

CACC



NEWS

The Future of the Earth is in our Hands

www.caccmi.org

Victory for Clean Air in Alpena

Bill Freese, Director, Huron Environmental Activist League (HEAL)

(Bill and his wife are spending the winter in Florida, where he says it is not always so sunny and warm!)

As of November 2013, the Lafarge Cement Company in Alpena is reportedly (and at long last) complying with the Clean Air Act, as outlined in a consent agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The consent agreement included a \$5 million dollar fine and a requirement for installation of scrubbers to reduce emissions. As a result, Lafarge now has a new emissions stack with wet and dry scrubbers and new pollution control equipment, which is supposed to reduce emissions by 90%.

We are still waiting for the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C. to rule on even stricter clean air provisions, stemming from a lawsuit by Earthjustice, HEAL, Sierra Club and other environmental groups. The lawsuit was filed to enforce a September 2013 deadline for new air quality controls for the cement industry under the Clean Air Act.

Drilling Turned Down in Rochester

Nancy McDermott, CACC Member and City of Rochester resident

Last fall, Traverse City-based companies Jordan Development and West Bay Exploration approached the Rochester City Council to enter into an agreement to lease the mineral rights of city-owned property. If approved, the companies would drill under the land and pay the city royalties for any oil or gas found. The development companies pointed out that they had no intention of “fracking,” and that “horizontal drilling” would be used, with wells drilled laterally, then vertically, to a maximum of 5,000 feet.



*Photo caption/
credit:
Nancy McDermott*

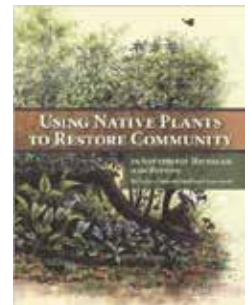
The City Council held a hearing in November for residents to weigh in on the matter. Vocal citizens opposed leasing the mineral rights on public land, and, due to the negative reaction, the development companies withdrew

their leasing proposal – a first for development companies since they have pursued mineral rights in Oakland County beginning in late 2011.

Residents were mostly concerned about the possible repercussions (leakage and/or spillage) to the city’s many waterways and the safety of the ground water. Members of the City Council said they only entertained the proposal because of the possible revenue stream. The majority of the elected officials shared their viewpoint that if the residents weren’t behind it, they wouldn’t be either. The unfortunate side is that Jordan Development and West Bay Exploration have secured many lease agreements for privately-owned properties. The good news is that Rochester residents spoke loud and clear and the City Council listened; city-owned property is not available for drilling.

Editor’s Note

This is definitely a winter to remember! In my neck of the woods (West Michigan), we have had major highways closed on a regular basis, impassable rural roads, countless snow days for school kids, and piles and drifts of snow everywhere. In the midst of the cold, snow and daily shoveling, I try to remember winter is a good time for introspection. There is a reason for each of our seasons! Here are three things to do while snowed in. **1. Read some good books.** On my list is “Using Native Plants to Restore Community in Southwest Michigan and Beyond,” by Nancy Cutbirth Small and Tom Small, co-founders of the Kalamazoo area chapter of Wild Ones. See www.kalamazoowildones.org for information on how to obtain the book. **2. Plan your garden.** This quote by Josephine Nuese, author of “The Country Gardener,” says it best: “Anyone who thinks gardening begins in the spring and ends in the fall is missing the best part of the whole year; for gardening begins in January with the dream.” **3. Write for us!** Want to highlight an important environmental topic to CACC members? Drop us a line if you like to write and have a topic in mind.



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**The CACC NEWS is published
by Citizens for Alternatives
to Chemical Contamination
(CACC)**

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Editor: Tanya Cabala,
Great Lakes Consulting

Design: Angie De La Rosa

Printer: Leader Printing & Mailing

CACC is a proud member of Earth Share of Michigan, Michigan Environmental Council, and the Michigan Network for Children's Environmental Health.

The CACC Newsletter is printed on
30% post consumer use recycled paper.



The Sustainable Garden and Kitchen

This column celebrates healthy soil, seeds, and a local harvest. In a world wired for fast food and chemically treated fruits and vegetables brought in from fields afar, we honor the patient work of the gardener, the farmer and the imaginative cook.

This recipe comes from CACC director and chef, Connie Beauvais. Since 1978, Connie has been cooking professionally at delis, restaurants, and catering companies. She has also organized the menu and food for CACC's

"kitchen" at Wheatland for several years. Connie is the owner of "Lettuce-Duet," a personal chef and catering company.

Easy Jambalaya

Celebrating Mardi Gras? With this recipe, you can add the protein of your choice (smoked turkey, chicken, shrimp, crawfish, mussels, oysters, sausage, tofu, or tempeh). It is good with one item or several, and a good way to use leftover proteins.

