

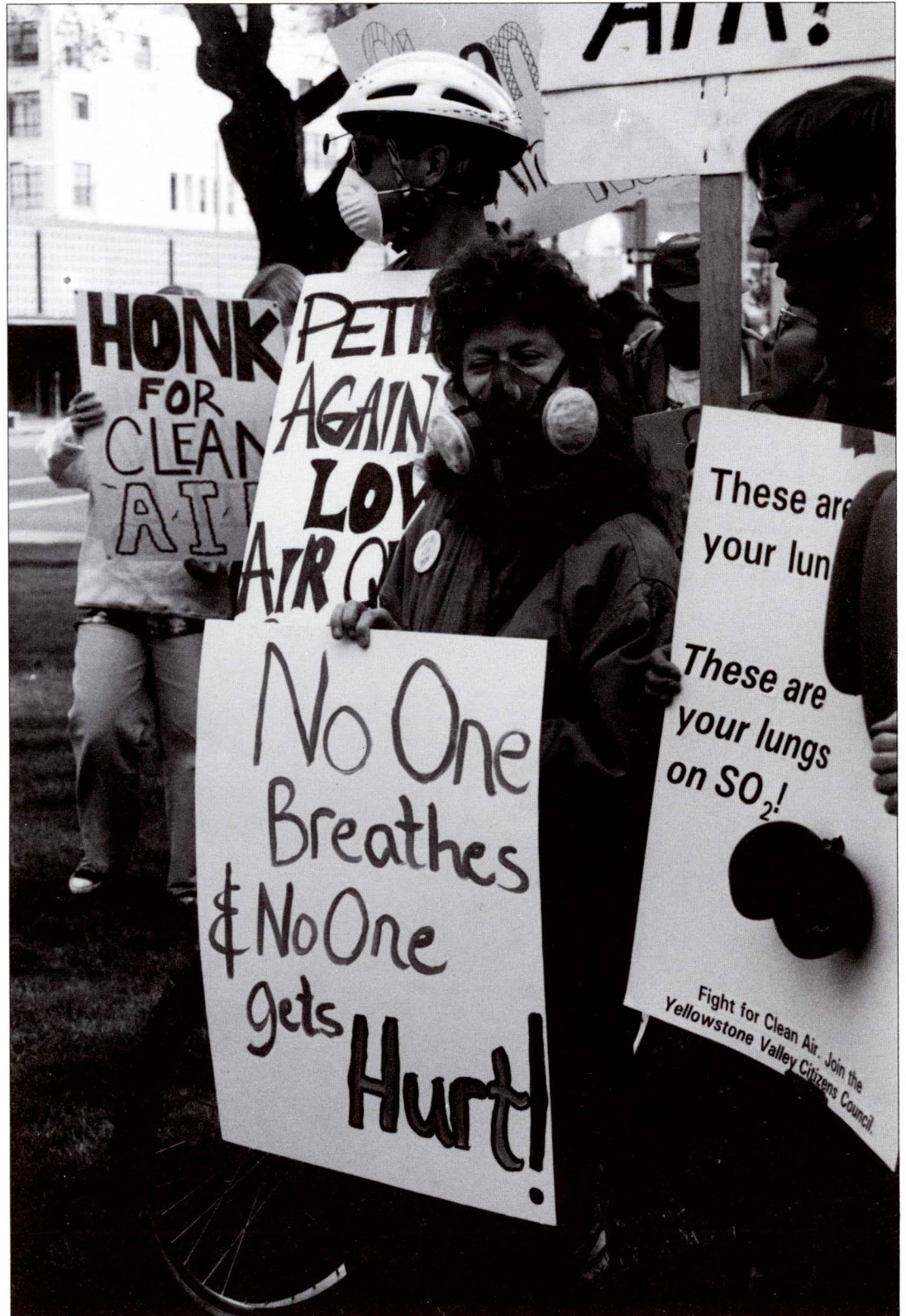
# EVERYONE'S BACKYARD

Vol. 13, No. 3 ❖ \$3.00

THE POLITICS OF  
DIOXIN

TAKING ON THE  
U.S. ARMY

PAPER MILLS IN  
MAINE AND  
CEMENT KILNS  
IN MICHIGAN:  
COMMUNITIES  
ORGANIZE TO  
FIGHT BACK



THE JOURNAL OF THE GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE  
CITIZENS CLEARINGHOUSE FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE

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As those of you who have called the CCHW office in the past few months know, we have been quite busy turning into a book the discussions and strategies debated by 40 leaders at the CCHW Dioxin Roundtable, held in late April. *Dying From Dioxin: A Citizen's Guide To Reclaiming Our Health and Rebuilding Democracy* will be published this fall.

Excitement and energy are developing around the dioxin issue. But it won't be easy building dioxin coalitions. Bringing together people who have a common goal but have historically not worked together is a huge challenge.

Yet this collaborative work is vital to our success. Imagine for a moment workers, environmental activists, health advocates, homemakers, farmers and others sitting at the same table to talk about a single issue and goal. As the group pursues this single goal, leaders begin to develop personal relationships, talk about politics and other issues, and begin to discuss what they might collectively work on next. You don't have to reach far into your imagination to picture such collaboration. One such effort is underway right now in Montana.

In May CCHW was invited to assist in building a coalition effort in Missoula, Montana. I visited there to work with the Coalition for Health, Environmental and Economic Rights (CHEER) which came together to educate the public about the serious threats of dioxin in their valley. This newly formed coalition is working to persuade Stone Container, a pulp and paper corporation, to stop bleaching their cardboard food packaging products.

CHEER faces the challenge of developing a campaign that is worker friendly in a state where the Wise Use "movement" has a strong presence. How do leaders talk to ranchers who might have in the past opposed them on other environmental issues, but who now can see a direct self interest in stopping dioxin emissions? Cattle and other livestock are primary carriers of dioxin from the air, water and soil to our supper tables. Real estate agents were also discussed as necessary allies.

We spent an entire morning discussing how to approach these groups, and move beyond past hostilities between groups. We outlined a step by step plan. Many of the CHEER members were nervous about approaching these unfamiliar groups, but they soon put their fears aside and began their work.

Because CHEER is concerned with economic issues as well as environmental ones, they began with worker concerns. CHEER designed a petition that addressed job protection in addition to public health and workers' health concerns. The group did not ask that the plant be closed. Instead, leaders discussed phasing out existing pollution and pushing for process changes that would retain existing jobs while making them healthier for the workers and the community.

Stone Container also recognized the promise of the coalition. Management quickly moved to stir up fears within the workforce, saying that without bleached cardboard they would be out of business. Their customers, management said, demand white cardboard. This is not the first time a corporation has used their customers as the excuse to continue polluting. In 1987, McDonald's said exactly the same thing when activists nationwide demanded they phase out styrofoam packaging.

Stone Container's fear campaign has, for now, opened a gap between CHEER and the workers; but the group has not quit. The leaders of the group believe this coalition can be built, and recognize the workers need to be important partners in the coalition.

Coalition building can be agonizing work, but if we are to stop dioxin exposures and take back control of our communities, our coalitions must include as many partners as possible. Like CHEER we need to try again when our first attempts don't work. We need to be aware of and prepared for the corporation's ability to use job blackmail to keep workers and community activists apart.

In this issue of *Everyone's Backyard*, we feature two stories of union struggle with corporate polluters. Although both plants end up losing their union representation, community organizing to keep the polluters in check continues on, with several successes. It should come as no surprise that corporate polluters don't want their workforce organized, just as they prefer communities to remain unorganized. Unions have the longest history of struggle for justice against corporate power. This is one more reason why unions must be at the table in your Stop Dioxin Exposure Coalition. As Ralph Chaplin reminds us in the song, *Solidarity Forever*, "...we can break their haughty power, gain our freedom when we learn that the union makes us strong."



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*Everyone's Backyard* is published quarterly by Citizens Clearinghouse for Hazardous Waste, Inc. Printed by Ecoprint of Silver Spring, Maryland on 100% recycled, non-chlorine rebleached paper, using low-VOC soybean inks.

# EVERYONE'S BACKYARD

Vol. 13, No. 3 ❖ Summer 1995 ❖ \$3.00

## WHO WE ARE

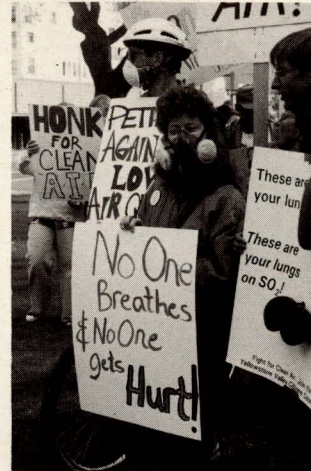
Citizens Clearinghouse For Hazardous Waste is a fourteen-year-old Environmental Justice Center working with a network of over 7,000 local grassroots groups. We were formed to help people win cleanup of contaminated sites and to prevent new sources of contamination. Over the years, our work has grown to include helping people deal with everything from chemical plants to radioactive waste to recycling.

Our mission is to assist people in building strong, community-based organizations that can fight against corporate polluters and unresponsive government agencies. We provide organizing, training and technical assistance over the phone, by visiting sites, and through our 60+ manuals and handbooks.

This journal is compiled with the help of hundreds of local activists who keep us informed about what is happening in their area. We can use your help too. Send us articles and news clips about your group or other grassroots success stories in your area.



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Yellowstone Valley Citizens Council members held their second annual Rally for Clean Air in downtown Billings. Over 125 people turned out to continue the fight to eliminate a state law that allows Yellowstone County to have dirtier air than the rest of the state. Photo courtesy of Northern Plains Resource Council.

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by JOHN C. PRUDEN

# NO DARKER NIGHT THAN THIS

HOW ALPENA, MICHIGAN, BECAME ONE OF THE LARGEST HAZARDOUS  
WASTE DISPOSAL TERMINALS IN THE MIDWEST

The birth of the cement industry in Alpena, Michigan, was humble, coming at a time when wood was America's infrastructure "king." In 1899, Alpena grocer John Monaghan used his cookstove to come up with a mixture of blue-shale and limestone that would one

town on the shores of Lake Huron. By 1910 the Huron Portland cement company was solidly established with six kilns in place. A new king was now on the throne.

The company expanded to 24 cement producing kilns in the post- World War II boom. By 1957, when the business was acquired by National Gypsum, over 2,000 people worked at the plant, and plans were soon launched for even more growth. By the first six months of 1972 National Gypsum was posting record earnings.

1972 was also the year that the Michigan Air Pollution Control Commission slapped National Gypsum for releasing up to 200 tons of cement kiln dust per day into the air. This forced the company, in 1975, to enter into an air pollution abatement program that was financed by \$35 million in bonds issued by the County of Alpena.

With its pollution control requirements met, and a new labor contract being signed, the ensuing years should have been good ones for National Gypsum. But that's not what the workforce and the community were told. From 1978 to 1982 Alpena was shaken by rumors of jobs loss and company divestment.

In 1981, Local 135 of the United Steelworkers Union conceded \$3 million in benefits and wages to the company. Lay-offs began, cutting the work force from 1200 to around 900. Sometime in 1982, the "french guys," as the workers would call them, mysteriously began to pop up in various departments at the plant, studiously snooping around with



The stacks of the Lafarge plant tower over the city of Alpena. Photo by John Smigelski.

day become the "cadillac" of cements in North America.

With the collapse of the lumber industry three years before in 1896, local timber barons put their money behind the fledgling cement industry in this

clipboards in hand. No one really paid much notice.

In 1983 the industry rebounded with a 210% percent increase in earnings, but a new rumor — that National Gypsum wanted out of the cement business — stopped short any celebration in Alpena. The town was uneasy, but never believed National Gypsum would just close the mill. After all, for over 70 years Alpena had been a loyal, uncomplaining host, obligingly wiping away the layers of cement dust — “pay dirt” to the residents — from their homes and cars.

But the rumors persisted, and in 1984, the vulnerable Steelworkers were forced to give up another \$9 million in wages and benefits. Soon after, the “french guys” again became a part of the landscape.

In the spring of 1985, two National Gypsum plant managers invited several officers of the United Steelworkers to attend a “business” luncheon. The plant managers got straight to the point. If the Steelworkers would concede an additional four dollars an hour across the laborforce, there was a very good chance that Lafarge Coppee, the giant French-owned cement maker, would exercise their option to purchase the Alpena mills. The union officers were flabbergasted. In the past four years they had already given up more than \$12 million in concessions. It was a very short luncheon.

### TOXIC WASTE "SALVATION"

In the late fall of 1985, Dick Wysocki, full time United Steelworkers officer and chairman of the union's Grievance Committee, was pulled aside by National Gypsum's personnel manager. Wysocki was told of the company's plans to use hazardous waste as fuel in the cement kilns.

Wysocki was skeptical. The manager assured him that toxic waste burning would be the “salvation” of National Gypsum, bringing economic viability, and more importantly, protecting National Gypsum from being out-priced by “foreign” cement. Wysocki was given the charge of selling this idea to the Union Committee, whose job would then be to sell it to the membership because, the personnel manager warned, “it just can't happen without full union approval.”

Dick Wysocki did his job well, and in early 1986 the Committee accepted National Gypsum's waste-burning proposal. The company added one thing: “Keep this quiet and ‘below decks’ until we get our permits from the Department of Natural Resources...and instruct your membership to do the same...because if this gets around town, there will be people with gas masks demonstrating in front of the plant.”

The Union Committee agreed, and in the spring of 1986 National Gypsum received the permits and went on line to burn 56 million pounds of hazardous waste a year in their two largest kilns. But it wasn't long before the workers knew they'd made a big mis-

take. Soon after the waste-burning began, the relationship between the company and the union cooled. The company reneged on agreements to insure the health and safety of the workers. Ventilation wasn't installed and the stench of the waste was overpowering. An agreement to let union men test the waste and do stack monitoring was broken. Spills and dripping

“For over 70 years Alpena had been a loyal, uncomplaining host, obligingly wiping away the layers of cement dust — “pay dirt” to the residents — from their homes and cars.”

tanker-trucks were ignored. It became obvious that the company wasn't comfortable having union men work around the hazardous waste.

When Grievance Committee chairman Wysocki filed complaints about these conditions, the plant manager responded, “Don't complain because soon you'll reap the benefits of hazardous waste burning. You can ask for the moon in your next contract negotiations in '87. No more concessions, and by then we'll be making more money on the hazardous waste than on cement.”

Wysocki gave in, and the complaints were silenced. A few months later he was terminated, along with 900 other National Gypsum employees.

