

NEIS 2012:

“Ending the Nuclear Age – One Reactor at a Time!”

Highlights and Accomplishments



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Message from the Board

Dear Members of NEIS:

Illinois is the birthplace of the nuclear age, being the location of the first sustained nuclear chain reaction. It is our goal that Illinois will not become the graveyard for the nation's 70 years' worth of nuclear waste via centralized interim storage or give birth, yet again, to the nuclear renaissance by becoming the test site for new nuclear technology or nuclear re-processing. We find Illinois at the center of all these potential outcomes.

While the long-term impact of potential legislation makes these concerns a high priority other pressing concerns do not wait on hold. Dave Kraft, co-founder and director, of NEIS is an expert in triage regarding which issues need attention when and how to guide our resources and efforts. Nationally, regionally and statewide NEIS coordinates with others working toward the same goals as well as speaking to government representatives often bringing the first information to their desks on nuclear issues that is not from the nuclear industry.

In 2012, Dave, some members of the NEIS Board and NEIS members visited Washington, D.C. to discuss with the staffs of Representatives and Senators many nuclear issues including the findings of the Blue Ribbon Commission and our concerns regarding the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's unwillingness to implement all the recommendations of the Commission. NEIS has also met with members of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and its staff on a variety of concerns. In addition to meetings we have formally commented with other groups, as an organization and as individuals to proposed changes to nuclear regulation.

In December of 2012 NEIS with Beyond Nuclear in observation of the 70th Anniversary of the 1st sustained chain reaction, and the birth of the Nuclear Age hosted "A Mountain of Waste 70 Years High – Ending the Nuclear Age", a 3-day conference at the University of Chicago that brought in speakers and attendees from around the world. We wish to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of our director, Dave Kraft, to make the conference a reality.

The year ahead will have long lasting impact on the future of nuclear power, nuclear waste issues and the people of the United States. It will require a renewed investment by our board and members to work to promote renewable energy and hardened on-site storage of nuclear waste over nuclear energy and centralized interim storage. Since the end of the 2012 fiscal year we have seen nuclear plants close in the nation that we celebrate while we simultaneously confront legislation that would have lifted Illinois' moratorium on building small scale nuclear reactors and legislation that is being written that could make Illinois the de-facto nuclear waste storage site for the nation or a large portion of it through Centralized Interim Storage (CIS).

Your support as a member of NEIS has made all of this possible.

Dorian Breuer

Carol Kurz

Dennis Nelson

Dylan Clayton

Linda Lewison

Gail Snyder

Director's Note...

I'm not sure what's worse – enduring the two global nuclear disasters of Chornobyl and Fukushima. Or, watching the governments in the US, Eastern Europe and Japan do all they can to deny or minimize their impacts and purge them from our societal memory.

It's only two years since Fukushima, and already the Japanese government is determined to reopen all its reactors. It hasn't finished cleaning up the mess it and TEPCO made; but it's ready to spin the roulette wheel one more time. It's getting ready to return people to their homes -- contaminated or not.

In Ukraine they're ready to build more reactors. The "new sarcophagus" which was to symbolically mark the end to the threat of new radiation contamination from Chornobyl, collapsed in early 2013.

In the U.S. the NRC purged the one Commissioner committed to swift action to improve safety and learn lessons from these previous disasters. The EPA promulgated new radiation disaster cleanup guidelines the equivalent of a dirty bomb.

Everywhere, at every turn, regulators and governments are trying to make higher radiation exposure levels the "new normal."

The only thing standing in the way of their "Brave New (Radioactive) World" is – US. You and NEIS. We are determined to make sure that these nuclear disasters and their horrific effects on humankind are not forgotten.

In 2012 we did it all: public education through our monthly "Know-Nukes!" Film Series; demonstrations at the Japanese Consulate, the Henry Moore Sculpture to Atomic Power, and during the anti-NATO/Peoples Summit events; formal petitions before the NRC to close the dangerous GE boiling water reactors with Mark-I containments; and our crowning achievement – the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the splitting of the atom where it all began, at University of Chicago on December 2, 2012. We were there to remind them and tell the world: the Nuclear Age has not been kind to everyone, and must end. Now!

