The year in review

# **Beyond Nuclear**

2015 Actions and Highlights

## Q: "Got KI?" A: "No"



n the event of a serious accident or attack at a U.S. nuclear power plant, those within a 50-mile radius should be able to take a thyroid protective pill, potassium idodide, (or KI). Most households neither have, nor even know about KI. Last October, Beyond Nuclear launched its new "Got KI?" campaign to call upon U.S. federal and state radiological emergency officials to adopt the recommendations of the American Thyroid

Association (ATA) and require the direct and free delivery of KI to every resident in the 50-mile **Emergency Planning** Zone for operating nuclear power plants. The campaign also asks that KI be available now at local police stations, fire departments and schools within a 200-mile radius of operating nuclear reactors. The pilot program was initiated with our first partner group, the Alliance To Halt Fermi-3, around the Fermi-2 nuclear

reactor in Monroe, MI. KI protects the thyroid gland, particularly in infants and children, from cancer-causing radioactive iodine that would likely be released during a severe nuclear accident. The campaign seeks to educate and mobilize public support through public events, door-to-door canvassing, and petition campaigns directed at elected and public health officials and decisionmakers.

### BEYOND NUCLEAR

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### PROTECTING EARLY LIFE STAGES

When the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Environmental Protection Agency indicated they might revise, and potentially weaken, their already inadequate radiation protection standards, Beyond Nuclear quickly submitted comments, guided others in submitting theirs, and gathered petition signatures. We emphasized that both agencies already fail to fully protect early life stages from radiation induced disease caused by radioactive releases from nuclear power plants. Beyond Nuclear also asked that any scientific body charged with advising the agencies during a review process, retain experts on early life development, a condition that currently does not exist.



Fukushima Fallout Awareness Network

A Call-in to etion TELECONFERENCE EVENT · BLOCK Fast Track of TPP

. Keep Radioactive Food Out of the US!

Cindy Folkers, Radiation Health Expert Beyond Nuclear

### **Leading the Fight Against Risky Radioactive Waste Dumps**

For a third consecutive year, Beyond Nuclear successfully helped to lead fights to fend off Congressional legislation that would have expedited the siting of "consolidated interim storage" sites for commercial radioactive waste. This included testimony before Congress as well as a nationwide education campaign, highlighting the associated risks of high-level radioactive waste shipments on roads, rails and waterways, as well as the fact that these storage sites would effectively be highly dangerous parking lot-style dumps.

Beyond Nuclear also took the lead on the U.S. side to fight proposed Canadian radioactive waste dumps on the Great Lakes, helping to broaden what began as a localized grassroots campaign in 2001 into an active bi-national Great Lakes-wide citizen movement with bi-partisan political support. With the change of Canadian government, Beyond Nuclear has ramped up resistance, with a decision now likely on March 1.





#### 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. www.BeyondNuclear.org

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### Judith Johnsrud, in memoriam

1931-2014





Paul Gunter, Close Pilgrim rally

Kevin Kamps, Shut Davis-Besse

### **CALLING OUT CANCER STUDY CANCELATION**

After the egregious cancelation by the NRC of a much-needed cancer study around U.S. nuclear facilities, Beyond Nuclear conducted nationwide press work decrying the decision to pull the plug. We underminded the agency's far from credible excuse of high costs by revealing the NRC's excessively wasteful spending on a new and unneeded building at headquarters. The Associated Press gave our work widespread publicity, particularly in the communities where the early pilot study phase would have been conducted and where concerns persist about elevated cancer rates.

### **BUSTING THE MEDIA MYTHS**

Beyond Nuclear launched a proactive campaign of op-eds and letters to the editor, setting the record straight on a series of pro-nuclear propaganda pieces that appeared to be centrally orchestrated by the nuclear industry and its lobbysists. Our articles and letters appeared in *Counterpunch*, *The Ecologist*, *The Progressive Populist*, *Truthout* and in numerous newspapers. Each of these was amplified via our Twitter and Facebook sites.

### **EXPOSING SAFETY RISKS AT DAVIS-BESSE**

Beyond Nuclear widely exposed and publicized the serious safety significance of the severe, and worsening, cracking of the concrete containment Shield Building, at the Davis-Besse (OH) reactor. We are using this revelation to counter owner FirstEnergy's application to the PUC of Ohio for an eight-year, \$3.9 billion ratepayer bailout, a large portion of which would go towards propping up the reactor.

### U.S. FUKUSHIMA REMAINS A DANGER

As part of the ongoing *Freeze Our Fukushimas* campaign, Beyond Nuclear publicly exposed the collusion between the federal regulator and the U.S. nuclear industry that has prevented critical public safety upgrades on 30 GE reactors across the country. Beyond Nuclear pointed out how this willful negligence is designed to avoid incurring the industry the cost of essential fixes, putting millions of people in jeopardy of a Fukushima-style nuclear disaster on U.S. soil. The Beyond Nuclear investigation is part of the ongoing national education program aimed at mobilizing communities around dangerously flawed and aging General Electric Mark I and Mark II boiling water reactors.

### **Opposition to Industry Money-Grabs**

Beyond Nuclear vigorously opposed outrageous money grabs by desperate nuclear utilities in their attempts to prop up age-degraded and uncompetitive reactors, at ratepayer expense. This included submission of public testimony and official comments, participation in rallies, public education campaigns and action alerts. Beyond Nuclear was especially active in PowerDC coalition efforts to block Exelon Nuclear's application to the D.C. PSC for approval to takeover Pepco, in order to increase rates and funnel D.C. (and MD, VA, and beyond) ratepayer revenues to IL to prop up five failing reactors.

### The Nuclear-Free Future Awards



Beyond Nuclear was honored to co-host the prestigious and internationally-recognized Nuclear-Free Future Awards when they were held in Washington, DC last October. The Laureates included: Megan Rice, Michael Walli and Greg Boertje-Obed for Resistance; Cornelia Hesse-Honegger for Education; and Tony deBrum for Solutions. Beyond Nuclear presented the award to deBrum. Special Recognition Awards went to Alexander Kmentt and the Mistissini Cree Youth. Music was provided by living legends, David Amram and Paul Winter. Green Cross International, founded by Mikhail Gorbachev, also co-hosted. The Nuclear Free Future Award Foundation is based in Munich, Germany and travels to different cities around the world each year. Photos and videos from the event can be found at: www.nuclear-free/en.

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