### THE COMPANY'S CHRISTMAS GIFT

Fred Baker was one of the 900. A job watchman and company clerk, Baker was staffing the gatehouse switchboard one afternoon in early December, 1986. The phone circuits were malfunctioning and it was impossible to transfer calls without being an inadvertent eavesdropper. After dark a call came in. It was from a National Gypsum attorney to a plant executive.

Fred Baker will never forget what he heard.

The executive asked the lawyer, “What's it look like?”

“These guys will buy whatever we throw at them” the lawyer replied.

The executive didn't hesitate, “Well, then f— them...we got them right by the balls.”

“What about the community?” begged the lawyer.

“F— the community, we got them by the balls too.”

Outside in the pitch-darkness, a nor'easter wailed

in from Thunder Bay, scouring cement dust from the haul-roads to obliterate what little light spilled from the windows of the old three-story raw-grind building. As Fred Baker lay down the phone, he knew that for Alpena, there would be no darker night than this.

Within hours, a conference-call came in from National Gypsum headquarters. The Alpena plant manager had a Christmas gift for the union membership — the plant was “going down.” In less than two weeks, two-thirds of the workforce would be terminated, with the remainder gone by the next week. The news hit like a concussion grenade.

Workers and townspeople could only cling to a single ray of hope. A “successor” clause in the Steelworker’s contract stated unequivocally that if the plant shut down, and was picked up within ninety days by another company, the purchaser would have to honor the prevailing union contract, and would be bound to restore the workforce in full, with all benefits intact. But, would there be a buyer?

Like water torture, the ninety days dripped away one by one as the city stood paralyzed. Eighty days...ninety days...over a hundred days. During this time the plant had been “embalmed” with three railroad carloads of anti-freeze; a gesture by National Gypsum to demonstrate the finality of their decision. Meanwhile, the “successor clause” flickered out as the plant sat idle.

### LAFARGE TAKES OVER

Just when it seemed the plant would remain closed, those “french guys,” the Lafarge Corporation, swashbuckled onto the scene. They announced to the community that they had “finally decided” to exercise their “option to buy” the plant, and save the dying king, along with the good City of Alpena.

But there were stipulations. No union, and a new and “more efficient” workforce. Instead of 900 laborers, a hand picked crew of 250, that would be trimmed to an eventual 150. Plus lots of automation, and a tripling of the amount of hazardous waste to be burned, to 168 million gallons a year. The union members and the city were at Lafarge’s mercy.

Lafarge took control, “hand-picking” the workforce from every township in the county; one here, one there, to build a broad, loyal constituency. Hard line, safety minded union members were excluded. Contrary to Lafarge’s public statements, the “most qualified” were not hired back. Pensions and insurance benefits became the fodder of endless litigation skirmishes. The town turned on itself. Divorces, suicides, houses for sale...welfare.

Lafarge quickly demonstrated the company “psychology” towards the environment. Orders came down for workers to “de-embalm” the plant — to empty the water-lines, full of three railroad cars worth

of anti-freeze, directly into Lake Huron. When the workers protested, they were told they could be replaced in a heartbeat. Without a union, they obeyed.

Hidden in the middle of this vortex of fear and despair lay the awful truth that the foreign-owned Lafarge Corporation, disguised as a cement mill, could become one of the largest hazardous waste incinerators in North America. There is no doubt among the majority of Alpena’s residents that this is precisely why Lafarge invested in the plant in the first place.

This is more than speculation. Citizen concern in Alpena mounted against the waste-burning. File searches by the local grassroots opposition, the Huron Environmental Activist League (HEAL), revealed that the Lafarge Corporation had in fact “owned” National Gypsum way back in 1985 through a “leveraged buyout.”

From within, the “french guys” coerced the union to sanction the waste-burning to “save” their jobs, and once the waste-burning was approved, orchestrated the “failure” and ultimate demise of National Gypsum, along with the people who worked there. But it was just another sign of the times. During those same years, over one million industrial workers lost their jobs, and tens of thousands of businesses closed across the U.S.

Through diligence and hard work, HEAL has stopped the expansion of the waste-burning to the remaining kilns. But in 23 other small, isolated communities in the U.S., “friendly” old cement companies are burning up to 70% of the country’s burnable hazardous waste, and doing it with minimal state and federal regulation and oversight. All but two or three of these companies are foreign-owned.

Today Lafarge and hazardous-waste burning is on the throne in Alpena, enjoying royal benefits, including the lion’s share of Alpena County’s tax abatements, a \$26 million state tax exemption, and millions of dollars in waste disposal revenues.

Those who lost their jobs and had lives interrupted have picked up and gone on. An honest, sturdy and patient people, they’ve seen industrial “kings” rise and fall, and realize better than most that a king can’t persist without loyalty. They understand that “king” Lafarge, a despotic aristocrat and vile deceiver, didn’t earn the throne, but filched it in the dead of night. In the countryside and on the city streets, the opposition to toxic waste burning at Lafarge grows. Those who Lafarge had no use for are coming together, and the sweet smell of revolution is in the air. □

*John C. Pruden is executive director of the Huron Environmental Activist League, and director of the National Citizens Alliance, a coalition of grassroots groups from communities where cement and aggregate kilns are burning hazardous waste.*

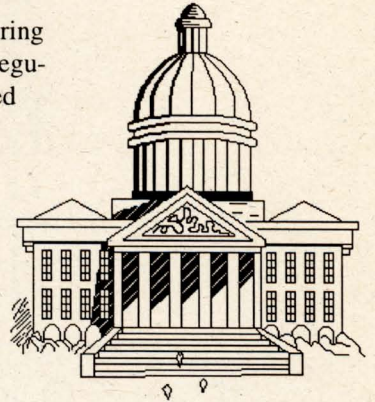
# WASHINGTON POLITICS

## THE DEVIL IS IN THE DETAILS

H.R. 2099, the U.S. House of Representatives approved appropriations package for the EPA and other federal agencies includes language that:

- ◆ **Stops** EPA from implementing a national primary drinking water standard for arsenic or radon and other radionuclei.
- ◆ **Prohibits** enforcement of many sections of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and the Clean Air Act
- ◆ **Forbids** enforcement of the Clean Air Act against any state involved in litigation of title V of that Act.
- ◆ **Prevents** the EPA from requiring any facility to submit Right-To-Know or TOSCA data that is not specifically spelled out in those laws including mass balance, materials accounting or other chemical use data.
- ◆ **Cripples** the EPA from being able to issue or enforce any standard for maximum achievable control technology (MACT) for hazardous waste combustion.

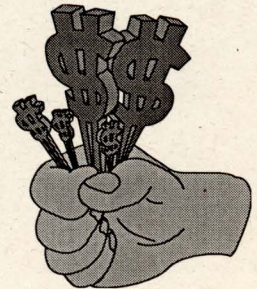
- ◆ **Stops** EPA from requiring the issuance of a food additive regulation for a pesticide in processed food where there is a tolerance established for the pesticide on the raw commodity or from revoking the tolerance for a pesticide on a raw commodity because a food additive regulation for the processed version cannot be issued or maintained.



- ◆ **And exempts** the Kalamazoo Water Reclamation Plant from pretreatment standards of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act if they receive an exemption from the state of Michigan.

The U.S. Senate still has the opportunity to kill these devils or add more. President Clinton has promised to veto this version of the bill but that doesn't mean that many or all of these Satans won't appear in the approved appropriations.

## RACIST EPA PLAN WILL ADD TO POISONING OF NATIVE PEOPLE, WHILE SAVING GENERAL MOTORS CLEAN UP MONEY



The residents of the St. Regis Mohawk community of Akwesasne are calling a U.S. Environmental Protection agency proposal racist and an act of environmental injustice. The EPA Region 2 proposal would weaken the clean-up plan for the General Motors Powertrain Plant in Massena, New York, by allowing an additional 171,000 cubic yards of toxic PCB waste to be dumped at the plant site which borders the St. Regis Mohawk community. The EPA proposal would raise the PCB threshold treatment level from 10 ppm to 500 ppm, even though 50 ppm of PCBs is considered hazardous waste.

The EPA and GM originally agreed that all sludge and soils contaminated with greater than 10 ppm PCBs would be treated in a cost effective process that would permanently destroy the PCBs. Now EPA is prepared to raise the PCB treatment level and waive Federal and State regulations regarding proper disposal of toxics. The proposed EPA changes would save GM \$15 million.

The St. Regis Mohawk nation governments and the grassroots community are working to stop the proposed changes. The St. Regis Mohawk demand a higher standard of

treatment and remediation of the PCBs.

This proposal by EPA provides a telling indicator of the unjust, polluting direction in which several environmental issues, debated nationally over the past few years, seems to be headed. The move to reform Superfund and "streamline" clean up could mean weakened standards, and higher levels of toxic chemicals in communities, such as the Mohawk community may face. This proposal flies in the face of rapidly increasing scientific evidence of the pervasive impacts of PCBs and other hormone disrupters. There is no evidence at all how this proposal is in compliance with President Clinton's executive order on environmental justice; or how this proposal conforms with Carol Browner's recent commitment to work with federally recognized tribes to enhance environmental protection and carry out EPA's responsibility to Indian reservations "to protect human health and the environment." For more information contact the St. Regis Environmental Department, (518) 358-3141, or the Indigenous Environmental Network, (218) 751-4967.

by ELIZABETH CROWE

# INTERNATIONAL COALITION TAKES ON U.S. ARMY

CITIZENS PUSH FOR SAFE ALTERNATIVES TO \$11 BILLION  
NERVE GAS INCINERATION PLAN

**N**ews Flash! Incineration is not the only way to destroy the U.S. stockpile of chemical weapons! The most dangerous chemicals on the planet can be safely neutralized with common sewage sludge and/or water. In May, researchers at the U.S. Army Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland released their initial findings on neutralization of lethal mustard agent, showing that exposing the agent to hot water, then sewage sludge, changes the agent into a nonhazardous waste. Another study shows that the chemical warfare VX nerve agent can be neutralized with tap water, while in its original container. This news is being embraced by the Chemical Weapons Working Group (CWWG), a grassroots coalition of citizens living in communities where chemical weapons are stored. Citizens have long contended that there are simple, low-temperature, low-pressure processes to solve this problem, and this research serves as a source of hope for an end to the ten-year battle for safe disposal of chemical weapons.

Currently, the U.S. Army is proposing to spend more than \$11 billion taxpayer dollars to create the largest hazardous waste incineration program in history, to burn its stockpile of 30,000 tons of chemical weapons (CW). Citizens living near chemical weapons stockpile sites want nothing more than to have these deadly weapons destroyed. However, the issue of how to dispose of these weapons remains a complex debate between military and government officials, environmentalists, and other concerned citizens. The Army proposes to burn these weapons in hazardous waste incinerators in the communities where they are stored. Geographically, the storage sites, like other toxic landfills and polluting industries, are located predominantly in politi-



Photo by Tim Hensley



cally disadvantaged areas and/or communities of color. Stockpiles are stored in: Aberdeen, Maryland; Anniston, Alabama; Hermiston, Oregon; Newport, Indiana; Pine Bluff, Arkansas; Pueblo, Colorado; Richmond, Kentucky; and Tooele, Utah. Already, the U.S. Army has begun burning chemical weapons at Kalama Atoll (Johnston Atoll) in the Pacific.

The U.S. chemical weapons stockpile consists of projectiles, cartridges, land mines, rockets, and chemical agent stored in bulk containers. These weapons are filled with the nerve agents GB and VX and with blister agents, also known as mustard. Chemical warfare agents act as "human pesticides." Nerve gas agents, such as those released in the Tokyo subway back in March, instantly attack the nervous system and can kill within minutes. Blister agent attacks the eyes, lungs, and skin. Blister agents and the nerve agent VX are persistent in soils, water and on vegetation.

The decision to burn the most lethal chemicals on the planet on military bases surrounded by schools, homes, and businesses was made without citizen input. However, citizens in communities which store chemical weapons have been expressing concern for protection of public health and the environment since 1984, when the Army first announced its intention to incinerate these weapons. Incineration is known to be an unsafe technology, capable of releasing large amounts of dioxin and other toxics into the environment. The Army has already built two experimental incinerators: one on Kalama Atoll in the Pacific and one in Tooele, Utah. The Kalama Atoll facility is so wrought with problems that it has been inoperable more than 50% of the time. There have been thousands of environmental compliance violations, including a leak of live nerve agent into the atmosphere that exceeded by eighteen times the EPA acceptable levels. In September 1994, Steve Jones, the former Chief of Safety at the Tooele facility alleged that the incinerator there is unsafe and should be shut down immediately. He was fired by Army contractor EG&G because he refused to ignore safety hazards and had documented the cover up of more than 1,100 safety violations including live releases of agent into the environment.

A better solution to chemical weapons disposal are "closed-loop" systems, such as chemical and biological treatments, which do not have smokestacks through which toxics are released into the environment. These types of systems, such as neutralization, could be implemented within a few years, at a cost much less than incineration. There would be no risk of long-term low level dioxin exposure for local community members. Alternative disposal methods could also be portable; a guarantee that no community would

become a burn site for all kinds of chemical waste in the future.

Despite these facts, Army officials maintain that incineration is a "state-of-the-art" technology, and "as safe as smoking one cigarette per year," an argument heard by many citizens living near hazardous waste incinerators. Ignored by the Army decision-makers, citizens formed community groups out of the desire and necessity to become educated on the issue, and share the information with others.

### CITIZENS ORGANIZE RESISTANCE

In Richmond and Berea, Kentucky, citizens began to work together to look for solutions to this problem,



forming a grassroots group, Common Ground, in 1985. Common Ground realized early on the need to build national support for their efforts, and they founded the Kentucky Environmental Foundation (KEF) in 1990 to advocate their concerns in the national and international arena. In 1991, KEF was elected to serve as the lead organization and spokesperson of the Chemical Weapons Working Group, a strong coalition of citizens groups working for the development and implementation of safe technologies for the disposal of chemical weapons.

CWWG member groups at the nine stockpile sites work around the clock in their home communities to build support for our position. The role of KEF is to assist CWWG member community groups with coalition building, outreach and public education. In addition, KEF serves as a clearinghouse on information on the scientific and legislative aspects of this issue. In the past five years, the CWWG has: encouraged Congress to increase the level of funding for alternative disposal processes; forced the creation of

CWWG member groups Families Concerned About Nerve Gas Incineration, Burn Busters, and Serving Alabama's Future Environment take to the streets of Anniston, Alabama, during the International Day for Safe Disposal held in September 1994. Photo by Suzanne Marshall.

