

NEIS 2016:

“The Empire Strikes Back – So Do WE!”

Highlights and Accomplishments



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Letter to members from the NEIS Board

Greetings!

Everyone on the board of NEIS would like to thank you for your continued support of our efforts for a carbon-free, nuclear-free world. Because of you, NEIS is able to continue making a difference in the state and the region. We hope you review our annual report for a full summary of our accomplishments and campaigns in 2016. We'd like to highlight a couple of issues here that will need our continued vigilance, advocacy and outreach in 2017.

While the nuclear power industry as a whole has been on a downward trajectory, they received an undeserved shot last year. In 2016, Exelon received the ratepayer bailout it had been asking for in Illinois. While we at NEIS are very disappointed that Illinois legislators voted to grant Exelon this multi-billion-dollar bailout, we also realize what it means. The nuclear power industry is struggling and only extreme measures will allow it to continue. Desperate measures forced the nuclear industry into negotiations with the environmental community and forced state legislators to take action at a time when they cannot even pass a balanced budget. Already, the nuclear bailout is being challenged in court by other energy industries that feel this bailout puts them at a disadvantage. While we don't yet know the fate of Exelon's bailout in Illinois, we do know that nationally, the nuclear industry is in trouble. Even as they seek more bailouts in other states, they are also closing nuclear power plants. This trend will continue, especially as competition from other energy suppliers will continue to make nuclear power too expensive and too politically treacherous to support.

We have entered what Dr. Gordon Edwards refers to as the age of decommissioning, a time when more and more nuclear power plants will be closed and decommissioned than will be operational. NEIS has been a leader in promoting the approach of just transitions for communities that will be impacted by nuclear plant closures. Communities that have relied on the nuclear industry for jobs and as part of their tax base will need assistance and guidance to make it through the transitions that are coming. In Zion, Illinois, NEIS has been educating legislators and local officials first and then residents about the possible options for their communities over the past year. Many legislators now know what should be done for these communities, but push back from the nuclear industry is anticipated to be a big hurdle to overcome. Also, finding the legislative will to be proactive and plan for the future is another challenge we face.

Nuclear waste remains an unsolved problem. In 2016, NEIS co-sponsored a national conference in Chicago with other anti-nuke groups. Many participants came from communities that either have nuclear waste stored there or from communities that are being targeted for nuclear waste to be shipped to or through them. NEIS will continue to educate people on why shipping waste to a temporary, but long term site, is not the best solution to the nuclear waste problem. We also support communities that have become de facto nuclear waste storage facilities being reimbursed for the economic hardship this causes their community. NEIS remains committed to the goal of a scientifically based location for a permanent geological repository for the nation's nuclear waste.

In 2017, NEIS will continue to work toward these long-term goals, knowing that the trend toward a nuclear industry downturn is in our favor and will eventually force a legislative solution. We are so grateful for your continued support and involvement!

Gail Snyder
President

Linda Lewison
Secretary

Kathleen Rude
Treasurer

Dorian Breuer

Jan Boudart

Bob Croteau

Stephanie Bilenko
May 21, 2017

Good Bye - Hello!...

In 2016 we said good-bye to longtime Board member and treasurer, Dylan Clayton, who moved out to the West Coast to establish residency and go back to school. We thank Dylan for his past contributions, and wish him well in his future plans.

As one leaves us, another joins.

We welcome Bob Croteau of Springfield, Illinois to the NEIS Board. Bob came on Board (get it?) in late 2016, after our co-presentations at the Illinois Renewable Energy Fair in August. Bob has a background, interest and passion in solar energy and renewables. He works to implement renewables in the Springfield area, and currently works for Springfield City Water Light & Power. His joining marks the first time NEIS has had a "downstater" on its Board. Hopefully, there will be more to follow.

Welcome, Bob!

2016 Highlights & Accomplishments



NEIS Board member Kathleen Rude facilitates at the National Radioactive Waste Strategy Summit, hosted by NEIS in December at Cenacle Retreat Center in Chicago.

