



"E"-NOTES
NEWSLETTER OF THE
OHIO VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION
P.O. BOX 970, PROCTORVILLE, OH 45669
APRIL, 1994

ENVIRONMENTAL INJUSTICE



Just because a poor or minority community gets millions of pounds a year of toxic chemicals dumped into the air they breathe, this is no reason to talk about possible health risks. This sounds like a polluting industry's line, doesn't it? Unfortunately, this type of thinking was found in a recent internal US EPA memo which instructed EPA employees not to link toxic chemical releases to human health effects.

This memo may be a reason why Dr. John Stockwell, an environmental physician at Region IV EPA in Atlanta, has not been allowed to come here to work on the Tri-State Geographic Initiative. The Initiative is a joint federal and three-state effort to find solutions to Tri-State pollution problems.

OVEC and Brian Holtzclaw, the Initiative's coordinator, have been trying for over seven months to get Dr. Stockwell here. Dr. Stockwell has developed a method for predicting where pollution related health risks are greatest. Stockwell had enjoyed excellent work evaluations at the EPA, until he gained national publicity in November for co-authoring a study

showing that poor and minority neighborhoods in Chattanooga, Tennessee face the greatest health risks from toxic pollution in that region.

A year ago, President Clinton announced that he was asking the EPA to aggressively investigate inequities in exposure to environmental hazards. (It's well known that minority and low income neighborhoods are most likely to suffer pollution risks.) Yet, after Stockwell began using his technique to identify disadvantaged neighborhoods threatened by pollution, EPA in Atlanta tried to remove him from his job. Over 40 environmental groups, including OVEC, protested this removal, and as a result, Stockwell remains at the EPA. But he is still not allowed to come to the Tri-State.

Is the EPA afraid that Stockwell would report what is obvious here? That the greatest pollution health risks are in Kenova, WV, a low and modest income community? And that EPA Region IV has not followed its own 1990 recommendations for immediate action to curb serious air quality problems in our region?

PULP MILL: NOT A DEAD ISSUE!!

Wake up citizens of Mason, Cabell, Gallia and Lawrence Counties! Plans for the mammoth paper and pulp mill proposed for Apple Grove, West Virginia are moving forward. Representatives from Parsons and Whittemore and officials in West Virginia have been very busy behind closed doors. (Pulp mill officials had earlier refused an OVEC request for a meeting with citizens.)

Janet Fletcher, OVEC project coordinator, learned from the West Virginia Division of Water that two draft permits regarding the proposed mill in Mason County West Virginia, will be ready for public comment within the next 30

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days. Citizens will be given an opportunity to review and comment on both a landfill permit and a water discharge permit within a month. After the 30 day review period, a public hearing will be held.

The Division of Water also said that an air pollution permit would not be ready for public comment until a later date. Ann White in the West Virginia Division of Air, confirmed that the air permit was still under review and that the Division was still waiting for additional information from Parsons and Whittemore, the British company which wants to construct the mill.

Major concern focuses on the company's plans to use a highly polluting chlorine bleaching technology, a process which results in the release of many toxic substances including dioxins, furans and chloroform. Current scientific literature indicates that severe health problems result from the accumulation of these compounds in the fat reserves of humans and wildlife. Some of the problems are reproductive disorders, immune system disorders, and behavioral difficulties. More recent evidence links organochlorine pollution as a factor in the increase of breast cancer.

Citizens who are concerned about the impact of the mill on the Ohio River and regional forests are welcome to attend the next OVEC meeting at the Mason County library, Thursday, April 21, at 7:15 p.m.. For more information or to arrange carpooling, call Janet at 304-525-6984.



HOLTZCLAW SPEAKS THE TRUTH--NEEDS ATTORNEYS AS A RESULT!

As soon as the Tri-State Geographic Initiative formally began, over a year ago, OVEC members asked that coordinator, Brian Holtzclaw, spend time meeting and talking with people who live in neighborhoods with serious pollution problems. We reasoned that since industry representatives would have access to Brian, pollution victims deserved equal time. Unlike other US EPA people who have been involved in Tri-State problems, Brian agreed. As a result of these citizen contacts, Brian apparently discovered that our Kenova members have legitimate concerns. Brian also really believes that his job is to reduce pollution and decrease human health threats. These attitudes apparently put him at odds with some of EPA Region IV air officials. Some of us suspect that these same officials have been covering up for Ashland Oil for years.

After Brian wrote about how Region IV EPA was muzzling Dr. Stockwell, Brian received legal help from the Government Accountability Project (GAP) in Washington, D.C. GAP attorneys work to protect the jobs of government whistleblowers.

