



ANIMALS

In 2001, Beyond Nuclear’s Paul and Linda Gunter co-authored a landmark report and accompanying video – Licensed to Kill – describing how animals were harmed and killed by the routine operation of nuclear reactors.

We found that marine habitats were being destroyed by nuclear power plant operations using what is known as the “once-through cooling system.” A variety of animal species were routinely drowned, thermally shocked, pulverized, injured and trapped by reactors that can draw in and discharge as much as three billion gallons of water a day to cool the plant.

Despite the report’s revelations, little has changed. If anything, the situation is worse, with the industry allowed to capture and kill even more animals than before, including endangered species such as sea turtles.

Moreover, whenever operation of nuclear reactors results in the killing or harming of more animals than permitted, the regulator simply accommodates these destructive operations with higher take limits of “federally protected” species. The more animals the reactor is killing, the more it is permitted to kill.

The nuclear power industry, despite evidence to the contrary, actually proclaims that reactor operation is harmless to animals and indeed boasts that its sites are animal “sanctuaries.”

Beyond Nuclear will continue to uncover and expose this callous indifference to aquatic animals and their habitats. And we will continue to strive to protect the rights of animals harmed by nuclear power.

GOALS: *End harm to sea turtles and other animals by reactor operation; draw attention to the wanton destruction of aquatic ecosystems and federal complicity in this practice.*

SUPPORT BEYOND NUCLEAR Become a Beyond Nuclear Partner!



Please join me in supporting Beyond Nuclear, an excellent idea at the absolutely correct time. Never in our lifetimes has the deadly connection between nuclear power and nuclear weapons been more obvious or more dangerous.

Yet, never in our lifetimes have we been presented such an opportunity to make our planet a safer, kinder place. We have the technology for a sustainable future. We have the intelligence to reject

nuclear warfare. We just need to take action!

So let’s act now. I urge you to support Beyond Nuclear in any way that you can.

Ed Asner, Honorary Chairman

Please join us in creating a legacy for our children and future generations that we can all be proud of. By adding your influential voice to others, the work of Beyond Nuclear becomes more powerful and more effective. Make a gift today and your generous contribution will be put immediately to work.

We thank you for joining us on this exciting journey to a world beyond nuclear.

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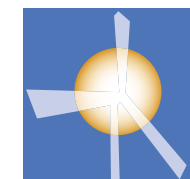
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INFOCUS

THE FEATURE STORIES OF BEYOND NUCLEAR



Beyond Nuclear at Nuclear Policy Research Institute



INFOCUS

We are all victims of a nuclear nightmare. Whether we live close to nuclear activities, have worked in the industry, endure the daily threats presented by mankind's dangerous and volatile creation, or work to end this insanity, the undeniable contribution of the Nuclear Age has been a perpetual climate of fear and uncertainty.

The very real health consequences both of the manufacture and brinksmanship of nuclear weapons and the generation of electricity and long-lasting radioactive waste by nuclear power will endure indefinitely – unless we do something about it, now.

The entire nuclear chain causes suffering to both humans and animals because all of it is about exposure to radiation. The National Academy of Sciences has declared that there is no safe dose of radiation. Indeed, medical studies indicate that prolonged exposure even to low doses can impact our health with deadly consequences. Yet nuclear reactors release radioactivity routinely as part of daily operation.

Although all of us are vulnerable, it is the most defenseless among us – whether physically, economically or politically – who are at the greatest risk. That is why Beyond Nuclear has chosen to focus its feature stories on impacts to the young, to native peoples and to animals.

These are by no means the only populations at risk. As Beyond Nuclear evolves, our focus may shift. But with the news about radioactive leaks and cancer clusters among children, and with the decades-long suffering of Native North Americans, we have chosen to start with their stories.

Animals have no one to speak for them, and theirs, too, is a perpetual story of suffering and neglect. We have monitored their fate around nuclear reactors and will continue to give voice to their fate in our materials and on the Web site.

CHILDREN

In Illinois – the state with the most nuclear reactors (11) in the country – Beyond Nuclear has been tracking disturbing cancer clusters, especially among children around the Braidwood and Dresden reactors.

At Braidwood, dozens of known tritium leaks and spills hidden from the public for more than a decade have contaminated area groundwater. This has prompted concern about health effects, including cancer “clusters.” Yet the owner – Exelon – and government officials have downplayed the potential harm of tritium in drinking water despite the fact that prolonged exposure to even low doses of tritium are known to cause cancers and birth defects.

Around Dresden, also owned by Exelon, there has been an unexplained increase in rare childhood brain cancers and birth defects, in most cases proving fatal. Anxious parents, declining to point fingers, sought answers from the utility and local, state and federal authorities. Instead, they were met with placatory gestures and hollow assurances that nothing was amiss.

One courageous young girl, Sarah Sauer, was diagnosed in April 2001 with a brain tumor when she was seven and living near the Dresden reactor. After enduring life-threatening surgery and grueling rehabilitation, Sarah was determined to speak out so that “no more children like me would have to get sick.” Beyond Nuclear is working with Sarah, her family and other affected residents, as we continue to challenge the industry and federal authorities in an effort to prevent further such tragedies in other reactor communities.

These stories are likely not unique. Families around every nuclear power plant could face similar risks. That is why Beyond Nuclear will work to bring these stories to national media attention. Every family has the right to make informed choices about their water and their health.



GOALS: Demand that NRC force utilities to post warnings about radioactive pathways and leaks from reactors; petition the federal government to develop, implement and enforce radiation exposure standards that prioritize the most vulnerable.

NATIVE AMERICANS

The first link in a chain that binds us to nuclear weapons and nuclear energy is uranium mining. The final link is the intensely radioactive waste these industries produce. Native Americans are targeted at both ends of the chain.

Members of tribal communities living near abandoned and operating uranium mines claim their health has been negatively affected and continue to demand population-based health studies to explain them. No extensive health studies have ever been conducted among these populations.

On the western part of the Navajo Nation, about 1 in every 5 drinking water sources contains uranium and arsenic that exceed EPA drinking water standards, and many of these contaminated water sources are located close to abandoned uranium mines.

As American Indian activist and poet, John Trudell has said: “People talk about the theoretical nuclear war: what if it ever comes? The nuclear war is here. That is what that dead Navajo uranium miner is – he’s a victim of that war.”

Today, the only U.S. site targeted for deep geological storage of high-level radioactive waste is on sacred Western Shoshone Indian land in Nevada. Indian tribes in Alaska are facing the prospect of a new prototype reactor that could contaminate America’s most pristine watershed. At Prairie Island, Minnesota, Indian land involuntarily hosts a massive dry cask storage “parking lot” for spent fuel rods just 600 yards from the tribal day care center.

The targeting of Native peoples represents an ugly – and on-going – chapter in our country’s history. Effectively the imposition of the smallpox blanket of the nuclear age, today’s shameful discrimination must not go unchallenged.

Beyond Nuclear strives not only to bring attention to these stories, but also to end this discrimination.

GOALS: Continue current work to halt all planned radioactive waste dumps slated for Indian land, including at Yucca Mountain; assist those organizations campaigning to stop new uranium mines, to compensate sickened uranium mine and mill workers, and to fund health studies in mining-impacted Native communities.