

August-September, 1995

"E"-NOTES
 THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
**OHIO VALLEY
 ENVIRONMENTAL
 COALITION**
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 Ph: 304-522-0246 Fax: 304-523-6051

"THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ECUMENICAL EVENT I'VE SEEN IN CHARLESTON"

That's how one minister described the August 1st meeting held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Charleston, WV. The program "For the Beauty of the Earth--the Scriptural Basis for the Stewardship of our World", grew out of OVEC's series of Candlelight Vigils on Governor Caperton's lawn. At these mass gatherings to protest the Governor's strong support of the ecologically destructive plans for the mammoth Apple Grove pulp mill, clergy and

lay church leaders spoke about the need to protect God's Creation. New friendships developed as people of faith who met at the vigils continued to meet in small groups to explore possibilities for working toward more religious involvement in our region's pressing environmental concerns. The large August 1st ecumenical meeting drew about 60 people, most who are new to environmental issues.

Please turn to page 5 (after the insert)

TRI STATE GEOGRAPHIC INITIATIVE NEWS

The Tri State Geographic Initiative (TGI) was begun in 1993 by US EPA and environmental agencies in Kentucky, Ohio and West Virginia. This groundbreaking effort to prevent and reduce pollution in our tri state Ohio River valley was a response to numerous and persistent pollution complaints by OVEC members and other citizens. US EPA chemical engineer Brian Holtzclaw was sent here to coordinate the project.

There are 42 polluting industries in our six county region. Three different US EPA Regions

have jurisdiction here in the Tri State. At OVEC's insistence, Holtzclaw and many other government regulators met frequently with citizens concerned about pollution. Holtzclaw examined existing pollution data, carefully gathered more information, and in late 1994 he issued several reports which documented serious problems at Ashland Inc.'s Kentucky refinery, and also provided strong evidence that Kenova, WV area residents face the highest pollution related health risks in our three state region.

Please turn to page 5 (after insert)

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

PULP MILL'S BACK-ROOM SCHEMES UP IN SMOKE?

Lewis Baker, OVEC Board Chair

WV Division of Environmental Protection's Director Eli McCoy has been blowing some amusing smoke rings. First he blew for us "there's Zero dioxin in the Ohio River", even though the fish there are heavily contaminated with it. Lately he has puffed out "Zero dioxin from the pulp mill," even though he won't require the mill to use a dioxin-free technology. He should kick the habit, because in the end a pulp mill will not be built at Apple Grove, at least not the one hatched in smoky back-room deals.

Dioxin alone isn't its only fatal flaw, the foul scheme for that mill has many others. The company has refused to guarantee the mill's jobs will be for West Virginians, even though they wanted us to heavily subsidize the thing. Being the largest mill in North America, its 10,000 tree-a-day appetite would have denuded our forests. Without the forests, our hillside soils would have eroded into our streams, and flooding would have become much worse. The mill's own flood of wastewater would have turned the Ohio River into an open sewer. No more hunting, fishing, or tourism. Hundreds of logging trucks a day would have endangered us as they raced along narrow, winding roads. Property values would have been driven down and some of us would have been literally run over by the juggernaut.

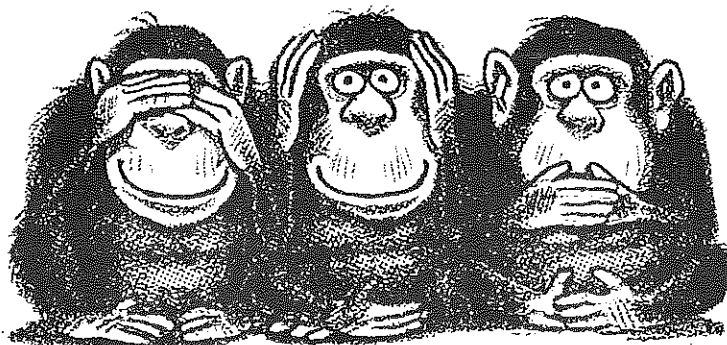
This is not all. The Moore/Caperton administration's back-room scheming for this mill also included hundreds of millions of our tax dollars in various forms of corporate welfare. All our economic development nest eggs were being placed into an out-of-state corporate basket. Hardly a red cent was to be left for small and medium sized, home-grown businesses. You don't have to be a fiscal conservative to be angry about this.