We are most grateful that Brian has the courage to speak the truth; and that GAP attorneys are working to allow Brian and Dr. Stockwell to continue to speak the truth without losing their jobs.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR! UPCOMING MEETINGS AND OVEC EVENTS!

- April 14:** Regular Kenova meeting (second Thursday each month); 6:30 p.m., Kenova library, Rt. 60 west, Kenova. All members are welcome.
- April 16:** Pollution Prevention workshop sponsored by the Ohio Environmental Council (OVEC is a local co-sponsor), Shawnee State University, University Center, Portsmouth, OH. (see news brief for more information)
- April 21:** OVEC meeting regarding Mason County pulp mill; 7:15 p.m., Mason County library, Pt. Pleasant, WV (corner of 6th and Viand St.). All interested citizens and members are welcome. Upcoming permit hearing will be one topic of discussion.
- April 26:** Public Hearing regarding Belville Mining's water pollution permit for the proposed strip-mine in Southern Ohio's Wayne National Forest. Ohio University Ironton Campus, time and place not yet set.
- April 29:** OVEC will participate in Arbor Day and donate an oak tree to the City of Huntington.
- April 30:** OVEC Board of Directors over-night retreat at Camp Mad Anthony Wayne in Spring Valley near the VA Hospital.

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IS THE FIRE REALLY OUT?

Since September, 1993, an illegal dump containing a variety of hazardous wastes has been burning. For over eight weeks, citizens living near the Ironton, OH area dump were subjected to smoke filled with toxic chemicals. PCB laden transformers were reportedly disposed of there, which would have caused dioxins in the smoke.

Citizens concerned about the health risks organized with OVEC's help and were able to mobilize the federal EPA, when local and state officials were unable to cope with the serious problem.

Landfill neighbor Hazel Sheets told us that the US EPA has capped the dump with 6-8 feet of clay and installed air monitors. A chain-link fence has been placed around the dump. Hazel reported that the air monitors are still in place and that the US EPA had plans to re-seed the area in March. No reseeding has been done yet, however. She also said that while there is no visible smoke, she had heard that the fire may still be smouldering underground.

A newsletter from the Ohio Department of Commerce (Division of State Fire Marshall Newsletter, Winter, 1994) seems to verify what Hazel said: ..."The hope is that over an extended period of time this cap will be able to smother the fire. Based on previous similar fires this could take six months or more. If this does not work, the task force and the US EPA will be back to the drawing board with another plan of attack."

Another concerned citizen who had water from her spring tested is unsure what the results mean. She expressed a mistrust of EPA officials. OVEC will continue to monitor this issue.

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THE CHLORINE ZERO DISCHARGE ACT OF 1993

Representatives Bill

Richardson (D-NM) and Henry Waxman (D-CA) have introduced H.R. 2898, which would amend the Clean Water Act to ban all discharges of organochlorines (compounds formed as a result of using chlorine based bleaching) in the manufacture of pulp and paper.

The beauty of this bill is that an estimated 1,000 chlorine-based compounds would be restricted to **ZERO DISCHARGE** instead of regulating them one chemical at a time, which is now standard practice of regulatory agencies. Under current law only dioxins, furans and chloroform are regulated.

Pulp and paper mills would be required to phase out chlorine bleaching technology within the next 5 years and replace it with either a hydrogen peroxide, ozone or oxygen based method. Oxygen based bleaching methods are non-toxic and energy efficient. The U.S. Environmental Protection agency would be required to assist mills in the conversion process.

Concerns about human health and wildlife have been rising as an increasing amount of scientific

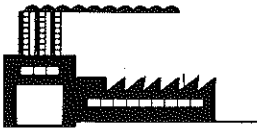
evidence links exposure to organochlorines to serious illnesses and disorders (See paragraph 4 of **NOT A DEAD ISSUE**).

If you want to influence national policy on this issue, phone or write your representative in Congress and ask him/her to become a co-sponsor of the Chlorine Zero Discharge Act of 1993, H.R. 2898. This would be a giant step towards pollution prevention!

This issue is especially timely to folks living along the Ohio River in West Virginia and Ohio where the largest paper and pulp mill in North America has been proposed.

**** The writing is clearly on the wall. For Parsons and Whittemore to build anything BUT a totally chlorine-free mill in Mason county is not only **insane** but also a bad investment.

Write to: Representative _____ (your person in Congress), U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515 or phone (202) 224-3121, the Capitol switchboard for all U.S. Representatives.



OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL HOSTS POLLUTION PREVENTION WORKSHOP

The Ohio Environmental Council (OEC) will sponsor a Pollution Prevention Workshop, Saturday, April 16, at Shawnee State University at the University Center in Portsmouth. OVEC is a local co-sponsor of these workshops. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. Pre-registration cost is \$10.00 per person which includes lunch (\$15.00 at the door). Morning programs begin at 10:00 a.m., and adjournment is at 3:30 p.m. Scholarships are available from OEC or OVEC.

Speakers for the program and workshops include: **Rick Sahli**, Director, OEC; **Dianne Bady**, Director, Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition; **Mark Dorfman**, Senior Associate, Chemical Hazards Prevention for INFORM, a non-profit group from New York City; **Hao Dong**, Ohio EPA; **Brian Holtzclaw**, Coordinator, Tri-State Environmental Initiative, Kentucky Division for Environmental Protection; and **Janet Fletcher**, Project coordinator, Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition. For more information call Dianne at 614-886-5796 or Janet at 304-525-6984.

A LETTER OF RESPONSE FROM AN E-NOTES READER

Dear OVEC "E" Notes:

Your December 1993 newsletter reported that the American Public Health Association unanimously recommended eliminating the use of organochlorines. The resolution was weakened at the last minute when the detailed provisions dealing with the economic and public health impacts of dislocating workers dependent on the chlorine industry was watered down by pro-environment, anti-worker interests.

The Oil, Chemical & Atomic Workers' Union added a provision to the resolution for income protection (with education) for workers displaced by toxic use reduction after objections were voiced at a prior APHA meeting in 1992. OCAW views the proclamation of victory by environmentalists as misguided as it selectively focuses on one public health hazard (bioaccumulative toxins) while ignoring another cause of illness, disease, and depression: unemployment and the resulting loss of income. By severing the detailed worker protection provisions in the resolution, workers have little incentive to trust that these same environmentalist will stand up for their interests in a coalition when the tough battles are fought in the Congress and legislatures. What was the correct step for advocates to take at the point that this critical element was being watered down? Pull the resolution, educate, and come back next year unified.

Best Wishes,
Richard Miller; Policy Analyst for Oil,
Chemical, and Atomic Workers' Union

A NOTE FROM A MEMBER ABOUT THE PULP MILL by Janet Fletcher

I recently received a note from Jack Frazier, publisher of Solar Age Press, and OVEC member, from Peterstown, West Virginia, regarding an OVEC letter to members in Mason and Gallia county about the proposed paper and pulp mill. My letter stated:

"It is crucial that citizens organize now to prevent Parsons and Whittemore from using the highly polluting chlorine-bleaching technology instead of a non-polluting alternative."

Jack sent back the following reply:

"Building an environmental monster and clear-cutting the valuable hardwoods of Ohio and West Virginia--making junk mail out of our TREES IS TREASON."

P.S. "If we fail to stop the MONSTER, then discuss technology. I hope OVEC is not going to endorse clear-cutting!!!"

--Jack

We hear you, Jack. I couldn't have said it better myself. Thanks for sending us your views.

"It is better to display excessive concern now, than to destroy all that has been created by nature for thousands and millions of years..." N. I Vavilov

Quote taken from a letter in Jack Frazier's "The Solar Age Press"

OVEC MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Pat Davis did an excellent job talking about air quality problems in Kenova on Channel 13 News recently. Pat spent a couple of months out of town, and left her car parked at home in the same spot. When she came home, she noticed the paint was bubbling off the top of her vehicle!

A huge color picture of **Barbara Christian** appeared on the front page of the April 4 *Lexington (KY) Herald Leader*. Also pictured were some of Barbara's home videos of Ashland Oil pollution problems.

Carol Ramey and **Rick Bady** have also spoken out in the press recently.

Former OVEC organizer, **Kim Baker** recently appeared in a front page *Huntington Herald-Dispatch* article emphasizing the importance of recycling.

THANKS KIM AND BILL!!

OVEC wants to express its appreciation to **Kim Baker** for all her hard-work, time, energy, and creativity as OVEC's organizer. After Kim left OVEC's staff, she spent countless hours lobbying in Charleston as the president of the West Virginia Environmental Council, writing and editing the weekly legislative up-date (G.R.E.E.N.) and lending a hand wherever she was needed for the Council. Kim is currently the campaign manager for a candidate for WV State Senate. Good luck, Kim! Sounds like another excellent adventure!!!

Also, OVEC wants to thank **Bill Ragette**, former OVEC treasurer and member of OVEC's board of directors, for all his past work for OVEC. Bill is writer and editor of West Virginia Highlands Conservancy's "The Highlands Voice." Bill's pet issues center around preserving our forests, and as an OVEC member, has been very active on the Wayne National Forest issue. He received OVEC's "Forest Activist" award in 1993 at our annual meeting. He, too, is commencing a new adventure--Bill is now running for public office.

