

EVERYONE'S BACKYARD

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FRACK-GATE: LIES AND DECEPTION IN OHIO



SPEAKING OUT POST-FUKUSHIMA



The Journal of the Grassroots Environmental Movement

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Center for Health, Environment & Justice

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On the Cover:

"We can't drink money!" Fracking
protest in Pittsburgh, PA.

Photo by: Marcellus Protest.

THE CIRCLE OF LEADERSHIP CONTINUES

When I offered to coordinate a new network of grassroots activists in Baton Rouge, I thought I was making a six-month commitment. That was 25 years ago. I had started working with other community leaders who were determined to do something about the pollution that was making so many of us sick. Our area was called "Cancer Alley" because of the pollution from nearby petrochemical factories and the high rates of cancer in our communities.

Today, the Louisiana Environmental Action Network includes more than 100 member groups and several thousand members. We've stopped numerous proposals to dump more polluting waste in the state. We helped pass a strong state law protecting drinking water. Local governments and industries routinely consult us at the start of applications for permits.

I often tell people that CHEJ was our "midwife." CHEJ facilitated the 1986 workshop that led to the launch of LEAN. Lois Gibbs, Will Collette, and Stephen Lester helped LEAN organize the first of many state leadership conferences that were essential to building the network. Will Collette, CHEJ's organizer at the time, was always there when I needed someone to talk to.

Louisiana's unique environment, people and ways of life are facing tremendous challenges. Our communities and our environment are still reeling from the BP Oil Spill. LEAN has received an unsettling number of calls from people experiencing unusual health problems. The sick include workers who worked on the response to the disaster as well as divers, fishermen and coastal residents. In the months after the spill, I was on the telephone 12, 13 hours every day, talking with the media and people in crisis.

My sons Paul and Michael have grown up with LEAN. Paul is now the Lower Mississippi Riverkeeper, and Michael is our Communications Director. They have been traveling up and down the river and along the Gulf Coast to document the levels of contamination in the river, wetlands and estuaries, in the fish and birds, and in the people who live and work there.

If this had happened 25 years ago, LEAN wouldn't have had the psychological stamina to get through it. We've responded by doing direct relief work for the people and the environment LEAN was formed to protect – while continuing to work to advise and nurture new local groups and get good science-based information out to the public.

There is a lot to do – more than ever. Twenty-five years ago, decisions about Louisiana's environment were in the hands of a few government and industry officials. The people now have a seat at the table. We are providing local groups with the same support that CHEJ gave to us. Group by group, community by community, the people of Louisiana are getting knowledge and power.

By Marylee Orr, Executive Director, Louisiana Environmental Action Network (LEAN)

As CHEJ celebrates our 30th year of empowering communities, we congratulate LEAN for building a powerful statewide network for the people and the environment of Louisiana. Visit LEAN's website at www.leanweb.org.

ABOUT CHEJ

CHEJ mentors a movement building healthier communities by empowering people to prevent harm caused by chemical and toxic threats. We accomplish our work through programs focusing on different types of environmental health threats. CHEJ also works with communities to empower groups by providing the tools, direction, and encouragement they need to advocate for human health, to prevent harm and to work towards environmental integrity. Following her successful effort to prevent further harm for families living in contaminated Love Canal, Lois Gibbs founded CHEJ to continue the journey. To date, CHEJ has assisted over 11,000 groups nationwide. Details on CHEJ's efforts to help families and communities prevent harm can be found at www.chej.org.

BY TERESA MILLS AND LOIS MARIE GIBBS

FRACK-GATE: LIES AND DECEPTION IN OHIO

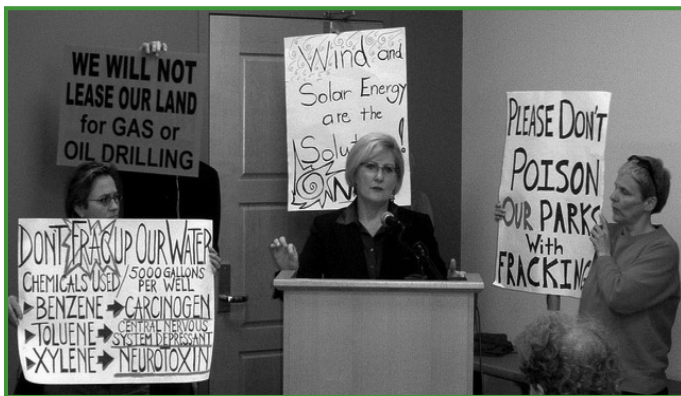


Photo by Progress Ohio

Ohio representative Teresa Fedor from Toledo says no to fracking!

Some of you may remember the 1984 Cerrell Report. This report, prepared for the State of California, identified communities that would be *least likely to resist* the construction of a new garbage incinerator in their backyard. These *least likely to resist* communities were low-income, Southern, Midwestern, and rural communities that demonstrated openness to the promise of economic benefits, with residents who, on average, were older than middle age, with high school or less education, and who were not involved in social issues. The Epley report released in 1991, similarly profiled communities in North Carolina that would be least likely to resist a nuclear waste dump.

Today, we have the “secret” Fracking Profile discovered by a resident of Ohio apparently inadvertently left in her driveway by the “gasman” when he left her home without obtaining her signature on a lease to allow gas drilling on her property.

So what do the pro-fracking companies think about the people in the Midwest and Midwestern men in particular? Well, their opinions are not much different than the Toxic Dumpers of the 1980s and 90s. Here are a few excerpts from their memo intended for their field agents to obtain leases for horizontal gas hydro-fracking.

We have paid for an analysis of Ohio and the people. Use that data.

