



# CACC News

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## Protect the Earth and Northwoods Allies Rally to Stop Metallic Sulfide Mining in the U.P.

CACC Director Victor McManemy  
at the Yellow Dog Plains



Photo Credit: Miriam Moeller, *The Mining Journal*

In August, Keepers of the Water, Yellowdog Summer and Students Against Sulfide Mining organized a Protect the Earth Summit on the shores of Gitchigaming, to bring people together in the vital work to protect our ecosystems and communities, and to share concerns regarding proposed metallic sulfide mining and uranium

See “*Protect the Earth*” page 3

## Family Corner

Lucia and Naomi Sibley, fraternal twin 7 year olds from Oxford, Michigan, arrange Sleeping Bear Dunes bounty into meaningful sculpture on a summer day.



Photo credit: David Sibley



Created by former CACC Administrator, Carey Pauquete-Schalm, Family Corner is a place to showcase artwork of our nieces, nephews, children grandchildren, and all the children in our lives - with the purpose to instill pride in our youth for Mother Earth and all she provides. To learn how to submit artwork, see “Family Corner” on our website: <http://www.caccmi.org/> or contact Gretchen Michaels at 248-628-7463.

## Report from HEAL - Huron Environmental Activist League CACC Chapter - Alpena, MI

Folks

On October 28, we had our public hearing on Lafarge's "Permit to Install" on burning plastic in their 5 kilns. I did not include *The Alpena News* articles on the hearing because it put this post over the size limit. The public hearing made front page two days in a row. As usual, there were a number of Lafarge employees in attendance. Only 4 or 5 of them spoke and their concern was the same: Don't jeopardize jobs, as Lafarge is a wonderful company to work for. - We are not anti - jobs, but the economy is down, especially building products and cement production. We have heard that the St. Mary's cement plant in Charlevoix has laid off a number of its workers for that reason. Tax abatements that Lafarge received require them to maintain the number of employees at 286. All sub-contractors' work for Lafarge is now being done by their own employees. Even secretaries in the offices work Fridays out in the yard. No unions at Lafarge, so employees know they have to get up and speak for Lafarge or they could be gone.

The so - called trial burn [of non-halogenated, chlorine - free plastics] continued on at a full burn without a permit - and as the MDEQ has said - at their own risk. The trial burn stack test was only for particulate matter and a couple of metals. There were no tests for mercury emissions. Those emissions were supposedly the reason Lafarge switched to plastic and wood chips. They were supposed to replace 30% of the [mercury-emitting] coal and coke used in the process. The plastic being burnt since October of 2007, was supposed to be non-halogenated chlorine - free plastic, stripped from recycled milk and juice cartons. There was about 150,000 tons or about a six month supply.

Lafarge found another source from Recycling Concepts and it is supposed to be new but damaged car parts. If those parts were injection - molded, then they could be contaminated with the release materials. Over 70% of molded plastic auto parts are made in China, with some from India and Pakistan. The quality and content are suspect because of where they are made. We feel that it leaves an opening for auto fluff which has already been denied, because of its high dioxin content. We do not want to be backdoored like we were with the Canadian fly ash.

Thanks especially to Alex Sagady for a great presentation and to CACC and others who sent letters supporting HEAL's position to the MDEQ.

### Happy Holidays to All!

Bill Freese, Director  
HEAL

As of 12-18-2008, MDEQ was still studying the burning of plastics at Lafarge and had made no decision regarding the permit. Meanwhile, Lafarge continues to burn plastics with no permit.

Since the burning of plastics was implemented by Lafarge, there have been reports of heavy dark yellow emissions, and noxious smells.

### 8 New, Dirty Coal Plants in Michigan?

<http://cleanenergynowmi.com>



Photo Credit: Dan Staudacher, *The Bay-City Times*

CACC joined Clean Energy Now's press conference in Bay City this fall - one of several urging the Governor to declare CO2 a global warming pollutant, to protect against an onslaught of new, unneeded, dirty coal plants.

### Coal/Nuclear Hearings in January

Energy-conscious Michigan citizens have their work cut out for them with applications for 8 proposed coal plants and one proposed nuclear plant in the offing. This has occurred in spite of a poor economy,

See "*Coal/Nuclear Hearings*" page 3

## Protect the Earth

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mining in the UP, which could devastate lands and waters there, forever.