AND MORE THANKS TO OTHER GOOD FOLKS!

OVEC thanks the following members and friends who made the dinner at Rio Grande restaurant for Piedmont Peace Project Training Program organizers a success: **David Duke** for his perseverance in finding a location and selling tickets; **Becky Hoff** for the printing of tickets; **Jeff Bosley** for his brute strength in transferring equipment; **Eric Fout** and **Rick Bady** who entertained with guitar, mandolin and song; **Julie Fletcher** and **Stacy Gwilliams** for supervising the wee folks.

BOARD MEMBER ASSUMES POSITION AS OVEC TREASURER

Mary Anne Graham, from Chesapeake, OH, has assumed the position of treasurer for OVEC. Mary Anne teaches math at Ohio University Southern Campus and is the mother of two lively youngsters. We appreciate her hard work and commitment to writing OVEC's checks and keeping our financial records up-to-date.

OVEC Staff

Dianne Bady, Director; 614-886-5796, Proctorville, OH.
Janet Fletcher, Project Coordinator; 304-525-6984, Huntington, WV.
Laura Forman, Organizer; 304-453-4507, Kenova, WV.

Laura Forman Accepts the Challenge as OVEC's New Organizer

OVEC's Board of Directors recently hired Laura Forman, an OVEC member, as the new organizer, after a number of our Kenova members enthusiastically endorsed her for the job. Laura submitted the following autobiography for the newsletter:

"I grew up in upstate New York. I attended the Nunson Williams Proctor Institute for Fine Arts, followed by the State University of New York at Albany.

Shortly after our marriage, Michael and I moved to southern California. He was an Air Force air traffic controller and I was an assistant bank manager. We lived in California for almost 3 years and grew to love and respect the fragile desert landscape and wildlife.

Mike was accepted into the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) and was transferred to Long Island, NY. There I became a member of the Huntington, NY Audubon Society and the NY Zoological Society. Mike and I became volunteers for the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary where (injured) wild animals, especially birds, are rehabilitated and released into the wild or kept at the sanctuary for education.

As per Mike's request, he was transferred to the Tri-State Airport in August, 1992. I began work as a customer service representative at a Huntington bank. When we moved to Kenova, we were unaware of Ashland Oil's numerous violations and malfunctions and the possible health risks we faced.

I met Janet Fletcher shortly after moving to West Virginia at a local Audubon meeting. Since that time, I have been actively involved in OVEC."

NEWS BRIEFS

Two OVEC representatives have been invited in late May to attend a Highlander Center STP (Stop The Poisoning) Workshop in the East Liverpool, OH area as guests of citizens who are fighting the WTI incinerator. The nationally renowned Highlander Center, based in Tennessee, regularly works with citizens who are waging "war" against toxic pollution.

OVEC is participating with environmental groups from around the country on two national resolutions. OVEC co-signed a resolution that urges President Clinton to redirect Department of Energy funding to increase energy efficiency and to develop and commercialize renewable energy sources.

In a separate resolution, OVEC has joined with Friends of the Earth and other environmental groups nationwide to urge Congress to include increased groundwater protection in the re-authorization of the Clean Water Act.

MACE (Mason Association for a Clean Environment) JOINS FORCES WITH OVEC

At a March 28, OVEC meeting in Pt. Pleasant, WV, members of MACE voted to merge with our organization. MACE formerly had chapters in both Mason county (WV) and Gallia county (OH). Their group was successful in keeping 25 hazardous waste incinerators from locating in their area. The recent merger with OVEC will unify citizens along the Ohio River who have serious health and environmental concerns about the proposed Apple Grove, West Virginia paper and pulp mill. OVEC welcomes all new members and looks forward to working with the fine folks of the Mason/Gallia county area. (See calendar in this issue for next OVEC pulp mill issue meeting.)



WEST VIRGINIA NEWS BRIEFS

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATIVE SESSION--"BEST OF TIMES AND WORST OF TIMES"

Norm Steenstra, environmental coordinator for the WV Citizen Action Group, summed it up best in an article in West Virginia Highland's Conservancy newsletter. "The best of times and the worst of times." Norm said that from the beginning economic development (jobs) and improving the business climate (jobs) in West Virginia framed every issue before the legislature.

The statewide environmental lobby team faced a fierce anti-environmental backlash. They fought hard but failed to defeat a 1400 page bill to reorganize the Division of Environmental Protection. This monstrous bill (which probably was not read by too many legislators) consolidates power into the hands of the Director of the agency, and also included a weak (thanks to the enviros) "takings" amendment and a weak "parity" amendment.