*continued on page 13*

by PETER KELLMAN

# A FIGHT FOR JOBS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The struggle in Jay, Maine, demonstrates that we can fight and win struggles not to spite a corporation but to protect ourselves and future generations. The Jay experience raised the pressure to a new level because Jay workers accepted the responsibility to enforce environmental laws.

Since 1937 a social contract existed between the International Paper Company (IP) and the paper-mill unions: IP paid high wages and workers and their families didn't complain about the foul smell, referred to locally as "the smell of money," that was created by the paper mills' pollution. When the contract was broken, 1,250 workers at International Paper's Androscoggin paper mill in Jay, Maine, went on strike in June 1987. What happened next was a familiar scene in the post-PATCO and pre-Wagner Act eras: within two months, all the union workers were permanently replaced, and 16 months later, the strike was called off.

But the story of the Jay workers doesn't end there. While the battle over bargaining rights was lost, the workplace fight was transformed into a broad campaign to exercise local political power. Indeed, out of this struggle emerged a new tool to extend workers' rights.

The seeds were sown for the Jay workers to seize local political power even before the strike began. In 1986 the Maine AFL-CIO began to work with union members to help elect pro-labor candidates to the Maine legislature. Executive board members of Local 14 of the United Paperworkers International Union (UPIU), which represented 1,150 workers at the IP mill, realized that benefits won or lost at the bargaining table could be enhanced or undermined by the legislature. At the time, they were most concerned about cuts in workers' compensation benefits and striker replacement legislation.

One of the pro-labor candidates, Dick Tracy, was running against a native-son conservative Republican. However, Tracy did have one advantage: out of the 3,500 citizens of Livermore Falls, 350 worked for IP. Our campaign for Tracy would be based on his support for working class issues. We would organize both the union members in the mill who lived in Livermore Falls, and within the Democratic Party of Livermore Falls.

Inside the mill, members of the local's executive board were given lists of people in their respective work areas who lived in Livermore Falls. They broke these lists into groups of no more than 25 and assigned a captain to campaign for Tracy among those people. A captain received a card for each person and, after making the pitch on behalf of Tracy, noted the date and the person's reaction. This way, every Local 14 member in Tracy's district was spoken to by a fellow worker, and the cards were used to keep track of how we were doing. This campaign was carried on in the mill during working hours.

The vice president of the local Democratic party spearheaded our work with the local party organization. To be successful, we looked to match callers only with people they know. Seventeen people calling only their friends, reached all the Democrats and independents in Livermore Falls over a two week period. Tracy won by a wide margin. The organization and theme used in the Tracy campaign before the strike set the local stage for workers to confront the company.

Meanwhile, IP laid out its game plan in a speech by President Paul O'Neil in October 1986. He said IP wanted a cut in workers' compensation costs, a reduction in property taxes, the elimination of double time pay on Sunday, and a backing off from environmental legislation. He implied that if the workers, town and state fulfilled those conditions, IP would keep the mill open.

In the spring of 1987, IP put in an application to expand its landfill. IP claimed at a public hearing that it did not use the dump to dispose of toxic materials. Dennis Couture, a vice president of Local 14 and citizen of Jay, asked IP representatives if they ever buried the residue from the lime kiln in the dump. They said no. Dennis asked them if they were sure. They said they were positive. Dennis then revealed that earlier that very day, he had loaded more than 45 large truckloads of toxic waste from the lime kiln headed for the IP dump.

The union then launched an investigation to prove the case against IP and soon found that the state's role in environmental matters left a lot to be desired: it sided with IP. The lack of support from the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Maine Natural Resources Council (MNRC) helped start the political mobilization in Jay that would eventually force the state and federal authorities to charge IP with repeated, flagrant violations of environmental law. The most significant was a 1991 federal case in which IP was found guilty on five felony counts and paid a \$2.2 million fine.

In March, 1987, when workers at IP's mill in Mobile, Alabama rejected the company's contract proposal, the company locked out all 13,000 workers and replaced them with scabs. Then, in June, workers at IP mills in Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and in Jay, Maine, went out on strike in response to the lockout at Mobile and to local concessions demanded by the company.

The 1,250 union members of Local 14 struck on June 16. The union immediately linked its struggle to the environment. It didn't take the union long, with IP's unintentional help, to show that the company would sacrifice the environment to impose its will.

The newspapers reported that on the first day of the strike, a clearly visible brown liquid flowed from IP's effluent pipe. The situation soon became a circus. Repeatedly, IP would have a spill or a leak and the union would bring it to the public's attention, only to have state officials support IP's contention that nothing bad had happened.

It was a rare night when fewer than 1,000 people were in attendance at the weekly mass meetings held



by the union. Jay workers started to lobby the town's selectmen to get something done. The pressure paid off. The Town Manager announced that the Select Board had formally notified IP that the Board was reversing its decision to proceed with a \$4.5 million bond issue. He also announced that three ordinances would come before a special town meeting. These would ban the use of professional strikebreakers; prevent IP from housing people on site; and require town officials to ensure that the state enforced environmental laws and ordinances affecting citizens or businesses.

By the time this special town meeting was called to vote on the three ordinances, IP had permanently replaced over half the workforce.

Ten thousand people join in a solidarity march for the striking paperworkers. They marched through the streets of Jay to rally at the mill on August 1, 1987. Photo by Ed Slick.

The town meeting was over in 29 minutes. About 900 voters overwhelmingly approved the three ordinances. When the votes were taken, you could feel the breeze created when 900 people raised their hands at the same time.

Meanwhile, IP tied up the ordinances in court. The three ordinances were not meant to institutionalize any long-term changes but to send IP the message that, if they didn't back off, labor had the potential

chlorine dioxide leaks, something happened. A real community of workers formed to promote their own interests.

People came to understand that the foundation of the old social contract was flawed. They no longer accepted the idea that you had to trade the environment for good jobs. They decided to fight for both: jobs and the environment.

This fight for local power was only one aspect of the overall struggle that the strike

plant gates were leafletted all over New England; a caravan of 50 people visited 30 Maine towns and other New England states; striking local members spearheaded a letter-writing campaign to other union members in IP mills who were not on strike; and a corporate campaign was launched.

The Jay Select Board, in response to community pressure, instructed the town attorney to come up with an ordinance that would give the town the power to enforce state and federal environmental laws. The Jay Environmental and Improvement Ordinance encompasses all state and federal environmental laws relating to land, air, and water pollution. The town assumed the responsibility to monitor and enforce pollution standards. Workers in Jay now have a full-time Environmental Administrator. Their environmental "group" is their town government. Their advocate does not raise money through bake sales and dances, but through taxation. Best of all, IP pays over 80% of the taxes. And the town plays no favorites: it fined IP \$390,000 in 1993 for violation of the company's air license.

After three years of battle, the town and IP had both scored some victories. IP had the union decertified, and the state legislature gutted the workers' compensation law. The Town of Jay raised IP's evaluation by \$100 million. The workers no longer have to go to the EPA, DEP, or MNRC to get environmental laws enforced. They do it themselves. □

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Photo by Ed Slick

to hurt them through the power of government. The message was sent and IP sued the messenger.

Over the ensuing months, as IP permanently replaced the entire workforce and continued to threaten the health and safety of the community with massive chlorine and

community undertook. The weekly mass meetings were jammed; a round-the-clock picket line was maintained; a food bank fed 1,000 families; more than 10,000 people attended a demonstration in Jay to protest IP's greed; the strikers' media committee put out 150 press releases during the 16-month strike;

**INTERNATIONAL COALITION**  
*continued from page 9*

Citizen Advisory Commissions at each stockpile site to relay citizens' concerns directly to legislators; and earned international media exposure. In addition, several states have strengthened their environmental regulations regarding chemical weapons disposal. KEF and the CWWG have also lent our energy and support to join CCHW and other groups fighting incinerator battles throughout the country.

**CONSENSUS: NO INCINERATION**

Part of the success of the CWWG is its consensus decision-making process. Consensus requires the ability of its "players" to be up front with concerns, sensitive to the opinions of others, and patient when meetings and conference calls run long. Attention to consensus building results in a group which is strong, committed and able to move forward together. In 1991, KEF coordinated the first CWWG conference as an opportunity for citizens from all eight U.S. CW stockpile sites, the Pacific, and Russia to come together and share local concerns, histories, and strategies. Greenpeace International and Military Toxics Project co-sponsored the event, sharing years of coalition building experience and scientific resources. After hours of hashing and re-hashing over strategy ideas, delegates to the first CWWG conference developed, by consensus, the International Citizens' Accords for Chemical Weapons Disposal. The Accords still stand as the governing document for the Working Group.

The consensus process also allows this diverse coalition to be flexible, and develop unified positions on this complex issue. At that first CWWG conference, the "Not In My Back Yard" mentality was still prevalent in the movement: most communities favored transportation of the chemical weapons in their backyard to some other community for disposal. However, as citizens discussed the issue face-to-face, they soon realized that dumping their problem on another community was not a solution. The only way to succeed against chemical weapons incineration is to make sure that no community has to tolerate the effects of incineration: "Not

On Planet Earth!" More recently, the CWWG worked through a subtle but significant change in our approach to chemical weapons disposal. Rather than only shouting No Incineration, the CWWG also began promoting "Safe Disposal!" Of course, safe disposal of chemical weapons means no incineration, but those who perceived the CWWG as say-no-to-everything environmentalists now recognized the group not as obstructionists, but thinking people pushing for workable solutions.

**AN INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE**

This position on chemical weapons quickly expanded into the international arena. In

nations or organizations, about 20 environmental groups in Russia, 33 member groups in the U.S., and countless supporting organizations, including Citizens Clearinghouse for Hazardous Waste.

Meanwhile, citizens, and the non-incineration technologies we support, continue to gain credibility with Congress. The recent research on neutralization is evidence of our achievements thus far, and provides us with another opportunity for action. The CWWG, joined by other environmental justice allies across the country, is engaged in another letter-writing campaign to Congressional delegates in the Senate Armed Services and Appropriations committees and



Common Ground Members march for safe disposal in Richmond, Kentucky. Photo by Tim Hensley.

September 1994, the CWWG created the "International Day for Safe Disposal of Chemical Weapons." Each stockpile site, including those in Russia and the Pacific, held an event in their local community to promote safe disposal. Some sites held marches and rallies, others went door-to-door distributing information explaining the dangers of incineration and the need for safe alternatives, while others spoke on talk radio. In Moscow, demonstrators were arrested when they demanded a meeting with Russian leaders on chemical weapons disposal. As citizens in the U.S. faxed requests for the Russian activists' release, Russian citizens were busy faxing messages to the U.S. Congress on behalf of our efforts here. All in all, this "day of action" served to raise the level of public awareness on this issue, and strengthen the unified position of the Working Group. Our combined outreach efforts have resulted in 23 supporting Pacific

the House National Security and Appropriations committees. If at least one or two organizations in each of the 50 states write a letter about chemical weapons disposal to their state's Congressional delegate, we can make a huge impact. Putting a halt to the largest incineration program in history will have repercussions on all citizen battles over incineration and other dioxin issues. A victory over the incineration of chemical weapons will be a victory for us all!

We invite you to join us in this historic struggle. Please call or write the Kentucky Environmental Foundation — P.O. Box 467, Berea, Kentucky 40403, (606)986-7565 — for information on what you can do to support safe chemical weapons disposal processes! □

*Elizabeth Crowe is Communications Coordinator and Community Organizer with the Kentucky Environmental Foundation in Berea, Kentucky.*

SCIENCE FEATURE BY STEPHEN LESTER

# INDUSTRY'S "TRUE LIES"

THE POLITICS BEHIND THE SCIENTIFIC DEBATE ON DIOXIN

"What gets us into trouble is not what we don't know. It's what we know for sure that just ain't so."

—Yogi Berra, Hall of Fame catcher and philosopher

The full story of dioxin is a complex one, and includes coverups, lies, and deceit; data manipulation by corporations and government; and fraudulent claims and faked studies. For the public, it is a story of pain, suffering, anger, betrayal, and rage; of birth defects, cancer, and many uncertainties about health problems.

Although many companies have contributed to the dioxin story, three chemical companies have played particularly significant roles: Monsanto, BASF, and Dow Chemical. All three manufactured commercial products that were contaminated with dioxin. All three conducted health studies to evaluate dioxin toxicity, which were then used for many years to support claims that there were no long-term effects, including cancer, from dioxin exposure.

## THE "CLASSIC" DIOXIN STUDIES

In 1949, an explosion at the Monsanto chemical plant in Nitro, West Virginia, exposed many workers to the dioxin-contaminated herbicide 2,4,5-T. Thirty years later, Monsanto scientists and an independent researcher, Dr. Raymond Suskind, compared death rates among workers they said had been exposed to the death rates of workers who were not exposed. When no differences between the two groups were found, Monsanto claimed that dioxin did not cause cancer and that there were no long-term effects from dioxin exposure (Zack and Suskind, 1980). Monsanto released additional studies from 1980 to 1984 supporting this general conclusion that there was no evidence of adverse health effects, other than chloracne, in workers exposed in the 1949 accident.

Similarly, a chemical accident in 1953 at a BASF trichlorophenol plant in Germany released dioxin-contaminated chemicals, exposing workers and the nearby communities of Mannheim and Ludwigshafen. Again, scientists working for the company looked at cancer rates nearly thirty years later and reported no differences between workers who were exposed and workers who were not exposed during the accident. Both the BASF and the first Monsanto study were released in 1980, shortly after researchers at Dow Chemical Company found that very low levels of dioxin caused cancer in rats. BASF, Monsanto and others argued that their studies conclusively showed that dioxin did not cause cancer in humans. Industry used the BASF and Monsanto results to challenge EPA efforts to regulate dioxin as a probable human carcinogen, arguing that humans respond differently to dioxin than do laboratory animals. People must be less sensitive, they argued. Otherwise, some evidence of cancer would have been

## SCIENCE FEATURE

found in the two "classic" studies. But when both the Monsanto and BASF studies were re-examined, the methodology used in both was found to have serious scientific flaws.

## MONSANTO

Evidence of inaccuracies in both the Monsanto and BASF studies was first revealed during the Kemner vs. Monsanto trial, in which a group of citizens in Sturgeon, Missouri, sued Monsanto for alleged injuries suffered during a chemical spill caused by a train derailment in 1979. While reviewing documents obtained from Monsanto during discovery, lawyers for the victims noticed that in one of the Monsanto studies, certain people were classified as dioxin exposed, while in a later study, the same people were classified as not exposed (Hay, 1992).

