

The year  
in review

# Beyond Nuclear

2016 Actions and Highlights



BEYOND NUCLEAR

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## Annual Report 2016

### Remembering Chernobyl and Fukushima

**O**n May 3, 2016, Beyond Nuclear held a conference at the Goethe-Institut in Washington, DC -- *Lessons from Fukushima and Chernobyl; the risks of "normalizing" radiation*. The event marked the 30 years since the Chernobyl nuclear disaster and the five years since the Fukushima nuclear catastrophe. In both cases, efforts to "normalize" the situation post-disaster have utterly downplayed the impacts of radiation exposure. Academics and scholars were invited to present during the afternoon, then joined an evening panel discussion followed by two film screenings. Dr. Timothy Mousseau described

his research into the health impacts on wildlife and biota around Chernobyl and Fukushima. His findings have soundly debunked assertions that animals there are "thriving." Dr. Wladimir Wertelecki recounted the findings of post-Chernobyl birth defects and other health disturbances, particularly in Polissa, Ukraine. These are evident not only among those who were adults during the Chernobyl disaster, but their children in utero at the time and even their later offspring. Dr. Yuri Hiranuma said that the health impacts from Fukushima, especially thyroid cancers, are likely far worse than publicly acknowledged in official statements. Lucas Hixson,

Beyond Nuclear board member, and independent nuclear researcher, discussed the radiation findings taken during his recent 10-day visit to Chernobyl. Beyond Nuclear's Cindy Folkers and Paul Gunter were also speakers. Paul discussed the absence of mandatory distribution of potassium-iodide (KI) to U.S. reactor communities. Cindy talked about post-accident health impacts beyond solid cancers, including leukemias, embryonic damage and blood damage. Beyond Nuclear's Kevin Kamps joined the evening panel discussion, moderated by Linda Pentz Gunter. The films *Alone in the Zone* and *Champion in Chernobyl* were shown.

### Radioactive waste fight heats up

The unsolved radioactive waste problem took a dangerous turn in 2016 -- and will continue in 2017 -- with schemes to open private, de facto permanent parking lot dumps around the country, absent a repository option. Waste Control Specialists in West Texas is the leading candidate site to take irradiated nuclear fuel. Beyond Nuclear has been active there in providing expertise and opposition.

A similarly risky plan underway is a proposed deep underground dump for radioactive waste, dubbed the "DUD." It is targeted for the Lake Huron shoreline in Canada but also threatens the crucial water supply for the U.S. side. Kevin Kamps, Beyond Nuclear's radioactive waste specialist, made numerous presentations in Port Huron, MI, the spearhead of U.S. resistance to the DUD. The highly active Great Lakes Environmental Alliance there was formed in response to a 2015 challenge Kamps made during an earlier public presentation. The steady drumbeat of citizen activism in

Michigan has moved a growing coalition of state legislators and federal congress members to act, including introducing legislation to block the DUD.

### Risks to women, babies, unborn

The dangers of radiation exposure, especially to pregnant women and their unborn children, are little known or understood. To help better inform these populations, and all those living or working close to nuclear power plants, Beyond Nuclear created an informational palm card highlighting the danger of routine radioactive releases from nuclear reactors. The handout provides essential information as well as actions that can be taken. This information was also brought directly to those affected when Cindy Folkers traveled to the U.S. Southwest, as part of the Radiation Monitoring Project, to discuss health impacts of residual uranium mine waste on women and children. In particular, Cindy highlighted the dangers of exposure during pregnancy.



## ABOUT BEYOND NUCLEAR

Beyond Nuclear aims to educate and activate the public about the connections between nuclear power and nuclear weapons and the need to abandon both to safeguard our future.

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### BEYOND NUCLEAR BOARD

Kay Drey  
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Robert Musil  
Kendra Ulrich

### FOUNDING PRESIDENT

Dr. Helen Caldicott

Judith Johnsrud, in memoriam  
1931-2014

### HONORARY CHAIRMAN

Ed Asner

Lou Friedman, in memoriam  
1934-2016

## REMEMBERING JUDI AND LOU FRIEDMAN

We were saddened by the passing in July of Judi and Lou Friedman. Lou was a founding board member of Beyond Nuclear and Judi was a Launch Partner. Both provided tireless support to help Beyond Nuclear grow and prosper. They were long-time activists on many issues, especially in promoting renewable energy and in opposing nuclear power and nuclear weapons.

## THE CREUSOT FORGE SCANDAL

Beyond Nuclear initiated an investigation into U.S. reactors that have installed at-risk components manufactured by the Areva-Creusot Forge in France. The Creusot Forge is under international investigation for manufacturing substandard reactor components, then falsifying quality assurance documents to cover up mistakes. Beyond Nuclear filed a request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and initiated a petition to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission for emergency enforcement action at 17 U.S. reactors known to have installed nuclear reactor components manufactured at Le Creusot. Beyond Nuclear is pressing for inspections and testing of U.S. reactors for the “carbon anomalies” discovered in the Creusot Forge components installed in French reactors. The French nuclear safety agency has concluded that the forge is not equipped to manufacture nuclear-grade components. This work is ongoing.

## REACTOR SHUTDOWN VICTORY

Beyond Nuclear secured a long-fought victory when Entergy announced it would permanently shut down its Palisades nuclear plant in October 2018. This came after countless actions in the area including in 2016 when we packed the annual Nuclear Regulatory Commission meeting there with local concerned residents and environmental group representatives. Our campaigning work continually shone a spotlight on the ever worsening age-related degradation at Palisades, and generated significant media coverage.

## BEYOND NUCLEAR ACTIVE WORLDWIDE



### DECOMMISSIONING, FRANCE

In April 2016, Paul Gunter was invited to Paris, France by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's Nuclear Energy Agency to participate in an international debate on decommissioning nuclear power plants. Paul represented the “Civil Society Concerns About Financing Nuclear Power Plants Decommissioning” at the round table forum of international regulators. He addressed reactor community concerns that, under current U.S. policy, nuclear utilities are not accruing sufficient funds to adequately complete cleanup and decommissioning operations.

Paul was also an invited speaker for an anti-nuclear march at the controversial Brennelis nuclear power plant decommissioning site in Brittany, France. The march marked the 30th commemoration of the Chernobyl nuclear catastrophe but also opposed nuclear weapons.

### NUCLEAR-FREE FUTURE AWARD, SOUTH AFRICA

Beyond Nuclear was again a co-sponsor of the Nuclear-Free Future Award events, held in 2016 in Johannesburg, South Africa. Linda Gunter marched in a large anti-nuclear protest and hosted the event's *Think Nuclear-Free* symposium.

### WITH NAOTO KAN IN LONDON, UK

Beyond Nuclear participated in a UK Parliamentary briefing in London where former Japanese Prime Minister, Naoto Kan, was a speaker, later meeting over dinner for further discussions.

### NUCLEAR CONFERENCES, MANCHESTER, UK

Beyond Nuclear attended the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament annual conference in Manchester and, earlier in 2016, the aptly-named Beyond Nuclear conference in the same city where plans for the creation of a Beyond Nuclear UK umbrella network for activists were discussed.