



NJ Friends of Clearwater Newsletter

May 2010

Volume 3, Number 5

Stop PurGen Action Meeting Monday, May 24!:

Clearwater and Sierra Opposed to Proposed Coal-Fired Power Plant

by Grace Sica, N.J. Sierra Chapter's Outreach Coordinator

The Jersey Shore Group of Sierra and the N.J. Friends of Clearwater are holding a unique joint public meeting to explore the impact that a proposed experimental coal-fired power plant in Linden will have on increasing air pollution in the metropolitan area and leaking carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions into the increasingly acidic Atlantic Ocean.

Two of the oldest environmental groups, supported by the NY-NJ Baykeepers, the American Littoral Society, Clean Ocean Action, and other environmental organizations, will hear a critique of the plan by Baykeeper's Deputy Executive Director, *Greg Remaud*, and the N.J. Sierra Chapter's Outreach Coordinator, Grace Sica at 7:30 p.m., Monday, May 24 at the Unitarian Universalist Meeting House, 1475 West Front St., Lincroft, N.J.

The \$5 billion, 750-megawatt power plant, to be located on the Arthur Kill, would burn 2.5 million tons of coal a year. About 60 percent of its electrical output would be sold to a power supplier for distribution. The remaining 40 percent would be used for two purposes: to generate 1.3 million tons of nitrogen fertilizer a year and to pump each year about 5 to 10 million tons of pressurized, liquid CO₂ through a 100-mile pipe from the plant into the Atlantic Ocean, where the CO₂ would -- presumably -- be stored forever about beneath the ocean floor.

Environmentalists claim everything about the plan will damage the environment. They fear the coal-burning plant would worsen the already polluted air quality in densely populated North Jersey and New York. They also oppose the idea of manufacturing reactive nitrogen fertilizer on the site, since scientists claim reactive fertilizers have been creating "dead zones" in the oceans. By locating the plant in Linden, Union County, critics claim the plant would unfairly afflict the many minority residents in the highly populated area with even more environmental hazards.

In addition to burning dirty coal in a state where the air in all 21 counties fails to meet minimum health standards, the sequestration plan to pump and store the CO₂ about 6,600 feet below the Atlantic seafloor is being criticized by environmentalists, who argue that the process is an unproven technology. So far, only Norway has tested the sequestration technology with a commercial plant one-tenth the size of PurGen -- and critics claim the CO₂ has been leaking!

"This sounds like just another attempt to convince us that coal isn't dirty and that technology will save us," said Ed Dlugosz, President of Clearwater. "Because New Jersey is one of the most polluted states in the nation, we should be pursuing cleaner sources of energy," he said, a view also held by many of the plan's critics.

"I hope that all the members of Clearwater come out to this meeting because this plant could adversely affect an area that has faced environmental injustice caused by fossil fuel for almost a century. Grass-roots activists like Beatrice Bernzott and Rebecca Kerins-Tattolli have been fighting PurGen and other injustices for years. It's not just local, the health and safety of several million people and the ecology in the metropolitan area and at the Jersey Shore are at enormous risk," Dlugosz said. "And I'm very suspicious about that fertilizer plant."

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Meetings

Sunday, May 2, 2pm
General Meeting,
Eatontown Community
Center

Festival Meeting
Wednesday, May 5,
7PM

25 Peters Place, Red
Bank

Monday, May 17, 7pm
Environmental Cmte
Meeting, Cobblestone
Restaurant, Eatontown

Tuesday, May 25, 7pm
BOD Meeting,
Cobblestone
Restaurant

PurGen Joint Meeting,
UU Meeting House
1475 W. Front St,
Lincroft, NJ

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

Help Needed For Festival Grants! by Barbara and Jack Charlton

It cost lots of money to put on a festival - substantially more than NJ Clearwater has available at present. Hence it is imperative that we raise additional funds from gifts and grants.

If anyone out there would be willing to make a gift to ensure the survival of this environmental education event it would be greatly appreciated. Any amount, no matter how small, will help - just mail a check marked "festival donation" to NJ Friends of Clearwater, PO Box 303, Red Bank, NJ 07701. Donations are tax deductible.

Over a dozen grant requests have been sent and we are hopeful, but, to date, no commitment has been received. Some fresh ideas and viewpoints would doubtless help, so if you would be willing to get involved with grant writing please contact us at bjcharlton2@verizon.net.