Ohio is a conservative leaning, Mid-west state. The typical Ohio resident will welcome you into their home and allow you to speak. This critical Face to Face interaction can make the difference. Most mid-west Americans dislike confrontation. Even if they disagree on a selling point, they are unlikely to confront you over it. Therefore it is critical to obtain a lease signature in the first meeting, or, at least the agreement to sign and take the lease to a notary. Drive them to the notary if you have to. If they have time to think it over, they are more likely to decline the offer.

At any point in the pitch if talk turns to local issues, environmental hazards, etc . . . a good way to re-direct the

conversation is to re-engage over the nation's energy needs and the desire to be oil self-reliant. Come back to the mutually agreed upon point about freeing the nation. CHINA bought more oil than the United States last year!

Men are more likely to sign than women. Men don't like to believe that you know more than they do, so they are also less likely to ask questions. In the state of Ohio the husband can sign the lease without spousal permission. Go that route if required . . . Women will have more concern for the environment and will challenge you more often. Knowing who to approach can seal the sale.

Tell the landowner that all their neighbors have signed. Even if the neighbors have not, this often will push an undecided landowner in favor of signing. They will not know if their neighbors have signed, and even if they do they will want to sign so they do not lose out on the potential profits.

How dare these companies insult the people of Ohio with this targeted profiling! Of course if they told the truth about fracking, no one would likely sign. Hydro-fracturing (fracking) is dangerous, destructive to the environment, water and wildlife, and not the answer to climate change or energy independence.

In fact, *The Wall Street Journal* reported in April that:

“... methane emissions associated with shale gas extraction are at least 30% greater than methane emissions from conventional gas extraction. The shale gas methane emissions might even be double the amount from conventional gas. Methane is the main constituent of natural gas. Methane is also a greenhouse gas that is 20-times more potent than carbon dioxide. . . The higher emissions from shale gas occur at the time wells are hydraulically fractured — as methane escapes from flow-back return fluids — and during drill out following the fracturing.”

Horizontal hydro-fracturing means injecting water, containing many toxic chemicals, and sand at extremely high pressure into deep rock layers to shatter the stone and release natural gas. Each frack well injects 2 to 9 million gallons of water along with 20,000 to 90,000 gallons of toxic chemicals. The chemicals are used to reduce pressure friction and contamination of the recovered gas among other reasons. In states where fracking has already been in operation (Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Pennsylvania), there have been immense environmental problems including:

- Contaminated drinking water aquifers and wells, reservoirs, lakes and streams. Natural gas can seep into water systems and homes and cause kitchen faucet water to be flammable and for well water in homes to potentially explode. Heavy metals and radioactive substances can also seep into water systems of homes with private wells and no access to municipal water.

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BE SAFE Campaign

BE SAFE is a nationwide initiative to build support for the precautionary approach to prevent pollution and environmental destruction before it happens.

Calling all filmmakers! Get involved in the Cannibal Animals Video Contest

This spring, CHEJ launched the Cannibal Animals Video Contest to raise awareness of the dangers of dioxin contaminated food. Farm animals are eating each other! Did you know that America's farm industry is knowingly exposing consumers to dioxin – a carcinogen – by including animal by-products in feed? This past January, animal feed containing high levels of dioxin forced the closure of more than 1,000 farms in Germany and the slaughter of at least 8,000 egg-laying chickens in Europe's largest dioxin food scare. We're inviting animators and filmmakers alike to help spread the word about this issue by submitting videos/animation to this new video contest.

Submit your video or animation by October 15th.

Visit www.chej.org/cannibalanimals for contest rules and to download posters announcing the contest.

Congress to EPA: Finalize Dioxin Study Once and For All!

This spring, Rep. Edward Markey (D-MA) and 72 members of Congress sent a letter to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson urging the EPA to finalize their long-delayed study on dioxin once and for all. EPA's study has been delayed for over 20 years due to intense lobbying by dioxin-spewing chemical corporations such as Dow Chemical. The new Congressional letter expresses concern that "EPA has missed its self imposed deadline to finalize and release the report by the end of 2010" and concludes by requesting EPA's "detailed timeline for finalizing and releasing the Dioxin Reassessment once the SAB review is complete."

CHEJ thanks and applauds Rep. Markey (D-MA) and the 72 other members of Congress for writing to EPA Administrator Jackson on this critical public health and environmental justice issue. To learn more, visit CHEJ's resource page on dioxin: <http://chej.org/campaigns/besafe/projects/dioxin/>.



Schools and Toxic Dumps Don't Mix

A critical "toxic gap" exists in many states that results in the siting of schools on or near contaminated land or near major sources of air pollution. Twenty states have no laws that restrict the siting of schools near toxic hazards. A survey in New York revealed that 235 public schools in 39 counties are within ½ mile of a toxic waste site prompting CHEJ to launch a campaign to require environmental investigations before a candidate school site is selected and prohibiting new schools from being built on or near waste sites or major sources of air pollution. The state environmental agency would assess whether any toxic hazards, such as incinerators or Superfund sites, are within half a mile of the proposed school site and whether there is any contamination on the property. If needed, they would conduct testing and if any contamination was found, it would be cleaned up to "unrestricted use" levels. This *Toxic-Free School Zone Policy* will serve as a model for other states.

CHEJ recently drafted this policy proposal which is being peer-reviewed by groups and state agencies. Many groups have already endorsed the campaign, including the Civil Service Employee Association, Citizen Action of NY, Class Size Matters, El Puente, Environmental Advocates, Institute for Health & the Environment, Learning Disabilities Association of NYS, NYPIRG, Service Employees International Union, and the Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter. In the next year, CHEJ will collaborate with a broad-based coalition of groups to pass the *Toxic-Free School Zone Policy*. For a copy of the policy and fact sheets, contact anne@chej.org.