"Takings," presented under the guise of protecting private property rights, is an ill-conceived back door threat to weaken environmental laws throughout the nation, from the Endangered Species Act, wetlands protection, and the Clean Water Act.

Similar amendments were defeated by lawmakers in over 30 states last year.

"Parity" is a term that says a state cannot pass a law that is more stringent (that is, "stronger than") federal legislation. In the end, "parity" in West Virginia environmental laws means that any changes in environmental standards will require justification.

Norm reported that strong standards on sewage sludge were passed and a much needed \$400,000 for a floundering West Virginia Nongame Wildlife/Natural Heritage Program was left in the state budget. In addition, a legislative committee will look at the importance of issues such as "biodiversity and intact eco-systems to economic development and quality of life."

Many thanks to folks from all over WV who lobbied for good government and a better environment!

*Paraphrased from "The Voice,"
newsletter of the West Virginia
Highlands Conservancy*

OHIO NEWS BRIEFS

WTI INCINERATOR BATTLE CONTINUES

For over 10 years activists in Ohio, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania have been engaged in a battle to prevent the construction and operation of one of the largest hazardous waste incinerators in the world. In March of 1993, at the time of the WTI incinerator's trial burn, 69% of children in a sample taken by the Ohio Department of health had no toxic mercury in their urine. After six months of WTI operation, only 34% of children studied had no mercury in their urine. In a shocking response to the study, Dr. Ed Sowinski, a consultant for the East Liverpool (Ohio) Health Department, was quoted as saying that, "These mercury levels in local children show no cause for concern." Is there any wonder that so many citizens are losing confidence in the government regulators? (Tri-State Environmental Newsletter, East Liverpool, OH, Winter, 1994).

STRIPMINING ON PUBLIC LANDS? WAYNE NATIONAL FOREST AT RISK.

Thomas Belville thinks he has the right to stripmine in the Wayne National Forest (southern Ohio). The Buckeye Forest Council (BFC) believes otherwise. Belville claims to have "valid existing rights (VER)," although the courts have not been able to come up with a legal definition of VER. At immediate risk is 1800 acres of public land owned by all of us.

In February, the BFC staged a sit-in at the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) in Pittsburgh, PA. For the next 12 hours, 33 BFC members occupied the Assistant Director's office. This well-planned protest received lots of media coverage including live radio interviews and a live feed from a local TV station. The Assistant Director, after listening to concerns of BFC, did what any red-blooded bureaucrat would do--he passed the buck to a federal bureaucrat in Washington, D.C. Before the night was over, BFC MEMBERS WERE talking with a high level official in the federal Office of Surface Mining and agreed to leave the office only after several concessions were met.

In March, BFC director Joe Hazelbaker testified in Congress asking the Appropriations Subcommittee to withhold funding from the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) in the fiscal year 1995 until all issues surrounding Belville Mining's claim to strip mine in the Wayne National Forest are resolved. He also asked that emergency funds be appropriated for the acquisition of the mineral rights if it is found that the court case has exempted the company from these legal issues. His final request was to secure funding for the official defining of Valid Existing Rights. The Buckeye Forest Council felt the response was encouraging.

Because of the February protests and resulting concessions, the Division of Reclamation sent a letter to the Ohio coal industry informing them that no mining permits will be issued until the applicant has received their required NPDES (National Pollution Discharge Elimination System) permit. A victory for the good guys!

On April 26, a public meeting is scheduled on Belville Mining's NPDES (water pollution discharge permit) at the Ironton, Ohio, campus of Ohio University. A specific time and room has not yet been announced. For more information call Janet at 525-6984.

Information in this article was paraphrased from "Martha's Journal," a newsletter of the Buckeye Forest Council.

UPDATE ON MEIGS COUNTY WATER DISASTER

"It has now been six months since Ohio became the only state in the nation's history to sanction the death of one of its public waterways. This occurred last July when Ohio EPA "authorized" American Electric Power (AEP) to pump over a billion gallons of untreated and highly toxic coal mine wastewater into two Ohio River tributaries in Meigs County. Ohio EPA, and Governor George Voinovich personally, downplayed any long-lasting environmental affects of the dumping as justification for their unprecedented action...

From the beginning of the travesty, Ohio EPA officials, and

George Voinovich, himself, have repeatedly used the number concocted by AEP's own environmental "experts" that the streams would completely recover with 6 months to 2 years....

