

Everyone's Backyard

Citizens Clearinghouse for Hazardous Waste, Inc.

Vol. 12, No 3—Summer, 1994

Single copy: \$5.00



Activists pull a triple whammy on WMX Technologies (a.k.a. Waste Management). First, 300 protesters turned out in South Side Chicago to oppose WMX's recent offer of \$75 million to buy their way into the community in order to build a 144-acre dump (photo above). Then, activists forced the cancellation of a symposium that was to be held by the garbage giant to address environmental justice issues—something the waste company knows little about. The third hit came when, following the cancellation of the symposium, activists took their protest to the proposed site of the WMX garbage/sludge dump. Way to go activists!

The Journal of the Grassroots Movement for Environmental Justice

IN THIS ISSUE PAGE#

Speaking Out On Superfund	3
Polluters' Secret Plan	4
Can Some Environmental Chemicals Act Like Hormones?	6
ActionLine	9
Whistle Blowers	14
Bright Ideas We Can Live Without	16
Corporate Corner	17
Ban the Burn Update	18
Assessing Health Problems—What You Can Do	19
Jobs and Environment Training	20
Politics of Health	21
Nuke News	21
Legal Corner: MCS and the Law	22
Resources	22

Who We Are

CCHW is a thirteen-year-old Environmental Justice Center working with over 7000 local grassroots groups. We were formed to help people win cleanup of hazardous waste landfills and stop the siting of new ones. Over the years, our work has grown to include people dealing with everything from chemical plants, to radioactive waste, medical waste, recycling and countless other issues. Our mission is to help people build strong community-based organizations. We provide organizing and technical assistance through our 60+ manuals and handbooks, over the phone and through site visits from our organizers. This journal is compiled with the help of hundreds of local contacts who send us clippings and other information about what is happening in their area. We could use your help too. Write us for more information.

The Times They Are A Changing

Things are changing at CCHW and we are excited about it. We have recently welcomed organizing director Charlotte Brody and administrator Barbara Sullivan to our team of professionals. Soon, we will be adding another position, an information specialist, whose primary responsibility will be to answer your daily requests for information on corporations, chemicals, technologies and other topics.

Why are we making changes? In April 1996 we will celebrate our fifteenth year anniversary. Over the past thirteen years we've grown from the 1,000 names brought to CCHW from the Love Canal effort to a network of over 7,000 groups. We went from NIMBY (Not In My Backyard) to NIABY (Not In Anyone's Backyard), a broadly defined agenda of winning environmental justice for all people. The Environmental Justice Movement now reaches deep into local struggles to help leaders overcome the underlying causes of social injustice and unrest.

We are a vital part of a strong social justice movement. We can be proud of the major achievements we have made through the history of our movement. Our accomplishments include not only significantly changing waste disposal practices and policies, but also helping thousands of leaders see the connection between the environment and the other issues their communities face daily such as the economy, health care, racism, classism and sexism. The Movement even engaged in trade issues around NAFTA. If you were to think back to the first meeting you attended and the local issues that caught your attention, you probably would never have imagined that you would be debating international trade issues, but you did...and we came close to winning!

Because the Movement has changed over the years, CCHW decided it was time to look back to where we started, what worked, what didn't work and where we need to go. Some of you may have even received a call from someone on our board or staff about this reflection. Our board and staff called over one hundred leadership people and CCHW supporters and asked their opinion of CCHW's strengths and weaknesses and what they would like to see CCHW focus on. This feedback from members and leaders in our network is vital in helping us evolve. If you weren't called through this random sampling and would like to share your thoughts with us, please call Lois, Charlotte or Barbara—we want to hear from you.

CCHW has operated for the past thirteen years using the same organizational structure. At the same time, the Movement has grown dramatically, our issues have broadened and our leaders have matured. Not only has our Movement grown, but some sister/brother organizations who used to help serve the information needs of the Movement are gone. With the loss of these groups, the work load has increased for the remaining organizations.

Given these changes, the CCHW board and staff are in the process of defining the path we should take over the next five years. We are exploring possible organizational changes that

would enable CCHW to better handle the changing needs and size of the Movement. Are we able to adequately serve this larger group of leaders, both newcomers and seasoned veterans, using our existing staff and organizational structure? Is there a different, possibly better way we can be structured to address the issues that are at the roots of injustice?

As we analyze this information we will be defining where we are going and how to get there. We will look at different models/methods to provide organizing assistance and training to the grassroots movement. This could involve several CCHW-style Leadership Development Conferences in specific states, or new national roundtables to assist in connecting groups and issues together. Whatever we decide to do, we will be looking to grassroots leaders for participation, support and feedback. As we evaluate possible changes at CCHW we will continue to work hard to ensure that there won't be any disruption in assistance to our network.

CCHW is now preparing for the next decade. Our Board reaffirmed our mission—to assist local leaders who are fighting for environmental justice—at the December board meeting. We will continue our efforts to build a strong Movement for Environmental Justice from the grassroots up. It is through this process of recognizing the need to evolve, then defining and implementing the necessary changes, that CCHW and the grassroots movement can progress in the most effective way.

Ch. Maui Sibb

All Talk, No Cleanup

Speaking Out On Superfund

By John Gayusky, CCHW Research/Organizing Associate

No matter the outcome, Superfund reauthorization promises to impact the efforts of grassroots groups fighting for the cleanup of contaminated sites in their communities. The lightning rod for discussion in Congress has been polluter liability. Voices from industry and Congress proclaim that Superfund is broken and needs substantial revision. To add a grassroots voice to the debate, CCHW talked to several community activists who have had extensive experience dealing with Superfund in their towns.

Superfund, passed in 1980 and revised in 1986, established the EPA program to clean up toxic waste sites across the country. Superfund has since evolved into an unwieldy bureaucratic process that is difficult, if not impossible, for affected communities to participate in. The cleanup process is dominated by experts and scientists, bureaucrats and corporate polluters, with affected communities invariably not invited to the table. Access—to the decision-making process, technical information, and money—is the prime concern of the activists we talked to. Liability is not the issue it is with polluters. These citizens believe that the joint and several liability provisions in the current system would work, if only EPA had the will to use all the tools available under current law.

Penny Newman has been involved with Superfund since its inception. With her community organization, Concerned Neighbors in Action, Newman has battled agencies and polluters for over a decade to win cleanup and community health safeguards at the notorious Stringfellow Acid Pits Superfund site near her home in Glen Avon, California. She knows intimately the problems inherent in Superfund. "From a

community perspective, it is broken. The problem is, citizens are not equals with the polluters," said Newman.

For Barbara Miller and other members of the People's Action Coalition in Kellogg, Idaho, the Superfund of their experience is even more ineffective and inaccessible than at Stringfellow. Living in the midst of the nation's second largest Superfund waste site has been like "living every day in a twilight zone." One hundred years of metals mining and smelting contaminated a twenty-one square mile area that encompasses four towns. Despite \$30 million in federal dollars spent so far, "no meaningful cleanup has taken place," according to Miller. "The whole process has failed."

Citizen Participation

The critical element in getting action with Superfund, and with reauthorization, is citizen participation. In Kellogg, "only when community voices are heard do we get action from EPA," says Miller. When the Superfund process has worked, Newman sees that it is primarily due to "communities that have forced the system to do what needs to be done, regardless of what the law says."

Sharing a similar perspective is Marion Trieste, of the Saratoga Springs Hazardous

Waste Coalition, in upstate New York. A 19th century coal gasification plant, now owned by Niagara-Mohawk Power, polluted seven acres in the middle of Saratoga Springs with coal tar wastes. "It's important for people to get involved early in the process, to have an impact on cleanup and future use plans," Trieste advised. "Citizens force action, and force answers to the questions that are ignored by the agencies and polluters."

If the experiences of these activists are any indication, EPA has failed miserably in involving affected communities as equal participants in the Superfund cleanup process. The story is the same from New York to New Mexico. Dolores Herrera, director of the San Jose Community Awareness Council in Albuquerque, New Mexico, deals daily with the pollution, and tainted cleanup attempts, at the seven contaminated sites in her neighborhood. "EPA hasn't gotten the word out about the process," said Herrera. "People don't even know what Superfund is."

An old General Electric engine plant and PCB- and creosote- contaminated sites are among the polluters' legacy in this majority Latino community. "We want EPA to treat

When the Superfund process has worked, Newman sees that it is primarily due to "communities that have forced the system to do what needs to be done, regardless of what the law says."

the community with the same dignity that they treat the polluters," Herrera explained.

"Citizen participation needs to be fixed in a big way," Trieste stated. "It was a fluke that citizen participation happened in Saratoga Springs." Herrera has found state and local officials to be much easier to work with than EPA. Her community wants "as much time and effort in building relationships with EPA as EPA now gives the PRPs." She notes that "right now, the community is not even in the race."

Con't on page 8

The Polluters' Obvious Plan

A Secret No Longer

By Lois Gibbs, CCHW Executive Director

Waste Management (a.k.a. WMX) is at it again. All across the country our opponents are stealing our language, using our grassroots organizing techniques and feeding misinformation to the media. Recent actions by WMX Technologies are yet another example. On June 8th, WMX was to hold a symposium on Environmental Justice. They were intending to show the public, through the invited media, how much they care about the environment and how the location of their waste facilities has no deliberate connection to exploiting either low-income communities or communities of color.

To lend an air of credibility to their symposium, WMX listed as invited speakers, local citizens who have fought the corporation for years. However, WMX forgot to ask for their agreement to participate or permission to be listed. WMX also asked NAACP Executive Director Ben Chavis to give the keynote address. Their deceitful efforts didn't stop there. A film production company was hired to film vignettes of leaders within the environmental justice movement to display at this symposium. WMX needed activists on film because they knew there was no chance that any of these activists would step foot into a WMX-sponsored event. As the film production company made appointments with leaders, they omitted discussing with activists why and for whom they were producing the film!

Finally, the symposium and the film were disguised as part of a Rockefeller Foundation grant. Again, WMX was up to its deceitful ways. The organization that provided facilitators for the symposium was supported by the foundation, but the meeting itself was funded solely by WMX. Despite WMX's underhanded tactics, no one was fooled. Their trap failed to catch even one unsuspecting activist in the Movement.

Several days before the event was to happen, WMX abruptly cancelled.

This unscrupulous activity is just a taste of how far corporations will go to undermine the Grassroots Movement for Environmental Justice. We can expect more of this type of underhanded activity by our opponents in the future. Why? Because the Environmental Justice Movement is a powerful grassroots movement and waste companies know it. For that matter so do the politicians, all the way to the White House. This past winter, President Clinton signed an Executive Order that requires federal agencies to ensure that environmental policies do not discriminate against the poor and minorities. He did so because he saw this new movement as a powerful force that posed a serious political threat to his administration. He believed by holding a press conference and recognizing this new movement, the movement leadership would be appreciative and back off from previous criticism.

I think it is fair to say that the Movement is appreciative that the White House now understands the power and conviction of the grassroots movement. And, I believe that it is also fair to say that leaders are pleased that the White House has recognized the years of injustice served to communities of color and

low-income areas. However, the White House's perception that somehow leaders in this movement will retreat, is far from reality.

When President Clinton made his announcement, grassroots leaders celebrated the impact their years of work had on the White House! Now, more than at any time in the past, the White House is nervous and this nervousness can be translated into action. This action, of course, will only come if local leaders increase the pressure and never retreat. Now the fight will likely get dirty. If history is any indication, there are several moves we should anticipate by those in power. We can expect polluters, EPA or other government agencies to offer money to leaders. This money, given to some of our friends and colleagues, will be an attempt to divide us.

Environmental Justice advisory boards or committees will be established and be very prestigious, but in reality, they are only window dressing and put our leaders in a very uncomfortable position. Our most powerful or visible leadership will be invited to participate. Full fare plane tickets, fancy hotel rooms and small honorariums will be

WMX needed activists on film because they knew there was no chance that any of these activists would step foot into a WMX-sponsored event.

given to these folks. There will be high profile boards or committees which will release national and regional reports to the media using our leadership people to justify the conclusions even when our leadership doesn't agree. The image presented will make those in power look like they care and that they have the backing of leaders in the Movement. Some of our other opponents will look at WMX's first attempt to co-opt people and try to learn from that experience; asking themselves how they can do it differently than WMX, so that they can succeed.

The purpose of all of these efforts, and the many more that space won't allow us to list,

Con't on next page

is to divide the movement. To get leaders angry at other leaders. To get people gossiping and fighting with one another so that the powerful movement that people have worked so long to build will flounder in a sea of

...the Environmental Justice Movement is a powerful grassroots movement and waste companies know it.

distractions. They are hoping leaders will say, "We can't protest here because (name a leader) is speaking on the agenda." But by not protesting, not holding individuals and companies accountable, through our silence, the opponents will win and we will lose.

If a leader agrees to speak at a meeting others want to protest, then the leader must be told

that the protest will happen and given the choice to speak or not. If a leader wants to participate in an Advisory Committee whose report is not supported by the movement, then the movement leaders must act responsibly and speak out about the report's conclusion, even if our friends' names are on the report. This does not mean that we call our friends names, but rather that we are calling for public debate on the conclusions of the report. We have to recognize the divide and conquer tactics at every level.

Those who were involved in the civil rights movement or the labor movement made these same choices. For example, when there was a picket line of workers striking for fair pay or safe workplaces people who crossed the picket line were frowned upon, even if the person crossing the line was a next door neighbor or a family member. In some cases, heated battles took place at the gates. But it was through the efforts of those

who walked the line day after day, were clear about their goals and kept their eyes on the prize that won workers the many rights we now take for granted.

Let us learn from our history, be aware of our present power and the polluters' disguised plan to divide us. Let's make choices that move us forward and let others define their own paths. If we come face to face with our own leadership on the other side of the gate, let's remember who arranged that, and think about how to handle that situation without destroying our own Movement. Let's think about how to keep people on the line at the gate rather than spending our time trying to convince those who chose to walk through the gate to walk back. Let's focus on training more people who will work to achieve the goals we set for ourselves. After all, the more people we have in the Movement the less we need to worry about those who have taken a different path. ♦

CCHW LEADERSHIP TRAINING GRANTS AVAILABLE



Have you been thinking about training to make your organization stronger and more effective? Do your group members need to develop leadership skills?

If you answer yes to either of these questions, CCHW's mini-grant program is designed to help support your training needs. CCHW provides grants of \$500 to \$5000 to grassroots community groups through the Community Leadership Development Grant Program. The purpose of our mini-grant program is to fund training that will build strong local groups that effect change in their communities and eventually impact nationally as part of the Grassroots Movement for Environmental Justice. CCHW can provide the training your group needs or help you identify other resources that meet your training needs.