BY ANNE RABE, CHEJ BE SAFE CAMPAIGN COORDINATOR

SPEAKING OUT POST-FUKUSHIMA

The events in Japan have revealed with heart-stopping clarity just how badly things can go wrong with nuclear power plants. The twin disasters of a massive earthquake and tsunami in Japan severely damaged several nuclear reactors in Fukushima at an unprecedented scale. Never before in history has there been the threat of multiple meltdowns occurring simultaneously. For years, the nuclear industry in America pointed to Japan as an example of how safe nuclear power is. Now they have been proven wrong as Japan has recently declared it will stop using nuclear power altogether because of the accident in Fukushima. Following the lead of Rahm Emanuel, President Barack Obama's former Chief of Staff, who said, "You never want a serious crisis to go to waste," groups in America are strategically employing the important lessons of the Japanese disaster to bring a halt to existing and proposed reactors in this country.

In New York, the Riverkeeper and NYPIRG called on the government to close the Indian Point nuclear plant, located only 35 miles from Manhattan. Governor Andrew Cuomo responded by saying, "It should be closed. This plant in this proximity to the city was never a good risk." He also asked the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to do a safety review (of the plant), noting that, "it is most susceptible to an earthquake because Reactor No. 3 is on a fault line." Twenty million people live within 50 miles of the Westchester County plant.

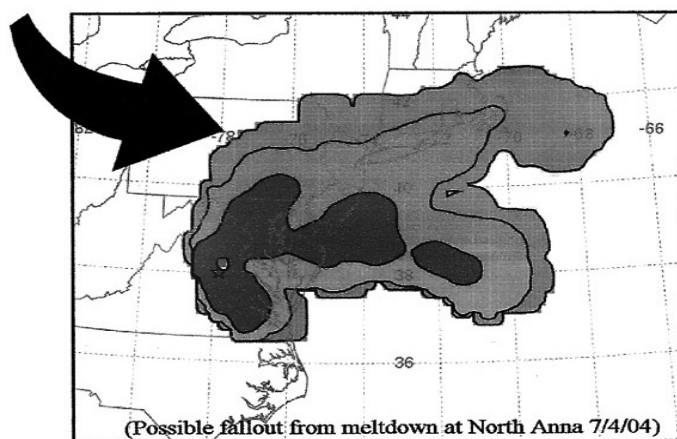
Near Syracuse, New York, CHEJ is working with a coalition of groups to oppose a proposed reactor in Oswego County at the Nine Mile complex. Citizens Awareness Network, Citizens' Environmental Coalition, Sierra Club and other groups across the state held media events and sent letters to the Governor urging him to oppose the plant. After a two day CHEJ training on media and messaging, the groups formed New Yorkers for Jobs & Affordable Energy and are raising funds to launch a major publicity campaign.

In Alabama, Tennessee and Georgia, the Bellefonte Efficiency & Sustainability Team, Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League (BREDL) and Concerned Citizens of Shell Bluffs have launched a media blitz of radio and TV ads to alert the public to the dangers of proposed reactors after CHEJ messaging trainings. The main media messages are the inherent dangers of nuclear power and its huge expense, resulting in a "money sinkhole" for already economically depressed communities. In Georgia, two years after approving plans for a new plant, the Georgia Public Service Commission continues to discuss whether it should require Georgia Power to pay for potential cost overruns for the reactor. And the Tennessee Valley Authority's reactor proposal at Bellefonte in Hollywood, Alabama also faces cost overruns.

In Vermont, Citizens Awareness Network has led a vibrant campaign against the Yankee plant, resulting in strong

state opposition to a license renewal by NRC. The state told NRC to shut down the reactor due to safety concerns and the lack of any disposal repository for the highly radioactive waste.

In Virginia, CHEJ is working with BREDL to keep a new reactor from being built at the North Anna facility, which is about 90 miles south of Washington, DC. If an accident caused a release of radiation, the effects would be widespread and devastating: Within two days, with 5 mile per hour winds moving from the southwest, Washington DC, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Newark, New York City, Boston and all the cities in between would receive poisonous levels of radiation exposures (See map generated by CHEJ using the NOAA HYSPLIT model predicting potential radiation fallout based on windflow patterns and standard radiation release estimates).



On the national level, the Nuclear Information & Resource Service and other national groups are urging Congress and the Obama administration to block construction of new plants while an independent commission reviews findings from Japan, and to halt the \$36 billion that President Obama has requested for loan guarantees for nuclear plants.

Nuclear power is not safe – it is a high risk and extremely dangerous technology. Nuclear power is not cheap – it is the most expensive form of energy and so risky that even Wall Street does not want to invest. The aging fleet of commercial nuclear reactors in the United States includes many of the same design as those experiencing problems at Fukushima in Japan. Most American reactors are in coastal areas and many are in earthquake zones. The direct cause of the meltdowns in Japan was not the earthquake or the tsunami, but the loss of power to cool the reactors and the failure of on-site back-up power systems, something which could happen under numerous emergency scenarios from earthquakes, tornadoes, flooding, hurricanes, ice storms, and acts of terrorism.

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ACTION LINE

Action Line is the heart of Everyone's Backyard. This is where we tell the stories of grassroots groups that reflect their creative energy and accomplishments. It is also a way to share strategies, actions, and industry trends. Although we do not always mention our role, CHEJ is providing organizing and technical assistance to many of these groups. For other stories, we draw on a large network of contacts and organizations that we have developed during more than 25 years of operation. We welcome and encourage contributions.

