

# NEIS 2013:

*“Nuclear’s All Out War on Renewables!”*

## Highlights and Accomplishments



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## Message from the Board

Dear Members of NEIS:

“Two roads diverged in a wood, and I,  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference.”  
-from “The Road Not Taken” by Robert Frost

In 1979 President Jimmy Carter installed solar panels on the White House. At the dedication ceremony Carter advanced the notion that “A generation from now, this solar heater can either be a curiosity, a museum piece, an example of a road not taken, or it can be a small part of one of the greatest and most exciting adventures ever undertaken by the American people—harnessing the power of the sun to enrich our lives as we move away from our crippling dependence on foreign oil.” Now 35 years later, as our world confronts pollution from fossil fuels and stockpiles of radioactive waste we ask, what would our world be like had we taken a different road, a renewable road 35 years ago?

It is difficult to realize that we are living at a pivotal time in history yet again. When energy decisions made and actions taken will significantly impact the future. 35 years ago, when our country turned away from a clean renewable energy future and committed to fossil fuel’s pollution and nuclear power’s radioactive waste, it was not predicted that we would face the challenges we do now. Now our country’s leaders, if they realize it or not, will choose a direction yet again that 35 years from now we will look back upon and say either, we made the same mistake or we choose a better path. Nuclear energy produces radiation and fossil fuels produce pollution, neither are clean or renewable. Generating energy in a truly clean renewable way through Wind and Solar is the best path away from fossil fuels and nuclear energy. History does repeat itself and we must work very hard this coming year to make sure, in this case, that it doesn’t.

Over this past year, of 2013, we had many hopes that a commitment by legislators in Illinois would put us on a clear renewable path but it has not. Work done by many in the environmental community to support renewable energy has been thwarted by the nuclear industry for the moment. The nuclear industry has selected Illinois as ground zero for their national campaign to stop legislation supporting truly clean renewables and have nuclear energy entrenched yet again as a main supplier of energy, not just in Illinois but across the nation. All our efforts over that past year must be redoubled. We will need to spend more time in Springfield and Washington, more time meeting with legislators, more time informing the public and more time coordinating with local and national groups to do everything to ensure that the right path is chosen this time.

We thank you all for your support in 2013 and look forward to working toward a common goal together in 2014.

Dorian Breuer	Dylan Clayton	Carol Kurz
Linda Lewison	Dennis Nelson	Gail Snyder

## Director’s Note...

Not surprisingly 2013 was a great deal different from 2012. Coming off the wildly successful Mountain of Waste 70 Years High Conference of December, 2012, we knew that it would be a tough act to follow. What did follow for most of the year was more like traveling through a swamp – slow, tedious, mundane; but efforts still necessary to do.

For the first time in several years, NEIS did not face the prospect of legislation calling for the repeal of the State’s nuclear construction moratorium. This enabled us to be proactive in meeting with officials at both the State and Federal levels, mostly on the issue of radioactive wastes, and the possibility that Illinois could become a de facto high-level radioactive waste dump for the nation. Fortunately, the legislation calling for “centralized interim storage” facilities for waste from closed reactors stalled. NEIS also took a position against fracking in Illinois, due to the radioactive contamination fracking creates. We worked collaboratively with the Illinois anti-fracking groups all year, culminating with our highly testimony of the IDNR proposed fracking rules which excluded mention of radioactivity completely.

We were able to continue our *Know Nukes!* film series, and added a new dimension to our public education efforts – our monthly “*Night with the Experts*” program. We put together a highly effective campaign against the hugely unsuccessful pro-nuclear documentary, “Pandora’s Promise,” countering its failed showings with showings of “The Atomic States of America,” which received its Chicago premier at our December 2012 Mt. of Waste Conference. We also helped raise funds for an independent Chicago filmmaker to complete a documentary about the effects of uranium mining on Lakota lands in South Dakota.

Being advised to “get younger” as an organization, NEIS tabled at the 3-day national student Power Shift conference in Pittsburgh in October. Over 6,000 student from all over the U.S. and abroad attended. NEIS collaborated with Beyond Nuclear on tabling and conducting a workshop dealing with the aftermath of Fukushima and uranium mining on Diné lands.

The NRC managed to liven things up considerably by leaving Chicago off the list of locations hosting its Waste Confidence Rule public hearings. NEIS immediately complained to NRC and both Senators Durbin and Kirk, who wrote letters of support for a Chicago Conference. We won, and NRC scheduled a session in Oak Brook IL in November. NEIS packed the hearing, and 75% of the comments given were in opposition to the NRC’s flawed proposed Rules.

