

# O.V.E.C.

Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition

P.O. Box 970  
Proctorville, OH 45669

May/June 1991

Volume 1, No. 2

## T O X I C T I D I N G S

NEWSLETTER OF THE OHIO VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION

### URGENT!! LETTERS NEEDED TO EPA

U.S. EPA Region 4 which is responsible for Kentucky programs has finally weighed in, charging Ashland Oil (AO) with numerous violations that KY regulators have let them get away with, and more.

You can be sure AO will be doing all it can to pressure EPA into going easy and letting them off the hook. Local citizens can counter this by contacting the following people and urging them to make these violations stick.

It's very important that you write Mr. Smith, or call and leave a message with him or his office. Ask him not to back down on EPA violations against Ashland Oil. Tell him you want the refinery cleaned up.

People's health is at stake and timely action is warranted. We'd appreciate hearing from you as to any response you may receive. Contact Dianne for more info (614) 886-5796.

Mr. Winston Smith  
Director--Air Management  
EPA-Region 4  
345 Courtland St. NE  
Atlanta, GA 30365  
(404) 347-3043

Mr. Greer Tidwell  
Regional Administrator  
EPA--Region 4  
345 Courtland St. NE  
Atlanta, GA 30365

### WAR ON WASTE RALLY BYOT--"TOXICS"

OVEC is co-sponsoring a War on Waste (WOW) rally and "BYOT" (Bring your own TRASH march at the WV Capitol in Charleston on June 5 at 12 noon. See last page of newsletter for details.

OVEC has joined a statewide effort to increase public awareness of toxic threats to our health, homes and environment. On June 5th, grassroots groups and enviro organizations are banding together nationwide to kickoff a WOW campaign.

This is a great opportunity for OVEC and Tri-State residents to present toxic fallout and trash samples to the Governor, state agencies and media. It's very important that we get many people to the Capitol. For more info, call Brian Hagenbuch (304) 525-4803, ASAP!!

### AO AND LARRY SMITH

The Charleston Gazette ran an editorial May 18 blasting AOI for being a "petty, mean spirited bully" in urging Kenovans to vote against Larry Smith, a mayoral candidate, because he's a litigant against the company.

Not only that, but AOI "sabotaged" Larry's job with Nestle Co. by informing Nestle that SuperAmerica stores would no longer buy Nestle products if Smith remained an agent. OVEC applauds the Gazette for taking a stand against Ashland.

## RECOMMENDATIONS NOT BEING IMPLEMENTED

In Dec. 1990, the U.S. EPA reported the results of its studies on air quality problems in the area and made several recommendations, including:

1. Public health agencies monitor respiratory health of people in the Tri-State;
2. Federal and state agencies study local plants to determine how to reduce "malfunctions" (AO's favorite excuse);
3. Agencies develop specific plans to deal with sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) problems--(mostly from AO's malfunctions)
4. Set up new monitors to detect and identify unusual fallout that has caused problems (for the last 8 years!).

So far, the status of these recommendations, according to EPA's Winston Smith, is:

1. No progress, state agencies aren't interested;
2. They're thinking about it. It might happen someday.
3. They're working on this one too.
4. This will begin "shortly".

For more info on EPA efforts, contact Winston Smith at the address previously given.

OVEC IS LOOKING FOR AN  
OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER TITLE  
AND LETTERHEAD LOGO. GOT  
ANY IDEAS? SEND THEM IN!

Submissions to the newsletter are always welcome. Send material to the OVEC P.O. Box.

## OVEC--EPA CLUSTER

OVEC member Rick Bady spent a day in Washington DC at the invitation and expense of the U.S. EPA to attend a meeting with other environmental activists and EPA regulators.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss EPA's new effort to develop regulations for refineries. EPA hopes to develop regs that deal with the entire refining process, rather than having separate regs for air, water and solid waste.

EPA wants to tighten regs but avoid the problem of "cross-media transfers" where a regulation may reduce one type of pollution (i.e. air), but increase another (i.e. solid waste). "Pollution prevention" was on everybody's lips, but EPA officials admitted that there's no guarantee of changing their bureaucratic ways.

As has often happened before, federal officials were shocked to hear about how regulators in KY let industry get away with violations year after year. Washington officials seemed to appreciate the chance to find out what goes on outside the beltway.

## OVEC FACT SHEETS AVAILABLE

OVEC brochures and Fact Sheets are available. Contact us for copies. Any ideas for fact sheet topics, let us know.

#2--Air Pollution and Health: the EPA study

#5--Air Pollution in the Tri-State: What are we breathing?

#9--Ozone in the Tri-State

#4--Pollution: Who's in charge? (Addresses and phone numbers of State and Federal agencies)

#11--Apple Grove Pulp and Paper: Timber in West Virginia

## CLEAN AIR STRATEGY SESSION

OVEC Project Director Brian Hagenbuch will be in Washington DC May 28-30 at a Clean Air Act strategy session for grassroots activists.

The conference, hosted by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), will be a brainstorming session to develop actions for implementing the amendments locally. NRDC is paying most of the expenses.

Among topics to be covered include non-attainment areas, public health standards, permitting, accidental releases of air toxics, and citizens suits.

## WV DIOXIN STANDARD SUBJECT OF HEARING

On May 8, OVEC members Rick Bady and Brian Hagenbuch attended a WV Water Resources Board (WRB) informal hearing on water quality standards for WV. The primary focus of the hearing was establishment of a proposed dioxin standard.