Fort Monmouth RAB Meeting April 8, 2010: Time to Ask Hard Questions

by Ed Dlugosz

As reported last month, the Army signed the bogus Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) document on 5 February 2010. Contrary to previous denials that the FNSI was a RAB matter, it has magically been placed and discussed oddly at the April 8th RAB meeting. By oddly I mean that it was a one-way reading of the regulations by Ms Wanda Green regarding the National regulations called NEPA. The most important lesson that the RAB members and the public learned was the meaning of "Significant". Like Lewis Carroll's Alice in Wonderland-Through the Looking Glass where Humpty Dumpty tutors Alice on the usage of words*, Ms Green explained that the rules say that "significant" means whatever the Army wants it to mean. Unfortunately some RAB members defended this absurdity.

I was thrilled to see a good turnout that showed the Government/Army representatives our disapproval of their FNSI. Two areas of major concern remain that have not been addressed in any of the preceding Army assessments are 1.) health concerns to Fort Monmouth workers exposed to the contamination during the past 90+ years, and 2.) the need for thorough downstream testing for contaminated sediment affecting human and marine life of the Shrewsbury watershed.

Among the other topics that were presented and discussed at the RAB meeting are:

- The ongoing issues with the Work Plan scope and delay of the execution of Baseline Ecological Evaluation and remediation were discussed. Shaw Engineering presented a high level outline of the Plan but was very evasive when it came to the scope of the sediment testing. Councilmen from Shrewsbury and Oceanport concurred with the need for comprehensive downstream sediment testing.
- We expected but did not receive a report on the progress of a new groundwater migration modeling effort by Brinkerhoff Environmental. The environmental community is skeptical about its rationale so soon after the 2004 modeling effort
- A presentation by in-house DPW staff showed the progress of the Underground Storage Tank (UST) remediation effort. The count has grown from 24 to now over 60 with no real end in sight. All tanks reported were full of oil and/or water where the ratio was between 80-100% of the contents were oil.
- Landfill Streambank Stabilization is almost complete with the exception of the worst landfill that needed stabilization on both sides of the Wampum. There was no progress in the landfill capping [as Ms Green calls it "landfill covering" in the Carroll tradition] was reported. Again the community believes in the need for impervious capping.
- The second round of ECP2 Vapor Intrusion detection results has either not occurred or reported yet. When attempting to correct another lapse in Minutes of the last RAB meeting which should have reported a conversation on a vapor intrusion topic between Ms Green and me. My recollection and recording of the conversation indicated that Ms Green had said that a vapor intrusion test was not required at the height of the contaminated TCE/PCE readings in the late 1990s in

the Myers Center courtyard because the DPW tested soil gas not groundwater-induced vapor. When I cited EPA guidance that identified groundwater was the major cause of soil gas and that it was standard operating procedure to test where high levels of groundwater VOCs are present, she insisted that her only statement was that Vapor Intrusion Detection testing was not done at that time.

As a side note, I spoke with the EPA Region 2 Administrator Judith Enck about these issues at a recent NJEF Conference where she was keynote speaker and will have her staff look into it.

- "When I choose a word," Humpty Dumpty said in a rather scornful tone, "it means just what I choose it to mean neither more nor less." --Lewis Carroll, king of the nonsense words, in *Through the Looking Glass*.

Clearwater Speaks Out Against the Off-Shore Drilling off the East Coast

Note: President Ed Dlugosz of NJFC wrote a letter, on behalf of NJFC, to the Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service on the eve of its only hearing on issue of the opening up of America's East Coast waters to exploratory drilling. It was with the worst possible but deserved irony that worst oil spill in many years occurred just days before the hearing was held in Newark, NJ on April 27th. At the time of the letter, the British Petroleum (BP) and Government reports claimed that 42,000 gallons (1000 Barrels) a day were leaking from the well of the oil rig Deepwater Horizon upgraded to 5000 barrels estimated by the USCG and BP yesterday and now today, April 30th, NOAA claims that the daily rate will top 50,000 barrels (>2.1 Million gallons) a day. As ever, officials of all stripes were playing the spill down. By superimposing a graphic of the magnitude of the slick at that time on the Jersey Shoreline, he tried to show the impact. The slick in the Gulf has now reach landfall on the bayous and delta regions of our southern coast, home to some of the most exotic creatures on earth. The slick and the disaster continues to grow as seen in the graphic available at: <http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2010/04/30/us/gulf-oil-spill-map.html?hp> . The letter follows.

