Dear Beyond Nuclear Supporter:

Nuclear power plants are closing. New reactor licenses are stalled. Uranium mining in Virginia was blocked. Risky radioactive waste shipments to Sweden were stopped. French government nuclear plans in the U.S. ended. Solar and wind are soaring globally while nuclear energy wanes. It was a very good year. Thanks to you, we have been able to keep up the pressure, raise the profile and support activists in the U.S. and all over the world for almost seven years! Thank you.

Some of our 2013 accomplishments

➢ In March Beyond Nuclear participated in a 2-day international symposium on ‘The Medical and Ecological Consequences of the Fukushima Nuclear Accident,’ co-sponsored by The Helen Caldicott Foundation and Physicians for Social Responsibility. Kevin Kamps spoke about the radioactive risks in Japan and the U.S. and Cindy Folkers spoke on radiation and health.

➢ On April Fool’s Day, the British Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament encircled the Aldermaston atomic bomb factory outside London. Linda Pentz Gunter represented Beyond Nuclear and spoke at the rally about the link between nuclear power and nuclear weapons.

➢ When the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency threatened to dramatically weaken radiation standards in drinking water in the event of a U.S. nuclear catastrophe, Beyond Nuclear’s Cindy Folkers helped gather more than 3,000 letters submitted to the agency opposing the move. Unchallenged, the EPA could “accept” 1 in 6 cancer deaths as a result of a nuclear accident on U.S. soil.

➢ Beyond Nuclear’s Paul Gunter challenged the decision by 4 of the 5 Commissioners at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission not to make even minimal safety retrofits at the country’s 31 GE Mark I and II boiling water Fukushima-style reactors. Beyond Nuclear’s Freeze our Fukushimas campaign calls for their immediate shutdown.

➢ Beyond Nuclear collaborated with the Heinrich Böll Foundation to promote the remarkable German green energy revolution and encourage similar steps in the U.S.
➢ Beyond Nuclear helped spearhead a now on-going campaign to try to prevent the irresponsible transportation and dumping of the country’s high-level radioactive reactor waste at “Consolidated Interim Storage” sites. Beyond Nuclear advocates for the least-worst option of hardened on-site storage at reactor sites to avoid unnecessary transportation, the resumption of reprocessing, and environmental injustice at proposed dump sites. However, our primary message is to stop making more waste!

➢ Beyond Nuclear joined the Maryland Offshore Wind Alliance and helped celebrate the successful passage of Governor O’Malley’s offshore wind bill that will see the development of up to 500 MW of wind off the Maryland coast. Beyond Nuclear also traveled to the UK to learn more about the world’s second largest wind farm — the Greater Gabbard. While there, Paul and Linda Gunter also spoke at events supporting UK activists opposing nuclear expansion.

➢ Beyond Nuclear staff members made frequent appearances on radio and television and in the print and online press. Regular beats include the popular Thom Hartmann show, The Big Picture. A year-long campaign to expose and debunk the blatant pro-nuclear propaganda film, Pandora’s Promise, resulted in an appearance on CNN’s Headline News and several lively debates with the film’s protagonists.

➢ Beyond Nuclear initiated a new campaign calling on Congress to Investigate the NRC, in a response to decades of collusion with, and capitulation to, the nuclear industry by this lapdog agency. The first two “charges” accuse the NRC of: (1) perpetrating a con game on the American public by refusing to find answers — or admit there are none — to the decades- long problem of nuclear waste; and (2) reckless endangerment of public health and safety by allowing the continued operation of the U.S. GE Mark I and II boiling water reactors. Charges will continue to be lodged.

➢ Beyond Nuclear organized the submission of comments to the Food & Drug Administration to lower the allowable limit of radioactivity in U.S. food and to spearhead widespread food testing. U.S. standards are weaker than Japan’s and concerns persist and are growing about radioactive contamination from Fukushima, particularly in fish and sea food. The FDA is legally obligated to respond to these public comments.

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