California

Congratulations to **Global Community Monitor (GCM)** which is celebrating their 10th anniversary. GCM trains and supports communities to use environmental monitoring tools, notably the Bucket Brigade, as a way for communities to document and understand the impacts of industrial pollution and to launch advocacy efforts against polluters.

Kentucky

Rubbertown Emergency Action and residents of the Rubbertown section of Louisville were angry by the lack of information made available following an explosion that killed two workers and injured three others at the Carbide Industries plant. The area's alert system for incidents like this (a phone number where people can call for information) was not updated for nearly two hours after the accident. According to a Carbide spokesman, no chemicals were released by the explosion and residents were not at risk from the fumes from the subsequent fire. The residents, however, did not know this. They heard the explosion and could see the smoke, but they did not know what was in the smoke or whether they were in danger. The situation was made worse when the Louisville police, thinking the worst, issued an alert to residents within a mile of the plant to stay indoors. It was over 90 minutes before Carbide updated the emergency hotline number, which is supposed to be updated within 30 minutes of an accident. In response, the mayor agreed to overhaul the alert system and to take it out of the hands of the companies.

Louisiana

EarthJustice, Mossville Environmental Action Now, the Louisiana Environmental Action Network, and the Sierra Club celebrated the news that EPA is proposing new standards requiring PVC plastics manufacturers to reduce their harmful emissions of vinyl chloride, dioxin and hydrogen chloride. This action came about as a result of a lawsuit jointly filed by the groups and is estimated to reduce total annual hazardous air pollution emissions from PVC production facilities nationwide by 3.14 million pounds. Mossville, the subject of a CNN special last year featuring Dr. Sanjay Gupta, is home to more PVC chemical plants than anywhere else in the country. High

levels of vinyl chloride have been found in the air, and elevated levels of dioxin have been found in some residents. The Washington Post recently broke an explosive story about how some PVC companies hired former secret service agents and policemen to spy on community members and **Greenpeace** which was working with the community. Greenpeace has filed a lawsuit against the companies, their PR firms and several individuals for activities that amount to corporate espionage.

Congratulations to Wilma Subra of **New Iberia** who was awarded the 2011 Human Rights Award by the Global Exchange. Wilma runs her own environmental testing company and has worked tirelessly for community groups in Louisiana and through the southeast for years.

Maine

Congratulations to the **Environmental Health Strategy Center (EHSC)** in Bangor and other groups in the state for successfully warding off industry efforts to repeal the 2008 Kids Safe Products Act. The amended bill was actually strengthened by legislators who added a requirement to develop a list of up to 70 chemicals of high concerns based on the strongest evidence of toxicity and exposure. Mike Belliveau, Executive Director of EHSC stated "The chemical industry takes home a larger lesson from Maine. State regulation of chemicals cannot be rolled back or stopped. Maine and other states will continue to take action to protect people's health from chemical hazards, especially in the absence of Congressional leadership to reform federal chemical policy." The amended bill is expected to easily pass through the rest of the legislative process and become law within a few weeks.

Maryland

A coalition of more than 30 environmental and public interest groups, including the **Chesapeake Bay Foundation** and the **Maryland League of Conservation Voters**, sent a letter to Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley urging him to veto legislation that would put waste incineration on a par with wind and solar power as a source of renewable energy. The groups believe that passing this bill would undermine Maryland's efforts to reduce overall energy consumption and fight global warming. The bill would allow waste incineration to receive additional lucrative financial incentives for an industry that

already receives extensive incentives and subsidies and has a questionable financial and environmental record. Brenda Platt Co-director of the **Institute for Local Self-Reliance**, stated, "Preventing wastes saves energy. Reuse saves energy. Recycling save energy. Incineration wastes energy, material resources and money. Recycling a ton of materials generally saves far more energy than burning it generates." The groups are hoping that the governor chooses to encourage the use and development of true renewable energy sources such as wind and solar and does not fall into the trap of accepting burning as a source of renewable energy. As we went press, the governor signed the bill making waste burning a source of renewable energy.

Massachusetts

Congratulations to **Saugus Action Volunteers for the Environment, Saugus River Watershed Association**, and residents of Saugus who celebrated a \$7.5 million settlement between the state and Wheelabrator Technologies, Inc. The state's lawsuit alleged that Wheelabrator broke environmental laws, more than a year and a half after the complaints of employee whistleblowers triggered a state investigation of the company's three incinerators in the state. The settlement was the largest ever for a state case arising from alleged environmental violations. The settlement included \$4.5 million to address the charge that the New Hampshire-based company defrauded North Shore communities that paid it for safe waste disposal, \$2 million in penalties for the alleged environmental violations themselves, and an additional \$1 million for environmental protection and improvements, including projects around the Wheelabrator facilities.



Wheelabrator Technologies was accused of improperly treating and disposing of ash at its Saugus facility.

Massachusetts is taking incredible steps towards a coal-free future. Members of the **Conservation Law Foundation (CLF)** and residents of Somerset were able to shutdown an 85-year old coal and oil burning power plant recently. The plant was considering retrofitting to plasma gasification, but withdrew its plans for this because the project would include coal, construction and demolition debris and woody biomass. Shanna Cleveland a staff attorney at CLF stated, "The demise of Somerset Station is proof positive that

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these polluting coal plants are no longer viable. As demonstrated here, economics do not support investing in retrofitting these obsolete plants to continue to burn dirty coal, when cleaner, more efficient and renewable sources of energy are on the rise..."