U.S. EPA has now reviewed the carnage and has submitted its conclusions by affidavit in the continuing court proceedings. U.S. EPA biologist Thomas Simon states that it was flat out "impossible" for recovery in two years and instead believes that it could take up to **twenty years...**"
From "The Ohio Environmental Report," a newsletter of the Ohio Environmental Council, Feb, 1994

MORE NEWS FROM OHIO

Recent actions by the Ohio Senate make the prospects of a low-level radioactive waste dump in southern Ohio more likely than ever. An amendment to Senate Bill 221, introduced by Rob Birch-D, would have provided citizens the power of referendum to choose whether or not to locate a low level radioactive waste dump in their area. This amendment was defeated. During the process, Snyder Cooper-R, a strong proponent for a dump in the Piketon area, was forced to state his position from the Senate floor. Sen. Snyder has been quoted repeatedly as desiring the jobs associated with the facility brought to his impoverished southern Ohio district. Many politicians believe that citizens in southern Ohio are the least likely to oppose the location of a radioactive dump in their area.

KENTUCKY NEWS BRIEFS

KENTUCKY LAW GIVES LANDOWNERS PROTECTION FROM ASHLAND OIL AND OTHERS.

The Kentucky legislature has just passed a bill to help control the many destructive and unfair practices of oil and gas drillers. The new law will give surface land owners the right to negotiate with oil and gas drillers who own the mineral rights to their land. Drillers will also be required to reimburse landowners for polluted well water. The final bill was a compromise between Kentuckians for the Commonwealth (KFTC) and the Kentucky oil and gas industry.

In February, KFTC held a demonstration to draw attention to Ashland Oil's record of unnecessary destruction while drilling for natural gas in Eastern Kentucky. KFTC members hung a large banner which read "Ashland's Dirty Laundry Stinks?"

Citizens gave specific examples of Ashland Oil's abusive treatment of residents and their property. Here are a few:

Bridgette Hatfield of Pike County said, "After Ashland drilled in our yard, we noticed our water stank. It's just brown, and there's little things floating in it. We had good water before."

Daniel Gayheart of Knott County said that "They are destroying more than necessary. Ashland has destroyed hundreds of trees on my property that were not in the way of roads or drill sites."

Don Hatfield of Pike County told of how he tried to stop Ashland from building a road and drilling on his land. "I went to a judge to stop them and make them show where they had the right."

"The judge said, 'The gas company is good people' and told me I would have to put up a \$50,000 cash bond before he'd do anything. That's not right."

The new Kentucky law is a good example of how ordinary people can make a difference when they work together to oppose an obvious injustice.

ADDINGTON, INC., WITHDRAWS PERMIT APPLICATION

When OVEC and other concerned citizens learned that Addington, Inc., the "landfill barons", wanted to build a dock on the Ohio River at Wurtland, KY, to haul in massive amounts of out-of-state garbage via barge, citizens united. We sent several public comment letters to the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers in Huntington, WV, requesting a public meeting and a public hearing. The result?

Addington withdrew its permit application. Speculation has it that we've not heard the last from Addington regarding this dock. Maybe they think we'll not be paying attention, and they can resubmit the application unnoticed. Think again, Addington! Environmental watchdogs are everywhere.

ASHLAND OIL AND RADIATION IN THE MARTHA OIL FIELDS

The state of Kentucky is beginning a program to identify radioactive abandoned oil wells, soils and equipment in the Martha, Kentucky, oil fields of Johnson and Lawrence counties. Ashland Oil's drilling brought radioactivity to the surface. Radioactive oilfield pipes were discovered eight years ago. Ashland says that the company then stopped selling old oil field pipes. However, Ashland had already sold much oil field pipe to farmers who used it for fencing and corrals, and even to a school for playground equipment!

Here in the Tri-State, we are deluged with "good neighbor" ads by

Ashland in our newspapers, TV and radio. Every Monday, the Huntington Herald-Dispatch runs a full page Ashland Oil sponsored education page. If Ashland is so committed to our schools, then why didn't the company remove the apparently radioactive playground equipment when the radioactivity was discovered eight years ago? That playground equipment was only recently taken down, after eastern Kentucky citizens organized to get the state to take action on the Ashland radioactivity problems.

CITIZEN VICTORY--UNIQUE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM NEARLY READY AT ASHLAND REFINERY TO MONITOR EMISSIONS 24 HOURS A DAY

Confucious said, "One picture is worth ten thousand words." When Barbara Christian, Louise Prince, Diana Bowen and others began video-taping week-end and night-time pollution incidents at the Ashland refinery, little did they realize the national and international impact of their vigilance. When confronted with their photographs and video-tapes, officials from the Kentucky Division for Air Quality (KDAQ) began to realize that frequent citizen complaints about Ashland Oil emissions were based on reality.