The funding priority for the mini-grant program is grassroots community-based organizations. These organizations should be making their own decisions democratically and be led by a diverse group of local leaders. Larger than local organizations that work closely with grassroots groups are eligible. Statewide and multi-issue groups with some environmental justice focus may qualify, but are not a priority of this program. National organizations or their affiliates are not eligible for funding.

For more information on eligibility, please send CCHW a short letter that states your organization's mission, history, and the training need you would fill with a mini-grant. Don't forget to include your organization's name, address, and phone number. Your letter should be sent to CCHW, CLDG Program, PO Box 6806, Falls Church, VA 22040.

Science

Can Some Environmental Chemicals Act Like Female Hormones?

By Beverly Paigen, PhD.

Do some man-made chemicals have a hormone-like effect? Increasing scientific evidence indicates that some chemicals, such as dioxin, DDT, PCBs, heptachlor, and dieldrin, may mimic the hormone estrogen. Environmental exposure to these chemicals can have some serious health effects for women. Estrogens can cause or aggravate breast cancer, ovarian cancer, and endometriosis. This recent information about the ability of chemicals to act like weak estrogens and to cause disease has come to light primarily by the work of women professionals.

Endometriosis is a puzzling disease affecting more than 5 million women, and its frequency is increasing rapidly. The name comes from the word "endometrium," which is the tissue that lines the inside of the uterus and builds up and sheds each month in the menstrual cycle. In endometriosis, tissue like the endometrium is found outside the uterus in other areas of the body. The most common location of endometrial growths are in the abdomen—involving the ovaries, fallopian tubes, the ligaments supporting the uterus, the area between the vagina and the rectum, the outer surface of the uterus, and the lining of the pelvic cavity. In these locations outside the uterus, the endometrial tissue develops into what are called "nodules," "tumors," "lesions," "implants," or "growths." Like the lining of the uterus, endometrial growths respond to the hormones of the menstrual cycle. However, unlike the lining of the uterus, endometrial tissue outside of the uterus has no way of leaving the body. The result is internal bleeding, degeneration of the blood and

tissue shed from the growths, inflammation of the surrounding areas and formation of scar tissue.

The symptoms of endometriosis are pain before and during periods, pain during or after sexual activity, infertility, and heavy or irregular bleeding. Infertility affects about thirty to forty percent of women with endometriosis. The amount of pain is not necessarily related to the extent or size of growths. Prostaglandins, which are very active hormones found in all cells and tissue, are thought to cause the symptoms of endometriosis, and tiny growths can produce more prostaglandins than large growths.

The cause of endometriosis is not known. A recent scientific study suggests that endometriosis results from man-made chemicals that have estrogen-like action. From 1977 to 1982, researchers from the University of Wisconsin in Madison fed a group of female monkeys food laced with dioxin. Eight monkeys served as controls, eight monkeys were given five parts per trillion (ppt) dioxin in their food and eight monkeys

were given twenty-five ppt of dioxin. After the study ended, the monkeys lived out their lives in the colony. Three monkeys died in the period between 1989 and 1992. The autopsies revealed that the cause of death was endometriosis that was so severe that the growths had blocked the intestine. This was such an unexpected finding that operations were done in 1993 on the remaining monkeys to see if they also had endometriosis. For the control monkeys, thirty-three percent had endometriosis; forty-three percent of the group fed five ppt dioxin had endometriosis, and seventy-one percent of the group fed twenty-five ppt dioxin had endometriosis.

These monkeys are two years from menopause and are being used for other studies. However, this remarkable finding tells us for the first time why endometriosis has become an increasingly common health problem for women. Apparently, dioxin can act as a weak estrogen and stimulate endometriosis. This monkey study has caused several other studies to be started. One of them is comparing the blood levels of dioxins, furans, and

...there has still been a one percent increase [in breast cancer] each year since the 1940s. One of every nine American women can expect to get breast cancer.

PCBs in women with endometriosis compared to healthy controls. A recently published German study indicates that women with endometriosis have higher levels of PCBs in their blood.

Breast Cancer

Breast cancer has shown a puzzling increase in American women for many years. Even after taking into account the fact that women are living longer and that more frequent checkups and mammograms may be detecting more cases of breast cancer, there has still been a one percent increase each year since the 1940s. One of every nine American women can expect to get breast cancer. Genetics plays an important role in breast

Con't on the next page

cancer, but the best estimate is that genetics can account for only twenty percent of all breast cancers. It is very clear from many separate lines of evidence that the more estrogen a woman experiences during her lifetime, the greater her risk of breast cancer. For example, early puberty or late meno-

...it is not surprising that exposure to chemicals that have estrogen-like activity can be expected to increase breast cancer.

pause both carry an increased risk of breast cancer because the woman is exposed to estrogens for more years of her life. Estrogen levels are reduced during pregnancies and breast feeding, and women with several pregnancies or long term breast feeding have a reduced rate of breast cancer. Surgical removal of the ovaries, which produce estrogen, will reduce breast cancer risk and will slow down the growth of any breast cancer that already exists. A drug that is an anti-estrogen, tamoxifen, is used to treat breast cancer because it reduces the growth of the tumor. With all this evidence that estrogen increases breast cancer risk, it is not surprising that exposure to chemicals that have estrogen-like activity can be expected to increase breast cancer.

In 1993, a carefully controlled study of women with breast cancer and healthy controls was done by Dr. Mary Wolff and her coworkers and published in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*. This study shows that women with high levels of DDE, a breakdown product of DDT, are four times as likely to get breast cancer than women with low levels of DDE. The editors of this journal called the study "a wakeup call." However Dr. Wolff's study was not the first, but the seventh study to show that women with high levels of pesticides and PCBs are more likely to get breast cancer. The reason that so much attention is being paid to this study is that the earlier ones had smaller numbers of women or were not as carefully controlled for other breast cancer risk factors.

This study is only the latest in a parade of evidence linking chemicals to breast cancer. In 1989, a study showed that U.S. counties with a toxic waste site had higher rates of breast cancer than counties with no toxic sites. German chemical workers exposed to dioxin had higher rates of breast cancer. Atrazine, a pesticide, causes mammary tumors in rats, and DDT accelerates the growth of mammary tumors in mice. When Israel banned the use of three heavily used chlorinated pesticides, the rate of breast cancer in that country dropped. Long Island, which has many Superfund sites and has experienced unusually heavy pesticide use, has a higher breast cancer rate than the rest of the country.

Ovarian Cancer

Ovarian cancer is also estrogen-dependent. The evidence linking pesticides to ovarian cancer is not quite as strong as the evidence for breast cancer, but since both breast and ovarian cancers depend on female hormones, common sense tells us that both would be increased by chemicals with estrogen-like activity. One study in Italy showed that atrazine, one of the most commonly used pesticides in the United States and a frequent contaminant of ground water, is linked to the risk of ovarian cancer. And Dr. Rebecca Van Beneden, who studies reproductive tumors in clams, found a very high rate of these tumors in the clams in two different counties (one in Florida and one in Maine). Both counties had an unusually high rate of herbicide use compared to surrounding counties with healthier clams. Interestingly, both counties also had a high rate of ovarian cancer in women compared to other nearby counties.

Clearly, studies describing these estrogen-like chemicals have already revealed some

disturbing health effects which are unique to women. This is just the tip of the iceberg. These findings add more evidence and support to the concerns women have been raising for years—that effects on the reproduc-

In 1989, a study showed that U.S. counties with a toxic waste site had higher rates of breast cancer than counties with no toxic sites.

tive system seen in their communities are caused by exposures to chemicals in the environment. How many more health effects will turn out to be caused by exposure to these estrogen-like chemicals? As women, we need to push for more studies and to educate other women and our doctors about this critical issue. ❖

For women who think they may have endometriosis and want more information, there is a self-help organization of women with endometriosis that has informational material. For a free information packet including the "Materials To Help You" catalog, call or write: Endometriosis Association, 8585 North 76th Place, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53223, 1-800-992-3636 (U.S.) or 1-800-426-2363 (Canada).

Beverly Paigen is a cancer research scientist at the Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor, Maine.

Which chemicals act like estrogens?

Most man-made chemicals have not been tested for their hormonal activity. The following is a partial list of those known to be active:

Herbicides: 2,4-D, 2,4,5-T, alachlor, amitrole, atrazine, metribuzin, nitrofen, trifluralin.

Insecticides: carbaryl, chlordane, dicofol, dieldrin, DDT and metabolites, heptachlor, lindane, methoxychlor, mirex, parathion, toxaphene.

Nematocides: aldicarb and DBCP

Others: PBB, PCB, dioxin

Superfund Con't from page 3

At Stringfellow, the community continually had to fight for the right to sit at meetings between EPA and the polluters. "The existing law doesn't recognize the community as real players in the process," Newman said. "Superfund must include an enforceable right to participate in all meetings, and be able to file suit if excluded." Miller echoes this experience in Kellogg. "Our group has been involved for eight years, but no one is listening, and we've seen no results. EPA must go out and work with people, even if people don't come to EPA."

Technical Assistance Grants

The Technical Assistance Grant, or TAG, program, is in serious need of overhaul, according to those the program is intended

"If liability was the cause of Superfund inaction, then the Department of Energy and military sites, where liability is clear, would all be cleaned up" Newman explains. "Liability as a scapegoat holds no water."

to help. Activists were unequivocal in their criticism of the program's accessibility to community groups. The heavily bureaucratic requirements of the TAG program discourages people from accessing the program. The process is so difficult, Trieste observes, that the current requirements in effect "penalize citizens for wanting to get involved in TAG."

TAG grants allow citizen groups to hire technical experts to advise the group throughout the cleanup process. TAGs would work better for communities if there were less paper work, no requirements for the group to raise matching funds, and if the groups got the money up front instead of having expenses reimbursed by EPA. These requirements add to the bias against low income, people of color communities being able to get TAG money and participate effectively in the cleanup process.

Liability

The loudest cry for Superfund overhaul has come from industry and Congress and centers around liability. In crying wolf on liability, industry is seeking ways to pass off, or, through some proposals, eliminate entirely, their direct financial liability for cleaning up sites they polluted.

Not surprisingly, community activists offer a contrasting view. Newman sees the strict joint and several liability in current law as the strongest thing in the law—"the real hammer to keep polluters in line." The flurry of lawsuits by polluters challenging liability is really a deliberate tactic companies have embraced, to cloud the liability provisions in the law. "Corporate CEOs have admitted dragging in all PRPs they could find (such as municipalities and small businesses) to gain sympathy in Congress and a release on their liability," Newman alleged. "EPA can go in and do the work, clearly, but they haven't done it."

In Kellogg, polluter treachery, not disputed liability, has resulted in years of inaction. "The political strong arm tactics and lobbying of industry have worked against the community, and are the cause of delay," Miller charged. "EPA said they wanted to have all the i's dotted and t's crossed, to cover their backs if they ever were taken to court." After thirteen years on the National Priorities List, residents have learned that the "priority" does not involve cleaning up. Even when liability is not an issue, as in Saratoga Springs, cleanup still proceeds slowly. "There was no litigation, since we only have one responsible polluter. In a sense an ideal site," explained Trieste. "Yet it is a slow process, with many delays in reports and getting work done, that needs streamlining." She places the blame squarely with EPA, who, because of underfunding and little resources, had little to no communication with the citizens. "EPA is so deficient that it was easier to work with the PRP than it was with EPA." In Herrera's Albu-

querque neighborhood, "there is not enough money for EPA to disseminate information. They rely on other groups and organizations to do so."

The Saratoga Springs and Kellogg experiences suggest it is not the language of current law that delays action, but the stonewalling tactics of industry and EPA's unwillingness to force cleanup action. EPA drags its feet even where liability is not an issue. "If liability was the cause of Superfund inaction, then the Department of Energy and military sites, where liability is clear, would all be cleaned up," Newman explains. "Liability as a scapegoat holds no water."

These activists offer wise counsel to any community involved in a Superfund cleanup. "The intent of the law should not be overshadowed by any flaws in the system," says Trieste. "And that intent is to protect people." Residents in Herrera's neighborhood have learned that they must take the initiative to work closer with a reluctant EPA. For Newman, organizing is the key. "Communities should organize, figure out what they want, and don't worry about the law. To rely on the law to save lives at these sites will only result in a rude awakening. At Stringfellow the biggest success we had came from things that weren't in the law."

While industry seems to have Congress convinced that the emperor that is Superfund has no clothes, it is really the polluters who have concocted a facade of misinformation on the issue. It is clear to Superfund activists that polluters themselves are to blame for cleanup delay and wasted tax dollars—simply because polluters want to pay as little as possible to protect public health and clean up the toxic messes they've created. New legislation will not change this attitude.

If you would like to speak out on Superfund call your congressional representative or call CCHW to find out how you and your community can get involved.

Earlier this year CCHW conducted a survey concerning Superfund. On the issue of liability, 94 percent of respondents stated that polluters should be held directly responsible and did not support apportioned liability or the creation of a trust fund.

A C T I O N L I N E



ALASKA: The devastation of the Exxon Valdez oil spill is still being felt by residents living near Prince William Sound. Researchers have found that there is an increase in the number of mental disorders of residents of the communities around the contaminated area. Researchers from the University of California at San Diego and an independent consulting firm interviewed about 600 people in communities near the spill and found that those whose lives had been most affected by the spill had an increased likelihood of suffering from anxiety disorders, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder as compared to unaffected residents.

