



BEYOND NUCLEAR

A banner year

Media hits

Beyond Nuclear staff were featured or quoted in numerous media outlets in 2024 including: Power Magazine, Utility Dive, Counterpunch, Toledo Blade, Common Dreams, Moody on the Market, Exchange Monitor, Santa Fe New Mexican, Law 360, Texas Tribune, Yale Environment 360, Capitol Hill Citizen, Boston Globe, Morning Star (UK) and on regional and local radio.

Defiant scientists

The Scientists Who Alerted Us to the Dangers of Radiation, a new book co-authored by Ian Fairlie and Cindy Folkers of Beyond Nuclear, was published in 2024. It explores the history of radiation harm and the scientists who defied political pressures to reveal the truth. Highlighting more than two dozen pioneers, the book examines the challenges these trailblazers faced, including defamation, ostracism, and how their findings have been vindicated.



The Lying Piper of Nukeland

Beyond Nuclear joined a contingent of more than 80 people representing 40 organizations, mainly from Europe, in a colorful protest in Brussels, where the International Atomic Energy Agency held its aspirational Nuclear Energy Summit to “fully unlock the potential of nuclear energy,” a fairy tale that, like the Pied Piper, will simply lead to self-destruction. The protest received widespread print and television news coverage while summit conferees were stunned to be told bluntly by international banking executives that in terms of energy priorities, in their view “nuclear comes last.”

The peril of ignoring climate change

Beyond Nuclear continues to challenge extreme license renewals for operating nuclear power plants out to 80 and potentially 100 years. We are arguing before the Atomic Safety and Licensing Boards that the industry and the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission are recklessly ignoring how the impacts of a worsening climate crisis could heighten the risk of nuclear accidents, now and decades into the future. One of the three judges and the General Accounting Office (GAO) agree with us. The judge provided a stinging 23-page dissent when his two colleagues *continued on page 2*



Waste dumps

Beyond Nuclear has filed an amicus brief to the Supreme Court of the United States on whether the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 and the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 permit the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to license private entities to temporarily store spent nuclear fuel away from the nuclear-reactor sites where the spent fuel was generated. This is in the context of our opposition to a plan by Interim Storage Partners to site a Consolidate Interim Storage Facility for high-level reactor waste in West Texas. Beyond Nuclear continues to challenge a similar plan by Holtec targeted for New Mexico.

Honoring dedication

Beyond Nuclear honored tireless public interest attorney Wally Taylor with its Dr. Judith A. Johnsrud Unsung Hero Award at the 2024 AGM of the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability.

How to reach Beyond Nuclear

BeyondNuclear.org

info@beyondnuclear.org

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

Gender and radiation impacts research

Cindy Folkers of Beyond Nuclear and Mary Olson of the Gender and Radiation Impact Project are leading a program to develop a new reference individual to ensure better radiation protection. The multi-year initiative includes exploring the impacts of radiation exposure, developing relevant research questions, and consulting with communities and experts. The work focuses on radiation exposure inside the body (internal) from air, food, and water. This diverges from the traditional "Reference Man" model of radiation harm, which is based on damage from radiation outside the body and fails to fully account for females and pregnancy.

Climate change

continued from page 1

denied our hearing request, now under appeal. The judge wrote, "The United States faces a profound climate crisis and there is little time left to avoid a dangerous – potentially catastrophic – climate trajectory" increasing nuclear accident risks. The 2024 GAO report to Congress was headlined, "NRC should take action to fully consider the potential effects of climate change." Both the ASLB dissent and the GAO report confirm our argument that in its effort to hide the real costs of nuclear power, the NRC is sacrificing public safety and the environment to a climate crisis that can cause a nuclear catastrophe.

Reckless reactor restarts

For almost three years, Beyond Nuclear and its allies have been resisting the unprecedented move to reopen the fully closed reactor in Palisades, MI, which has been plagued with problems for more than 50 years of operation. Recently, revelations showed the reactor has severely degraded steam generator tubes that could cause a meltdown. Beyond Nuclear has also worked to expose how Palisades owner, Holtec, a company itself mired in corruption, is unfit to restart the reactor, given it has zero operating experience. Beyond Nuclear is preparing to mount a legal challenge in 2025 to prevent the restart, hopefully setting a precedent that will also block other threatened revivals of already closed reactors at Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania and Duane Arnold in Iowa.