



Beyond  
Nuclear



GREENPEACE

## **NEWS FROM BEYOND NUCLEAR, GREENPEACE CANADA AND ALLIANCE TO HALT FERMI 3**

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

Contact: Shawn-Patrick Stensil, Greenpeace Canada, 416-884-7053

Paul Gunter, Beyond Nuclear, 301-523-0201

Carol Izant, Alliance to Halt Fermi 3, 248-930-3173

### **Michigan and Ohio residents within the Fermi 2 nuclear emergency planning zone deserve the same protection as Canadian neighbors**

DETROIT, MI -- Environmental organizations and medical professionals are calling on U.S. authorities to harmonize American nuclear emergency plans with newly strengthened Canadian public safety rules requiring the direct distribution and stockpiling of potassium iodide (KI) pills for Canadians living near the Michigan-based Fermi 2 nuclear station.

If taken shortly after a nuclear accident, a KI pill can significantly reduce the risk of thyroid cancer caused by exposure to radioactive iodine released during a nuclear accident. Thousands of people, especially children, came down with thyroid cancer after the 1986 Chernobyl accident in Ukraine.

Ontario's recently updated nuclear emergency plan requires KI be provided to Canadians living within the Fermi 2 emergency planning zones, which reach deep into Southern Ontario.

"Michigan and Ohio residents living in the Fermi 2 emergency planning zone deserve the same level of protection as their Canadian neighbors," said Paul Gunter with the Maryland-based organization, Beyond Nuclear. "American authorities should match the new Canadian requirements so that potentially impacted U.S. residents can have KI pre-distributed directly to their homes and workplaces," Gunter continued.

Following the 2011 Fukushima disaster, Canadian authorities required safe and effective KI pills be delivered to the homes of over 200,000 Canadians living within the six-mile

evacuation zone around Ontario-based reactors and be made available upon request to anyone within a 30-mile extended planning zone. Ontario's new emergency plan extends this requirement to Canadians living within the Fermi nuclear station's 10- and 50-mile emergency zones.

This week the American Thyroid Association (ATA) issued a policy statement supporting the harmonization of American and Canadian KI distribution strategies in anticipation of an April 18<sup>th</sup> evening public forum at the University of Detroit-Mercy organized by American and Canadian environmental groups to discuss bringing Canada's KI distribution policy to Michigan and Ohio.

The ATA calls for FDA-approved KI to be "readily available" to Americans and recommends advance delivery to residents within 10 miles of a U.S. reactor and strategically stockpiled for distribution to the population within the 50-mile radius upon an emergency notification.

"The American Thyroid Association backs importing Canada's KI distribution requirements because they would better protect the health of Americans in the event of a nuclear accident. Americans deserve world-class public safety just like Canadians," said Shawn-Patrick Stensil, a Senior Energy Analyst with Greenpeace Canada.

At the public forum, the alliance of organizations will launch a campaign to encourage municipal governments in Michigan to pass municipal motions that support matching Canadian KI delivery requirements. In Canada, municipalities near Fermi 2, including Windsor and Amherstburg, passed motions in 2017 asking for KI to be made available to residents. Their request was included in Ontario's new emergency plans.

"We call on municipal and state leaders to align our public safety regulations with the new, stronger Canadian rules," said Carol Izant with the Michigan-based Alliance To Halt Fermi 3.

The groups organizing Wednesday evening's forum include The Alliance to Halt Fermi 3, Beyond Nuclear, Greenpeace Canada, the Michigan Chapter of Sierra Club and the University of Detroit-Mercy's Clasa & Chemistry Club.

– 30 –

**More Information:**

A public forum, "Lessons NOT Learned From Chernobyl: Radiation Knows No Borders!" from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM on Wednesday, April 18, 2018, at the University of Detroit-Mercy, Life Sciences Building, Room 113, [4001 West McNichols, Detroit, MI 48221](#). The panelists are Paul Gunter, Director of the Reactor Oversight Project, Beyond Nuclear, Shawn-Patrick Stensil, Senior Energy Analyst, Greenpeace Canada, Bushra Kazmi, M. D., MHSA, Infection Prevention Program at Garden City Hospital and Michael Keegan, Coalition for a Nuclear Free Great Lakes and Monroe resident in the Fermi 2 emergency planning zone.

[Link to the April 17, 2018 Statement](#) of the American Thyroid Association in support of the groups' call for the direct redistribution of KI to the population within the Fermi 2 10-mile Evacuation Planning Zone and strategic stockpiling within the 50-mile Ingestion Planning Zone.

*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. Beyond Nuclear advocates for an energy future that is sustainable, benign and democratic. The Beyond Nuclear team works with diverse partners and allies to provide the public, government officials, and the media with the critical information necessary to move humanity toward a world beyond nuclear. Beyond Nuclear: [6930 Carroll Avenue, Suite 400, Takoma Park, MD 20912](#). [Info@beyondnuclear.org](mailto:Info@beyondnuclear.org). [www.beyondnuclear.org](http://www.beyondnuclear.org).*