CALIFORNIA: Congratulations **Laytonville Dump Busters!** Due to the unrelenting pressure applied in all the right places, namely state and county offices, the Laytonville Dump Busters have won their fight to get the Laytonville dump closed. According to group member Florence Bowler, "there were many different reasons why we were able to get the Laytonville Dump closed. One important factor that accomplished the closing was the determination of concerned people to not be intimidated by public officials. These officials, both county and state, tried to convince us that no problems existed. However, by going to each of the state and county offices involved in the running of the dump or charged with the safety of the public, we found and copied numerous documents showing many, many violations had occurred over the years, culminating in the leachate running off-site, surface and

underground water contamination, etc. The proof was there." Their advice to anyone fighting an existing or proposed haz waste site: "...don't give up. Be persistent. Don't be intimidated. You will win!" ♦♦ Culminating an eight month campaign by the **Chinese Progressive Association (CPA)**, curbside recycling made its debut in San Francisco's Chinatown this Spring, five years after the city started the service for most of its other neighborhoods. CPA members and other Chinatown residents had protested the absence of curbside and apartment recycling services in their community, a service which they were paying for on their garbage bill. Through a petition campaign, door-to-door canvassing, street corner tabling and a series of demonstrations and meetings with city officials, community members successfully pressured the city to end its discriminatory service policy. CPA members are also currently developing plans for a recycling center in Chinatown which can serve as a base for ongoing environmental education and organizing for this predominantly immigrant and low-income community. ♦♦ After a five year struggle, **Desert Citizens Against Pollution** of Antelope Valley have won their fight against National Cement's hazardous waste incinerator. The burner, which had been operating for almost twelve years, burned approximately seventy-five percent of all hazardous waste solvents produced in the state as well as imports from other states. The victory was sealed when the landowner of the property, upon which the

incinerator is sited, refused to sign a new operating permit. How did the group win such a tremendous victory? According to group member Stormy Williams, "We used what we call the chicken offense. We believe in attacking everybody and every agency that is remotely connected to this plant. We went to the stockholders' meeting...the water quality board...the air pollution control office and the state EPA. We educated the public and the owners of the land of the damage being done by this incinerator...If you watch chickens out looking for food they scratch the ground and peck and then move a little more and do it again, each time kicking up a little dust. Well, that's us...Eventually after kicking up enough dust the landowner began to listen and when they realized the damage done to their land and reputation they refused to sign the permit."

Correspondent: Mary Burns, Mira Loma.

CANADA: The **Coalition for Nitassinan** and the **Innu Support Committee** are continuing their fight against Hydro-Quebec's SM-III mega-dam project that will threaten the region's largest salmon habitat, flood an area of 450 square kilometers, contaminate rivers with mercury, and cause the clearcutting of vast areas of forest. Most importantly, this dam threatens the traditional way of life for hundreds of Innu people who will perish if the dam is allowed to be built. Additionally, once the dam is under construction, the entire region will be opened up to forestry and mining interests. Those opposing this project are asking that citizens of both the U.S. and

Canada write letters to the Canadian Prime Minister to demand that the Quebec and Canadian governments respect the Innu right of self-determination. Ask that they respect national and international law with regard to Innu sovereignty and let them define the basis for their own future. For those who wish to write: Jean Chretien, Prime Minister of Canada, Langevin Block, Parliament Bldgs., Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2, Fax: (613) 995-0101.

COLORADO: **Western Colorado Congress (WCC)** filed a lawsuit against the Colorado Department of Health (CDH) charging the CDH with failure to follow its own regulations in its recent license approval of Colorado's only commercial radioactive waste dump. WCC's lawsuit concerns the recent approval by CDH for a Union Carbide subsidiary to begin construction of a radioactive waste dump at its Uravan Superfund site located twenty miles from the Colorado-Utah border. The dump would hold 800,000 tons of radioactive waste. WCC alleges that the CDH reviewed Union Carbide's license under the wrong regulations, did not conduct an adequate analysis of alternatives to the proposed dump and failed to consider the impacts of transportation of materials from outside Colorado to the dump.

FLORIDA: Thirty-one additional lawsuits have been filed against WMX Technologies and several affiliated companies, (twenty-six similar suits were filed last summer) by residents living around the infamous Higgs Road landfill. Residents

A C T I O N L I N E



continue to suffer from health problems ranging from cancer to reproductive problems. WMX has set up a treatment system to attempt to separate contaminants from groundwater but states that "as far as there being a threat or anybody being at risk right now, there is no such problem." The landfill is on the federal Superfund list of the nation's worst toxic waste sites.

Correspondent: "Crapper John" Austin, Jacksonville.

GEORGIA: Over 200 Georgia residents representing about twenty different communities attended a "Toxic Lotto" rally and protest at the state capitol in Atlanta. Grassroots activists accuse the leadership in the state of playing toxic lottery with their health and environment by allowing the state to become a dumping ground for out-of-state waste and for prioritizing profits over people. Protesters used a Wheel of Poison which contained categories such as sludge, incinerators, dumps, dirty water and Superfund sites. In a creative spin on the show Wheel of Fortune where participants can win money and prizes, this version of the game gave away sludge and toxic waste sites to participating communities. ♦♦ **VICTORY!** Citizens for Clean Air, Land and Water of Quitman County have beaten back a proposed medical waste incinerator. For details see *Ban the Burn Victories* on page 19.

Correspondent: Carol Williams/Eco-Action, Atlanta.

ILLINOIS: WMX Technologies has found out in a most embarrassing way that there is no price they can pay to buy the support of community residents of Southeast Side in Chicago. Thomas Fuller, president of the

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) acknowledged offering up to \$75 million in givebacks, on behalf of WMX, to the community and environmental groups if they would drop their opposition to the 144-acre landfill proposed by MWRD and garbage giant WMX Technologies. Carrying signs that read, "No Dumps, No Deals," a boisterous crowd of over 300 protesters turned out for a public hearing on the project where they listened to over two hours of testimony from dump opponents. The sentiment of all was that there is no price high enough for turning their community into a dumping ground. ♦♦ The DuPage County suburb of West Chicago has won their twelve year fight for the removal of radioactive thorium from the area. Kerr-McGee has until June 1, 1995, to remove 80,000 tons of waste from an old factory site. Under different ownership, the factory used thorium to produce mantles for gas lanterns. The byproduct of the lanterns were thorium tailings which were later buried in a 45 foot high earth-covered mound in the center of town. For years the residents were unaware of the risks and used the thorium tailings as fill which has resulted in wide spread contamination throughout the area.

Correspondent: Loretta Hardy, Chicago.

INDIANA: Victory! After a fifteen year fight to stop a WMX Technology's proposed landfill, **Kilbuck Concerned Citizens Association** have finally won. WMX was proposing to purchase property on the outskirts of Anderson city from the J.M. Corporation to build a landfill that would then be managed by J.M. Corp. The property sits right

across the street from an elementary school and atop three water aquifers that supply drinking water to all of Madison County. After fifteen years, all of the efforts to shut down the project culminated in a huge march on the governor's mansion and a public hearing by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management with more than 400 people in attendance! With such overwhelming opposition to the landfill, the Solid Waste Management Board had no other choice but to vote to shelve the project permanently. ♦♦ The March/April issue of *Everyone's Backyard* reported that the incinerator proposed by Westinghouse to burn PCBs in Bloomington was "on hold indefinitely," but that's not so. Recently the parties to the consent decree that authorizes construction of the world's first PCB/garbage incinerator to clean up the area's six Superfund sites announced they were going to study cleanup alternatives. As Westinghouse, the PRP and would-be incinerator manufacturer, put it, the incinerator isn't

"dead" but has become the "alternative of last resort." Activists continue to fight for cleanup of the hazardous wastes in the area and are stepping up their efforts to make sure incineration is never used, period! Keep up the good work.

Correspondent: Mike Moore, Madison.

KENTUCKY: For years LWD, of Calvert City, which operates the only licensed hazardous waste incinerator in Kentucky, has been pressured by state and environmentalist's charges that it lacked required permits to operate. Apparently the feds think there's something fishy going on as well and have confiscated sixteen months worth of records from LWD, Inc. Apparently the records seized include manifests of waste burned in the company's three incinerators.

Correspondent: Sherry Clifton, Prestonsburg.

LABOR: In late May CCHW organizer Pete Castelli attended a conference on Environmental Training and Superfund Cleanup. The conference was held at the Mine Academy in Beckley, West Virginia, and was spon-

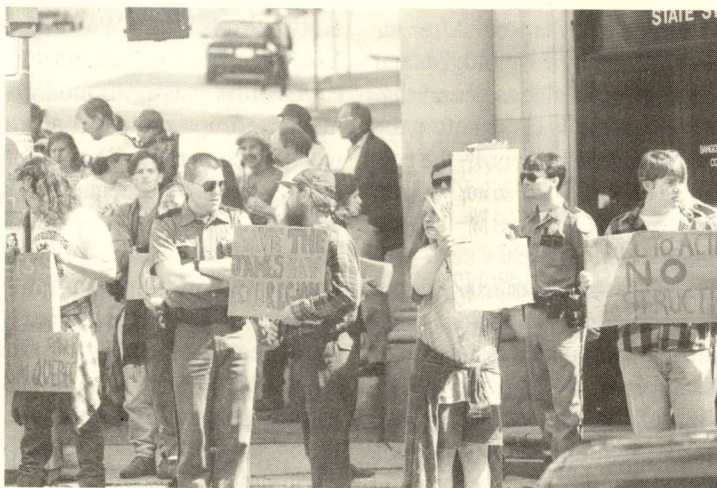


Play Toxic Lotto! See Georgia Actionline.

A C T I O N L I N E



Photo by Marc Blanchette/The Bangor Daily News



Activists padlock Bangor Hydro-Electric's front doors to protest the utility's plans to build a power line from Baileyville to Orrington.

sored by the International Union of Operating Engineers. The conference included workshops and discussion of how to properly train workers to get Superfund cleanup jobs and how communities and workers can make sure the process is inclusive and done right. For more information on building bridges, please see *Jobs and the Environment Training* on page 20.

MAINE: Activists joined together in downtown Bangor to protest Bangor Hydro-Electric's plan to run a high-voltage transmission line from Baileyville to Orrington. Activists chained the front doors of Hydro-Electric's offices and caused quite a scene disrupting a normally quiet day in downtown Bangor. The activists also linked their opposition to the power line with their opposition to the gargantuan hydroelectric project being undertaken by Hydro Quebec. Hydro Quebec plans to flood thousands of acres of northern Quebec all for the sake of electrical generating capacity for which

there is no demand.

Correspondent: John Dieffenbacher-Krall, Bangor.

MASSACHUSETTS: The EPA temporarily halted its dredging procedures in the Acushnet River in New Bedford after air samples revealed high levels of PCBs. Although dredging has resumed, PCBs remain in the air. Citizens are requesting that the EPA move more slowly in dredging the river, but EPA officials in New Bedford stated that, "it would be a big waste of resources." In other news concerning the New Bedford site, **Hands Across the River Coalition** has issued an alert to all grassroots groups concerning the issue of taking waste from New Bedford to incinerate elsewhere. In part, the alert reads: "The EPA officials have said that they won't incinerate on site. But incineration is still on the table because they feel its the best way to destroy the PCBs. They may try to burn it in your backyard. So mama bears beware! Be ready, for the EPA may try to burn New Bedford's PCBs in your backyard. Stand united

with claws ready to go into battle. Protect your cubs!

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

MICHIGAN: Citizens of Romulus and local environmental group **RECAP** continue to fight Environmental Disposal Systems (EDS), which proposes to dump million of gallons of hazardous waste into a 4,500 foot well. The company's latest efforts involve paying residents \$50 each to attend a focus group to discuss their opposition to the well. EDS has staked \$5 million in Detroit pension funds on the hazardous waste project, plus another \$1 million from a Canadian waste hauler to build the first of two planned wells. Romulus filed suit earlier this year to force EDS to get local zoning permits for their well which will take as much as ninety-six million gallons of waste a year.

Correspondent: Verna Courtemanche, Swartz Creek; C.J. Eicholtz, Milan.

MISSOURI: Environmental, community and civil rights groups are cheering the May 10 announcement by the Hospital Association of Metropolitan St. Louis that they will abandon plans to build a regional medical waste incinerator that was to be sited smack in the middle of the city. This proposed incinerator was one in a long line of proposed incinerators that have been considered in the area since the late 1980's. ♦♦ The nation's principal river conservation group **American Rivers** has listed the Mississippi River as one of the nation's ten most endangered rivers. The destruction of the river's natural systems to aid flood control and navigation, toxic discharges, and the loss of backwaters and contaminated

run-off were identified as the leading causes of the river's decline. Toxic pollutants including organic chemicals like PCBs, dioxins and pesticides and toxic metals like mercury, cadmium and lead have led to fish kills and advisories, and pose threats to drinking water supplies. On the lower Mississippi, a 150-mile stretch of river between Baton Rouge and New Orleans has been dubbed the "chemical corridor" and "cancer alley" because of pollution by unsafe levels of pesticides and industrial chemicals.

Correspondent: Kathleen McCartney, Glenwood.

NATIVE AMERICANS: Exxon Minerals, a subsidiary of Exxon Corporation, and Rio Algom, a Canadian mining company, have entered into a joint venture to mine one of the world's largest zinc-copper sulfide deposits. The proposed Crandon/Mole Lake mine sits at the headwaters of Wisconsin's Wolf River and adjacent to the Mole Lake Indian Reservation. The mine was originally proposed by Exxon in 1975, but local opposition to the mine forced Exxon to withdraw that proposal in 1986. Concerned that sulfuric mining wastes will harm trout fishing in the Wolf River, wild rice beds on the Mole Chippewa Reservation and water quality for humans and wildlife, the Mole Lake Sokaogon Chippewa, the Menominee, the Forest County Potawatomi and the Stockbridge-Munsee tribal governments have established the **Nii Win Intertribal Council** in opposition to the Crandon/Mole Lake mine. They are asking that all concerned U.S. and Canadian citizens write letters to Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson in support of Native American

A C T I O N L I N E



tribes who are fighting to protect the Wolf River watershed in Wisconsin from mining-related pollution. The Honorable Governor Tommy Thompson, State Capitol Building, P.O. Box 7863, Madison, Wisconsin, 53707.

Correspondent: Lance Hughes/NACE.

NEBRASKA: Bellevue residents have filed suit in federal court that seeks to halt Asarco Corporation's discharge of lead, zinc, arsenic and other pollutants into the Missouri River at Omaha. Asarco, which operates a lead refinery in Omaha, applied for a permit in 1981, but the State Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) never issued a permit. The company filed a complaint against the DEQ asking the court to rule that meetings that they had with the department in 1985 and subsequent monitoring of the discharges constituted an interim permit.

Correspondent: Jack Zeider, Columbus.

NEW JERSEY: Duck Island incinerator is no more. For details see *Ban the Burn Victories* on page 19. ♦♦ **Citizens Healthy Environment Committee (CHEC)** have formed a new expanded countywide group to work on problems at the Ocean County landfill in the Manchester area. A meeting was held at the local church where a diverse group of residents shared information and agreed to pressure landfill owners and local officials to conduct environmental and health testing. Many residents shared stories of childhood cancer, learning disabilities and other health problems in their young children. CCHW, the **Grassroots Environmental Organization, Concerned Citizens of Union County** and environmental justice

representatives from Rutgers University were at the meeting to share advice and encourage residents to take whatever action is necessary to achieve their goals. ♦♦ JoAnn Eash from **Concerned Citizens of Union County** is running for City Council along with fellow activist Bob Carson. JoAnn said that her decision was made after the Stop Incineration Now (SIN) meeting this past October. One strategy discussed at the conference was running for office at the local, state and federal levels. According to JoAnn, "If we are to change the balance of power, then activists must run for office and take seats of power away from those who don't believe in the same values as we do." Good luck JoAnn and Bob!