Michigan

Newly formed **WAVE** based in Marquette requested that Michigan's Governor Rick Snyder issue an executive order to stop Rio Tinto's Eagle Project, a metallic sulfide mine slated to be the first of many along Lake Superior. WAVE wants a third party environmental impact study to address unanswered questions about water, air, community health and mine safety. Snyder refused to meet with WAVE and passed the buck to the state's Department of Environmental Quality, now in litigation for failing to apply their own permitting law in the first place. WAVE, an action-focused coalition, has begun a series of actions in response to the Governor's refusal. WAVE "arrested" Governor Snyder at a street theater performance on the Marquette Court House steps. Then, during Rio Tinto's community forum, bride (the state) and groom (Rio Tinto) were married. WAVE continues to pressure Governor Snyder. Rio Tinto says they will soon blast the mine's portal through a federally protected sacred site of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community. WAVE intends to stop Rio.

Missouri



Save Our Children's Health (SOCH) is organizing to stop efforts to build two new rock quarries on either side of the town's high school near Cape Girardeau. The group feels that the proposed sites of the quarries are too close to the school (about 1,000 feet) and that air pollution and dust emissions from the proposed quarries would have adverse health effects on the children, the elderly, and people with pre-existing health problems including asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, sinusitis, and sinus infections. A commission reviewing the two permit applications received over

5,000 letters and comments opposing the proposed quarries. SOCH is continuing to organize opposition to the proposed quarries. CHEJ is providing organizing assistance.

New Jersey

Local citizen groups including **Citizens for a Clean Pompton Lakes (CCPL)**, **Edison Wetlands Association**, **Pompton Lakes Residents for Environmental Integrity** and **New Jersey Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility** all lined up to speak out against the Pompton Lakes Borough Council which opposed making the DuPont Works site a Superfund site. The groups explained the benefits of designating the DuPont site to Superfund status including increased enforcement, opportunities for residential buyouts, more opportunities for public comment and more authority for decisions. The council, however, voted unanimously not to request a Superfund designation for the area, arguing that some people impacted by the contaminated groundwater caused by the DuPont facility did not want the area turned over to EPA. CCPL founder Lisa Raggiola called the council's decision "a political knife in the residents' back."

New York

Clean Air Coalition of Western New York (CACWNY) hosted Eboni Cochrane, an activist from Louisville, Kentucky, and Wilma Subra, a leading environmental scientist from Louisiana at a meeting in Tonawanda to share lessons learned from battling air toxics in Louisville and Louisiana. Cochrane launched an air monitoring program in Louisville with the help of Subra, a nationally recognized environmental chemist and biologist. With the help of Cochrane and Subra, CACWNY hopes to further their ongoing efforts to clean up emissions from Tonawanda Coke and other plants.

United Neighbors Concerned About GE Dewey Loeffel Landfill (UNCAGED) in Nassau filed for a technical assistance grant from the USEPA soon after learning that the Dewey Loeffel Landfill was designated a federal Superfund site by the EPA. With the new designation, the group hopes that some 46,000 tons of toxic waste buried in the landfill — more than twice the amount of contamination at the infamous Love Canal site — will finally be remediated and/or removed. "This is a toxic legacy that has plagued Rensselaer County for decades, and we want to be part of the solution," said Judith Enck, EPA regional administrator. For years, UNCAGED and many community leaders have been calling for a full cleanup of the landfill and for the state to begin a health study of people living near the landfill. By law, up to \$50,000 may be awarded to a citizen's group at each Superfund site. EPA has begun work at the site

CHEJ's 30th Anniversary Video Series



Visit www.chej.org/video
each Monday for a new short video

that includes landfill surveys to assess the presence of waste buried in the landfill and groundwater testing. CHEJ is providing organizing assistance to UNCAGED.

North Carolina

Clean Air Now (CAN) in Alamance County continues to encourage the Mecklenburg Planning and Zoning Committee not to allow any zoning change that would make it possible for ReVenture to build a proposed garbage-to-energy gasification incinerator without a public hearing. The company was handed a major setback by the Mecklenburg Waste Management Board which decided not to recommend that the county sign a contract with ReVenture to burn its waste into electricity. The contract would cost the county about \$200 million over 20 years. The board also ruled that ReVenture didn't have the experience or expertise to develop and/or manage this type of project. There were so many issues and unanswered questions that the board called for an independent study to address the outstanding issues.

Citizens for a Healthy Environment (CHE) in Matthews has begun a health survey in neighborhoods within three miles of the Matthews medical waste incinerator. They will also begin air sampling with the Bucket Brigade and soil sampling for dioxins in the same areas. CHE is planning future fund raisers to help finance the sampling costs. CHEJ science staff reviewed the first round of testing for the group and is working with the **Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League** to help the group interpret the results and plan its next move.

Ohio

After a brief period of relief, citizens in Wooster are once again inundated by noxious odors from EnviroClean Services, a wastewater treatment facility that specializes in treating industrial wastewater and sludge, and recycles waste oil. Residents took their complaints to City Hall where they expressed their anger to the city councilors who had heard this all too many times before. **Our Neighborhood Matters** is ramping up its efforts against the company. A citizens oversight panel will be formed that will

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include business leaders and a member representing the school in the neighborhood.

After CHEJ, the **Ohio Environmental Council** and the **Ohio Sierra Club**, working with residents in **Clyde**, developed draft cancer mapping legislation, the residents gave the proposed bill to their local legislators. The cancer bill would require the state to make available to the public cancer rates by census track, create a map that shows the cancer rates in each census track, provide a summary of the cancer data, and identify census tracks with cancer, childhood cancer, and rates of rare cancers that are higher than the national average. The bill also includes a provision that would require the state to conduct air and water quality tests in census tracks where rates are increased. Clyde, home to a childhood cancer cluster, is one of five confirmed cancer clusters in the state.

