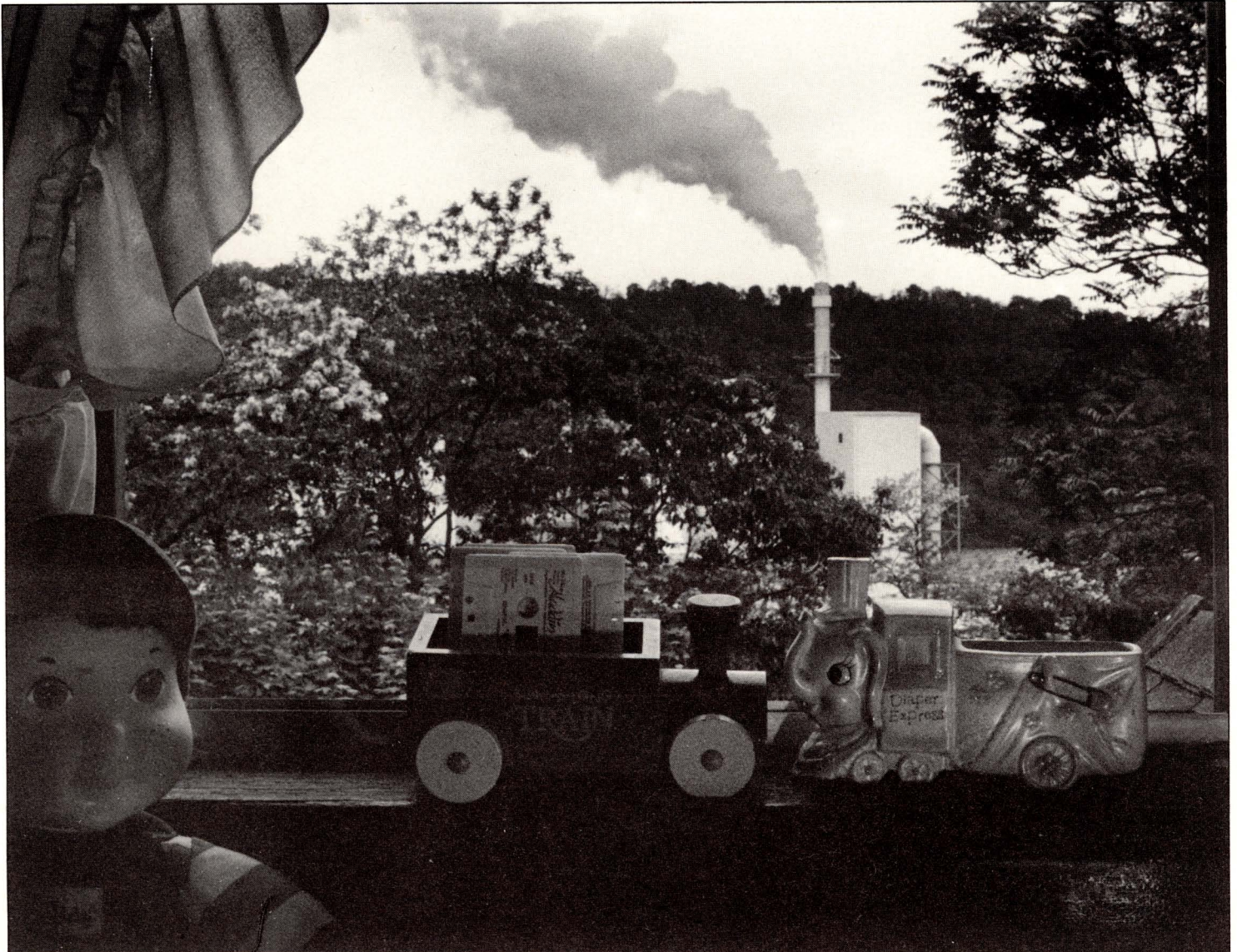


EVERYONE'S BACKYARD

Vol. 15, No. 3



Risk Assessment in East Liverpool
Victory in the South Bronx!
Maine's Battle to Eliminate Dioxin
Where Is The Dioxin Reassessment?

The Journal of the Grassroots Movement for Environmental Justice
CCHW Center for Health, Environment and Justice

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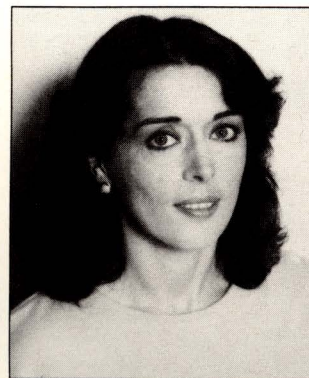
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Everyone's Backyard is published quarterly by the Center for Health, Environment and Justice, Inc. Printed by Ecoprint of Silver Spring, Maryland. The cover is 100% kenaf fiber, 100% tree-free, and totally chlorine free. The text is 100% recycled, non-chlorine rebleached paper, using low-VOC soybean inks.

Cancer Starts In The Boardroom



October is cancer awareness month. During this time we will see many public service announcements about how people can either avoid cancer or the medical tests they can take to detect cancer early. What is never discussed is why cancer rates in children and adults continue to rise.

Throughout October we'll be told there are ways to avoid falling victim to cancer. We should eat healthy, exercise, not smoke or drink excessive amounts of alcohol, use sunscreen and get yearly check ups by our health care provider. What is blatantly missing from this advice is that the American people need to act to stop a primary cause of cancer - the poisoning of our food, air and water by the chemical industry. This root cause of cancer is beyond the individual lifestyle choices that are so heavily emphasized in public education efforts.

The chemical and petrochemical industries are the biggest contributors to the cancer epidemic facing the American people, and the public can't lifestyle their way around this exposure. The evidence is clear. When you look at the rise in childhood cancers from 1973 to 1990, you see that the rate of nervous system and brain cancers rose 32% and childhood leukemia increased 27%. Eight thousand children were diagnosed with cancer in 1993 according to the National Cancer Institute. These children don't smoke cigarettes, drink alcohol, or work in dirty industries. But they do eat more food, drink more water and breathe more air per pound of body weight than adults. Our children are serving as our canaries - an indicator population making it obvious that industrial pollution is the largest contributor to our country's cancer epidemic.

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) brochures say nothing about this major factor, industrial pollution, being the root cause of the nation's increasing cancer incidence. Consequently, NCI provides no advice about how the American people can begin to affect social change to reduce industrial pollution. In the past two years, research has shown us that everyone - every man, woman and child - is being exposed to dioxin, a cancer causing chemical. According to this research the American public, including our infants and young children, are carrying enough or almost enough dioxin in their bodies to cause adverse health effects, including cancer.

Neither NCI nor other public health institutions are educating or motivating the American people to stop the poisoning of our food, air and water. While we can all make lifestyle changes, such changes are only one small step to reduce the risk of cancer. We need to do more. We need to educate the public and focus our attention and actions on the root cause of this disease, the chemical industry. A massive educational campaign is needed and the National Cancer Institute is not likely to undertake such a campaign. It is the cancer victims, survivors, friends and families who need to educate and motivate the public.

It is the public who needs to call into the talk radio and television shows during October when cancer is the topic of discussion and explain that cancer starts in the board rooms of industry.

Maybe a sign should be hung on every hazardous, solid and medical waste incinerator, landfill gate, chlorine-using paper and pulp mill, and plastic and pesticide manufacturing plant, saying "Cancer Starts Here - in the Board Room." Letters to the editor need to be written to explain that the leading cause of childhood disease related deaths is cancer and that children's cancer can't be blamed on their bad habits or workplace exposures.

Throughout October there will be marches all over the country for "The Cure" for cancer. We should support these marches, but we should also use marches and other activities to educate the public and expose industry's contribution to the cause of cancer. Like so much of what CCHW and the movement have done over the past sixteen years, we must take the lead.

No one else is likely to take on this campaign. We need a massive uprising of people nationwide to stop the poisoning of our children.

EVERYONE'S BACKYARD

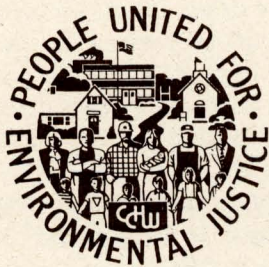
Vol. 15, No. 3 ♦ Fall 1997

Who We Are

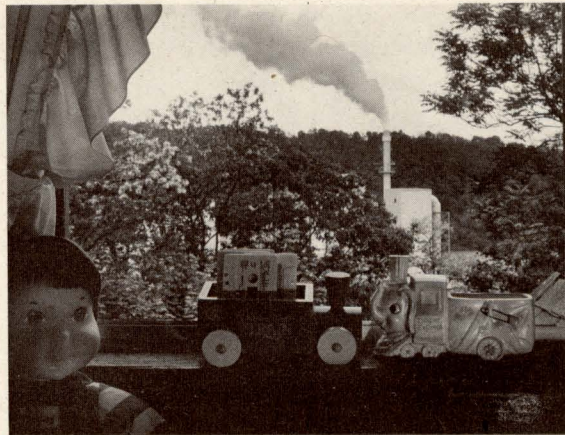
The Center for Health, Environment and Justice is a sixteen-year-old Environmental Justice Center working with a network of over 8,000 local grassroots groups. We were formed to help people win cleanup of contaminated sites and to prevent new sources of contamination. Over the years, our work has grown to include helping people deal with everything from chemical plants to radioactive waste to recycling.

CCHW trains and assists local people to fight for justice, become empowered to protect their communities from environmental threats and build strong, locally controlled organizations. CCHW connects these strong groups with each other to build a movement from the bottom up so that grassroots groups can collectively change the balance of power.

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



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The view of the WTI hazardous waste incinerator from a child's bedroom in East Liverpool, Ohio. Photo by Sam Kittner.

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Stephen Lester

EPA's Approach to Risk: Ignore the Facts and Issue the Permit

There are many problems with using risk assessment to evaluate public health risks. Some of the limitations include the focus on cancer and single chemicals, the inability to address synergistic or additive effects, the inability to consider sensitive populations like children, and reliance on a host of assumptions. These problems result in risk assessment being more a practice of sophisticated guesswork than an expression of scientific facts or knowledge. Consequently, risk assessment is a poor measure of true public health risks.

Despite these limitations, EPA is committed to using risk assessment in their work. In the past, the EPA had always made a pretense of basing all agency policies, decisions and actions on "sound, documented science" and generally followed traditional scientific methods and procedures, including involving scientists outside EPA to review the agency's work. While one could argue with EPA's facts and conclusions, at least they used a scientific approach. But based on EPA's recent rush to issue a full operating permit for the Von Roll/WTI hazardous waste incinerator in East Liverpool, Ohio, it seems that even the pretense of using good science may no longer matter.

In its assessment of the risks posed by the WTI incinerator EPA blatantly ignored sound scientific methods, many limitations of the data used in the assessment, and the criticisms raised by its own peer review scientists, and used the risk assessment to justify their decision to "certify" the test burn conducted by WTI. This certification is one of the last hurdles before a final operating permit could be issued for the WTI incinerator.

Evidence of EPA's refusal to look at the facts began with their release of the risk assessment. The risk assessment

document, which took 4 years to complete and is over 3,800 pages long, was sent out for final peer review the first week in May. EPA gave the seven scientists on the review panel two weeks to read, digest and prepare written comments. But on May 8th, less than a week later and before any comments had been received or the public had any opportunity to see the report, EPA held a public meeting to announce the results of the risk assessment.

Several of the scientific peer reviewers were upset by the EPA's announcement of the results of the risk assessment before they had completed their review. One asked what the purpose of their peer review was if no one was going to listen to their comments? EPA responded by saying that they were under a lot of pressure to release the risk assessment, adding "what difference would one more week have made?" Another reviewer, Halstead Harrison, associate professor of atmospheric sciences at the University of Washington in Seattle, commented that "I think the EPA feels itself caught in an intense political battle. And they are using us, with varying degrees of sincerity, to meet objections." Dr. Harrison also commented that the health impact on the community of an accident at the WTI facility was not discussed in the final document and remains a "serious deficiency in the risk assessment process."

EPA signed off on the incinerator's test burn on May 20th, one day after the scientific peer review comments were due. However, only 3 of the 7 scientists who were asked to review the document were able to submit comments by this deadline. All three expressed concern that their comments were not thorough because they did not have enough time to review, digest and provide substan-

tive comments on the risk assessment. But EPA was apparently not interested in hearing what its peer reviewers had to say about the final draft of this risk assessment.

More evidence of EPA's commitment to permitting the WTI incinerator was apparent in their statements at the May 8th public meeting. According to EPA "there were no significant or unusual health, environmental or accident risks from the incinerator." EPA defined the highest potential risk predicted by the risk assessment to range from 0.2 to 1 per million and concluded that "based on an evaluation of risk across the entire population in the vicinity of WTI, it is not anticipated that any individual in this population would develop cancer or experience a toxic response (emphasis added) as a result of exposure to routine WTI emissions."

EPA chose to ignore the fact that a one in a million cancer risk is a probability, not an accurate statement about who will or will not get cancer. It's wrong in every imaginable way to take a community of about 13,000 people and say that because the risk is 1 in a million that no one there will get cancer. The probability of getting cancer stays the same no matter how many people live in the community at risk. And there is absolutely no justification, scientifically or otherwise, for EPA to state that they would not anticipate any "toxic response" by anyone as a result of routine WTI emissions. How can they predict non-cancer responses in any diverse population? Who can say with any accuracy that the respiratory attack experienced by a person living downwind from WTI was NOT caused by breathing WTI emissions? The truth is that no one can honestly say that the emissions did not cause the attack. More than any other, this statement

about non-cancer effects really shows how desperate EPA is to bury any notion of risk related to the WTI incinerator.

One of the most critical portions of the risk assessment is the accident analysis. EPA identified 84 potential accident scenarios that might result in children attending the school, located 1100 feet from the incinerator, being exposed to emissions from the incinerator. Using computer models to estimate exposures for each of these scenarios, EPA found that for 29 of the 84 scenarios, the concentrations of toxic chemicals at the school exceeded the identified level of concern. The level of concern was 1/10th an occupational exposure limit that is "immediately dangerous to life or health." For 17 scenarios, the concentrations of toxic chemicals at the school exceeded the level of concern. For 7 of the scenarios, exposures exceeded ten times the level of concern and for 5 scenarios the concentrations of toxic chemicals at the school exceeded 100 times the level of concern.