In 2012 the "Thin Green Line" got a lot thinner, with the deaths of eight of our long-time cherished friends and members. My own brush with cancer showed just how vulnerable a group can be to the unexpected. We clearly need to double our efforts to bring in and teach new people.

We need your help to carry on this work. No one else in Illinois is doing it.

There is no more time left to say "next time." We've had all the Chornobyls and Fukushimas the world can stand. And given the NRC's attitude of "delay, delay", the next one could be one of the 23 Fukushima design reactors here in the U.S. – perhaps even one of the four in Illinois. To paraphrase Julia Ward Howe, ***we will no longer have great questions – about our safety and health, about our environment, about the future we want for our children -- decided by irrelevant agencies!***

We need your help to prevent that "next time" from happening. **THIS** time.

We look forward to working together in 2013. Stay well, do great things!

--Dave Kraft, Director

2012 Highlights & Accomplishments



Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists editor Kennette Benedict presents and moderates at the December Mountain of Waste Conference at Univ. of Chicago— birthplace of the Nuclear Age.

In Action in 2012:

- NEIS: conducted 57 presentations/briefings, 17 tabling exhibitions, and 34 conferences and meetings; provided 7 briefings and comments to public officials; sent 13 Action Alerts; conducted 3 house parties, and participated in 84 actions and planning meetings with coalition partners for events.
- NEIS participated in 18 radio/TV interviews; submitted 5 letters to the editor and sent 23 press releases; and assisted members of the media by providing background materials and sources 12 times. NEIS also produced 2 “Know-Nukes” shows with CAN-TV.
- NEIS developed/revised 16 literature pieces and 1 PowerPoint on program themes.
- NEIS met with staffers from 12 Illinois Congressional Districts and both Senators; and with the Attorney General’s staff twice on nuclear issues pertaining to Illinois.
- NEIS continued its participation in the Carbon-Free/Nuclear-Free campaign by continued participation in the Chicago Clean Power Coalition, which finally resulted in the closure of the Fisk and Crawford Coal plants in Chicago. NEIS also participated in a meeting with Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel’s staff about aggregation.
- NEIS hosted the 3-day international **Mountain of Waste 70 Years High – Ending the Nuclear Age Conference** at University of Chicago to observe the 70th anniversary of the splitting of the atom. It was attended by over 200 people from 5 countries and 7 First Nations.

January

- The year’s first house party was held by Board member, Linda Lewison, featuring the film, “Into Eternity.”

February

- 2012 “Know-Nukes” Film Series begins
- NEIS monitors incident at Byron nuclear plant; submits FOIA request to state IDNS. No serious radiation contamination was measured.
- NEIS participated in the University of Chicago business school non-profit fair at the Gleacher Center.

March – 1st anniversary of Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster

- Memorial event of the 1st anniversary of the Fukushima disaster held at Henry Moore Sculpture to Atomic Energy at University of Chicago.



April

- NEIS conducts tour of the Red Gate Woods burial site of Manhattan Project wastes for visiting Japanese delegation.

May

- NEIS delivers a plenary address at “Peoples Summit,” and participates in Environmental Criminals and anti-NATO march in Chicago.
- Singer Bonnie Raitt conducts major fundraising benefit for NEIS at Chicago Theater
- NEIS invited to major dialog session with NRC Chair Greg Jaczko at Palisades nuclear reactor in Michigan.



June

- NEIS and local allies conduct demonstration at Japanese Consulate in Chicago to protest the restart of the Ohi reactors in Japan.
- NEIS testifies at the NRC web-hearing concerning the dangers of the GE Mark-I containments.



July

- NEIS institutes a summer leafleting program in downtown Chicago.
- Former ICC Chair Marty Cohen gives briefing at NEIS hosted event on utility aggregation.
- NEIS attends an NRC and utility public information session on problems at the Byron nuclear power station.
- As part of its Carbon Free/Nuclear Free program, NEIS participates in rallies against both fracking in Illinois, and the proposed Leucadia coal project in southeast Chicago (which was subsequently defeated).