Lest I be dismissed as a whining extremist with nothing positive to say, as a taxpaying Mountaineer I positively demand that my public servants open their doors and files to us. The Office of Economic Development positively should welcome public consensus first on what kind of Jobs and Future we want for our Children, then invest in a diversity of home-grown enterprises that will get us there.

Perhaps, we would even find consensus on a home-grown pulp mill. If so, my suggestions are: employ West Virginians first and foremost; totally chlorine-free (therefore truly dioxin free); 50% or more recycled and/or non-tree fibers; scaled to fit our resources and infrastructure; supported by a state government that buys the mill's products rather than gives it the store; fully compatible with a healthy environment, property values, and tourism; preserves our highways and public safety by making use of barges and rails more than bridges and roads.

No more secret deals. No more smoke screens. How about it folks, economic development as if West Virginia really mattered?

GOVERNOR CAPERTON'S APPOINTEE'S GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON DIOXIN:



INDUSTRY UPSETS AND UPSET INDUSTRY

On June 13, Ashland Inc.'s Catlettsburg, Kentucky refinery had a major upset. OVEC member Pat Davis says she saw "a giant black mushroom cloud come up from the refinery". Kentucky air regulators said that people as far away as Chesapeake, Ohio called their office after seeing the glow from the refinery!

On the evening TV news, an Ashland spokesperson made the absurd claim that human health would not be harmed from this accident. Ashland spokespersons should have first spoken to refinery neighbors who suffered severe throat irritations and respiratory problems.

When OVEC staff asked for a copy of the surveillance videos of this obvious violation, we were told by the KY Division for Air Quality that the video camera which is normally trained

on that particular flare had not been in operation for several months. The camera that should pan the refinery had a malfunction and did not film the episode either. Virtually nothing from this incident was caught on videotape!! OVEC staff then looked through the recent Ashland files, and found new violation notices for earlier emissions upsets. We requested the corresponding videotapes. Ashland Inc. attorneys then attempted (unsuccessfully) to prevent us from seeing these video tapes. If Ashland executives are not pleased with the public scrutiny, they have only themselves to blame; after all, if the refinery did not have perpetual pollution upsets with few major corrective efforts, there would be no need for the video monitoring system.

ASHLAND VIDEO CAMERA UPDATE

In April, 1994, Ashland's KY refinery became the first US industry to have 24 hour a day video surveillance of their emissions, to allow government regulators to constantly monitor the problem plagued plant. This system was installed thanks largely to Kenova residents like Barbara Christian and Diana Bowen who doggedly videotaped refinery upsets at all hours of the day and night for years. Kentucky regulators demanded that Ashland pay for this surveillance system after the company repeatedly denied having the violations that residents filmed.

At the time of this writing, none of the six Ashland video cameras are working properly! After problems with the monitoring system's contracting company, a new company has recently taken over the maintenance contract. This change caused further delays of the necessary repairs, as Ashland had numerous stipulations for the new company before allowing them on the refinery's premises. If Ashland has no further demands (delays?) for this company, camera repairs should begin soon.

THANKS TO OUR DONORS!

Many thanks to everyone who has recently contributed to OVEC. Whether you gave \$5 or \$100, please know that your generosity is warmly appreciated.

Thanks also to the private foundations and churches who have provided support for OVEC's 1995 work:

Commission on Religion in Appalachia (Tenn)
Appalachian Community Fund (Tennessee)
Public Welfare Foundation (Washington, DC)
C. S. Mott Foundation (Michigan)
Deer Creek Foundation (Missouri)

Schumann Foundation (New Jersey)
Ruth Mott Fund (Michigan)
Give to the Earth Foundation (Minnesota)
Finlandia Clean Water Fund (Virginia)

SHAMELESS APPEAL FOR HELP

OVEC's recent expenses have been greater than anticipated. We need more regional donations and fundraisers, and more volunteers. Foundation and church grants allow OVEC to fund three full time staff, and to carry out specific projects, but we depend heavily on regional support for our many expenses - phone, printing, travel, office rent etc.