While it might be worrisome to most people that 29 of 84 scenarios resulted in concentrations of toxic chemicals at the school exceeding the level of concern, EPA was not fazed by these numbers. In just 3 pages (out of 3,800) they dismissed all 29 scenarios as having a very low "probability of occurrence." This is in sharp contrast to page upon page of analysis and discussion throughout the report on every other aspect of the risks or potential risks posed by the incinerator.

Many local residents, including Alonzo Spencer, President of Save Our County (and CCHW Board member) and Terri Swearingen of the Tri-County Environmental Council, were outraged with the results of the risk assessment and the way it was presented to the community. Terri Swearingen stated that "The real issues are the location and management" of the WTI incinerator. "The Von Roll/WTI risk assessment is a smokescreen to obscure the obvious. Von Roll/WTI should never have been built there!"

In a related matter, the state of Ohio audited the North Ohio Valley Air Authority (NOVAA), the agency that monitors the air quality around the WTI



Emissions from the incinerator linger over homes in East Liverpool.
Photo by Virgil Reynolds.

facility. The audit found gross errors in the procedures used to collect some of the data used in the EPA risk assessment and conflicts of interest for some of the agency staff. The audit revealed that, in addition to being paid by the Ohio EPA, NOVAA employees had collected separate paychecks from the companies they monitored; that NOVAA hired politically connected staffers with little or no training in air monitoring; that these staffers traveled in expensive cars running up excessive travel bills; and that they worked for a private entertainment complex owned by former NOVAA director Pat DeLuca when they were supposed to be monitoring the air. Other problems (reported at sites other than WTI) included setting up air testing equipment which faced 180 degrees in the wrong direction. NOVAA is currently under investigation by both the Internal Revenue Service and the FBI.

These problems raise serious questions about the validity of the monitoring data generated by NOVAA. Although not the only source of emissions data used in the risk assessment, EPA did use some NOVAA generated data to evaluate the risk of dioxin emissions. Dioxins and furans were identified as "primary chemicals of concern" in the risk assessment.

According to local newspaper reports, in 1995-96 NOVAA also received \$120,000 from Von Roll, operator of the incinerator, to collect air, soil and food samples in East Liverpool to measure dioxin content for the risk assessment.

If some of the numbers used to estimate and evaluate health risks posed by incineration emissions are inaccurate and questionable, then the conclusions reached in the risk assessment have to be considered inaccurate and questionable as well. EPA was made aware of the results of the audit but they chose to ignore them. At a minimum, they should have delayed the release of the risk assessment until they had evaluated whether any of the identified misconduct had in any way influenced the data and conclusions of the risk assessment. Instead EPA chose to ignore the facts and scientific evidence, and used a flawed risk assessment to justify their decision to certify the test burn at the WTI incinerator and open the doors for WTI to receive a full operating permit.

Perhaps the reason why EPA rushed to issue the permit to WTI was because on May 30th, the US EPA released a report on sensitive environments that should be avoided in siting a hazardous waste facility. According to the docu-

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ment, "Hazardous waste management facilities should avoid locating near sensitive populations or in densely populated areas. Areas near schools, nursing homes, day care centers, or hospitals should be avoided.

Many states have setback distances that prescribe the minimum distance a hazardous waste facility can be from certain types of land use. These minimum distances are meant to protect the public or the environment from potential exposure to hazardous waste." The report identified 8 criteria or sensitive locations to be considered when siting hazardous waste facilities: floodplains, wetlands, land use, high-value groundwater, earthquake zones, karst terrain, unstable terrain, and unfavorable weather conditions.

The WTI facility violates 5 of these 8 criteria. It is unclear how or whether these criteria would have applied to the WTI facility if the requirements for its permit had not been completed prior to their release.

As it stands today, the WTI facility would not have been sited if it had to meet the criteria set down in the new

EPA siting document.

The residents of East Liverpool and the surrounding areas are not sure why or exactly when EPA became an advocate for the WTI incinerator. They do know that fourteen years ago, when EPA first issued WTI an interim permit to build the incinerator in East Liverpool, U.S. Congressman Doug Applegate stated "The U.S. EPA wants this facility as much as WTI does... this permit is too important to the agency to deny no matter what the consequences are to East Liverpool." It seems that throughout the process EPA has had an agenda - most likely politically driven - other than good science or the protection of the health of East Liverpool residents. And it is clear that the true purpose of conducting the risk assessment was to provide the basis for justifying their decision to permit the facility, whether or not the facts supported that decision.



Photo by Sam Kittner.

This is not an isolated example or an unusual use of risk assessment. East Liverpool is a situation where EPA's true agenda has become transparent. There are many lessons to be learned from East Liverpool. These lessons include: risk assessment is NOT used to reach decisions, but to justify them; science is a pawn used to achieve a political agenda; and EPA will protect corporate interests rather than protecting public health.

Communities need to be clear that when EPA assures them a facility is safe, it is not an assurance they should believe.

Hazardous Fertilizer

A Seattle Times report on an investigation started in the small farming town of Quincy, Washington has gained nationwide attention and raised concern about a new sham recycling trend which could affect us all. The report, "Fear in the Fields" traces the discovery that some hazardous wastes are being "recycled" into fertilizers, from the town of Quincy to the rest of the nation, and describes the regulatory void that allows the practice to occur.

The mayor of Quincy led an investigation into local farmers' poor crop yields and sick cattle, and found out that toxic heavy metals, radioactive wastes, and other hazardous materials are being reused as components in fertilizer. The report gave other examples of hazardous wastes being used in fertilizers nation-

wide — in Oklahoma, a uranium processing plant gets rid of low-level radioactive waste by spraying it on grazing land; in Georgia, farmers who used a fertilizer which consisted of hazardous waste and lime wiped out over a thousand acres of peanuts; and in Washington, lead-laced pulp mill waste is spread on land growing crops for livestock.

This practice exists because there are no federal regulations on or testing of fertilizers, and most states only test the beneficial components of the fertilizer (such as nitrogen or phosphorous) to ensure that they are accurately labeled. The hazardous waste-derived portions of the fertilizer are usually not the beneficial ingredients; they act as filler and are not tested by most states. And many states encourage the recycling of industrial

byproducts, ignoring the toxic components they often bring with them to their next use. This lack of regulatory control over the reuse of hazardous byproducts is well illustrated by a quote from the owner of a hazardous waste storage facility: "When it goes into our silo, it's a hazardous waste. When it comes out of the silo, it's no longer regulated. The exact same material."

When the mayor of Quincy asked EPA Administrator Carol Browner if the EPA knew that fertilizer companies made toxic wastes into fertilizers, Browner said she didn't know anything about it.

The Seattle Times articles are available on their website (<http://www.seattletimes.com>).

Harry Bennett

Marion County Takes on BFI - And Wins!

The landfill in Marion County, Kansas was established in 1973 without any study of the environmental suitability of the site for municipal solid waste landfilling. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) had mandated the closing of the unlined, 80 acre landfill by October 1996.

Three monitoring wells drilled around the site revealed water levels as close as five feet below the landfill surface. A stream which is fed by active springs runs on the site, draining the area of the active cells. The landfill is in a flood plain area and the soils have been rated poor for sanitary landfill use by the USDA soils survey of 1980. For all of these reasons, the site is not suitable for a landfill.

Sixty miles to the south is the city of Wichita, Kansas which has a population of 500,000 and a waste stream of 1,500 tons per day. This is in contrast with Marion County, which has a population of 13,000 and a waste stream of 20 tons per day. Wichita faces a situation similar to Marion County, in that its landfill is also slated to close by state mandate. BFI, the hauler of most of Wichita's waste, had been unable to site a new landfill in the area.

In 1993, Marion County moved with three adjoining rural counties to establish a regional solid waste authority to study, plan and implement solid waste strategies for the four county area. By 1995 the individual counties were developing strategies to deal with the closing of the county landfills and had developed comprehensive solid waste plans.

In October, 1995 Browning-Ferris Industries (BFI) announced their intention to purchase the privately owned Marion County landfill site. The announcement took the residents of



Concerned Marion County residents attend a meeting about BFI's proposed landfill.

Marion County by surprise. It quickly became obvious that two county commissioners, several Marion city officials and local business owners had known of the proposed sale prior to the public announcement, and that BFI hoped to build a new landfill on the site for the disposal of Wichita trash.

Within a day or two of the October announcement, a group of area residents met for the first time to organize resistance to the BFI proposal. The theme of the meeting was a question — if Marion County had found ways to deal with waste without the landfill, why should it take Wichita's trash? This was the first meeting of the Concerned Citizens of Marion County (CCMC).

In the week that followed, 1,300 signatures (reflecting 10% of Marion County's population) were obtained on a petition opposing the siting of a large

regional landfill in Marion County. Over two hundred citizens attended the next County Commissioners' meeting and questioned the commissioners and BFI representatives about the proposal.

In the months following that first meeting, letters and phone calls were made to KDHE officials, elected representatives, and county newspapers. The CCMC was on the County Commissioners' agenda repeatedly and all of the meetings were monitored. Large and growing numbers of citizens packed the chambers at every scheduled presentation by BFI to ask questions and demand answers. BFI took to changing meeting times and making unscheduled public meetings with both county and city officials. Death threats were made to a

Continued on page 8

CCMC member at a City of Marion meeting by a city employee.

After holding a series of informational meetings around the County, CCMC decided that using the zoning process would be the most economical and elegant way to stop the landfill. BFI realized midway through the application process that although they had two out of the three commissioners going their way, a well informed and active opposition would make the public hearing process difficult at best. BFI tried several strategies to finesse this process.

They withdrew their application for the permit and then they applied great pressure to the remaining commissioner. But most importantly, BFI got out the checkbook and by using high pressure tactics and playing with the proposed landfill site borders, was able to gerrymander ownership options for over 80% of the neighboring land. This was done to thwart the ability of adjoining landowners to mount a protest petition (an option under zoning regulations.) This was the strategy that BFI had proposed at a closed meeting between BFI and some government officials. CCMC found out about the plan when they obtained a tape of the meeting.

Things did not look good. The apparent success BFI had in applying pressure to the commissioners made some in CCMC fear that it was a done deal.

An audience of over 200 people showed up for the next Planning Com-

mission meeting. BFI was given the first opportunity to address the planners and had six people speak. Their information was highly technical and dry, and often lacked specifics for the site.

The public side of the meeting included a slide show of the area, aerial photos of the site, and photos of the fresh water mollusks and other wildlife that would be threatened by the proposal. Binders were given to the planners containing maps, water quality concerns, scientific and geological data, analysis of traffic concerns, bad character reports about BFI, statements from a group of technical advisors and statements from surrounding residents.

Then over 40 Marion County residents spoke, voicing a variety of objections to the siting of the landfill. The public comments included a total of two speakers who were supportive of the proposal - the two owners of the landfill BFI wanted to buy. The BFI lawyer requested police protection to go to the bathroom and his car as he was concerned about potential violence. It was that kind of night.

At the next two monthly meetings of the Planning Commission, BFI was allowed to rebut questions from the public hearing record and to answer questions that the planners had after hearing and seeing the evidence. The commission then voted, eight to one, to propose denial of the BFI permit to the County Commissioners.

BFI attempted to lobby the commissioners prior to voting on the proposal. CCMC members were notified of this tactic and responded. The group hadn't come this far to let BFI weasel their way past us.

BFI formally requested time to address the commissioners prior to the vote. CCMC requested equal time to respond to the BFI presentation at the same meeting. The county notified BFI that CCMC, the Chair of the Planning Commission, and their representative would each receive 20 minutes at a public meeting before the vote.

After causing Marion County to spend tens of thousands of dollars in legal fees, the destruction of three and launching of at least two political careers, countless sleepless nights and thousands of volunteer hours, BFI realized that they would not get the permit and withdrew their proposal three days before the meeting they had requested. By withdrawing prior to the County Commissioners vote, they kept alive a slight possibility that they would refile. But as time moves on, it is becoming quite clear that they will not. Even though we didn't get to run BFI out of town and subject them to more public humiliation, CCMC has declared victory.

As a result of the 1996 elections, resignations and one untimely death, the county commissioners, county clerk and county attorney who worked in concert with BFI are no longer involved in Marion County government.

Amendments have been made to the Marion County zoning regulations that require an environmental impact statement to accompany permit applications for a specific list of uses (which includes sanitary landfills) and require that the area of neighboring landowner notification be expanded to one mile for these same uses.

This experience in Marion County provides proof of the power of local government and citizens to control land use and protect the environment, using the rules of zoning. The effort in Marion County cost \$950 in donations and thousands of volunteer hours. In the end we beat a multi-national corporation with an annual income of six billion dollars.

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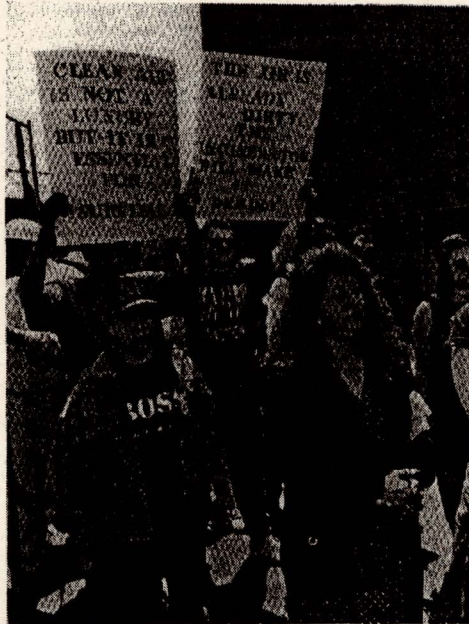
Organizing Toolbox ♦ Marian Feinberg

Victory In the South Bronx: What It Took to Win

On July 7, 1997 the Browning-Ferris Industries/Bronx Lebanon Hospital Center Regional Medical Waste Incinerator "voluntarily" closed its doors, after threatened court action by the New York governor and state Attorney General. This incinerator burned 48 tons of medical waste from three states every day.

After hearings, dozens of protests, tens of thousands of signatures on petitions, a highway blockade, street fairs, a boycott campaign, and thousands of prayers since we began this fight in 1991, we won! Why after hundreds of violations did the government suddenly decide that it would no longer tolerate this unsafe and unnecessary facility? In the hope that it might be of some use to other communities, we are writing about what it took for the South Bronx Clean Air Coalition to win.

The South Bronx is a low income neighborhood, whose residents are mostly people of color. The largest ethnic group is Puerto Rican. It is a community with poor health, which has been particularly devastated by AIDS, but which still maintains a rich culture. Part of that culture has been a history of struggle, with many battles through the years over civil rights, healthcare, schools, and housing. We have a history of social involvement of clergy and social justice organizations including the Black Panthers, Young Lords, and in more recent years, the National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights and other Latino justice organizations. We benefited from this legacy of activism through the experience, resources, and support that current and former members of these organizations brought. But the South Bronx also has a history of inaction and total corruption on the part of our politicians, virtually all of whom backed this incinerator.