August

- NEIS participates in two programs with Mr. Yastel Yamada, a Japanese engineer responsible for Starting the Veterans Service Corps in Japan, to provide technical assistance with the Fukushima clean-up. NEIS agrees to take his concerns to the Illinois members of Congress.

September

- As part of its “You Can’t ‘Nuke’ Global Warming” program, NEIS participates in formation of the Chicago Climate Crisis Summit, scheduled for 2013.
- A delegation of seven NEIS members and Board members accompany director Dave Kraft to Washington, D.C. for the national Coalition against Nukes (CAN) Summit. Twelve members of the Illinois delegation are visited by the team, including the staffs of Sens. Richard Durbin and Mark Kirk.
- While in Washington, D.C. for the CAN Summit, NEIS Director Dave Kraft is selected to be part of a delegation of 7 activists to meet with newly installed NRC Chair Allison Macfarlane.



NEIS director Dave Kraft (L) with fellow activists in front of NRC Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

- NEIS director Dave Kraft appears as guest on Mike Novak radio show.

October

- Board member Linda Lewison represents NEIS at the Nuclear Labyrinth on the Great Lakes Conference, in Ohio.
- NEIS is invited to table at the Jackson Browne concert in Chicago.

November

- NEIS and allies meet with members of the Illinois Attorney General’s staff to discuss fiscal irregularities with the Zion decommissioning project.
- NEIS staff and members brief U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky on nuclear issues.
- NEIS and Beyond Nuclear staff meet with the editorial board of the Chicago Sun-Times concerning the upcoming radioactive waste legislation.



NEIS Board member Carol Kurz and member Lora Chamberlain represent NEIS’ nuclear positions at CAN Summit in Washington.

December

- From Dec. 1-3, NEIS hosts the international **Mountain of Waste 70 Years High – Ending the Nuclear Age Conference** to mark the 70th anniversary of the first chain reaction at University of Chicago. Over 200 people attend from all over the U.S., five countries and seven First Nations.



Friends of the Earth Tokyo activist and plenary speaker Akiko Yoshida addresses the Conference.



NEIS Board member Carol Kurz and Lakota activist Charmaine Whiteface prepare to lay white roses – a symbol of resistance - at the site of the first chain reaction.

- NEIS conducts a tour of the Red Gate Woods nuclear burial site for Manhattan Project wastes with 25 guests as part of the Mountain of Waste Conference.
- Major house party held at the Evanston home of long-time supporter Liane Casten.

2013 Plans and Programs

- Pursue the 2.206 petition with the NRC that would close the 23 Fukushima-type reactors currently operating in the U.S. – 4 in Illinois.
- Monitor and oppose NPDES water use variances at Illinois reactors.
- Revisit the safety and security concerns raised in 2011 with Governor Patrick Quinn.
- Oppose recommendations of Blue Ribbon Commission for “consolidated interim storage” of high-level radioactive wastes, and provide testimony and organize events as necessary.
- Continue support for **Carbon Free-Nuclear Free Campaign** throughout Illinois and the region. Continue involvement and collaboration with Chicago Clean Power Coalition, RAN, Sierra Club and EJC. Oppose fracking in Illinois, and tar sands pipelines in the region and state.
- Continue opposition to the Nuclear Renaissance , small modular reactors, and reprocessing of “spent” nuclear fuel.
- Monitor plans for Zion decommissioning, advocate HOSS storage. Codify and require detailed audits.
- Continue “**Know Nukes!**” collaboration with CAN-TV of Chicago. Continue monthly “**Know Nukes!**” film series; establish a monthly “Night with the Experts” educational program. Seek funds to develop a “messaging” campaign for Illinois.
- Establish Illinois Sierra Club Nuclear Free Work Group.

Fundraising & Finances:

- 2012 Income: \$51,214.76
- 2012 Expenses: \$63,634.82
- Year-end 2012 assets amounted to \$13,430.84 in cash reserves, plus office assets. \$300 in funds is dedicated funding towards a targeted ad campaign in reactor communities.
- 2012 incomes and expenses artificially large due to Mountain of Waste Conference in December, which cost \$21,000.
- Major financial support again came from singer Bonnie Raitt and the Guacamole Fund, who held a Meet and Greet Benefit for NEIS in May.