Correspondents: Madelyn Hoffman/GREO, Bloomfield; Cynthia Ortiz, Hackensack; Gary Wonderlin, Pennsauken.

NEW YORK: In the last issue of *EBY* we reported that operations had stopped at the Akzo Salt mine in Retsof following an earthquake that caused part of

the mine to collapse. After investigations by seismologists and geologists, it's been found that the egg actually came before the chicken. In other words, the collapse of part of the mine was the cause of the 3.6 tremor! As you may recall, Akzo has been proposing to use the mine as a dump for incinerator ash and has faced strong community resistance to such plans. ♦♦ Much to the delight of **Citizens for North East**, the state Supreme Court has ordered that the State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) pay \$18,000 of the group's legal fees for withholding nearly seventy-five percent of the information sought by the community group. DEC had failed to provide information sought by the group in its efforts to overturn a permit issued by DEC to Moody Farms Limited Partnerships, a sixty-eight acre composting facility. The group claims that such a facility would threaten a downstream wetlands area. ♦♦ **Citizens' Environmen-**

tal Coalition, Don't Waste New York, the **Sierra Club** and dozens of other grassroots environmental groups protested at the recent Democratic Convention held in Buffalo to demand that Governor Cuomo stop the dumping of imported waste in Western New York. Speaker after speaker, representing nearly twenty environmental groups in all, called on Cuomo to implement legislative and policy reforms to protect New York's environment. Western New York is threatened with numerous proposals for mega-dumps and incinerators that could make it the "Waste Capital" of the U.S. ♦♦ Sludge spreading stopped as citizen struggle surmounts staunch salvos by salacious civil servants! **Citizens Against Sludge Spreading (CASS)** recently prevailed in their efforts to stop the landspreading of sludge near their rural community. Sludge from the waste water treatment facilities in Boonville and Clinton was targeted for dump-





Delaney Campaign First Victory!

In May of 1993, CCHW, in cooperation with other groups, launched the Protect Our Children - Save Delaney Campaign. We asked that supporters of the Delaney Clause call or write the EPA and Dole Foods, one of the largest food processors in the world, to tell them how they felt about allowing cancer-causing chemicals in processed foods. Dole Foods has stated that it supports abolishing the Delaney Clause and using instead, the one-in-a-million cancer risk strategy. Ironically, many of the people that called Dole's 800 number received coupons toward the purchase of Dole products! Although Dole has maintained its position regarding chemicals in foods, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is being forced to uphold the Delaney Clause largely due to the pressure applied by the grassroots.

In April the EPA began to send notices to corporations denying them permission to allow any cancer-causing chemicals in their processed foods! Industry regularly receives approval for tolerance levels and were quite disappointed when Carol Browner began denying industry petitions requesting tolerance levels. Due to a court order that came about because of the tremendous pressure applied by concerned citizens, Carol Browner and the EPA must enforce the Delaney Clause. Browner even admitted that the food supply would be safer as a result of the enforcement of Delaney. But while Ms. Browner is under a court order to enforce Delaney, she is also working hard to kill Delaney. She is trying to convince Congress to abolish the Delaney Clause and use the risk assessment model instead. But we can negate these EPA lobbying efforts on Congress by applying some pressure of our own.



Congressman Waxman (D-CA) is introducing a bill that would phase out pesticides over the next five years. Although this is a good first step, Rep. Waxman will still allow Delaney to be abolished. Rep. Waxman's bill does address pesticide use, but does not address the use of cancer-causing food additives and preservatives. The Delaney Clause is all inclusive and allows no cancer-causing chemicals (whether it's pesticides, dyes or flavor enhancers) in processed foods. It is this inclusiveness that we cannot afford to do without. It is truly a matter of life or death. Think about it. Is it an acceptable risk to allow the use of a chemical that will cause one cancer death per million per food product? Ms. Browner and the EPA thinks that it is.

Clearly Rep. Waxman is moving in the right direction, but his bill falls short of what needs to be done. We need you to call or write Rep. Waxman and urge him to move forward with his bill which would phase out pesticides. But equally important, we need to convince Rep. Waxman and other members of Congress that the Delaney Clause must be upheld. Representative Waxman can be reached by calling (202) 225-3976 (Congressional office in Washington, D.C.) or by calling (213) 851-1040 (California office). Letters can be sent to: 8425 West 3rd Street, Los Angeles, CA 90048.

Let's keep up the pressure. Call Dole at 1-800-232-8888 or write Carol Browner at EPA, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460. To find out about other ways you can get involved write CCHW for our full campaign kit (\$5.00). Wear your opinion on your shirt with one of our two buttons - "Safe Foods, Healthy Children, Save Delaney" or "DOLE - Damages Our Lives health & Environment." Buttons are \$1.00 each.

Publication List

.....
"Our community organized and fought a proposed toxic waste incinerator, ash landfill and solvent recovery system two years ago. We successfully stopped the state from condemning privately owned, productive farm land. When I got involved one of the first pieces of literature I received was a copy of How To Deal With A Proposed Facility. That booklet and many other CCHW materials proved to be invaluable in our successful effort."

General Reading

1. Love Canal: My Story

By Lois Gibbs. The inside story on the LCHA's successful organizing for the buy out of 900 families from Love Canal. We've all learned a lot from this fight. **Hardbound edition. List: \$12.95, Your Price: \$9.95.**

7. Love Canal: A Chronology of Events that Shaped a Movement

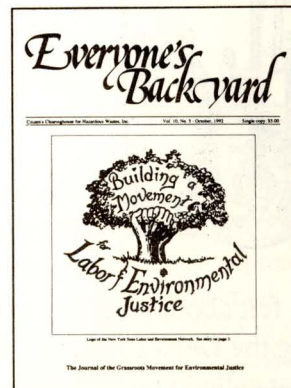
The Grassroots Movement for Environmental Justice began at Love Canal. Find out how, in the words of those who were there. Includes great health effects/pollutant charts and maps that could be a model for your community. pp. 86, \$9.95

59. Environmental Justice Songbook

Over 80 songs by grassroots activists. Bring music into your fight for environmental justice. pp. 60, \$9.95

Everyone's Backyard

Bi-monthly journal of the Movement For Environmental Justice. Published by CCHW, includes legal, scientific, organizing and general information about the grassroots environmental movement. Subscription \$25.00 year.



"Everyone's Backyard offers the latest on community victories—how they organized and how they won—written by community activists from all over the country. Each exciting issue is packed with cutting edge information that will keep you up to date on what's happening in the Environmental Justice Movement!"



Organizing

2. Fight to Win: A Leader's Manual

How to start a group keep it going, research opponents, organize your community, carry out effective action, raise funds and win! pp. 59, \$7.50

33. How to Deal with a Proposed Facility

Called "the bible" by some activists this is our best tactical manual on how to STOP a bad facility from locating in your community. **3rd edition** pp. 35, \$6.95

54. The Polluters "Secret" Plan... and How You Can Mess It Up!

Unveils industry and government tricks to overcome community opposition and provides advice on how to fight back and win! pp. 36, **Community Groups** \$6.95, **all others:** \$199.95

43. **How to Deal with Trouble** The truth about legal and physical threats, "spies" and many other nightmares grassroots leaders have. pp. 43, \$7.95

65. How to Win In Public Hearings

By Itzhak E. Kornfeld, Wilma Subra and Will Collette. Practical advice on how to either beat the polluters at their own game, or, if that fails, how to take over hearings. \$6.95 for **citizen activists** /\$199.95 for **all others**.

26. 200+ Questions about New Sites

A helpful list of questions you should ask polluters and govt. agencies that will help point out weaknesses in their proposed projects. pp. 8, \$3.00

6. Research Guide for Leaders

How to research opponents, investigate polluters and combine research with effective tactics. **2nd edition** pp. 18, \$3.50

52. How to Raise & Manage Money

Gives you practical advice on developing budgets, holding fundraising events, and applying for grants. pp. 54, \$6.50

35. Media Means

Gives you solid tips on writing effective news releases and public service announcements, and on maintaining good relations with the media. pp. 42, \$7.50

57. Using Your Right-To-Know:

Dealing With Operating Facilities

How to find out about the toxic chemicals stored or discharged in your community, and how to take action with your new information. pp. 71+, \$9.95

47. Solid Waste Action Guidebook

What is solid wastes? The pros and cons of dumps, incinerators, and recycling. How other groups have organized to fight and win against bad proposals. pp. 58, 8.98

29. Transportation: Danger on the Road Helps you assess hazards from toxic transport through your community with practical advice on how to protect your community. pp. 40, \$7.95

58. Empowering Ourselves: Women and Toxics Organizing

Covers dealing with stress, balancing being a mother and organizer, maintaining your marriage, and much more. This is a collection of material by many women with diverse backgrounds who gathered at a CCHW Roundtable. pp. 60, \$9.95

11. User's Guide to Experts

Answers common questions and gives proven techniques to get your money's worth. pp. 31, \$5.75

19. Best of Organizing Toolbox: 1981 to Present

Reprints of our column offering organizing tips. Includes door-knocking meetings negotiations, burn-out, opponents counter-attacks, cleaning up dumps, experts, politicians group diversity and much much more. pp. 64, \$10.00

50. Making it Happen: How to Put on a Leadership Development Conference

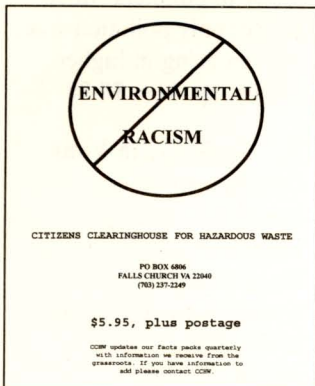
What to do and what not to do when planning and carrying out training events for grassroots toxics leaders. pp. 28, \$5.00

Fact Packs

News Clips and great information from our files which we've put together for your use. Only \$3.00 each (except where noted):

P014. Risk Assessments: A Community Perspective

- n. Community Stress
- p. Women and Burn-Out
- w. Environmental Racism \$5.95
- x. Do Waste Sites Create Jobs?
- ee. Waste Site Effects on Property Values
- af. SLAPP Back Fact Pack
- eco. Sustainable Economic Development \$5.95

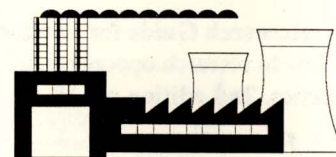


.....

"Race proved to be the most significant among variables tested in association with the location of commercial hazardous waste facilities. This represented a consistent national pattern."

.....

Science, Technologies and Waste



.....

"Science can be a powerful tool for community groups, but only if they recognize what it can tell them, what it can't and only if they learn how to use the information and not just collect it."

.....

9. Common Questions About Health Effects

How we are exposed to toxics, what chemicals do to us, and facts vs. myths. pp. 25, \$6.95

10. Community Health Surveys

Complete handbook on around environmental health studies. Includes step by step discussion of how to do studies and includes adult and child health questionnaires. pp. 35, \$10

25. Center for Disease Control: Coverup, Deceit and Confusion

How the Federal health agency - CDC and ATSDR - sets up studies to coverup community health problems. Includes specific examples. pp. 25, \$4.95

60. Environmental Health Monthly

Monthly publication that reprints detailed studies/articles on health effects caused by various chemical exposures. Help educate your community physician or your group by subscribing to this valuable monthly. **Community Groups** \$15.00 **Health Professionals** \$35.00

14msw. Solid Waste Incineration: The Rush to Burn

Deals with technological marvels like the "Miami Monster" and the serious problems of mass burn trash incineration. **2nd edition** pp. 64, \$9.95

32. Recycling: The Answer to Our Garbage Problem

Say no to landfills & incineration! Use this book to learn why and how your community can recycle instead. pp. 96+, \$9.95

28. Reduction of Hazardous Waste: The Only Serious Option

"Well, what do we do with it?" Helps you learn methods available NOW to polluters which are not only pollution-free, but can bring in higher profits. pp. 51+, \$8.98

70. Pesticides in Your Community

A just completed, 30 page manual, that will answer many questions you have concerning pesticide use in the U.S. pp. 30+, \$10.00

53. Massburn Status Report

New UPDATED version. A printout from CCHW's computer database with the latest information on incinerators. Includes a list of problems at incinerators by company. pp. 30+, **Community Groups** \$7.50/\$99.99 everyone else.

