

BEST/MATRR 2014 Actions

- Jan. 14 NRC Commissioner Ostendorff requested a meeting with Garry Morgan and Gretel Johnston of BEST/MATRR at the Sequoyah Nuclear Power Plant. Lou Zeller and Sandy Kurtz of BREDL also attended this important meeting. Commissioner Ostendorff submitted Garry's paper to OIG as historically significant.
- Jan. 18 Gretel Johnston attended the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League's quarterly Board Meeting in Greensboro, N.C. (an 8 hour drive) on her way to Washington, D.C. She presented the year's BEST/MATRR achievements and the coming year's plans and campaigns, and received a unanimous vote of approval from the BREDL Board to pursue an NRC Petition and our campaign to Make Radiation Visible.
- Jan. 23-24 Gretel Johnston joined the CAN/ROSE Committee in Washington, DC for sit-down meetings with three more NRC Commissioners, with four EPA Radiological Directors overseeing radiation protection, and with key Senate Environmental Committee Senior staffers. The CAN/ROSE Committee of seven nuclear activists teleconferenced for months discussing various nuclear issues, then chose two topics to present in DC, which were:
- 1) Physicist Marvin Resnikoff's concerns about High Burn-up Fuel Storage and Transportation, and
 - 2) Steps to MAKE RADIATION VISIBLE that Gretel had developed into a national campaign.
- (Note: Jan. 21 - Gretel wrote Press Release for CAN/ROSE Committee.)
- Feb. 21 - BEST/MATRR Report to Members sent via email, "Upcoming Events & Report on 2013"
- Feb. 22 - Community Monitoring Workshop - Rendezvous for Action Hands-on All-day Training in Radiation Monitoring given by Garry Morgan (BEST/MATRR) and Lou Zeller (BREDL) at University of Tennessee in Chattanooga. Attended by Dave Lochbaum, Union of Concerned Scientists, Director of Nuclear Safety, among other concerned, active citizens.
- Feb. 2-25 - Gretel wrote followup letters for the CAN/ROSE Committee to NRC Chairman McFarlane, NRC Commissioner Magwood, NRC Commissioner Apostolakis, EPA Radiological Directors Mike Flynn and Jon Edwards, David Berick (Chief Investigator, U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and

Natural Resources), Jacob Smith (Energy and Environment Policy Advisor for Senate Committee Member Bernie Sanders), and Michal Freedhoff (Head Staffer, U.S. Committee on Environment and Public Works, and Chief of Staff for Senate Committee Chair Barbara Boxer and Member Ed Markey).

- March 8 - Gretel & Garry were invited to give a presentation and participate in a panel on water pollution in our rivers at the Annual Alabama Water Rally in Montgomery, AL. This also provided an opportunity for the 1st public presentation of the MAKE RADIATION VISIBLE and ours was one of the most popular presentations during the weekend event, receiving much positive feedback about the MAKE RADIATION VISIBLE petition.
- March 24 - Energy Efficiency Fact Sheet (12 pages) written by Gretel for the public.
- March 26 - Garry & Gretel attended and asked questions at a Public Meeting when TVA presented the goals of TVA's new work on a long-range Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). Gretel presented formal comments (in letter form) to the Project Manager, which made specific recommendations for TVA's IRP using information from the Energy Efficiency Fact Sheet.
- March 29 - Garry Morgan quote in Chattanooga Press cautioned about short term jobs constructing nuclear power plants that leave a legacy of nuclear waste.
- April 9 - BEST/MATRR and SACE raise questions about non-nuclear approved parts usage and NRC's inspection role at the Annual Watts Bar 2 Nuclear Plant Inspection Meeting. BEST/MATRR Video: <http://youtu.be/-yhPd18Gi4>
- May 8 - Gretel spoke at the TVA Board Meeting and presented the Directors with a (14 page) documented letter calling on the TVA to "Lead the Nation Towards Energy Independence".
- May 20 - Garry spoke and presented to the NRC and TVA important issues at the public Browns Ferry Annual Safety Meeting. Issues included antiquated parts and resultant, repeated power supply failures. Mr. Morgan outlined the 25 serious problems identified in a 2010 Institute fo Nuclear Power Operations (INPO) report on Browns Ferry, and asked if any of them had been fixed. He pointed out that a later peer-review report on Browns Ferry by the World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO) in 2013 would verify progress on the issues reported in the 2010 INPO report, and asked for access to read the non-profit organization's WANO report.
- June 14 - BEST/MATRR Annual Members Meeting

Garry Morgan gave a presentation on radiation monitoring and Gretel Johnston presented the campaign to MAKE RADIATION VISIBLE. David Lochbaum of the Union of Concerned Scientists presented a paper on Tritium emissions from Sequoyah and Browns Ferry that he had done as a gift to our group. There were lively discussions about nuclear issues and on our goals for the coming year, and members voted on officers: Stewart Horn was voted President for a second term, Gretel Johnston was voted Vice-President and Secretary, and Garry Morgan was voted BEST/MATRR Treasurer.

- July 19 - Comments submitted (11 pages) in protest against EPA's Proposed Rulemaking which would weaken Protective Action Guides, hugely increasing doses of public exposure to radionuclide contaminated water, and calling on the EPA to reexamine its dosage models and to use real data via real-time monitoring rather than theoretical models to determine dose limits for nuclear workers and the U.S. public and environment.
- August 21 - Spoke and sent letter to TVA Board of Directors regarding their choices as Directors, including their vote to reduce spending on Energy Efficiency programs by 25%. They were reminded that Energy Efficiency is seven times more cost-effective than nuclear power; therefore they were voting to abandon their mission to benefit the people of the valley and instead voted to continue to raise customers' electric bills to pay for nuclear, rather than saving valley residents money, improving their homes, buildings and factories, and creating more jobs with Energy Efficiency and CHP Co-Generation.
- Sept. 17 - Spoke at Public Meeting regarding the Sequoyah Nuclear Power Plant (SQN) License Extension and the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). We once again point out flaws in the process and specific reasons the SQN Reactors Operating License should not be extended 50% beyond its design-basis life span.
- Sept. 21 - Comments spoken and submitted (5 pages) at Public Meeting with the Department of Energy / National Nuclear Security Administration (DOE/ NNSA) regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) for Tritium Production in Tennessee (at commercial TVA nuclear power plants to produce Tritium for nuclear weapons).
- Sept. 26 - BEST/MATRR Stewart Horn and Garry Morgan both submitted interviews (after the EPA again cancelled a public meeting) regarding the Superfund Site contaminating the African-American community of Triana on the Tennessee River with DDT and other highly toxic chemicals.

Sept 29 - Formal Comments submitted (12 pages) protesting the Sequoyah Nuclear Power Plant (SQN) License Extension and the 3rd Version (and 3rd submission from us) of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). We once again point out flaws in the process and specific reasons the SQN Reactors Operating License should not be extended 50% beyond its design-basis life span.

October 17-19 - Gretel was invited to give a 45 minute PowerPoint presentation during the Annual APIEL Conference for Environmental Lawyers on Radioactive Emissions & Health Hazards Near Nuclear Plants. The 3 day conference was held at the University of Tennessee College of Law in Knoxville.

Nov. 6 - Spoke and presented TVA Board of Directors a short but pointed questioning of their motives in continuing to pursue nuclear power, despite the economic and environmental risks to their corporation and the people of the Tennessee Valley.

Dec 15 - Formal Comments on EPA Clean Power Act submitted (12 pages) by Gretel.

Dec. 27 - Fact Sheet on Yucca Mountain History (10 pages) written by Garry Morgan.