



NJ Friends of Clearwater Newsletter

February 2010

Volume 3, Number 2

New Jersey Friends of
Clearwater
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Upcoming NJFC Events and
Meetings

Sunday, February 7
General Meeting, 2PM
Eatontown Community Ctr
72 Broad Street, Eatontown

Monday, February 15,
Environmental Cmte Mtg.,
Cobblestone Restaurant,
Eatontown

Board of Directors Meeting,
Monday, February 22
Eatontown Public Library

For more info on NJFC
meetings go to:
[http://www.mcclearwater.org/
calendar_New/calendar.php](http://www.mcclearwater.org/calendar_New/calendar.php)

NJFC Membership Info:
[www.mcclearwater.org/docs/
membership-form.htm](http://www.mcclearwater.org/docs/membership-form.htm)

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Clearwater Urges U.S. Senators and Congressmen to Act

By Edward Dlugosz

NJ Friends of Clearwater with its friends Clean Ocean Action, NJ Environmental Federation, and the Fort Monmouth Earth Renaissance Peace Alliance have urged NJ's US Senators Frank Lautenberg and Robert Menendez and US Congressmen Rush Holt and Frank Pallone to act on our behalf to demand that Fort Monmouth (FM) provide an accurate, truthful Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Clearwater has been battling FM's draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) and its supporting document Environmental Assessment (EA) since spring of 2009 and the whole gamut of FM issues since 2006. You can find detail of the fight in the News webpage or in copies of our previous newsletters hosted on the NJFC Newsletter page of our NJFC Website.

In our letter to our legislators we delineated the deficiencies of the EA and FNSI and the lack of positive progress for addressing the new contamination highlighted in the Phase 2 Environmental Condition of the Property (ECP). Chief among our stated issues are downstream marine pollution of streams and rivers; worker health issues related to the pollution, and legacy impact of the property on the health and cost to the public in the host towns and surrounding area.

We urged our congressional leaders, to ensure that the following actions occur in a timely manner prior to property transfer:

1. Assessment of all impacts that Fort Monmouth has had on the area and waterways through an EIS, which would include further investigation that will:
 - a. assess the extent and depth of sediment contamination (a sediment core sampling survey is necessary), as well as their existing and potential effects on marine life.
 - b. complete the Baseline Ecological Evaluations (BEE), including more aggressive investigation of continued high levels of contamination,
 - c. determine the full extent of radioactive contamination,
 - d. identify and determine the extent of leaks in the wastewater system to the environment,
 - e. examine the stormwater system as planned,
 - f. identify areas with residential soil standards exceedances
2. Remediation of the landfills, including the possible need for excavation of contents based on the results from groundwater testing, the Baseline Ecological Evaluations, and surveys for underground tanks or drums
3. Full public disclosure of contamination and infrastructure conditions, deed restriction requirements, as well as expected remediation requirements with specific timeframes

The full text of the letter will be posted on the aforementioned NJFC Newsletter webpage at: <http://www.mcclearwater.org/newsletter.php>

NJFC Friends Speak Out at Quarterly RAB Meeting

By Edward Dlugosz

The FM Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) held its quarterly public meeting at FM Gibbs Hall on January 14, 2010. Besides Mr Dlugosz, a RAB member, friends of NJFC made up the majority of the audience and made their voices heard during the public comment period. The agenda was full and contained the topics of old business; the status of the BEE, Landfill Streambank Stabilization, Indoor Air

Quality/Vapor Intrusion, and Landfill Capping. Also on the agenda were presentations on the progress of the Underground Storage Tanks (UST), Contaminated Groundwater Modeling, and status of the Installation Restoration Program, i.e., progress of contaminated site remediation.

Old Business addressed Mr. Dlugosz's comments on the July's RAB minutes which were tabled since October. Basically the comments addressed the Army's position and ridiculous rationale for not discussing the EA/FNSI at the July's RAB meeting and the intentional exclusion of the Eatontown EC representatives' verbal response to several issues in July's minutes. [details discussed in November 2009 Newsletter]. The outcome of the Old Business discussion was that the FM DPW representatives will revise the minutes to satisfy the comments.

The BEE status was that its Workplan was reviewed by NJDEP and DPW was to revise it to accommodate the action items. When asked by our RAB and COA representatives whether the plan would contain extensive downstream sediment testing, we were told that the testing would only take place a couple of feet from the landfill streambank and none would be done downstream unless evidence from those sample indicated more needed to be done. Our contention all along has been that 60 years of landfill, lab chemical outflow, and groundwater migration have left 60 years of contaminated sediment downstream which has affected the plant, animal, and human biosystems.