Ingredients

1/4 cup olive oil
1 cup chopped onions
3 cloves garlic, minced
1 cup chopped or sliced celery
1 cup chopped green peppers
3 cups diced tomatoes
1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. black pepper
1 tsp. white pepper
1 tsp. thyme
1/8 tsp. or to taste cayenne
2 cups of cooked rice

Directions

Sauté onions, garlic, and celery in olive oil over medium heat for 10-15 minutes. Add green peppers, tomatoes, salt, black pepper, white pepper, thyme, and cayenne. Simmer on low for 20 minutes. Stir often. Sauté protein(s) in olive oil and add some of the tomato mixture. Serve over cooked rice. If you are going to bake the dish, cook to almost done. To bake, place rice around the edges of baking pan, pour tomato mixture in the middle, and top with protein. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes. This is a mild version of jambalaya. More "heat" can be added if desired.

Corn Bread

Great with Jambalaya or Chili!

Ingredients

2 tbs. honey
1/4 cup oil
2 eggs
3 cups milk
1/4 cup yogurt
3 cups corn meal
1 cup whole wheat pastry flour
2 tbs. baking powder
1 1/2 tsp. salt

Directions

Mix wet ingredients. 2-3 tablespoons (total) minced up jalapenos, other hot peppers, sweet peppers, onions, or garlic can be added. Mix quickly with the dry ingredients and place in a greased 9 x 11 pan. Bake at 425 degrees for 20-25 minutes.



Please check CACC's online calendar at:

www.caccmi.org

Nuclear News Update

Kay Cumbow, CACC Member

Coalition Continues Strong Opposition to New Fermi Reactor in Monroe

A coalition of groups, including Beyond Nuclear, Don't Waste Michigan, the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter, CACC and others continue efforts to stop construction and licensing of a new nuclear reactor, Fermi 3, in Monroe, Michigan. In January, the coalition made a major filing to the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB). The filing summarized serious quality assurance violations and concerns for the eastern fox snake, which has threatened status in Michigan. Many filings made by the coalition in the past several years have been rejected outright by the ASLB.



*Photo caption:
Arne Gundersen
Photo credit:
www.fairewinds.org*

The coalition's attorney is Terry Lodge, a trial lawyer with extensive experience opposing the nuclear industry. Expert witness for the coalition is Arne Gundersen, a nuclear engineer, and former nuclear industry executive. Gundersen is chief engineer for Fairewinds Energy Education, a nonprofit organization that provides education to the public about nuclear power and other energy issues.

Other Nuclear News

Citizens Pack Ohio Hearing on Nuclear Waste

In November 2013, close to 200 people testified at a hearing in Perrysburg, Ohio on the storage of lethal, long-lasting irradiated fuel onsite at U.S. nuclear reactors and possible alternatives. Many called for the immediate halt to the production of more radioactive reactor wastes, and called instead for increasing the use of energy conservation, efficiency and renewable energy. The hearing was one of several held nationwide.

Underground Dumpsite in Ontario—Speak Out This Spring

Opportunities are posted on CACC's website to take action to stop Ontario Power Generation's proposed deep underground dump by Lake Huron for radioactive wastes from the company's 20 Ontario reactors.

Trucking Liquid Radioactive Wastes Proposed—Say No

The U.S. Department of Energy is proposing to allow highly radioactive liquid wastes to be trucked from Chalk River, Canada to South Carolina (over 1,000 miles) in several shipments. No environmental impact statement has ever been done on transporting liquid high level nuclear waste. This would set a dangerous precedent, as liquid high level radioactive wastes have not been transported on U.S. roads before. It is also not necessary -- the wastes can be neutralized and stored in Canada. Details and links to a petition to stop this dangerous move can be found on CACC's Safe Energy webpage.

Note: For more information or for how to take action on the above items, please see www.caccmi.org for CACC's "Safe Energy in the Great Lakes" webpage.

A revised copy of the Great Lakes Nuclear Hot Spots Map has been included in this issue of CACC News. The map was originally produced by Irene Kock and the Nuclear Awareness Project in 1990/91. It was updated in 2013 through the efforts of Anna Tilman of the International Institute of Concern for Public Health and John Jackson, formerly of Great Lakes United.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

March 3 – Nov. 21. Organic Farmer Training Program. Visit <http://msuorganicfarm.org/organic-farmer-training-program> or contact the MSU Student Organic Farm at msufarm@msu.edu or 517-230-7987.

March 15. Sustainability Conference 2014. Sponsored by the Pierce Cedar Creek Institute. See www.cedarcreekinstitute.org for more information.

March 31. Deadline for the My Green School Art Contest for grades K-5. Contact Connie Lilley at Lilley@pmenv.com or 248-830-0476.

April 12. Embracing Our Earth festival. Bad Axe, MI. CACC will have a booth. Stop by for a visit! Details will be posted on CACC's ECO Calendar. Contact Kay Cumbow at kcumbow@greatlakes.net or 810-346-4513 to volunteer for CACC at this event.

September 5-7. Wheatland Music Festival. Save the date! Details on how to volunteer for CACC's Food Pavilion at the Wheatland Music Festival will be posted on our website and in the CACC News closer to the festival date.

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