



CACC Clearinghouse Newsletter

*Citizens for Alternatives to Chemical Contamination
8735 Maple Grove Road - Lake, MI 48632-9511
phone 989-544-3318*

Working to Protect Our Environment Since 1978

*Member of Great Lakes United, the Michigan Environmental Council,
Michigan United Conservation Clubs, Michigan Energy Reform Coalition,
the National Citizens' Network on Oil and Gas Wastes,
and EarthShare of Michigan.*

**Volume 27. Issue 2
March/April 2005**

The Future of the Earth Is In Our Hands

Man files appeal over Mason Tract decision

By *SHERI MCWHIRTER*
Record-Eagle staff writer

February 19, 2005

GRAYLING - Scott Lowe doesn't mind if someone wants to drill for oil and gas, just as long as it's not next to the Mason Tract along the AuSable River in Crawford County.

Lowe, a real estate broker and appraiser from Traverse City, filed an appeal with the U.S. Forest Service and objects to the agency's approval this month of a drilling plan.

"I feel that a test well and compression station in close proximity to the Mason Tract would be offensive," Lowe said.

For eight years he worked for the Forest Service and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, with another three years spent with an oil and gas exploration company.

"I've been on both sides of this. I'm not against oil and gas exploration and production. I just think you should be sensitive about where it's done," Lowe said.

The Forest Service determined the drilling would have no significant impact on the area, nor would it pollute the AuSable, deemed one of the nation's best, most pristine trout fisheries. The federal government owns the rights to subsurface minerals there, which were leased to Savoy Exploration of Traverse City in the 1990s.

The company plans to slant drill beneath the Mason Tract from a nearby location on federal land. The company would install a pipeline and production facility if gas is found, and if profitable, Savoy could request permits to drill as many as three more wells.

The Mason Tract is a 5,300-acre stretch of forested land near Grayling, named for auto executive George Mason, who donated the original 1,200 acres to the state upon his death in 1954 and asked that it be maintained as wilderness.

Many local residents fear clear-cutting of vegetation to reach the well site, as well as the nuisance of noise and foul odors in the ecologically sensitive area.

Lance Weyeneth is a board member of Anglers of the AuSable, a nonprofit advocacy group designed to preserve the AuSable watershed. He said group members believe the Forest Service "skewed" the facts in their report.

Drilling likely would result in 20 years of wells, pumps and a production facility disturbing the Mason Tract area, he said.

"If it can be exploited here, it can be exploited anywhere. We have to draw a line in the sand," Weyeneth said.

The group contends natural gas could be collected from as far as two miles away, which would have no effect on the Mason Tract - a reason the group intends to appeal the service's decision. The Mackinac Chapter of the Sierra Club and the Michigan Council of Trout Unlimited also are preparing separate appeals.

Savoy officials declined to comment.

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management must issue a permit before the drilling can begin, but cannot do so until appeals are handled with the Forest Service.

Weyeneth said if the first appeal is unsuccessful, they would file more appeals with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. And if none of that works, a lawsuit may be in order, he said.

<http://trwnews.net/intro.htm>

Resident receives dioxin results but did not have blood drawn

Tittabawassee River Watch News Update-03/11/05

At last night's public meeting presented by the University of Michigan Dioxin Exposure Study CAP, a local resident announced he had received dioxin blood level results from the University last month.

The problem: he never had his blood drawn for the analysis.

If true, the University study has some serious flaws which taints the whole \$15 million Dow funded study. The U of M published extensive Quality Assurance protocols just before the meeting, almost 9 months after the study started. All the mumbo jumbo about Sample Handling, Chain of Custody, and System Audits are evidently not worth the paper they are printed on. Sound Science at it's finest!!

Also of interest: The study proposes to use residents of Jackson County as a control group for the Saginaw/Midland area. Levels of dioxin in Jackson County residents will be used to compare with local residents to determine if living by a Dow plant causes dioxin to be absorbed by their bodies. The problem: Jackson county is home of a waste incinerator with known dioxin output. The studies protocols provides very little information about the Jackson area topography and it's incinerator. Dr. Garabrant says residents who live in the plume of the Jackson incinerator may be included in the study.

Recent studies of residents downwind of an incinerator in New Zealand prove that their bodies absorbed the dioxin from the smoke plume.

It seems the study has been designed with a preconceived outcome. Jackson residents will most likely have higher levels of dioxin than found in the CDC studies of dioxin background levels in other areas of the country. In the final analysis, the U of M will conclude that local residents dioxin blood levels are similar to Jackson County and therefore no problem exists.