Citizens' efforts paid off when in February, 1993, an Agreed Court Order issued for past violations at the refinery, required that Ashland purchase and install a hi-tech video-monitoring system. The system will be in full operation soon. You won't find anything like it anywhere else in the world.

Cameras installed around the perimeter of the refinery will send high quality precision images of the refinery equipment and emissions to 7 color monitors installed in Dan Kash's office (Ashland Regional Supervisor, KDAQ). Dan and other air inspectors can change camera angles, zoom in on stacks, all from the comforts of the regional air office. The KDAQ will retain videotapes for up to five days. The installation of this system will enable the KDAQ to verify many complaints when citizens call to report problems.

If this system "works" at Ashland's refinery, the KDAQ is considering using similar systems in other polluted areas of the state. In addition, the KDAQ has received questions from 12 other states and Canada about this one-of-a-kind monitoring method.

Like Margaret Mead said so well--"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed it's the only thing that ever has." Great work!



**NEW ADMINISTRATOR OF U.S. EPA, REGION IV, IS CONTACTED BY SENATOR BYRD-
-BYRD REQUESTS THAT HANKINSON MEET WITH CITIZENS IN KENOVA**

Have you ever seen one of those ingenious mechanical gizmos that when you set one part into motion, a series of events follow one after the other? A ball falls into a slot, a hammer is activated which presses a lever that hits a miniature mouse that runs down a shoot, drops in a bin, opens a trap door; the mouse falls in and rings a bell, and at the very end, the desired "goal" is achieved? Here's a real life series of events that will soon lead OVEC to one of its desired goals--a meeting with Mr. John Hankinson, the new Regional Administrator of the U.S. EPA, Region IV, Atlanta.

Back in November, OVEC member Carol Ramey, motivated by her son's chronic asthma attacks and fed up with malfunctions and violations at the Ashland refinery, called Senator Byrd's office to complain. OVEC then arranged a meeting. Five OVEC representatives, including Carol, met in Washington with Suzanne Bailey, one of the Senator's aides.

We expressed OVEC's serious concerns about continuing malfunctions and violations at the refinery, and told about our major disappointment and frustration with US EPA Region IV's lack of responsiveness and political will to force Ashland Oil to clean up its act.

In a follow-up letter, the Senator requested documentation of the past 10 years of violations at the refinery which OVEC provided him. Senator Byrd then wrote to top level officials at EPA Region IV and the U.S. Justice Department on our behalf.

OVEC maintained contact with Senator Byrd's staff. Once the new Regional Administrator, Mr. John Hankinson, was chosen for Region IV, OVEC enlisted the help of Senator Byrd. Byrd's staff contacted the new top official on OVEC's behalf (we've been requesting a meeting with Hankinson since he took over), and asked that Hankinson meet with Byrd's constituents in a Kenova location.

An article written by Scott Learn, a reporter for the Lexington Herald-Leader (March 20), quoted Bruce Miller, an EPA Deputy Director in Atlanta, as saying, Hankinson "is going to meet with the citizens out there and re-evaluate if we need to become more aggressive."

OVEC will send out notices of this meeting as soon as a time, date and place is confirmed. You just never know what action might set the wheel of progress in motion!

WHAT'S THAT SMELL?

On Thursday, March 24, Kenova activist, Sue Holland, called the Ashland regional office of the Kentucky Division for Air Quality (KDAQ) to register a complaint about strong odors near her home. Doug Gesso, an inspector for KDAQ, went to her house to investigate the complaint after going first to the refinery and taking odor measurements. Mr. Gesso found that the odors were coming from the sewage plant at the Cattlesburg refinery, and he issued a violation to Ashland Petroleum for exceeding odor standards. The phone numbers for the KDAQ are 1-800-928-8569 and 606-325-8568.

**NEW ADMINISTRATOR OF U.S. EPA, REGION IV, IS CONTACTED BY SENATOR BYRD-
-BYRD REQUESTS THAT HANKINSON MEET WITH CITIZENS IN KENOVA**

Have you ever seen one of those ingenious mechanical gizmos that when you set one part into motion, a series of events follow one after the other? A ball falls into a slot, a hammer is activated which presses a lever that hits a miniature mouse that runs down a shoot, drops in a bin, opens a trap door; the mouse falls in and rings a bell, and at the very end, the desired "goal" is achieved? Here's a real life series of events that will soon lead OVEC to one of its desired goals--a meeting with Mr. John Hankinson, the new Regional Administrator of the U.S. EPA, Region IV, Atlanta.

