

"E"-NOTES
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
OHIO VALLEY
ENVIRONMENTAL
COALITION

1101 6th Ave. Rm. 225
Huntington WV 25701
304-522-0246
APRIL 1995

**ACTIVISTS "WELCOME" PULP MILL
EXECUTIVE AT MASON COUNTY DINNER!**

The March 10th protest in Mason County at the Chamber of Commerce dinner was a smashing success! Over 125 enthusiastic citizens sang and chanted outside in the cold ("Jobs yes, dioxin no!" "Paper from paper, not from trees!" "Ken Goddard, come on down!") while Ken Goddard (V.P. of Parsons & Whittemore) fed inside listeners half-truths regarding the mill. OVEC special agent Laura Forman sneaked into the building to hear Goddard's speech, but was quickly escorted out. (OVEC has been asking in vain for a meeting

with Parsons and Whittemore for three years.)

Although the state police would not allow us to set up our portable P.A. system while Chamber members were going in to the armory for dinner, our message was NOT lost to anyone. We set up a special dining table for Governor Caperton and Carl Landegger (pulp mill millionaire) with a meal of "dioxin-tainted" Ohio River fish and a bottle of "dioxin-laced" Ohio River water.

Continued on page 8

**EPA RECOMMENDS SAFETY STEPS FOR
REFINERY; COMPANY "NEGOTIATES"
TOWARDS OPERATING PERMIT**

For several years, OVEC members have been asking for an engineering study of Ashland's Catlettsburg refinery to identify the sources of the constant malfunctions and excess emissions episodes. KY and the US EPA have consistently refused, but US EPA Region IV recently took a small step. EPA engineers inspected the refinery in order to make

recommendations on safety issues. The kind of possible accidents they were concerned about were mainly ones that would affect workers in the plant, but some of the potential accidents they discussed are among those that send plumes of poisons toward Kenova.

Continued on page 4

WHEN FINISHED WITH THIS, DON'T THROW IT AWAY--PASS IT ON TO A FRIEND!

IS HISTORY REPEATING ITSELF?

"The Ohio Senate was too quick to approve a bill requiring the state to build a container for low-level radioactive wastes produced in Ohio and five other states. . . The bill doesn't answer valid questions about the process that has put Ohio on the list with about a dozen states trying to build disposal centers for nuclear trash. Instead of addressing key concerns certain to be raised by the public, most Republicans and the Voinovich administration remain steadfastly on the course of doing something even if it isn't the right thing to do."

--Editorial, Columbus Dispatch March 24, 1995

Many observers of the Midwest radioactive waste issue expect that if a dump is built, it will be here in southern Ohio. If this happens, radioactive waste from all over the Midwest would be dumped in Appalachia.

Appalachia has historically been burdened with environmental and economic costs which have allowed other regions, such as the much more prosperous Midwest, to flourish. In spite of the enormous natural resource wealth which continues to leave our region, central Appalachia remains poor.

The fact that we use no nuclear energy here ought to get us off the nukewaste hook. But our region is disproportionately poor, less educated, and elderly. I've heard from many Ohio statehouse observers that the Appalachian portion of Ohio would make an easier dumping target for the Midwest's radioactive wastes than would a genuinely midwestern part of the six state radioactive waste compact.

OVEC's role as a voice for environmental sanity is also a cry for Tri-State folks to learn about our history and to learn from that history. Appalachia has long been a "resource colony" for more prosperous areas, and more recently, we've been targeted for disposal of other states unwanted garbage. It didn't get this way by chance. And it won't change if economic and development decisions continue to be made by outside corporations and those regional politicians who depend heavily on those corporations for generous campaign contributions.

Without massive organized citizen pressure, history will repeat itself. We'll get the wastes and the dioxin that economically stable regions can easily reject. **Our environmental future is up to us.** We can't rely too much on the current politicians--they're too often controlled by the out of state corporations. We can't rely too much on the environmental regulators, no matter how well intentioned, they often get their marching orders from politicians with close industry ties.

Our environmental future is up to us. It's up to regular people who live and raise our families here and who hope that our region can prosper. Unless many more of us make our voices loud and clear, central Appalachia's history will continue to repeat itself.

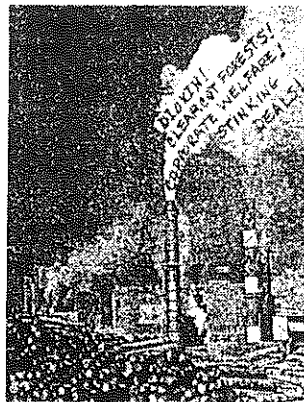
On March 10, over 125 of us stood up for our rights over the "rights" of Parsons and Whittemore, the multinational pulp giant. On the evening of April 18, many more will gather on WV Governor Caperton's lawn to tell him that he can't get away with ignoring the people's desires for environmental sanity. Be there! Call us if you need a ride, but be there!

---Dianne Bady



**The Pulp Mill-make your personal
Earth Day Statement
Candlelight Vigil!
Tuesday, April 18, 1995
7 p.m.**

**Outside Governor Caperton's Mansion,
(State Capitol Complex) Charleston, West Virginia**



**Tell Gov. Caperton what you think of his
Apple Grove deal!
Help us expose the political backroom deals corporate
giveaways and environmental threats.**

**For more information contact the Ohio Valley
Environmental Coalition at 304-522-0246.**



TGI COORDINATORS: OLD AND NEW

In our last newsletter we told you about OVEC's intervention in Brian Holtzclaw's hearing. Holtzclaw had been the coordinator for the Tri-State Geographic Initiative (TGI), a US EPA and three state project to reduce tri-state pollution. OVEC and three other environmental justice groups asked to be included in the legal hearings that Holtzclaw has initiated.