The landfill streambank stabilization project is almost completed. Landfill M-2, the biggest and most contaminated, is the last of the sites to be stabilized. Most observers feel that the rock access roads are an eyesore and installing the riprap before the newly proposed capping [they now refer to it as landfill "cover"] was poor engineering. The "cover" project still has not moved forward for lack of funds and without a schedule divulged. Lastly, the vapor intrusion retest did not detect vapors above DEP criteria. When asked how high the readings were at the height of the groundwater plume [>7840 ppm] at the Hex, we were told only soil gases were measured not the natural and air-sparged fumes escaping VOCs from GW.

The UST presentation showed progress but the UST removed/remediated statistics provided by the DPW at the RAB were smaller than those of the contractors on site during the UST/Stabilization tour in November. The IRP status still didn't give a clear definition of what still needed to be done although claims of petitions to NJDEP for additional No Further Action (NFA) status were presented. What makes this important and improbable is that the DPW has contracted for a new groundwater migration modeling effort to be done. This is more than curious because, as reported in November, the previous modeling was done and summarized in a report available on their website [[Classification Exception Area Information for Various Sites](#)] was done in 2004 as shown in the chart below. When asked why so soon, the answer was that the new modeling will be done with more accurate modeling tools. Sounds suspiciously like they want new and more optimistic results.

Site	Acres	Shelf Life	Expiration Date	Concentration	NJDEP GWQC	NJDEP SWQS
M-12	2.1	4,500	6504 AD			
Lead		4,500		52.90	8.00	0.02
Arsenic		150		82.90	10.00	5.00
M-18	4.1	>1000	after 3004 AD			
Benzene		5.4		29.18	1.00	0.15
Arsenic		1000		221.00	10.00	0.017
Cadmium		1000		630.70	4.00	10.00
Chromium		1000		1344.00	100.00	160.00
Lead		1000		836.00	10.00	5.00
FTMM-56 Bldg 80/166		>1000	after 3004 AD			
a-Chlordane				1.63	0.50	0.00
g-Chlordane		20		2.72	0.50	0.00
Arsenic		600		71.60	8.00	0.02
Lead 84.1		>1000		84.10	10.00	5.00
FTMM-57 Site 108		>1000	after 3004 AD			
Arsenic	1.0	>1000		63.20	8.00	0.02
FTMM 61 Bldg 283	10.0	>210	after 2214			
Benzene		19		1009.73	1.00	0.15
Ethylbenzene		NA		1160.45	6.000	
Total Xylenes		NA		5960.77	1.00	NA
Lead		>210		33.10	10.00	5.00

Figure 1: [Classification Exception Area Information for Various Sites](#)

Article Deadline for the January issue of NJFC Newsletter is Monday, December 21

E-mail your articles to newsletter@mcclearwater.org

By the deadline stated above, please use the phrase "MC Clearwater article" in the subject of your e-mail

NJFC Membership Info:
www.mcclearwater.org/docs/membership-form.htm

If any of the links do not work, cut and paste the full URL into the address box.

Bowing to Developers, Legislators Threaten Drinking Water

By Mrs. Judith Stanley Coleman, President, Monmouth Conservation Foundation

Three-quarters of NJ's fresh waters are too polluted to swim in or fish from --- let alone drink -- but our state legislature is making matters worse by allowing developers to build on land now regulated to buffer our water supplies.

A bill (A4345/S2985) passed both houses this month to delay for two years Department of Environmental Protection regulations to protect 300,000 acres of lands that are critical to buffer our lakes, streams and reservoirs from further pollution. This "gift" to developers (a misnomer, I admit, since developers contribute very generously for the "gifts" they receive) allows them to build new sewer lines -- and the buildings that connect to them -- in critical buffer zones.

Another shameful bill (S3004) would restrict public notices about contaminated sites only to property owners within 200 feet of the contamination. Ignoring gravity, our legislators believe toxic pollutants can't spread out or flow downstream -- despite, as just one example, the toxic plumes flowing from Fort Monmouth's many dumps into the Shrewsbury River and into groundwater supplies.

Gov. Corzine vetoed both bills, but Gov. Christie's preferences aren't clear yet and developers never quit.

A third bill (A4347/S3137) that is law extends -- yet again -- all pending and expired state and county building permits for 2.5 more years. This "gift," wrapped in the duplicitous banner of "economic stimulus," originally passed two years ago presumably to thwart the world-wide "Great Recession." Our legislators apparently still think the recession was caused by DEP's approval processes.

These bills are part of a systematic assault on our environment, even though everyone knows that New Jersey's open space and water supplies are seriously threatened by over-development. Open spaces, which buffer many of these supplies, need more protection from over-development, not less. Consider this: Several years ago, legislators fell all over themselves to promote a cleverly named bit of mischief, a "Fast Track" bill that would have required the deliberately understaffed and underfunded DEP to act on building applications within a very tight time period -- or automatically grant the permits. I suppose the state's traffic-congestion and overdevelopment wasn't proceeding quickly enough. Mercifully, that giveaway was shelved.