Why should you send OVEC some of your hard earned money, or give up any free time to work with other OVEC folks? Because we need to protect the forested hills that we all love, we need to reduce the well documented pollution problems in the Ohio River Valley, and we need to prevent the planned further poisoning of our environment.

We're surrounded by some of the most beautiful wild lands left in the Eastern US. Our forested hills and mountains, running streams and abundant wildlife are a source of inspiration and joy to me. I cherish the pileated woodpeckers, the rufous sided tohees, and the kingfishers that I see near our home. I grieve that these birds are in decline nationwide, as the greed of multinational corporations destroys their habitats. That same greed is destroying our democracy, as corporations like the pulp giant Parsons and Whittemore "buy" more and more of our politicians.

Here in Central Appalachia, outside corporations have historically exploited the people, as well as the land. Raw greed brought King Coal to Appalachia, and ever since, corporate giants with dollar signs in their eyes have controlled too many of the region's politicians. Now that our forests have grown back after the massive clearcutting at the turn of the century, our government leaders are

planning to spend our tax dollars to welcome in King Pulp.

And to make the welcome even warmer, regulators say that it's fine for the new King to bring in heavily polluting technologies that are being outlawed elsewhere. Dioxin is just the tip of the iceberg.

We're asking for your help because it's time to draw a line in the sand. It's time to say no to more economic development that develops the bank accounts of (mostly outside) rich people, while leaving those of us who live here more impoverished, and destroying the habitats of the increasingly threatened birds and animals who live here too. It's time for the residents of this region to democratically call the shots.

OVEC is making a difference! Over the past nine months we've organized four candlelight vigils on Governor Caperton's lawn, as well as two other large, public demonstrations of opposition to "our" government's plans for King Pulp. Hundreds of people participated in these actions. Many people are feeling more empowered and less inclined to silently accept more abuse of their rights.

Some good lawyers have been donating time to OVEC to legally appeal WV's water permit for the Apple Grove pulp mill. As a result, a legal stay was imposed on the permit. OVEC has also filed a lawsuit against US EPA. We're gumming up the process, slowing it down, and organizing more people to demand economic development that safeguards our environment and benefits our region.

We need your help to continue this crucial work. Can you send a contribution, and/or volunteer some time? - Dianne Bady

Send your nominations for additional OVEC board members to Lewis Baker, Board Chair, addressed to the OVEC office. New board members will be elected at the November annual membership meeting.

MAKING ROADS SAFE

West Virginians For Safe Roads and Bridges (Safe Roads) is a non-profit coalition of organizations (including OVEC), big business interests, labor groups and others who have organized to reduce the number of injuries and deaths caused by truck crashes on West Virginia highways. Coal companies want to increase the legal truck weight limits. Such increases result in well-documented increases in truck crash fatality rates, and costly damages to roads and bridges. Safe Roads is asking for your help in preventing an increase in the maximum allowable truck weight in West Virginia.

A 19-mile stretch of land from Orgas (Boone County) to Chelyan (Kanawha County) is privately owned by coal interests. Those coal interests have agreed to deed a right-of-way to the state for a public road if the WV Legislature

Ecumenical Event (from page 1)

The energy at the meeting was fantastic. Reverend David Green, an Episcopal priest, spoke on the scriptural mandate for stewardship of the earth and the need for society to view pollution not as a technical problem but rather as a moral problem. Methodist minister Jeff Allen told the audience of his trials and tribulations with his congregation as he tried to guide them through the McDowall Co. mega-landfill battle three years ago. West Virginia Environmental Council Board member Pam Nixon challenged the Church to consider the human factor when looking at environmental issues. She told of environmental racism in the siting of polluting

TGI (from page 1)

Shortly afterward, Holtzclaw was removed from the TGI and shipped back to the Atlanta EPA office against his will. This action by Kentucky and US EPA angered not only OVEC members and friends, but also mobilized environmental justice activists throughout the South, who saw this as another instance of US EPA refusing to protect a lower income community from well documented chemical

will increase the weight allowed on that road from 80,000 pounds to 100,000 pounds (or will they ultimately ask for more?). Taxpayers would foot the bill for a road that would primarily be built to haul coal. As a public road, cars and school buses would also use the road, sharing a perilous adventure with extremely heavy, slow, dangerous trucks.