The KY Department for Environmental Protection and the US EPA objected to OVEC and other groups' petitions to intervene. US EPA made the unbelievable declaration that the "petitioners lack the requisite interest to be added as parties in this matter", and that the groups were only "interested in the general state of the environment". These statements by EPA show a blatant disregard for the SPECIFIC health and pollution concerns that people here have expressed verbally and in writing for years. Does EPA believe that their work is beyond public examination or question? On the contrary, PUBLIC SERVANTS should invite citizen involvement and not waste tax payer \$\$ attempting to circumvent public scrutiny.

The Tri-State Geographic Initiative was instituted largely because of citizen input on the various regional pollution threats, and OVEC's pressure on regulators, politicians, and industry. Therefore, the inclusion of citizens' groups in

the Holtzclaw whistleblowing hearing is essential.

Fortunately, the administrative law judge for the hearing has thrown out KY's and the US EPA's objections to the intervention. In this instance, justice and the rights of the people have prevailed!

The new TGI coordinator, Kay Harker, was recently hired. Ms. Harker has been working in the Kentucky Dept. of Environmental Protection, focusing on water pollution and waste management issues.

Many Kenova area folks will remember Ms. Harker's husband, Don Harker who was, for a time, the Director of KY's Division for Waste Management. In 1989, Don Harker listened carefully to OVEC's arguments that Ashland Oil's unlined hazardous waste dump should be shut down. Shortly after Harker took a strong stand against the importation of out-of-state garbage and ordered the Ashland dump to close, he was fired with no explanation. Six years later the Ashland dump is still open. Like Holtzclaw, Don Harker listened to citizens, tried to do his job and was shown the door.

Ms. Harker will meet with OVEC representatives in the near future. Please let us know if you want to be notified of this meeting.

REFINERY--Continued from page 1

The report praised the company for improvements they have made, but also made a series of recommendations. Some of EPA's safety recommendations are familiar (see box). The EPA engineer in charge of the "Safety Audit" says that companies usually implement about 75% of his recommendations, but Ashland has already said they will pay little attention to the report.

Most disappointing in the report was the fact that the inspectors seemed to simply take Ashland's word for a number of things without a reality check. For example the writers of the report were convinced that Ashland works hard to have good communications with their neighbors in Kenova and the company tries hard to notify neighbors during emissions episodes--what a joke.

For several years, OVEC has also been asking EPA to make actual air measurements of "air toxics" such as benzene, to verify the emissions estimates that Ashland submits for the Toxics Release Inventory. For most air pollutants there is no routine air monitoring, and Ashland must only estimate how much they emit, using estimation methods that EPA supplies. Unfortunately, EPA only checked Ashland's estimates on paper and failed to actually measure what's really in the air. We can still hope that the Tri-State Geographic Initiative, slowed by the transfer of Brian Holtzclaw, will get back on track by going forward with the monitoring that Holtzclaw was trying to set up. Even monitoring won't guarantee improvements because the laws on air toxics are very weak.

The pollutants that are emitted in the highest quantities are monitored, but because short bursts (for example of SO₂) may not violate the standard, citizens continue to have to live with the episodes of "bad air".

OVEC attracted media attention to the problems at the refinery in the late 1980's when we publicly pointed out that the facility had no operating permit. Ashland officials claimed they did have an operating permit, and being caught in this lie was one of the things that caused people outside of Kenova to begin to doubt the integrity of the company's management.

An operating permit cannot be issued until the latest set of violations is resolved with another "agreed court order". Ashland's political power and their ability to outspend the state on legal maneuvering has forced the KY

Division for Air Quality into lengthy "negotiations" in hopes of getting the company to agree to at least some improvements.

KY officials insist that, although the permit won't force major improvements, it will give the state more power to enforce the regulations that the company has skirted so effectively for the past decade. One of the most important issues is limiting the total amount of oil the company can process per day. In the early 1980's the building of the MRS/RCC Unit meant a significant increase in daily throughput (the amount of oil refined) and a corresponding increase in air pollution of all types. Despite the fact that Ashland had told the state that throughput would not increase, the DAQ was powerless to prevent much of what went on because of the lack of an operating permit specifying what they could and couldn't do.

One issue that DAQ officials expect the company to contest is a limit on the amount of SO₂ that can be emitted during the brief episodes that have plagued downwind neighbors. Since there is no short term (e.g. 5 minute) standard for SO₂, the company has been able to get away with brief but heavy bursts of the toxic gas without violating the national health standard. EPA is attempting to institute a short term air standard, and has demonstrated that health effects are occurring under the current regulatory scheme. In the meantime, the DAQ will attempt to limit how much SO₂ the company can emit during short bursts. Ashland is likely to protest as usual and it may end up in court.

SOME EPA SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS:

- There should be more monitors inside the plant and at the fence line to detect releases that will affect the surrounding community.
- Need to improve housekeeping, which is "neglected".
- Hydrogen fluoride area should have more detectors, and a deluge containment system.
- Pumps with old-style mechanical seals should be replaced with seal-less pumps.
- Plume modeling should be used for emergency planning.
- There should be a formal public notification system for incidents--such as an audible alarm.
- The company should improve its communication with the community during and after an incident.