Getting the Community Involved

In the battle to close the incinerator, the most important thing was to get the word out in the community and bring people together. All of the invaluable help, advice, research, and allies that we have gained over the years came to us because people saw a community in motion. No expert in the world can win your struggle for you if the community is not coming together to speak out. Even if it is a few hardcore people doing a lot of the work, it is vital to continually find ways for community members to participate, through activities such as prayer vigils, rallies, petitions, and school classes making posters. We wanted the community to own the victory through their involvement, to make it stronger for the future.

One important way we did this was through the participation of children and adults who were concerned about children's health. We had very strong

involvement, particularly of the parochial schools in our area. Parents, principals and teachers were very worried about increased school absenteeism from asthma, and complaints that outdoor recess made children feel ill. We spoke in classes and the kids responded with beautiful poems and posters. One of the children who spoke out against the incinerator later died of an asthma attack. We brought bus loads of kids wearing oxygen masks to our demonstrations, which not only made for great press, but also kept the issue of why we were there close to our hearts.

It really helped us to have the support of community institutions like the Voter Participation Project of the Community Service Society and several churches. These institutions provided us with places to meet, contacts in the community, the trust a community has in clergy, powerful public speakers, and spiritual counsel.

Be Clear About Your Message

A very important part of our work was the clarity of our message. Our message throughout our fight consisted of four components.

1. WE DON'T NEED INCINERATION. It helped us that there are alternatives to medical waste incineration that are healthier and no more expensive. Incineration also provides few jobs. Therefore, the incinerator had no real constituency. During this fight, more and more information became available about health effects. The context pro-

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vided by the national dioxin conferences and the Health Care Without Harm campaign gave us a tremendous amount of information, resources, and support.

2. THE SITING OF THE INCINERATOR WAS AN ACT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM. We knew that the incinerator was initially planned for a suburban white community and was moved when the community there opposed it. In the South Bronx, information was deliberately kept from the community in the planning and initial permitting phases, and opposition to the project was ignored. This was one of a number of toxic facilities recently opened in the neighborhood. There was a lot of resentment that we were chosen as a garbage dump under the assumption that the community was too poor, powerless, or ignorant to stop it. The continued growth of the Environmental Justice Movement throughout our struggle was invaluable in giving us a framework in which to understand our struggle and allies in the movement.

3. COMMUNITIES OF COLOR AND OTHER WORKING CLASS AND POOR COMMUNITIES HAVE THE

RIGHT TO CONTROL OUR OWN DESTINIES. We have the right to know what is being put in our communities and to say "no." Even more, we have the right to shape our own process of development — to have healthy jobs, housing and transportation, and the educational, cultural, and recreational facilities that enable us to have a decent life.

4. THE INCINERATOR WILL MAKE US SICK. Unfortunately we were helped by the fact that asthma related emergency room and clinic visits and hospital admissions doubled in the two years after the incinerator opened. The support of a physician who put in time and resources to get statistics for us was a real advantage. It is more difficult for people to respond to health effects that are decades away. Our explanation of dioxin and other chemicals causing cancer and birth defects was taken much more seriously because we had the respiratory disease evidence in front of us.

Choosing Your Targets

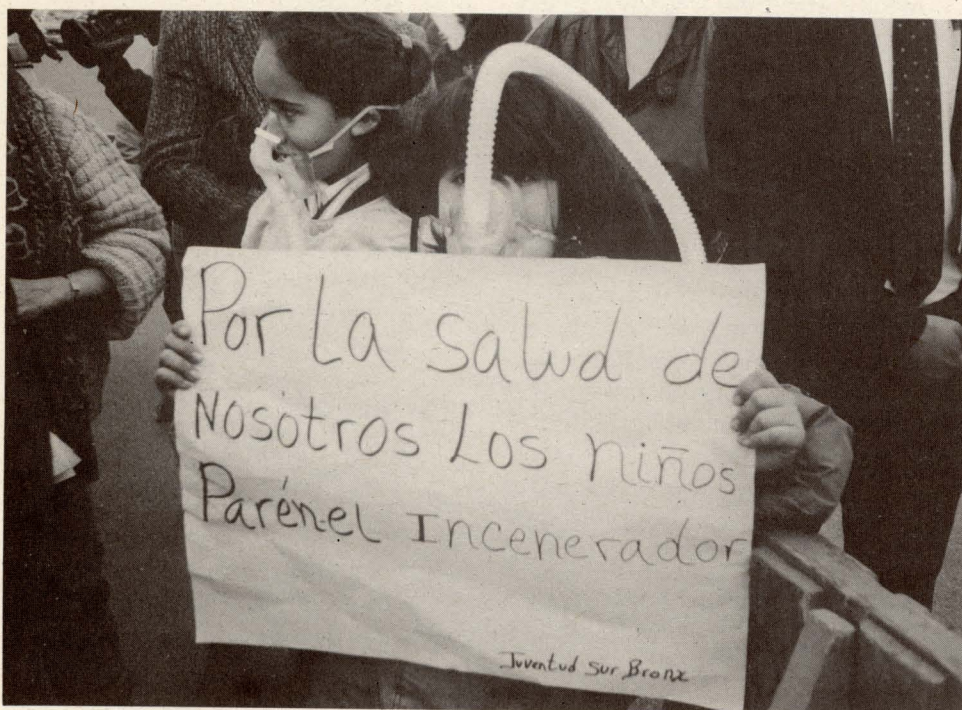
What to research is a critical decision. It is important to know the scientific facts, and there are many science

people in our movement who graciously give their time and brainpower to help out. But remember, on the community level, we do not win these battles because our science is better than their science (although it is.) We win these battles by being political.

We researched the money trail. Where there is a big capital development project, it must have gotten the blessing of those with political power. Their blessings do not usually come free. Often these projects receive help from public bonding agencies — using tax money. We wanted to find out in whose interest were public monies given? The incinerator's first owners had originally worked in the public sector. Which of their old government friends was protecting and backing the project?

Examples of such political and financial ties became especially useful to hand over to opponents of elected officials who hadn't helped us. Even though these people were not usually friends of the South Bronx or the environment, they could draw attention to the failure of elected officials to help us. We found out that stated political philosophy matters less than the connections a politician has to the project. The ones who are connected will defend the status quo, even if they are the "liberal," and the "conservative" may help you defeat a project if you can give them the angle they are looking for against their opponent. It helped us to have a different party in the mayor's office than when we started the fight, and approaching mayoral and senatorial races.

It was difficult for us to get our story in the mainstream press for quite a while, except when we did something very dramatic like blocking rush hour traffic on the expressway leading to the incinerator. The New York press is very tough, and for many years did little or no reporting on the Bronx unless a particularly horrible crime was committed. For a long time our only reliable outlets were a community weekly and the Spanish language media, which consistently reported our story with great enthusiasm. After several years we were able to build relationships with a few local reporters, but did not find "environmental" reporters to be very interested in local inner-



"For the health of the children, stop the incinerator."

city issues. We learned to cultivate individual reporters and to give them juicy information that would make them push their editor to let them cover the story.

Persistence

In the last months of the struggle we could feel the momentum building, and began to smell victory. The first indication was the sudden influx of support from those who had never helped us before. Politicians began to jump all over each other trying to show how much they were against the incinerator. And our pressure got BFI to bankroll our selection of an independent consultant to review a stack test protocol. Dr. Joel Hirschhorn went beyond our, and definitely BFI's, wildest expectations — per-

forming a full review of the facility. The press and the regulators were blown away by what he uncovered. It was what community people had been saying for years, but here was a Ph.D. engineer with impeccable credentials exposing not only the facility, but the rotten record of government oversight.

In the midst of all this we had a very successful march in May, with close to a thousand people. The Citizens Environmental Coalition organized a letter, signed by fifty grassroots groups around the state, which we sent to Governor Pataki, Senator D'Amato, and state regulators. We also got support from groups on Long Island who had successfully closed an incinerator there this year.

The value of persistence can't be overestimated in our success. Despite

the inevitable ups and downs, arguments, discouragements, and burnout we stuck together. By the end of this battle we certainly felt like a pit bull terrier with our teeth dug into the heels of the powers that be. No matter what they did, they could not shake us loose. Wherever they went, we showed up. Sometimes fights are won not by the guy who is the strongest, but by the one who just will not give up. They wanted this fight to end more than we did, and because we persevered, we won.

We sustained the struggle with the energy, caring, faith and determination of people in our communities and the support of a movement. We built on the past, and hopefully, can be a bridge to a better future, for people in the South Bronx and communities in struggle everywhere.

Nuke News

◆ A Nuclear Regulatory Commission inspection of General Public Utilities' emergency evacuation plans for Three Mile Island revealed several deficiencies. In a simulation, Three Mile Island staff failed to recognize conditions which constituted a "General Emergency" and did not "initiate protective action recommendations" when it appeared that guidelines would be exceeded. Since General Public Utilities is the only U.S. utility to have ever actually caused an evacuation, their inability to recognize an emergency is a disturbing indication of the nuclear industry's emergency preparation.

◆ The Department of Energy (DOE) and Lockheed Martin Corporation are involved in a dispute which may derail a DOE plan to privatize the cleanup of nuclear waste nationwide. The pilot site for the privatized cleanup system is the one acre site in Idaho known as Pit 9, which is filled with waste from the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons site in Colorado. The pilot site was the first time a company took on a cleanup task for a fixed price, in hopes of finding a cheaper and faster way to cleanup DOE sites across the country. But so far, Pit 9 is two years behind schedule and may end up costing more than triple the original es-

timate. Lockheed blames the DOE for interfering after a plan and price were already agreed upon, and DOE blames Lockheed for counting on a cleanup technology that was unproven when they took on the job. The outcome of this argument is significant because this was supposed to be a relatively simple job, and the struggle to complete it does not bode well for more complicated future cleanups.

◆ This summer, the Department of Energy (DOE) admitted that after an explosion at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in May, there was a near-complete breakdown in emergency response. Among the admissions were that the chemicals which exploded in a storage tank were stored improperly, and that workers were ordered to walk through a toxic plume, had to drive themselves to the hospital hours later and did not have their radiological profiles analyzed until nearly a month after the event. The Washington site is the nation's largest nuclear repository which produced plutonium for nuclear weapons for forty years and now contains more than half of the nation's nuclear waste. The accident occurred when a storage tank blew up, blasted through the roof and a door, and a toxic plume and plutonium con-

taminated water escaped outside the plant. After the explosion workers were given conflicting orders, emergency procedures did not exist or were ignored, and no notification was given to local officials outside the site for several hours.

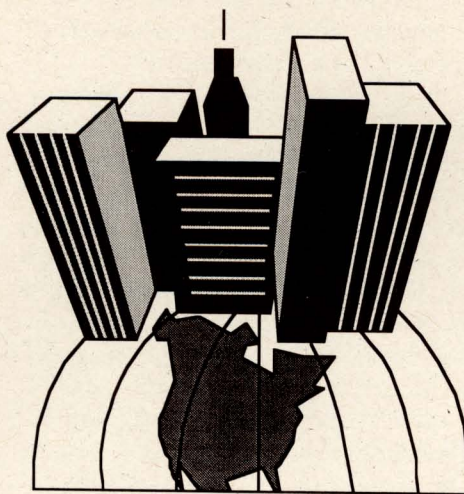
Ideas We Can Live Without

An Italian incinerator specialist is trying to market a new "trash to cash" technology — this time for use in your very own home. The "Leonardo" is an 18-inch metal fireplace insert fueled by trash. The designer claims that it heats up to about 900 degrees so the trash "vaporizes," instead of burning. The inventor did address concerns that his invention didn't create the same ambience as a real fireplace (his suggestion - just stick a few logs in front of it and pretend it's a fire) but didn't mention the health issues involved in having a trash incinerator in your living room. The Home Depot store chain is supposedly considering carrying the Leonardo in its stores.

CORPORATE CORNER

◆ A report by the Good Neighbor Project, "Hazardous Materials on the Rails — A Case Study of **Union Pacific Railroad**, the Nation's Largest Chemical Hauler," details how recent derailments and collisions are warnings of a chemical disaster waiting to happen. Union Pacific, the single largest transporter of hazardous materials and chemical substances in the United States, reported over 2000 incidents involving hazardous materials between 1991 and 1995. The report indicates a number of areas where current accident prevention and emergency planning practices need improvement. They included downsizing and the resulting overworked train crews; lack of public accountability and exemption from parts of community right-to-know laws; a patchwork emergency response system which is left up to local governments to implement; and underutilized technology which could prevent accidents and collisions. The report also recommends Good Neighbor agreements between communities and the railroads and inclusion of the railroad industry in right-to-know laws.

◆ **Smithfield Foods, Inc.** was fined \$12.6 million for dumping excessive levels of hog waste into Virginia's Pagan River which leads to the Chesapeake Bay. This is the largest penalty ever assessed under the Clean Water Act. Smithfield Foods, the East Coast's largest meatpacker, has discharged waste into the river for decades, and promised six years ago to hook up to a wastewater treatment plant. The agreement with the state of Virginia, allowed them to discharge into the river until their connection to the treatment plant was complete. But the federal district judge for the case agreed with EPA and environmentalists that the agreement was exceptionally lax and that Smithfield had



violated the Clean Water Act over 7,000 times since 1991 and falsified and destroyed records to hide their violations.

Smithfield is also being investigated in North Carolina, where they operate the Carolina Food Processor pork plant, the world's largest hog slaughterhouse, in Bladen County. The North Carolina Division of Water Quality has cited the plant 20 times since 1993 and fined it over \$30,000 for dozens of other infractions, most involving the plant's daily discharge of 3 million gallons of waste into the Cape Fear River.

◆ **Browning-Ferris Industries (BFI)** was fined \$55,000 for safety violations that resulted in the death of a New Hampshire worker who was crushed between a recycling truck and a waste bin. Inspection by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) after the accident found that BFI failed to ensure that basic protective measures had been taken to prevent the accident. OSHA categorized the violation as "willful," its most serious type of violation, which is described as being committed with intentional disregard to safety or requirements.