34. Advanced Technologies

This manual details the best "cutting edge" technologies for dealing with waste as well as site cleanup. pp. 54+, \$8.95

14hz. Hazardous Waste Incineration: The Burning Issue

The problems and pitfalls of conventional hazardous waste incineration. **2nd edition** pp. 105, \$8.95

27. Land Disposal: Dinosaur of Disposal Methods

Provides facts, case studies and arguments to show the dangers of land disposing of waste. The "State of The Art" is only the most recent idea. pp. 65+, \$9.00

8tt. Land Farming Sludge

A compilation of newsclips, articles and scientific papers on what's in sludge and how communities are dealing with this issue. New EXPANDED version. \$5.95

15. Deepwell Injection: An Explosive Issue

60% of U.S. toxic waste is pumped into wells. Find out if you have an injection well in your backyard and what you can do about it. pp. 73, \$7.95

13. Environmental Testing

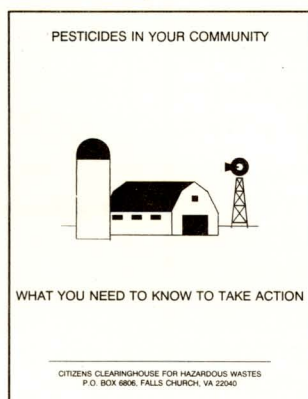
Where to look, what you want to look for, how to get proper testing and what the results means. **2nd edition** pp. 69, \$9.95

30. How Clean is Clean

De-mystifies the technical debate over cleanup standards for contaminated sites. Discusses grassroots strategies for winning the best cleanup not the cheapest. pp. 23, \$4.95

31. Safety Plans: What You Need to Know

After the cleanup is negotiated the next step is ensuring the job doesn't expose your community to danger. This manual tells you how. pp. 25+, \$6.95



49. Drinking Water: An Endangered Resource A must for concerned citizens who want to protect their drinking water. pp. 48+, \$7.50

48. Drinking Water Filters

Gives the straight scoop on the various types of water systems. pp. 28+, \$6.95

56. Technical Assistance Grants: A User's Guide

If you're site is on Superfund, you may be eligible for a \$50,000 TAG. EPA's guidebooks are confusing. CCHW's tells you how a TAG may help your group, and how to fill out the forms. pp. 30+, \$7.95

36. Dealing with Military Toxics

The Pentagon has more toxic sites than Superfund; produces more toxic wastes than many chemical companies; find out the extent of the problem and what you can do. pp. 23+, \$5.95

63. Medical Waste: Public Health vs. Private Profit

Everything you wanted to know about medical waste, how it's disposed, pitfalls of the industry, how to fight back and win against medical waste in your community pp. 33 **Community Groups \$8.50/\$99.99 everyone else.**

55. Radon: Problems and Solutions

What it is, where it comes from and what you can do. pp. 30+, \$6.95

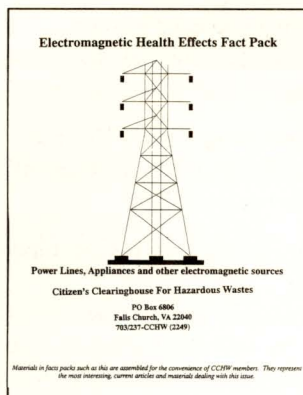
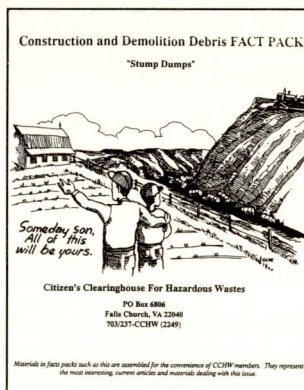
20. Best of Science Features

Reprints of science columns from *Everyone's Backyard*. Includes water testing and filters, landfills, incineration, recycling, medical waste, sludge, soil burners, scientists' favorite lies & lines plus more. pp. 80, \$4.50

Fact Packs

News Clips and great information from our files which we've put together for your use. Only \$3.00 each:

- k. PCBs
- oo. Dioxin (TCDD) Toxicity
- pp. Lead Toxicity
- i. Lawn Care and Pesticides
- b. Incinerator Ash
- ss. Construction/Demolition Waste
- qq. Burning Hazardous Waste in Cement Kilns \$5.95
- uu. Composting Yard Waste/ Organic Waste
- c. "State of the Art" Landfill Liners
- ae. Burnin' Rubber: Tire Incineration
- ii. "Backhauling": Food in Waste Trucks
- nn. Recycling Household Batteries
- f. Household Hazardous Waste
- aj. Soil Burners
- xx. Pulp and Paper Mill Wastes
- ww. Wood Preservatives
- rr. Power Lines - Microwave Radiation
- vv. Cancer Clusters
- z Victim's Compensation
- 8d. McFact-Pack All about styrofoam. \$5.00



.....

"In almost every case, the essential ingredient has been citizen initiative, input and involvement. Scientific technique is necessary and plays a role, but its importance pales in comparison to the efforts of local community groups."

.....

Corporate

L A I D L A W



A Corporate Profile

New Publication! Check
out number 71.

***In May of 1993, Waste Management, Inc. changed its name to WMX Technologies and Services.*

71. Laidlaw: A Corporate Profile

Newly updated information on this Canadian-owned trash hauling, trash burning company. pp. 43, \$10.00

8zz. The Nationwide anti-trust Conspiracy Case Against BFI and WMX Technologies

Evidence presented by plaintiffs' lawyers accusing WMX and BFI of a nationwide conspiracy to fix prices for garbage disposal. BFI and WMX settled the case by paying \$50M. pp. 120 \$15.00

45. WMX Technologies: Corporate Profile

Everything you ever wanted to know about who they are and where they came from. pp. 76 **plus new updates**, \$9.95

45A. WMX Technologies Update

Continually updated collection of articles and information. \$2.00

45B. WMX Technologies Compliance History

WMX had to file this 10 year history of their violations with Pennsylvania. Use their own words to help explain why you don't want them around. pp. 74, \$10.00

45C. WMX Technologies Reports

Read all about what San Diego and Ventura counties in California discovered about WMX after their own investigations. Both reports are packaged together. \$16.00

46. Browning-Ferris Corporate Profile

Everything you ever wanted to know about who they are and where they came from. pp. 47 plus new Updates, \$8.00

46A. Browning-Ferris Update

Continually updated collection of articles and information. \$2.00

46B. Browning-Ferris Compliance History

BFI had to file this 10 year history of their violations with Pennsylvania. Use their own words to help explain why you don't want them around. pp. 60, \$10.00



Fact Packs \$3.00 each

- j. IT Corporation Problems
- aa. Ogden Martin Corporate Info.
- cc. Track Record of the Hazardous Waste Incineration Industry
- dd. ENSCO Corporate Info.
- ff. Recontek Corporate Info.
- hh. Kodak Corporate Info.
- kk. Dupont Corporate Info.
- ll. Waste Tech/Amoco Corporate Info.
- mm. Union Pacific/USPCI Corp. Info.
- yy. Mid-American Corporate Info.
- ab. Clean Harbors Corporate Info.
- ad. Chambers Corporate Info.
- jj. Bad Actor Laws
- ac. Westinghouse Corporate Info.
- ag. Monsanto Corporate Info.
- ah. Wheelabrator
- ai. Asea Brown Boveri, Ltd.

Legal

12. User's Guide to Lawyers

The pros and cons of hiring a lawyer for your fight, how to make sure they are working for you, legal tricks & tactics. **2nd edition** pp. 31, \$5.75

16. Should Your Group Incorporate?

Points out some problems and gives practical advice on incorporating. Includes document samples. pp. 19, \$6.25

18. Best of Legal Corner

Reprints of Ron Simon's, CCHW General Counsel, column in Everyone's Backyard. Includes articles on hiring and firing a lawyer, libel, slander class actions, settlements, statutes of limitations and more. pp. 22, \$4.50

TOXIC WASTE SITE LISTS

EPA's computer printout of known and suspected toxic waste sites for every state and the U.S. Territories. Name the states you want. **\$2.50 each**

66. CCHW Tote Bag Durable 100 % cotton, natural color tote bag imprinted with **People United For Environmental Justice** logo. Perfect for carrying your CCHW guidebooks to your community meetings. \$10.00

72. Community Relocation Guide

A comprehensive guide that addresses the difficult issues regarding relocation and fair compensation. pp. 32, \$10.00

Convention Memorabilia

Convention '93 Video A video tape will be available covering the Tenth Anniversary CCHW Convention. Entitled "The Will to Power," the tape covers the highlights of the weekend: the march on the EPA, guest speakers and interviews with people from around the country airing their concerns, beliefs and strategies. Approx. 90 minutes long, \$15.00.

41. Ten Years of Triumph Written by activists from the Grassroots Movement for Environmental Justice and covering their unique visions of the past, present and future of the movement. This is definitely a book you will want to include in your collection. pp. 94, \$15.00.

Anniversary Convention Mugs 10 ounce, clear glass mugs with the CCHW convention logo (logo shown at right) make a great gift. Buy a set and use them at your next rally, fundraiser or group meeting. 1 for \$5.00, 2 for \$8.00, 3 for \$10.00, a set of 6 for \$18.00 or a case (36 in all) for \$90.00.

Buttons and Stickers Commemorate Ten Years of Triumph with two fantastic items: A 1 x 2 inch rectangular button sporting the convention logo in purple on a white background or the familiar People United logo in green on a circular white button (approx. 1.5 inches in diameter). \$1.00

We also have the People United logo on a great looking sticker. Perfect for plastering on notebooks, car bumpers or any old place. The logo appears in navy blue on a white background. (Approx. 4.5 inches in diameter). \$.25 each.

T-shirts

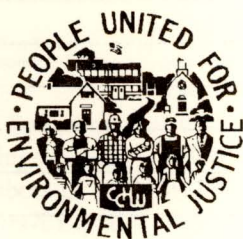
Say it with a T-shirt! Protests, rallies and attendance at public meetings are much more affective if everyone is wearing the same T-shirt. The message to your opponent: "We are working together and will not be silenced." All T-shirts are 100% cotton. \$10.00



Available in white with a black and red graphic



Available in black with a white and red graphic

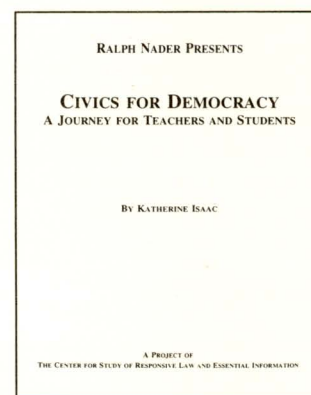


Available in: white T with a red and blue logo; dark blue T with white and light blue logo; or black T with white and red logo.



Available in heather gray with purple, green and white logo; or teal with red, black and white logo.

#CIV Civics for Democracy by Katherine Issac/ Forward by Ralph Nader A must for high school civics classes. Today our schools are being inundated with materials from corporations giving our young people the wrong message. This book explains true democracy and how young people as well as adults can participate and take action. It discusses our country's rich history of grassroots movements including the labor, civil rights, women's and environmental justice movements. Give this publication as a gift and provide another view of the value of living in a democracy. pp. 390, \$10.00.



#WMN Women Activists: Challenging the Abuse of Power by Anne Witte Garland

Women are a driving force in movements for justice around the world. This book tells the stories of 14 women leaders, from Cora Tucker in Virginia to Simone Wilkinson in England. Often in the words of the women themselves, this is an exploration of what spurs someone to become an activist. It celebrates each woman's triumph and reveals much about what it means to be a woman in this society. pp. 146, \$10.00.

#GDW Good Works: A Guide to Careers in Social Change, edited by Jessica Cowan

A great resource for people looking to work for social justice. Provides profiles of hundreds of social justice organizations and geographical and topical listings. pp. 428, \$10.00.

Publication and Membership Order Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Method of Payment (circle one):

Check enclosed

Visa/Mastercard

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____

Telephone Orders accepted with Visa/Mastercard. Please call (703) 237-2249

Quantity/Publication ##

Title/Item Name

Price

Postage Charges		
Total	1st Class	Outside U.S.
\$1.00-\$5.00	1.29	3.70
\$5.01-15.00	2.09	4.54
\$15.01-25.00	2.54	5.29
\$25.01-35.00	3.29	7.29
\$35.01-60.00	4.29	8.29
\$60.01-80.00	5.29	9.79
\$80.01-100.00	6.29	10.79

CCHW Membership dues \$25.00	
------------------------------	--

Subtotal	
----------	--

CCHW Membership Discount (10%)	
--------------------------------	--

Virginia Residents add 4.5% sales tax	
---------------------------------------	--

Add Postage (for first class)	
-------------------------------	--

<p>Your Total Enclosed</p>	
-----------------------------------	--

A C T I O N L I N E



ing on county forest land in the town of Boonville.

NORTH CAROLINA: The **Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League (BREDL)** has uncovered state records showing that 64,000 pounds of imported tobacco contaminated with DDT has been buried in the Sampson County landfill, which is operated by Browning Ferris Industries.

Correspondents: George Evins, Oxford; Richard Regan, Pembroke; Lou Zeller, Marshall.

OHIO: Overruling an earlier recommendation, the Ohio Hazardous Waste Facility Board has voted against giving Southwestern Portland Cement Company of Greene County a permit to burn hazardous waste. The decision was a surprise to both the company and opponents of the kiln who've been locked in battle for over three years. "It's a huge victory," said Tracy Slayton, a member of **Stop Affecting Fairborn's Environment**. "We kicked butt," said Bruce Cornett of the **Greene Environmental Coalition**, "this shows that the system works." The board voted against granting a permit when issues were raised regarding the results of a risk assessment where technical errors were identified. The errors raised considerable doubts about whether Southwestern was capable of safely handling hazardous waste.

Correspondent: Robert Castro, Cleveland.

PENNSYLVANIA: A two'fer special! Schuylkill County groups have defeated a proposed Walport Inc. soil burner and **Organizations United for the Environment (OUE)** has beaten back the USPCI incinerator in Allenwood. For details see

Ban the Burn Victories on page 19. ♦♦ The National PTA (Parent Teachers Association) has just put together a new program for PTA training called "Successful Advocacy-Today's PTA." One of the two PTA's chosen to be featured in a twelve minute video as part of this training program is Tracy Elementary School in Easton. The issue highlighted is their efforts to get a ban placed on the burning of hazardous waste in cement kilns until **proven** safe. The tape includes their success in getting their local PTA resolution passed at the state PTA level and in getting their school district to amend their bidding specifications to prohibit the use of cement made using hazardous waste in school projects. To receive a copy of this video contact your state PTA.

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

RHODE ISLAND: South Providence and Washington Park residents and members of **Direct Action for Rights & Equality** are angrily opposing Narragansett Bay Commission's plans to build a \$17 million incinerator at Fields Point. The facility would burn sewage sludge from its treatment plants there and at Bucklin Point, East Providence.

Correspondent: Markus Josephson, Bristol.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Aiken county residents are organizing to oppose plant emissions from a waste water treatment lagoon located next to an elementary school. Parents are concerned about volatile chemicals such as methylene chloride, chloroform and carbon tetra chloride that were found in air samples taken at the school. All of these chem-

icals are carcinogens. Lead levels thirty times higher than federal standards were found in drinking water, but state DHEC told parents that they had "not found any levels of contamination that should cause you concern."

TEXAS: A truck carrying 23,000 pounds of aldicarb crashed near Dallas, spilling the toxic pesticide and sending at least seventeen people to the hospital for possible exposure. Aldicarb, registered in the U.S. since 1970, is used on a variety of crops. It is considered one of the most acutely toxic pesticides allowed to be sold in the U.S.

Correspondent: Gary Oliver, Marfa.

UTAH: EnviroChem Services has abandoned its plans to build a waste handling facility in Nephi, claiming that the state's permit process is taking too long. The company had originally filed for a permit to build in Nephi two and half years ago. In reality, the permit process slowed to a crawl due to the efforts of **Citizens for Appropriate Hazardous Waste Placement** who have been fighting the proposal since its inception. Another slow down occurred when the U.S. EPA, and consequently the state, determined the proposed plant was a "treatment" rather than a "storage" facility. This change in status meant that the permit had to receive several more levels of approval. The company is now targeting Houston for this facility, which will process hazardous and nonhazardous wastes to be used as fuel by cement kilns. According to EnviroChem CEO Craig Pope, "In Houston, we'll just simply be able to get it now and we'll be better off economi-

cally." Perhaps EnviroChem is underestimating the power of the grassroots network. Get ready Houston!