In Action in 2016:

- NEIS: conducted 39 presentations/briefings, 21 tabling exhibitions, and 8 conferences and meetings; provided 67 briefings and comments to public officials; sent 18 Action Alerts; planned and participated in 154 actions and planning meetings with coalition partners for events.
- NEIS participated in 7 radio/TV interviews; submitted 7 letters to the editor; sent 17 press releases; and assisted members of the media with background materials and sources 4 times.
- NEIS developed/revised 45 literature pieces and 5 PowerPoints on program themes.
- NEIS met with staff from 1 Congressional Rep and both Senators; the staff of House Speaker Madigan, Sen. President Cullerton, Attorney General Madigan, and Gov. Rauner; and 25 state reps and senators on Illinois nuclear issues.
- NEIS led the charge among Illinois enviro groups against Exelon Corporation's "nuclear war against renewable energy," and its outrageous \$2.3 billion nuclear bailout, convening more than 30 planning meetings and briefings on the topic.
- NEIS hosted a major national radioactive waste planning summit in Chicago in December.
- NEIS continued participation in the Illinois Climate Table.
- NEIS continued the Radiation Monitoring Project with partners Diné No Nukes and Sloths against Nuclear State; conducted 2 trainings; and raised \$19,000 through a grant from the LUSH Cosmetics Foundation to purchase more monitors and conduct more trainings in 2017.

January

- NEIS presents on Great Lakes Nuclear Hazards at the League of Women Voters in Glen Ellyn.

February

- NEIS hosts the second training of the Radiation Monitoring Project in Chicago.
- NEIS initiates a quarterly member outreach program with a presentation on Great Lakes Nuclear Hazards in Northfield, IL.



March – 5th Anniversary of Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster

- NEIS jointly tables with CAPOW on water issues at Libertyville GreenDay event.
- NEIS conducts "5 and 30: Fukushima and Chernobyl," a combined observance program for the Fukushima and Chernobyl disasters, at DePaul University, Chicago.
- NEIS tables at the Bonnie Raitt Concert at the Chicago Theater.



NEIS participates in the first in a series of nationwide DOE panels on "consent-based siting" of nuclear waste dumps; Director Dave Kraft was a featured panelist, and 14 members participated from the audience.

April – 30th Anniversary of the Chernobyl Disaster

- NEIS crashes the inaugural event for Michael Shellenberger's Environmental Progress pro-nuke, faux-enviro group in Chicago.
- Second training of the Radiation Monitoring Project takes place in Arizona.
- NEIS attends a radwaste summit against "centralized interim storage" plans for Texas and New Mexico, in Albuquerque, NM.
- NEIS conducts a briefing for the Illinois Climate Table on nuclear issues and their impacts on the Exelon Bailout legislation.



May

- NEIS invited to table at a Graham Nash concert in Chicago.
- NEIS Director Dave Kraft testifies in opposition to the Exelon nuclear bailout before the Illinois Senate Energy Committee in Springfield.
- NEIS tables at the Homer Glen EarthDay event.

June

- NEIS tables at the Aurora Green Fest, gaining opposition to the Exelon nuclear bailout.
- NEIS tables and leads a Skyped discussion with filmmaker at the showing of the Josh Fox documentary, *How to Let Go of the World*, at the Siskel Film Center in Chicago.
- NEIS attends the NRC briefing on the Palisades reactor in South Haven, MI.



July

- NEIS and CAPOW conduct a wildly successful collaborative fundraising event called *Wild about Wild Flowers*, in Northfield.
- NEIS participates in a press conference sponsored by the Mayor of Zion in support of legislation to compensate reactor communities forced to host spent-fuel storage after reactors close.



- NEIS members march for clean energy in Philadelphia at the National Climate March.
- NEIS presents non-nuclear “Global Warming Solutions” to members of the Peoria Sierra Club and others.

August



- NEIS conducts an anti-Exelon bailout action in Chicago.
- NEIS tables and gives workshop on “Exelon’s nuclear war against renewables” at the Illinois Renewable Energy Fair.

September

- NEIS tables at second Bonnie Raitt concert at the Ravinia Festival in Highland Park, IL.
- NEIS conducts briefings against the Exelon bailout with the Chicago and Springfield staff of the House Speaker and Senate President, and aides to Governor.
- NEIS conducts a NoDAPL! support action in Chicago on national day of action.



October

- NEIS participates in the Houbay Day Parade in Berwyn.
- NEIS conducts a counter-demonstration against the faux-enviro, pro-nuclear Environmental Progress group, in opposition to the Exelon bailout.



November

- NEIS Director Dave Kraft is on the WVON-AM *GreenPreneur* radio show speaking against the Exelon bailout.
- NEIS Director Dave Kraft testifies in opposition to the Exelon nuclear bailout before the Illinois House Energy Committee in Springfield.
- NEIS conducts briefing on state energy issues for a staff member of House Speaker Michael Madigan’s office.

December

- NEIS hosts the national radioactive waste planning summit in Chicago, Dec. 2-4. The event results in the creation of a national strategy on radioactive waste issues, and the creation of three working groups going into 2017.
 - Chicago CBS-TV affiliate does interview at NEIS office on the Zion decommissioning for a future story.