Another recent "gift," promoted under the oxymoron "Smart Growth" when "Dumb Growth" is more accurate, gave developers up to \$50 million in tax credits for projects generating 250 permanent jobs within a mile of a railroad station. The bill was designed to give legislators' patrons a \$1.5 billion taxpayers' subsidy while pretending to promote mass transit.

Today, about half of New Jersey's land is impermeable, which means roads, parking lots, roof tops and even our compacted suburban lawns prevent rain from soaking into the soil and recharging underground water supplies. Instead, rain runoff -- and the pollutants, garbage and erosion that come along for the ride -- land in our lakes, streams, and reservoirs. To make matters worse, more than half the open spaces lost in New Jersey in the past 13 years were the very forests and other natural areas needed to help buffer this runoff.

Sadly, the votes reducing protections for our waters supplies prove one thing -- developers' campaign contributions rank higher in Trenton than protecting our drinking water.

Remembering Dery Bennett

By George Moffatt

New Jersey Environmentalists were saddened to hear that Derrickson W. (Dery) Bennett died last December. He was 79. An icon in the environmental movement, he became the first director of the American Littoral Society in 1968 and retired in 2003. Still, he came to the Littoral Society office at Sandy Hook every day in his

beat-up pickup truck, acknowledging to me once that “Now I can do just what I want to do.” And what he wanted to do was represented by stacks of papers cluttering his office but never lost to Dery. He’d find whatever he was looking for within five minutes. “They’re here somewhere,” he’d mumble.

His tenure at the Littoral Society predated the Earth Day movement. He was there “before the Creation.” He once told me “the Society represents the fish,” but he never missed an opportunity to go crabbing or hit the beach when the blues were running. And he relished cooking seafood snacks at the Society’s office.

I make no claim to being an intimate of Dery’s. My first contact with him was back in the early 1970s when I was bored with my job and wrote to him, asking if he needed any help at the Society. He said he didn’t, the bum, a decision that I believe set the marine environmental movement back about 10 years. Coincidentally, he got the director’s job the same way about 10 years before, by writing to the Littoral Society cold turkey. Timing, timing, it’s all about timing.

Later, I finally met him when I was doing a newspaper story about beach access -- his favorite issue. We irritated a few beach club managers as we trudged along the federally constructed seawall through their properties. In Monmouth Beach, we met a man who said he spent \$40,000 to build his own seawall, and we spent a pleasant time discussing the very scary hazards of living on the edge of the ocean. My series on beach access had absolutely no impact in Trenton, but at least I spelled Dery’s name correctly.

I bumped into Dery off and on after that, and I remained a member of the Littoral Society whenever I remembered to send in my check.

A few years ago, I wrote a bunch of marine tutorials for the Society’s website. Dery was to edit them, but apparently I wrote faster than Dery read. Only a few made it to the website. Whenever I’d try to push him along, he’d look up sheepishly and mumble, “They’re here somewhere.” In recompense for the delays, he made me a lifetime Society member.

Occasionally his trademark optimism had limits. At the close of the Bush years, he asked me as we over-looked Raritan Bay, “Do you sometimes think it’s only getting worse?” Without Dery, it would have been.

A memorial for this remarkably effective yet gentle servant of the fish will be held Saturday, Feb.27, 2- 4 pm at the Fort Hancock Chapel at Sandy Hook. There we can tell lies, darned lies and even the truth about Dery. The latter will be the most interesting.

And my tutorials? It will take a hazmat team to find them, but “They’re here somewhere.”

Father Time Organization Awards Clearwater

by Jack Charlton

The Keansburg, New Jersey, organization known as Father Time is devoted to helping fathers develop strong relationships with their children. Every year, Father Time holds a fishing and environmental expo and, since its inception 6 years ago, Clearwater has supported this worthy event. Ray Cann, Tim Johnson, and Barbara and Jack Charlton carried the Clearwater banner to the Bolger school with information and displays which featured the Clearwater Quiz and a hands-on exhibit of plankton. This year Father Time surprised us with the presentation of a beautiful trophy in recognition of our support and our dedication to environmental causes.

Clearwater Shed Finds a New Home by Jack Charlton

The Clearwater shed, which is essential for the storage of items used in our



education program, is finally resting safely at its new location in Holmdel. Many thanks to board member Jim Franchi for providing space in his backyard to accommodate it and to Pat McGrath, Art SanFilippo and Jack Charlton for helping with the tricky move. Particular thanks to Ray Cann and Bill Pamplin for being the prime movers.