Back in November, OVEC member Carol Ramey, motivated by her son's chronic asthma attacks and fed up with malfunctions and violations at the Ashland refinery, called Senator Byrd's office to complain. OVEC then arranged a meeting. Five OVEC representatives, including Carol, met in Washington with Suzanne Bailey, one of the Senator's aides.

We expressed OVEC's serious concerns about continuing malfunctions and violations at the refinery, and told about our major disappointment and frustration with US EPA Region IV's lack of responsiveness and political will to force Ashland Oil to clean up its act.

In a follow-up letter, the Senator requested documentation of the past 10 years of violations at the refinery which OVEC provided him. Senator Byrd then wrote to top level officials at EPA Region IV and the U.S. Justice Department on our behalf.

OVEC maintained contact with Senator Byrd's staff. Once the new Regional Administrator, Mr. John Hankinson, was chosen for Region IV, OVEC enlisted the help of Senator Byrd. Byrd's staff contacted the new top official on OVEC's behalf (we've been requesting a meeting with Hankinson since he took over), and asked that Hankinson meet with Byrd's constituents in a Kenova location.

An article written by Scott Learn, a reporter for the Lexington Herald-Leader (March 20), quoted Bruce Miller, an EPA Deputy Director in Atlanta, as saying, Hankinson "is going to meet with the citizens out there and re-evaluate if we need to become more aggressive."

OVEC will send out notices of this meeting as soon as a time, date and place is confirmed. You just never know what action might set the wheel of progress in motion!

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PIEDMONT PEACE PROJECT TRAINING PROGRAM SPENDS WEEK-END WITH OVEC MEMBERS AND STAFF

Four organizers with the Piedmont Peace Project Training Program (PPPTP) from Kanapolis, North Carolina, met with members and staff of OVEC from March 18-20. Their organizers included Dottye Burt-Markowitz, Pat Callair, George Friday and Jesse Wimberly. PPPTP and OVEC are part of an alliance, initiated by 2 new PPPTP programs: "Finding Our Voices" and "Building Bridges."


OVEC members had an opportunity to meet informally with PPPTP folks at a Friday night dinner at Rio Grande Mexican restaurant in Huntington. On Saturday, the organizers met with OVEC members and staff in Kenova, WV, to talk about the Ashland Oil pollution issue. On Sunday, PPPTP along with OVEC staff headed to Pt. Pleasant, WV, to meet with concerned citizens about the proposed mammoth pulp mill for Mason county, WV.


Attendance at all three events was good. Eighty members and friends turned out to welcome our guests and learn about the exciting joint venture between OVEC and PPPTP. OVEC thanks all our members and friends who attended the dinner or workshops.

In June, Dianne Bady and Janet Fletcher will be travelling to Ann Arbor, Michigan, to meet with participants of the "Building Bridges" program. OVEC has been paired with progressive middle and upper income level individuals in Ann Arbor who will be fund-raising there to support our efforts in the Tri-State for the next three years.

PPPTP organizers will be returning this summer to work with our friends in Kenova. We look forward to seeing them all again!

WANTED!!!

 **Volunteer typists**--Can you donate several hours each month? We'll teach you, if needed, how to use a computer word-processor.

 **Outreach volunteers**--Do you like to talk to people? Can you help OVEC reach out to more people, and learn more about other citizens' environmental concerns?

Contact Janet (304) 525-6984 or Laura (304)453-4507.

ALSO NEEDED!!!

DONATIONS! Bills, bills, bills! OVEC has phone bills, printing bills, and postage bills. Your local donations go a long way in supporting OVEC's work in the Tri-State. Remember that all donations to OVEC are tax deductible. (See form below.)

OVEC ALWAYS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS, RENEWALS AND DONATIONS! PLEASE CONSIDER PAYING YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES AS SOON AS YOU CAN!

DUES \$5-25 (PAY WHAT YOU CAN) _____
CONTRIBUTION (TAX DEDUCTIBLE) _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

ISSUES OF INTEREST _____

Mail to: OVEC, P.O. Box 970, Proctorville, OH 45669

Nothing worth doing is complete in our lifetime;
therefore, we must be saved by hope.

Nothing true or beautiful or good makes complete sense in any
immediate context of history;
therefore, we must be saved by faith.

Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone;
therefore, we are saved by love.

No virtuous act is quite as virtuous from the standpoint of our friend or
foe as from our standpoint.

Therefore, we must be saved by the final form of love which is forgiveness.

Reinhold Niebuhr
1892 - 1971

(Reprinted from Pennsylvania Environmental Network Newsletter.)

Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition
P.O. Box 970
Proctorville, OH 45669

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