What can you do? Write to your state delegates and senator, tell them you want safe roads, not taxpayer dollars going to subsidize the coal industry! If you'd like, send a copy to: Safe Roads, P.O. Box 1223, Huntington, WV 25714. Call Kim Baker with Safe Roads if you're not sure of your district, would like more information, or are interested in getting a Kentucky Safe Roads group started (304) 697-1302.

facilities. Alan Johnson, representing the evangelical group Green Cross, discussed the growing national environmental stewardship movement within the religious community.

The evening concluded with a lively discussion on "What's the church to do?"

Another open meeting is planned for 7PM on Sept. 26, at St. Lukes Episcopal Church in Charleston. Ideas will be solicited and discussed regarding the possibilities for more faith based environmental education and work here. Bring your ideas and your enthusiasm! All are welcome! For more information, call Dianne Bady (614) 886-5796, or Rev. David Green (304) 342-3272.

hazards. OVEC and four other organizations have been granted legal intervenor status in Holtzclaw's whistleblower lawsuit against Kentucky and US EPA. The other intervenors are the South-wide Southern Organizing Committee for Economic and Social Justice (based in Atlanta), and two Western KY groups, the Justice Resource Center and the Coalition for Health Concern.

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(TGI-continued)

In spite of the delay caused by Holtzclaw's reassignment, progress is being made.

AIR MONITORING

TGI regulators have accepted Holtzclaw's findings that the Kenova WV area faces the greatest regional pollution threats. Rather than distribute the new toxic air monitors all over the tri state, they decided to focus the monitoring there. Four new types of monitoring will take place at each of six fixed stations and at one mobile site. The mobile site will automatically take a sample when it detects high pollution. OVEC has been adamant that the project have this capability. Also, as a result of OVEC pressure, hand held air sampling containers will be available for use by local officials, and hopefully by trained Kenova OVEC members as well.

This new monitoring project is not only expensive and innovative, but it will be one of the first air toxics studies of this complexity done anywhere.

SURFACE WATER STUDY

The TGI is also planning to examine pollution in the Ohio River from the Gallipolis Locks to the Greenup Locks. This includes identifying pollution sources, and the extent of contamination from toxins, including dioxins and PCBs, and bacteria.

Fish will be sampled from the Greenup Locks, the Big Sandy River, and the Gallipolis Dam. If dioxin is found in the fish, sediment samples may be collected. (EPA already found extremely high levels of dioxin in Ohio River fish this July; see Pulp mill insert for more)

Kentucky has proposed that the Ohio River Sanitation Commission begin the pollution source study in the Tri-State as part of a Pollution Reduction Program. How will dioxin pollution be reduced if West Virginia issues permits allowing chlorine based bleaching at the proposed largest pulp mill in North America at Apple Grove, West Virginia?

POLLUTION PREVENTION

OVEC representatives on the TGI's Citizen Advisory Committee have stressed the need to prevent pollution at the source. A team of experts from each of our three states is designing a program to make suggestions on how regional industries can modernize equipment and processes to prevent pollution. A public relations campaign will be used to encourage and reinforce responsible industry improvements, and a public seminar involving the governors of the three states is being planned.

HOLTZCLAW WHISTLEBLOWER LAWSUIT

Former TGI coordinator Brian Holtzclaw publicly focused attention on continuing pollution problems at Ashland's KY refinery. He emphasized the growing problem of environmental injustice. Low income and minority communities bear the brunt of toxic exposures, and Kenova WV is a good example.