ASHLAND CONVERTING UNIT

Pollution from the Ashland refinery will increase as the company converts the idle Metals Removal System (M.R.S.) into a second Reduced Crude Conversion (RCC) Unit. Since the state originally allowed the construction of the MRS, regulators are powerless to do anything about the conversion, which is now underway. The purpose of an RCC unit is to convert heavy crude oil residues into gasoline. Otherwise these residues could only be used for less profitable products such as asphalt.

The MRS Unit has been idle since 1988 when the company shut it down, after failing to

learn how to run the experimental unit. The MRS/RCC system caused the massive and sometimes corrosive "fallouts" that brought so much attention to the refinery in the 1980's.

The KY DAQ will soon issue a revised construction permit that will predict how much increased pollution will result. KY DAQ officials say that the unit will be about one-half the size of the current RCC and should present far fewer problems than the MRS did. The new RCC unit will provide for more flexibility at the refinery, but legally will not allow the company to increase the amount of oil refined.

KENOVA HOLD WORKSHOPS

On March 16th the Circle folks returned to the area to continue the "Finding Our Voices" training. The Circle is the organizing training program of the Piedmont Peace Project, based in North Carolina. Circle staff held four meetings while in town. The youth event in Kenova allowed young people to openly discuss their feelings about living every day with industrial pollution. This may have been difficult for the kids to talk about with strangers, but Onaje Benjamin and Dottye Burt-Markowitz made everyone feel comfortable in participating.

The Kenova Project Board met with Circle folks to talk about their accomplishments and plans for the future. Also, Dottye and Onaje led a Building Bridges session at the OVEC office in Huntington. Here folks talked about racism and classism.

About 15 Kenova folks attended the media campaign session led by Jane Wholey, a national media consultant. Jane will be working with the

Kenova OVEC Project Board, OVEC staff, and other interested members to establish a major media campaign focusing on the continuing pollution problems and the resulting consequences on the Kenova area. In the past, Ms. Wholey has helped over a dozen grassroots groups get their message out to local, and often national media. Everyone enjoyed the experience and looks forward to the next sessions. By increasing our visibility, other groups and individuals who can assist us become aware of the nature of our struggle; thus we are able to grow in strength and size. Ultimately, through our pressure, the major polluting industries will be forced to heed our demands for a cleaner, safer community.

If you want to become involved in the media campaign and support the Kenova Project Board, or know more about the Circle, please call Laura @ 304-522-0246 or 304-453-4507.

Thanks to all who attended the Circle meetings.

Special thanks to Pat Davis, Ann Kiser, Juanita Smith, Carol Ramey, Thelma Purdue, Lawyer Ratliff, James Jones, and Jeff Bosley for "getting the word out" and passing out flyers on these meetings. Thanks to Margie Nelson who has been helping the Kenova Project Board with their flyers. And all of our appreciation to The Circle: Dottye Burt-Markowitz, Onaje Benjamin, Laurie Schecter, and Jane Wholey for all of their hard work and support.

PUBLIC INPUT SOUGHT FOR OHIO RIVER POLLUTION CONTROL STANDARDS

The Ohio River Valley Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO) is holding a series of public workshops, including one in Huntington, to review current industrial water pollution standards for the Ohio River. Pollution Control Standards for Wastewater Discharges to the Ohio River are reviewed and subject to change every three years. The workshop will be held Wednesday, April 26, at the Huntington Public Library, at 455 9th Street, Huntington, West Virginia. According to ORSANCO, each workshop will consist of an afternoon session, beginning at 2:00 p.m. local

time, and an evening session at 7:00 p.m. After a brief description of the authority and purpose of ORSANCO standards and their relationship to state and federal standards, the discussion will focus on current standards and issues which have been identified for review.

Final comments on the water pollution standards should be submitted in writing by Friday, June 30, 1995. Any proposed revisions of the current standards will be presented at a public hearing and will be subject to an additional comment period before they are acted upon by ORSANCO.



Citizens fighting a proposed stockyard adjacent to their homes in a residential Gallia County neighborhood are reminded that April 20th is the next Fairgrounds Board meeting in Gallipolis, OH. Be sure to attend and continue to put pressure on the board. Meet at 6:00 p.m. at Betty's house for a pre-meeting. (Her phone is 614-446-4740.)

Ellen Saunders reported that the minutes from the February 16th Fairgrounds meeting failed to mention OVEC's presence, and did not contain concerns voiced about the potential spraying of toxic Dursban to control pests at the proposed stockyard.

