**Kevin Kamps/Beyond Nuclear, introduction of Rose Gardner:**

Rose Gardner of Eunice, NM is a co-founder of Alliance for Environmental Strategies. AFES has brought environmental justice legal challenges against the Holtec International/Eddy-Lea Energy Alliance proposal to construct and operate a so-called consolidated interim storage facility for 173,000 metric tons of commercial, highly radioactive, irradiated nuclear fuel, less than 40 miles from Rose’s home, very near the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant. That is 2.5 times what’s currently targeted for permanent burial on Western Shoshone land at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. It’s more than twice what currently exists in the U.S.

But then there’s also Waste Control Specialists, seven miles from Rose’s home, just over the state line in Andrews County, west TX. Already a national so-called LLRW dump, this site very near, or even on top of, the ogallala Aquifer, now wants to open the Interim Storage Partners CISF for yet another 40,000 MT of irradiated fuel. Thus the nuclear power industry is trying to turn Rose’s community into a radioactive wasteland, a national sacrifice area.

Despite the very significant risks of interim storage, Energy Secretary Rick Perry recently stated he, and dump supporters in west TX, would welcome **permanent** surface storage there. Rose, AFES, and 40,000 public commenters on the ISP environmental scoping docket, have made loud and clear, they do not consent. They don’t want it.

That set a new record, by the way. Just months earlier, we generated 30,000 public comments against Holtec. We encourage all of you to help us break the record again. NRC’s DEIS public comment period on Holtec is coming up. Certainly sign onto coalition comments and submit your own; but also, urge your U.S. Rep. and Senators to demand public comment meetings in your state, as on the inescapable transport risks.

Did I mention that Rose’s hometown also hosts URENCo, the uranium enrichment facility? And that the surrounding Permian Basin hosts the most intense fossil fuel extraction – oil drilling, and natural gas fracking – in the country? EJ includes not only race and income, but also disproportionate pollution burden. NM and TX, like NV, are not wastelands!

Without Rose, we literally couldn’t do it – she has provided BN with legal standing in the WCS, TX case.

But more importantly, Rose inspires folks, in NM, TX and beyond. She often does so quietly, with wit and humor.

The Unsung Hero award is named after Beyond Nuclear founding board member, Dr. Judith H. Johnsrud, who passed on in 2014, after a half-century of anti-nuclear activism. Judy’s 2012 Sierra Club lifetime achievement award reflected her challenge to Three Mile Island’s construction in the first place, years before the 1979 meltdown, her successful blocking of Project Plowshares hydrogen bomb blasts in PA, and a very long list of other campaigns.

The criteria for this award include: dedication; hard work; self-sacrifice; determination; courage when confronted with challenges and setbacks. Rose certainly embodies this spirit!

**And so, ANA and Beyond Nuclear present the Dr. Judith H. Johnsrud “Unsung Hero” Award, Awarded to**

**Rose Gardner**

*For tirelessly defending her community
in the belly of the beast,
undeterred by daunting odds,
with a calm, humble heart,
and yet fiery determination*