In July, Kentucky attorneys requested a meeting between Holtzclaw, his attorney, and representatives of OVEC and the other legal intervenors in Holtzclaw's whistleblower case. At this July 24 meeting, the intervenors presented our individual and joint concerns about Holtzclaw's forced removal. Attorneys for US EPA and KY listened to the intervenors' requests with frequent defensive and even derogatory interjections.

When it came time to discuss actual settlement terms, OVEC and the other intervenors were shut out of the process! By the end of an extremely long day, the lawyers announced that no settlement could be reached. The original court hearing was set for July 31, but at KY's request it was rescheduled to late September.

Whatever their intentions may have been, KY and US EPA must now realize the commitment our groups share in working together for environmental justice.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER!

Sept. 8-10

Seventh Annual West Virginia Environmental Council meeting at Bluestone Conference Center, outside of Hinton, WV. For more information, call 304-346-5891.

Sept. 11

OVEC meeting to finalize plans for "Pulpstock", 7:00 p.m. at the OVEC office located at 1101 Sixth Avenue, Huntington, WV. For more information contact Laura or Janet at 304-522-0246.

Sept. 17

Come to Pulpstock! OVEC benefit concert in Huntington, WV's Ritter Park Amphitheater! Great music! Former EPA administrator Peter Kostmayer's "coming out" party! (see back cover of newsletter for details).

Sept. 26

Ecumenical meeting regarding stewardship of the environment, 7PM, St. Lukes Episcopal Church, Charleston, WV. For more information call Janet or Laura at 304-522-0246 or Norm at 304-346-5891.

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: _____

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Name _____

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Phone # _____

For more info call the OVEC office (304) 522-0246
PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE IF WE'RE NOT IN
OR, WRITE TO OVEC AT: 1101 6TH AVE. RM 225, HUNTINGTON WV 25701

OVEC NEWSLETTER FOR Aug./Sept. 1995

Come to "Pulpstock"!!

\$5 Adults

STOP THE PULP MILL! BENEFIT CONCERT

with special guest speaker,
Peter Kostmayer, former US EPA Chief,
fired because of his outspoken concern for
West Virginia's environment

Andy Mahler, Director Brock Evans
HEARTWOOD National Audubon

\$3 Students

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17
HUNTINGTON, WV'S, RITTER PARK AMPHITHEATER
3:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.

MUSIC BY-- JULIE & THE RHINO BOYS PARAPHERNALIA
FUZZ BUCKET THE RON SOWELL BAND
CRAZY JANE KODAC HARRISON

All proceeds from the concert will go towards the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition's efforts to stop Apple Grove Pulp & Paper from poisoning our region's air & water and clear-cutting the region's hardwood forests. For more information call OVEC at 304-522-0246. From Charleston, take Hal Greer Blvd. Exit. Take left at first light. Follow Enslow Blvd. to Ritter Park. Turn left at tennis courts. Amphitheater is at the top of the hill on the right. Rain location: Slider's Club & Restaurant, 2127 Manchester Avenue, Huntington, WV, one block south of Third Avenue. Turn right at 21st Street.

OHIO VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION

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Proctorville OH 45669

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OVEC

Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition

1101 Sixth Avenue, Rm. 225
Huntington, WV 25701

PRESTO! CHANGO! DIOXIN MAGIC FROM WEST VIRGINIA DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION!

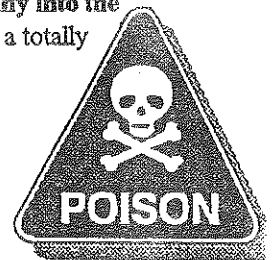
During an August 17th appeal hearing before the West Virginia Environmental Quality Board regarding the water pollution permit for the proposed Apple Grove, WV, pulp and paper mill, West Virginia's Division of Environmental Protection (DEP) announced that the mill would not be allowed to discharge any dioxin into the Ohio River. This announcement came on the heels of a U.S. EPA study that indicates **there is already too much dioxin in the fish and the Ohio River**. While modifying the numbers on the permit is a legal victory for OVEC, **the dioxin issue is far from being resolved.**

The mill, if built as currently designed, would use a chlorine-based bleaching process that produces dioxin, chloroform and other organochlorine compounds that would pollute the air, land, and water. Dioxins, a family of highly toxic chlorine compounds, are formed at pulp mills during the bleaching phase when chlorine or chlorine-dioxide comes in contact with organic compounds in wood pulp, when heated.