These documents revealed that Monsanto scientists omitted five deaths from the dioxin-exposed group and took four workers who had been exposed and put them in the unexposed group. This resulted in a decrease in the observed death rate for the dioxin-exposed group, and an increase in the observed death rate for the non-exposed group. Based on this misclassification of data, the researchers concluded that there was no relation between dioxin exposure and cancer in humans (Kemner, 1989).

In truth, the death rate in the dioxin exposed group of Nitro workers was 65% higher than expected, with death rates from certain diseases (such as lung, genitourinary, bladder, and lymphatic cancers, and heart disease) showing large increases (Kemner, 1989).

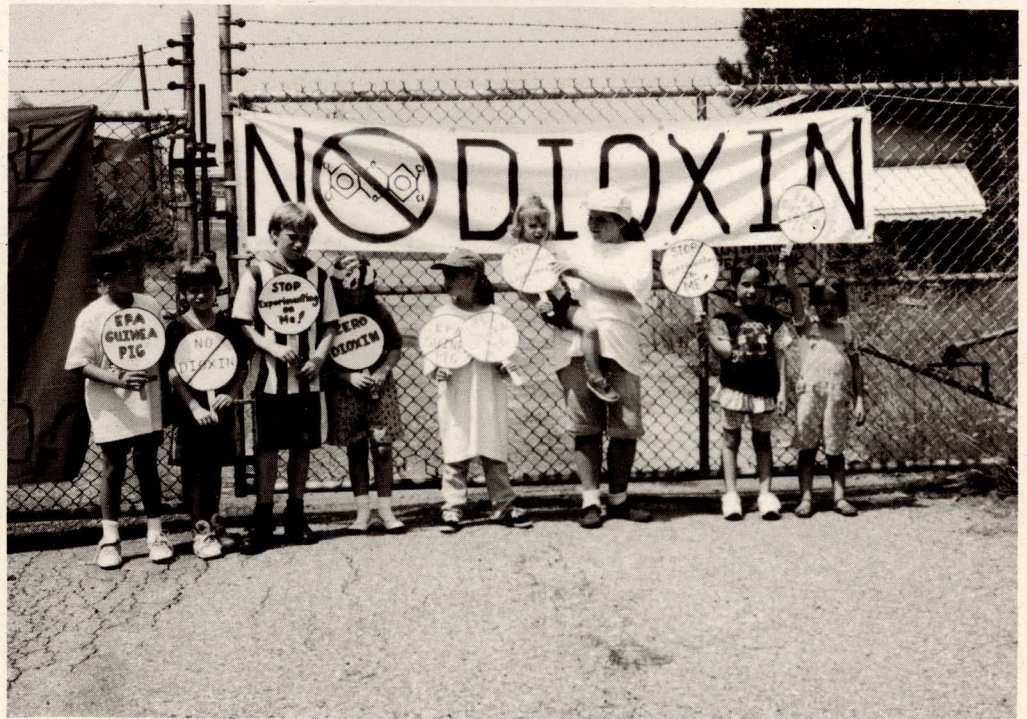
Another Suskind study did not look at an original group of workers known to be dioxin exposed, but instead looked at hundreds of Monsanto workers at the Nitro facility. Some of the same classification sleight-of-hand was performed in this study. Again, documents uncovered in Kemner vs. Monsanto showed that in fact there were 28 cancer cases in the exposed-worker group and only two in the unexposed group. Suskind, however, reported finding only 14 cancers in the exposed-worker group, compared to six in the unexposed group.

Suskind also examined a group of 37 exposed Monsanto workers during the four year period following the 1949 accident. Medical documents obtained by Greenpeace from the Sloan-Kettering Institute in Cincinnati, Ohio, where Suskind worked, showed that work-

ers suffered "aches, pain, fatigue, nervousness, loss of libido, irritability and other symptoms, active skin lesions, definite patterns of psychological disorders." All but one of the 37 workers had developed chloracne, a severe skin condition. But in a report to Monsanto at the time, Suskind concluded, without further explanation, that "his findings were limited to the skin;" in other words, all other health effects of dioxin exposure, besides chloracne, were not reported (Greenpeace, 1994). Out of these studies grew the industry claim that chloracne is the only long-term effect of dioxin exposure.

## BASF

The study of BASF workers exposed to dioxin in 1953 was also found to have serious scientific flaws. BASF workers weren't convinced by company scientists' claim that there was no evidence of any health problems, other than chloracne, linked to dioxin exposure. They hired their own independent scientists to review the data. This review found that some workers who had devel-



oped chloracne, known to occur only in people exposed to high levels of dioxin, were included in the low or unexposed groups in the study. In addition, the exposed group had been "diluted" with 20 supervisory employees who appeared to be unexposed. When these 20 people were removed from

Children of Jacksonville, Arkansas, protest for a cleanup of dioxin contamination in town. Photo by Susan King.

## SCIENCE FEATURE

the exposed group, significant increases in cancer were found among the exposed workers (Wanchinski, 1989; Rohleder, 1989).

In February 1990, Dr. Cate Jenkins, project manager for the EPA Waste Characterization and Assessment Division of the Office of Solid Waste, alerted EPA's Science Advisory Board about the revelations of fraud in the BASF and Monsanto studies. The Board, which is an independent group of scientists from outside the agency, had recently completed a review of the cancer data on dioxin, which included the BASF and Monsanto studies, and concluded that there was "conflicting" evidence about whether dioxin caused cancer in humans. The Board recommended that EPA continue to rely on data from animal studies (Jenkins, 1990).

This animal study data however, had been under attack since mid-1987 when, under pressure from industry, EPA stated that they may have "overestimated" the risks of dioxin. The agency was then preparing to weaken their risk estimate for dioxin (Inside EPA, 1987), based largely on the exposure effects reported in the Monsanto and BASF studies.

Jenkins asked EPA to re-evaluate the proposed regulatory changes and to conduct a scientific audit of Monsanto's dioxin studies. Instead, in August 1990, the EPA Office of Criminal Investigations (OCI) recommended a "full field criminal investigation be initiated by OCI." After two years OCI abandoned the investigation because some of the alleged criminal activities were "beyond the statute of limitation." In fact, EPA actually spent two years investigating Cate Jenkins (Sanjour, 1994).

Subsequent studies on the exposed workers at both the Monsanto plant and the BASF plant have been published in scientific journals. In 1991, the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) re-examined the causes of death in workers at the Nitro plant and found increases in all cancers (Fingerhut, 1991). Similarly, in 1989, data on the BASF workers was re-examined and an increase in all cancers was found for workers with chloracne and with 20 or more years since exposure (Zober, 1990). The reexamination of these once "classic" studies provides strong evidence

that the workers exposed to dioxin-contaminated chemicals in these two accidents did indeed suffer higher rates of cancer.

### THE DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY

Dow Chemical Company produced the herbicides 2,4,5-T and Agent Orange, the defoliant that was sprayed on the jungles of Vietnam. Both herbicides are contaminated with dioxin during the manufacturing process.

In 1965, Dow conducted a series of experiments to evaluate the toxicity of dioxin on inmates at Holmesburg prison in Pennsylvania. Under the direction of Dow researchers, pure dioxin was applied to the skin of prisoners. According to Dow, these men developed chloracne but no other health problems. But no health records are available to confirm these findings, and no follow-up was done on the prisoners, even after several went to the EPA after they were released seeking help because they were sick. EPA did not help them (Casten, 1995).

In 1976, Dow began studies to evaluate whether animals exposed to dioxin would develop cancer. Dow chose very low exposure levels, perhaps anticipating that the studies would show no toxic effects at low levels. Much to their surprise, they found cancer at very low levels, the lowest being 210 parts per trillion (Kociba, 1978).

Around the same time, evidence was found of increased miscarriages in areas of the Pacific Northwest that were sprayed with the herbicide 2,4,5-T (USEPA, 1979). Based on these findings, the EPA proposed a ban on the herbicide (Smith, 1979). Dow brought their scientists to Washington and created enough pressure that by 1979 EPA had decided to only "suspend" most uses of 2,4,5-T. This enabled Dow to continue to produce this poison until 1983, when all uses of the herbicide were finally banned.

In mid-1978, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources found dioxin in fish in the Tittabawassee and Saginaw rivers. Dow discharged wastewater into these rivers from its plant in Midland.

Dow responded in a most unusual way. In November 1978, after an intense four and one half month effort that cost the company \$1.8 million, Dow released a report called the "Trace Chemistries of Fire," (Rawls,

1979) which introduced the idea that dioxin was present everywhere and that its source was combustion and any and all forms of burning (Dow, 1978). Dow released the report at a press conference rather than in the scientific literature, which is the standard procedure with scientific studies. The report concluded that dioxin in the Tittabawassee and Saginaw rivers came from not from Dow, but from "normal combustion processes that occur everywhere." A Dow scientist stated at the time that, "We now think dioxins have been with us since the advent of fire." (Rawls, 1979).

Subsequent studies have proven the "combustion theory" claims to be more public relations myth than scientific fact. Measurements of dioxin in lake sediments show that dioxin levels dramatically increased after 1940, (Czuczwa, 1984, 1985, 1986) when chemical companies such as Dow began to make products contaminated with dioxin.

Other studies reveal that prehistoric humans, who burned wood for fuel, did not have significant quantities of dioxin in their bodies. Tissues from 2,000 year-old Chilean Indian mummies did not have dioxin (Ligon, 1989). EPA states in its reassessment that dioxin can be formed through natural combustion sources, but this contribution to levels in the environment "probably is insignificant." (USEPA, 1994a)

*Continued on page 27*

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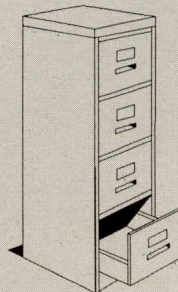


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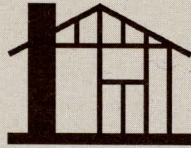


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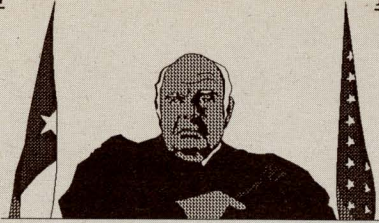
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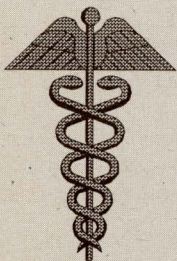
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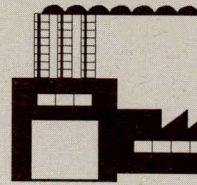


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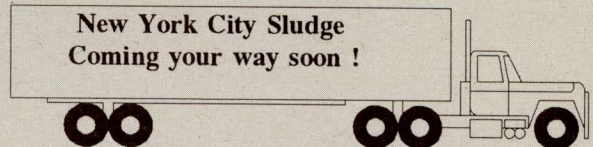
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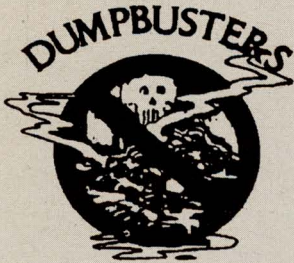
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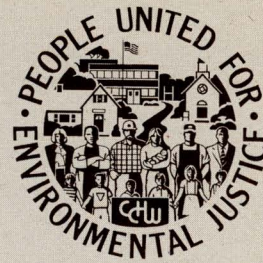
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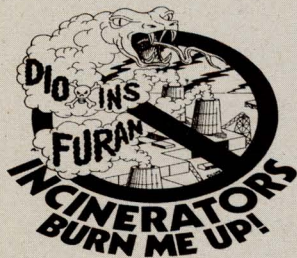


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*"When the city council saw the first few people come in to the meeting with T-Shirts on, which clearly stated our stand on the issue, they weren't worried. But when they saw that people were still coming and almost everyone was wearing the same T-shirt, they knew they were up against serious community power. And the people in our community felt supported and united."*

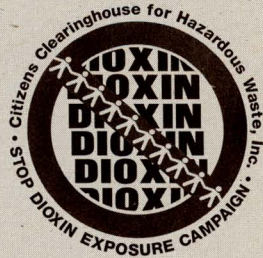


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# ACTION LINE



## ALABAMA

▲ The Legal Environmental Assistance Foundation, along with the Sierra Club-Alabama Chapter and **Alabama Citizen Action**, filed a petition with the U.S. EPA asking the agency to revoke Alabama's authority to run its water pollution control permit program. The petition alleges that Alabama has not assured that top environmental officials have complied with federal conflict of interest requirements, and that the state has failed to implement its EPA-approved antidegradation policy. If EPA revokes Alabama's authority, the federal agency will have to assume responsibility for permitting and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management will lose an undetermined amount of grant money.

▲ **North Talladega County Action Committee** for a Clean Environment members are organizing their efforts to halt a WMX truck maintenance facility from becoming a transfer station for trash from five counties.

*Correspondent: John Earl, Tuscaloosa.*

## CALIFORNIA

▲ **Tri-Valley Citizens Against a Radioactive Environment (CAREs)** reports that the U.S. EPA has found more plutonium in samples taken from a Livermore city park. EPA originally found plutonium in the park last October, and went public with the news only after Tri-Valley CAREs publicized the finding. The group's pressure campaign resulted in the additional testing, which revealed

plutonium levels six times higher than the October sample, which was 100 times higher than expected background levels. Nearby Lawrence Livermore Lab now admits that it is the source of the pollution. What else did they think was the source, the elementary school next to the park?

▲ The **African American Development Association** and the **Concerned Citizens of Elmhurst** are taking matters into their own hands to secure clean up of a contaminated park in their Oakland neighborhood. The site of a former battery factory, Verdese Carter Park has remained a lead contaminated health threat to nearby residents for over 20 years. After getting no response from city and county officials, the groups are working to force the hand of federal agencies to devise a plan for lead screening, clean up, and open access for the residents to information on the site.

▲ **California Communities Against Toxics** and several groups in the Mojave desert are battling a proposal for the largest manmade structure — made entirely out of trash. The Railcycle mega dump project would bring garbage by rail from Los Angeles to a site near Amboy, creating a 40 story high, four square mile monument to the disposable American lifestyle.

▲ A leaked internal memo from the U.S. EPA reveals the closed Casmalia dump poses an "immediate risk to public health or welfare or the environment." Up to 7 million

drums of toxic waste are deteriorating, possibly contaminating drinking water and causing a chemical reaction that could lead to the evacuation of Casmalia residents.