◆ Efforts by five Los Angeles oil refineries to avoid installing pollution control equipment at their tanker docks in the South Bay are being challenged by Communities for a Better Environment (CBE). **Ultramar, Unocal, GATZ, Tosco, and Chevron** have taken advantage of a state air board loophole which allows them to acquire and destroy old cars from anywhere in Los Angeles to gain pollution credits. They then use the credits instead of installing pollution control equipment at their docks, which are located in predominantly African-American and Latino communities. CBE has filed a civil rights complaint against the companies, which has resulted in the California Air Resources Board suspending the approval process for similar pollution trading programs.

◆ **Ethyl Corporation**, manufacturer of gasoline and fuel additives, is suing the Canadian government for banning the import of MMT, a gasoline additive containing magnesium. Ethyl maintains that, under NAFTA, governments must compensate corporations for expropriating their property and that by banning the import of MMT, the Canadian government took away the company's expectation of profit from Canadian sales. MMT is banned in California and the EPA discourages its use because of potential public health impacts. If Ethyl wins the case with this NAFTA argument, it will set a dangerous precedent for corporations to challenge environmental regulations under the guise of free trade.

◆ The Indiana Department of Environmental Management used the state's "Good Character" law to block the expansion of a **Chemical Waste Management** hazardous waste landfill

CORPORATE CORNER

in Fort Wayne. Chemical Waste Management of Indiana, despite its claims that it was no longer associated with ChemWaste (a subsidiary of Waste Management, Inc.), was found to still be significantly associated with the company. Chemwaste has a history of environmental violations. This poor environmental track record, including penalties in at least five states and several EPA regions, allowed IDEM to deny the expansion permit under the state's Good Character law.

◆ Federal prosecutors reported that **Shell Oil Company** agreed to pay a \$678,000 civil penalty and install eight million dollars worth of pollution controls to settle a complaint against its Wood River refinery in Roxana, Illinois. The refinery violated Clean Air Act regulations on benzene.

◆ **Allied Waste Industries** continued to grow rapidly as it bought the Greenville, South Carolina hauling and recycling assets of Browning-Ferris Industries (BFI). Allied also bought BFI's hauling operations in southern Illinois. Shortly before these deals, Allied bought BFI operations in Columbia, South Carolina and a USA Waste landfill in Fairfield, Illinois. For BFI the sales represent an almost complete divestiture in South Carolina, in line with the company's goal of selling \$270 million worth of low-return operations in North America.

◆ **Thomas Rudd**, former president of **Striping Technology, Inc.**, was sentenced to 15 months in prison for illegally discharging paint waste and other pollutants into Black Fork Creek in Smith County, Texas. Striping Technology is the biggest pavement, road, and highway striping contractor in Texas. Federal officials said that Rudd directed several employees to

dispose of hundreds of barrels of paint wastes contaminated with toluene, methyl ethyl ketone, and lead, by burying them in pits dug into springs which flow into Black Fork Creek. Rudd plead guilty to the charge and agreed to be held personally responsible for the costs involved in the cleanup of illegally disposed paint at five locations.

◆ **Dow Chemical Company** was found by a jury to have misrepresented the safety of silicone that went into Dow Corning silicone breast implants. Dow Corning is a joint venture between Dow and Corning which manufactured silicone breast implants and is now facing bankruptcy. The jury found that Dow Chemical did "knowingly or intentionally remain silent, conceal or suppress information about the harms and dangers of using silicone in the human body." The finding of negligence also included the jury's opinion that Dow Chemical did not do enough safety tests and that the company made misleading statements about the safety of silicone. One example introduced in the trial was a Dow annual report describing the "chemical inertness and lack of toxicity" of silicone compounds. Dow-Corning proposed a settlement of \$2.4 billion, as part of its bankruptcy proceedings.

◆ A jury found that **Conoco** contaminated the wells of two North Carolina mobile home parks and harmed 178 people due to its negligence and fraud. The jury awarded \$9.5 million to residents to be used for medical monitoring. Conoco uncovered contamination from a leaking gas station fuel tank a year before residents were notified. Because the company was found to have been negligent, the jury can also award residents money to compensate their loss and to punish the company.

◆ **International Paper** is eliminating their Unity DP and Incentive 100 paper lines, as part of a larger initiative to eliminate 9,000 jobs and sell one billion dollars in assets. IP is closing the de-inking pulp line at its Lock Haven, Pennsylvania mill, three lines at an Erie, Pennsylvania mill, and a mill in Woronoco, Massachusetts. The Unity DP and Incentive paper lines are recycled, processed chlorine-free papers which are produced from old newspapers and magazines. This is a blow to the movement to stop dioxin exposure, because there are few affordable chlorine free paper options. *Everyone's Backyard* (including this issue) has been printed on Incentive paper for the last two years.

Jobs v. Environment?

A report by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development found that environmental policies "create slightly more jobs than they destroy." This latest contribution to the debate on environmental policy's effects on jobs found that they cannot be said to provide a powerful effect to either job creation or job loss. The report also pointed out the large number of environmental jobs, which make up 3% of the U.S. economy with almost four million jobs.

Maine's Battle to Eliminate Paper Mill Dioxin

Anne Hagstrom, Clean Water Project Director, the Natural Resources Council of Maine

Since dioxin from paper mills was first discovered in Maine waters more than ten years ago, citizen groups in Maine have advocated for strict standards and worked to publicize the consumption warnings for fish and lobsters caught in Maine waters. These efforts culminated in the formation of the Coalition for a Dioxin-free Maine, following a meeting featuring Lois Gibbs and Charlotte Brody of CCHW in early 1996.

Maine's Dioxin Coalition includes a broad range of groups including the American Association of Retired Persons, League of Women Voters, Maine Green Party, Maine People's Alliance, Maine Public Health Association, the Natural Resources Council of Maine, and many other health, religious, environmental, fishing and consumer groups. In addition the Coalition has worked closely with the Penobscot Indian Nation on dioxin issues affecting the nation.

In April, 1996, due in large part to the pressure put on Maine's leadership by these citizen groups, Governor Angus King announced that seven bleach-kraft paper mills had agreed to the goal of "eliminating the discharge of pollutants, including dioxin, to Maine waters."

At that time, pleased with this announcement, six members of the Dioxin Coalition entered into stakeholder talks with government and industry representatives to work out the details. After four meetings, it became clear that industry had no intention of taking the steps needed to eliminate dioxin. Instead they argued that "elimination" did not equal zero dioxin, and said that they planned to continue to use chlorine dioxide processes that produce dioxins.

Once the industry's lack of good faith became apparent, Dioxin Coalition members withdrew from the talks, worked together to develop a bill to meet the goal of dioxin elimination, and prepared to introduce this proposal to the Maine Legislature. The bill, An Act to Eliminate Paper Mill Dioxin and Restore Maine's Rivers, would have phased out the use of chlorine-based paper bleaching by the year 2002, and set Maine on the road to "closed loop" paper mills that recycle their bleaching wastewater.

The Coalition's proposal prompted the Governor to introduce a competing measure, requiring that the most toxic dioxin, 2,3,7,8 TCDD, be reduced to "non-detectable" levels at the bleach plant by 1998, and the most toxic furan, 2,3,7,8 TCDF, be reduced to "non-detectable" levels by 2002. It also established a requirement that fish tissue dioxin contamination be at the same level downstream as upstream from bleached-kraft mills.

Unfortunately, the Governor's proposal, which did get passed into law, will not eliminate dioxin discharges, because even at non-detectable levels there can be billions of dioxin molecules in each gallon of paper mill wastewater. The Governor's bill also will not move the mills towards "closed loop"/low-flow processes, which would vastly reduce the 40 million gallons of polluted bleaching wastewater discharged into rivers each day by Maine's seven bleach kraft mills. In addition, loopholes in the fish testing requirement could limit its effectiveness.

During the spring of 1997, the two dioxin proposals generated a highly visible statewide debate in major newspa-

pers, in the state Legislature, and among people throughout Maine. To build the case for dioxin elimination and chlorine-free technologies, coalition members wrote dozens of letters to the editor, held meetings with other organizations, gave slide show presentations, produced and distributed more than 50,000 brochures and reports, and ran a hard-hitting guerrilla radio campaign.

These all laid out the health, economic, technical and environmental arguments for totally chlorine-free (TCF) conversion.

Coalition members and others participated in news conferences and focused public attention on the quality and marketability of TCF paper, the inability of Native Americans and other anglers to catch and eat uncontaminated fish, public opinion polling that indicated citizen support for dioxin elimination, and a stealth campaign by the chlorine dioxide chemical industry to mislead Maine citizens and legislators.

In April, 1997, more than seventy Mainers from all walks of life declared their support for the coalition bill during eight hours of hearings held in the largest hearing room in Augusta. Physicians, mothers, environmental activists, business owners, teachers, anglers, and members of the Penobscot Indian Nation testified eloquently in favor of banning dioxin and converting the pulp and paper industry to TCF processes.

Industry representatives ultimately supported the Governor's proposal, ignoring the fact that it would not eliminate the discharge of dioxin and would not position Maine mills to eventually

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ACTION LINE



California

◆ An **Environmental Health Coalition** petition led to the release of EPA data on the sediment and fish studies of the New River. The river travels from Mexico into California and is heavily polluted by raw sewage, industrial waste from maquiladoras and agricultural runoff. The release of the data, from testing by both U.S. and Mexican agencies, set a precedent for community right-to-know in both countries.

◆ Residents in Ventura have formed a group called **Community and Children's Advocates Against Pesticide Poisoning** to stop the use of methyl bromide on strawberry fields. Methyl bromide is classified as an acute toxin and will be banned by the year 2000 because of its ozone depleting properties. Members of the group have suffered symptoms of methyl bromide poisoning after fumes drifted from fields into their neighborhoods.

◆ The **Clean Bay Campaign of the Environmental Health Coalition** has drafted a comprehensive Plan of Action for Remediation and Prevention of Toxic Hotspots in San Diego Bay. The plan calls on the Regional Water Quality Control Board and the Port District to undertake emergency cleanup actions for toxic hotspots; initiate a comprehensive fish tissue study; require pollution prevention plans; and coordinate sediment contamination prevention efforts

Florida

◆ Groups including **The Environmental Network (TEN)** and **SF-CARE** organized to have the Legal Environmental Assistance Foundation (LEAF) represent them in a closed-door "informal hearing" on the definition of municipal solid waste. This was a critical meeting because Ogden Martin wants to change the definition of municipal waste to include industrial wastes, such as empty pesticide containers, so these wastes can be burned in their Pasco County incinerator. This definition would be applied state-wide, so the outcome of the decision will impact communities all over Florida. LEAF presented a legal memorandum representing opposition to the definition change.

◆ **Citizens for the Responsible Application of Malathion (CRAM)** has organized in the Tampa area in response to aerial malathion spraying of over 300 square miles to protect the citrus industry from med flies. CRAM is working to educate the public through weekly meetings, press coverage of the spraying issue, and a telephone hotline. CRAM and Sarasota Citizens Rallying Against Malathion (SCRAM) want the USDA to be more aggressive in their non-chemical management of med flies, and to be accountable for their decision to spray a toxic pesticide over a large, densely populated area in blatant violation of many of their own policies on aerial spraying. The U.S. Department of Agriculture as well as state agencies have

responded to citizen's efforts by stopping the spraying over downtown Tampa.

◆ Citizens in Perry, with help from the **Legal Environmental Assistance Foundation (LEAF)** and **Clean Water Network**, stopped the Florida Department of Environmental Protection from rushing the Proctor & Gamble/Buckeye pipeline through approval for a land easement from the state. The proposed pipeline project would deliver polluted wastewater more than 15 miles to the Gulf of Mexico. Citizens have objected to the speed of the easement process, hoping to prevent the state from giving the company land for the pipeline.

Georgia

◆ **The Whitesville Community Resource and Development Organization, Inc.** attended the Statesboro City Council meeting to demand the closure of a landfill located in their small African-American community. The community was annexed by the city of Statesboro in the early 1990's and then the landfill was sited there. The group is calling for the landfill to be closed because it presents a threat to the community's children through truck traffic and the lack of a fence, and because they have seen materials other than construction debris being dumped there, in violation of the landfill's permit.

◆ **United States Public Interest Research Group and Physicians for Social Responsibility** staged a memorial to honor air pollution victims out-

side the Georgia office of Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich. The memorial featured a 20 foot tombstone to mark the estimated 15,000 people who will die of respiratory illness due to air pollution this year.

◆ **Eco Action** has noted an increasing trend throughout the state of "permit swapping"- a practice of local agents getting permits and then selling them to large outside corporations. In one case, Upsonians for Environmental Action is organizing to stop the city of Thomaston from selling land and a permit for a landfill to USA Waste. They are concerned that the landfill would affect more than a hundred nearby wells and argue that the city and county, not USA Waste received the permit which is being transferred.

Idaho

◆ **The Snake River Alliance** continues to keep track of the Waste Experimental Reduction Facility permitting process. The country's second largest nuclear facility of this type released hydrogen chloride into the air for two hours during a test burn. With federal and state regulators on hand to witness the test burn, operators chose to ignore indications of a problem, believing that the instruments were wrong. This incident follows the discovery of the plant's illegal incineration of materials containing PCBs at a concentration a hun-

Continued on page 16

ACTION LINE



The Rodale Institute is a research center for sustainable agriculture which was founded on organic farming principles. As an authority on organic agriculture and the publisher of Organic Gardening magazine and organic gardening books, Rodale's position on the sludge issue carries significant weight. The National Sludge Alliance has met with the Rodale Institute about the use of sludge on agricultural land. Rodale has been participating in a research project with N-Viro and the Department of Agriculture (USDA) on the effects of sludge on crops and land. The National Sludge Alliance is urging Rodale to support a moratorium on sludge application to land and to speak out against the certification of crops grown on land treated with sludge as "organic." The Rodale Institute does not seem worried about the perception that its association with N-Viro and USDA (also backers of land application of sludge) creates a conflict with its mission of promoting sustainable agriculture. The National Sludge Alliance is asking people to write to the Rodale Institute to express their concerns about the link between Rodale, USDA and N-Viro. Contact Rodale at : Rodale Institute Experimental Farm, 611 Siegfriedale Road, Kutztown, PA 19530-9749.

Continued from page 15

dred times higher than the legal limit.

Illinois

◆ **South Suburban Citizens Opposed to Polluting Our Environment (SS-COPE)** realized a major victory when the Illinois EPA, under order from the state Attorney General and U.S. EPA's Office of Civil Rights, announced that the permit for a proposed incinerator was expired. If the permit had still been valid, the EPA could have proceeded with a civil rights complaint SS-COPE filed against the Illinois EPA last year. The attention SS-COPE brought to the situation got

U.S. Representative Jesse Jackson, Jr. and President Clinton's environmental advisor, Kathleen McGinty, involved in urging the EPA to expedite its evaluation of their complaint, which led to pressure on the Illinois EPA to declare the permit lapsed. The Bloom township wood burner would have to comply with stricter air quality standards if it were to receive a new permit, a condition the developers acknowledged was not likely to occur. Good work SS-COPE!