Over 150 citizens gathered at the Ohio Statehouse in May to lobby against hydrofracking in the state. Ohio Governor John Kasich has said that the oil and gas boom that is about to be played out in Ohio is “a godsend.” Ohio citizens are not so convinced. Efforts are continuing to make the state a frack-free zone.

Pennsylvania

More than 100 protestors disrupted the Marcellus Shale Advisory Committee meeting in **Harrisburg** in late April. The protestors expressed concerns about the danger of gas drilling and the lack of citizen representation on the advisory panel which is gathering information on the methods and dangers of drilling in the Marcellus Shale and preparing a report of policy recommendations to present to the governor by mid-July. One protestor who gave out delinquent drilling tax bills to the commission members was escorted out of the meeting room as were several other individuals who disrupted presentations. Many of the protestors spoke directly to the commission later in the day during the public comment period.

Rhode Island

Renewable energy advocates and environmental organizations joined together in opposition to a bill that would overturn a state law that bans any form of municipal waste incineration and would define trash burning as renewable energy. Rep. Brien (D-Woonsocket) introduced a bill that would explore options for building a waste-to-energy incinerator in Woonsocket. Sheila Dormody, co-director of **Clean Water Action** put it this way, “Burning trash that could be recycled and producing toxic pollution is simply not clean renewable energy. Rhode Island came to this fork in the road years ago and decided that we’d rather recycle our waste than burn it, and that we’d

invest in real local, clean, renewable energy. That’s the direction Rhode Island needs to go to strengthen our economy.” Other groups opposing the bill included the **Toxics Action Center**, **Save the Bay**, **People’s Power & Light**, **Sierra Club**, the **Audubon Society of RI**, and the **Environmental Council of Rhode Island Education Fund**.

Texas

Citizens for Environmental Justice (CEJ) and residents of the Dona Park and Hillcrest neighborhoods of Corpus Christi, both fence line communities to large refineries, met with EPA Region 6 administrator, Al Armendariz, this spring to address many concerns including the dismantling of the nearby ASARCO/Encycle plant, where, according to a former employee, hazardous chemicals are still present. Suzi Canales, CHEJ Board Member and Executive Director of CEJ, asked EPA to set up an advisory committee that would include local residents to guide the demolition of the plant and cleanup of the site. Canales also told Armendariz that some residents want out of the community because of concerns for the health of their family. Armendariz acknowledged that some residents live too close to the refineries, but said that EPA has no authority to move residents that do not live directly on top of a hazardous waste site. Canales and others were not convinced and vowed to continue to push EPA on this issue. A health study released a month later reported higher rates of birth defects in Corpus Christi compared to the rest of the state. Canales warned that “This should be a wake-up call for all of us.”

Congratulations to Hilton Kelly, Executive Director of **Community In-power and Development Association** (CIDA) for winning the 2011 Goldman Environmental Prize for North America. Kelley received this prestigious award for his leadership for environmental justice in his hometown of Port Arthur. The Goldman Environmental Prize is awarded annually to grassroots environmental heroes from each of the world’s six inhabited continental regions. CHEJ’s Executive Director Lois Gibbs was the first recipient of the award for North America in 1990.

CIDA with support from the **Global Community Monitor** are challenging local companies in Port Arthur to fund a Community Warning Siren system similar to those widely used in other highly industrialized areas to warn residents of toxic spills. Areas like Port Arthur that consist of low-income minorities are given a phone system by companies like Chevron and Shell whereas the San Francisco Bay Area receives siren alert systems that warn residents of chemical spills. Hilton Kelley of CIDA stated, “It is unfair for these companies to give more protection to more affluent communities and not offer equal protection to low income communities in places like Port Arthur...we deserve more protection.”

This issue came into focus when 462,000 gallons of oil spilled after an 800-foot tanker crashed with a vessel pushing two barges into the port forcing the evacuation of 28 blocks surrounding the spill.

Wyoming

Citizens for Responsible Government (CRG) in Newcastle is dealing with pollutants from the Wyoming Refining Company which has been operating for over 80 years in the middle of town, a quarter of a mile from the high school and other central places of the community. CRG is trying to get the school relocated away from the refinery, but they are having a hard time getting their message out since the local newspaper suspended all letters to the editor on the topic of the refinery. The newspaper had been the main venue for discussion about the refinery. Residents have developed many illnesses from the pollutants of the refinery, including cancer that is believed to have left Ellis Hemler a widower twice, with both of his wives dying from complications with cancer. The small county of Weston has a 30% cancer rate which is higher than the state of Wyoming. CHEJ is working



Carol Wolfe, Janet Elliott and Terry Elliott are members of Citizens for Responsible Government and Newcastle Trust.

with the group to develop a campaign strategy and build capacity for their fight to ensure future generations will not continue to endure environmental injustice.

International/England

Around 200 protestors gathered outside the Plymouth Guildhall carrying signs stating anti-incinerator slogans. This area, located about 200 miles southwest of London, is the site of a proposed energy-from-waste plant. Residents are concerned with the increase air pollution that the plant would cause, so close to schools within the area. Members of the **Ivybridge Environmental Action Group** (IEGA) and the **Devon Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives** stood at Guildhall in solidarity with the people of Plymouth for the final public discussion session. Ian Smith chairman of IEAG stated that, “Incineration is not the right solution—technically, fiscally or environmentally. To have two would be a complete disaster for the area.” ◆



A CAMPAIGN TO REDUCE THREATS TO CHILDREN'S HEALTH

Child Proofing Our Communities

What about schools already located near polluting facilities?