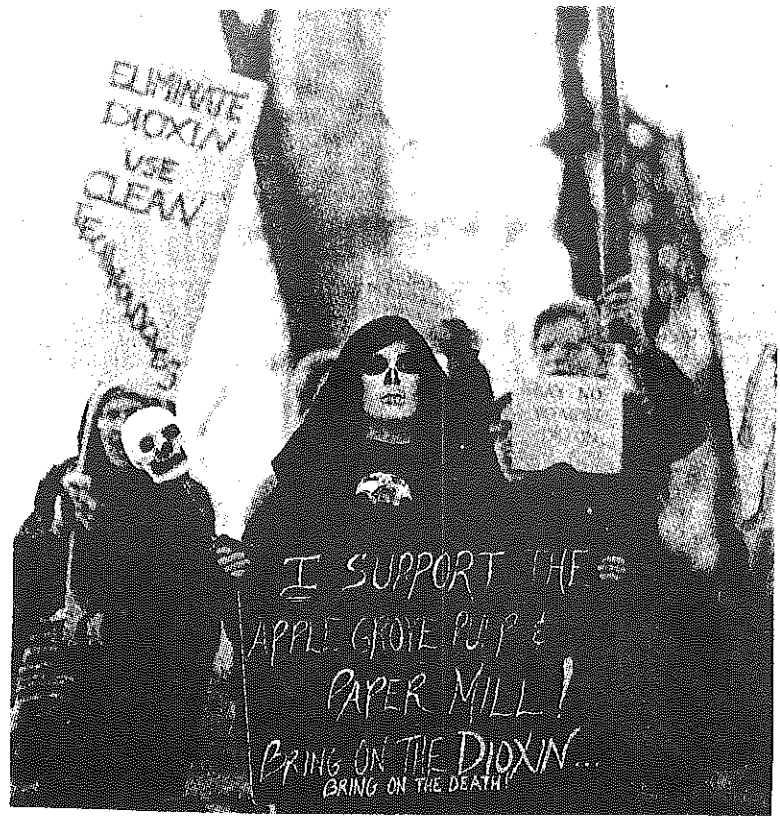
(Citizens are not objecting to an appropriately sited rural stockyard, but to the current plan of taking fairground land which was purchased for youth activities to build a large stockyard in a residential neighborhood.)

A directory of businesses in Ohio reveals that the Producers Livestock Association, which employs 355 people, is located at 5909 Cleveland Avenue, Columbus, OH 43231-2859 (phone: 614-890-6666) was founded in 1934, and has sales of \$200 million! This is not a small operation!

Call or write to Mr. Fred Isler, the company President, and ask him if he would like a livestock yard next to his house.

PULP MILL--from page 1

What a diverse group of citizens were taking part--businessmen, grandmothers & grandfathers, school children, school teachers, college students, social workers, homemakers, fishermen, electronics executives, attorneys, farmers--real "extremists"! Two pro-mill citizens joined us to express their views. Several TV stations and newspapers covered the event. A good time was had by all!



HEARTWOOD FOREST COUNCIL MEETING

Heartwood will be holding its 5th annual Heartwood Forest Council, in a picturesque mountain setting, May 26-29, at the Bluestone Conference Center on Bluestone Lake, near Hinton, West Virginia.

This year's Forest Council will offer people of all ages an opportunity to learn about the history and diversity of the native Appalachian forest, and about how to organize in their local communities to protect the forests from waste and destruction. Nature tours, workshops, and practical training will be offered. Healthy meals and nightly entertainment will also provide opportunities for people to meet their neighbors from throughout the Heartwood Region.

Heartwood is a coalition of forest activists and groups in the "Central Hardwood Region" who have organized public support for an end to destructive logging on our remaining public forests. The Central Hardwood Region extends

from the mid-Atlantic states of Maryland, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey to Missouri, Texas, and Arkansas, and from the headwaters of the Mississippi to the Tennessee River Valley. Heartwood is seeking to expand the circle of knowledgeable citizens, throughout the hardwood region, working in their communities to protect local forests.

The theme of the conference, "The Source," reflects the Appalachians' extreme importance as the source of most of our eastern rivers, the source and haven for much of the biodiversity remaining in the eastern United States, and the source for recreation and spiritual renewal for millions of people. Nature hikes will highlight water quality, forest ecology, and Appalachian biodiversity. Workshops and educational programs will provide citizens the opportunity to get involved, to meet new and exciting people, and to be effective.

For more information, contact Bill Ragette (304)824-3571 or Kim Baker (304)522-9124

TEMPERATE FOREST ACTION ALERT

MARCH 1995
ISSUE #2

NATIVE FOREST NETWORK PO Box 8251 Missoula, MT 59807
(406)251-2385 FAX (406)251-2386 E-mail: nfnconferenc@igc.apc.org

West Virginia's Forests Threatened By Multinational Pulp & Paper Giant

In the small town of Apple Grove, West Virginia, on the Ohio River, British-based multinational corporation Parsons and Whittemore, Inc. (P&W) plans to build North America's largest pulp mill. Disguised as Apple Grove Pulp & Paper Inc., the P&W mill would produce 3600 metric tonnes of bleached hardwood kraft pulp and paper per day. Feeding this giant mill with logs and woodchips would devastate the region's diverse hardwood forests, revived to near maturity after turn of the century logging.

Parsons & Whittemore is the world's largest builder of pulp and paper mills. The company has constructed more than 60 projects in 28 countries. P&W is currently involved in deforesting the southeastern US for pulp and paper, operating in Alabama and Mississippi. Now they want to chop the healthy forests of Appalachia. The Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition (OVEC) has organized local citizens to fight the mill.

The multinational received permission to build the mill after five years of closed-door meetings with state officials. P&W has asked West Virginia to finance a major portion of the US\$1.1 billion project. The state government responded, pledging corporate welfare including a US\$200 million construction loan, US\$60 million in improvements to roads and bridges, and untold millions in tax incentives and breaks. Not surprisingly, P&W's owners contributed heavily to the re-election campaign of their staunchest proponent and political heavyweight, Governor Gaston Caperton.

