



2023 IN REVIEW

Nuclear power harms us all

Nukes and climate

A key message to combat is the false representation of nuclear power as a climate crisis "solution." Among a number of activities, Beyond Nuclear served as the moderator of a Congressional online briefing, attended by 200 people and co-hosted by the Samuel Lawrence Foundation. The event was entitled *Can Nuclear Energy Help Meet US Climate Goals?* The resounding answer is "no"!

Beyond Nuclear Int.

The Beyond Nuclear news site, Beyond Nuclear International, edited by Linda Pentz Gunter, continued to gain readers and reach new audiences worldwide with its compelling features and opinion pieces. We called out the hypocrisy of the International Atomic Energy Agency as it shamelessly promoted nuclear expansion; and covered the collapse of the NuScale small modular reactor project; the overblown mythology around fusion; the disastrous costs of the still incomplete Georgia reactors and the abuses around uranium mining and health among other topics.

Disproportionate danger to females



Nuclear power is harmful to human health but especially to women, pregnancy and children. To improve public and media understanding of this, Beyond Nuclear's Cindy Folkers, in partnership with the Gender and Radiation Impact Project, has been holding online classes and discussion sessions on fundamentals of radiation and damage. Beyond Nuclear also helped advise Tewa Women United over health concerns from proposed large releases of tritium gases from Los Alamos National Laboratory and gave talks at New York and Columbia universities. In light of the huge liquid tritium releases from Fukushima, we produced an informational video on tritium dangers in English, subtitled in French, German and Japanese.

Grassroots resistance to nuclear waste

Beyond Nuclear's Kevin Kamps continued to coordinate national grassroots and legal resistance against high-level radioactive waste consolidated interim storage facilities, specifically Interim Storage Partners' in Texas, and Holtec's in New Mexico. Through our coalition's ongoing federal appeals in the D.C. Circuit against Holtec, we aim to permanently block these environmental injustices. Holtec is also the target of our work to stop the company's unprecedented high-risk restart of the closed Palisades reactor; block the \$4.5 billion+ taxpayer bailout and at least \$412.5 million in ratepayer surcharges that would enable it; and prevent Holtec's scheme to build small modular reactors there and at Big Rock Point, MI, for another \$7.4 billion in taxpayer-funded bailouts.

Webinars and events

Beyond Nuclear staff hosted and presented an online transatlantic dialogue with US and Russian activists on nuclear decommissioning; a webinar on tritium releases into Cape Cod Bay and the Hudson River; and gave talks to audiences in Japan; International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (Germany); World Congress on Public Health (Italy); and Scottish CND (Scotland) among others.

Media impacts

Despite the media's preference for fantasy stories promising nuclear "breakthroughs" in fission and fusion, Beyond Nuclear maintained a presence in a number of outlets including: An oped in the Washington Post; and coverage in Exchange Monitor, ABC News, Toledo Blade, Crain's, Common Dreams, Counterpunch, LA Progressive and Pacifica Radio. Beyond Nuclear also has a regular column in the Capitol Hill Citizen and a commentary slot on the podcast, Nuclear Hotseat.

Author, author!

Beyond Nuclear staffers, Cindy Folkers and Linda Pentz Gunter, authored books in 2023 to be published in 2024. Cindy's book, co-authored with Dr. Ian Fairlie, looks at the scientists who alerted us to radiation's dangers but whose work was often dismissed. Linda's book is a series of short, accessible essays covering a broad array of nuclear topics.

Nuclear license extensions challenged

Reactor operators are requesting license renewals for 60 to 80 years without accounting for the impacts of the climate crisis, especially sea-level rise and extreme weather events. On this basis, Beyond Nuclear's Paul Gunter challenged the legality of the industry's flawed Environmental Impact Statements that failed to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act. Our challenge forced both the industry and the regulator back to the drawing board, causing a welcome delay. Now, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has issued rewrites that Beyond Nuclear is once again challenging through legal interventions. Our focus is on three reactors – Peach Bottom (PA), North Anna (VA) and Oconee (SC). Oconee sits below two dams, representing a potentially catastrophic flood risk that owner, Duke, has not accounted for. Beyond Nuclear has a former NRC engineer as its expert witness and strong legal support.

Nuclear-Free Future Awards



The 2023 Nuclear-Free Future Awards, now a partnership between Beyond Nuclear and IPPNW, were held in New York City. This year's laureates were :Trinity downwinders campaigner, Tina Cordova (pictured with Claus Biegert and Dr. Arjun Makhijani), and

Benetick Kabua Maddison (Marshall Islands) and Hinamoeura Cross (French Polynesia), both of whom campaign for the rights of atomic test survivors. Robert Ellsberg accepted a Lifetime Achievement Award on behalf of his father, Daniel, presented by Democracy Now! host, Amy Goodman.

The futility of Small Modular Reactors (SMR)

Through writing and presentations, Beyond Nuclear continued to debunk the myths surrounding small modular reactors, which are still on-paper ideas, decades away, too expensive and totally unneeded. Beyond Nuclear collaborated with the "No Coal, No Gas" campaign in New Hampshire, where SMRs are threatened, to put up a united front against fossil fuels and nuclear power.

How to reach Beyond Nuclear

BeyondNuclear.org. info@beyondnuclear.org

7304 Carroll Avenue, #182, Takoma Park, MD 20912. 301-270-2209