VIRGINIA: Grassroots opposition is growing in the southwest part of the state over a federal proposal to build a huge highway, I-73, which would run from Charleston, South Carolina, to Detroit, Michigan. The opposition surrounds the plans to build an I-73 dogleg (the 460-220 corridor) which would link up the Roanoke area to the I-73 throughway. Citizens oppose the highway saying it is an economic "black hole," which is unneeded and will adversely impact the local environment. Citizens would rather see the \$8 million per mile cost of this project spent on alternative transportation and real community needs.

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

WEST VIRGINIA: A newly formed group in Wyoming County, **Citizens for Environmental Justice**, is fighting to stop deepwell injection of waste in their county. The drinking water is already contaminated in many areas due to mining and now, companies extracting methane gas are injecting millions of gallons of contaminated water back into the ground.

WISCONSIN: In yet another example of changing the balance of power, Kathy McCann of Milton and member of **Citizens for Chemical Awareness**, has been elected to the Milton City Council. Congratulations.

AROUND THE WORLD: After years of dumping their toxic wastes in Third World countries, industrialized nations agreed to ban the practice despite opposition from the U.S., Japan and Germany. The ban on waste exports for final disposal went into effect immediately. Exports of wastes for recycling—widely seen as a back door means of dumping—will be illegal as of December 31, 1997. ♦♦ The toxic trail of crimes synonymous with Laidlaw facilities in Canada and the U.S. has now extended its boundaries to Mexico. The **International Environmental Alliance of the Bravo (IEAB)** has launched an international campaign to shut down the toxic waste transfer station operated by Laidlaw Environmental Services in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico and to also prevent Laidlaw from expanding its operations into Mexico. In May, Laidlaw received fifteen citations for violating Mexican environmental laws at its Juarez facility.

Correspondent: Greenpeace Toxics Campaign, Netherlands.



Whistleblowers Strike Back

Every once in a while the good guys win. Two men with integrity and the strength to speak the truth were recently vindicated by the courts. In one case, a jury in Newark, New Jersey, awarded \$7 million in damages to a toxicologist who claimed he was wrongfully dismissed by Mobil Corporation. Myron Mehlman worked for Mobil as director of a toxicology lab in Hopewell, Virginia, for twelve years. According to Mehlman, he was dismissed in 1989 immediately after he told a Mobil affiliate in Japan that they had been sold gasoline that contained "dangerously high levels of benzene." Benzene is known to cause lung cancer and leukemia. He was fired eighteen hours after the meeting. Lawyers representing Mehlman stated that the short time between his statement and his firing was "more than just a coincidence."

Court documents clearly showed how Mobil attempted to smear Mehlman and damage his credibility as a scientist—"They branded him a thief; they destroyed his reputation." The suit was filed under the eight-year-old *Conscientious Employee Protection Act*, known as the "whistleblower law" that prohibits companies from penalizing employees for reporting corporate wrong-doing. Mobil plans to appeal the decision and says "there was no problem with Mobil gasoline."

In the second case, Department of Labor Secretary Robert Reich ordered the EPA to reinstate toxicologist William Marcus, who had been fired two years ago. Reich upheld an earlier ruling in December 1992, that found EPA guilty of falsifying employment records, discrimination and retaliation against Marcus. Marcus was granted the largest damage award ever given under federal whistleblower protection laws. Marcus will receive full back pay, attorney's fees and \$50,000 in damages for emotional stress.

In 1988, EPA began an investigation into Marcus' activities as an expert witness in a case against Velsicol Chemical Corporation. Velsicol made many pesticides, including DDT, aldrin, dieldrin and chlordane, that were later banned because of their toxicity. EPA claimed Marcus improperly used agency information for private gain. This investigation

Stay on the cutting edge of environmental health issues!

Environmental Health Monthly

Environmental Health Monthly (EHM) is a monthly publication of CCHW providing a forum to educate and inform health professionals and community leaders so that they may better understand the impact of chemical exposures on people's health. Learn about the latest trends and advances in fields such as epidemiology, toxicology and occupational health.

EHM reprints articles from a wide variety of professional and scholarly publications to keep you up to date on ground breaking research. All articles reprinted in *EHM* are reviewed by an editorial review board of physicians, health professionals, scientists and community people.

One year subscription rates: \$35.00 for professionals and \$25.00 for community leaders. To place your order please call: (703) 237-2249 (Visa and Mastercard are accepted) or send a check to Citizens Clearinghouse for Hazardous Waste P.O. Box 6806, Falls Church, VA 22040.

began after Velsicol complained to the agency that Marcus planned on testifying against Velsicol in a civil trial concerning whether the company was responsible for causing cancer in people exposed to the chemicals it manufactured. According to Marcus' lawyers, EPA worked with lawyers for Velsicol during the four year investigation.

Marcus was also outspoken on the use of fluoride in public drinking water supplies. In May, 1990 he questioned EPA's support for adding fluoride to drinking water and wrote several memos suggesting that fluoride may cause cancer in humans. His supervisor ordered him to stop writing about fluoride and in May 1992 he was fired allegedly for pursuing outside work that conflicted with his EPA work. According to Reich, the reason for his firing was "retaliation" for Marcus's criticism of fluoride.

This decision made clear that federal whistleblower protection laws apply equally to all federal employees. The court stated that, "it may now encourage other government workers to come forward." We hope that these decisions make it easier for others with integrity and a sense of justice to come forward when government and corporations try to cover up the truth about their wrong-doings.

Call Today (703) 237-2249

Organizing Toolbox

Assessing Health Problems in Local Communities—What You Can Do

By Stephen Lester, CCHW Science Director

For years your group has been organized and fighting for cleanup of the waste dump in your community. The most pressing questions facing you since the fight began centers around health effects. Now after a six year fight, the state has agreed to ask the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to do a health study. Initially, you were excited because you thought that someone was finally going to provide some answers about health problems in your community.

Then in the April 1994 issue of *Everyone's Backyard*, you read "ATSDR...Don't Ask...Don't Tell...Don't Pursue" which told of the failures of ATSDR to meet the needs of local communities. Now you're confused and unsure what to do. Is ATSDR going to treat your community like they have every other community? History tells us they will. Many people in your community are sick and have fought long and hard to get someone to evaluate their health problems. Because they want answers so desperately they may not want to turn ATSDR away. So, you decide to go along with the study. Now, it's not only important to know what to expect from ATSDR, but it's critical to have a plan on how to get the most from them or any health agency or institution who wants to investigate health problems in your community.

One important step is to define—as a community—what you want. Do you want a typical epidemiological study where a questionnaire is distributed throughout the community asking about health problems and

the results are then compared to a matched unexposed community? Do you want a clinic set up in the community where people could be tested to evaluate their health? Maybe some portion of the community wants to be relocated or evacuated and you want ATSDR to recommend such action.

Once you're clear on the things you want, then you need to figure out how to achieve these goals. The investigating agency, whether it's ATSDR or someone else, is one of your targets. They are the ones who can give you valuable information and ammunition to help you get what you want. In most cases, they are only coming to your community because of the media attention and public pressure your group has already managed to put on the politicians and decision-makers. Be careful not to get totally distracted and let up on that pressure. It's vital to maintain that pressure, even while a study is being conducted in the community.

How can you tell if the investigating agency is friend or foe, or if the study will really help you achieve your goals? You need to ask three fundamental questions, the answers to

which will give you a good sense of the intent of the investigators and the limits of the study:

- What are the goals of the investigation?
- How will the investigators get the information they need?
- What are they going to do with the results?

Based on what you find out, you may decide that you don't want to participate in this study. Or, you may decide you want to change the agency's plan to something that will be useful to your group. Changing their plan will require a strong organized community effort and a plan to get your points across to the agency.

Involvement and Input at every step

The key to influencing the design of a health study is to have input at every step of the investigation including:

- how the study is designed;
- how the study is actually carried out;
- the evaluation and interpretation of the results;
- the dissemination of the results; and,
- discussion on what actions need to be taken as a result of the findings of the study.

The most critical of these steps is the first one. If the study is poorly designed, then nothing will come from the study. No

If the study is poorly designed, then nothing will come from the study. No amount of after-the-fact analysis can change a poorly designed study.

amount of after-the-fact analysis can change a poorly designed study. You may need help reviewing the study design and protocols in order to influence the study in a meaningful way. But groups often need money to hire medical or scientific experts to review these health study designs. One demand you can make is for funds to hire your own experts. Anywhere from \$10,000 to review a study design to \$50,000 to participate in all the steps outlined above is reasonable.

Con't on page 16

Health Problems can't from pg.15

Boycott the study

One way to change a study is to refuse to participate until you get what you want. By simply saying "no" to the study, you have a great deal of power. Unless the community participates, the agency has no study and will lose credibility if they fail to conduct a study because they didn't meet citizen demands for public participation.

Boycotting a study is not easy to pull off. Just ask the Concerned Residents of the Yough (CRY) in Pennsylvania. After years of fighting a hazardous waste treatment and

One way to change a study is to refuse to participate until you get what you want. By simply saying "no" to the study, you have a great deal of power.

disposal facility, CRY forced the Pennsylvania Department of Health to do a health study of the community. CRY asked for and received the study design. With the help of CCHW, the community quickly found out that the study did not include specific questions about cancer, the number one concern in the community.

After much discussion and debate, CRY members agreed to boycott the study until it was changed to reflect their concerns. At first, the Health Department ignored these residents, but found virtually no doors open to them as they went through the community. It wasn't long before the Health Department went back to CRY leadership with a new questionnaire that included the questions they wanted.

A registry versus a study

An alternative to the traditional health study is to do a health registry. A health registry is conducted much like a health study. A questionnaire is developed and circulated throughout the community. The data is reviewed to determine the occurrence of health problems in the community and if any disease patterns exist. However, a control population is not needed. Then, changes in

these health problems are tracked over time.

The biggest advantage of a registry is to be had in the interpretation of the results. By looking at the rates of health problems in a community, you might find enough information to justify making demands for a clinic, a full scientific study, evacuation or whatever your goals are. At the same time, if you don't find much, you lose little, which contrasts with a full health study where if nothing's found, your community goes to the bottom of the list for action since you have "proved" there's no problem at your site.

Before the study begins

If someone is going to do a health study in your community, here are guidelines you could use to help assure that the best possible study is conducted:

- The community must be given the opportunity to review the study design and protocols before the study begins (funds will likely be needed to hire someone with expertise to review this work);
- The study must address specific chemical exposures and adverse effects observed in the community;
- Avoid tests where generated results cannot be interpreted;
- The study must have reasonable "power" to detect an effect if present (power is a statistical test that, simply defined, measures the sensitivity of a study);
- Examples of similar studies where other than uncertain results were found (provided by investigating group);
- Individual medical results must be reported to each individual before being released to the public (if applicable).

In the end, the only way to have a study done that will answer questions regarding health, is to have good experienced scientists do the study. While in theory this is possible, it's often hard to achieve. Many communities where health studies are needed are high profile sites that quickly become politicized. Bureaucrats and politicians are under a lot of pressure to "do nothing," resulting in studies that are often inconclusive by design.

The best you can do is to make sure that the study design is critically reviewed up front by experts working for the community and that the study meets the criteria listed above. This approach should provide an honest assessment of what's going on in the com-

munity, even if ATSDR conducts the study. But don't be misled. No single study is likely to answer all of your questions, but a study design that benefits from community input and outside review is a good start. If you or your community would like to know more about how to influence the study design process or need evaluation of studies already conducted, please give CCHW a call. ♦

For more information please see the following in the publication insert:

Community Health Surveys, \$10.00, CCHW, 1992.

Common Questions About Health Effects, \$6.95, CCHW, 1993.

Bright Ideas We Can Live Without

Toxic Tennies

L.A. Gear, the Santa Monica, California, based designer, developer and marketer of athletic shoes, continues to sell unlabelled lighted footwear containing mercury switches (this switch causes the heel of the shoe to light up when running), in violation of state of Minnesota mercury labelling laws. It is estimated that between June of 1992 and December of 1993 the company has sold 5.4 million pairs of mercury-containing shoes in the U.S. and internationally. While not hazardous to the wearer, the mercury in these switches is very hazardous when the shoes are disposed in a landfill or burned in an incinerator. Exposure to mercury can cause serious health problems, including damage to the brain and nervous system. Minnesota is the only state in the U.S. with laws prohibiting mercury in some products and requiring labelling of mercury content in some products. However, other states are considering implementing their own mercury legislation. So far, L.A. Gear has been unresponsive to the threat that their tennis shoes pose to the environment stating that the mercury poses little risk because "it [mercury] is just a bead." If you would like to contact L.A. Gear please call 1-800-252-4327.

C O R P O R A T E C O R N E R



General Motors Corporation will have to pay \$1.945 million in fines for safety violations at its Oklahoma City assembly plant. According to OSHA, GM failed to provide initial training to skilled tradesworkers or salaried supervisors, failed to establish tagout/lockout procedures, and failed to conduct an annual inspection of energy control procedures to guarantee worker protection. According to Labor Secretary Reich, "this case represents a significant victory for the Labor Department and American workers."

♦♦ **Hitchiner Manufacturing Company and Conductron Corporation** will each contribute to the clean up of contaminated groundwater at the Savage Municipal Water Supply Well in Milford, New Hampshire. Both companies agreed to contribute \$15 million combined toward the clean up of the site and to reimburse the federal government up to \$4 million for work already done. The site was placed on the Superfund priorities list in 1984 following a routine sampling of the water which revealed high levels of volatile organic chemicals and other substances from the two companies. Until it was closed, the well supplied about fifty percent of the drinking water for the town of Milford, New Hampshire.

♦♦ **The William Recht Company** of Tampa, Florida, known locally as **Durex Industries**, has been indicted for one count of illegal treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste without a RCRA permit (*Resource Conservation and Recovery Act*). The indictment came in connection with the tragic deaths of two nine-year-old boys after being exposed to toxic fumes, inhaled while they were playing in an unlocked industrial dumpster that contained toluene. The company utilizes toluene in its manufacturer processes.

♦♦ **Browning-Ferris Industries Inc. (BFI)** has won a decision by the California Superior Court which will allow the company to expand its Sunshine Canyon Landfill, near the community of Sylmar in the San Fernando Valley. The landfill had been closed since September of 1991 following the heroic efforts of the North Valley Coalition, a nearby community group. The group is gearing up to fight the decision.