April 26, 2010

"Comments on the PEIS Scope"

*Regional Supervisor, Leasing and Environment (MS 5410),
Minerals Management Service, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region
1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394*

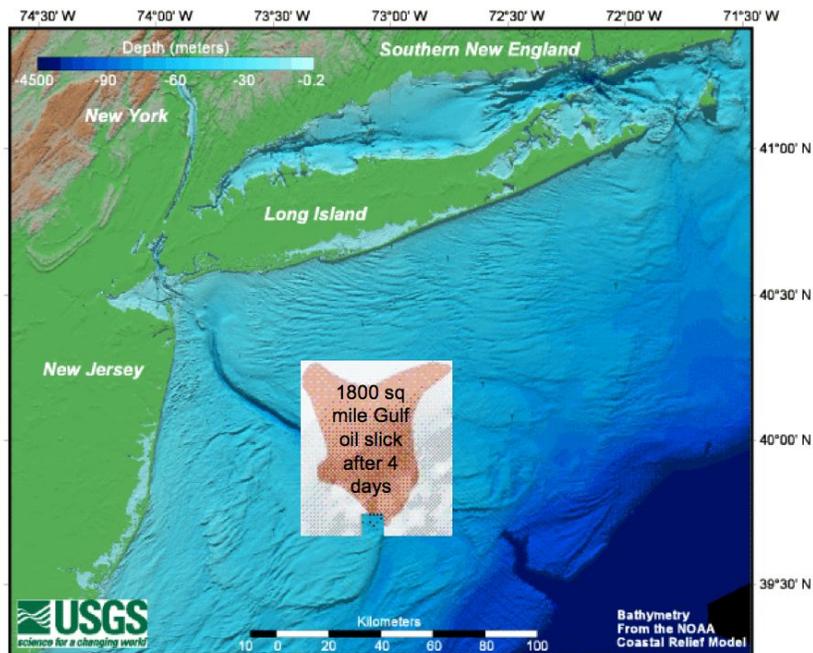
Regional Supervisor:

President Obama may have had an energy-independence game plan in mind when he thought that permitting leasing of the America's coastal waters to exploratory drilling would be an acceptable opening gambit. The explosion of the oil rig off Louisiana coast Wednesday, April 21 shows that there are jokers in the deck with a risk too high for the East Coast environment. Disastrous explosions are not uncommon in the fossil fuel extraction world, witness this event and the Big Branch WV mining two weeks earlier.

The leaks were discovered Saturday in the riser, the 5,000-foot-long pipe that extended from the wellhead to the drilling platform. The riser detached from the platform after it exploded and sank, and it is now snaking up from the wellhead and back down to the sea floor. It is leaking in two places, both at the sea floor. The bends in the riser, like kinks in a garden hose, have apparently prevented a gush of oil. By Monday morning, the well was pouring greater than 42,000 gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico and the oil slick had already covered 1800 square miles.

The response team is trying three tacks: one that could stop the leaks within two days, one that would take months and one that would not stop the leaks but would capture the oil and deliver it to the surface while permanent measures are pursued. The most likely scenario is the second, 3 or more months according to one report.

As disastrous as the current Gulf disaster is with the loss of life, the relatively minor holes in the riser could have been and may still get worse if the riser fails completely.



The risk is too high to contemplate on this fragile East Coast and more fragile New Jersey environment. By superimposing the extent of the 1800 square mile spill, reported as of this morning, onto the NY/NJ Bight we call the Clean Ocean Zone will give you an idea of the harm being done in the Gulf and what can happen here.

We must and will continue to fight to reverse President Obama's decision. Senators Menendez and Lautenberg completely support Clearwater and other environmentalists and like-minded citizens in this fight. Opening up more oilfields to wean us from fossil fuel is like handing out free cigarettes to patients in a lung cancer ward and providing the matches...explosive.

Sincerely,

Edward J Dlugosz

Edward J. Dlugosz
President, New Jersey Friends of Clearwater.

