

Since joining Beyond Nuclear in 2007, Cynthia Folkers has focused on ionizing radiation and its impact on health and the environment, from both a scientific and historical perspective. She advocates for fully protecting the health of females and early life stages in the face of uncertain health outcomes. She earned an M.S. in Environmental Science from The Johns Hopkins University.

She investigates radiation science and the historical context informing that science, noting where research conclusions often vary greatly from the lived experiences of exposed communities. She has worked with frontline communities, including those around uranium mines and nuclear technology facilities, to understand why their actual experiences differs from official research and regulatory expectations. She analyzes radiation exposure policies and advocates for scientific and regulatory methods that can close the gaps between actual health impacts and the science and regulation that are supposed to represent these impacts; and encourages communities to self-advocate for this result as well, with a focus on cutting edge scientific techniques such as radiation bioindicator and genetic research.

In addition to communicating with frontline communities, she also engages with media, members of the public, U.S. Congress members, and national and international agencies.

She emphasizes the use of precaution in radiation exposure and advocates for public openness regarding contamination monitoring, the science surrounding determination of harm, and the basis for exposure regulations.

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