

Speaker Bios:

Kevin Kamps has served as a radioactive waste watchdog for 25 years. As a nuclear waste specialist at Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS; 1999-2006) and Beyond Nuclear (2006 to present), Kamps has helped lead national environmental justice campaigns against the Yucca Mountain, Nevada permanent burial dump (targeted at Western Shoshone Indian sacred treaty land), as well as “centralized interim storage facilities” for high-level radioactive waste. As a board member of Don’t Waste Michigan and a member of Nuclear-Free/Green Energy Great Lakes Task Force, Kamps has helped lead the 16-year fight against a large-scale radioactive waste dump targeted at Saugeen Ojibwe Nation territory on the Canadian shoreline of the Great Lakes. In addition to radioactive racism, a focus of Kamps’ work has been on “Mobile Chernobyl” -- risks related to transporting radioactive waste by road, rail, and/or waterway across the country.

Rose Gardner is a lifelong resident of Eunice, New Mexico. She owns the flower shop Desert Rose Flowers and Gifts, and is currently a caregiver to her 22- month old twin great-nephews named Grayson and Brooks. Rose is a religious education teacher for 2nd and 3rd graders. She became active in environmental activism when Louisiana Energy Services applied for a license to enrich uranium with gas centrifuges for nuclear fuel rod production – only 5 miles from her hometown. Waste Control Specialists, owner of a radioactive waste dump, is also located 5 miles from Eunice. These facilities, as well as a proposed Centralized Interim Storage site for nuclear waste in Andrews County, Texas, are encroaching on the town of Eunice’s 2,800 residents. Rose speaks out about the vulnerabilities of her small desert community due to private and government radioactive waste dumps.

Deb Katz is the Executive Director of Citizens Action Network (CAN). She is a grandmother, social worker and community organizer living in Rowe, MA. CAN was instrumental in the closure of four New England nuclear reactors, including Vermont Yankee. The organization intervened in the decommissioning of the Yankee Rowe and CT Yankee reactors and won a lawsuit against the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the illegal decommissioning of the Rowe reactor. The group also won a lawsuit against Boston Edison in its attempt to transfer its high-level waste to the Skull Valley Goshute Reservation in Utah. Katz has traveled the country participating in nuclear waste tours in Utah, Nevada, and South Carolina to educate communities about environmental justice issues inherent in disposal of nuclear waste. She was instrumental in the creation of a Citizens Advisory Panel for the decommissioning of Vermont Yankee. The MA House of Representatives recently cited her for outstanding leadership and service in the public health field.