**S**ave Our County (SOC) from East Liverpool, Ohio will finally have their day in court with Ohio's Hazardous Waste Facility Board over the ownership of the WTI hazardous waste incinerator.

SOC needs your help to face mounting legal fees. Help the buck stop in East Liverpool over incineration. Please send a buck (or several bucks) to SOC Legal Defense Fund, P.O. Box 1242, East Liverpool, OH, 43920.

Yet the same EPA, in a March newsletter reassured the community that there was "no current or impending danger to the public." An agency branch chief doesn't see the two messages as inconsistent, claiming the ominous scenario would only be possible if EPA workers were not on the site. Former and current residents are demanding a public hearing, release of all EPA documents on the dump, \$12 million for clean up, and a buyout of Casmalia property owners.

▲ Los Angeles city and county officials have spent over \$200 million on a system to dry out sewage sludge so they can burn it for energy. Now, officials admit the entire system has been a complete failure, and are ready to walk away from the project. Included in this colossal bust will be a never-

used \$66 million county facility, a \$50 million city facility closed after a futile nine-year effort to make it work, and a \$166 million county sludge-to-energy plant that was

never even turned on. Picking up most of the tab for this recognized "failed technology" is the federal taxpayer — U.S. EPA has funded 85% of the project.

*Correspondent: Mary Burns, Mira Loma; Laura Johnson, Santa Maria.*

## CANADA

▲ Activists from Canada and the U.S. met on the Rainbow Bridge at Niagara Falls to sign a "Citizens Treaty Against Incineration" in June. This was a statement of solidarity with the alliance of labor, environmental and health groups in Ontario who are fighting to keep in place the province's ban on the building of municipal solid waste incinerators. A newly elected provincial government has vowed to lift the ban in order to provide greater "choice" in making waste management deci-

# ACTION LINE

sions. Dioxin contamination in the name of freedom of choice.

▲ The Toronto city council is working to pass a "bad boy" law that will require companies bidding on municipal contracts worth more than \$1 million to reveal their criminal convictions.

## FLORIDA

▲ **VICTORY at Green Coves Springs! Florida Families for Clean Air**, a well organized community group that actively fought the Florida Solite aggregate kiln in Green Cove Springs and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, has just received notice that Solite will be closing its industrial furnaces down. Of course, Solite says the reason for the shut down wasn't the community pressure on them and the DEP to enforce tougher regulations but because they were losing money. Priscilla Harris, FFCA member, is glad Solite is shutting down but is concerned for communities around the Solite plant in North Carolina. Solite will be increasing its operations there. Florida Families are gearing up for their next battle — cleaning up the site and evaluating the health damage.

▲ Residents in a Westside Jacksonville neighborhood are taking a skeptical look at a \$20 million EPA plan to clean up the dioxin-contaminated Coleman-Evans Wood Preserving site. The former wood treatment plant operated for 35 years, leaving behind a toxic soup of pentachlorophenol and diesel fuel that contains dioxin. Part of the clean up could include bulldozing or

moving several of the nearby houses. Some residents, who have seen the clean up drag on for years, wonder if the site will ever be cleaned up.

▲ Heeding the wishes of the **Northside Civic Association** and many other groups opposed to the project, the Jacksonville City Council

removal at the site is being done "without any dust suppression or other protection for the residents."

▲ **People for Alternatives to Landfills (PALs)** and the **Santa Fe Lake Dwellers** are preparing for a hearing this fall on plans by Alachua County to build a landfill in an area with extensive wetlands

Dumper lobbyists weighed in with heavy pressure to stop the bill, sponsored by Atlanta state senator David Scott. The impetus for the bill came from Scott's Southeast Atlanta constituents, who suffer eight of the ten dumps in metro Atlanta, six within a four mile radius. Rural legislators from Long County were



Florida Families for Clear Air protest outside of Orange Park office of state Rep. John Thrasher over his help in exempting Florida Solite from a state incinerator ban. The group halted the burning of hazardous waste at the Green Cove Springs aggregate kiln. Photo by Gary T. Clark. Reprinted by permission of *Florida Times-Union*.

denied American Environmental Services' application for a hazardous waste storage facility. Now the company is suing the city for blocking its attempt for a zoning exception.

▲ The beleaguered residents around the "Mt. Dioxin" Superfund site in Pensacola (*Everyone's Backyard*, v.13, n.2) are now suffering the impacts from EPA clean up activities at the nearby Agrico Chemical Superfund site. According to **Citizens Against Toxic Exposure** member Frances Dunham, excavation and soil

and sinkholes. The groups are working to stop redesignation of the area from Rural/Agricultural and Conservation to industrial waste management land use. Foremost among the groups' concerns are the impact on groundwater and Florida's threatened aquifer system.

*Correspondent: John Austin, Jacksonville.*

## GEORGIA

▲ An unlikely alliance between inner-city Atlanta legislators and rural Georgia legislators was behind the passage of a landfill siting bill.

moved by **Long County Citizens For Safe Progress** in their efforts to stop a megadump proposed near a military bombing range. The bill will prevent siting more than three landfills in a two mile radius, or from being built near a military bombing range.

▲ An explosion and fire at the Powell Duffryn Terminals caused the evacuation of 2,000 Savannah residents in April. The fire, in a storage tank containing 400,000 gallons of crude sulfate turpentine, burned for three days

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before being put out. Now, six million gallons of contaminated wastewater are left behind for cleanup. The chemical brew is too toxic to send through the Savannah sewage treatment plant. Two Jacksonville, Florida waste companies, industrial Waste Services and Enviro-Tech Southeast, are interested in the job.

▲ On July 25th, the **Warriors for Justice** in Helena, Georgia, won a 30 day victory in their efforts to stop approval of a bond to "upgrade" the wastewater treatment facility that sits in their front yards. Residents of this African-American Community want this sewage treatment plant removed from their neighborhood which also includes a prison.

*Correspondent: Carol Williams/  
Eco-Action, Atlanta.*

## ILLINOIS

▲ Medical Disposal Services Inc. has suffered another setback in its attempt to obtain a permit for a 24 tons-per-day medical waste incinerator in Harvey. The company had appealed to the Illinois Pollution Control Board after the Illinois EPA denied the firm a state construction permit. The Board rejected the appeal by a 5-2 vote, ruling that a permit obtained when Medical Disposal Services bought the incinerator from another company was invalid. The city of Harvey has fought the incinerator since 1989.

▲ The Cook County building commissioner has ruled that a proposed wood-burning "energy facility" in Bloom

Township is in fact an incinerator, and therefore requires a special use permit and a public hearing. Illinois Wood Energy Partners says it will continue with plans for the 200,000 tons per year burner,

burning plant in Wood River. Also in the area are a tire shredding plant in Dupo, and courtesy of Waste Management, an expansion of their dump on Chouteau Island, which actually sits in the

and then ship it out to be burned in cement kilns.

▲ The **Yellow Creek Concerned Citizens of Kentucky** have given us all a reason to celebrate. After 15 years of struggle, they finally

## ZERO MEANS ZERO FOR THE 1995 IJC BIENNIAL MEETING

The **Citizens for Alternatives to Chemical Contamination (CACC)** in Michigan, and dozens of other groups around the Great Lakes are mobilizing to attend the International Joint Commission's 8th Biennial Meeting in Duluth, Minnesota, September 22-25.

The IJC is a bi-national institution with members appointed by the Prime Minister of Canada and the President of the United States. Every two years the IJC holds a public meeting in the Great Lakes Basin for the purpose of soliciting public input on the state of the Great Lakes. It was at the 1989 meeting that the IJC received the citizen input which induced it to recommend that Lake Superior be made a Zero Discharge Demonstration Zone. The importance of these biennial events cannot be overestimated.

Issues of concern for the 1995 IJC meeting include: zero discharge, chlorine phaseout, clean transition, mining, forestry practices, and non-point source pollution. For more information, including the proposed agenda and registration materials contact Citizens for Zero Discharge, 394 Lake Avenue South, #308, Duluth, MN 55802, (218) 726-1828.

and seek a special use permit from the county's zoning board.

▲ Several groups in southwest Illinois, in the St. Louis Metro-East area, are battling a slew of incinerator proposals, inspired by the taxpayer fleecing Retail Rate Law. This generous (to polluters) law gives subsidies to burners that also produce electricity. Now the state can count at least 14 projects in various stages of permitting or construction. Nearly half are in the south Chicago suburbs. **Stop Polluting Illinois (SPILL)** reports on the downstate projects — a wood burning and coal waste plant in Madison; and a wood and tire

Mississippi River. To further help out Waste Management, the Illinois Department of Transportation plans to build a \$4.2 million highway interchange onto the island, whose sole inhabitant is the dump.

*Correspondent: Loretta Hardy,  
Chicago.*

## KENTUCKY

**VICTORY** in Elizabethtown. **NO MESS (No-Midwest Environmental Services Sites)** organized and blocked Midwest Environmental Services, Inc. proposal for a fuel blending, storage, treatment facility which would have brought in hazardous waste, blended it

got the corporate polluters to court and won. Their legal victory not only forces the individual owners of the Chicago, Illinois-based Middlesboro Tanning Company to pay \$4.1 million to the citizens of Yellow Creek but also includes \$11 million for a community-run health monitoring fund. More on the victory at Yellow Creek in the next issue of *EBY*.

## LOUISIANA

▲ The **Louisiana Environmental Action Network** reports two victories: the success of their public hearing and conference on breast cancer and the environment, attended by over 200 people,

# ACTION LINE



and the defeat of an all-encompassing state "takings" bill.

Supporters of the "takings" bill attempted to sneak it through the state legislature by sending it through the Agriculture Committee instead of the committees that usually handle environmental issues. But LEAN uncovered this ploy and devised an unusual strategy: When supporters of the bill were asked to speak during an Agriculture Committee meeting, LEAN member Florence Robinson got up to speak as a supporter of the bill. She thanked the primary sponsor for proposing a way she and other residents of polluted communities could receive compensation for the devaluation of their land because of neighboring industrial facilities.

## MAINE

▲ **Hope Committee for a Clean Environment** is pleased that clean up efforts will begin at the Union Chemical Co. site in South Hope. Groundwater at the site is contaminated from the former paint-stripping and solvent manufacturing and reclamation business.

*Correspondent: John Dieffenbacher-Krall, Bangor.*

## MARYLAND

▲ Montgomery County is considering new trash disposal rates to cover costs associated with its solid waste incinerator, being built by Ogden Martin. According to the **Eco-Civic Network**, county trash disposal costs will rise from \$11 million in 1994, to \$40 million in 1996,

and \$53 million in 1997. Included in the costs is a hefty \$10 million incinerator subsidy, which is expected to increase to \$22 million in 1997. Contributing to these additional costs is the high per ton disposal fee anticipated (\$120

*Hats off to Hands Across the River Coalition. Last year the New Bedford-area group celebrated when EPA withdrew plans to incinerate PCBs from New Bedford harbor.*

*This July the Massachusetts Legislature honored the group in a resolution, citing HARC's efforts that "protected New Bedford's environment by helping to stop the burning of PCBs."*

per ton in 1998, in an area where other tip fees range from \$16 to \$64) once the incinerator begins operation.

▲ Citizens in Cecil County are organizing a coalition to press for cleanup of several hazardous waste sites throughout the county. Recent attention has focused on clean up plans at the toxic Ordnance Products Inc. site just north of the town of North East. Residents count at least

four other polluted sites they want to insure are cleaned up properly.

▲ Cecil county residents joined with local officials to voice concerns over a proposal by Tri-State Moro Transit to store hazardous waste overnight at a Charlestown-area truck terminal. The waste, from various Maryland, Delaware and New Jersey companies, will be consolidated for shipment to an unnamed hazardous waste incinerator in Arkansas, according to Tri-State. After hearing details of the proposal, North East town officials will demand that fewer toxic waste-laden trucks be allowed at the facility.

*Correspondent: Carolyn Cohen, Baltimore.*

## MASSACHUSETTS

▲ **The United Towns Against the Douglas Landfill** are standing firm in their opposition to a BFI megadump in central Massachusetts. For eight years citizens from the three states near the dump site (Rhode Island, Connecticut and Massachusetts) have fought the proposal, which now is before the state Department of Environmental Protection for approval. The group notes that BFI and developer Vincent Barletta want to put the dump on the highest piece of land in the area, so that everything in the area will be downhill.

*Correspondents: Brian Pearson, Fall River; Matt Wilson/MCCHW, Boston.*

## MICHIGAN

▲ **The Fermi 2 Action Project** held a ten day encampment to further their

campaign to shut down the Fermi 2 Nuclear Facility in Monroe. The encampment included rallies and actions in Monroe. The problematic plant was shut down for 14 months after a December 1993 explosion, and continues to suffer problems with the turbine and other structural flaws.

▲ The Ford Motor Company has withdrawn their EPA application for a TOSCA PCB landfill in Allen Park. About 100,000 people live within one mile of the proposed site which was located directly on top of an abandoned salt mine, next to sewer and water mains and in a flood plain.

Ford Motor had promised never to dump PCBs when they first applied for a hazardous waste permit in 1987. But when Ford began to dredge the rural Raisin River to remove the PCBs they had dumped there, the moderate income, urban community of Allen Park seemed like a cheap and easy place to play toxic merry go round.

According to Allen Park activist Ann Marschner, a large network of local and state groups worked to oppose the permit. Ford acknowledged their efforts in siting widespread opposition as one of their two primary reasons for withdrawing their application.

Ford's other reason was the desire to do the right thing. Congratulations to the Michigan groups whose coordinated efforts gave the Ford corporate giant a conscience. *Correspondents: Verna Courtemanche, Swartz Creek; C.J. Eicholtz, Milan; Ann Marschner, Allen Park.*



# ACTION LINE



## MISSOURI

▲ The **Times Beach Task Force** has been awarded a \$50,000 grant from the EPA to hire its own consultants and expert scientists to review results of a test burn scheduled for September at the Syntex/IT Times Beach dioxin incinerator. The group won't have to spend the money if opponents to the burner succeed in their opposition to the incinerator.

**Times Beach Action Group, Gateway Green Alliance, Greenpeace** and others from around the country held a public protest against the incinerator in July at the EPA Times Beach office.