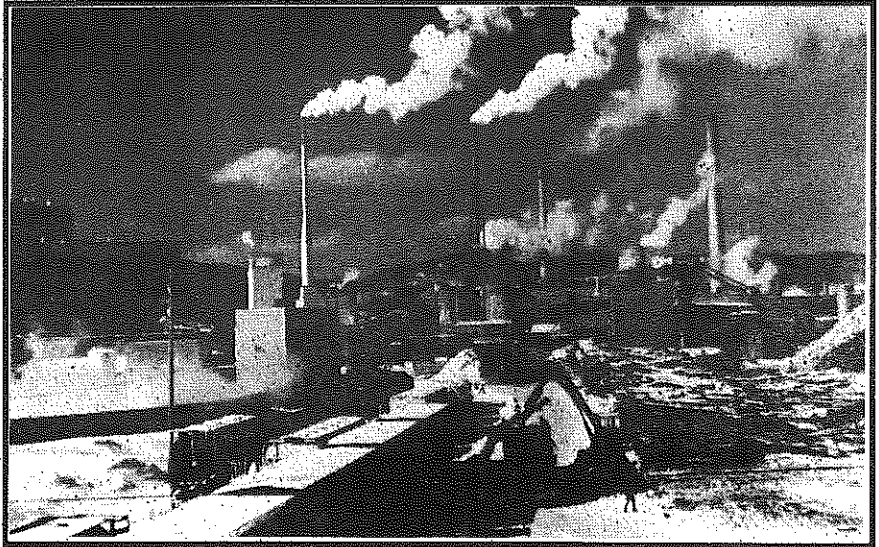
In December 1994, Governor Caperton visited Carol Browner, the top administrator of the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and asked her to "call off the dogs." His political muscle-flexing worked. The EPA had plans to require additional testing for dioxin levels in the Ohio River before issuing a water pollution permit to P&W. On February 10, 1995, the agency withdrew its objections to the permit. This means that the state may issue a permit to P&W to discharge dioxin into the Ohio River without knowing how much is already there (the permit is under legal appeal by OVEC and others). A 1993 US Fish & Wildlife Service preliminary study indicates that dioxin levels in catfish already exceed state standards.

P&W plans to use outdated chlorine bleaching technology at Apple Grove that would poison the region's air, land, and water with dioxin, chloroform, other organochlorine compounds, and toxic, heavy metals from air and waste water discharges. Sixty-six pulp mills around the world already use less polluting non-chlorine bleaching technology.

Building another chlorine-dependent mill would be a giant step backwards in efforts to move the pulp and paper industry towards safer, sustainable methods.

To meet the projected output of the Apple Grove mill, P&W has stated they would need a wood fiber commitment totalling 200,000 hectares. However, the company has since indicated they have found access to at least 600,000 hectares of West Virginia's forests. More than half is from private holdings of other large companies. When P&W has liquidated these forests, what will be left?

Other major impacts of the mill include an on-site incinerator to burn toxic pulp sludge, adding air pollution to the inversion-prone valley.



Boise Cascade pulp mill in Rumford, Maine.

Photo: Langlell/NFN

212 million liters of waste water per day would be dumped into the Ohio River from the mill's discharge pipes, 37 kilometers upstream of the drinking water intake pipes for Huntington - West Virginia's second largest city.

Interestingly enough, P&W has developed mills that promote the use of non-wood raw materials such as wheat straw, sugar cane, rice straw, and bamboo to produce pulp and paper. More than 21 cellulose fiber sources are used to produce paper products in mills built by P&W, allowing countries that previously imported pulp to manufacture their own products. Why is P&W so determined to build a giant forest dependent mill in West Virginia when they are making positive strides towards alternative fiber use? Let them know the days of clearcutting native forests for pulp and paper are over. Don't Waste West Virginia! Stop the Apple Grove Mill!

What You Can Do

- Please write, call, or visit Parsons and Whittemore immediately, and send a copy of your letter to the NFN. Express your outrage at their plans to waste West Virginia's forests and further pollute the heavily industrialized Ohio River Valley:

George F. Landegger, Chairman
Parsons & Whittemore
4 International Drive
Rye Brook, NY 10573
(914) 937-9009

- Also, please call Carol Browner of the EPA: (202) 260-2090
- For more information, contact the NFN or OVEC:

Janet Fout
Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition
P.O. Box 970,
Proctorville, OH 45669
(304) 522-0246 • FAX (304) 523-6051

METRIC CONVERSIONS: 1 tonne = 1.1 tons/1 hectare = 2.47 acres/1 liter = 26 gallons/1 kilometer = .62 miles

**THIS IS WHAT THE PULP & PAPER INDUSTRY,
INCLUDING PARSONS AND WHITTEMORE,
IS DOING TO ALABAMA'S NATIONAL FORESTS**

**US Forest Service
DESTROYS RIM OF PARKER CANYON
Sipsey Wilderness Under Fire!**

Not since the chainsaw massacre of Indian Tomb Hollow has the US Forest Service perpetrated such a blatant outrage as the destruction of the west side of Parker Canyon in the Sipsey Wilderness.

Parker Falls was probably the most beautiful and remote canyon in the Sipsey Wilderness.