Eco Calendar

Tittabawassee River Watch Home Page
www.trwnews.net

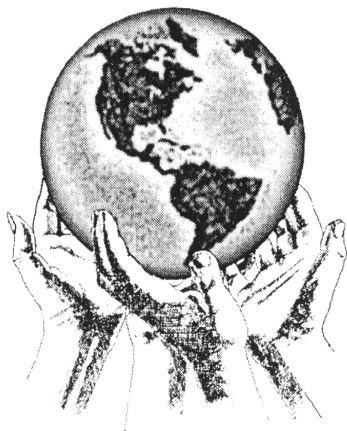
TRW / Lone Tree Meetings, 4th Monday of every month, 6:30 PM January through November, Thomas Township Library, 8207 Shields Dr, Thomas Township, Michigan 48603 (MAP on website)

Renewable Energy Conference
Saturday March 19, 2005
8:30 am - 4 pm
Hastings, Michigan

Cost: \$30 for Adults and \$15 for students.
Registration fee includes lunch.
For more information call Pierce Cedar Creek Institute at 269-721-4190,
More information and more seminars at Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association's website: www.glrea.org

April 16, 2005 Renewable Energy Introductory Seminars, GLREA Energy Center 257 S. Bridge St., Dimondale, MI 48821 For more information: Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association: www.glrea.org or 1.800.434.9788

Backyard ECO Conference 2005
"Planting the Seeds for a Better Future"
May 13, 14, 15 -Camp Neyati, Crooked Lake, Clare County MI -See:<http://caccmi.org/Conference.htm> for details.



Board Meeting Schedule

The membership of CACC and the general public are encouraged to attend meetings of the CACC Board of Directors.

The schedule for the next Board Meeting is as follows:

May 13, 2005-7:00pm at Camp Neyati
Please call our Chairperson,
Kay Cumbow at (810) 346-4513 or email
kcumbow@greatlakes.net for details.

CACC Newsletter in Choice of Formats - Print or Electronic Editions

For information on how to subscribe electronically to our newsletter or the Electronic Alerts list, please email cacceco@yahoo.com.

Our website can be reached at:
<http://caccmi.org/>

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Renewing?

Please consider becoming an Activist member and receive regular mailings of alerts in addition to the newsletter.

Please keep the CACC Clearinghouse Newsletter coming to my mailbox.

\$15 - \$25 Individual
 \$30 Family \$50 Activist
 \$250 Lifetime \$50 Organization

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Special Interests: _____

Contribution to CACC's Endowment \$ _____

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CACC
8735 Maple Grove Road
Lake, MI 48632-9511

All donations are tax deductible

CITIZENS FOR ALTERNATIVES TO CHEMICAL CONTAMINATION (CACC) is a grassroots environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the principles of social and environmental justice, pollution prevention, citizen empowerment, and protection of the great lakes ecosystem.

-Adopted January 14, 1996, by the CACC Board of Directors

CACC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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<clarksa78@hotmail.com>

Chapter Organizations

*Tri-County Residents for Alternatives to
Chemical Contamination (TRACC),
P.O. Box 337, Freeland, MI 48623*

*Huron Environmental Activists League
(HEAL), P.O. Box 302, Alpena, MI 49707*

*Citizens League for Environmental Action and
Responsibility (CLEAR),
P.O. Box 831, Cadillac, MI 49601*

*Alcona County Environmental Coalition
2387 Huffman Rd., Lincoln MI 48742*

Thanks to Our Contributors

Special thanks and welcome to new and renewing CACC members (partial list):
Sandra Smith, Diana Censoni, Andrew Delap, Gerald Crane, Pam Foster, Conni Ciangi-McGraw, Michelle Sidel, Rick Loftus, James McCreight, Shirley Decker, Beth Monteith and Gary Novak, Michele Farlin, Stephen Rohs, Sally Burns, Robert Pena, Daniel Christian, F.M. Vincent, Carol Thomas and Mabel Menadier, Tammy Averill, Michele Riddering, Dolores Wood, Jennifer Briere, Linda Olivieri, Lorinda Sheppard, Lucille Reeves, Ward Hodge, Randy and Becky Beaudry, Joyce Macrorie, Andrew Callis, Peter Beattie, William Petit.

CACC would like to extend a sincere welcome to all its members and the general public to submit their thoughts and feelings to:

CACC
8735 Maple Grove Rd.
Lake, MI 48632-9511

Editorials to:

CACC Editor
212 S. Leslie St.
Lansing, MI 48912
or email cacceco@yahoo.com

Please be aware that the CACC office will not be staffed regularly. Please address any urgent or emergency concerns to the Board Member nearest you, or our Chairperson, Kay Cumbow, at (810) 346-4513.



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