*Correspondent: Kathleen McCartney, Glenwood.*

## MONTANA

▲ **Yellowstone Valley Citizens Council** members held their second annual Rally for Clean Air in downtown Billings. Over 125 people turned out to continue the fight to eliminate a state law that allows Yellowstone County to have dirtier air than the rest of the state. YVCC wants to restore state sulphur dioxide standards to Yellowstone County, and repeal the current exemption for the county, home to several oil refineries and a power plant. Gray Harris, YVCC vice-chair vowed, "We will be here next year, five years from now, however long it takes."

*Correspondent: Ted Lange, Billings.*

## NATIVE AMERICANS

▲ The **Church Rock Indian Village** group is circulating a petition protesting the use of

Fort Wingate for nuclear storage or as a missile testing base. Located on the Navajo reservation east of Gallup, New Mexico, the area is being targeted by Uranium Resources, Inc./Hydro Resources, Inc., Fort Wingate, Inc., and the Department of Defense for a uranium mining operation and

eastern Nebraska. This spring, the state Department of Environmental Quality issued a dump permit to the Northeast Nebraska Solid Waste Coalition. The landfill, which would serve 14 cities and four counties, sits 4 1/2 miles from the city of Clarkson. And Clarkson does not approve. Immediately af-

their contract to deliver trash to the plant. **Working On Waste**, a group that has fought the incinerator since it opened in 1987, is organizing to prevent the renewal of Wheelabrator's air permit for another two years. The current permit expired in March, and the incinerator has been operating since under an ex-



Katie Lajoie makes a point against the renewal of a state permit for the Wheelabrator Technologies Inc. incinerator in Claremont. Photo by Paul Howe, *EagleTimes*.

a launch site for military cruise missiles. Also being discussed are plans to use the base as a Monitored Retrievable Storage site for nuclear waste. All this at the site of the nation's largest uranium "accident," when 95 million gallons of radioactive tailings were released into the Rio Puerco river when a dam broke in 1979. To support the group's effort, contact Dine'CARE. PO Box 457, Church Rock, NM 87311.

*Correspondent: Mark Tilden, Dine'CARE.*

## NEBRASKA

▲ The battle lines have been drawn in a dump dispute in

ter the state gave the go-ahead to the Waste Coalition, Clarkson City Council unanimously approved a resolution in which they vow to "pursue every avenue and take every step available to defeat the construction of the landfill..." The mayor promised a lawsuit. Stay tuned...

*Correspondent: Jack Zeider, Columbus.*

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

▲ Wheelabrator's controversial Claremont trash incinerator is under siege as citizen groups mobilize to close the plant. The local communities who feed the plant garbage are looking into invalidating

tension. Under new proposed EPA air emissions standards, the plant would not meet the stricter guidelines for mercury and dioxin. Due to high mercury levels, last December New Hampshire issued a health advisory on eating fish caught in the state.

▲ Twenty-nine towns in Vermont and New Hampshire formed the New Hampshire/Vermont Solid Waste Project and contracted with Wheelabrator to supply garbage to the 200 ton per day burner for 20 years. They pay between \$84 and \$100 per ton (twice the national average) to burn garbage in an incinerator that exposes

# ACTION LINE



nearby communities to mercury, dioxin and furans. Due to increased recycling, the towns have fallen short in supplying the trash tonnage required in the contract, running into trouble with Wheelabrator, which demands payment for the contracted garbage whether or not the towns deliver. Now Wheelabrator is suing the trash district over the success of its recycling programs — the company wants their money for the missing recycled trash.

Already several towns have left the Project or are investigating ways to leave. Vermont is investigating ways to void the contract with Wheelabrator, and is prepared to take on the legal expense of challenging the contract. A recent consultant report concluded that invalidating the contract and sending the trash to landfills would save up to \$5 million for the local governments over the next 10 years.

*Correspondent: Katie LaJoie/WOW, Claremont.*

## NEW JERSEY

▲ A host of New Jersey groups, including **Concerned Citizens of Union County**, **Delaware Valley Concerned Citizens**, **Ironbound Committee Against Toxic Waste**, **Grassroots Environmental Organization**, **Elizabeth Earth Committee**, and **One Clean World** are petitioning EPA and the NJ Department of Environmental Protection to rescind a proposal by the governor to weaken mercury emissions reporting and monitoring requirements, and to weaken mercury violations penalty provisions. The groups are urging EPA and DEP to take emergency action to reduce mercury emissions throughout the state. Ironbound Committee also has asked the Newark City Council and the Essex County Board of Freeholders to pass resolutions opposing these same changes, which would affect large mercury sources like coal fired power plants and trash incinerators.

In 1994, the state issued public health warnings for certain kinds of fish. The reason: high mercury levels.

▲ Congratulations to **Concerned Citizens of Union County** activist Vince Lehotsky, who was recently elected to the Linden Democratic City Committee.

▲ The August issue of *Redbook* features an article on the health problems of women who as Girl Scouts attended the Maple Grove Day Camp in New Jersey. The 19 acre lake that the Scouts swam in near Pitman, New Jersey, was fed by two streams from the nearby Lipari landfill. The Lipari commercial landfill, now a Superfund site, was the dumping ground for 3 million gallons of liquid waste and 12,000 cubic yards of solid waste including benzene, formaldehyde, mercury and BCEE. At one time the Lipari landfill was leaking 100,000 gallons a day.

*Correspondents: Madelyn Hoffman/*

*GREO, Flanders; Cynthia Ortiz, Hackensack; Gary Wonderlin, Pennsauken.*

## NEW MEXICO

▲ **Concerned Citizens del Norte** continue in their efforts to force clean up of the massive environmental degradation from the Unocal molybdenum mine near Questa. Hundreds of acres of mine tailings, underground mine tunnels, and a mile-wide, half-mile deep mine pit have contaminated waterways and degraded air quality due to blowing mine tailings. The primary goal of the group is for community members to be involved in every aspect of the development and implementation of the comprehensive cleanup plan.

## NEW YORK

▲ The **Concerned Citizens of Cattaraugus County** are gearing up for hearings on the conceptual review of Integrated Waste Systems' proposal for a megadump in



## SOMETHING TO CHEER ABOUT

In Missoula, **CHEER (Coalition for Health, Environmental and Economic Rights)** has scored an early victory in their efforts to convince Stone Container to stop exposing their community to dioxin from their Frenchtown Mill. Stone Container is a major producer of cardboard and kraft paper (the paper that brown grocery bags are made from). Stone Container's Frenchtown Mill also holds the distinction of being the second largest polluter in Montana. The Asarco smelter in East Helena is first.

In May, CHEER began circulating a petition to gain support for their campaign to clean up Stone. Soon after "an independent committee" announced a boycott of the 115 businesses that had joined the 6,700 individuals in signing the petition. At least one of the 34 businesses who acknowledged receiving a phone call threatening the boycott by this "independent committee" got their boycott call from a Stone Container manager. While 7 businesses did respond to the threat by withdrawing their names from the petition, good organizing in response to this intimidation campaign added the names of 2,300 more individuals and 108 new businesses.

# ACTION LINE



Farmersville. CCCC also reports that IWS has applied to the New York State revolving loan fund for over \$28 million to buy the property and build the dump, recycling and composting operations. The head of the state Department of Environmental Conservation, Michael Zagata, is also chairman of the Environmental Facilities Corporation, the agency in charge of the loan. EFC money is usually loaned to municipalities for public works projects, but apparently it is legal to loan money to private businesses.

▲ Activists are wary of a proposal from the governor's staff to place a moratorium on the closing of landfills in the state. An aide to Gov. Pataki wants the ban so the administration can review dump closure regulations and policies. Environmentalists are concerned the ban would limit state efforts to close down dumps and require former operators to clean up any contamination.

## NORTH CAROLINA

▲ Heavy rains in late June caused the failure of a containment lagoon at an industrial hog farm near Richlands, sending 25 million gallons of hog waste into the headwaters of the New River. The lagoon collapse occurred at the Purina-backed Oceanview Farms venture. The one-and-a-half-year old factory farm was touted as "state of the art," and was one of the first in the state to be built under new regulations intended to protect ground and surface water from livestock waste. Environmental and commu-

nity groups have fought siting of many of the industrial-size hog operations in the state, and for stricter regulations. Sidney Whaley, a retired farmer in the area, fought to keep the plant from being built. He said, "When they built this thing they assured us that it was state-of-the-art — that it wouldn't leak. Now the woods and fields around here are just coated with hog manure." As many as five thousand fish were killed in the New River. State officials say the company could face fines up to \$10,000 from the fishkill alone.

*Correspondents: George Evins, Oxford; Richard Regan, Pembroke; Lou Zeller, Marshall; Therese Vick, Rich Square.*

## OHIO

▲ EPA Administrator Carol Browner signed a "good faith letter of intent" to visit East Liverpool to investigate environmental racism and toxic problems surrounding the WTI toxic waste incinerator. Browner made the promise to visit East Liverpool and several other pollution plagued communities while meeting with 1,000 neighborhood leaders attending the National People's Action conference this spring. The **Tri-State Environmental Council** expects Browner this August. Hopefully she will keep her word on East Liverpool, unlike her bosses, Mr. Clinton and Mr. Gore, who never delivered on promises made while on the campaign trail in 1992.

▲ **Parkridge Area Residents Take Action** is skeptical that a health study proposed by federal officials will accurately outline the

health damage to the community from the now-closed dioxin spewing Columbus trash incinerator. The study omits areas of Parkridge near the plant where residents have reported higher than normal rates of cancer. PARTA is urging residents near the incinerator to boycott the study if state or local officials are involved. Based on a history of misleading statements and lies from local agencies, PARTA insists that they stay out of this study effort. The federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry will conduct the study. So far, ATSDR has ignored requests by former workers at the facility to be included in the health study.

*Correspondent: Robert Castro, Cleveland.*

## PENNSYLVANIA

▲ Heading the concerns and objections voiced by **Lehigh Valley Coalition for a Safe Environment (LVCASE)**, Tracy PTA, Palmer Township Board of Supervisors and hundreds of other Lehigh Valley residents, the Department of Environmental Resources has rejected Keystone Cement's request to double the amount of hazardous waste burned in their kilns. For now, DER agreed with citizen outcry and ruled that Keystone must do a multipath risk assessment before it would consider further requests to increase the amount of toxic waste burned at Keystone's East Allen Township plant. Until then, the company can continue burning waste at previously set levels. The company expects to take about 18

months to complete the study. LVCASE anticipates the study will show that any increased burning will present an unacceptable public health risk. The group ultimately wants all hazardous waste burning halted at Keystone.

▲ **The Tri-State Concerned Citizens** and residents of Darlington are organizing to stop the expansion of the Envirotrol Inc. carbon waste processing facility. The residents are concerned about toxic air emissions from the plant, which heats activated carbon from various industrial processes in rotary kilns to remove chemical contaminants. Envirotrol wants to expand the number of kilns from four to eight, and increase the number of chemical contaminants it accepts from 26 to 816.

▲ **The Local Environmental Awareness Development** group, along with **Clean Water Action**, have filed a notice of intent to sue the General Battery Corporation and Exide Corporation for violations at the Exide/GBC secondary lead smelter and battery manufacturing plant in Laureldale and Muhlenburg Township. Using the "citizen suit" provisions of several environmental laws, the notice of intent identifies thousands of violations of state and federal air, water, and waste standards occurring at the facilities over the past several years. Lead levels as high as 33,300 and 14,259 part per million have been measured around the facility. The LEAD group has fought for several years for clean up of lead contamination in the surrounding community.

# ACTION LINE



▲ Already the burial ground for incinerator ash from the Rahway, New Jersey trash burner, the Empire Landfill in Taylor may become the destination for more ash from the Garden State. American Ref-Fuel, a joint venture between BFI and Air Products, may be sending ash from its garbage incinerator in Newark, pending approval of the PA Department of Environmental Resources.

*Correspondents: Penny Bailey, Spring Grove; John Hummel, Kennerdell; Paula Winne, Ambridge.*

## SOUTH CAROLINA

▲ As a result of the hard work of community residents organized as the **Edgemoor Community Action Association**, EPA has finally produced an acceptable plan for onsite cleanup of the Carolawn Superfund site in Richburg. Residents are now asking the EPA to broaden the scope of its investigation and to directly involve representatives of the community in their activities. EPA was initially cool to the idea of directly involving citizens in their activities until U.S. Congressman John Spratt, who attended the public hearing, encouraged agency officials to do so.

*Correspondent: Debbie McMinn*

## TENNESSEE

▲ Due to the efforts of the Hamblen County chapter of **Save Our Cumberland Mountains**, three contaminated dumps in the Roe Junction community are on a track to being cleaned up. The group got the state to do extensive testing, which revealed contaminants at the

dumpsites, in the soils and in leachate streams. The state is now recommending the dumps be listed on the federal National Priority List.

*Correspondent: Kenny Kelly, Millington.*

## TEXAS

▲ In spite of the 5.6 magnitude earthquake in April and a report from the Radioactive Waste Management Associates finding that the Sierra Blanca site "is the most tectonically active area within the state of Texas", the Comanche Peak Nuclear power plant is moving ahead with its plans to dump its nuclear waste in this West Texas community.

Sierra Blanca is already the home of the Merco sludge ranch where three train loads of New York sewage sludge are dumped each week.

▲ Thanks to the tireless organizing work of Kim Phillips, of **GASP (Groups Allied to Stop Pollution)**, the Texas PTA convention will vote on two environmental resolutions this fall. A dioxin resolution from Midway High School PTA, and Cedar Hill Pre-School PTA's resolution on incineration of hazardous wastes in cement kilns were both approved by the Texas PTA Board of Directors in July.

▲ **Mothers Organized to Stop Environmental Sins (M.O.S.E.S.)** is alleging new on-going violations at the American Ecology-owned Gibraltar Chemical Resources commercial hazardous waste injection well dump in Winona. The group announced on July 18 that they

were amending their federal lawsuit to include these new charges. MOSES is seeking to have the operation closed down. The group alleges Gibraltar is operating in disregard of state and federal environmental laws, a settlement with the Attorney General of Texas, and orders from the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission.

▲ A two year battle in Pearland is winding up in victory for the **Clear Creek Community Alliance**. A recent order by the TNRCC will permanently close down the polluting National Medical Waste incinerator. The order states that no future owners of the site can operate an incinerator, autoclave, or transfer station on site.

Apparently the shut down order wasn't a clear enough message. Now National Medical Waste is selling some of its antiquated equipment to the Enviroguard Med Waste incinerator in Waller County. Backers of the Waller project are having trouble finding financial backing for the incinerator, and failed to begin construction within the specified time frame. Local activists hope to stop this troubled project before it can even begin to pollute.