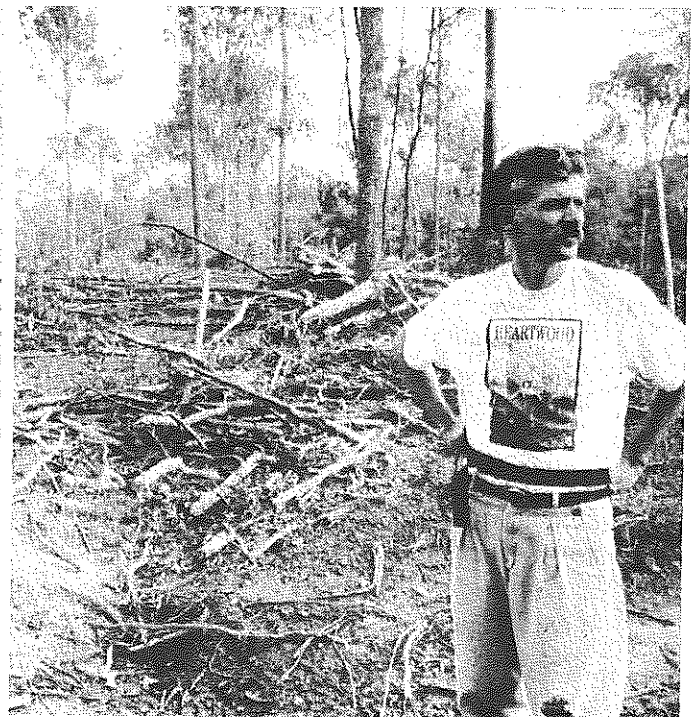
Many people accessed the canyon and falls from the west side of the wilderness about 1.7 miles north of the junction of Kinlock Road and Cranal Road.

The falls are located where the Winston/Lawrence Co. line crosses Parker Branch. Unfortunately, this line is also the Wilderness boundary in this area.

It was about 3/4 of a mile cross country to Parker Falls from Kinlock Road.

We informed the US Forest Service of the importance of preserving this ridge above the falls and a buffer strip along the Wilderness border. The Forest Service hates and resents Wilderness. This perverted attitude has led to the destruction of many treasures on our public lands.

One avid Parker fan said it most plainly: " I can never camp at Parker Falls again. The feeling of wilderness is gone. The trees on the bluff are gone. The light is different. They ruined it."



WILDERNESS BOUNDARY DESTROYED AT PARKER RIDGE

- Bankhead National Forest
Alabama

We at the Monitor would like to share with our readers the decisions that come out of the Bankhead District office. These decisions order clearcuts, poisons, and conversion from hardwoods to pine tree farms. They order the cutting down of our centuries old trees. We will publicize these notices. We proudly bring you our new column "Ranger Ramey Reports" - "I Have Decided".

RANGER RAMEY REPORTS:

"I HAVE DECIDED"

FY 94 SITE PREPARATION FOR PLANTING 5/24/94
I have decided to do site preparation on 1209 acres in preparation for the winter planting of 1994/1995 on the Bankhead National Forest. The method for treatment will be mechanical, using a roller drum chopper pulled by a crawler tractor, size D-7 or larger (or equivalent). The stands will be treated with either a single pass or a double pass followed by a prescribed burn after the chopped vegetation has cured.

From Summary:

This site preparation will open up the areas so that they can be physically planted with the number of trees necessary to meet stocking objectives as set forth in the Forest Land Management Plan

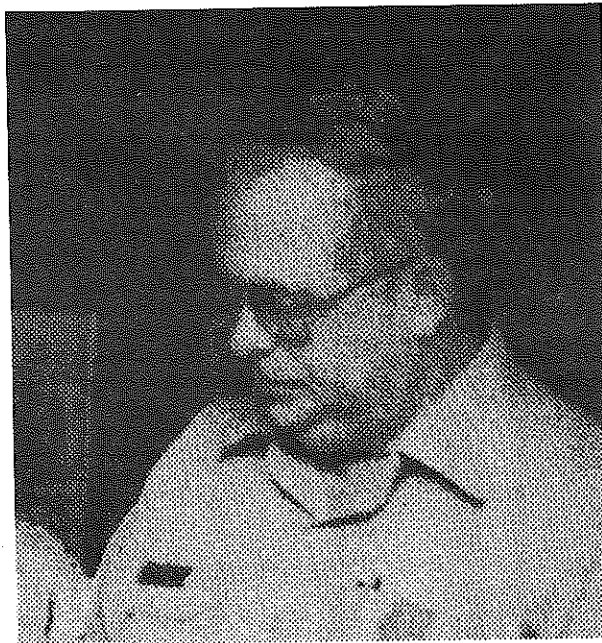
Mitigation Measures:

19. Only mowing, chopping, shearing, ripping, and scarifying are used on sustained slopes over 15%. No mechanical equipment is used on sustained slopes over 35%.

PLANTATION RELEASE PROJECT - DECISION NOTICE AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT 5/31/94

I have decided to treat 29 of the stands as proposed in Alternative B of the EA. These stands would be treated with a directed foliar spray of triclopyr (trade name: Arsenal) during the summer. Two stands, Compartment 156, Stand 9 and Compartment 157, Stand 35, would be treated as proposed in Alternative C.

The 34 sites are scattered over the Bankhead District within Lawrence, Franklin and Winston Counties. Tract size ranges from 11 to 74 acres, and the sites total 1,525 acres.



District Ranger James Ramey

Alternative B:

3. Vegetation - Alternative B provides for a variety of vegetation while managing the stand for timber production. The herbicide would effect only the vegetation it touches. Triclopyr is a selective herbicide and Imazapyr is a broad spectrum herbicide.

4. Recreation - The browning of vegetation would also cause visual impacts along State Highways 33 and 195 and to Sipsey Fork users south of Winston County Road 60 (Cranal Road). Since herbicides are broken down rapidly, no adverse effect to human health or animal health is suspected.