2013 ended with the seemingly good news that Exelon reactors had lost money for the past 5 years, and that Exelon was considering closing them. That good news quickly turned bad amidst rumors that Exelon would seek some kind of State bailout, extorting the State under the threat of huge job and tax base losses. This rumor became a full blown Exelon war on renewables campaign in Illinois and nationally in 2014. This will be the biggest threat and challenge we will face this year.

Once again, we have managed to do the impossible on a shoestring with your help. We’re grateful for that, and look forward to working with and for you in 2014. Stay with us, and help us grow!  
--Dave Kraft, Director

# 2013 Highlights & Accomplishments



NEIS members conduct a demonstration and collect letters to be sent to the Prime Minister of Japan outside the Japanese Consulate in Chicago on March 11, 2013.

## *In Action in 2013:*

- NEIS: conducted 64 presentations/briefings, 12 tabling exhibitions, and 19 conferences and meetings; provided 34 briefings and comments to public officials; sent 21 Action Alerts; conducted 2 house parties, and participated in 85 actions and planning meetings with coalition partners for events.
- NEIS participated in 13 radio/TV interviews; submitted 9 letters to the editor and sent 18 press releases; and assisted members of the media by providing background materials and sources 5 times. NEIS also produced 3 “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 forces NRC to schedule an additional Waste Confidence Public Hearing in the Chicago area in November, a thing they tried to avoid. Unofficially, nearly 200 people showed up. NEIS members accounted for nearly 75% of those testifying against the Waste Confidence Rule.
- NEIS allies itself with the anti-fracking movement in Illinois, preparing testimony and supporting rallies throughout the State against fracking.
- NEIS launches the IL Sierra Club’s Nuclear Free Illinois Working Group, and hosts and facilitates the national planning committee annual meeting of the Sierra Club Nuclear Free Campaign.

## January

- Conducted briefing session with Sen. Richard Durbin’s staff in Chicago.
- Attended meeting at Palisades reactor in Michigan

## February

- Showed “Atomic States of America” at Columbia College, Chicago
- Co-planned and tabled at the Climate Crisis Summit in Chicago.
- NEIS participated in the national Climate Action Rally in Washington, D.C., with the banner, “You Can’t ‘Nuke’ Global Warming!”



## March 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster

- Memorial event on the 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the Fukushima disaster held at the Japanese Consulate.
- Participated in meeting with NRC Commissioner William Magwood IV at Palisades reactor in MI.
- Participated in launch of IL anti-fracking movement, speaking against the radiation hazard from fracking.
- Toured Cecile Pineda, author of the book, “Devil’s Tango: How I Learned the Fukushima Step by Step.”



## April

- NEIS launches its new monthly program, “*Night with the Experts*” featuring Robert Halsted on radwaste.
- NEIS participates in the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability’s “D.C. Days” in Washington.
- NEIS participates in the Chicago Earth Day event; is the guest speaker at the Earth Day event at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, IL.

## May

- NEIS attends first area screening of the controversial documentary, Pandora’s Promise at Univ. of Chicago.
- NEIS does Mother’s Day presentation at 1<sup>st</sup> Unitarian Church of Chicago in Hyde Park; also does day long Homer Glen Earth Day event.

## June

- NEIS leaflets outside theater launch of documentary, “Pandora’s Promise;” and schedules a showing of “Fukushima – Never Again!” as a counter protest.

*July*

- NEIS shows “Atomic States of America” at University Church in Hyde Park.
- NEIS presents proposal for a “Nuclear Free Illinois Working Group” to the Illinois Sierra Club Executive Committee. Proposal was approved.

*August*

- NEIS invited to give presentation on the Hiroshima Anniversary at the Rockford Urban Ministry for Peace and Justice. NEIS also participates in a ceremony at the Henry Moore Sculpture to Nuclear Energy in Hyde Park, Chicago.
- NEIS hosts the national planning committee for the Sierra Club’s National Nuclear Free Committee.
- NEIS testifies at the relicensing hearings for the Byron and Braidwood nuclear reactors.



*September*

- NEIS Board member Linda Lewison testifies against the proposed Canadian radioactive waste dump on the Bruce Peninsula on Lake Huron, Ontario.
- NEIS meets with the Chicago staffers of Sen. Mark Kirk in Chicago.
- NEIS director Dave Kraft appears as guest on the Live from the Heartland Café radio show.

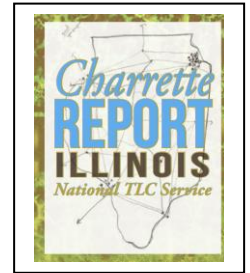
*October*

- NEIS attends and tables at the National Student Power Shift conference in Pittsburgh, attended by 6,000 students.
- NEIS launches the IL Sierra Club Nuclear Free Working Group at the monthly meeting of the NW Cook County Chapter of Sierra Club.
- NEIS interviewed by Chicago ABC WLS News about low-level radioactive waste contamination in New Lenox, Illinois.