▲ Congratulations to the citizens of Alvord, who exercised their civic duty in voicing concerns and opposition to a proposed oil filter incinerator plant in their town. In May, ETF Recycling Inc. announced they were withdrawing a permit application for the facility, only two months after first approaching the city with its plan.

▲ Following the deregulatory path of North Carolina, Texas has adopted similar rules that will lessen state oversight for large-scale industrial livestock operations.

▲ The **Western Front - Concerned Citizens for Environmental Justice** are working to clean up air and water contamination in their west Texas community. Denver City sits amidst Shell Oil Co. oil field operations, and residents have experience petrochemical pollution for years. Local activist Sandy Stallings describes the situation, "If you work at the Shell plants you are required to wear a monitor, air pack, have hazards training in H<sub>2</sub>S (hydrogen sulfide), CPR and First Aid. If you live next door to this plant you have no protection of any kind."

*Correspondent: Gary Olliver; Marfa.*

## VIRGINIA

▲ The **King George Environmental Association and Pride of King George** turned out to once again voice their opposition to a 343-acre dump proposal in Sealston. A decision on the proposed dump, to be built and operated for King George county by Garnet of Virginia, will be made late this summer by the state Department of Environmental Quality. Residents in the area, many of whom depend on well water, based their opposition on the threat to groundwater and questions over the company's qualifications to build and operate such a dump. The site chosen for the dump is, as one

*continued on page 27*

# CORPORATE CORNER

▲ A case that may have broad implications for insurance companies and the polluters they cover was recently decided by the California Supreme Court. The court ruled that Admiral Insurance Co., the insurer for the **Montrose Chemical Corp.** is responsible for covering claims made against the company for environmental damages that occurred before its policy went into effect. Montrose Chemical manufactured DDT at its southern California plant, and dumped waste at the Stringfellow Acid Pits Superfund site before Admiral became their insurance carrier. The ruling allows for businesses that pollute or cause other damages over a long period of time to draw on all insurance policies in effect during that time.

▲ Wayne Huizenga's career has come full circle. After going from trash hauling and dumps (**WMI**), to video rentals, to sports teams, he is back in the garbage business once again. Huizenga is set to become the chairman and CEO of Atlanta-based **Republic Waste Industries**. He and a partner plan to invest between \$27 and \$92 million in the trash firm and move headquarters to Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Huizenga joins former **Laidlaw** chairman Michael DeGroote, currently Republic's Chief Executive.

▲ **Louisiana-Pacific** has run afoul of federal regulators for operations at its Olathe, Colorado, wafer-board facility. The company and two former managers at the plant were indicted on 56 counts including conspiracy, fraud and violation of environmental laws. The managers are charged with tampering with an emissions monitor and increasing production at night when air pollution was harder to see. L-P could also face up to \$300 million in financial responsibilities for widespread consumer complaints about its waferboard siding. In the past two years, L-P has paid \$17 million in environmental fines.

▲ A lesson from Corporate Community Relations 201: **Reading Energy** and **Foster Wheeler Illinois**, the companies be-



hind the \$400 million trash-to-energy incinerator outside Chicago, have awarded \$160,000 in college scholarships to four students from Robbins, the "host" site of the burner.

▲ Two officials with **Mission Trail Waste Systems** have been sentenced for stealing \$540,000 from the city of Santa Clara, California. Nick Rinauro Sr. and Nick Rinauro Jr. took the money from a toll booth at the city landfill. Santa Clara officials were not happy with their lenient sentence — five years probation, a \$45,000 fine, home detention and an order to cooperate with the IRS in paying back taxes.

▲ EPA inspectors knew for at least ten years that the **LCP Chemicals** plant in Brunswick, Georgia, was highly contaminated, but held back on taking over at the site because of a national policy of deferring to state regulators. EPA knew in 1986 that the site would require drastic clean up measures, which could cost as much as \$200 million. The site is heavily contaminated with heavy metals, PCBs and mercury, 379,000 pounds of which is unaccounted for at the site.

▲ The Occupational Safety and Health Administration reached an agreement with **Conoco** for penalties stemming from an explosion and fire at its Westlake, Louisiana, refinery. Dupont-owned Conoco will pay \$1.5 million as a result of the October, 1994 incident, in which

one worker was killed and another hospitalized.

▲ Another OSHA action has resulted in a \$10,625 fine for a January chlorine leak at the **Champion International** mill in Bucksport, Maine.

▲ A blast at a Lodi, New Jersey, chemical plant killed four workers and injured dozens in April. Over 70% of the **Napp Technologies** facility was destroyed in the explosion. The blast has been termed an accident, and the local county prosecutor will not pursue charges against the company.

▲ The corporate charters of two major companies are under attack as a Pennsylvania group seeks to revoke the papers granting existence to **WMX Technologies** and **CSX**, a railroad and ocean shipping company. The Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, petitioned the Delaware Attorney General to revoke the charter of WMX, based on its "long record of environmental crimes and various statutory violations." WMX is chartered in Delaware, where state law gives the AG power to revoke the charter of any corporation for "abuse, misuses, or nonuse of its corporate powers, privileges, or franchises." The group also called on the West Virginia Attorney General to begin proceedings to revoke CSX's charter under a similar state law there.

▲ A long-standing feud between Waste Management and Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, officials has apparently been resolved, with WMI agreeing to pay the county \$5 million over 10 years, laying to rest the county's claim that Waste had overcharged the county for dumping. The legal fight began when **Waste Management** sued the county for exempting local haulers from a mandate to dump trash at a Waste Management dump. County officials have moved to open up what they called a trash monopoly to free-market competition in the county, by ending their exclusive contract with Waste Management and allowing local trash

# CORPORATE CORNER

haulers to dump in cheaper landfills. The county decided to act on this after learning that WMI was charging a lower fee per ton for New York trash than it charged for Montgomery county garbage.

▲ The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has fined Commonwealth Edison's Braidwood, Illinois, nuclear plant \$100,000 for disabling a major accident warning system and for leaving open for three months a pipe that could have allowed radioactive gasses to escape

▲ **Consolidated Rail Corporation (Conrail)** will pay a criminal fine of \$2.5 million after pleading guilty to six felony counts of violating the Clean Water Act and Oil Pollution Act by dumping oil and grease in the Charles River. The contaminants caused a visible oil slick downriver from Conrail's Beacon Park Rail Yard in Allston, Massachusetts, after the April, 1994 discharge. Conrail was also charged with knowingly dumping oil and grease into the Charles on four other occasions in 1992 and 1993.

▲ The clash between increased recycling rates and trash promised to incinerators will cost Broward County, Florida, about \$1 million for the fifth straight year. Broward will pay the sum to **Wheelabrator**, owner of two incinerators in the county, for failing to deliver 1.1 million tons of trash to the burners. A recession and greater recycling by county residents created the shortfall. Wheelabrator accepts the payments, even though it can take garbage from outside Broward to keep the plant burning full steam.

▲ A joint venture of **ICF Kaiser International** and **CH2M Hill, Kaiser-Hill**, won a five-year \$3.5 billion contract to clean up the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons site near Denver, Colorado.

▲ A troublesome oil refinery in Hercules, California announced it will shut down its gas, diesel and jet fuel operations, due to a bleak economic forecast. The news brought relief to the surrounding community, but residents who fought the com-

pany for years over pollution and health concerns are skeptical that operations will actually stop. "The community has been burned so many times by this facility," said Lynn Cherry, former president of the Rodeo Citizens Association. "We'll take a wait and see attitude."

▲ For dumping 100 gallons of hazardous waste into municipal trash dumpsters and a sewer system, the owner of a California chemical company admitted guilt and was sentenced to six months in jail and fined \$50,000. A general manager with the Santa Rosa-based **Diablo Products** pled no contest to a hazardous waste misde-

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*Reassuring Words from the  
Chairman of the Nuclear  
Regulatory Commission for  
the People of Illinois:*

*"We are certainly frustrated  
by **Commonwealth Edison's**  
failure to correct the  
material deficiencies  
problems. It [the Dresden  
Nuclear Reactor, 50 miles  
southwest of Chicago] just  
stays on the edge all the  
time."*

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meanor and will be jailed for 90 days and fined \$10,000. "This case demonstrates that polluters who threaten public safety and health face serious consequences for their misdeeds," according to Jeffrey Holtzman, Sonoma County District Attorney. Apparently not, if you are a big multinational like **Texaco**. California state officials have settled a civil lawsuit against Texaco for nine oil spills that occurred at Texaco facilities in 1993 and 1994. Texaco admitted no guilt, but

agreed to pay civil penalties of \$150,000, investigative costs and attorneys' fees of \$33,000, and \$12,000 for an environmental enforcement program. No jail terms were handed down.

▲ The owner of three Tifton, Georgia companies has pled guilty on two felony violations of federal environmental law. Herman W. Parramore, Jr., and his companies, **Sogreen South Carolina, Sogreen, Tifton, and Sogreen Corp.** were indicted on charges of storing hazardous waste without a permit and illegally dumping untreated acidic waste into the Tifton sewer system. Parramore, who did admit guilt, faces a five-year prison term on RCRA violations, a three-year sentence on Clean Water Act charges, and maximum fines of as much as \$500,000.

▲ In one of the largest Clean Water Act cases ever, **Koch Industries**, an oil pipeline company, has been charged with unlawfully discharging millions of gallons of oil into the waters of six states. The EPA action alleges the Wichita, Kansas, company and its subsidiaries were responsible for over 300 oil spills in the past five years. The spills occurred in Texas, Kansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Missouri and Alabama.

▲ A division of **Bethlehem Steel** was hit with a \$500,000 criminal fine for illegally discharging pollutants into the Sabine Neches Waterway in Port Arthur, Texas. The company, **Bethship-Sabine Yard**, plead guilty to discharging contaminants over a period of nine months in 1991 without first obtaining a water pollution discharge permit. The company will also pay \$1 million to the Southeast Texas Coastal Trust Fund.

▲ In New York City, giant trash hauler **BFI** helped a Manhattan District Attorney investigation that led to the indictment and arrests of leaders in the organized crime controlled cartel that hauls garbage throughout the city. According to the indictment, the cartel prevented any trash hauler from competing for the business of a customer served by another cartel mem-

ber. BFI has had its eye on cracking the New York City hauling market for several years, and actually sought advice from the DA about the problems they were having in winning new customers. The DA then asked BFI to assist in the investigation.

▲ On July 21, hazardous waste incinerator **ThermalKem's** parent company, **American NuKem**, came to Rock Hill to announce that due to "fundamental changes in this industry over the past few years and uncertainty as to future improvements, American NuKem is currently exploring several strategic alternatives for its treatment business, including the possible sale or closure of these facilities". The statement applies to all three of NuKem's U.S. hazardous waste facilities including **Norlite Corporation**, a hazardous waste and aggregate kiln in Cohoes, New York, and **CyanoKEM**, that burns cyanide and other wastes in Detroit, Michigan.

Citizens for Clean Air and Water and other community members have been fighting to shut down ThermalKem because of the damage being done to the health of community. In addition to the poisons coming from the smokestacks every day, a January, 1995 warehouse fire burned 1,900 drums of stored hazardous waste. ThermalKem has already agreed to pay \$1.3 million in state and federal fines and has been forced to guarantee it has \$1.5 million available for clean up costs if and when it closes.

The *Rock Hill Herald*, in its article about the possible shutdown, provides this explanation for NuKem's proposed action from David Manlo, a Paine-Webber analyst for the waste industry:

It has been well documented that the hazardous waste industry is in a period of severe overcapacity. One reason is that a large number of hazardous waste generators have gone through process changes to make their waste nonhazardous. There has been a downward spiral in price. □

## VIRGINIA ACTION LINE

*Continued from page 24*

could predict, adjacent to a historically black community.

▲ **Concerned Citizens of Clark County** is organizing around a proposed asphalt plant. The group is concerned about carcinogenic emissions, the increase in truck traffic and the effects of blasting on groundwater and drinking water wells.

▲ Residents of Bland County are organizing around a proposal by CaseLin Systems to build two commercial medical waste incinerators in this rural area of southwest Virginia. The company is seeking a permit to burn up to 6,622 tons of medical waste per year in each incinerator from around the region.

▲ The **Arlington Ridge Civic Association** is opposing plans by Arlington County to expand the amount of sludge burned at its sewage treatment plant incinerator. The group was assured by the county that a 33% increase in sludge burning, coupled with an upgrade of 20 year old equipment, would result in a reduction in incinerator emissions. But ARCA has learned from the permit application that emissions of eight pollutants (such as mercury, lead, SO<sub>2</sub>) will increase, in percentages ranging from 32% (for lead) to 168% for nitrogen oxides.

▲ Peter Schmidt, a former concrete company executive, is the new head of the Department of Environmental Quality. Schmidt hand picked lawyers, industry officials and loyal bureaucrats to serve on three separate panels that are looking into ways to change the process by which permits are granted under the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act and about 50 other state laws. No one from the 49 environmental organizations in the state was allowed to attend or be a part of the process. Schmidt told a reporter that the panel's progress would be impeded if environmentalists or members of the public were involved in the closed door meetings.

The three panels and their meetings were only made public because of a misplaced

memorandum from the DEQ advising members of the panels to "define, assess and make recommendations for improving the permitting process" in ways that would not require state agencies to hold open meetings and seek public comment under the state's Administrative Process Act.

*Correspondents: Ellis Goddard, Charlottesville; Barbara McEwen, Goode.*

## WASHINGTON

▲ Congratulations to the citizens of Skagit County, whose County Commission recently voted to keep closed the county's mothballed trash incinerator. This vote confirmed an earlier decision by the Solid Waste Municipality Committee to keep the expensive facility shut down. Plagued by continued breakdowns and cost concerns over ash disposal, the burner, opened in 1988, was supposed to last for 20 years.

## WYOMING

▲ **Powder River Basin Resource Council** members will be carefully monitoring a proposal by the American Oil and Gas company to drill as many as 200 new coalbed methane wells in a 200 square mile area south of Gillette. To free the methane gas, the company would have to pump approximately 20 million barrels of water a year over a 15 to 20 year period. □

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## INDUSTRY'S "TRUE LIES"

*Continued from page 16*

Despite the persistent efforts of industry to detoxify dioxin, the weight of evidence from scientific literature today confirms its pervasive toxic effects. Faced with the toxic truth about the dioxin they create, industry has two choices; either stop producing dioxin, or continue to deliberately poison the public policy debate with lies and conflicting information. History tells us they will continue the lies until we make them own up to the truth. □



# Order Your CCHW Dioxin T-shirt Today!

See the publications insert for more information.

