

The year
in review

Beyond Nuclear

2017 Actions and Highlights



WWW.BEYONDNUCLEAR.ORG

Annual Report 2017

Experience, expertise and resources

Beyond Nuclear staff are dedicated to providing grassroots groups with expertise, testimony and resources. Paul Gunter collaborated with activists opposing the license extension of the Seabrook nuclear power plant in New Hampshire and his insights and experience were integral

to their success in getting several of their contentions accepted for consideration. Kevin Kamps continued to testify and provide expertise against a proposed radioactive waste dump in Canada on the shores of Lake Huron that would threaten the drinking water supply for 40 million people in eight

US states, two Canadian provinces, and Native American First Nations. Both Kevin and Paul participated in symposia on reactor decommissioning, addressing the perpetual radioactive waste problem as well as the need not to “bury the evidence” when shut reactors are dismantled and removed.

Marching for climate and justice

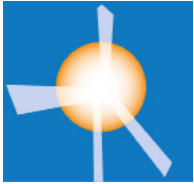
This was the year of protests and Beyond Nuclear participated in the Women’s March, the March for Science and the Climate March. So much was — and remains — at stake as time to address global warming rapidly runs out. Our efforts to keep nuclear power out of the climate change solutions equation remained a priority in 2017 including work to oppose subsidies and bailouts for old, uneconomical and dangerously degraded nuclear power plants that would otherwise close.



The Judith Johnsrud Unsung Hero Award



Beyond Nuclear gave our annual Judith Johnsrud Unsung Hero Award to Dave Kraft (pictured far left, receiving the award from Beyond Nuclear’s Kevin Kamps.) It is presented each year during the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability awards. Kraft has worked tirelessly for decades at the helm of the Chicago-based Nuclear Energy Information Service and has been central to anti-nuclear fights not only in the mid-west but across the US.



BEYOND NUCLEAR
6930 Carroll Avenue, Suite 400, Takoma Park,
MD, 20912
Tel: 301.270.2209. Fax: 301.270.4000.
info@beyondnuclear.org

www.BeyondNuclear.org

BEYOND NUCLEAR BOARD

Kay Drey
Karl Grossman
Lucas Hixson
Robert Musil
Kendra Ulrich

BEYOND NUCLEAR STAFF

Cindy Folkers
Linda Gunter
Paul Gunter
Kevin Kamps

International engagement

Linda Gunter, Beyond Nuclear’s international specialist, participated in international conferences in Switzerland, Wales and France and presented at the Nuclear-Free Future Awards. These events brought many unheralded human rights and environmental justice stories to light, and inspired the creation of a new Beyond Nuclear project — Beyond Nuclear International. Focused on story-telling and the humanitarian impacts of nuclear power and nuclear weapons, the site will launch in early 2018. It aims to communicate our issue in a new way, with an emphasis on compelling, visual narratives, the creative arts, individual and collective actions, and feature articles, all designed to draw new and wider audiences to our movement.

High profile media exposure

Beyond Nuclear staff continued to serve as go-to spokespeople for the media. Paul Gunter and Kevin Kamps were regular guests on Thom Hartmann’s television and radio shows, RT, *Nuclear Hotseat* and in regional newspapers. Cindy Folkers’ work on nuclear accidents and thyroid cancers was featured in *USA Today*. Linda Gunter also appeared on RT and continued to publish opinion columns on *Counterpunch*, *The Ecologist*, *Truthout*, *Common Dreams* and elsewhere. Our rapid media response to the Hanford Nuclear Reservation tunnel collapse in May garnered Beyond Nuclear national and worldwide press coverage in multiple languages.

Standing for safety in the eye of the storm

When Hurricane Harvey hit in Texas, and Hurricane Irma in Florida, Beyond Nuclear called for precaution and the prompt shutdown of the six US reactors operating in the advancing path of the storms. The industry instead risked public safety by continuing to operate the threatened reactors. While the industry tried to claim that the plants had withstood the hurricanes, our media work exposed this as a falsehood, given that both hurricanes by-passed the nuclear plants and none of the six reactors experienced hurricane force sustained winds. Our follow-up media work focused on the extensive flooding of the emergency planning zone around the South Texas Nuclear Project, leading to the mandatory evacuation of first responders which would have left them unavailable to respond to a potential nuclear accident.

BEYOND NUCLEAR AND GRASSROOTS SUPPORT



Working with indigenous peoples

Cindy Folkers has been working with the Radiation Monitoring Project, a collaborative effort that helps Native American communities measure and interpret radiation readings on their lands. This harmful contamination is in large part left behind by uranium mining. The Project hosts skill-share workshops on radiation in contaminated front-line communities. In 2017, Cindy traveled to South Dakota at the invitation of Native American communities where she led a workshop on techniques used to determine health impacts around disused uranium mines in the area. She presented pros and cons of various health study types, using real-world examples. She also shared resources that would allow the community to determine how best to proceed with any health assessment and presented scientific information on how to protect the health and well-being of residents.

Bad nuclear waste schemes

Kevin Kamps, Beyond Nuclear’s Radioactive Waste Specialist, continued his national grassroots leadership work against high-level radioactive waste dumps, and the unprecedented large numbers of high-risk irradiated nuclear fuel transports proposed by truck, train, and/or barge that would be launched through most states. This work included legal interventions and community organizing against de facto permanent surface storage “parking lot” dumps targeted at the New Mexico/Texas borderlands; a concerted educational campaign on Capitol Hill in opposition to the attempt to revive the cancelled Yucca Mountain, Nevada waste dump; and Canadian-US environmental coalition efforts to protect the Great Lakes against proposals to bury radioactive wastes on the Lake Huron shoreline. Our advocacy has contributed to an on-going postponement of the Canadian waste dump.