of children and pregnancy, Beyond Nuclear continued to build its new joint project with Gender Radiation Impact Project – *Reference Girl*. The campaign aims to change the official standards by which “acceptable” radiation doses are considered to protect for the most vulnerable.

A sad farewell



Ed Asner, actor and activist, and our Honorary Chairman, died August 29, 2021 at

the age of 91. Ed held many causes close to his heart, but he was steadfast in his support of our work and gave generously of his time at our events and with PSAs on video and in print.

New board members

We were delighted to welcome Anna Rondon and Kurumi Sugita to our board of directors. Anna is Executive Director of the New Mexico Social Justice and Equity Institute and a lifelong advocate for the rights of Indigenous people. Kurumi is founder of Nos Voisins Lontains 3.11 and a cultural and social anthropologist who works extensively with Fukushima evacuees and activists.

Waste battles

Beyond Nuclear continued its many years of national leadership in resistance to both private and federal consolidated interim storage facilities (CISF) for highly radioactive waste. This has included work in all three branches of the federal government, but also at the state level, such as along targeted transport routes. We have continued our major federal appeal in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, focused on violations of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. Despite the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's approval of the license for the Interim Storage Partners CISF in Texas last September, we have redoubled our efforts with allies at the environmental and EJ grassroots, as well as elected and appointed officials (governors, state attorneys general, state agencies, state legislators, U.S. congressional delegations, local governments) in both Texas and New Mexico, to block both ISP, as well as Holtec's CISF in New Mexico. Major accomplishments include a new state law in Texas, banning high-level radioactive waste importation; a similar bill in New Mexico has continued to gain support there. We have led a nationwide pushback against the U.S. Department of Energy's attempt to open federal CISFs, under the ruse of “consent-based siting,” threatening EJ communities with high-level radioactive waste dumps. We remain vigilant against attempts to revive the Yucca Mountain dump.

Introducing our Talking Points

Beyond Nuclear TALKING POINTS #1

Why nuclear power slows action on climate change

AN ANALYSIS BY AMORY B. LOVINS

Opponents of nuclear power have been slower to change their views. Nuclear power is far slower and more expensive than renewable energy. This means the world's climate crisis is being delayed.

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Beyond Nuclear TALKING POINTS #3

Does nuclear power effectively reduce carbon emissions?

BENJAMIN K. SCHWARTZ, ANDY STIRLING AND COLLEAGUES

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In order to make messaging easier for our activists base, Beyond Nuclear worked with some of the leading experts in the field to condense their essential and detailed reports into a series of easy and accessible Talking Points. Designed to address all the arguments against the inclusion of nuclear power as a climate crisis “solution”, the Talking Points are available on our Beyond Nuclear and Beyond International websites. They provide an effective “cheat sheet” of messages, applicable to any country, and are designed to encourage activists to write their own OpEds, letters to the editor and fliers for their audiences. The Talking Points, which will continue to be produced in 2022, also serve as ideal handouts for political leaders and members of the media.