Indiana

◆ **Valley Watch** is appealing the state Department of Environmental Management's decision to allow Browning-Ferris Industries (BFI) to use petro-

leum contaminated soil and other toxic materials as daily cover on the Laubscher Meadows landfill. The group wants the company to supply information to the public about the levels and types of contaminants in the wastes. They are concerned that this will be used as a loophole to allow BFI to dispose of hazardous waste in the solid waste landfill.

Kentucky

◆ When dioxin was discovered in the fish and sediments of a fishing pond in Louisville, the **West County Community Involvement Project** was formed. The task force is composed of representatives from 12 neighborhoods, three at large members, three industry representatives, and a representative from the metropolitan sewer district. The group has held public meetings and conducted a survey of the community's environmental health concerns. The group has also received an EPA grant for maintaining the task force for two years and setting up a computer information center for residents to get information on permits, health studies, regulations and databases such as the Toxics Release Inventory. Based on the concerns of the community, the task force has an agenda that includes addressing specific air and water quality problems and better community outreach on environmental health issues.

Labor

◆ The **AFL-CIO** has started the "Road to Union City" program for central labor councils

to rebuild the strength of unions in their city. The goals of the Union City program include a renewed commitment to organizing, developing rapid response teams to deal with workers' rights violations, building community coalitions, and increasing solidarity through increasing diversity in leadership. The program also plans to create local networks between unions and other non-profit groups, including environmental groups. More information on the program is available through central labor councils or the AFL-CIO Field Mobilization Department.

Louisiana

◆ **St. James Citizens for Jobs and the Environment, Louisiana Environmental Action Network, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, River Area Planning Group, St. John Citizens for Environmental Justice, and Ascension Parish Residents Against Toxic Pollution**, represented by the Tulane Environmental Law Clinic filed a complaint under Title VI of the federal Civil Rights Act, that will force EPA to define "environmental justice" for use in a siting decision for the Shintech PVC plant proposed for Convent. This action, as well as legal challenges to the federal and state air and water permits for the facility have caused Shin-Etsu, parent company of Shintech, to delay construction. The plant would add more toxic exposures to this area of Louisiana referred to as "cancer alley" because of the more than 100 heavy industrial facilities located in predominantly African-American communities there.

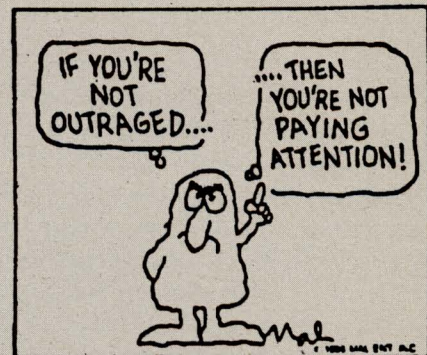
PUBLICATIONS LIST

NEW!

Love Canal

Love Canal: My Story by Lois Marie Gibbs is currently out of print. This new comprehensive fact pack gives you all the information you will need on Love Canal. It gives the history of Love Canal, a description of the contamination, and the status of the new families moving into the community. pp. 50

Order Item #P001.....\$7.00



GO GO:

Getting Organized and Getting Out

Our new guide to community relocation. What should you consider when you negotiate for relocation? How do you deal with neighbors who don't want to move? What role do area businesses and churches play? **GO GO** is a comprehensive guide that discusses all the ways to win relocation and to obtain fair compensation. pp.32

Order Item #P110.....\$10.00



Economic Development

Environmentally sound economic development is one of the most important issues facing communities today. Many organizations and resources exist to help a community choose a development program that keeps the environment safe and provides jobs. This new fact pack from CCHW addresses the issue of economic development and covers topics such as worker-owned business and business incubators.

A resource list of organizations and abstracts of successful ventures are included. pp.30+

Order Item #P103.....\$ 5.95

Media Means

To win your fight you need to cultivate the media. This book gives you the ABC's of writing news releases and holding news conferences and gives you ideas on how to get some of the "unfriendly" local media to cover your story. pp.42

Order Item #P071.....\$7.50

How to Win in Public Hearings

Every group at one time or another, will attend and/or be part of a public hearing. **Don't** go into these hearings blindly...**be prepared**. If you feel it is unfair to only have 3 minutes to express everything you feel about a site, find out how to get a fair hearing in this guidebook. pp.26

Order Item #P097

Community Activists\$6.95

All others..... \$199.95

How to Raise and Manage Money

Many groups falter because they run out of funds. This guidebook gives you practical advice so that your organization can keep financially stable. Topics covered include developing budgets, holding fundraising events and applying for grants. pp.54

Order Item #P086.....\$6.50

User's Guide to Experts

It's hard to win a fight without experts but it's often hard to deal with them. This guide presents strategies on where to find experts, how to judge whether you have the "right" expert and how to get your money's worth from an expert. pp.28

Order Item #P051.....\$5.75



How To Recruit People To Your Organization

By Michael Brown

Why aren't there more people at your meeting? Where are those people you thought were going to show up? This manual/workbook helps you through this often overlooked aspect of building strong community groups. Here you will find methods that work. Without people you have little power to achieve your goals. pp.43

Order Item #P121.....\$10.00

NEW!

Property Values

This fact pack consists of articles and research on the effect waste sites have on property values.

pp. 33

Order Item # P029.....\$4.00

PUBLICATIONS LIST

Center for Disease Control: Cover-up, Deceit and Confusion

If you are considering inviting the federal or state health agencies into your community to assess health, it is critically important that you read this book BEFORE you ask them to come. ATSDR - the federal agency under CDC - has made errors in communities across the nation. pp.25
Order Item #P061.....\$4.95

Common Questions About Health Effects

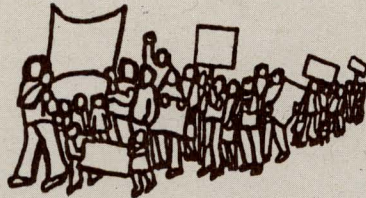
This is an essential primer for grassroots leaders to use to educate themselves and their neighbors. This guide describes how chemicals get into the body and how they can adversely affect human health. pp. 25
Order Item #P005.....\$6.95

Community Health Surveys

Do you think there is an increase of health problems in your community and now you want to do a survey? **BEWARE.** If the survey is not done correctly it can hurt your chances of winning the fight. This guidebook walks you through various ways to conduct health surveys and avoid pitfalls. Includes two model questionnaires. pp.35
Order Item #P050.....\$10.00

Medical Waste: Public Health vs. Private Profit

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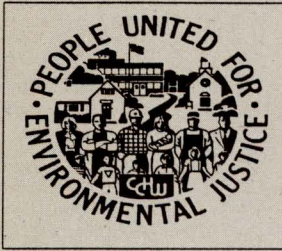
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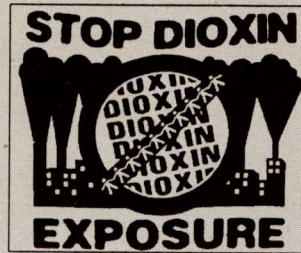
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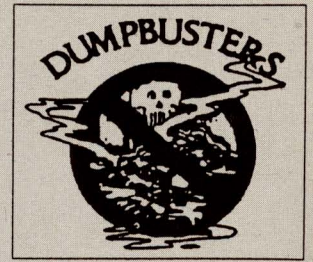
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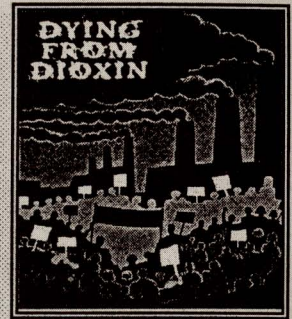


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"Everything you wanted to know is all right here," Ken Ward, Jr. *The Charleston Gazette*

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Maryland

◆ The Haztrak Coalition achieved a victory when the Maryland Department of Environment turned down a permit application for a factory hog farm. The state agency said the proposed nutrient management (hog waste disposal) plan did not adequately deal with the site's high water table. But now the group is working to prevent a local farmer from opening a large hog farm. They are battling against efforts by corporate pork producers, operating as the Clean Water Foundation, to influence state government in favor of large scale hog facilities.

Massachusetts

◆ Residents in Pittsfield are facing more PCB contamination from the **General Electric** (GE) facilities in their city. In the 1980's, the company agreed to plug leaks in underground pools of PCBs found underneath their property and to fence off a stretch of the Housatonic River polluted by PCB contaminated soil used to fill in curves and straighten the channel. This spring, PCB contamination of 18 homes, a school playground, and a ballfield was discovered. These sites were all built on fill GE provided in the 1940's and 1950's which was contaminated with PCBs. Internal GE reports reveal that GE identified at least 13 areas of potential liability from tainted soil, as early as 1992. Yet the company did not forward this memo to the state until this

year, when PCB contamination had already been discovered.

◆ The town of Natick is home to an Army research facility Superfund site with groundwater contamination, and several other potential sources for toxic exposure. State health studies have found the town's cancer rates to be abnormally high. But the **Massachusetts Department of Public Health** refuses to release the location of one cluster of pancreatic cancer to the town, so testing of the air, soil, and water cannot be done at these homes. The Natick Cancer Study Task Force has been formed and is organizing to get the state results released and to conduct its own cancer incidence studies.

◆ Environmental groups in Massachusetts are applauding the state Department of Environmental Affairs' proposed three year moratorium on new municipal landfills. The agency is basing this moratorium on an ambitious plan to increase the state's recycling rate to 46% by 2000.

Native Americans

◆ Eastern Navajo Diné Against Uranium Mining (ENDAUM) and officials from a tribal environmental agency presented evidence to the Navajo Nation Council on the threat posed by three uranium mines proposed for New Mexico. The group told the Council about the mines' use of the area's sole source of drinking water to conduct the min-



Concerned citizens on the trail of Governor Whitman in Linden, New Jersey. Photo by Vincent Lehotsky.

ing, as well as the challenge the project poses to Navajo jurisdiction and authority over mining. Hydro Resources, Inc. (HRI), the company proposing the mines, would not be subject to the jurisdiction of the Navajo Nation, because the lands in question lie outside the boundaries of the Nation. But because the populations which would be affected by these projects are predominantly Navajo and are culturally tied to the Navajo Nation, and the area was previously considered reservation land, ENDAUM feels it is critical that HRI be subject to Navajo law.

New Jersey

◆ The EPA has recommended that the mercury contaminated lofts owned by the **Grant Street Artists Partnership** be torn down and the owners be relocated and compensated for their loss. The building, a former GE mercury vapor lamp factory, was found

to be severely contaminated with mercury a year after the artists bought, renovated and moved into it. The EPA has ordered GE and the former owner who sold the building to the artists to take over the cleanup. So far, GE has only agreed to pay for the maintenance of the building and is suing the former owner who sold the building to the artists.

◆ Members of **Concerned Citizens of Linden** and **Concerned Citizens of Union County** demonstrated at a street fair in Summit, where Governor Whitman was campaigning. They have been following the governor as she campaigns in the area, calling on her to stop the New Jersey Turnpike's authorization of a private ramp for the GAF/ISP hazardous waste incinerator. Without approval for the ramp, the incinerator, cannot be built because the area is so densely populated that trucking hazardous waste through the com-

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CCHW'S STOP DIOXIN EXPOSURE CAMPAIGN



Lois Gibbs speaks at the Lollapalooza Stop Dioxin rally in Washinton, D.C. Photo by Joel Gysan.

Dioxin Found Near Times Beach After State Declared Area Clean

Six weeks after the incineration of dioxin contaminated soil was finished in Times Beach, dioxin levels as high as 195 parts per billion were found in the nearby town of Ellisville, Missouri. Investigators claim that the contamination occurred between 1964 and 1970, but did not name a source for the dioxin. Local activists point out that this recent discovery of contamination casts even more doubt upon the thoroughness of government testing of the area.

PVC Companies Are Moving In On Louisiana's Small Towns.

Two of Louisiana's small rural communities are being hit especially hard by expansion of the PVC industry. Westlake Corporation has proposed five PVC related facilities in Vincent Settlement. According to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality this area has one of the highest toxic release levels in the state. Westlake Corporation estimates that its proposed ethylene dichloride and chlor-alkali plants will pollute the air with 500,000 pounds of toxic contaminants.

Convent, in Saint James Parish, faces a similar situation. Shintech plans to con-

struct and operate an immense PVC facility there. The proposed facility would generate more than 600,000 pounds of toxic airborne pollutants annually. This predominantly African-American community in the center of "Cancer Alley" has a large population living below the poverty level, and already ranks as having the third highest level of toxic air emissions in a state that is second in the country for such pollution.

In a continuation of their efforts to protect their families from dioxin, the communities organized a Labor Day memorial service. Unionized workers from the area's vinyl plants, local residents living under the cloud of poison, community environmentalists, concerned parents and neighbors joined together to remember the friends and family members they loved, who have died from the illnesses related to vinyl production and dioxin.

US Borders Closed To PCB Imports

EPA's 1996 PCB import rule was struck down on July 7th by the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco. EPA's decision to open the borders and allow disposal of millions of pounds of PCBs in the US (mostly by incinerators) resulted from the

agency's blatant cave-in to political pressures from the waste industry. Between June 1996 and July 20, 1997 large quantities of PCBs were imported from Mexico and other nations to burn in the U.S. under the new rule.

According to EPA, the PCB import rule would help the waste industry earn an additional 50 to 100 million dollars per year, create jobs, and keep American borders free of PCBs. Fortunately, the court agreed with the Sierra Club, who filed suit to stop the importation, that the EPA failed to disclose that the new rule violated the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). Under TSCA, Congress declared it illegal to manufacture PCBs in the US, effective January 1, 1979. The definition of manufacture includes "to import" which EPA tried to circumvent, claiming this was only disposal and cleanup.

Lollapalooza & Dioxin

The day-long rock concert series Lollapalooza, this summer on its seventh tour, took on the theme of dioxin and toxic waste. Perry Farrell, musician and founder of Lollapalooza, became committed to working on these issues after reading *Dying From Dioxin* by Lois Marie Gibbs. This year, the touring

CCHW'S STOP DIOXIN EXPOSURE CAMPAIGN

on the Move

festival included the "Greenhouse", a tent for grassroots environmental organizations to set up interactive games and displays to educate concert-goers on these issues.