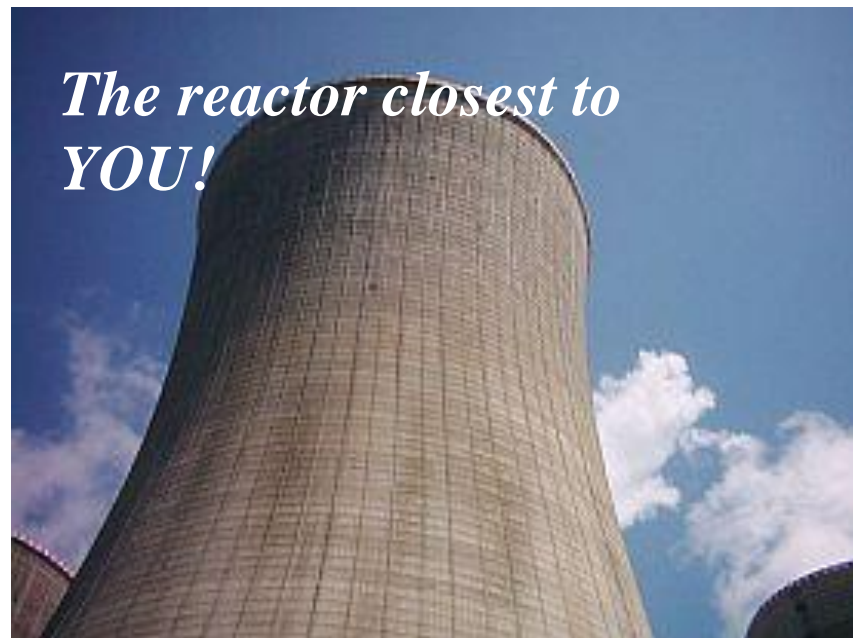
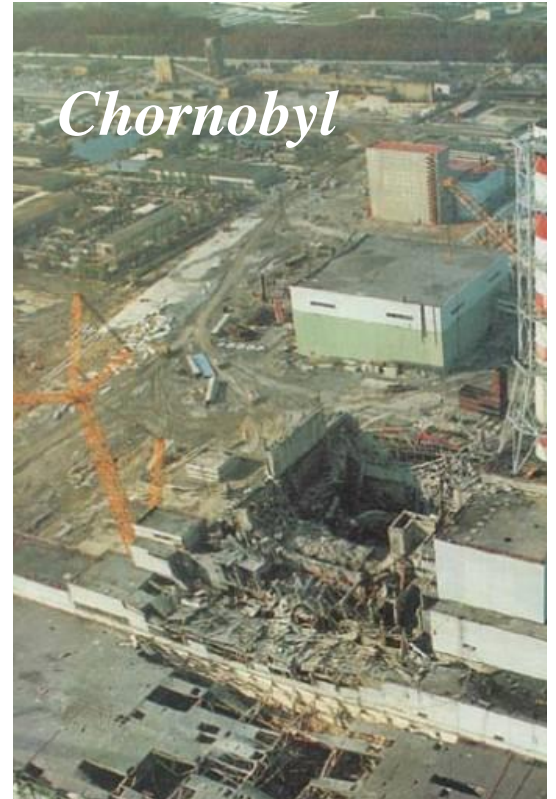
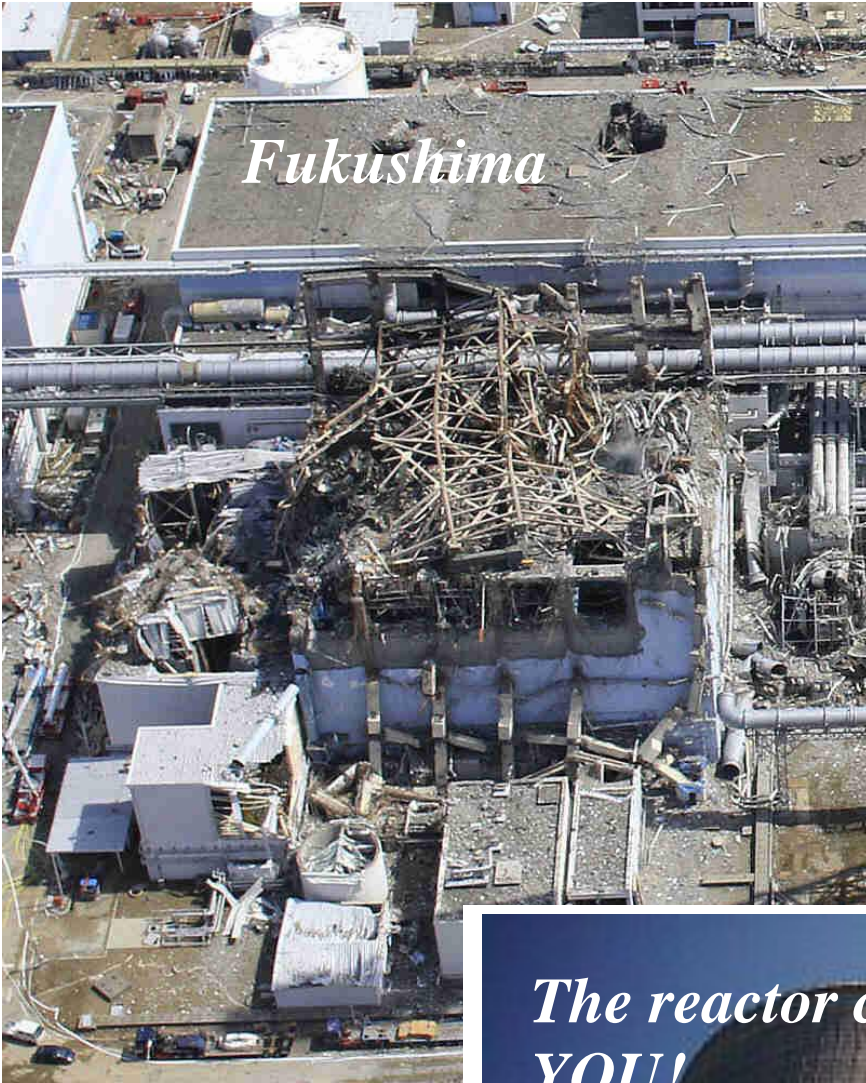
(L to R) Board member Dennis Nelson, Bonnie Raitt, Director Dave Kraft, and Marion K pker of GAAA Germany at Bonnie Raitt Meet and Greet in May.