Late Breaking News—NJFC Meets With Senator Beck

NJFC officers Ben Forest and Ed Dlugosz, accompanied by COA Scientist Heather Saffert, met with State Senator Jennifer Beck to discuss the need for the environmental communities to be strongly represented in the legislation guiding the actual redevelopment of Fort Monmouth. Now that the Fort Monmouth Economic Revitalization Planning Authority's (FMERPA) legislated lifespan is over, a new revitalization implementation authority is mandated. Senator Beck bravely authored amendments to a very poor bill to thwart an attempt to hastily pass a bill that would have hamstrung implementation with safeguards. Senator Beck is now co-author of this year's rewrite of last year's S10 legislation. Senator Beck listened to our ideas and promised to consult us and try to make the ideas happen.

Environmental Justice Roundtable

By Ed Dlugosz

Each month I will highlight a bit of history and current efforts in our communities, state, and nation. If you have a contribution, please send it to Newsletter@mcclearwater.org and we will try to publish it in the newsletter and online.

Environmental Justice Milestones—2000s:

- 2000 - Indigenous Environmental Network starts the Mining Campaign Project to address unsustainable mining and oil development on native lands.
- 2000 - The North Carolina state assembly releases \$7 million to begin detoxification of Warren County's PCB landfill.
- 2000 - Macon County Citizens for a Clean Environment stages a successful campaign to prevent construction of a large landfill near campus of historic Tuskegee University.
- 2001 - Native American activists and their allies succeed in preventing siting of a nuclear waste dump in Ward Valley, California, after 10 years of struggle.
- 2001 - Residents of toxics-contaminated areas of Anniston, Alabama, win a \$42.8 settlement against Monsanto, as well as relocation of their community due to PCB contamination.
- 2001 - U.N. Commission on Human Rights lists living free of pollution as a basic human right.
- 2002 - Second People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit held in Washington, D.C.
- 2002 - Shell agrees to buy out and relocate residents of the Diamond community of Norco, Louisiana, due to contamination.
- 2003 - New York State Department of Environmental Conservation adopts a new policy requiring environmental justice reviews before the issuance of permits.
- 2005 - Congress passes an amendment to the EPA's appropriations bill directing the agency not to spend any congressionally appropriated funds in a manner that contravenes Executive Order 12898 or delays its implementation.
- 2005 - More than 45 environmental justice and mainstream environmental groups, including NRDC, oppose the EPA's attempt to eliminate "race" and "income" as a focus of its environmental justice efforts in its strategic plan.
- 2005 - Twenty-five Democrats in the Senate and House send a letter to the EPA for its failure to apply Executive Order 12898 in its flawed strategic plan for environmental justice.

- 2005 - At the request of Congresswoman Hilda Solis (D-CA), the General Accounting Office releases a report finding that the EPA generally devoted little attention to environmental justice issues while drafting three significant clean air rules on gasoline, diesel and ozone between fiscal years 2000 and 2004.
- 2008 – Lois Marie Gibbs is keynote speaker emphasizing the Precautionary Principle theme of the 33rd Annual Clearwater Festival at Asbury Park, NJ. Clearwater holds first “Environmental Roundtable” with Ed Dlugosz organizing and Kerry Butch moderating a panel of important EJ activists from throughout NJ.
- 2008 – NJEF, of which NJFC is a member, and Clean Water Fund launched the Urban Environmental Institute (UEI), a leadership initiative project in Newark, NJ. The institute was established to create the next generation of urban environmental advocates and build a more sustainable, greener, and economically stable Newark, NJ
- 2009 – NJEF and a coalition of other groups launched “Kids Clean Air Zones” and “Coalition for Healthy Ports” to combat air pollution and other hazards in urban areas.
- 2009 – NJ Friends of Clearwater holds the 2nd Annual Environmental Roundtable at the 34th Annual Clearwater Festival.

Festival Committees Reforming

The NJ Friends of Clearwater Festival is our annual open-air music and arts festival celebrating the spirit of people working and singing together for the environment. The finest in music and dance combines with environmental activism to celebrate our waterways. We need volunteers to plan and manage the upcoming 35th Annual Clearwater Festival through the following committees:

Site	Concessions	Peacekeeping
Entertainment	Environmental Activist	Recycling
Children’s Area	Vendors	Construction
Environmental Action	Publicity	Roadies
Hospitality	Universal Access	

If you liked what you saw or would like to make a change, then volunteer by Responding to: ClearwaterFestival@mcclearwater.org or visit us at: http://www.mcclearwater.org/docs/clearwater-festival/Volunteer_Form_Festival.pdf
Come to our January Meeting: Date/time To Be Announced (TBA)

Quote of the Month:

**Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it
—George Santayana, American Historian (1863-1952)**

PLEASE NOTE: If you would like to be removed from the NJ Friends of Clearwater Newsletter List

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