



For Immediate Release

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**Georgia WAND to host Russian Chernobyl scientists to
address Japanese nuclear disaster and how it relates to new nuclear reactors
proposed in Georgia**

WHAT: Georgia WAND is hosting renowned Russian scientists and anti-nuclear activists Dr. Nataliya Mironova and Natalia Manzurova as part of their speaking-tour in the Southeast.

WHEN: Saturday, March 26, 2pm: - Mironova and Manzurova will address press and the community residents living near nuclear reactors at Plant Vogtle with a group discussion and time for individual media interviews to follow.

WHERE: Fairfield Missionary Baptist Church, 1582 Ben Hatcher, Waynesboro, GA 30830

WHY: Almost 25 years after the horrific Chernobyl disaster on April 26, 1986, Japan is facing a tragic nuclear crisis. Dr. Mironova has worked as an anti-nuclear activist and Manzurova was 'liquidator' sent in to clean up the Chernobyl site 25 years ago. Both have experienced firsthand the horrors of radiation contamination and will provide a valuable perspective on the situation in Japan as well as the nuclear activity taking place within our own community. Ground has been broken for two new reactors at Plant Vogtle, which will be the first built in the United States since Chernobyl. Mironova and Manzurova will discuss the health and safety implications of moving forward with the construction of those reactors.

WHO:

- Dr. Nataliya Mironova founded the Movement for Nuclear Safety and served as a Member of the Supreme Ecological Council of the Russian State Parliament from 1997 to 2006. In 2002, Nataliya won the Supreme Court case against the Government of Russia to stop the import of 370 tons of Hungarian spent fuel for storage and reprocessing in Russia. She has written several books and over 70 articles examining the roots of nuclear proliferation and the role of non-governmental organizations in abolishing nuclear weapons.

- Natalia Manzurova is a radiation ecology expert and led a team of clean-up “liquidators” following the Chernobyl catastrophe. She was an engineer at a nuclear facility in Russia until radiation sickness interrupted her work. A founder of Chernobyl Union support group for liquidators, she currently works with Planet of Hope advocating for people exposed to radiation, such as liquidators of radiation accidents and catastrophes, downwinders of nuclear weapons tests, people living in radiation areas, and nuclear workers.

Statements to the Press

“Fukushima exposed the inadequacy of measures against nuclear threats in the current social, technical and value-creation context. Fourteen nuclear power stations and the Rokkasho high-level radioactive waste reprocessing plant are located in the tsunami zone in Japan. They are all at risk of overheating and catastrophic radioactivity releases, with pollution of air, soil and water, food supplies, and all living beings, including humans,” Dr. Nataliya Mironova, founder of the Movement for Nuclear Safety said.

“We hope these courageous women will teach us about the human costs incurred by those living near or working in close proximity to nuclear reactors. As our country continues to prop up nuclear energy with billions of federal dollars in loan guarantees we need to ask the question: Are the risks worth it? And, if there are cleaner and safer alternatives, why aren’t we putting our money there?” Bobbie Paul, Executive Director of Georgia WAND said.