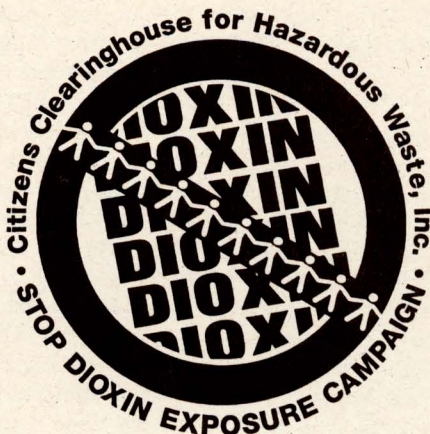
Dioxin & Chicken

On July 15th, the Food and Drug Administration announced a ban on the shipment of some chickens and eggs due to dioxin contamination. Approximately 350 producers, primarily in Texas and Arkansas, were affected by this order. On July 20th, the Food and Drug Administration announced that farm raised catfish was also included in the ban. This ban is to remain in effect until producers can demonstrate that the dioxin level in their products is below one part per trillion (ppt).

The source of the dioxin contamination was found to be soybean-based feed distributed by two Arkansas companies. "Ball" clay, or bentonite, which is used as an anti-caking agent in the feed, was the source of dioxin. The clay came from an open pit clay mine in Sledge, Mississippi.

The FDA emphasized that the one part per trillion measurement was a "level of concern" for a single instance of "avoidable" dioxin contamination. This value is not a risk based standard, but was derived simply by looking at the levels of dioxin in the chicken. The 1 ppt value was conveniently in between levels found in contaminated and non-contaminated chicken samples. The FDA has decided to use the 1 ppt level to evaluate all "adulterated" foods.

But the FDA has never taken action in response to the many studies that have shown that the meat, fish and dairy



products we routinely buy in the supermarket are contaminated with more than 1 ppt of dioxin. Is the FDA saying that 1 ppt contamination from a paper mill or incinerator is safer than 1 ppt contamination from clay?

Health Care Without Harm and the MACT Rule on Medical Waste Incineration

On August 15th, EPA released its Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT) Rule for medical waste incinerators. Health Care Without Harm (HCWH) advocated stricter, more protective emission limits than issued in the final rule. The campaign also urged EPA to eliminate small, rural facilities' exemption from pollution control and inspection requirements. This exemption remained part of the final rule. However, HCWH efforts to focus EPA's attention on waste reduction and waste segregation in health care facilities, instead of on more expensive and less protective scrubbers for the incinerators were successful. The resulting EPA language,

while not as strong or clear as that proposed by HCWH, does begin the process of healing the harm caused by medical waste incineration.

The final version of the MACT Rule for medical waste incinerators will not adequately protect the American people from dioxin and mercury. However, the new rules will substantially increase waste disposal costs for hospitals because of the cost of pollution control equipment the rule requires. The Health Care Without Harm Covenant presents an alternative to these increased disposal costs by minimizing or eliminating the need for incineration through recycling, waste segregation, alternative waste disposal methods, and the purchase of products that can be reused and safely disposed.

For information about the Health Care Without Harm Covenant, contact:

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ACTION LINE



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munity is considered too dangerous. Citizens of Linden and Union County want the governor to act to stop this dangerous and unnecessary facility from being built in their already over-burdened community.

New York

◆ **The New York State Labor & Environment Network** is working to demand more accountability for companies that receive taxpayer money. The Network has developed a scoring system for companies which receive public money based on their performance in civil rights, labor practices, and environmental practices. The Corporate Welfare Accountability Campaign is focusing on companies such as Eastman Kodak, New York's top polluter.

◆ **People's Coalition Blocking Sludge of East Kingston** has organized to oppose the dumping of toxic mud dredged from the New York Harbor into an old landfill on the Hudson River. The mud from the harbor is so contaminated with PCBs, and possibly radioactivity and medical waste that it can no longer be dumped in the ocean. The Army Corps of Engineers has publicly said that East Kingston is not a suitable site for the mud because the landfill is close to the Hudson River, which is a source of drinking water for many communities. People's Coalition has been working to educate the public and govern-

ment officials of the dangers involved in the plan, and to make the government accountable for the impacts of the disposal.

◆ **Save Our Community (SOC)** is fighting the expansion of the state's second largest landfill. The Seneca Falls landfill already contains hazardous waste, incinerator ash, commercial and industrial waste and neighbors cite the horrible odors and dangerous slopes as evidence of the mismanagement of the site. SOC exposed the awarding of the city recycling contract to the landfill and continues to emphasize recycling as an alternative to expanding the landfill.

◆ **The Dutch Hollow Homeowners Association** continues to fight to get adequate treatment for the Monroe landfill Superfund site, which has contaminated residents' wells. The landfill was found to contain more waste than originally estimated, so the capping costs for the town increased dramatically. The state and town have decided to recover these costs from the taxpayers, not from the parties who dumped in the landfill. And the EPA added insult to injury when it canceled plans to clean up residential wells, saying that they were contaminated by septic systems, instead of the landfill. The Homeowners Association continues to call for accountability from town and state officials and for alternative water supplies for those whose wells are contaminated.

◆ A Geneva citizen, Peter Goodman, and the **Citizen's Environmental Coalition** were

successful in compelling Guardian Glass, a new glassmaking facility, to reduce smog related nitrogen oxide emissions. After filing a petition with the EPA's Environmental Appeals Board under the Clean Air Act, they negotiated the agreement with the company and government officials. This gain for clean air happened despite Governor Pataki, who wanted to give the company \$65 million in corporate welfare and 150 tons of free pollution credits instead of making them reduce emissions.

North Carolina

◆ **Glenola Citizens for a Healthy Environment** continues to deal with the impact a Trinity Foam plant has had on their community. The state issued a Public Health notice saying the area has an increased lifetime risk for cancer and nerve damage from air emissions and contaminated well water. After public pressure the state legislature provided one million dollars to extend the city water supply to Glenola and \$100,000 for health care for the citizens impacted by the plant. But the health care money is being spent on a respiratory study which the group feels is inappropriate considering that nervous system damage is a primary health problem in the community. And the water supply extension will not actually reach the citizens of Glenola until they form their own Water Authority.

◆ Due to research done by **N.C. Waste Awareness and Reduction Network (NCWARN)**

and Stanly Citizens Opposed to Toxic Chemical Hazards (SCOTCH) as part of preparation for legal action against Carolina Solite, an error in the data used to calculate the facility's air emissions was found. Citing evidence that Carolina Solite used an inflated property size to calculate the concentrations of toxic air pollutants at the plant's boundaries, the state Division of Air Quality terminated the plant's permit. Carolina Solite burns hazardous waste as fuel in the production of cement and even with an inflated property size (which would lead to underestimates of emission levels at the property boundaries,) was releasing close to the limit of several toxic air pollutants. The groups know that Solite will almost certainly appeal the permit termination, but vow to keep up their opposition to the biggest burner of hazardous waste in the state.

◆ **Concerned Citizens of Tillery** and members of the **Hog Roundtable** rallied in front of the state legislature to call for a moratorium on large hog farms and more accountability from the hog industry. Several hundred people from across the state gathered for the rally, and then filled the galleries of both houses, wearing pink buttons to show their opposition to the corporate pork industry.

Ohio

◆ Now that the Columbus trash incinerator has been closed, **Neighbors Protecting Our Environment** is monitoring what type of industry will

ACTION LINE

lease the incinerator site from the city. One potential tenant is a graphite refining company that deals with petroleum coke and creates sulfur odors and dust during its process. Neighbors Protecting Our Environment found out that a vice-president of the graphite company once organized to stop McDonald's from building in his town, so they are asking why he can't understand why they don't want his company building in theirs.

Oregon

◆ Citizens living near the Army's proposed incinerator in Umatilla joined with **GASP**, **Sierra Club**, and the **Oregon Wildlife Federation** and filed a complaint in Oregon Circuit Court in an attempt to stop the burning of chemical weapons at the site. The groups maintain that the state Department of Environmental Quality was wrong to issue a permit for the project because they did not have sufficient evidence of safety and did not consider the existence of other disposal methods. Karyn Jones, member of GASP, stated "The diversity of the individual plaintiffs shows the broad based opposition throughout Oregon to incineration as a disposal method. The Army needs to hear the message, loud and clear — merely because a permit has been issued we are not giving up. In fact, the opposition continues to grow and citizens will use all means available to ensure the well being of their communities, their families and their environment."

Pennsylvania

◆ **Harmony Township Against Dumping It (HAD-IT)** won a year long fight against the re-opening of a fly ash dump in their area. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection denied a permit to re-open the dump and revoked the old permit. In its decision against re-opening, the DEP cited several failures to meet liner and leachate requirements and the existing degradation of water near the dump. HAD-IT feels that their persistence and willingness to learn and take advantage of the permitting appeal process led to their victory. Congratulations HAD-IT!

◆ **Health In Our Community** is concerned about the high rates of cancer suffered by lifelong residents of their Northumberland County community. In their own study, the group found a high incidence of cancer and is concerned about the residents' well water. There are several hot spots for

cancer in the township surveyed and possible sources of toxic exposure including a landfill. The group is working to get the state or a university to do an "official" health study of the community.

◆ **Arrest the Incinerator Remediation (AIR)** suffered a setback when an appeals court decision dismissed their case against EPA. The case concerned the proposed remediation action of incinerating on-site chemicals and soil at the Drake Superfund site in Lock Haven. The court did not weigh the arguments against incineration, but dismissed the case by saying that citizens do not have the right to sue the federal government, even when there is compelling evidence of irreparable harm to the community, until the entire project has been completed. AIR is pursuing the case in the state courts and petitioning the Supreme Court. The EPA's National Ombudsman released a report on the Drake Superfund site, but the section discussing "significant issues" had been

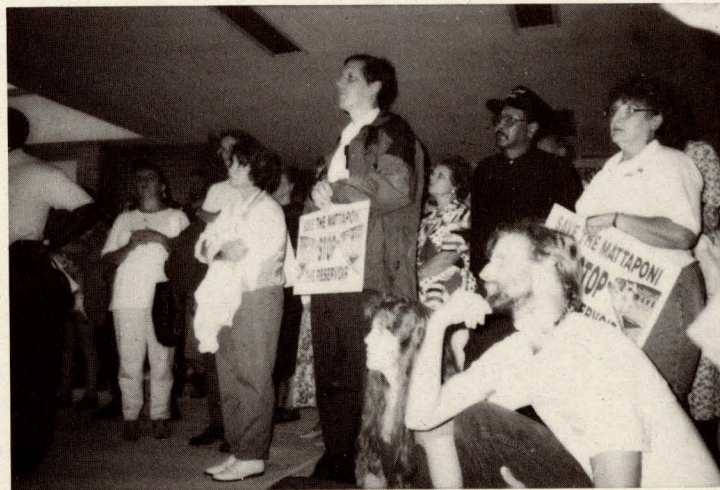
removed. This indication of censorship is a disturbing development, considering that the ombudsman is supposed to be an independent advocate for citizens at the EPA.

Tennessee

◆ Doris Bradshaw, leader of **Defense Depot Memphis Tennessee -Concerned Citizens Committee (DDMT-CCC)**, has been working to get the government to conduct a health study of her neighborhood which surrounds an Army depot. When the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) came to talk about the health study, they said they needed to include the Department of Defense and city and county leaders on the decision-making committee. When they finished with their list of participants, Doris realized that there were 36 people representing various government interests, and only herself representing the community. She then called ATSDR and told them that she had invited 35 of her neighbors to join the committee, to ensure that the voice of the community is heard because it is their health at stake. ATSDR agreed to have a one-to-one match of representation on the committee. Good job Doris and DDMT-CCC!

Utah

◆ The **Government Accountability Project (GAP)** and the **Chemical Weapons Working Group's (CWWG)** support for a whistleblower at the U.S.



Concerned residents rally outside an EPA information session for the proposed Mataponi reservoir. Photo by Barbara Sullivan.

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ACTION LINE



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Army's Tooele, Utah, chemical weapons incinerator paid off when a judge ordered the contractor who fired the safety manager to rehire him. The employee had filed a complaint charging that he was fired for trying to enforce federal environmental laws at the incinerator. He had refused to sign a certification that over 3000 identified hazards at the incinerator constituted an "acceptable" operational risk. CWWG points to this case as further proof that the Army is more concerned with staying on schedule than public safety, and that incineration is an unacceptable method for disposing of chemical weapons.

Virginia

◆ The **Mattaponi River Alliance**, made up of two Native American communities and other residents of King and Queen County and King Williams County, want to stop a proposed 1,500 acre reservoir. The reservoir would violate a treaty with the tribes and wipe out ancestral lands and wetlands on two reservations. Other concerns about the project include the recreational motorboats, hotels, and people that the reservoir would bring to the rural farming community and the potential for the flooding to cause the leachate from a nearby landfill (containing dioxin) to run into the reservoir and contaminate fish and wildlife. CCHW staff and members of the Mattaponi River Alliance spoke about problems with the reservoir to about 200 residents at a public meeting, providing information to counter what state agency officials had presented.

Washington

◆ **Puget Soundkeeper Alliance** has filed a citizen suit against Georgia-Pacific Corporation for allegedly releasing illegal levels of mercury into Bellingham Bay from its Bellingham pulp mill. The group says that Georgia-Pacific exceeded its permits 32 times in five years and has failed to

record its mercury releases on its discharge monitoring reports.

◆ **Citizens for Clean Air** held a public meeting to criticize a study done by the city on the health effects from Spokane's trash incinerator. The group points out that the study, paid for by the state Department of Ecology, has been sanitized but still cannot answer the state's questions about health effects. The group released their own study, "Your Health and the Garbage Incinerator," while waiting for the city's study to be released.

Wisconsin

◆ The issue of mining in Wisconsin has been stirring up controversy since the 1970's. **Earth First!** lodged its protest against proposed copper mining in northern Wisconsin by demonstrating in front of the mining offices in Crandon on the fourth of July. The group held their convention near the proposed mine to bring attention to the issue.

◆ **The Coalition for Mother Earth** has formed in Milwaukee around the issue of

brownfield redevelopment. The group is working to educate the public about brownfields through public meetings, and to make public officials aware of community concerns with the cleanup and redevelopment process. They want to educate the officials who will be making critical decisions that will affect residents' desire for economic development that comes through clean jobs.

