

New for 2005, and you're invited!...

## NEIS 2005 "KNOW NUKES" SERIES

The "Know Nukes" presentation series is an ongoing series of educational events hosted by Nuclear Energy Information Service of Evanston, IL, to inform the public about the ongoing hazards from nuclear power, radioactive wastes and the nuclear industry. Unless stated otherwise, the events will take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month, from 7-9 p.m., at the NEIS Conference Room, 845 Chicago Avenue, in Evanston. The format will usually consist of a video or live presenter on a specific topic, followed by a discussion, and an immediate opportunity to take immediate action on the topic presented. Unless stated otherwise the event will be free of charge; voluntary contributions are appreciated, and educational materials will be available for sale. Light refreshments will be served.

The unifying theme for the 2005 series is: ***"Fighting Back: Resisting 'Nuclear Renaissance' Plans for a More-Irradiated World."***

For the past two years the Nuclear Industry and its friends in the Corporate Media have been claiming the dawn of a "nuclear renaissance," a day when nuclear power plants will again be ordered and built in the US and elsewhere. The effects of this plan go far beyond the mere generation of more electricity. Every aspect of the nuclear industry and fuel cycle is affected by this planned expansion; and all result in the increased irradiation of the workforce, the public and the environment as an inevitable by-product of such industry expansion. We see ample evidence of this planned expansion in many diverse arenas already: the push for discredited food irradiation; re-manufacture of consumer products using previously irradiated materials; the constant erosion of radiation exposure and nuclear plant operation standards and regulations; the re-vitalization of the discredited "hormesis" theory of radiation exposure; plans to condone disposal of high-level radioactive wastes at an already discredited, faulty, and (some say) illegal site at Yucca Mt., NV; the increased acceptance and use of "depleted uranium" and other non-fissile radiologic weapons on foreign battlefields; and finally, plans both to build new reactors and to extend the operating licenses of the old ones, in spite of the threats posed by the post-9/11 world. Every aspect of human life and experience is therefore touched by these plans, all of which call for an inevitable increase in exposure to ionizing radiation, either "knowingly" (through routine operations and "allowable" releases of radioactive contaminants); or "unintentionally" (either through literal accidents, incompetence, or nuclear terrorism).



The purpose of this series is to: 1.) provide educational opportunities for members and the general public; 2.) provide immediate opportunities for people to take effective action on these topics, or get personally involved with NEIS and other environmental advocates.

A properly informed and politically empowered public would not rationally choose to be subjected to this level of radiation abuse. It is NEIS' purpose to inform and empower the public to act in their own self-interest, and resist the increased irradiation of the world.

## NEIS 2005 "KNOW NUKES" SERIES

(dates and topics subject to change, check with NEIS office and website for current information)

### **1.) Nukes 102 – More Than You Probably Wanted to Know about Nuclear Power, but, It's Still Important**

*Date: January 20, 2005; Proposed speaker/video: a call-in Q&A session, featuring NEIS director, Dave Kraft; Location: NEIS office, Evanston.*

*Description:* So, you know a little bit about nuclear power, and would like to know a little more? Want a little more technical info to feel more secure talking about the subject? This is your session. Handled largely in a Q&A format, with a short intro, NEIS Director Dave Kraft will take the participant through topics such as "The Seven Deadly Nuclear Myths," important current issues, and a detailed look at the so-called "nuclear renaissance." No previous experience with nuclear power needed to follow the discussion; yet a more detailed presentation can be expected.

### **2.) Medical Consequences of a Major Nuclear Accident**

*Date: February 10, 2005; Proposed speaker/video: Dr. Andy Kanter Chicago Physicians for Social Responsibility; Location: : NEIS office, Evanston*

*Description:* What would be the medical and health consequences of a major nuclear accident – accidental or planned -- near Chicago? The renown organization Physicians for Social Responsibility – and NEIS -- takes the question seriously, and PSR has "done the math" to answer the question. Based on most current data available from the federal regulators, Chicago PSR director Dr. Andy Kanter will walk listeners through the consequences of a major accident at the Dresden nuclear station 55 miles SW of Chicago. Similar analyses are being done for the other six Illinois reactor sites, as well as those across Lake Michigan in Michigan.