Following the release last November of EPA's draft school siting guidelines, it became apparent that these guidelines do not assist established schools that may already have environmental health problems. To address this need, CHEJ convened a National Strategy Meeting on Contaminated Schools in Baltimore, MD. The meeting was attended by community leaders, policy, labor, health, and legal professionals from across the country. The purpose of the meeting was to explore solutions for existing schools threatened by toxic emissions from air polluting facilities, or contaminated soil and water (including toxic vapor intrusion). The meeting was a strategic discussion on how we can get action at the local, state and federal level for communities with a local school contamination problem.

The meeting was an intense one-day strategy session which resulted in a list of priorities and resources needed to assist communities in mobilizing and organizing a campaign to address a local school contamination problem. CHEJ will be conducting monthly issue-specific conference calls to discuss issues raised during the meeting as well as other relevant children's environmental health problems. For further information and/or to get a copy of notes from strategy meeting contact Makia Burns, CPOC Campaign Coordinator at (703) 237-2249 x 21 or mburns@chej.org.

CHPAC: Inside the EPA

The Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee (CHPAC) advises EPA on regulations, research, and communication issues relevant to the environmental health factors that affect children. The committee meets several times a year, and most recently met in Washington, DC in March. The committee discussed many issues such as school siting guidelines, asthma disparities, chemical prioritization, environmental health program guidelines, design for the environment, sustainability and children's health, and other topics. You can get more information about CHPAC and their work at http://yosemite.epa.gov/ochp/ochpweb.nsf/content/whatwe_advisory.htm.

The School Siting Guidelines - An Update

EPA received over 350 comments on its draft school siting guidelines. The comments are currently being reviewed and EPA plans to release a final document in the fall of 2011. The outreach plan for making communities aware of this new resource has yet to be determined. CHEJ will continue to keep you up to date. For a copy of a letter with comments on the draft organized by CHEJ and supported by over 1,500 individuals and 539 groups, contact Makia Burns at (703) 237-2249 x 21 or mburns@chej.org.



Interested in teaching your child about environmental health? Consider CHEJ's Green Flag School Program for Environmental Leadership which provides a framework for students to become environmental leaders and contribute to positive change in their communities. Students of all ages can learn environmental concepts, investigate their schools, and identify solutions for making their schools safer and healthier. For additional information see <http://chej.org/campaigns/childproofing/projects/green-flags/>.

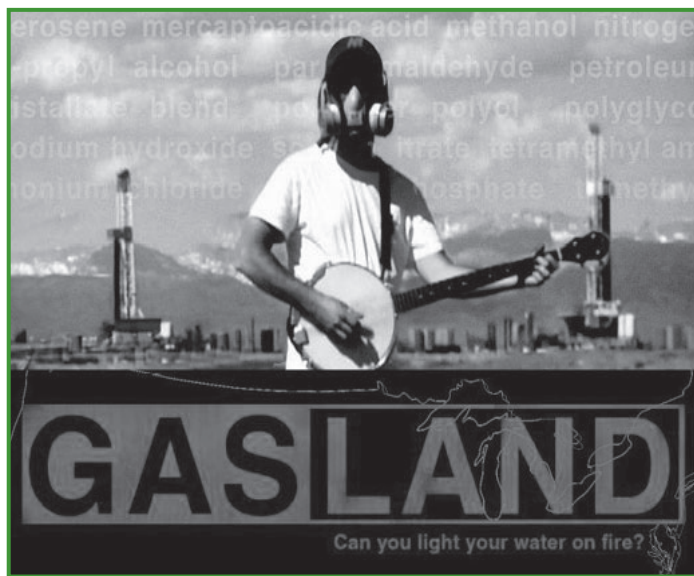
In addition, the EPA and Department of Education (DOE) have created the Green Ribbon Schools program to recognize schools that are creating healthy and sustainable learning environments and teaching environmental literacy. To assist schools interested in this program, EPA is developing environmental health program guidelines for schools. The draft is likely to be released this fall. You can review the press release about the program at <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/department-education-starts-award-green-schools>.

FRACK-GATE: LIES AND DECEPTION IN OHIO, *continued from page 3*

- Toxic waste ponds full of waste fluids that come back up the wellbore; there could be up to 40,000 of these ponds across New York State if full scale fracking is permitted.
- Air pollution from flaring (burning “excess” gas to relieve well pressure), along with pipeline and compressor station venting and leaks, release of nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, sulfur oxides, benzene, toluene and other volatile compounds all of which contribute to cancers, genetic mutations, nervous system disorders and lung disease.
- Global warming due to carbon dioxide from flaring and methane from leaks; methane (the largest component of unrefined natural gas) is 72 times more potent as a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide over 20 years, according to the International Panel on Climate Change’s measure of Greenhouse Warming Potential.
- Accidents such as well blowouts, pipeline fires and explosions; drilling fluid waste pond leaks and spills; trucking accidents and spills of toxic chemicals used during drilling.

Despite the gasmen running around Ohio, New York, Michigan and other states, citizens have thrown huge obstacles in their paths. People are learning and connecting, making it more difficult for the gasman to play out his game.