- NEIS hosts fundraiser for the documentary, “Crying Earth, Rising Up,” about uranium mining on Lakota lands in South Dakota.

- NEIS participates in a workshop sponsored by the DOE to create a Legacy Document for the Atomic Age in Illinois.
- NEIS gives presentation at the Evanston North Shore Village Levy Center.



- Singer/songwriter Bonnie Raitt invites NEIS to table at her Chicago concert.

*November*

- NEIS tables at the Great Lakes Bioneers Conference in Chicago.
- NEIS forces NRC to hold a major public participation session in Oak Brook, IL on its controversial “Waste Confidence Rule.” NEIS is responsible for more than 50% of the 150+ attendees, and over 75% of those testifying, most against the NRC’s Rule.
- NEIS Board member Linda Lewison testifies at the NRC Waste Confidence Hearing in Washington, D.C.
- NEIS briefs the Chicago Chapter of the Sierra Club on the newly forming Sierra Nuclear Free Illinois Work Group.
- NEIS is invited to present at the American Anthropological Association’s National Conference on the legacy of the Nuclear Age.
- NEIS conducts radio interviews on WVON, and another independent radio station.



**NEIS Director Dave Kraft testifies before a packed house at NRC Waste Confidence Hearing in Oak Brook, IL in November.**

*December*

- At a public hearing attended by 300+, NEIS testifies against the IL Dept. of Natural Resources fracking rules, which totally omit any reference to radiation.
- NEIS conducts a showing of “Atomic States of America.”

- NEIS tables and gives a presentation on the effects of Nuclear Power on the Great Lakes at the CAPOW Water Conference at Loyola University, Chicago.