♦♦ **Unocal Corpora-**

tion has agreed to pay a \$1.5 million fine to settle charges stemming from spills of millions of gallons of oil at its Guadalupe field near San Luis Obispo, California. After forty years, the oil company acknowledged it was time to "stop covering up and start cleaning up." The company has acknowledged that it has leaked up to 8.5 million gallons of diluent, a petroleum thinner, into the soil, groundwater and ocean. As far back as 1978 Unocal employees were told not to call attention to diluent spills.

♦♦ **DuPont** continues to pay out the big bucks to settle cases involving the fungicide Benlate. So far the company has settled 290 lawsuits at a cost of over \$250 million. These settled lawsuits represent more than half of the original 560 lawsuits brought against DuPont in 1991. Even though 2100 growers in 40 states suffered widespread crop damage after using the fungicide, DuPont still insists that Benlate is safe. "The scientific evidence proves Benlate is not defective. DuPont remains convinced that Benlate is not responsible for alleged crop damage and DuPont will continue to prove this in ongoing matters." Hello is anyone home??

♦♦ A jury has ruled that ten companies failed to warn Lockheed assembly line workers about the dangers of the chemicals they were using while building Stealth fighters and other jets. In all, 600 plaintiffs—workers and family members of former employees that had died—claimed they were exposed to chemicals in resins, paints and other materials from the 1970s through the mid 1980s which have led to health problems. The companies found to have provided inadequate warnings are **J.T. Baker Inc., Dexter Corp., General Electric Co., Ashland Chemical, DuPont Co., Stabond and Henkel, Leeder Chemical Corp., Products Research and Chemical Co. and Sprayon.**

♦♦ Crayons imported from China by the Los Angeles-based **Concord Enterprises** are being recalled by the Consumer Product Safety Commission because they contain hazardous amounts of lead.

♦♦ The **Shell Oil Company's** Belpre, Ohio plant was the scene of an inferno when a fire erupted in one of the operating units of the

Good Neighbor Policies- from the company that gave us agent orange

"To survive and prosper during the '90s and beyond, business needs to learn and relearn an important truth: A company stays in business or continues to grow only with the support and consent of the community it serves. That is why it is key to recognize that if a community does not understand or share a company's objectives, and believes its interests have been ignored or threatened, it can effectively limit a company's ability to grow.

...For example, there is opportunity available to companies for building a new plant or starting a new process. If the public is against the project it can delay the procedure until the window of opportunity has been missed, wasting time and money. In fact, I'm convinced that a community has the potential to shut down a plant.

In other words, the public gives companies a 'license' to operate in its community. To maintain the privilege of keeping that license, it is key for businesses to be upfront, honest and open, and to develop a true partnership with their communities."

—Wilma I. Delaney, Dow Chemical

large facility. In the aftermath of the fire that left three people dead, Shell is stepping up their P.R. to create a good neighbor image by placing full page apologies and thank you's in local papers to emergency workers and community residents.

♦♦ In Anchorage, Alaska, a jury has found that **Exxon Corporation's** "recklessness" caused the Exxon Valdez oil spill, clearing the way for plaintiffs to seek compensatory and punitive damages totaling \$16.5 billion.

Ban the Burn Update: Things are Heating Up!

By John Gayusky, CCHW Research/Organizing Associate

Two recent news stories show that when it comes to enforcing environmental laws, who your friends are takes precedence over what the law actually says. After years of stonewalling citizen activists in their efforts to stop reckless burning of hazardous waste in cement kilns, EPA, under the influence of large incinerator corporations, recently cracked down on a handful of kiln burners. Continuing allegations about big money connections between the Waste Technologies Industries (WTI) incinerator and President Clinton help to explain the silence from the Administration on the matter; noticeably so in the wake of bold statements made by Vice-President Al Gore promising actions to safeguard the community.

The WTI - Arkansas Money Trail

Two recent articles expose the financial links among the Clinton campaign, the WTI incinerator, and the wealthy Stephens family of Little Rock. The stories appeared in two magazines that sit on opposite ends of the political spectrum; a piece by L.J. Davis in the November/December issue of the liberal *Mother Jones*, and a recent story by Evan Fitzmaurice in the conservative *American Spectator*. The ninth largest investment banking firm in the country, Stephens Inc. was one of the original partners in the WTI incinerator. Stephens sold its WTI interests to Von Roll America in 1990, but its stake in an up and running, profitable incinerator was not handed off. According to Fitzmaurice, "the Union Bank of Switzerland and Morgan Guarantee Trust Company of New York handled the financing of the Stephens share, to the tune of \$128 million. But under the joint venture agreement between Stephens and the original WTI partners, Stephens remains liable for the investment by UBS and Morgan Guarantee." Additionally, Stephens "could face criminal and civil charges if representations made to the WTI enterprise were misleading or fraudulent," and be liable for three times the \$128 million investment.

This family with a weighty financial stake in the WTI incinerator also has sunk consider-



We Kicked Ash!

The Supreme Court has dealt a huge blow to the incineration industry by requiring that cities follow federal hazardous waste rules when disposing of ash produced by municipal garbage incinerators. This decision could make some incinerators too costly to run and they will have to shut down! The ruling, which came May 2, will also likely discourage other incinerator plants nationwide that are in the planning and construction stages. WMX Technologies and Ogden Corp., which together account for nearly half of the nation's incineration capacity, played down the ruling stating that it would raise their costs to doing business only modestly.

Unfortunately, the EPA is caving in to incineration industry pressure and will only require quarterly testing of incinerator ash. EPA will allow incinerator operators to "treat" ash before testing, which could mean the operator will "treat" the ash until it passes the test and can then be dumped in a regular landfill.

able monetary resources into political campaigns, most notably those of Bill Clinton. Generous supporters of the Reagan and Bush campaigns, the Stephens' have been equally magnanimous to the Clinton campaign, donating over \$100,000. Furthermore, their Worthen Bank subsidiary extended the Clinton campaign an emergency \$3.5 million line of credit that pulled it through a life-threatening financial crunch.

Talk about political capital. The same financial backers of WTI also are a major source of money that helped Clinton get to the White House. Perhaps it is not too much to suggest that this cozy financial relationship had much to do in quickly bogging down any White House or EPA action on the

WTI project. And as Fitzmaurice points out, the Clintons and hazardous waste companies are old acquaintances. Hillary Clinton sat on the board of the Lafarge Corporation, the second largest cement maker in the U.S., which burns hazardous waste at several U.S. kilns. The Ensco hazardous waste burner in El Dorado was represented by Hillary's Rose Law Firm in the early 1980's. While governor of Arkansas, Bill Clinton used taxpayer dollars to help fund the notorious Vertac incinerator in Jacksonville. Once again, politics, and profits take precedence over the law, environmental protection and public health.

Con't on next page

Politics Makes for Strange "Kiln Fellows"

Incinerator activists should be pleased to know that industry is finally coming around to agree with their views on cement kilns that burn hazardous waste. Well, at least one segment of industry. Commercial hazardous waste incinerator companies have, since late 1993, stepped up their campaign to hang a regulatory noose around hazardous waste-burning cement kilns. The Hazardous Waste Treatment Council initiated a "BIF Enforcement Petition and Notice of Citizen Suits" challenging the applications of eight facilities to burn hazardous waste. Seven of the eight are cement kilns.

The Hazardous Waste Treatment Council is an industry trade group made up primarily of commercial hazardous waste incinerator companies. Currently cement kilns enjoy a less regulated status than commercial incinerators, and have captured a large share of the hazardous waste incineration market.

Early this spring, the U.S. EPA agreed with the petitions at five sites. EPA determined that the following facilities do not have interim status to burn hazardous wastes - Lafarge Cement, Alpena MI; ESSROC Ce-

ment, Speed, IN; Gage Products, Ferndale, MI; and Marine Shale Processors, Morgan City, LA. The EPA also decided to deny National Cement's RCRA application to continue burning hazardous waste at its kiln near Lebec, CA.

This strategy is noteworthy because its success hinges on the participation of local citizens organizations, who sign on to the petitions with the HWTC. This is a method pursued by HWTC in the past, but never on this large of a scale. Community groups in Alpena, and Ferndale, MI; Ada, OK; Festus, MO; Speed, IN; Lebec, CA; Morgan City, LA; and Midlothian, TX, were co-petitioners.

This action comes on the heels of a heavy hitter lobby effort at EPA. In November, 1993, WMX head Dean Buntrock and executives from Rollins Environmental, Westinghouse, and Union Pacific (USPCI) met with EPA chief Carol Browner to persuade her to clamp down on cement kilns and steer more waste towards incineration. The industry executives claim that the lesser-regulated kilns are taking waste away from their incinerators, and if waste volumes don't increase, incinerators will shut

down. Currently cement kilns dominate the liquid waste market, and are taking increasing amounts of solid waste.

Another industry player in the war on cement kilns is the Association for Responsible Thermal Treatment (ARTT), a coalition of seven commercial hazardous waste incineration companies. ARTT was formed in late 1993 to "advocate...the use of the most advanced technology possible for burning hazardous waste." In other words, the facilities ARTT members operate. ARTT recently enlisted the services of three former members of Congress, including former New Jersey governor James Florio, to promote their policies.

Citizen groups fighting hazardous waste burning cement kilns have, for better or worse, gained a new group of allies in their years-long struggles to stop contamination in their communities. The spate of recent EPA rulings against cement kilns illustrates the power of corporate money and influence, and the fact that in some cases, political battles such as these make for strange bedfellows. In the WTI case, the bedfellows know each other all too well. ♦

Ban the Burn Victories

Georgia: After fighting a proposed medical waste incinerator for the past three years, **Citizens for Clean Air, Land and Water** of Quitman County saw their tremendous efforts pay off when their local county commission voted to oppose the facility. The deciding vote came from Commissioner Tommy Kendrick who reversed his position and joined incinerator opponents in support of motions to bar incinerators forever from the county.

New Jersey: An Ogden Incinerator bites the dust on Duck Island in Mercer County as the company withdraws the proposal. The straw that broke the "incinerator's back" was the recent Supreme Court flow control decision that makes it illegal for cities and counties to ban haulers from shipping garbage to other states where dump space is cheaper. Because the local municipalities cannot guarantee a minimum amount of trash per day, the bonds which would have paid for the Mercer County incinerator are not secure. If the incinerator doesn't take in and thus burn a certain amount of waste per day at a set fee per ton then there is no assurance that it will break even financially. This is the first incinerator to be scrapped because of this recent court decision.

Pennsylvania: After three years of struggle against a proposed Walport Inc. soil burner for Summit Station, **Citizens Against Incineration, Citizens for a Healthy Environment** and **Ban the Burner Committee** have finally put the burner to rest. The proposal was withdrawn on June 2. Community activists are celebrating this victory but also preparing for their next efforts on several other facilities proposed for the same area. Congratulations on a job well done.

Pennsylvania: **Organizations United for the Environment** (OUE) has defeated a proposed USPCI incinerator slated for Gregg Township. USPCI proposed to build the incinerator to burn 75,000 tons of hazardous waste per year at a site directly across from the largest prison complex in the nation. USPCI has announced that it will totally withdraw the proposal. Way to go OUE and all citizens that helped to defeat this burner!

Jobs and Environment Training: workers and community activists together

By Pete Castelli, CCHW Field Organizer and
Stephen Lester, CCHW Science Director

CCHW has undertaken a new project to build bridges with labor through a joint Jobs and Environment training program developed by the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW). OCAW, a leader in providing health and safety training for their workers, has now added a training component on Jobs and the Environment. This training program, developed for OCAW by the Public Health Institute, is designed to help labor, community and environmental activists build a common economic agenda that tackles both employment and environmental issues.

This training provides an opportunity to share ideas, learn from each other and establish a common understanding among workers and community participants. This sharing occurs in small working groups that include an equal mix of workers and community leaders. Small groups work together on specific "activities" over the course of a day. Some of these activities include sessions on public attitudes towards jobs and the environment, job insecurity and the labor market, chemical exposures in the community and in the workplace, how these chemicals affect the local community and finding solutions.

The training is conducted by a team of worker and community trainers and so far has taken place in OCAW union halls located near petrochemical facilities, although workshops can be done wherever there is interest. So far, workshops have been held in Radford, VA, Beaumont, TX, Lake Charles, LA, Minneapolis, MN, Whiting, IN, Denver, CO and Avenel, NJ. Others are planned for the fall.

The goal of this training is to build a core of worker and community activists from around the country who understand each other's concerns and who understand the factors that produce tensions between workers and

community/environmental activists. Participants learn firsthand about the reasons behind the conflicts that arise among public health, environmental and economic issues and why tensions often develop between the people whose jobs are at risk and the community/environmental activists. Participants also learn about participatory training methods that teach leadership skills that contribute to the empowerment of, and cooperation between rank and file workers and community activists.

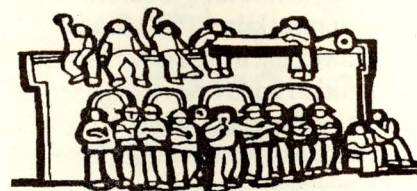
Workshop in Radford, Virginia

On May, 14, 1994, CCHW, in cooperation with OCAW, helped organize the first Jobs and Environment training in southwest Virginia. OCAW Local 3-495 from the Radford Army Ammunition Plant hosted the event with workers and community activists from as far away as Tennessee and North Carolina.

People walked away knowing what a "spotted hillbilly" is. Local leader Darlene Wilson used the term to describe the community residents and workers in her home, the coal fields of southwest Virginia. "Pollution and job loss are making us an endangered species," stated Darlene, and many agreed.

Joe Davis, an OCAW health and safety trainer, believes that there's not much difference in the needs and desires of workers and environmentalists. "We really have the same goals. We can accomplish more by combining forces. We've got to save the environment...but instead of shutting plants down... we'd rather clean up the workplace and save the jobs."

The arsenal, which makes fuel propellant, has laid off over half its work force due to recent cuts in production. Over the years, the plant has had great impact on the community's economy and environment. EPA is soon expected to identify close to a hundred



contaminated areas on the facility that will need to be cleaned up. "It makes sense to train and give jobs to local displaced workers," stated David Rouse, professor at Clinch Valley College in Wise, Virginia. "The community environmentalist can make sure the cleanup is done timely and the workers can have the jobs."

The workshop brought out ideas such as developing coalitions between workers and community activists, revoking corporate charters of companies that damage the environment and take advantage of workers, the need to elect pro labor/environmental candidates and the need to invest in local facilities and the work force.