### **3.) The Non-Nuclear Energy Future: The Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard**

*Date: March 10, 2005; Invited speaker: a representative from ELPC and/or the Illinois Renewable Energy Association, and Brandon Leavitt, Solar Designs; Location: TBA in Chicago*

*Description:* Technology is no longer a barrier to a sustainable energy future without nuclear power. However, politics is. Join the discussion about future of renewable energy in Illinois' in the age of utility deregulation, nuclear utility giant Exelon's political manipulations, and the Bush Administration's National Energy "Tragedy" (they will call it a "Strategy"). Even the electorates of conservative states have enacted "renewable energy portfolio standards." Will Illinois join them this year in dedicating a portion of our future electricity consumption to renewable energy resources like wind and solar? What is necessary to make this happen?

### **4.) Why "Know Nukes" Should Mean "No Nukes!": Defeating the "Nuclear Renaissance"**

*Date: April 14, 2005; Proposed speaker/video: Sandra Lindberg, No New Nukes, IL; conference call-in from NEIS Director Dave Kraft; video: NEIS and the New Activism (10 min.); Location: NEIS office, Evanston*

*Description:* The camel's nose is under the tent: in April, 2004, the nuclear industry announced a new consortium to get at least one new nuclear reactor built and operating in the US in the next 10 years, and their friends in the Bush Administration and Congress seem eager to help. In Illinois nuclear utility giant Exelon (nee Unicom, nee Com-Ed) have announced interest in a new nuclear plant at the site of the Clinton-1 reactor, near Bloomington, IL. They are also interested in extending the operating licenses of their older decrepit Dresden and Quad Cities plants. At the same time, Exelon has actively worked against renewable energy portfolio standards locally and nationally. The implication is clear: if nuclear power continues, there will be no room for a renewable energy future. Come meet the activists who intend to stop the "nuclear renaissance" (or "relapse") proposed for Illinois.

### **5.) G-I-G-O: Why Current Radiation Standards Don't Protect the Public**

*Date: May 12, 2005; Proposed speaker/video: DVD footage of Dr. Chris Busby of the European Committee on Radiation Risk; and materials from Solange Fernex, former member of the European Parliament and current president of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, France; Location: NEIS office, Evanston*

*Description:* "GIGO" – the computer term meaning, "garbage in, garbage out," seems appropriate to describe the current radiation standards used by the various national and international agencies to determine "how much radiation exposure is too much" for the public and the environment. Faulty assumptions, outdated understandings, and the power of the vested interests have conspired to set the current standards too low to adequately protect the public – at a time when some parts of the nuclear industry would like to set the standards for "allowable doses" even higher. A precursor event for the "Citizen Epidemiology Conference" scheduled this month in the Chicago area.

### **6.) Watchdogs Without Teeth: Regulators Who Won't Regulate**

*Date: June 9, 2005; Proposed speaker/video: safety-advocate/whistle-blower Oscar Shirani; WTTW-Channel 11 video segment by Elizabeth Brackett featuring Shirani; Location: NEIS office, Evanston*

*Description:* The federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission is the federal agency responsible for protecting the public from radiation hazards. However, according to safety-advocate turned whistle-blower Oscar Shirani, the agency

frequently works for the benefit of the nuclear industry, ignoring its Congressional mandate. It provides the public with the illusion of safety, without the substance. Mr. Shirani's story is Illinois' most recent version of those many conscientious engineers and inspectors who did their jobs, followed the regulations, and then were severely punished for their ethical behavior by the agency that should have supported them, and the industry that hired them.

### **7.) You Can't "Nuke" Global Warming – Why Nuclear Power Cannot Mitigate Global Warming Effects**

*Date: July 17, 2005; Proposed speaker/video: TBA; Location: TBD*

*Description:* The nuclear industry has long claimed that it is the energy resource of choice to help in the fight against global warming. As usual, the numbers and the facts don't support this claim. This session will provide the rationale and the stats to demonstrate that attempting to eliminate one dangerous energy resource which contributes heavily to global warming (coal and fossil fuel use to produce electricity) with another dangerous and more expensive energy resource (nuclear power) is like taking crack cocaine and heroin to get of of your ethadone habit.