Dr. Rudra P. Singh, president and Chief Executive Officer of Emerging Technology Transfer, Inc., and former head of Scott Paper Co.'s bleaching technology, indicated in an industry publication that chlorine-free technology has been in existence for 20-30 years (*Pulp and Paper*, March 1993, pp.49-52). **It doesn't make sense to build a dioxin-producing mill when a safer, chlorine-free technology is being used at over 60 mills worldwide.**

When questioned about the change in the water permit, Dr. Eli McCoy, the chief of DEP said that zero discharge for dioxin in the permit would mean "**non-detectable.**" Current water detection limits allow dioxin to be present at levels many times higher than the state's standards for the Ohio River. Parsons & Whittemore, the parent company of the mill, has tried since 1989 to change West Virginia's water quality standards for dioxin one way or another to make it easier to meet the standards. Now all of the sudden, people are supposed to believe that this mill won't emit dioxin at all. **If the mill is built as planned, DEP will pretend the mill is not discharging any into the environment.** OVEC believes that DEP should not issue a water permit unless the company changes to a totally chlorine-free bleaching process.

DANGERS POSED BY DIOXIN



The US Environmental Protection Agency's massive review of dioxin research concluded that **there is no safe level of dioxin.** Industrial air emissions are the most common route of exposure. Dioxin enters the food chain when dioxin air emissions fall on land, plants or water. People and animals feeding on the plants or eating fish which live in dioxin-contaminated streams, accumulate dioxin in their fat tissues.

The EPA dioxin review concluded that even the most minute quantities of dioxin can cause cancer, endometriosis, birth defects, weakened immune systems, and a host of other health problems. A study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* (February, 1995), concluded that a marked decline in sperm counts among fertile men for the past 20 years, as well as an increase in testicular cancer and undescended testicles, could be linked to environmental toxins like dioxin. Dr. Barry Commoner, said at the Second Citizen's Conference on Dioxin in St. Louis Missouri (July 1994), that **dioxin and dioxin like substances "represent the most perilous threat to the health and biological integrity of people and the environment."**



DON'T EAT THE FISH—WE TOLD YOU SO!

In October, 1994, OVEC began pressuring the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Region III, EPA) to conduct dioxin tests on Ohio River fish. A study published by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from the Elkins, WV field office in 1993, had indicated that dioxin in fish tissue was already excessive. Peter Kostmayer, who was the Director of Region III EPA, objected to the mill's water permit and agreed that additional testing should be done. EPA began collecting fish from the Ohio River in December, 1994.

When Governor Gaston Caperton, a major supporter for the mill, and Senators Rockefeller and Byrd complained to Kostmayer's boss in Washington, D.C., Kostmayer was fired. (Kostmayer's agency had also expressed objections to the proposed billion dollar pork barrel Corridor H super highway.) Prior to Kostmayer's firing, EPA withdrew its objections to the water permit for the mill and proposed a joint, two year dioxin study be conducted on the Ohio River. Kostmayer's blatant political firing will have a chilling effect on any environmental regulator who tries to do his/her job.

After Kostmayer's firing, OVEC believed that EPA would not analyze the fish that they had collected at Apple Grove. But a surprise EPA report released in July, 1995, confirmed what OVEC has been saying about dioxin in the Ohio River. **Fish sampled in the Ohio River near the proposed pulp mill site contained more than 4 times more dioxin than the legally acceptable level.** West Virginia's standard for dioxin in fish tissue which assumes a person would eat no more than one pound of fish from the river per year is 6.4 parts per trillion (ppt). One sample made from five fish fillets at Apple Grove was contaminated with 26.4 ppt dioxin!