## *2014 Plans and Programs*

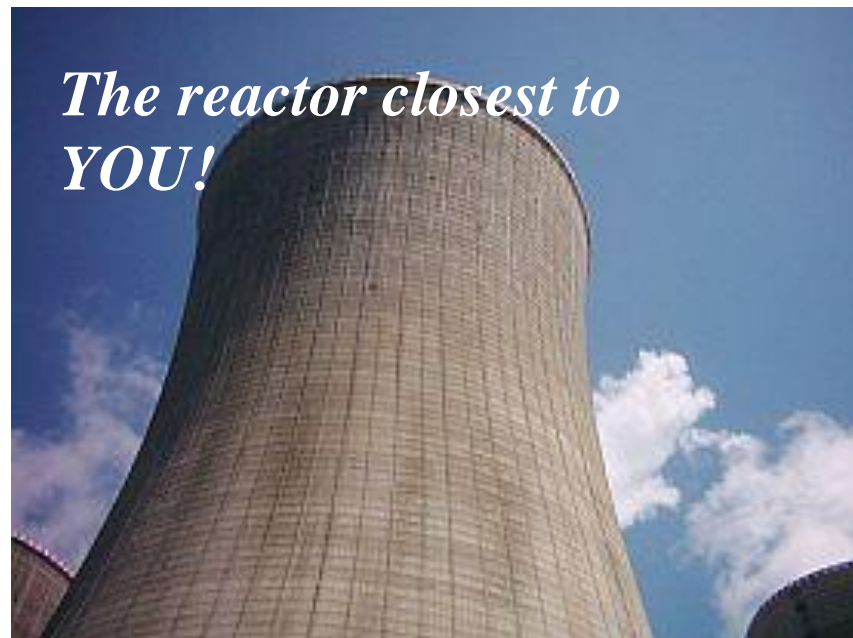
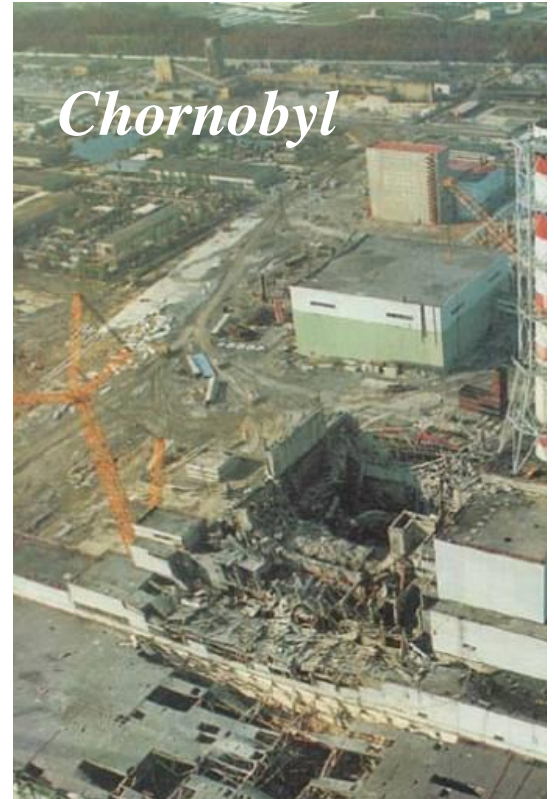
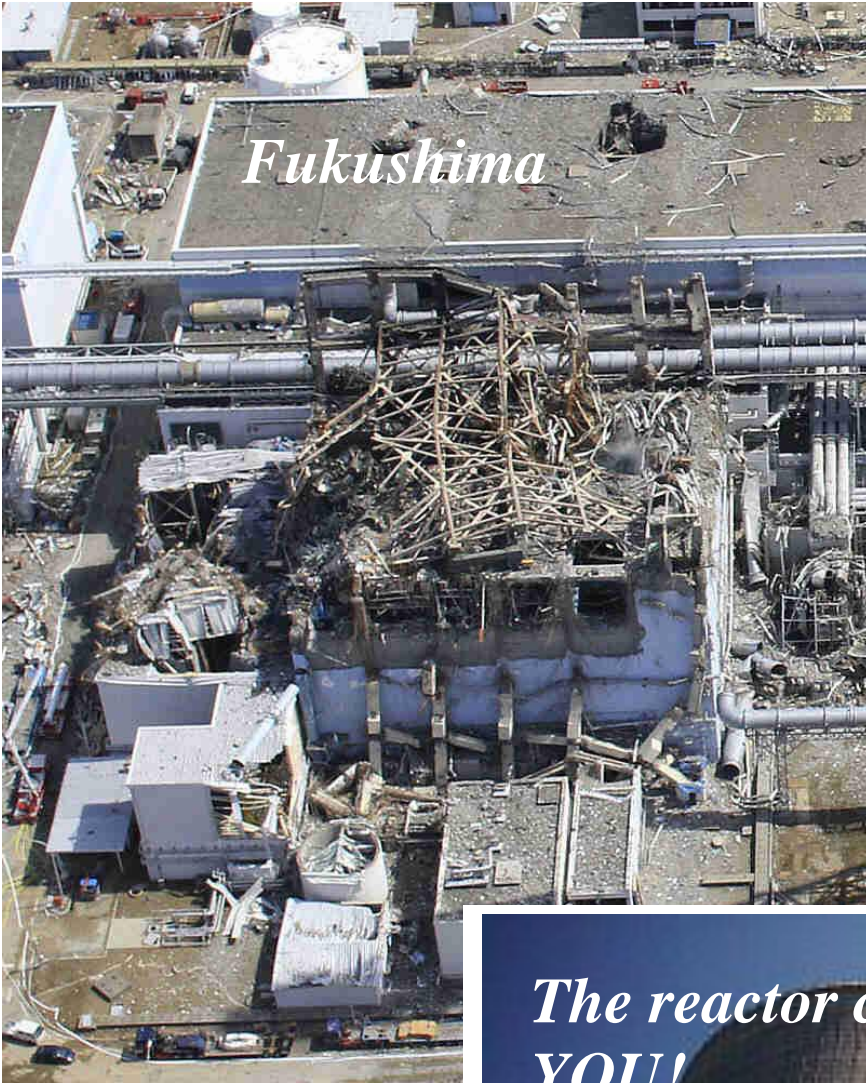
- Pursue the 2.206 petition with the NRC that would close the 23 Fukushima-type reactors currently operating in the U.S. – 4 in Illinois.
- Monitor and oppose NPDES water use variances at Illinois reactors.
- Oppose the Byron and Braidwood 20-year reactor license extensions.
- Oppose recommendations 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 increase collaboration with Chicago Clean Power Coalition, 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 Illinois “messaging” campaign.
- Establish Illinois Sierra Club Nuclear Free Working Group.

## *Simple ways to support NEIS....*

- “***Searching***” for safe-energy: make “***GoodSearch***” searches using GoodSearch, a Yahoo-based search good as Google, and earns us 1-cent per search. If a year they would cover more than one month’s rent. make “Nuclear Energy Information Service” your s
- ***If you shop online....*** Shop for NEIS at no cost to y order books, DVDs, airfares, gifts, magazines etc. o donations at no cost to you! **Sign-up and use iGive** Your first use online gets us a \$5 donation, plus the – if you’re not shopping for us, you’re shopping for your online shopping today!
- ***Workplace giving....*** NEIS is a member of **EarthShare** EarthShare gets donations for member groups from up to make these voluntary contributions. Talk to y payroll deduction program, and if NEIS can get Ear welcome being enrolled in any corporate matching-



***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?***