◆ Congratulations to state Senator Gwen Moore, for introducing an environmental justice plan into the state budget proposal. The plan defines environmental justice as "the state of affairs in which no racial, ethnic, cultural, or economic community and no sector of the work force is disproportionately exposed to the health and safety hazards and the economic and aesthetic costs of environmental pollution." The plan would bar the state from issuing permits for new industrial facilities unless the applicants could prove that there are no other appropriate sites or that the residents affected by the facility approve, and would make grants available to communities to study health hazards or economic development.

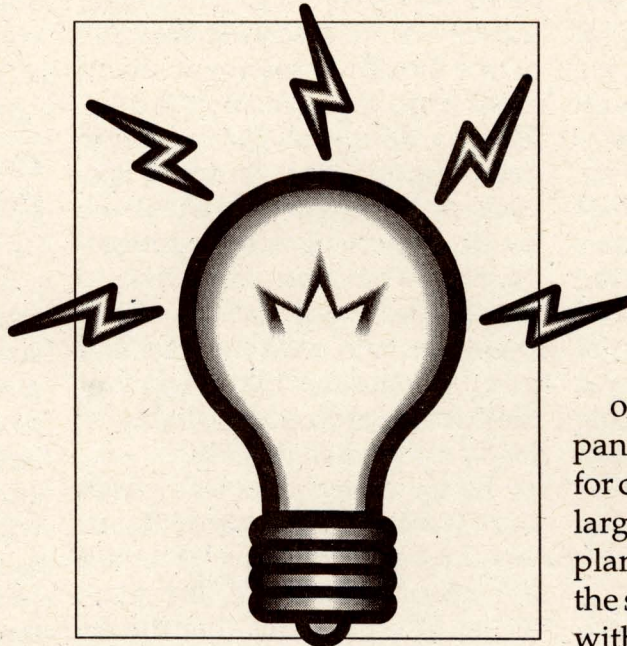
Grant Guidelines Being Updated

The Center for Health, Environment and Justice recently renewed foundation underwriting of the Community Leadership Development Grant Program. While this means that small grants will once again be available, we are currently in the process of developing our grantmaking priorities and procedures.

Add your name to our mailing list for our new grant guidelines by writing the Center at P.O. Box 6806, Falls Church, Virginia, 22040, or by calling 703-237-2249. The guidelines will be mailed out in October. Please don't submit a request until you have received this information.

More Bright Ideas We Can Live Without

The city of Anaconda, Montana has come up with the brilliant idea of turning part of the largest Superfund site in the country into a regional park! This is much to the delight of ARCO, the petroleum and chemical giant who owns the site and who is more than happy to give the site (and all future liability) to the state. The center piece of the park is the 585 foot high smelter stack that was saved from demolition by local residents who wanted to keep the stack as a symbol of the "complex industrial history of this one-company city and a monolithic reminder to the people of Montana of the unchallenged power of the Anaconda Company in the state's history." The state legislature passed a bill making the smelter stack a historic landmark. Anaconda historian Bob Vine summed up the importance of the stack to area residents in a local tourist brochure: "Everyone would wake up in the morning and look to see if there was smoke coming out of the stack, and if there was, God was in His heaven and all was right with the world and we knew we were going to have a paycheck."



The city is also the home of the "Old Works" golf course that sits in the shadow of the smelter stack. The golf course is built on the site of the first of three smelters built in the area. Part of its uniqueness is that it uses black slag left over from the mining operations instead of sand in the "sand" traps. The course was designed by Jack Nicklaus. Jack, who advised you on this one?

The city was so excited about rejuvenating the local economy by celebrating industrial pollution, that it listed the site in tourist brochures. What they didn't count on is that un-

knowing tourists would show up at the gates wanting to see the site. These visitors had to be turned away because the cleanup is still ongoing and the area is fenced and off-limits to everyone.

The site, once owned by the Anaconda Company who operated the smelter for close to 100 years, was once the largest non-ferrous metallurgical plant in the world. ARCO bought the site in 1977. It is contaminated with heavy metals including copper, lead, cadmium, beryllium and arsenic. ARCO has built huge ponds to hold leachate from the mining operations. The Clark Fork Coalition, a local watchdog group, described the ponds as being large enough to cover "100 football fields 90 feet deep." Residents are worried the ponds may break. Heavy rains have complicated matters, causing the ponds to overflow and flushing old mining deposits containing heavy metals into Mill Creek, Silver Bow Creek and the Clark Fork River contaminating literally hundreds of miles of the waterways and their banks.

Charlotte Brody

Ready, Set ... Wait.

Where is the EPA's Dioxin Re-assessment? When will the final version be completed and the long promised public hearings on the document's policy implications begin?

You may remember that this chapter of the dioxin story begins with William Reilly, the EPA Administrator who ordered the second EPA reassessment of dioxin in April, 1991. Reilly was responding to a Chlorine Institute sponsored public relations effort to promote "new findings," that dioxin was much less toxic than previously thought.

Within months of the Reilly order, studies by the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) and other scientists seriously weakened the Chlorine Institute's "new findings" on dioxin's safety. The NIEHS study and other research presented at the 1991 International Symposium on Chlorinated Dioxins and Related Compounds supported the findings of the EPA's original 1985 health assessment.

In 1993 Carol Browner became the Administrator of the EPA. In September of that year she wrote a letter to Greenpeace's Rick Hind, stating that the publication of the draft dioxin reassessment would take place in the Fall of 1993. It wasn't until September, 1994 when the 2,000 page draft document was actually released.

In May, 1995 the EPA's Science Advisory Board (SAB) reviewed the draft reassessment report. All

of the exposure document and almost all of the scientific chapters of the health assessment document were approved by the SAB. The board suggested clarification and amplification of some sections of the final chapter of the health document, notably the sections that characterize the risks to people and wildlife from dioxin exposure. EPA's William Farland told the board that his revisions of the document would probably be ready by the Fall of 1995.

Now, more than two years since the Science Advisory Board meeting, the revisions have still not been completed. The most recent EPA plan was that the reassessment was to be completed by Labor Day, 1997. If this deadline was met, the peer review process for the risk characterization document would then take place during the fall and the final document would go to the Science Advisory Board in the winter. Public hearings on the policy implications would be scheduled for the spring of 1998. As this issue went to press in mid-September, the reassessment had not yet been released.

Every month that goes by without a final version of the reassessment is an additional gift to the dioxin polluters and an additional burden on the American people. EPA is writing new rules for major sources of dioxin pollution — pulp and paper manufacturing and medical waste incineration, for example — without hearing the alarms

and sirens that the dioxin reassessment will sound.

Here's the Dioxin Campaign Coordinating Committee plan:

As soon as EPA releases the final text, the Stop Dioxin Exposure Campaign will get to work writing a layperson's guide to the new document. That report will be made available in a brochure and on-line to any activist who is willing to carry the message to members of their community.

With or without a final draft, the EPA is planning to open a public comment period on the reassessment's policy implications in September. Everyone who reads this article should use that comment period to write, for the record, what you think EPA should do about dioxin.

Then we all need to spread the word everywhere we can. Letters to the editor, speeches to the county commission, meetings with organic farmers and breast feeding advocates. We need to mobilize as many people as we can to participate in the policy hearings the EPA has promised will happen next spring. Every one of those hearings needs to have hundreds of people demanding strong and swift protection — dairy farmers, prostate cancer victims, families of learning disabled children, Vietnam

Veterans, doctors and residents of contaminated communities.

How will all of these people find out about dioxin and these hearings? We will tell them. We can build on all of the organizing and educating that has already been done, and use the time between the publication of the final document and the public hearings to make even more connections with an even broader and more diverse group of organizations. The Stop Dioxin Exposure Campaign will work to bring together activists in each of the EPA's Regions to coordinate efforts to educate and organize in preparation for the regional hearings. If you'd like to help in your region, let us know.

We need your input on what public policy on dioxin should look like. Jack Weinberg of Greenpeace, has put together this list of recommendations for a public policy on dioxin. Read his recommendations and let us know what you think.

EPA dioxin policy should be:

1) BASED ON THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE. Scientific uncertainty can no longer be an excuse to avoid or continue the delay in establishing and implementing an effective EPA Dioxin Policy. Given that the threat dioxin pollution poses to public health and the environment is potentially severe and irreversible, there is now ample evidence to justify strong action.

2) A POLICY OF DIOXIN SOURCE ELIMINATION. The overarching goal of EPA dioxin policy should be to eliminate dioxin sources. This policy should apply to dioxin sources inside the

U.S. and, as opportunities arise, also to global sources. In some cases, measures by EPA to control or to manage dioxin releases may be appropriate. EPA, however, should always view regulations to control or manage dioxin releases as interim measures to be implemented in the context of a longer term commitment to dioxin source elimination.

3) TO PHASE OUT INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES THAT GENERATE DIOXIN. Certain industrial processes always generate dioxin and must be eliminated. It should be EPA policy to phase out such industrial processes over time. Priority should go to: waste incineration; pulp and paper bleaching with chlorine-containing chemicals; and the manufacturing process for certain chlorine containing compounds including the production of chlorinated pesticides and the oxychlorination process in the production of ethylene dichloride and perchloroethylene.

4) TO IMPLEMENT MATERIALS SUBSTITUTION POLICIES. Dioxin is generated and released to the environment during the ordinary life cycle of certain chlorine-containing materials of anthropogenic (human) origin. Most new dioxin generation, it appears, results from the life cycle of a relatively small number of these. It should be EPA policy to phase out such materials over time as appropriate substitutes (including appropriate non-chemical substitutes) can be made available. Priority materials targeted for substitution should include: chlorinated plastics (such as PVC); chlorinated solvents; chlorinated pesticides; chlorine-containing automotive fuel addi-

tives; chlorine-containing hydraulic fluids and others.

5) IMPLEMENTED THROUGH AN ORDERLY AND A JUST TRANSITION. In many cases, there can be significant economic and/or social consequences resulting from a decision to phase out industrial processes or anthropogenic materials, and to replace them with appropriate, cleaner alternatives. These consequences include benefits as well as costs since, in most cases, economic activity of one type will be replaced with economic activity of another. When phase outs are implemented, it should be EPA policy to promote an Orderly Transition, that is, a transition in which economic and social costs are minimized and all benefits are maximized. It should also be EPA policy to promote a Just Transition, that is, one in which workers and communities who depend on economic activities being eliminated share fully in the benefits associated with the new economic activities, or if this is not possible or adequate, receive full compensation for their loss.

We need your input on the Dioxin Campaign Coordinating Committee's plan and what public policy should include. To comment, contact the Stop Dioxin Exposure Campaign, c/o CCHW, P.O. Box 6806, Falls Church, VA 22040, (703) 237-2249, or cchw@essential.org.

Stay on top of developments in the Stop Dioxin Exposure Campaign with the Dioxin Digest, The Digest is an organizing tool for activists, filled with information and strategies for communities to stop dioxin exposure both locally and nationally. And it's FREE! Contact the Campaign at CCHW to get on the Digest mailing list.

Legal Corner

by CCHW Legal Counsel Ron Simon

Question:

Our community has been in a long lawsuit against an industrial polluter. The lawyers are now talking about setting up a community health fund. It sounds like an interesting idea. What can you tell me about it?

Answer:

A fund set aside for future health problems can include almost anything. It can be a good thing, but you must be very careful. Discussions that are very general allow everyone to think that the fund will be what they want it to be, but when it actually gets set up they are often disappointed. The key is to know what you want - not what the lawyers for either side want.

A good way to begin to think about these kinds of funds is to understand why they are created. When people have been exposed to dangerous chemicals, one of their greatest concerns is what will happen to them and their children in the future. The fund can be set up to deal with these future problems. But the polluters and their insurers want to put an end to the dispute. Their point of view is that they do not want to settle your case only to be faced with another one in the future. The different goals of the parties involved are all factors affecting what kind of fund is created.

One thing that a fund can do is to provide money for preventative medical exams. Medical monitoring, also called medical surveillance, is done to pick up diseases at early stages, in hopes of limiting the effects of the chemicals.

A fund can also be set up to take care of specific problems which are anticipated because of exposure to pollution, but whose effects have not yet developed (diseases with a latency pe-

riod.) A good example of this kind of problem is children exposed to lead. At an early age, it is possible to see that a child has been injured and poisoned, but only as the child gets older can we know exactly what type of remedial help will be of the most value to the child. A fund could be set up to follow the development of the children and to provide the help they need.

Sometimes medical funds actually provide information about the contamination. Very often, it is difficult to know about the contamination and its effects with any certainty. Usually the polluter does not measure the amounts they have released, and by the time people know they are affected, most of the worst poisoning is done without knowing how high exposure levels were. The same difficulty exists for the effects of exposure. Funding medical exams for the community can provide information about exposure and patterns of disease. If doctors send information on disease incidence to a central location where it can be evaluated, it may be possible to find patterns of disease which would never have been noticed at all if the community was not monitored in an organized way. A fund can pay not just for the examinations, but to design a program with the specific exams needed and tracking of results to see if patterns develop.

Medical funds can also be used to provide for medical care or medical emergencies. Often people in the community do not have the resources to pay for the care they need and the fund can help them. These funds can be made available based on need or they may be limited to certain diseases that experts think are related to exposures. Sometimes the plans are specifically developed in order to cover services that are not otherwise provided by medical insurance.



Your community must decide what you want the fund to pay for. And just as important as the design and goals of the program, is its implementation. In some cases, the funds are put in the bank and are available over time (a question then develops as to whether the community or the company gets the funds that are not used or who will provide more money if it is needed.) In other cases, the courts are involved in the fund, but this can mean anything from court-appointed doctors who report to the court, to letting the fund operate on its own as long as the judge gets updates.

Another factor to consider is the administrative costs of setting up and managing the fund. Who is eligible, what is covered and how funds are distributed are a few of the many factors that need to be addressed. Addressing these issues takes time and costs money. Money for these expenses should be set aside as the fund is established and should not be taken out of the money that would go to the plaintiffs.

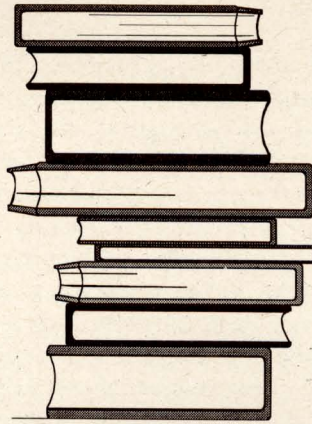
Usually the fund has a group of people who control it. Deciding how the fund will be controlled is just as important as what the fund is to cover. Some lawyers have tried to say that this a legal issue that lawyers must control, but they are wrong. You should have a major role in defining how a fund will operate, and what its purpose will be. If properly designed and operated, a medical trust fund can be a positive force in the community.