NJFC's April Earth Month Activities

Earth Day and the month that surrounded it were busy times for Clearwater. In addition to the RAB meeting and the MMS hearing mentioned above, Clearwater led or participated in

- April 7: Wakefern Sustainability Fair, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM, Wakefern Food Corp., Plaza 7 Facility, 33 Northfield Avenue, Edison, NJ 08837
- April 17: NJ Environmental Federation (NJEF) Conference, 9 am - 5 pm) at Rutgers University Center for Law and Justice, 123 Washington Street, Newark, NJ
- April 18: St Mary's Environmental Expo, 8:45 am to 1 pm in the Parish Hall of St. Mary's RCC, Phalanx Rd & Rt 34, Colts Neck, NJ
- April 20: Wakefern Sustainability Fair, 11:30 - 1:30 PM, Wakefern Food Corp., General Merchandise Facility, Jamesburg, NJ,
- April 24: EARTH DAY OPEN HOUSE, Saturday, 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM, Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center, 331 Georgia Tavern Road, Howell
- April 24: Highlands Earth Day, Highland Community Center, 10am – 2pm
- April 30: Four sessions of TEF at Anastasia Elementary School, Long Branch.

Here are some details of a few of those events:

NJEF 24th Annual Conference

A contingent of Clearwater members participated in the NJ Environmental Federation's 24th Annual Conference at Rutgers, Newark. Clearwater is a founding member of that coalition that spans the diversity of all environmental groups in NJ from grass roots organizations like our and the Ironbound Community Corp. (a national leader in Environmental Justice) to the national organizations like Sierra Club and Clean Water Action. Of course Amy Goldsmith, NJEF Executive Director, is also a member of Clearwater and wife of Ben. Our members led or attended workshops that included: Power, Politics And The Environment (Ben Forest led); 21st Century Water; Toxic Substance Control Act Reform; Green Economy And Green Jobs; Healthy Schools/Healthy Towns; Climate Change; How To Develop While Protecting The Environment And Economy; Sustainability And The Green Movement; and Growing the Green Generation on youth education and activism (Ed Dlugosz).

The most inspiring speaker was Judith Enck, Administrator of EPA's Region 2 (NJ, NY, & Virgin Islands, etc.) She spoke earnestly of the mission she's been given by the Obama administration and her boss, former NJDEP head and now EPA administrator Lisa Jackson. Judith received ovation after ovation as she enumerated her Region 2 priorities. Ed spent time with Ms Enck (right) after her session and laid out the issues with the Fort Monmouth cleanup. EPA, during the Bush administration, had opted out from participating in the RAB. Ed gave her data from NJFC's FM display and Ms Enck promised to review it with her superfund site team. We also learned to our delight that she had been President of the Clearwater BOD years ago which gave us great hope.



Clearwater a Major Player at Wakefern/ShopRite Sustainability Fairs

Wakefern, the parent company of ShopRite Supermarkets, organized a series of Sustainability Fairs for their employees with three primary purposes. They wanted

employees to discover sustainable solutions being employed by their suppliers; find out about sustainable technologies potentially applicable to ShopRite; and learn how to take action at home and at work



Because of our special long-term relationship – ShopRite has been a major supporter of our Clearwater Festival – we were invited to participate and had displays, literature and information at their headquarters in Edison (4/7) and also at a major distribution facility in Jamesburg (4/20).

Wakefern/ShopRite deserves kudos for having the imagination, concern, and commitment to conduct these excellent events. Special thanks also go to Tim Johnson, Barbara and Jack Charlton (pictured at left), and Andrea Spinelli for the Clearwater effort.

St. Mary's Environmental Expo

Tim and Marylin Johnson, Chrissie and Susan Goedkoop have kept our perfect attendance alive at the Environmental Expo at St. Mary's RCC. Once again our wheel of fortune environmental quiz game was one of the most visited displays at the Expo. Our biggest competition was across the aisle at the 4H display of cuddly rabbits of all species including a Netherlands Dwarf and American Lop-Eared rabbits.

Earth Day Events at Highlands and Manasquan Reservoir

As always, April 24th was a busy day for Clearwater. We had to choose from many offers and we'd already attended several events that same week. We chose two that allowed us to keep with this year's annual theme, Watershed Protection. Highland NJ

is one of the most scenic venues being on the Bay facing Sandy Hook between which the largest watershed in Monmouth County, i.e., the combined Shrewsbury and Navesink Rivers, enters the bay on its way to the Atlantic Ocean. Members Lynn Humphrey and Chic Roemmele provided the avid crowd with information about Clearwater's initiatives and membership benefits. We thank Highlands Councilwomen Rebecca Kane for inviting us.