Nevertheless, the US EPA and DEP have refused to revoke the water permit from Parsons & Whittmore, Inc., (P&W) the multi-national, New York-based parent company of the mill. Both agencies claim that the amount of dioxin that could be emitted from what would be **North America's largest pulp and paper mill** would be insignificant! Common sense tells us otherwise.

WHAT'S AT STAKE IN THE FORESTS?



More species of trees are found in our region's hardwood forests than most other hardwood forests in the world. West Virginia's forests are still recovering from the destructive clear-cutting of trees about 80 years ago. What will happen to the forests and its wild creatures if a massive pulp and paper mill comes to the Ohio Valley? Will the many species of slow-growing, valuable hardwood trees be replaced with rapidly growing pine plantations where trees are harvested every 20-30 years?

According to industry estimates, in the first phase of construction, **the mill would devour more than 2 million tons of tree fiber per year, as many as 10,000 trees per day—7 trees killed every minute—within a proposed 75 mile radius of the mill.** This tree-cutting radius will include sections of the Wayne National Forest in Ohio and the Daniel Boone National Forest in Kentucky. When the mill is running full blast, it will produce over 4000 tons of pulp and paper per day. The mill would operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 52 weeks a year.

While the company says it would not own nor cut any forest land, it would buy trees from private landowners who would contract with private logging companies. How long would it be before the company would need to procure trees from our public lands, even West Virginia's beloved Monongahela National Forest? How would current lumber yards or small sawmill owners compete with the buying power of this monster? Could locally owned and controlled mills be forced to close, putting more people out of work?

Of great concern is the devastating impacts of clear-cutting, the pulp industries preferred method for cutting trees. West Virginia's timber regulations are very weak. But more disturbing, these laws are poorly enforced due to under-funding and under-staffing of the Division of Forestry. **Clear-cutting destroys topsoil and causes soil erosion; poor forestry practices causes streams to fill with sediment, killing fish and other aquatic life.** What will happen to West Virginia's wildlife when their forest homes are destroyed? Many animals and birds, like black bears and pileated woodpeckers, need large tracts of unbroken forests to survive.

Many other questions about this ludicrous proposal remain unanswered. How might the lucrative business of hunting and fishing be affected by deforestation? What will happen to West Virginia's thriving tourist industry? How safe will narrow WV Route 2 and other regional roads be with an increase of 450 trucks per day going in and out of the proposed mill? **Governor Caperton and other politicians are placing the interest of an outside, wealthy, family-owned corporation before the health of our citizens and environment.**

WHO WILL PAY ? WHY ALL THE SECRECY, GOVERNOR?

Developers for the mill have requested \$200 million in loans from West Virginia to help finance the \$1.1 billion facility. In addition, **the state could give P&W up to \$540 million in tax credits and exemptions from property tax** and over \$500 million in road and bridge improvements (according to a study by the West Virginia Division of Highways, 1991). This information came to light in early March, after Ken Ward, a staff writer for the *Charleston-Gazette* (Charleston, WV), obtained previously undisclosed government records under the Freedom of Information Act.

The *Gazette* sued the West Virginia Development Office in May to obtain correspondence and other information about financial deals that the state has made with P&W. In a July hearing, circuit Judge Canady of Kanawha County told the Development Office to turn over the withheld documents (around 1000 pages) for a review by a court-appointed attorney who would recommend to the judge which documents should be made public.

In mid-August, by contrast, but in keeping with the secrecy surrounding the back room deals made by the administration, Governor Caperton's office ordered DEP NOT to release information to the *Gazette* that the DEP had already given to others! The Caperton administration maintains that discussions of tax breaks and other economic incentives should not be made public until after deals with companies are final. This kind of anti-democratic thinking and behavior is what led to the exploitation of West Virginia's coal and timber resources, as well as its people, at the turn of the century.

WHO IS PARSONS & WHITTEMORE?