RESOURCES

◆ CCHW's newest publication deals with children's environmental health. *A Parent's Guide: Reducing Children's Environmental Health Risks* describes how children are more vulnerable to environmental risks and the sources of these risks. The guide includes steps we can take to protect our children, as well as how to start organizing to stop the pollution which endangers them. A resource section for national campaigns to stop toxic exposures and additional resources for protecting your family is also included. *A Parent's Guide* is available for \$3.00 each from CCHW. Large order discounts may be possible, depending on supplies.

◆ *Raising Children Toxic Free* (Avon Books) was written by two pediatricians about how to keep your children safe from lead, asbestos, pesticides, and other environmental hazards. Drs. Herbert L. Needleman and Philip J. Landrigan define critical pollutants and offer practical advice on how to reduce their effects on children. This book can serve as an educational tool for parents which will empower them to make the environment safer for their children. *Raising Children Toxic Free* can be ordered for \$12.00 at your local bookstore.

◆ John Stauber and Sheldon Rampton, authors of *Toxic Sludge Is Good For You*, have written a new book which shatters the false belief that the government and food industry would never let Mad Cow Disease happen here. *Mad Cow U.S.A.* (Common Courage Press) is the terrifying, true tale that industry hopes to censor. Rampton and Stauber describe how, even as tens of thousands of cows died in Britain, the government denied the risk to human beings and knowing of similar risks in the U.S., government and industry have managed a success-



ful public relations offensive to keep Americans in the dark. For more information on Mad Cow USA contact Common Courage Press at (207) 525-0900.

◆ The Planning and Conservation League Foundation has published a new *Citizens Guide to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)*, designed to be a layperson's guide to California's premier environmental law. CEQA offers citizens an effective way to participate in governmental decisions that will affect their community and quality of life. The guide explains how to take advantage of CEQA's mandatory public review and comment process for proposed projects. To order the *Citizens Guide to the California Environmental Quality Act*, send \$15 to PCLF, 926 J Street #612, Sacramento, CA 95814 or contact Ann Blake at (916) 444-8726 ext. 87.

◆ Libraries For The Future has published an updated *Environmentalist's Guide to the Public Library*. The guide deals with community right-to-know resources available at public libraries, using the library to get information from government, using the library to influence government and industry,

researching the environment on-line, and ideas on working with your public library to strengthen its environmental information services. Case studies illustrate the many ways public libraries can be used to work on environmental issues. The guide is available from Libraries For The Future, 121 West 27th Street, Suite 1102, New York, NY 10001, 1-800-542-1918.

◆ A new book, *Bodies In Protest: Environmental Illness and the Struggle Over Medical Knowledge* by Steve Krull-Smith and H. Hugh Floyd (New York University Press), examines environmental illness and its consequences for modern medicine. *Bodies in Protest* is the result of interviews with dozens of environmentally ill individuals, and reveals how ordinary people borrow the language of medicine to acknowledge and define their disease in a world that often stigmatizes them as psychologically unstable. For more information on *Bodies in Protest* contact New York Press at 1-800-996-6987.

◆ *The Global Media: The New Missionaries of Corporate Capitalism* by Edward S. Herman and Robert W. McChesney (Cassell) details the emergence in the 1990's of a newly integrated global media market, dominated by transnational conglomerates. The book identifies the largest media owners and how closely linked they are to one another through joint ventures and strategic alliances. Also examined is how the Internet is being brought under the control of the global media giants, instead of acting as the fully democratic force it is often portrayed to be. For more information on *The Global Media* contact Cassell at 1-800-561-7704.

How Would You Fix Superfund?

As you may have heard, the Superfund program is coming up again in Congress. Those who are working on the bill asked several activists to help write a set of principles that could be used as a guidance document when formulating the new policies and program.

Florence Robinson, North Baton Rouge Environmental Association; Deohn Ferris, Washington Office on Environmental Justice; Daniel Rosenberg, U.S. PIRG; and Penny Newman, Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice reviewed and drafted the following, entitled: Ten Principles for a Superfund Program that Protects Public Health and the Environment. Approximately 60 groups have already signed on.

We need to know how you feel about these ten principles before they are finalized. The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) would like to present them to Carol Browner soon and would like as many grassroots leaders as possible to review them. If you think they work as operating principles, consider allowing NRDC to include your name as supporting them. However, if there is something missing we want to expand them before giving them to EPA. The idea is that when and if the Superfund program is changed, those changes must meet these basic principles.

Please take the time to read the principles and call us at (703) 237-2249, fax us at (703) 237-8389, or email us at cchw@essential.org with your thoughts.

Ten Principles for a Superfund Program that Protects Public Health and the Environment

The Superfund program must protect the public's health; hold polluters, rather than taxpayers, responsible for clean-up costs; assure meaningful community participation in Superfund decisions; improve research on exposure to toxics and provide enhanced health services to affected communities; enhance the right to know about

toxic chemical use and releases; preserve and clean up surface and groundwater supplies; restore land to productive use to the greatest extent feasible; protect natural resources; ensure strong oversight of clean-ups; and apply the same laws to the federal government as to the private sector. Maintaining adequate funding to address toxic clean-up issues at all levels of government is critical to assuring public health and environmental protection. It is vital that these important objectives be reflected in any legislative revision to the Superfund law. However, a great many of these steps forward can be secured through administrative action under current law.

1. Clean-up programs must protect the health of the entire community, including children, older people, vulnerable, and disproportionately exposed populations, and clean-up workers. Protecting children's health by preventing and stopping exposures must be a central priority, especially in the face of inadequate or uncertain scientific information, providing protection comparable to that included in the Food Quality Protection Act enacted last Congress. Clean-ups must include thorough off-site testing of air, water and soil to identify and address exposures and ensure that site neighbors are protected from future exposures. Where other measures cannot protect public health, communities must be given the opportunity for relocation.

2. Polluters, not taxpayers, should continue to pay for cleaning up waste sites. Major polluters should not escape their liability for clean-up costs. To help assure that taxpayers do not unnecessarily subsidize clean-ups, the current exemption from liability enjoyed by oil companies should be eliminated.

3. Affected community residents should be assured accessible opportunities to participate fully in all stages of Superfund decision-making. Community participation in site investigation, remedy selection, clean-up, and operation and

maintenance is essential to assure a comprehensive site investigation and public support of clean-up decisions. "Voluntary clean-up" programs must not override otherwise applicable requirements for public participation. Technical assistance grants must be made available earlier in the site listing process and made easier to obtain and manage so community residents can fully participate in site decisions.

4. Public health protection depends on expanded public health research, data collection and dissemination, and monitoring, diagnosis and treatment for health effects of exposure to toxics. It is vital to learn more about the health effects of toxic exposures. This means enhancing public health services and health studies in Superfund communities and improving site-specific research and data collection on chronic and acute exposures and exposure to multiple toxics. Federal, state, and local partnerships, especially between public health entities and with active community involvement, should be encouraged in order to provide affected communities with better and more comprehensive public health programs and services.

5. The public's right to know about toxic chemicals must be expanded and protected. This includes initiating public reporting of toxic chemical use and expanding public reporting of toxic chemical emissions. Right to know reporting must include public education and information which allows people to understand and assess the potential health implications of exposure. Without this information, meaningful public participation in decision-making is impossible.

6. Clean water must be preserved and contaminated water sources must be restored as a resource for our children and their children. Groundwater is the source of drinking for over half of the nation, and surface waters are important sources of food for many, especially African-Americans and Native Americans. To assure safe drinking water and long-term protection of water supplies and natural ecosystems,

POLITICS OF HEALTH

Another example of the government's unwillingness to admit its part in exposing the public to radiation has recently come to light. This summer, the National Cancer Institute released a long delayed study which detailed increased rates of thyroid cancer due to radioactive fallout from nuclear weapons testing in Nevada during the 1950's and 1960's. The report estimated that between 10,000 and 75,000 Americans may develop thyroid cancer because they were exposed as children, primarily through milk contaminated with radioactive iodine. The report detailed the high exposures experienced by areas thousands of miles away from the test site because of wind currents dispersing

the radioactivity over a wide area. Areas besides those typically considered "downwind" were hard hit by the fallout. The acknowledgment of wind dispersion vindicates years of work done by Dr. Barry Commoner, who said decades ago that radioactive fallout from nuclear testing was traveling much further than the government claimed. The National Cancer Institute has created a map showing exposure levels of every county in the country. It can be accessed on its website (<http://rex.nci.nih.gov>).

Japan's Minamata Bay, site of that country's worst case of industrial pollution, was declared safe this summer. The Kumamoto prefecture government said it was safe to eat

fish caught in the bay. Mercury compounds dumped by the Chisso Corporation from the 1930's through the 1950's killed hundreds of people and crippled thousands with nerve disorders known as Minamata Disease. The government followed up on its pronouncement of safety by starting to remove the 2000 meter long underwater net which prevents fish from leaving the Bay. As the bay was declared safe again this summer, it was revealed that those who had continued to fish in the bay since the discovery of Minamata Disease in 1956, have worked under a special agreement with Chisso. The agreement is that Chisso buys the entire catch from the fishers and incinerates it.

clean-ups should, wherever possible, provide for permanent treatment, as opposed to simple containment, of highly contaminated areas.

7. Clean-ups should restore affected land to productive use wherever possible to preserve maximum land use options for our children and their children. Future land use considerations must be based on direct input from affected communities and must take into account the difficulty of accurately projecting the potential for changes in land use over time. Restrictions on future use, if any, must be fully enforceable and the responsible parties must retain full liability until all use restrictions are removed.

8. Polluters, not taxpayers, should pay for restoring rivers, bays, fish, birds and other natural resources damaged by toxic contamination. In addition, the public should be fully compensated for loss of the use of these resources if restoration is not technically feasible or until restoration is complete, including the loss of heritage values to future generations. Swift, effective

natural resource recoveries depend on early involvement of the resource trustees in clean-up decisions and access to the Superfund for damage assessments.

9. Conduct or oversight of clean-ups must be federal, tribal, or state entities, including local public health entities, with authority, expertise, resources, and demonstrated commitment to fully protect human health and the environment and assure community participation. Strong clean-up standards are meaningless without the ability and determination to carry out effective oversight. Native Nations must be treated on par with states and given technical, financial and other resources needed to address their contaminated sites.

10. Federal government sites should be required to comply with the same standards as other toxic waste sites. Many of our worst hazardous waste sites were created by the federal government. These sites should be subject to the same clean-up and public participation requirements as other sites.

Classified Ads

"HOPE & POSSIBILITIES" for the chemically sensitive — a self-help guide to healing with herbs the symptoms of fatigue, mental fog, depression, food intolerance, dermatitis, asthma, and more. (Printed on chlorine-free paper.) Send \$9.95 + \$2 s/h to Pam Robbins, Right Place Publishing #EB, 105-F Stonebrook Place, Jackson, TN 38305.

Citizens' Environmental Coalition is seeking an Executive Director with experience in grassroots organizing and foundation fundraising. CEC is New York's leading grassroots progressive statewide environmental organization focusing on pollution problems, citizen assistance and labor/environmental justice issues. Salary is based on experience with excellent benefits. Send resume, writing sample, 3 references to CEC, 33 Central Avenue, Albany, New York 12210. Fax: 518-465-8349. Union Shop/Affirmative Action Employer.

Continued from page 14

recycle all of their wastewater, goals that the mills had committed to just one year earlier.

The Governor's bill was praised by state officials and industry as the most stringent state dioxin discharge law in the nation. In fact it is not very different from EPA's new cluster rules, expected out soon, which essentially will require the mills to convert their bleaching processes to using 100% chlorine-dioxide.

Maine's legislature missed an important opportunity this year to really make a difference to the health of Maine's people and wildlife and the long

term health of our rivers by refusing to adopt the TCF bill.

However, even though the Dioxin Coalition bill was defeated, our campaign still achieved a great deal:

◆ Maine people are much more aware of the dangers of dioxin and other toxic chemicals and we have helped set the stage for action on other dioxin sources.

◆ We formed an exciting coalition which will continue to work together on dioxin issues.

◆ In a shift from prior debates, no one publicly denied the risks posed by dioxin.

◆ Maine's paper industry is being watched more closely than ever.

The Coalition still believes strongly in TCF as the solution to the paper mill dioxin problem and we will continue to advocate for TCF whenever we can. We will also closely monitor the implementation of the Governor's law to ensure that the mills comply with its standards.

For a copy of materials developed in support of this campaign, please call, fax, email or write to:

Beth Dimond
271 State Street
Augusta, ME 04330
(207) 622-3101

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CCHW Center For Health, Environment and Justice would like to express a warm "thank you!" to all those who have made a 1997 contribution to our work (as of September 1st.) Those listed below are all founding members of CCHW's "Special Membership Program" which recognizes those who make contributions of \$100 or more.

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Electra Lester Alessio
Shelley Alpern
Dean F. Amel
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Robert Wiebe
Sharon Wood
Sharon Wray

ORGANIZATIONS

Boston University School of Public Health
Citizens for a Future New Hampshire
Coalition for Jobs and the Environment
Concerned Residents of Yukon
Environmental Information Center
Forward, Inc.
HVS Labs, Inc.
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
Jackson County Environmental Committee
Lawrence Environmental Action Group, Inc.
Los Angeles Conservation Corps
Neighbors Protecting Our Environment
Pennsylvania Environmental Network
Sessa, Glick & Quiroga
Simon & Associates
Wetlands Watch
Yates County SWCD

Remember CCHW In Your Charitable Giving This Year

This fall, please consider designating CCHW to receive your charitable gift or monthly pledge payment through the employee giving program at your workplace. Our number in the Combined Federal Campaign booklet is #0929 and we are also listed among eligible charities in nearly 75 corporate and 130 state and municipal workplaces nationwide.

Many employers, however, offer only United Way charities in their annual workplace fund drives. While the United Way includes many worthy local groups, it admits no environmental or advocacy organizations and, in fact, represents only about five percent of all U.S. charities.

Nearly ten percent of Fortune 500 companies and many smaller workplaces have chosen to empower their employees by offering alternative charitable choices that more fully reflect their diverse interests. CCHW, which belongs to an alternative federation of 43 national environmental organizations called Earth Share, can help you convince your employer to host an open workplace campaign next year.



#0929

For more information, contact Maryll Kleinbrink in CCHW's development office at (703) 237-2249

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