



# 2022 IN REVIEW

## Addressing the dangers

### Media hits

Beyond Nuclear achieved significant exposure in the press, including appearances on national television and radio news shows. A co-by-lined article (with Tim Judson of NIRS) was published in *The Hill*, while Beyond Nuclear staffers wrote for or appeared in *Truthout*, *Common Dreams*, *Culturico*, *Detroit News*, *Harper's*, *Exchange Monitor*, *Grist*, *Pressenza*, *Chattanooga Times Free Press*, *Law 360*, *LA Progressive* and the *Daily Kos*.

### Nuclear dumping

Attempts to dump tritiated water – whether into the Pacific Ocean from the stricken Fukushima nuclear site in Japan, or into Cape Cod Bay as part of decommissioning at the Pilgrim, Mass., nuclear reactor – are being challenged by Beyond Nuclear and a coalition of a broad demographic interests. Beyond Nuclear is now preparing an on-line teach-in on tritium to push back against the propaganda that downplays the health impacts of tritium contamination.



### Nuclear reactors in a war zone

When Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24, 2022, Beyond Nuclear had already sounded the alarm about the 15 reactors in danger there, along with the closed Chornobyl nuclear site. Throughout the year, as the war intensified and the risks of nuclear disaster increased, we wrote articles and OpEds, appeared on television news programs (including twice on *Democracy Now!*), participated in webinars, and spoke at international meetings, including at an ICAN event in Vienna. Each time, we made the case that nuclear power plants present a persistent danger, made worse by war, where the plants could lose power and suffer fires, explosions and multiple meltdowns; a stressed and understaffed workforce could lead to a human error-caused catastrophe; or a plant could undergo missile attacks or bombings resulting in major, widespread and long-lived radioactive fallout.

### A remarkable reversal

Beyond Nuclear won a legal victory in February 2022 in a 2-1 vote by the seated NRC commissioners who rescinded the previous commission's decision to approve second 20-year license renewals for four reactor units (60- to 80-years). The decision suspended application reviews at other reactors pending a new rulemaking on license renewal environmental reports. The NRC and operators were caught abusing the Generic Environmental Impact Statement process, failing to account for age-related degradation and climate change in the renewal period. Beyond Nuclear, which litigated this issue at several reactor sites, was featured in Associated Press news coverage. Our legal challenges resume in 2023.

## British Medical Journal

Beyond Nuclear staff had a peer-reviewed article published in the *British Medical Journal, Pediatrics Open*, reviewing the studies – and lack thereof – regarding the disproportionate impact on children's health from the nuclear power industry. In particular, the authors looked at the targeting of Indigenous communities and those of color where inadequate health care, as well as unsubstantiated attribution to other factors, often resulted in discrimination.

## Health impacts

Staff gave collaborative presentations on low-dose radiation impacts on women, children and pregnancy; the importance of looking at biomarkers to understand legacy radiation in exposed communities; and on the importance of establishing a Reference Girl standard when evaluating radiation exposure risks. A particular focus of this work is reaching and working with Indigenous communities.

## A new website

Beyond Nuclear unveiled its new website with a bold and clean new design that is more accessible and easily navigable. The old Beyond Nuclear website is archived for access to prior documentation. Beyond Nuclear international continued to expand its global readership.

## Blocking bad radioactive waste schemes

Beyond Nuclear continued its national leadership in opposition to environmentally unjust, non-consent-based high-level radioactive waste dumps targeted at Texas and New Mexico. This included federal appeals against licensing the dumps at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, alongside our environmental and other allies. It also included collaboration with grassroots allies in the Southwest, to keep the groundswell of resistance strong, both in the targeted states, as well as along potential transportation routes. Beyond Nuclear also spearheaded a 140-group coalition opposed to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) restart of its federal Consolidated Interim Storage Facility (CISF) program, which had earlier targeted predominantly Native American reservations. Our coalition, which included Indigenous Environmental Network, submitted comprehensive comments to DOE. DOE then amassed \$26 million in taxpayer money, in what we call a legalized bribery fund, intended to entice low income, and/or BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) communities to consider "hosting" one of multiple CISFs. We redoubled efforts to educate the public that DOE claims of "consent-based siting" violate Environmental Justice. Finally, we focused on stopping radioactive waste generation in the first place. An example is at the Palisades reactor in Michigan. Our watchdogging since 2007 helped close it for good last May. After that, we led resistance to unprecedented schemes for its bailout/restart.

## Two new Talking Points



### Unfounded Promises

**Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) solve none of the challenges of nuclear power and make climate change and proliferation worse**

Nuclear power faces five primary and unsolved challenges: Cost, timeline, safety, waste and proliferation. New nuclear reactor designs will not solve these multiple challenges despite government and industry claims.

Our successful series of Talking Points continued with editions #5 and #6, focused on Germany's green energy revolution and Small Modular Reactors. In both cases, myths were debunked – that Germany's carbon emissions are

climbing due to nuclear plant closures and that SMRs are a solution to the climate crisis. The Talking Points draw on significant bodies of academic work, boiling these down to accessible, memorable message points to use in outreach to media and decision-makers.

### How to reach Beyond Nuclear

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