CCHW will continue to organize these trainings in cooperation with OCAW and other unions. Community organizations interested in building ties between workers and unions should contact CCHW. It's time workers and community activists joined together to protect jobs, the environment and our communities. We need to stop corporations from driving a wedge between us. It will take time, patience and hard work, but if we are to reclaim our community and seek the type of business and economic development we want, we must work together.

Call CCHW at our national office if you want to discuss holding a jobs and environment training workshop in your community.

POLITICS OF HEALTH

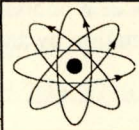


Making your health their top priority, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) continues to support their buddies at Monsanto in enforcing the new labeling guidelines concerning milk products that do and don't use milk from BGH (bovine growth hormone) treated cows. The FDA's plan for so-called voluntary labeling tilts heavily toward Monsanto, which is a pivotal issue for the company as they try to convince farmers and consumers that milk from cows injected with BGH is the same, or as the FDA says, "virtually the same," as milk from untreated cows. Why all the hullabaloo over labeling? The FDA regulates food ingredients, but according to the FDA, Monsanto's BGH isn't an ingredient. It's a genetically engineered version of a protein that occurs naturally in a cow's pituitary gland. The logic goes that since there is no test that can distinguish naturally occurring BGH from

the genetically engineered BGH, it must be safe. And so, following this same bizarre reasoning, milk from BGH-treated cows requires no special food label. Moooooooooo, just say no! ** The New York State Health Department has just released the results of a study that suggests an increased risk for breast cancer among post-menopausal women who lived near chemical facilities on Long Island between 1965 and 1985. The study is one of the first scientific studies of breast cancer risk and proximity to industrial air pollution. The study was conducted based upon the evidence showing a very large population of women with breast cancer in the Long Island area. The health department study, involving 1,759 women, found that those living within one square kilometer of a chemical plant, between 1965 and 1985, were sixty percent more likely to develop post-menopausal breast cancer as

compared to women living elsewhere. ** Once again the U.S. Farmworker Protection Standards have been delayed. According to the **Pesticide Action Network of North America**, a compromise bill signed by President Clinton in April 1994 has again delayed the implementation of rules created to protect agricultural workers from pesticide exposure. Apparently, pressure from farmers and agribusiness persuaded Congress to postpone the implementation date until January 1, 1995. Opponents complain that the rules are excessive and too costly to implement, but farmworkers contend that the standard is reasonable and long overdue. Farmworkers have been systematically excluded from legislation that governs standards of health and safety in the workplace, including the *Occupational Safety and Health Act* (OSHA).

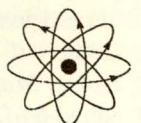
NUKE NEWS



Targeting Native American lands for nuclear waste dumping continues to be business as usual for the nuclear industry. Thirty-three of the nation's largest electric utilities are participating in talks with the Mescalero Apache tribe in southern New Mexico concerning a proposed \$66 million above ground storage facility that would house one quarter of the country's nuclear power plant waste. Those watching out for the economic interests of the nuclear power industry are touting this plan as a way in which Native Americans communities can broaden their economic bases! ** About seventy-five workers at Florida Power's Crystal River reactor were contaminated when the coolant system was opened during refueling in mid-April. Some employees were contaminated two or three times. The contaminant was predominantly airborne Iodine-32. ** Dr. William Reid, an oncologist-hematologist practicing in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, is being recognized by the Cavallo Foundation, a nonprofit that recognizes individuals who "have cho-

sen to speak out when it would have been far easier to remain silent." Dr. Reid is being recognized for initiating and continuing an investigation into the causes of illnesses in patients who work or live near the DOE's Oak Ridge nuclear weapons facility. Dr. Reid became alarmed when he discovered that many of his patients that worked at or lived downstream from the DOE facility were suffering from cancers, suppressed immune systems, low T-cell counts and other disorders that are caused by heavy metal poisoning. Other recipients include Wesley McKinley, a foreman of the federal grand jury that investigated environmental crimes at Rocky Flats and who has fought for jurors' right to speak out about the case; and, Dr. Heidi Weissman, who successfully fought the plagiarism of her nuclear medicine research by her supervisor in New York. ** Portsmouth, Virginia, city officials and community residents are denouncing the Navy's plan to mothball nuclear ships and submarines at the Norfolk Navy

Shipyard. According to city officials, "the Navy's plan is the latest in a series of government proposals to use the heavily populated Hampton Roads area as a hub for the storage and transportation of nuclear waste." ** The Department of Energy is warning hundreds of past and present employees of the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons complex in Colorado that they were exposed to higher levels of radiation from 1957 to 1967 than they had been previously told. In total, as many as 3,000 workers may have been exposed. ** **Broken Arrow**, a Chicago environmental group, is breathing a sigh of relief after being told that neither Red Gate Woods nor Argonne National Laboratory would be considered for a proposed dumpsite. The group continues to push for the cleanup of radioactive waste at Red Gate Woods, the site of the world's first nuclear reactor.



Legal Corner

MCS and the Law

By Ron Simon, CCHW Legal Council

Question: I suffer from multiple chemical sensitivity (MCS). I cannot tolerate being in an environment which is treated with chemical pesticides. I live in a condominium complex and the management wants to treat the common areas with pesticides. I have sent letters telling the management that the pesticides make me ill and have had my doctor send a letter telling them that the chemicals make me sick. Is there anything I can do to stop the application of these chemicals?

Answer: People suffering from multiple chemical sensitivity have had some success recently using the *Americans with Disabilities Act* (ADA) of 1990. This statute, 42 U.S.C. 12101, says that "no person with a disability shall by reason of that disability be excluded from services or denied the benefits of services, programs or activities of a public entity or be subject to discrimination by any such entity."

This statute has been used in the following manner. The person with MCS argues that their condition is a disability. The person suffering with MCS is in a difficult position because they cannot use the building as long as the pesticides are being used.

The biggest legal problem faced by the person with MCS is being able to show that the facility the person is complaining about is a public facility. In Texas, people with MCS have forced a county government to lessen

the use of pesticides in public buildings by arguing that the use of pesticides kept the people with MCS from being able to use the building. Recently, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) filed a complaint against a housing development because the use of pesticides discriminated against a person with MCS. Although the federal law only applies to public entities, prohibitions against discrimination against the handicapped exist in many states and localities.

HUD General Counsel made a determination that pesticides in a condominium and by a lawn service could constitute discrimination against a resident on the basis of handicap. This case was entitled *Melinda M. Lebens v. Country Creek Association, Inc., et al.* (HUD ALJ 03-93-002-1). The case is reported in a recent edition of *NCAMP Technical Report*, which is put out by the National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides.

Resources

The 1994 Information Please Environmental Almanac, compiled by the World Resources Institute, offers 704 pages of information on today's environmental concerns. From toxic chemicals in the home to the management of U.S. public lands to global population growth, the *Environmental Almanac* is suitable for fast fact-finding, leisurely browsing and extended reading. Chapter topics include toxics in the home, water supplies, energy, grassroots activities, environmental justice and much more. To order, call 1-800-822-0504, or 410-516-6963. List Price: \$11.95.

"If images of our neighborhoods, our communities, and our regions are made by others, then it is their future that will be imposed. But if maps are made by resident groups and individuals who have quality of life as a goal, then images of a very different nature will predominate..." *Boundaries of Home: Mapping for Local Empowerment* edited by Doug Aberley, shows how maps can be effective tools for community activ-

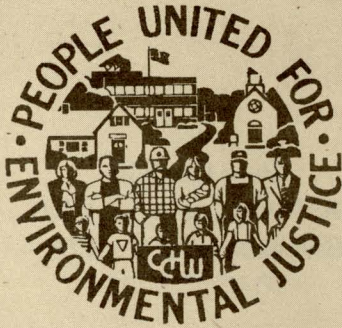
ists, environmental groups and educators. Whether you're opposing a clearcut or toxic dump, participating in local planning and zoning, or trying to learn more about your home place, maps enable us to see relationships that are otherwise not so apparent. Those relationships could be between hills and rivers or between water and food sources and toxic dump sites. Available from New Society Publishers, 4527 Springfield Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19143 (215) 382-6543. List price \$9.95.

Cleaning Up America The Poisoned: How To Survive Our Polluted Society by Lewis G. Regenstein. First released in 1982 and entitled *America the Poisoned*, this book received so much acclaim that it has been reissued and updated. The new version reveals that toxic chemical contamination potentially threatens the entire U.S. population and the urgency that is needed if we are to reverse this toxic cycle. *Cleaning Up America* offers us practical solutions to such problems, showing how we can protect ourselves from these dangers. For more infor-

mation contact Acropolis Books Ltd. 2311 Calvert St., N.W., Washington, DC 20008 (202) 234-4927. List price \$14.95.

Close To Home: Women Reconnect Ecology, Health and Development Worldwide, edited by Vandana Shiva. As greed-driven corporations and governments pollute the earth, misuse technology and destroy the lives of the poor and disenfranchised, women throughout the world are successfully challenging and reversing this trend. *Close To Home* chronicles these women-led struggles for truly sustainable community development. These powerful women-led movements focus on reconnecting with the Earth and reorienting the discourse and practice of development and conservation toward the recognition that the health of the planet and our communities is inextricably linked to the well-being of every individual. Available from New Society Publishers, 4527 Springfield Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19143 (215) 382-6543. List price \$12.95.

Con't bottom of next page



EVERYONE'S BACKYARD is printed on 100% recycled paper five times a year by West End Printing of Falls Church, Virginia, a minority-owned business. The Editor and Desktop Publisher of *Everyone's Backyard* is Kim Guenther and the Associate Editor is John Gayusky. All of CCHW's staff contribute to EBY.

CCHW's Staff

Lois Marie Gibbs, Executive Director

Stephen Lester, Science Director

Charlotte Brody, Organizing Director

John Gayusky, Research and Organizing Associate

Barbara Sullivan, Finance/Administrative Director

Sarah Stranahan, Development Associate

Anne Yastremski, Development Associate

Kim Guenther, Editor

Natasha Perkins, Membership Services

Deborah Carpenter, Administrative Assistant

Anna Marie Stenberg, Pete Castelli, Calvin Mitchell, Cynthia Smith, Field Organizers.

Marina Ortega, Local Leadership Apprentice

Dick Mitchell, Volunteer

Library of Congress #ISSN 0749-3940. Copyright by CCHW. Reproduction by permission of CCHW only.

Citizens Clearinghouse for Hazardous Waste

Post Office Box 6806, Falls Church, Virginia 22040

(703) 237-CCHW.

Unsolicited manuscripts, news items, artwork, photographs and other submissions are welcome! All submissions become the property of CCHW and, unless special arrangements are made, will not be returned.

The Gilded Dome: The U.S. Senate and Campaign Finance Reform by Greg D. Kubiak. Ever wonder why environmental legislation is so strongly tilted towards the interest of polluters? The paths to power taken by corporations and PACS to access and influence senators and representatives are made clear in the *Gilded Dome*, Greg Kubiak's inside view of a failed attempt to enact campaign finance reform in Congress. This saga of Senator David Boren's seven year struggle to overcome Congressional self-interest and reach a bipartisan consensus demonstrates the power of moneyed interests which gridlocks government and stifles political competition. In vivid detail, *The Gilded Dome* describes negotiations to produce the most wide-ranging reform of campaign law since Watergate. Kubiak con-

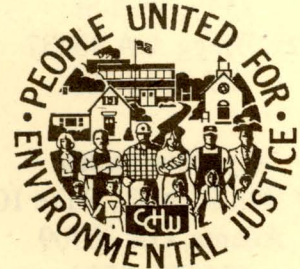
cludes that the power of money in politics and the power of people in government must be balanced. Available from University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, OK, (800) 627-7377 and your local bookstore, \$27.95.

Are you faced with a site that poses so much danger that you feel there is no other alternative but to be relocated? Or is the local industrial plant trying to buy you out in order to use your property as a "buffer zone?" Are some families willing to leave while others want to remain behind?

CCHW can help you tackle these difficult issues with their new *Community Relocation Guide*. In addition to this outstanding resource, CCHW offers training workshops to help you figure out what questions need to be asked concerning compensation and relocation. If you are interested in having such a workshop in your community give CCHW a call. To order the new *Community Relocation Guide* please see number 72 in the publication insert.

YOUR MESSAGE HERE!

Have you something to sell that our readers would be interested in? Check out our Display and Classified advertising rates. You can't beat the prices.



CCHW Advertising Rates:

Classified: \$.50/word,

\$10.00 Minimum

Display:

1/8 page (3 1/2 x 2 1/4) \$90

1/6 page (2 1/8 x 4 1/8) \$120

1/4 page (3 3/8 x 4 1/2) \$180

1/2 page (3 3/8 x 9) \$360

1/2 page (7 1/4 x 5) \$360

Full page (7 1/2 x 9 3/4) \$720

Upcoming Advertising Deadlines:

August 31. Camera-ready copy only. Full payment must accompany the ad unless previous arrangements are made. CCHW reserves the right to refuse any advertising we deem unsuitable. Send to: Advertising, Everyone's Backyard.

CCHW's Offices:

Anna Marie Stenberg

254 1/2 Wall St.
Ft. Bragg, CA 95437
707-964-9109

Cynthia Smith

250 10th St. N.E., Suite 106
Atlanta, GA 30309
404/875-3533

National Office

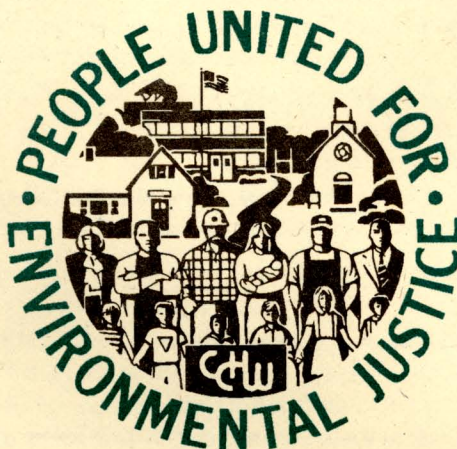
P.O. Box 6806
Falls Church, VA 22040
703/237-CCHW

Pete Castelli

100 North Main St., #107
Blacksburg, VA 24060
703/552-9323

Calvin Mitchell

P.O. Box 88011
Indianapolis, IN 46208
317/920-1051



CCHW

P.O. Box 6806
Falls Church, VA
22040
703/237-2249

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage Paid
Merrifield, VA
Permit No. 6484

Address Correction Requested

A Note on Our Mailing Labels:

Expires: [Date] = Date Subscription Expires

Last or Final Issue = Time to renew your subscription