ORGANIZING TOOLBOX BY AFREDO DE AVILA

# MOBILIZER OR ORGANIZER?

## ANSWER:

The real question here is, What is the difference between doing an action and doing a demonstration? In other words, what is the difference between mobilizing and organizing? Take the campaign against Proposition 187 in California. There were a lot of mobilizations - demonstrations that brought people out - but there were no targeted actions. Now, don't get me wrong. Mobilization is a thing that good organizers do. Mobilization is getting people together, moving people out. It's bringing people in to do action. It's where you're using everything including phone calls, personal visits and handing out fliers - that brings a certain level of consciousness to the community. That's fine and dandy. On the other hand, in organizing, the primary motivation for doing things is to build the base of an organization and to develop your leaders. Our actions are targeted to be able to go after a pressure point or an individual so that we can eventually sit down and negotiate our demands. They're not actions in the abstract.

So what's an example of the difference? if we look at Proposition 187, there were major demonstrations in California. In San Francisco the demonstrations brought out high school students from all over the city. But who was their target? There wasn't one. What were the demands? There weren't any, at least, nothing really specific that you could hold someone in power to. The demonstrations did serve to create an awareness in the public that young people saw Prop. 187 as negative. They were trying to influence the election results on election day and get people to understand that the issue wasn't about economics or jobs or taxes, but about promoting a return to a society where racism becomes a way to operate.

That's all fine, but that's not organizing, unless what's going on is actively working to build your organization. In Redwood City, a march and demonstration happened that were the first-ever major demonstrations of La Raza around Proposition 187. Two thousand people marched, but then turn around and look at Redwood City today. What has grown? Has an organization expanded? Built up its membership? Did they develop their leaders? The answer has to be no. The same is true of the recent demonstrations against the Contract on America. Many of the activists involved aren't even sure how people got there.

That's crucial in organizing - understanding how people got there, understanding and recognizing your leaders, and capturing those leaders and bringing them into your organization. For an organizer it would be more important to have 100 people at a demonstration and to know exactly how those people got there. You know which leaders talked to people and can talk to them again, not just for this one event, but maybe for another campaign. An organizer would come with

## QUESTION:

"I recently helped organize a march and demonstration that brought together a lot of different parts of our community. We had a great turnout and got some great press coverage of the rally. But after the event, someone said to me, "This isn't really organizing. What about the future?" Now I'm confused and feeling like the work I did wasn't important. What gives?"



# POLITICS OF HEALTH

very concrete goals and demands. They would know exactly who they were going to go pressure and what they were going to demand from them. It wouldn't be an abstract demonstration. It would be an action aimed at getting a response, to win something, to consciously build the base of the organization.

It may be true that in the situation where you are mobilizing students, for example, you may not be able to get people involved in an organization right away. Maybe you're trying to get students to feel angry and empowered and excited about a particular issue as a beginning process to them becoming politicized. That's not totally abstract. If I was able to get the kids together at Fremont High School to walk out together around the 187 question, I need to know who got the kids to do that, who were the main kids involved who pulled out their buddies? Can I bring them back together? Because those same students who were protesting 187 also have been raising other demands around school improvements. What kinds of bilingual education do we want - not just the words, but what classes do we actually want - and who has the power to give that? Can I bring those same students together and go after the people - the principal, the superintendent - who have the power to impact that school and make changes? Can I hold them to it with clear-cut demands?

That means knowing what you want. Not just knowing what the problem is. You can't just turn around and talk to the institution about the problem without having the demands. If you talk about the problem and just expect them to resolve them, well, that's being foolish. They're the system that's running it. They can't figure out the problem, so what makes you think they'll know the answer? —

Reprinted with permission from *Third Force*, a bimonthly publication of the Center for Third World Organizing, 1218 East 21st Street, Oakland, CA 94606. Subscriptions: \$22/year, \$10/year for dues paying members of community/labor/environmental groups. □

*Afredo De Avila is the training and consultations director of the Center for Third World Organizing. He has over 25 years of labor and community organizing experience.*

## DIOXIN SPIN DOCTOR ALERT

Get ready. We are about to experience the mantra of the corporate spin doctors in action: Make up what you want the truth to be. Then repeat it as often and as loudly as you can. Find media outlets that will print your story without checking to see if what you claim happened ever really happened. Soon very few people will be able to separate your lies from the truth.

The spin doctors from the pulp and paper corporations and Chlorine Chemistry Council are preparing to launch the next phase of their attack on the EPA Dioxin Reassessment and on citizens' efforts to stop dioxin exposure.

This next phase is targeting the EPA's Science Advisory Board and its panel on the dioxin reassessment.

CCHW's Science Director, Stephen Lester attended the May meeting of the panel of 39 scientists who had been brought together to review the EPA reassessment and make a report to the EPA's Science Advisory Board. All of the exposure document and all of the scientific chapters of the health assessment document were endorsed by panel. The panel was clear: the scientific basis of the draft report was sound. Parts of two chapters needed some work. No new data was called for. The only disagreement the panel had was in how EPA interpreted some of the scientific findings.

So how did the *Wall Street Journal* come to print (June 29, 1995) that:

*In a stunning indictment of the lack of defensible science in setting EPA policy, the independent panel told EPA that the agency had overstated the risks of dioxin, that its conclusions were not scientifically defensible and that it could not endorse the report as currently drafted.*

The *Journal* editorial was written by Kathryn R. Kelly, cement kiln advocate and toxicologist with Delta Toxicology in Seattle, Washington. It is an elegant example of the spin doctors craft.

Similarly spin doctored stories with different authors have already appeared in newspapers around the country including the *Detroit News*. These stories may result in a panel report, now expected in late Au-

*"Risk assessment that concludes that someone has to die in order for a technology to come on-line is a human rights abuse. If someone said that in order to build an incinerator here we have to select 10 people from the 10,000,000 who live here and shoot them and pile their bodies up on the street — that's the price for this incinerator — people would be up in arms. But if you kill people by cancer over a long period of time you get away with it. The deaths are anonymous. One of the struggles we have as activists is the invisibility of this. The chemicals are invisible and the deaths are invisible."*

— Safe Food News, interview with Dr. Sandra Steingraber, Winter 1995

gust, that spins the minor concerns of panel members into another "stunning indictment".

Even if the panel's report is slanted towards the concerns of chlorine making and using corporations, we can expect an even more virulent attack by the spin doctors when it is released and again when the Science Advisory Board reviews the panel's document, now slated for September. Get ready for dioxins are natural products coming from fires and enzymatic conversions. Get ready for since dioxin is in everyone it must be safe. Get ready for another attack on EPA as a bullying overzealous regulator aimed at destroying American jobs. □

# NATIONAL COALITION FOR HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

*Your input is needed and welcome!*

## **Mission**

The National Coalition for Health and Environmental Justice is dedicated to the health and protection of our bodies, our communities and future generation from contamination and exploitation.

## **Purpose**

In May, 32 women from a variety of environmental justice and women's health groups came together to discuss women, health and the environment. Out of that three-day meeting, organized by Greenpeace and WEDO (Women's Economic Development Organization) came the creation of the National Coalition for Health and Environmental Justice. CCHW has joined this new effort "to support and strengthen a broad-based and grassroots health and environmental justice movement, empowered through equal partnership and based on the principles of environmental justice."

## **Goals**

1. The National Coalition for Health and Environmental Justice will support and strengthen a grassroots health and environmental justice movement.

**Objectives:** Through education, organization, empowerment and action, particularly in communities of color and low-income communities, which are the most impacted, we will:

- ◆ identify links between community health, the environment and polluting corporations;
  - ◆ hold governments, industry and private and multi-national institutions accountable;
  - ◆ influence and change public policy.
2. We will support and strengthen the role of women in ending the poisoning of our communities.
  3. We will organize efforts to challenge and change institutions and power structures that promote racism, sexism, classism and social injustice.
  4. We will work to prevent the assaults on our bodies from all forms of environmental contamination.
  5. Because pollution is an international issue, we stand in solidarity with movements in other countries engaged in similar struggles.
  6. We will support workers' rights to a safe and healthy workplace.

### **National Coalition for Health and Environmental Justice Interim Steering Committee Organizational Members:**

Asian Pacific Reproductive Rights Network ◆ Breast Cancer Action ◆ Citizens Clearinghouse for Hazardous Waste ◆ Environmental Health Coalition ◆ Environmental Research Foundation ◆ Farm Labor Organizing Committee ◆ Foundation for a Compassionate Society ◆ Greenpeace ◆ Indigenous Environmental Network ◆ La Montanita Coop/Action for Women's Health ◆ National Black Women's Health Project ◆ North Carolina Fair Share ◆ Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition ◆ Southern Organizing Committee ◆ Women's Environment & Development Organization

If you are interested in becoming part of this coalition contact Joan D'Argo at Greenpeace, 847 W. Jackson, Chicago, IL 60607, (312) 563-6060, (312) 563-6099 fax, or make plans to attend Make the Link: Health and Environmental Justice on October 27 and 28 at Spellman College in Atlanta, Georgia. For Conference information call (404) 876-5443.

# RESOURCES

▲ The SouthWest Organizing Project has just completed a new book, *Intel Inside New Mexico — A Case Study of Environmental and Economic Injustice*. According to Richard Moore, Coordinator, Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice, "*Intel Inside New Mexico* successfully makes the link between environmental and economic justice, drawing together the impacts of high-tech industry on workers and host communities. The Recommendations section is full of organizing tools for local organizations, and by itself is worth the price of this book." Available from SWOP at 211 10th Street, SW, Albuquerque, NM, 87102, (505) 247-8832. \$10.00 plus \$1.50 shipping, New Mexico residents add \$.50 tax.

▲ Marion Moses, M.D. the founder and director of the Pesticide Education Center has just published *Designer Poisons: How To Protect Your Health and Home from Toxic Pesticides*, a comprehensive guide book that gives you facts and answers to the dangerous pesticides we welcome so casually into our lives. The purpose of this book is to help you choose pest control methods that are safer for you, your family, your pets, your neighbors and the environment. *Designer Poisons* informs you of potential health hazards of widely available pesticide products and services. It recommends nontoxic or less toxic alternatives, which many consumers would use if they knew about them. Available from the Pesticide Education Center, 415/391-8511, \$19.95.

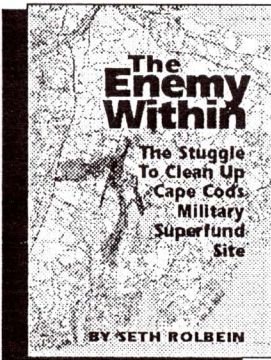
▲ In *Environmental Justice: Issues, Policies and Solutions*, leading thinkers of the environmental justice movement takes a direct

look at the failure of "top-down" public policies to effectively deal with issues of environmental equity. This book provides a startling look at pressing social and environmental problems, and it charts a course for future action. Edited by Bunyan Bryant, Professor at the School of Natural Resources and Environment, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor with contributors that include Robert Bullard, Deeohn Ferris, Tom B.K. Goldtooth, Beverly Wright and others. Available from Island Press, 1718 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Suite 300 Washington, DC 20009, paper 23.00, cloth \$45.00.

▲ *Chemical Exposure and Disease*, by Janette D. Sherman, M.D. is a valuable resource for identifying and managing health problems caused by exposure to toxic chemicals in the workplace and in a community setting. This book describes how chemicals enter the body, what their effects are and the types of exposures that produce these effects. Case histories are included that describe symptoms, diagnostic tests and health problems that people who were exposed to specific chemicals developed as a result of their exposures. The book also offers advice on how to monitor exposure and maintain records of symptoms and health problems. This book is a practical tool that will help people recognize sooner illnesses related to exposures to toxic chemicals. Armed with this better understanding of how toxic chemicals cause health damage, readers may become more proactive in preventing illnesses caused by exposure to toxic chemicals. Princeton Scientific Publishing, \$52.95. Available by calling (606)525-6600.

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"So much of what passes for American History leaves out the real struggles of



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— Lois Gibbs, Executive Director, Citizens Clearinghouse for Hazardous Waste

177pp, \$12 plus tax, 2 dozen historic photographs, and plume map enclosed; 10% discount on bulk orders, published by the Association for the Preservation of Cape Cod.

APCC is a Cape-wide grassroots organization working to preserve Cape Cod's natural resources. PLEASE JOIN US AND HELP SAVE CAPE COD'S WATER, LAND, AIR, AND PUBLIC HEALTH FROM THREATS LIKE THE MASSACHUSETTS MILITARY RESERVATION POLLUTION.

Membership information and copies of *The Enemy Within* are available from APCC, PO Box 636, Orleans, MA 02653, 1-800-765-APCC.

## Technical Assistance Grants Advisor



**Tish O'Connor**

Environmental Investigative Consultants, LLC.  
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*11 years dedicated to solving technical and regulatory issues*

Superfund remedy selection advisor, policy writer and trainer for EPA and Department of Energy.

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Participant in recent Superfund reauthorization debates.

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Success helping community in MN win favorable Forest Service NEPA decision.

Helped Alabama community win law suit against a chemical company's dumping.

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# Dying From Dioxin

A Citizen's Guide to Reclaiming Our Health and Rebuilding Democracy

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- ◆ How exposure to dioxin, even at doses 100 times lower than those associated with cancer, can cause infertility, hormonal imbalances, and immune system dysfunction.
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- ◆ How citizens can organize against this toxic threat.

CCHW needs your help to turn the information in this book into action. We'd like to start by having groups across the country participate in special book promotion events in their communities.

When a new book comes out there are some typical special events that are done to announce its publication. The author autographs copies of the book in local bookstores. Interviews with the author are done on the radio and television. Professional book reviewers tell us their opinion of the book in magazines and newspapers.

*Dying from Dioxin, A Citizens' Guide to Reclaiming Our Health and Restoring Democracy* is a different kind of book and we think it deserves a different kind of promotion.

What about having your group use the book as the centerpiece of your next action? Your group could present the book to the President and CEO of your local dioxin polluter at his country club. Or group members could do a public reading of the health effects chapter at a county commission meeting. Or someone from your group could do their own book review for a local magazine or newspaper.

Lois Gibbs will be touring the country this October and November to promote the book and to encourage the creation of local Stop Dioxin Exposure Coalitions. So let us know about your plans, how many books you'll need and if you'd like us to try to get Lois there to help. Call CCHW at (703)237-2249.

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