Dioxins, probably the most toxic chemicals ever created, are byproducts of many industrial processes including the making of pulp and paper.

The U.S. EPA standard for dioxins is 0.013 parts per quadrillion (imagine 1.3 cents out of 1000 trillion dollars). Industry, including the proposed Apple Grove Pulp and Paper mill, have proposed increasing the dioxin standard 100 fold.

OVEC and other environmental groups oppose the 100-fold increase and recommend a zero discharge standard be adopted. A dioxin fact sheet is being prepared.

A public hearing on the proposed WV water quality standards is June 20 at 7:00 pm at the Water Resource Boardroom in Charleston. For more info, call Brian (304) 525-4803 or Rick at (614) 886-5796.

## AOI HAZARDOUS WASTE LANDFILL HEARING--JUNE 4

The EPA is holding a public hearing regarding Ashland Oil's Rt. 3 hazardous waste landfill on June 4, 7pm, at Catlettsburg Jr. High School. Purpose of the hearing is to modify an EPA permit for new regulations placed on wastes being dumped. EPA is finally regulating benzene, arsenic, carbon tetrachloride, and other toxins.

AOI has proposed closing the leaking dump only to "piggy back" or build a new hazwaste landfill on top of the old one.

Several months ago, a closure hearing was held in which OVEC testified against the "piggy-back" proposal and for full closure of the dump. No decision has yet been made on the closure permit.

For more info, contact Brian (304) 525-4803.

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## MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

OVEC is putting together a membership drive. Since receiving the W. Alton Jones Grant, our membership has greatly increased.

If you know individuals or groups interested in Tri-State air quality and other environmental issues, contact OVEC at P.O. Box 970, Proctorville, OH, 45669. We have brochures, fact sheets and would be happy to meet with concerned citizens.

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P.S. Have you joined OVEC or renewed your membership? \$5--single, \$25--supporting. OVEC is a tax-deductible organization, so additional contributions are greatly appreciated.

# W A R O N W A S T E R A L L Y

## "B Y O T" (T O X I C S)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 1991  
WEST VIRGINIA CAPITOL FRONT STEPS  
12:00 NOON

In 1991, Congress will be working on reauthorization of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). Basically, this is the federal bill on solid and hazardous wastes. RCRA is the most important federal law in most of our battles here in the Tri-State--solid waste, hazardous waste, incineration, toxics, community health, etc. etc. With Federal action planned this year, several national enviro's (Greenpeace, National Toxics Campaign, Clean Water Action) are gearing up for a major grassroots initiative to improve the bill.

On Wednesday, June 5, local, state, and national groups are holding rallies in support of strengthening RCRA. Here's an idea how we can increase public awareness of our local and state issues and really make a concerted effort on a national level with our Congressmen.

Let's have a party on the steps of the Capitol. All heroes and heroines of the Earth invited. By the way, BYOT--Bring your own trash!! That's right. Lets show Caperton, Wayland, Farley and the rest of the bunch what really brings us to Charleston. Acid mine drainage in Skippy jars, Kenova fallout in Glad bags, Landfill leachate in a coke bottle!! A real smorgasborg of toxic treats!!! Bring your own local morsel!!! Can't find a treat, bring some household garbage-- remember, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!!

After the party, we'll MARCH to the DOE, APCC, and DNR--Waste Management and leave OUR wastes with the Directors. Let them find out first hand the toxic gumbo with live with daily. Major points at the rally include:

- Improvements in RCRA (national)
- incineration ban
- Special session on solid waste
- Funding state agencies
- Raise visibility of local issues (Kenova) to state and national level
- OSM and EPA takeover of energy and air pollution programs
- Need for pollution prevention/toxics reduction
- Dump the DOE, PEA, and Water Resources Board (government accountability)

OVEC has endorsed the Grassroots RCRA platform and agreed to co-sponsor the rally and march. Clare Zitka, from Clean Water Action, a national enviro organization, will be speaking. Organize your areas to come to Charleston on June 5 and BYOT. Make signs and banners (visuals are great). We need not just 2-3 people, 20-30 people is better, 200-300 is best. If you are at all interested, have ideas, suggestions or questions contact Brian Hagenbuch (525-4803) or Martha Huffman (455-5206) ASAP!!!.

### QUICK LOW-DOWN ON THE WAR ON WASTE PLATFORM:

- STOP UNSAFE DISPOSAL OF GARBAGE
- REDUCE GENERATION OF GARBAGE AND MAXIMIZE RECYCLING
- STOP UNSAFE DISPOSAL OF HAZARDOUS WASTE
- REDUCE USE OF TOXIC CHEMICALS
- INCREASE CITIZENS RIGHTS TO PROTECT COMMUNITIES FROM TOXICS
- ENSURE TRANSITION TO CLEAN TECHNOLOGIES AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY
- REQUIRE GOVERNMENT TO COMPLY WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS
- ENSURE ENFORCEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS
- PRESERVE STATE AND LOCAL RIGHTS TO PROTECT COMMUNITIES
- PREVENT EXPORT OF SOLID AND HAZARDOUS WASTE TO OTHER NATIONS

P.S. READ AND PASS ON TO 10 OTHER GROUPS/PEOPLE!!!