Beyond Nuclear
2017 Actions and Highlights

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.
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 frontline 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.

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.