Today marks the end of Vermont Yankee--and there are more to come

December 29, 2014

Dear Friends,

They say history is written by the victors. Well, this year that should be us.

**Today, the Vermont Yankee nuclear reactor shut down, for the final time.** It's a fitting end to the year-and testimony to the power of grassroots activism and an informed, empowered citizenry. The closure of VY caps sixteen years of an epic grassroots campaign by activists in Vermont, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire.

Their dogged determination and strategic organizing turned the tables on the largest nuclear corporation in the Northeast, Entergy, and mobilized the entire political and economic weight of the people to close the reactor. It has set Vermont on a path to going "Green by 2015." An opening chapter in the People's History of this victory is here.

The nuclear industry is trying to take our history away from us. They have spent the whole year in corporate PR spin mode, trying to convince policymakers and the public that the closure of VY represents a national tragedy in the making. That it had nothing to do with the will of the people, but was solely the product of dysfunctional energy markets and our failure to "value" nuclear power enough.

**Please make a tax-deductible year-end contribution to NIRS, and help ensure that the closure of Vermont Yankee is the opening chapter in the end of nuclear power in the U.S.**

They are twisting history to their own ends, to use their loss at the battle of Vermont Yankee to win the ultimate war over our energy future. This year, seeing the writing on the wall, the nation's largest nuclear power companies, led by Entergy and Exelon, declared war on renewable energy. They began a nationwide campaign to cut off support for wind and solar, end renewable energy and efficiency standards, and divert subsidies to aging nuclear reactors.

**Please make a tax-deductible year-end contribution to help us stop them.**

They can't afford to admit a simple truth. We live with the real national tragedies of nuclear power every day: a radioactive waste problem for which there is no solution ... the daily threat of a catastrophic accident like Fukushima ... decades and billions of dollars diverted from sustainable energy solutions that can solve the climate crisis and revitalize our economy.
NIRS is charging into 2015 to stop them. With your support now, we will be ready. It will be a year of epic fights, large and small. From monopolistic power grabs and market-rigging schemes, to scamming states for billions in nuclear subsidies. From a fanatical push for the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste dump, to insidious "Mobile Chernobyl" waste dump schemes. From undermining climate action, to full-on frontal attacks on renewable energy.

Thank you to every one of you who took action this year: the thousands of you who joined the Nuclear-Free, Carbon-Free Contingent in New York City in September; the tens of thousands who submitted comments and signed petitions to the EPA to remove nuclear power from its Clean Power Plan proposal; the thousands more who took action against DOE-backed taxpayer loans and loan guarantees for new reactors, against further loosening of EPA's already too-lax radiation standards and against the DOE's proposal to "recycle" some radioactive waste, and for stronger emergency planning regulations. And thanks also to those of you who took state-level actions in support of clean energy in New York, Maryland, Illinois and elsewhere. Your actions matter.

This year was just a warm-up. For us, as well as them. With your continued activism and support, the coming year will mark the beginning of the end of nuclear power in the U.S.

Please make a year-end contribution, and help us gear up for 2015. It's your last chance this year to make a tax-deductible donation; we hope you'll take advantage of it. If you're outside the U.S., can make a monthly sustaining contribution, or wish to donate with PayPal, please use our Razoo donation page here. And if you'd prefer to send a check, please make sure to date and mail it by December 31, 2014 to NIRS, 6930 Carroll Avenue, #340, Takoma Park, MD 20912.

A very happy, and non-nuclear, new year to you all,
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