

Re: "Don't be NIMBY with nukes" and "Takoma Park needs to buy nuclear power," *Takoma Voice*, July/August 2009

Dear Editor,

The City of Takoma Park's long, proud tradition of seeking truth about nuclear weapons and power deserves celebrating.

Its Nuclear-Free Zone Committee has served for over 25 years to make sure that city funds are not paid to any company involved in the nuclear weapons establishment. This work deserves our thanks, as the D.C. area is still targeted by numerous Russian hydrogen bombs – just as U.S. bombs target Moscow – many, incredibly, on hair trigger alert.

For several years, the Committee has also watch-dogged the issue of high-level radioactive waste transportation. The twin atomic reactors at Constellation's Calvert Cliffs nuclear plant on the Chesapeake, and the twin reactors at Dominion's North Anna plant in Virginia, plan to ship their thousands of tons of irradiated nuclear fuel through Takoma Station on the CSX railway. A severe accident, or an attack, upon a single one of these hundreds of shipments could unleash disastrous amounts of deadly radioactivity. Both companies now want to build new reactors, which would mean yet more radioactive waste.

Takoma Park boasts a number of national safe energy groups. Beyond Nuclear and Nuclear Information and Resource Service have joined in coalition with Chesapeake Climate Action Network to oppose the new reactor at Calvert Cliffs.

The Institute for Energy and Environmental Research has literally "written the book" on why nuclear power cannot solve the climate crisis. Its 2006 *Insurmountable Risks* documents the inordinately long time and astronomically high cost it would take to build thousands of new reactors. It also shows that atomic power's risks of nuclear weapons proliferation, radiological accidents or attacks, and the radioactive waste problem all remain unsolved.

IEER's 2007 *Carbon-Free, Nuclear-Free: A Roadmap for U.S. Energy Policy* documents the technological and economic feasibility of phasing out both atomic power and fossil fuels by mid-century, and replacing them with efficiency and renewable sources such as wind, solar, geothermal, and smart forms of biomass.

Takoma Park's scrutiny of nuclear power's risks, and its search for safer, cheaper, and cleaner sources of electricity, is praise-worthy.

Sincerely,

Kevin Kamps

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Kevin Kamps  
Radioactive Waste Watchdog  
Beyond Nuclear  
6930 Carroll Avenue, Suite 400  
Takoma Park, Maryland 20912  
Office: (301) 270-2209 ext. 1  
Cell: (240) 462-3216

Fax: (301) 270-4000

[kevin@beyondnuclear.org](mailto:kevin@beyondnuclear.org)

[www.beyondnuclear.org](http://www.beyondnuclear.org)

**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.