In New York, New Jersey, Maryland, North Carolina, Ohio, and Michigan, communities have been actively involved and concerned about this issue. Through their efforts, cities and states have begun to find ways to slow down or completely stop this practice. Some states have banned horizontal fracturing, and others have passed moratoriums, or are working on regulations to protect natural resources, wildlife and human health from the



Gasland is a film about the dangers of hydrofracking. Learn more about this Josh Fox film at www.gaslandthemovie.com.

direct impacts of this destructive technology. Pittsburgh, PA was the first city to outright ban horizontal fracking within the city limits, followed shortly after by Buffalo, NY. In Pennsylvania, thousands of leases were signed before the public was informed about the hazards of fracking. In response, numerous environmental organizations are generating pre-fracking baseline testing of water quality to assess the impact of fracking on the environment.

This will provide critical information about the true impact of this fracking business. So, if the gasman comes knocking at your door, ask him if he is using a “profiling” memo before you listen to his lies.

To read the entire profiling memo and for more information on fracking, see <http://www.nofrackohio.org/>. ♦



**Join the 30/30 Club by making a monthly gift of \$30 or another amount.
Go to www.chej.org/donate/30-30 to join the 30/30 Club today.**

With Special Thanks

CHEJ would like to acknowledge the following individuals and organizations that made critically important donations to support our work between February 1, 2011 to April 30, 2011. We wish we had the space to acknowledge each and every one of CHEJ's donors in these pages because all gifts, regardless of size, are very much appreciated. Thank you for your support!

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In Memory Of...
Rev. Robert E. Grimm

SPEAKING OUT POST-FUKUSHIMA, continued from page 5

The cost of nuclear reactors is so high that neither Wall Street investors nor the insurance industry wants to take on such a risky investment. The nuclear industry cannot survive without heavy taxpayer subsidies, in the form of federal loan guarantees and liability caps. If a serious accident were to occur in the U.S., the federal government would be responsible for billions of dollars in damages. With the uncertainty, delays, and costs associated with constructing new nuclear plants, there are far better investments we can make to achieve reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, using technology that is readily available today. Investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy, as well as in other sectors such as transportation, also have tremendous potential to put Americans back to work in new, "green-collar" jobs.

There is an old organizing adage, If the people lead, the leaders will follow. A recent survey conducted by the Civil Society Institute confirms that 73% of Americans do not "think taxpayers should take on the risk for the construction of new nuclear power reactors in the United States." Would you rather your billions of dollars be invested in sustainable energy resources or dangerous technology that even Wall Street won't support? Write President Obama

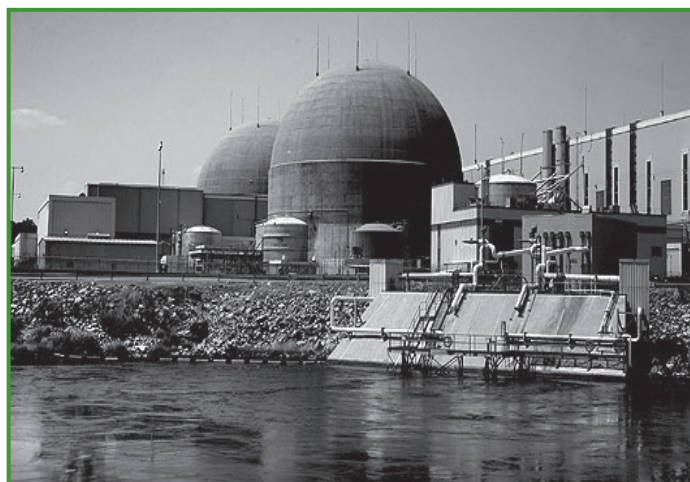


Photo By Mort Fryman | The Virginian-Pilot

North Anna Nuclear Power Station, in Central Virginia's Louisa County.

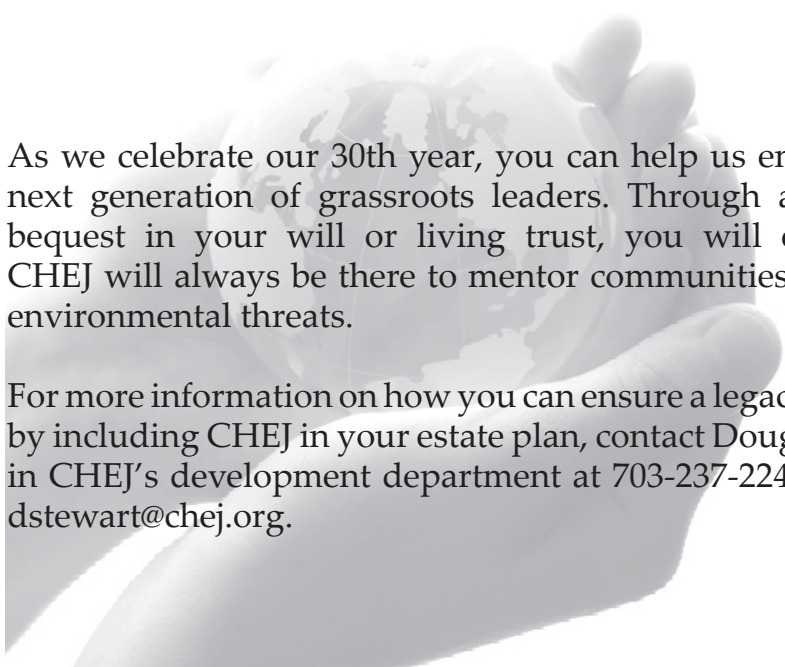
at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/CONTACT/> and let him know a stable energy future depends on clean, renewable energy - not nuclear power. ♦

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would you take the opportunity to save it?**



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For more information on how you can ensure a legacy for justice by including CHEJ in your estate plan, contact Douglas Stewart in CHEJ's development department at 703-237-2249 ext. 14 or dstewart@chej.org.



Thank you for your support!