P&W is the largest builder of pulp and paper mills in the world. This \$750 million multi-national corporation specializes in designing, engineering, and constructing pulp mills worldwide. The company owns its a construction firm and boasts its non-union status. P&W will not consent to hiring a single West Virginian. The stock of the company is privately held by the Landegger family, one of the wealthiest families in North America. Representatives of the company have repeatedly refused to meet with citizens who oppose the construction of the mill and have frequently refused with reporters. How can we expect this company to treat West Virginia's environment or citizens with respect when they neither talk to us nor show common courtesy?

OVEC SUES THE EPA

Under a provision of the Clean Water Act, OVEC, the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy and some private citizens filed suit against the US EPA in mid-July. The EPA has failed to force West Virginia DEP to set up water quality standards which limit the amounts of various pollutants that can be discharged into waterways. If a river or stream already contains more of a pollutant, such as dioxin, than allowed by the water quality standards, the state and federal government cannot allow more to be discharged. The state is required by law to have a plan to reduce excessive levels before they can permit anymore to be discharged. **The state has no plan for reducing dioxin—they say they have a "plan to plan."**

PERMIT STATUS

DEP has issued the landfill and water pollution permits for the mill. The water permit is being appealed to the West Virginia Environmental Quality Board by OVEC and others. As a result, the appeal board imposed a legal stay on the permit. Another appeal hearing is scheduled for late September.

The air permit may be ready at anytime. The Division of Air will allow a measly 30 day comment period. **There are no state or federal standards for air emissions of dioxin.** P&W has not yet provided information to state air regulators about what will be contained in the sludge to be burned at an on-site incinerator. A study recently conducted by Dr. Barry Commoner, a scientist and environmentalist, concluded that dioxin released into the air could spread contamination more than 1,000 miles from its source (*Sunday Gazette-Mail*, May 21, 1995).

Once the air permit is ready for review, a public hearing will be conducted. **Pulp mill opponents need to fill the room to over-flowing!** OVEC will keep you posted.



WHAT YOU CAN DO NOW!

Write or call one or more of the people listed below. Here are suggestions for comments:

* Tell them you oppose the Parsons & Whittemore project. The company will use our water and our trees for private profit. What WV gets in return is poisoned air, land and water, clear-cut forests and no commitment for hiring a single West Virginian to construct or operate the mill.

* Instead of spending millions of WV's taxpayers' dollars to subsidize the profits of an already rich, outside corporation, state development funding should invest in West Virginia! Funds should be used to develop smaller, environmentally sound, community-based businesses. Diversified economies provide greater, long-term stability for working citizens.

* The anti-democratic processes that have surrounded this issue are appalling. West Virginia's future should be determined by its citizens, not by giant, wealthy corporations which contribute heavily to political campaigns.

* West Virginia, like neighboring Kentucky, should look into the possibility of using alternative fiber sources for making paper, instead of cutting our valuable hardwood forests. Alternative fiber sources, such as kenaf, can produce more fiber per acre year after year.

* Let politicians know that supporting the current P&W proposal will be a political liability.

* Tell George Landegger that since his family is already one of the wealthiest families in America, West Virginians do not want to provide them with more corporate welfare at our expense. P&W is not welcome here!

Gaston Caperton, Governor
Capitol Complex
Charleston, WV 25305
304-558-2000

Honorable Jay Rockefeller
US Senate Office
109 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-6472

Mr. George F. Landegger
Parsons & Whittemore, Inc.
4 International Drive
Rye Brooke, NY 10573
914-937-9009

W. Michael McCabe, Administrator
US EPA, Region III
841 Chestnut Bldg.
Philadelphia, PA 19107-4431
215-597-9814

ANOTHER IMPORTANT THING FOR YOU TO DO

OVEC is in serious need of donations from individuals and/or organizations to continue our pulp mill work. Our recent expenses have exceeded our budget. While staff salaries are largely funded by foundation and church funders, many other project costs must be funded through private donations and fundraisers. Your tax-deductible contribution or fund-raising help is very badly needed now. Donations should be sent to: **OVEC, 1101 Sixth Ave., Rm. 225, Huntington, WV 25701. For more information about OVEC or the pulp mill, contact Janet or Laura at 304-522-0246. OVEC's fax number is 304-523-6051.**

