



NUCLEAR INFORMATION AND RESOURCE SERVICE

6930 Carroll Avenue, Suite 340, Takoma Park, MD 20912

301-270-NIRS (301-270-6477); Fax: 301-270-4291

nirsnet@nirs.org; www.nirs.org

NEWS FROM NIRS

For Immediate Release
December 5, 2013

Contact: Michael Mariotte or Tim Judson
301-270-6477, mobile: 301-325-8014

Michael Mariotte to resign as NIRS' Executive Director January 1, 2014; will remain at NIRS as President

Tim Judson to be named Acting Executive Director

In a letter to NIRS 30,000+ members and supporters today, NIRS' executive director Michael Mariotte announced that he will be resigning that position on January 1, 2014. The NIRS board of Directors named Tim Judson, currently the organization's Associate Director, as Acting Executive Director as of that date.

Mariotte said he will stay on full-time in the newly-created position of President of NIRS, providing strategic and tactical advice on both program and organizational issues, expanding NIRS' outreach capabilities and internet presence, and starting a new blog on nuclear power and sustainable energy issues.

In his letter, Mariotte disclosed that he underwent surgery in January 2013 for pancreatic cancer and has been receiving further treatment since.

Judson was hired as Associate Director in September 2013, following a six-month search conducted by NIRS. He is also chairman of the board of the New England-based Citizens Awareness Network, which was a key player in the successful, decades-long effort to close the Vermont Yankee reactor.

Wrote Mariotte, "I've known Tim for about 15 years as a dedicated and effective activist and I knew he would bring those traits to NIRS. But what has impressed me most working with him full-time is his clear-headed, strategic thinking; his prodigious productivity; and his eagerness to learn and delve into the myriad of details--administrative, financial and program-related--essential to running a national organization like NIRS.

Mariotte also wrote about the amazing opportunities for NIRS and the movement for a nuclear-free, carbon-free future in 2014: “I’ve been talking and writing a lot lately about how excited I am about the incredible opportunities 2014 pose for our movement. Over the past 10 months, we’ve seen announcements of five permanent reactor shutdowns, cancellation of eight proposed new reactors, and even abandonment of five proposed power uprates for existing reactors. That’s real progress.

“And I’m still excited about the opportunities before us. A number of other reactors--a pretty large number--are on the brink. With the type of concerted grassroots action we’ve seen the past several years, coupled with NIRS’ strategic and technical assistance and resources, we can start pushing these over the edge.

“Radioactive waste policy is in complete disarray. Our expertise and long-time leadership in this arena are essential in helping direct the debate over radioactive waste away from what is best for nuclear utilities and toward what is best for the American people.

“Gains, both economically and technologically, are occurring so quickly in safe, clean renewable energy, distributed generation and energy efficiency that it is no longer a question of whether these 21st century technologies can replace nuclear power and fossil fuels; the question is when. And that is increasingly a political, rather than technical, issue.

“In short, 2014 can be even better than 2013 in the ongoing campaign to create the nuclear-free, carbon-free energy system our nation and planet need and deserve.”

Chris Williams, chair of NIRS Board of Directors, said, “I have had the pleasure of working closely with both Tim and Michael for many years. I can honestly say that NIRS, and the movement as a whole, has been fortunate to have Michael’s brilliant, visionary leadership for many years, and we are so glad to have him continue in his new role as President. Having been an Executive Director myself, as well as an organizer and campaigner on nuclear power and safe energy issues for over 30 years, we couldn’t hope to have someone better qualified than Tim to be taking the reins from Michael. The future of NIRS and the sustainable energy movement is all the brighter for it.”

Incoming executive director Tim Judson said, “When I began working on nuclear issues as a young activist sixteen years ago, NIRS was the first organization I and my community went to for information, advice, and help. I know first-hand the importance of the work NIRS does: we would have been lost without it. I could not be more excited to join NIRS now. We have an opportunity to phase out nuclear power and advance a sustainable energy agenda, like we never have before. I am incredibly grateful to Michael for his years of leadership at NIRS: the movement would not have this opportunity without it. And I am so proud to continue working alongside him in his new role, as well as the rest of our brilliant staff, as we move NIRS into the next generation of our work to end nuclear power, ensure responsible solutions to radioactive waste, and promote a sustainable energy future.”