- A small number of NEIS members and an anonymous donor made substantial contributions to NEIS. However, several major regular year-end contributions were not received in 2012 due to donors’ changing life circumstances, resulting in a drop of more than \$6,000 in year end contributions.

Simple ways to support NEIS....

- “**Searching**” for safe-energy: make “**GoodSearch**” your start-up page, and then do your basic web searches using GoodSearch, a Yahoo-based search engine. For the simple, basic searches, it’s as good as Google, and earns us 1-cent per search. If our members did 100 searches per day, over a year they would cover more than one month’s rent. Sign-up here: <http://www.goodsearch.com/>, and make “Nuclear Energy Information Service” your selected charity.
- **If you shop online....** Shop for NEIS at no cost to you! Are you really going to try to say you never order books, DVDs, airfares, gifts, magazines etc. online? If you do, you can earn NEIS significant donations at no cost to you! **Sign-up and use iGive** at: <http://www.igive.com/welcome/index.cfm>. Your first use online gets us a \$5 donation, plus the donor percentage for your purchase. Remember – if you’re not shopping for us, you’re shopping for *them!* Subvert the dominant paradigm with your online shopping today!
- **Workplace giving....** NEIS is a member of **EarthShare Illinois**. Acting the way United Way does, EarthShare gets donations for member groups from direct payroll deductions of employees who sign up to make these voluntary contributions. Talk to your personnel manager to see if you have a payroll deduction program, and if NEIS can get EarthShare listed as a recipient. We would also welcome being enrolled in any corporate matching-grant programs your employer may have.

***Three great reasons to oppose nuclear power and
The “Nuclear Renaissance”...***



*If you're a member of NEIS, thank you.
If not, are you waiting for the next nuclear disaster to join?*