### **8.) SPECIAL EVENT: The Effects of the Nuclear Age on Society – A Critical Analysis**

*Date: August, 2005; proposed speakers/program: TBD (proposed: Mordechai Vanunu, Israeli whistle-blower and activist; Fr. Gustavo Guitierrez, University of Notre Dame; Marc Ellis; Rosemary Reuther; author Peter Taback; Germaine Greer; others TBA); Location: TBD (proposed for the University of Chicago Campus)*

*Description:* A series of events coupled with a 2-day conference held in Chicago, proposed for the University of Chicago, during the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings. Experts from various disciplines will provide their views on the effects of nuclear power and weapons on society. Discussion and planning for ways to halt the proposed "Nuclear Renaissance" and the continuation of the nuclear age will be facilitated. Speakers and video presentations are planned, with an event at the Henry Moore Sculpture of Atomic Power planned.

### **9.) Depleted Uranium and Uranium Weapons: Condoning "Limited" Nuclear Warfare**

*Date: September 8, 2005; Proposed speaker/video: video – "The Doctor, the Depleted Uranium and the Dying Children" (53 min.); guests: Robert Cleland, NSPI, and Marion K pker, GAAA, Germany, via conference phone call; Location: NEIS office, Evanston*

*Description:* The use of "depleted uranium" (DU) and suspected use of other uranium weapons in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Balkans have resulted in a radioactive contamination nightmare not only for the local populations, but for the military personnel assigned to those contaminated regions. It also has blurred the distinction between so-called "conventional" warfare, and "nuclear warfare," sans mushroom clouds. Critics argue that the development and use of these weapons constitute war crimes. Yet, the US government is seemingly eager to produce – and use – the "next generation" of such radiologic weapons. Copies of the Conference Proceedings from the World DU/Uranium Weapons Conference (held in Hamburg, Germany in October, 2003) will be available for purchase. Wonder weapons, or war crimes? Come and decide!

### **10.) Three Mile Island – the Accident Continues**

*Date: Oct. 20, 2005; Proposed speaker/video: Activist Mary Osborne, resident of TMI, and her slide show; Location: TBD*

*Description:* The Three Mile Island accident occurred 26 years ago this month; yet, for many, the accident continues to this day. Noted activist Mary Osborne brings her acclaimed slide presentation to Chicago, documenting the effects never acknowledged by the nuclear industry or the government of the worst nuclear accident in US history.

### **11.) The Food Irradiation Boondoggle**

*Date: Nov. 10, 2005; Proposed speaker/video: activists Mark Armantrout, Robert Cleland; Location TBD*

*Description:* Before shopping for that Thanksgiving feast, a word of caution may be in order. Nuclear advocates sell food irradiation as a means of protecting the public from bacterial and viral infections from contaminated meat products. Food irradiation facilities are being planned all over the US, including new ones on the Chicago area. Yet, critics point out that the process is only marginally effective, and that improved inspections and enforcing current regulations are better, more thorough and more cost-effective ways of protecting the public.

### **12.) Linguistic Detoxification – Transforming Radioactive Waste into Consumer Products, for Fun and Profit**

*Date: Dec. 8, 2005; Proposed speaker/video: Diane D'Arrigo, Nuclear Information and Resource Service, Washington, D.C. ; Location TBA.*

*Description:* Five times in the last 14 years, the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission – the federal agency responsible for protecting the public from radiation hazards – has advocated declassifying certain forms of radioactive wastes so they can be released for "unrestricted use" in the manufacture of commercial products, such as housewares, toys, autos, jewelry and more. If these plans succeed, the NRC will allow the nuclear industry to "put a little more glow" in the gifts purchased this and future holiday seasons.

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*NEIS, P.O. Box 1637, Evanston, IL 60204*

- *Make checks payable to “NEIS” marked “know nukes series” in memo field*
- *VISA/MasterCard accepted*

### *Expected exposure levels:*

- *expected brochure run of approx. 3,000 throughout the course of 2005 (more if requested by supporters), updated to reflect new supporters*
- *electronic links to the NEIS website from our promotions on IndyMedia Chicago, the New World Resource Center e-events list, and other electronic formats (provide us with your URL, and an e-file with your logo, etc.!).*

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