

CACC



NEWS

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## Officials, Dow Must Protect Mid-Michigan Residents in Wake of Historic Flood

*Advocates release statement on need for action and transparency*

MICHIGAN, June 9, 2020 - In the wake of the recent historic flood in Mid-Michigan, state, federal and local authorities, and Dow Chemical Corporation must work with due diligence and transparency to protect the health of the residents, wildlife and the environment they rely on.

As representatives of regional and national environmental organizations, some of which have worked for decades to win a cleanup of the contaminated Tittabawassee River and Saginaw Bay region, we are deeply concerned about the health and well-being of the residents of Mid-Michigan as they confront a historic flood in the midst of a global pandemic. The Michigan Department of Environment Energy and the Great Lakes (EGLE) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must take action to transparently assess the damage and take aggressive action to address any threats.

Additionally, we are concerned about the broader environmental implications of this flood, and dangers that may be compounded by the state's laws, policies and lack of resources needed to manage threats in the context of a changing climate, legacy pollution, and as well severely weakened state and federal regulations.

As the floodwaters continue to recede, we urge extensive testing of the region. Results must be transparently reported to the public. Any samples taken by Dow Chemical should be split with regulatory agencies and tested at Dow's expense. We are encouraged by EGLE's testing to date and reported plans to do additional testing, but the flood was so extensive, and so much material was moved, that more

comprehensive testing is critical. Dow, the EPA and EGLE should:

- Conduct extensive sampling of any resuspended sediments throughout the region for relevant contaminants and remediate as necessary including residential and public park areas
- Conduct extensive sampling of the river, groundwater and private wells in the region for relevant contaminants and remediate as necessary
- Fish and wildlife testing for relevant contaminants should be expanded in areas where subsistence anglers and hunters rely on fish or game as an important food source. Additionally, appropriate communications and signage should be added where necessary
- Any impacts on wildlife as a result of the flooding of major wildlife refuges in the region should be evaluated, addressed and remediated as necessary
- The local community must be alerted immediately of any short or long-term health threats

The flooding in the Mid-Michigan region — in the state's largest watershed — jeopardized one of the most extensive cleanups in the country. The flooding of parts of the Dow complex, and the ongoing flooding throughout the Tittabawassee and Saginaw River watersheds has the potential to mobilize highly toxic chemicals in the water column and in deposited sediment.

*(Continued on page 3)*

**Wheatland 2020 Update:** The Wheatland Board has decided to cancel the Wheatland Festival this September 11-13, due to the Coronavirus. Wheatland draws over 12,000 people every year from all over the US and several other countries.

If you are one of our CACC Kitchen helpers, please keep in touch, keep your contact information up to date, and please plan to come back to Wheatland and the CACC Kitchen for 2021. We look forward to getting together then, cooking up some great food, listening to music and having some fun.

Until then, the CACC Board Members want to wish you a **HAPPY HEALTHY YEAR & A HAPPY WHEATLAND!**

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CACC is a proud member of Earth Share  
of Michigan, Michigan Environmental  
Council, and Beyond Nuclear.

## Summer Shortcake

*For a creative updated take on shortcake • Yields 8 servings*

### Shortcakes

4 cups all purpose flour  
½ cup sugar  
5 teaspoons baking powder  
1 teaspoon salt  
¾ cup cold, cubed butter  
4 large eggs  
1 ½ cup flaked coconut, TOASTED  
2 teaspoons vanilla extract  
1 cup finely chopped pecans, TOASTED  
8 pecan halves

### Strawberries

2 quarts strawberries, hulled and chopped  
1-2 Tbsp lime juice  
3-6 Tbsp sugar or honey

### Mascarpone Cream

1 cup heavy cream  
8 oz mascarpone cheese  
½ cup powdered sugar  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
½ teaspoon coconut extract

### DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Whisk together flour and next 3 ingredients in a large bowl. Cut in butter with a pastry blender until mixture resembles small peas.
2. Process toasted coconut in a food processor until finely chopped. Whisk together eggs, extracts, and 1 cup cream. Add egg mixture, chopped pecans, and toasted coconut to flour mixture and stir just until blended. Knead dough in bowl about 10 times, using lightly floured hands.
3. Turn dough out on a floured surface, and gently pat to a 1-inch thickness. Cut into 9 2.5-3 inch squares, reshaping dough once. Place shortcakes on a parchment paper-lined baking sheet, chill 15 minutes. Press 1 pecan half into each shortcake, brush with remaining 1 Tbsp. cream.. Sprinkle with sweetened flaked coconut. Bake at 400 degrees for 18 minutes or until golden brown. Cool on pan on wire rack 20 minutes.
5. Prepare strawberries: Stir together strawberries, lime juice, and 3 Tbsp sugar.
6. Mascarpone Cream: Gently stir together mascarpone cheese, powdered sugar, vanilla extract, and coconut extract in large bowl. Beat cream in a medium bowl at medium speed with electric mixer until stiff peaks form. Fold in mascarpone mixture. Serve immediately.
8. Assemble: Split shortcakes in half horizontally. Place each shortcake bottom in a dessert plate, top with about 1/3 cup strawberry mixture, Sweet Mascarpone Cream, and shortcake

**Corinne Carey**, fondly known as "Aunty Nuke", a beloved peace, justice and nuclear-free advocate and our dear friend, has walked on. With her welcoming smile and her video camera, Corinne was a lifelong educator and teacher, a citizen activist extraordinaire, who worked tirelessly for



*Photo credit Kathy Barnes.*

peace and justice worldwide. For decades, Corinne was a visible presence at CACC's Backyard Eco Conference and at our Annual Meetings. An active board member of Don't Waste Michigan and long-time CACC member, Corinne filmed, tabled, leafletted and spoke out at countless hearings, protests, conferences and walks for peace and justice. She wrote hundreds of letters to legislators and other elected officials, making the case for a sustainable world where all children could thrive. Her camera was an eye on the world for us.