The second event of the day was Earth Day Open House at the Environmental Center at beautiful Manasquan Reservoir County Park. Located in Howell at 331 Georgia Tavern Road on the west side of the 40B gallon Reservoir, the EC is an amazing destination all year round. With its displays of every aspect of the local flora, fauna, and geological environment the EC and the Park is a treasure trove for all ages including the live video feed from a Bald Eagle nest with a 2 month old fledgling. Susan Goedkoop and Ed Dlugosz set up our interactive watershed model directly below an active, illuminated representation of the Manasquan Watershed from the furthest west reaches of Monmouth County to the Atlantic. It provided the perfect setting for hands-on teaching children of all ages that they could help prevent runoff (or Non-Point Source) pollution. We again thank Chris Lanza, Senior Park Naturalist, for hosting us and informing us that over 1000 visitors attended the displays at the Open House event.

Traveling Environmental Festival in Long Branch

Brookdale CC student and teacher Katrina and Jodi, respectively, joined George Moffatt to present the TEF to four sessions of elementary students at the Anastasia Elementary School in Long Branch on April 30. As always the sight of a tank filled with locally seined crabs, horseshoe crabs, and a variety of fish species excited the children. The lessons of the scarcity of clean water, the food web and its lowliest forms zoo- and phytoplankton, and the importance of keeping the local neighborhood watershed clean shows that even children who are all part of the environment can make the world a little better.

Think Green Gifts For Mom This Mother's Day

If you observe Mothers Day, honor your mom and Mother Nature by giving her a green gift this year!

Local flowers: So many cut flowers are imported from other states and sometimes internationally. This requires extra resources in terms of fuel for transportation, refrigeration and at times other treatments to keep them looking fresh. Try to buy ones that are grown locally. Better still, perhaps potted flowers, herbs or decorative plants that can be planted in the garden.

Jewelry: The jewelry industry has wreaked havoc on the environment. For example, it takes up to 5 tons of water and 20 tons of mine waste to create a simple gold ring! Consider buying something pre-loved, from a socially responsible jeweler or items made from glass, shells or recycled materials.

Organic Perfume: Many perfumes are made up of toxic chemical cocktails, components of which are not only hazardous to the environment, but to human health. Look for perfumes labeled as being organic and carrying the appropriate certification.

Organic Cosmetics: It's the same situation with cosmetic items. Again look for organic products and those based on plant materials, such as olive oil.

Candles: Did you know that many candles are made from crude oil byproducts? Burning candles releases benzene, styrene, acetone and particulate matter. The wicks may even contain lead! Additionally, scented candles may contain more synthetic chemicals. Soy candles or candles made of beeswax are the way to go and for scented candles, look for soy or beeswax ones that incorporate essential oils - and have a non-lead wick.

Sponsorships and memberships: Perhaps a donation in her name for a tree planting or a conservation project might bring her joy? Maybe a membership to an

Join us on Meetup:
<http://www.meetup.com/Clearwater-of-New-Jersey-Meetup-Group/>

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Jim Franchi
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Article Deadline for
the June Issue of
NJFC Newsletter is
Monday, May 31

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.

Newsletter Information
Editorial Committee:
Ed Dlugosz & Lynn Humphrey

online organic cooking club? A trip to a health spa? The possibilities are endless.

Fair trade clothes and accessories: Look for items made from organic cotton and produced in fair trade conditions. "Fair trade" is a term applied to products that meet certain conditions relating to labor (non-sweatshop), environmental standards and social policy. Run a search on with "fair trade" preceding any product you're thinking of buying.

Kitchenware and appliances: When purchasing electrical equipment, try to find items that consume as little power as possible and have recyclable components. Steer clear of cookware and other appliances with non-stick surfaces made from Teflon.

Green gift certificates: Can't decide on a gift for your Mother, especially a "green" one; so why not let your mom decide for yourself? Finding green gift stores online is pretty easy as so many stores with a focus on the environment have popped up in recent years - search on terms such as: green gifts mother's day or earth friendly gifts mother's day.

When you give your gift, explain the big picture and thoughts behind it - you'll be sure to especially impress your mom this Mothers Day

Festival Committees Reforming

The NJ Friends of Clearwater Festival is our annual open-air environment, 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

We are still looking for committee chair people to fill a few vacancies. Some of our usual suspects have stepped up to new, bigger challenges but they've left small voids that need to be filled.

**IT'S NOT EASY BEING GREEN
But green's the color of Spring
And green can be cool and friendly-like
And green can be big like an ocean, or important
Like a mountain, or tall like a tree**

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