2019 IN REVIEW

Activity highlights

Got KI?

Beyond Nuclear’s campaign to mandate distribution of potassium iodide (KI) to reactor communities saw a big win in Ann Arbor, MI, where the city council voted unanimously for this requirement and will petition state government to implement it.

Saving Sea Turtles

Beyond Nuclear is collaborating with Turtle Island Restoration Network and Stanford Environmental Law Clinic to challenge the St. Lucie, FL nuclear plant owner’s refusal to adequately protect endangered and threatened sea turtles and other creatures injured and killed by the plant’s intake system.

Peach Bottom

Beyond Nuclear is working to block a Second License Extension that would allow the two Peach Bottom, PA “Fukushima” design reactors to operate to 80 years. We are demanding an “autopsy” of identical closed reactors to show that these reactors are unfit for continued service.

No to nuclear in the fight for climate

This year saw protests erupting worldwide, especially among youth, to sound the alarm about our climate emergency. Beyond Nuclear delivered our handbook — Climate change and why nuclear power can’t fix it — along with concise fliers and handouts, to members of both the House and Senate, in an effort to educate legislators on the many reasons why nuclear must not be included in policies or funding that are urgently needed to address the climate crisis. These materials continue to be widely requested and used by our members to urge decision-makers to keep nuclear power out of any Green New Deal and to stop subsidies for old and decrepit nuclear plants. We also produced materials debunking the propaganda about thorium reactors and small modular reactors and showed how they would fail to address the climate crisis safely, economically or in time.

Chernobyl truth makes headlines

The massive viewership for the HBO/Sky Chernobyl TV series, and several new books on the nuclear disaster, relaunched Beyond Nuclear’s wealth of information about the true, far-reaching and long-lasting impacts of Chernobyl. Our newsletter, Chernobyl: The Facts; and multiple articles on Beyond Nuclear International, received a renewed high profile and wide circulation. Similarly, Beyond Nuclear drew attention to suppressed scientific studies that demonstrate there were indeed serious health impacts resulting from the 1979 Three Mile Island, PA nuclear accident.
Beyond Nuclear 2019

Beyond Nuclear International

Our magazine website, with news and features on every aspect of nuclear power, nuclear weapons, and the brave and creative individuals working to make the world a better and safer place, soared to new heights. Beyond Nuclear International is rapidly establishing itself as the global go-to news destination for stories that probe into the human — and humanitarian — aspects of the twin evils of nuclear power and nuclear weapons, along with positive stories of change and innovation.

Radiation harm to women and children

Beyond Nuclear worked to draw greater attention to the disproportionate harm done to women and children from exposure to radiation. We delivered our handbook – Nuclear power and harm to human health – to every female member of the US House and Senate, along with a handout – What women need to know about nuclear power, which was also in wide demand among activists. Beyond Nuclear also wrote, gave presentations and made media appearances on the subject to further raise public awareness, especially among women.

NRC Collusion

Beyond Nuclear exposed efforts by the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission to dismiss or ignore the very real threat of climate change on safety at nuclear plants. We documented multiple examples of the industry “back door” into the NRC and the agency’s failure to enforce its own safety requirements. This has now caught the attention of national leaders and the press.

Speaking out on radioactive waste

Beyond Nuclear conducted an extensive speaking tour of multiple states to draw attention to the dangers of high-level radioactive waste transportation and storage. The looming threat of so-called Consolidated Interim Storage (CIS) sites in Texas and New Mexico was the focus of our attention as we worked with communities and allies at both sites to try to block the permitting of what would be de facto permanent parking lot-style dump sites. The transportation risks are manifold as radioactive waste would travel across the country to the CIS sites, risking catastrophic accidents on our roads, rails and waterways. The CIS dumps are strongly resisted locally, particularly by the largely Hispanic communities who highlight the environmental injustices of these plans. The fight to keep the proposed permanent high-level radioactive waste repository site at Yucca Mountain canceled continues on Capitol Hill, where Beyond Nuclear led delegations and joined with grassroots allies to lobby against the volcanic, leaky site that is resolutely opposed by its home state of Nevada.