2017 Plans and Programs

- Continue opposition to the nuclear industry's "nuclear war against renewables," Exelon's \$2.3 billion bailout, and other national nuclear bailouts. Advocate for renewables and efficiency. Work for "just transitions" for communities faced with plant closures.
- Continue monitor Zion decommissioning. Promote greater fiscal oversight and independent monitoring group at state and NRC level. Support "make whole" funds for "orphaned waste" communities.
- Conduct three Radiation Monitoring Project trainings, and conduct new fundraising efforts.
- Oppose Blue Ribbon Commission recommendation of "consolidated interim storage" (CIS) of high-level radioactive wastes. Plan second national conference on radwaste and decommissioning.
- Assist MI groups to close the Palisades reactor.
- Continue support for Carbon Free-Nuclear Free Campaign throughout Illinois and the region. Continue involvement and collaboration with Illinois Climate Table, Sierra Club and EJC. Oppose fracking and tar sands pipelines.
- Expand the **You Can't 'Nuke' Global Warming** educational program.
- Continue opposition to Nuclear Renaissance, small modular reactors, and spent fuel reprocessing.
- Continue **Know Nukes!** collaboration with CAN-TV of Chicago.
- Continue involvement in national Sierra Nuclear Free Campaign; work to increase IL involvement.

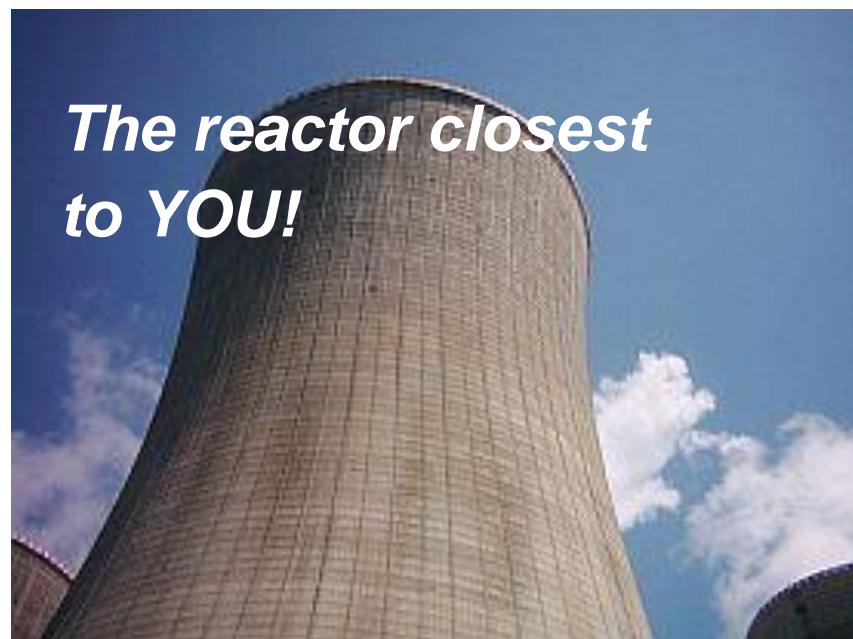
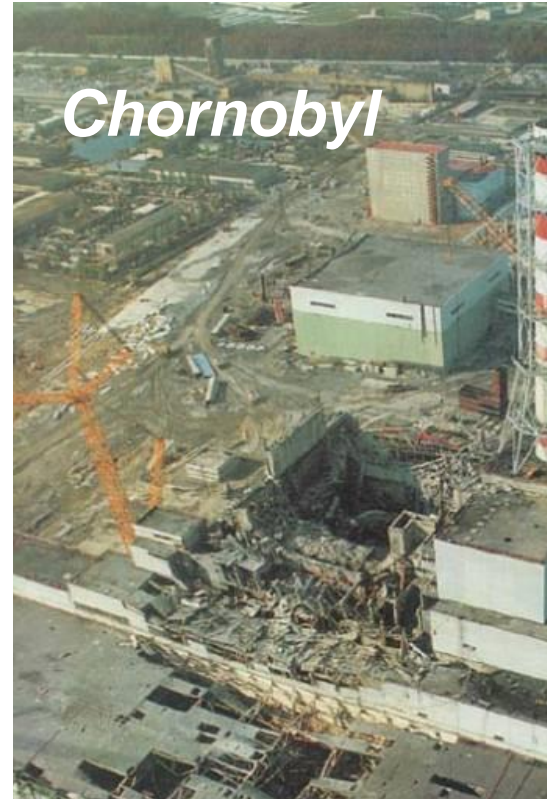
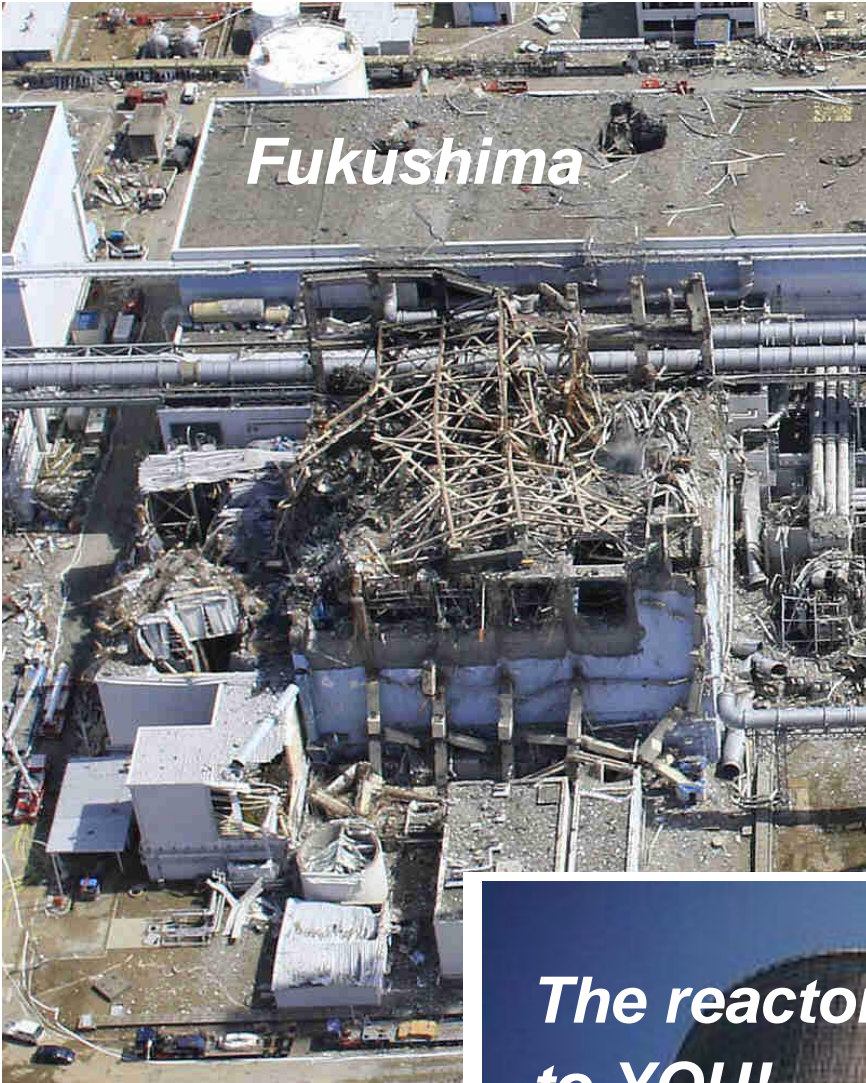
Fundraising & Finances:

- **2016 Income: \$113,294.00**
- **2016 Expenses: (\$72,339.90)**
- Year-end 2016 equaled \$61,296.41 in cash reserves from all sources, plus office assets.
- Dedicated income from the National Radwaste Conference totaled \$31,546; expenses were \$30,522. This Conference, and the largely dedicated LUSH grant (see below) account for the large increase in reported incomes for 2016.
- Dedicated funds include: Radiation Monitoring Project (RMP), \$19,016.00; National Radwaste Conference, \$1,024.93; and \$300 for advertising.
- NEIS received its largest foundation grant ever from the LUSH Cosmetics Foundation, \$23,016.00; and 7 smaller dedicated and general funds grants.
- The number of large donors (giving \$1,000 or more) increased by over 65% from 2016; and total contributions from these donors greatly exceeded the 2016 amounts. Giving at other levels remained constant over previous year's contributions.
- NEIS added 28 new members to its rolls in 2016, 9 more than the year before.
- Giving from "alternative" sources like iGive and GoodShop/GoodSearch increased over 2015 levels, but are still below full potential. Contributions from EarthShare Illinois continue to remain well below pre-affiliation levels.
- NEIS is fiscal agent for the Radiation Monitoring Project. A sizable portion of current assets are tied up as dedicated funds available only for RMP purposes. NEIS earns a 10% fee for this service.

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, office supplies, clothes, tickets, 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 at no cost to you. 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.
- **Friend us** on Facebook; **tweet** our event announcements on Twitter!

***Three great reasons to oppose nuclear power and
the “Nuclear War on Renewables”...***



If you're a member of NEIS, thank you.

If not, are you going to wait for the next nuclear disaster before joining?