Alternative C:

This alternative focuses on managing the stands for the pines that were planted on their respective spacing. Stands with the 8 by 8 ft. spacing would have all vegetation treated except crop trees treated. The wider spacings would have small untreated zones scattered throughout the stand. Vegetative diversity is greatly reduced on the stands, however, diversity would still exist throughout the rest of the forest. Loblolly pines would be the principle trees growing in the stands, with very few hardwoods.

July/Aug. 1994 issue
THE BANKHEAD MONITOR
P.O. Box 117
Moulton, Alabama
35650

REPUBLICANS PUSH LAWS TO WEAKEN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The majority of Americans think environmental protection should be strengthened, not weakened. But with the help of the Republican majority in congress, polluting industries are now trying to rush through a series of laws that would do precisely the opposite of what most people want. If the proposals pass, the power of our enforcement agencies to protect our health, safety, and the environment will be significantly weakened.

The new laws would shift power away from agencies and their scientists

and to the industries themselves. This, despite the fact that corporations often have the upper hand already (notice how ineffective the environmental agencies have been in clamping down on Ashland Oil). The new laws would increase the costs of regulations while at the same time cutting funding to the agencies--making it easier for corrupt corporations to get away with dumping their wastes into the air and water. Most of these proposed laws have actually been written by industry lobbyists.

Some of the worst example are:

MAJOR AIR POLLUTANTS

- **NOW:** The Clean Air Act, which until now has always had bi-partisan support, puts the public health first and corporate profits second. Some of the standards in place now are too weak, and the EPA is being sued by the American Lung Association to tighten up the standards.
- **PROPOSED:** Corporate profits would become as important or more important than clean, healthy air.

MORE UNUSUAL AIR POLLUTANTS

- **NOW:** Regulations on "air toxics" are already weak, there are too many pollutants and too little information about just how much of a toxic chemical in the air it takes to make people sick. For most chemicals, industries must only report how much of certain chemicals they emit (The Toxics Release Inventory)--and the EPA makes no effort to verify the claims (see Ashland Oil story). For the most toxic chemicals, the EPA may, at most, require that the best available control technologies be used. Even when no one knows if this may still result in health effects downwind.
- **PROPOSED:** EPA would have to prove that any controls they require are the cheapest and that the benefits outweigh the risks. "Risk assessment"--trying to predict how many people will get cancer--is an impossible task for most chemicals, so industry would be able to get away with little if any regulation at all. Risk assessment panels would have to include members who work for the industries in question, rather than just "objective" scientists. They're even trying to stop having to estimate their chemical emissions. The public wouldn't even be able to find out what poisons they are being forced to breathe.

“PROPERTY RIGHTS”

- **NOW:** If what you do on your land can hurt someone else, courts must try to balance the rights and interests of the public against property owner's justifiable expectations about what they would be able to do with their property.
- **PROPOSED:** New laws would make it easier for irresponsible land owners to use their land in ways that hurt their neighbors and would make the taxpayers pay landowners who claim they could make more money if it weren't for environmental regulations.

NATIONAL FORESTS

- **NOW:** These lands are owned by all of us. Some logging is allowed but the National Forests are supposed to be managed for “multiple use” including preservation of forests and recreation. Unfortunately, the National Forest Service is notorious for being most interested in logging as much as possible. Your tax dollars are even used to build free roads for the logging companies (corporate welfare).
- **PROPOSED:** They're trying to increase the amount of logging in National Forests that can go on at taxpayer expense--setting a goal of doubling the rate of logging.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

These laws are sailing through the House of Representatives. Most political observers say that the Senate is likely to act more responsibly. Write your senators and tell them that you think environmental laws should be strengthened, not weakened!!!

	Ohio	Sen. Wendell Ford
West Virginia:	Sen. John Glenn	Sen. Mitch McConnell
Sen. Robert C. Byrd	Sen. Mike DeWine	
Sen. Jay Rockefeller	Kentucky	

Write to them at:

Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510

NATIONAL DRINKING WATER WEEK: MAY 7-13

The Safe Drinking Water Act regulates the quality of public drinking water. Individual states enforce water regulations and collect water monitoring and test results.

Pollution in water comes from inadequate sewage treatment, industrial discharges, and “non-point” sources: runoff from lawns, farms, streets, and landfills.

Water should be tested for organisms that may cause immediate illness such as cryptosporidium and giardia, but it often is not. Huntington's water is only occasionally tested.

Testing is also done for toxic chemicals that may take longer to cause illness. These include toxic metals such as lead, and organic chemicals such as trihalomethanes.

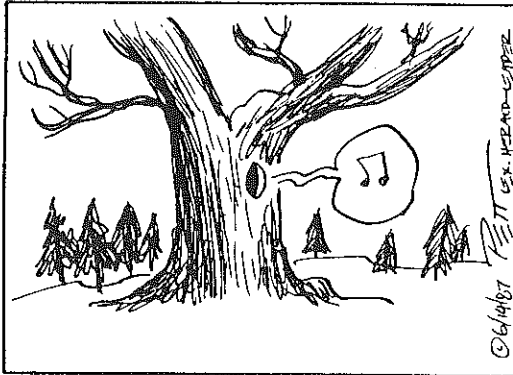
Recently a local water company official expressed concern that dioxin from the proposed pulp mill would lead to extra expenses for water customers in Huntington and all cities downstream along the Ohio. Clean water will not get any cheaper in the future if we continue to use rivers as all-purpose disposal systems.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

