

Kevin Kamps
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Kevin Kamps has served as Radioactive Waste Watchdog at Beyond Nuclear in Takoma Park, Maryland since July, 2007 (Before that, he served in a similar role, as nuclear waste specialist at Nuclear Information & Resource Service (NIRS) in Washington, D.C. since June of 1999). Beyond Nuclear aims to educate and activate the public about the connections between nuclear power and nuclear weapons and the need to abolish 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.

At Beyond Nuclear, one area of Kevin's focus is high-level radioactive waste issues. Kevin addresses the safety and security risks of high-level radioactive waste storage on-site at nuclear power plants, as well as the economic, environmental and public health risks associated with government and industry efforts to dump commercial irradiated fuel rods on Native American lands in the western United States, particularly on Western Shoshone Indian land at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, and a proposed "centralized interim storage site" (parking lot dump) targeted at the Skull Valley Goshutes Indian Reservation in Utah. He helped lead the creation of the "Statement of Principles for Safeguarding Nuclear Waste at Reactors," a call for hardened on-site storage as an interim alternative to the Yucca dump, parking lot dumps, and reprocessing, currently signed by over 170 organizations nation-wide.

The opening of the Yucca dump, parking lot dumps, or a reprocessing facility would require unprecedented tens of thousands of shipments of high-level atomic wastes by truck, train and barge through 45 States and the District of Columbia, past the homes of 50 million Americans, over the course of decades. Kevin has traveled the country, educating local communities and their elected officials at all levels of government about the safety and security risks of such high-level radioactive waste transportation.

Kevin has also met with and testified before officials at the highest levels of the U.S. federal agencies charged with radioactive waste management, including the Department of Energy, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and Environmental Protection Agency. He has also educated U.S. Congressional offices on these issues. In January 2010, Kevin testified about the hazards of radioactive leaks from atomic reactors before a joint hearing of the Vermont State House of Representatives and Senate; a few weeks later, the Vermont State Senate made history, by voting 26 to 4 to shut down Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant due to such leaks, as well as lies by Entergy Nuclear officials.

Since 2007, Kevin has worked against nuclear waste of another kind, opposing the nuclear power industry's attempted money grab of tens to hundreds of billions of dollars from the U.S. Treasury in the form of nuclear loan guarantees and other subsidies for the building of new reactors, uranium enrichment, and related nuclear facilities.

From 1996 to 1999, Kevin founded and directed the World Tree Peace Center in Kalamazoo, Michigan. The Center's foremost initiative was the Chernobyl Children's Project, which brought visually impaired children from Belarus to the U.S. for recreation and medical attention. Another major effort included Nuclear-Free Great Lakes Action Camps, held twice in Michigan and once in Illinois.

In 1995, Kevin took part in the Walk Across Europe for a Nuclear-Free World, a 5,000 kilometer, nine month long peace march dedicated to nuclear weapons and power abolition. In 1992, he similarly participated in the 5,000 kilometer, nine month long Walk Across America for Mother Earth, devoted to commemorating 500 years of Native American survival since Christopher Columbus's genocidal "discovery" of the "New World," as well as related environmental justice causes such as shutting down the Nevada "Test Site," scene of over 1,000 atmospheric and underground nuclear weapons explosions on Western Shoshone Indian land.

Kevin has served on the state-wide board of directors of Don't Waste Michigan for over 15 years, as well as on the Nuclear-Free/Green Energy Task Force of Great Lakes United (a U.S.-Canadian coalition of over 150 grassroots environmental groups) for a decade. In this capacity, he has testified before the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission on trans-boundary impacts of nuclear power and radioactive waste.

He received the 2010 Josephine Butler Nuclear-Free Future Award from the Hiroshima/Nagasaki Peace Committee of Washington, D.C.

Kevin has been featured in such national publications and on such television networks as The Washington Post, Newsweek, CNN, MSNBC, CNBC, EnviroVideo with Karl Grossman, and C-SPAN's "Washington Journal," where he debated the Nuclear Energy Institute's top lobbyist. In spring, 2007 he was featured in national print and broadcast media across Australia during a month-long, country-wide speaking tour there. He has spoken at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., as well as the press club of the Canadian Parliament in Ottawa, where he was featured on the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and other national Canadian news media.

Kevin attended Earlham College, a Society of Friends (Quaker) school in Richmond, Indiana, as well as Kalamazoo College in Kalamazoo, Michigan, where he studied biology and chemistry, respectively.