Protect the Earth Summits sprang from Anishinaabe Nijiji - a movement of Native and Non-Native people dedicated to protecting the earth for the future generations to come. In Wisconsin, a wide coalition of Native and Non-Native people stopped a metallic sulfide mine at Crandon, and set a powerful example for others to follow.

Metallic sulfide mining creates acid mine drainage, and the damage, once done, is irreversible. Clean water is critical to healthy watersheds and life. To join in this important work or to learn more, contact Save the Wild Up at: <http://www.savethewildup.org/> To learn more about Protect the Earth, go to: <http://www.protecttheearth.org/>

The state has all but rolled over for the mining industries. It is now incumbent on Great Lakes residents to protect this precious area. Please help defend this pristine wilderness from the greed of a few big mining industries. We all bear responsibility for these irreplaceable Great Lakes waters.

## CACC Office to Get Energy MakeOver



*Photo credit: Kay Cumbow*

At the CACC Board of Director's Retreat this fall in Onekema, we decided it was time for CACC to spruce up our office and reduce our energy footprint. CACC's Home in Lake Station is a small frame building that sits on one acre - a much-appreciated gift from a local donor. Our office served CACC well for many years, with Ann Hunt as Executive Director, at the helm. With much of CACC's history and library stored here, we would, once again like to utilize this office more effectively. We decided the first step is an energy audit. Watch the newsletter for the next update, as we show step by step how to save energy and cut our CO2 footprint in an older building.

## Coal/Nuclear Hearings

*Continued from page 2*

decreasing electricity use, a mounting urgency to slow CO2 production, so as to reduce climate impact, and the environmental devastation from coal and uranium mining - both with a hefty carbon footprint. The fact is that energy efficiency and renewable energies such as wind and solar can create good-paying jobs, give us low- or no- carbon energy more quickly, more safely, with a lot less cost - and move us toward energy independence.

Comments are due January 6, on the proposed coal plant at Rogers City and a hearing will be held in Lansing that day at 1pm in the ConCon Conference Rooms, Atrium Level, Constitution Hall, 525 W. Allegan St., Lansing, Michigan.

Comments are due January 30, on the proposed Holland coal plant, and there are informational meetings and hearings scheduled January 13 and 14. Detailed information is available for the proposed coal plants in Rogers City and Holland at the MDEQ Calendar at <http://www.michigan.gov/deqcalendar/> or call 1-800-662-9278.

For a wealth of information on this issue, visit <http://cleanenergynowmi.com/> - You can also send in comments to the MDEQ at this site.

Two "Scoping Meetings" to determine issues for an EIS for a proposed Fermi 3 reactor will be held Jan. 14, at the Meyer Theater of the La-Z-Boy Center at Monroe County Community College, 1555 S. Raisinville Road. One meeting will run from 1 to 4 p.m. The second will run from 7 to 10 p.m. An hour-long open house with NRC staff will be held prior to the start of each meeting.

To register to give oral comments on the scope of the Fermi 3 environmental review, call (800) 368-5642, ext. 5163 or 6509, or email: [Fermi3.coleis@nrc.gov](mailto:Fermi3.coleis@nrc.gov) by 5 p.m. Jan. 6. Others may register to give comments at the meeting, but may not be able to if there is not enough time.

Written comments on the scope of the environmental review may be submitted by mail or e-mail no later than Feb. 9.

For details on critical review documents, meetings, timelines, etc., see: <http://fermi.homestead.com/>



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CACC is a Proud member of Earth Share of Michigan!

## The Great Lakes Health Banner

CACC is working with Families for Environmental Awareness to expand visibility of the Great Lakes Health Banner and our communities' environmental health concerns. Contributions toward this project are appreciated and are tax deductible under IRS rules. A contribution of \$12 or more will underwrite a square for the Banner. If your group is interested in creating a panel for the Banner, or would like to display part or all of the Banner, please see our website: <http://www.caccmi.org/> or call Gretchen Michaels at 248-628-7463.

*CACC*

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