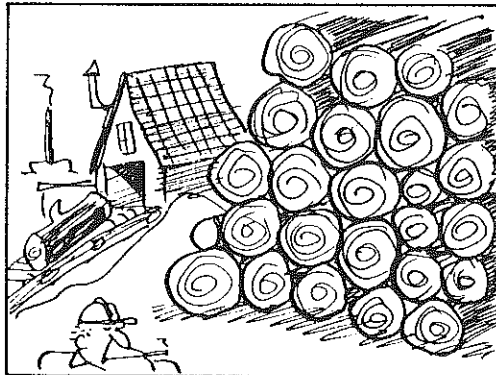
EARTH DAY

AT HUNTINGTON'S RITTER PARK

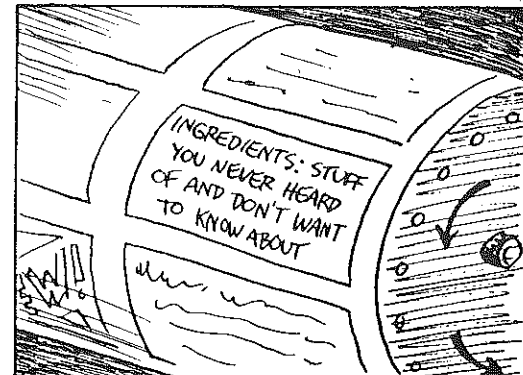
OVEC will have a table at the Earth Day Celebration in Ritter park from 10AM to 2PM.
To volunteer to sit at the table, call the office at 304-522-0246.



FIRST, A TREE.



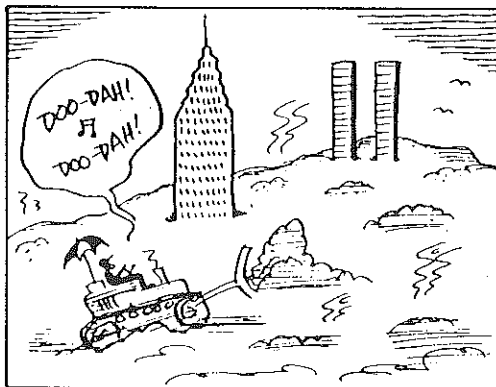
CHOP IT DOWN. TRUCK IT.
PROCESS IT INTO PULP.



PROCESS THE PULP INTO PAPER.
SHIP IT. DYE IT. PRINT ON IT.
NOW IT'S PACKAGING. SHIP IT.



SHIP IT TO NEW YORK. WRAP
FAST FOOD IN IT FOR A COUPLE
OF MINUTES. PITCH IT.



PAY SOMEONE TO PICK IT UP.
BAG IT. TRUCK IT. PILE IT UP
'TIL THERE'S NO ROOM. BARGE IT.



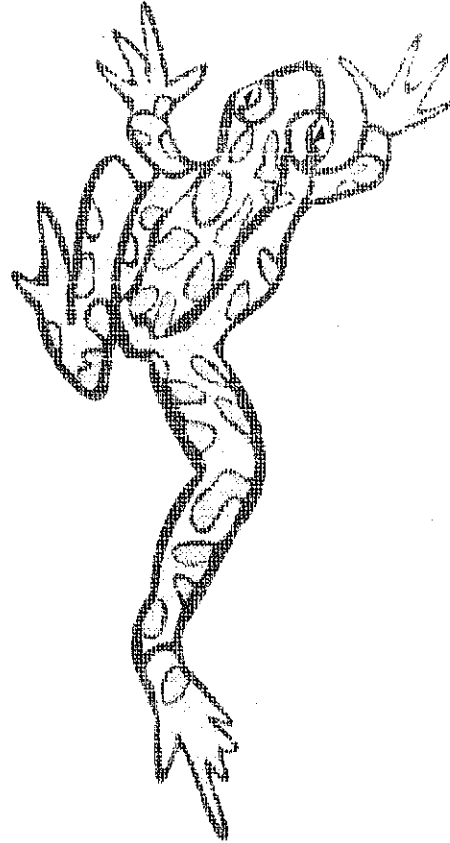
DOES THIS MAKE SENSE?....
DON'T WORRY, FINE MINDS ARE
AT WORK ON THE PROBLEM!!

The old man
must have stopped our car
two dozen times to climb out
and gather into his hands
the small toads blinded
by our lights and leaping,
live drops of rain.

The rain was falling,
a mist about his white hair
and I kept saying
you can't save them all,
accept it, get back in
we've got places to go

But, leathery hands full
of wet brown life,
knee deep in the summer
roadside grass,
he just smiled and said
they have places to go too.

-Joseph Bruchac



Cut and mail to: OVEC
PO Box 970 Proctorville OH 45669

_____ New member or renewal (Dues: \$5 - \$25, pay what you can)

_____ Donation enclosed

_____ Keep me especially informed on this issue: _____

DONATIONS ARE
TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

For more info call the OVEC office: (304) 522-0246
PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE IF WE'RE NOT IN

OVEC NEWSLETTER FOR APRIL 1995

INSIDE:

- **ACTIVISTS "WELCOME" PULP MILL EXECUTIVE**
- **EPA RECOMMENDS SAFETY STEPS FOR REFINERY**
- **TGI COORDINATORS: OLD AND NEW**
- **KENOVANS HOLD WORKSHOPS**
- **WHAT THE PAPER INDUSTRY IS DOING TO NATIONAL FORESTS**
- **REPUBLICANS TRY TO WEAKEN ENVIRO PROTECTION**

**OHIO VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION
1101 6th Ave. Rm 225
Huntington WV 25701**

**PO Box 970
Proctorville OH 45669**