Thank you, Corinne, for showing us just how much one person can do!

# Tell the NRC – No Deregulation of Radioactive Wastes!

By Kay Cumbow, CACC member

While our communities face daunting and unprecedented challenges with Covid-19, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is attempting to sneak in an “interpretive rule” to allow large amounts of nuclear waste to be renamed. These renamed wastes could then be transported to municipal or hazardous waste landfills that need not be licensed for radioactive waste, if they are declared “exempt” facilities, with an “intent” (but no guarantee) to bury these dangerous wastes.

There is no clear definition for these wastes (that would be renamed VLLW or “Very Low-Level Waste”), and the NRC states that this interpretive rule is not legally binding, so could be implemented without public notice. Tellingly, the NRC’s 2018 VLLW Scoping Study directly tied the need for this deceptive category to “...the disposal of the anticipated large volumes...associated with the decommissioning of nuclear power plants and material sites, as well as wastes that might be generated by alternative waste streams that may be created by operating reprocessing facilities or a radiological event.”

All landfills leak. Municipal landfills (or other facilities not licensed for radioactive wastes) have little or no provision for equipment, personnel, training or long-term monitoring to protect the health of workers, our communities or the environment from damage and long-term contamination from radioactive wastes - especially from industrial sources, such as: nuclear reactors, nuclear reprocessing (an environmental, health, security and financial disaster the last time it was attempted in the U.S.) and hydraulic fracking. If a facility is “specifically exempted” and so is eligible to take

these radioactive wastes, there is no provision for public notice or input, nor for monitoring, enforcement or verification. Some radioactive wastes last hundreds of thousands of years or longer and can cause serious health effects, including birth defects and heart problems. Health impacts for women and children are disproportionately greater.

This is a dangerous scheme to release these wastes from radioactive controls and would transfer liability and expense of isolating these most dangerous wastes, from the nuclear power industry to the American public. This plan would spread radioactive contamination nationwide, without the American people’s consent or awareness. Tell the NRC that American people do not accept their flawed plan and, if they decide to push it through anyway, that this is a major NRC policy change that could impact every U.S. community and merits no less than a full programmatic environmental impact statement with public hearings and that each site must have a site-specific environmental impact statement.

The nuclear industry and its regulators have tried over a dozen times to openly deregulate nuclear waste, so as to avoid the true costs of nuclear energy. The American people have stopped it, repeatedly.

Spread the word in your communities. Email official comments, with reference to Docket ID NRC-2020-0065 by 11:59PM Eastern time, July 20th, to [VLLWTransferComments.Resource@nrc.gov](mailto:VLLWTransferComments.Resource@nrc.gov) . Learn more! Email Diane D’Arrigo: [dianedatnirs.org](mailto:dianedatnirs.org) . Diane is the Nuclear Waste Project Director at Nuclear Information and Resource Service - [www.nirs.org](http://www.nirs.org) .

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*(Continued from page 1)* In particular, we are concerned about the integrity of the Superfund cleanup up and containment along the shores of the Tittabawassee River, and any re-suspension and transport of contaminated sediments throughout the watershed.

Given Dow’s record when it comes to safety and transparency, residents deserve independent assurances that the onsite contamination at the Dow facility was contained and the integrity of site was maintained without release of toxic chemicals from the Revetment Groundwater Intercept System (RGIS); the wastewater treatment plant; any hazardous storage or operations onsite; and the tertiary treatment ponds. We are also concerned about the potential release of chemicals from downstream hazards including the Army Corps of Engineers Dredged Material Disposal Facility (DMDF), a facility storing highly toxic dredged

sediments from the Saginaw River, the Middlegrounds site in Bay City, and a 400 acre stored coal ash site. All of these concerns are in addition to the hazardous chemicals that can be unleashed from residential homes and businesses during a dramatic flood event like occurred in the region.

Dow and all elected officials that represent the people of Mid-Michigan must work now to protect the lives and health of the people of Mid-Michigan in the wake of this extraordinary and potentially catastrophic flood in the midst of a pandemic.

Signatories: Clean Water Action, Ecology Center, Greenpeace USA, Lone Tree Council, Michigan Environmental Council , Michigan League of Conservation Voters , National Wildlife Federation’s Great Lakes Regional Center, Natural Resources Defense Council, PIRGIM, Sierra Club Michigan Chapter

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Here we are, halfway through 2020 and it has been a time of surprises and changes for all of us.

We've seen the cancellation of graduations, weddings, funerals, births, and even social events including the annual Wheatland Festival. It was a hard decision, but unanimous agreement from the WMO Board to cancel Wheatland in 2020. For someone that has not missed any of the festivals, this has always been the transition from summer into fall and the end of the season for me. For CACC this is the fundraiser that supports our non-profit organization and funds us year over year. If you are wondering "how do I help," this is what I am doing: Sending in my membership dues and donating some of my "Wheatland fund". Anything you can do will help!

The second thing that I wanted to share was the cancellation of the June face to face annual meeting due to these unprecedented times. This would have been the open meeting when board members are elected. During our last phone meeting I asked all members to stay in their positions for an additional year. I am happy to report that everyone on the call agreed to stay in their current roles.

Until next time stay safe!

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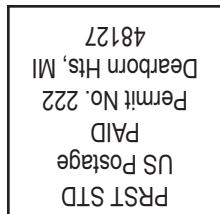
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