



Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition **NEWSLETTER**

July-August 1989

Upcoming UPEC Dates

August 8
August 20-26
August 27-September 2
September 16-17
Late September

UPEC meeting, 7pm, Ely Township Hall
North Country Scenic Trail trail-building
Trip (see article in this issue)
Hendri River/Delirium Wilderness Camping Trip (see article in this issue)
Sylvania Wilderness Camping Trip (see article this issue)

The August 1989 Meeting

The August meeting will be Tuesday, August 8th at 7pm at the Ely Township Hall, which is located off of U.S. 41 on Diorite Road west of Ishpeming. It is important for all Board members to attend because we still need to make committee assignments and assign newsletter editors as well as make decisions about some issues. All UPEC members and interested public are, as always, encouraged to attend.

June Meeting Highlights —Tour of Champion Pulp Mill— (see special article)

Low Level Radioactive Waste Repository Siting Continues

After months of delay when Governor Blanchard threatened to pull Michigan out of the Midwest Compact unless the other states took responsibility for liability concerns, the siting process is moving forward. The announcement for areas excluded from further consideration is expected in late July. These areas to be excluded will be selected by a statewide computer model which divides the state into one kilometer cells. If a cell contains any of the exclusionary criteria, it will be excluded from further consideration.

The exclusionary criteria include: earthquake potential; 500 year floodplain; areas within 10 miles of the Great Lakes; 3,000 feet isolation distance from adjacent property lines; and state parks, wildlife refuges, wilderness areas, and other protected areas. Additional exclusionary criteria include: less than 11 feet of glacial drift; unfavorable geologic features; unfavorable soil associations; and uncertain aquifer vulnerability.

A Public Advisory Committee has been appointed to advise the Authority on environmental, social, and cultural issues in selecting the three candidate sites. Public acceptability of a site will be a key factor to be evaluated. Three candidate sites are to be

North Country Scenic Trail Update

Scouting and flagging for the North Country Scenic Trail has been taking place between Craig Lake and the McCormick Wilderness. Don and Gene Elzinga of Marquette have been instrumental in getting landowner permission on the stretches of private land. Sierra Club trail building trips this year will be the weeks of August 20-26 and August 27-September 2. Local UPEC members can also work for shorter periods of time. Any help you can give to this important and worthwhile effort would really be appreciated. For more information contact Vince Smith, Box 76, Whitmore Lake, MI 48189, or call Doug Welker, UPEC Board member, at 338-2680.

More Wilderness Sampler Trips to be Led by Doug Welker

Once again, Doug Welker has volunteered to organize and lead two wilderness sampler trips late this summer. Last summer, UPEC sponsored trips to the Sturgeon River Gorge Wilderness and the Big Island Lake Wilderness. This summer, trips will be taken to Sylvania Wilderness and Delerium Wilderness (with a day also spent at the Hendrie Caves).

The trip to the Hendrie Cave/Delirium Swamp will be September 16th and 17th. Hendrie Cave is the largest cave in Michigan and the area contains unique karst (limestone solution) features. For the past several years this unique geological/speleological area has been preserved as the Fiborn Karst Preserve by the Michigan Karst Conservancy (MKC). The MKC has offered a guided tour of the cave and the other Karst features on the property. The tour will take the better part of a day.

Depending on logistics yet to be determined, we would probably camp in the Delirium area (the bugs should be gone) and spend the next day at the Delirium Wilderness around the Sylvester Pond area. It should be a great time of year to hike and explore the swamp habitat.

reductions in discharges to achieve zero discharge by the year 2000. Zero discharge was adopted as a goal by the Great Lakes states and provinces in the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, first signed in 1978 and revised in 1987.

Resolutions were also passed recommending that research into the human health effects of Great Lakes water quality be a priority of the Great Lakes Protection Fund; Michigan's portion of the Fund was passed by voters last November as part of the Quality of Life Bond.

Citizen Rallies Planned for Zero Discharge of Toxics

The International Joint Commission's (IJC) biennial meeting on Great Lakes water quality will be held October 12-14 at the Hamilton, Ontario Convention Center. Citizen participation is needed to clearly express demands that governments begin viewing zero discharge as the guiding principle of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. The IJC meeting will last two days and citizens will be given an opportunity to make their concerns known directly to the Board. On Saturday, October 14th, there will be independent workshops held by environmental groups to evaluate the two preceding days and develop action plans for the next two years.

During the month of September, six preparatory meetings will be held throughout the Great Lakes Basin (the closest ones to us will be Duluth or Green Bay). Hopefully we will be able to send some UPEC folks to these meetings.

Arnheim Paper Mill Meeting Held

A press conference was held at 8am on the morning of 11 July in Arnheim concerning further plans to build a paper mill there. Representatives of the James River Corporation of Richmond, VA presented a program at the request of the Area Development Committee, cooperating with the Forest Improvement District.

Hall, which is located off of U.S. 41 on Diorite Road west of Ishpeming. It is important for all Board members to attend because we still need to make committee assignments and assign newsletter editors as well as make decisions about some issues. All UPEC members and interested public are, as always, encouraged to attend.

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A Public Advisory Committee has been appointed to advise the Authority on environmental, social, and cultural issues in selecting the three candidate sites. Public acceptability of a site will be a key factor to be evaluated. Three candidate sites are to be selected by January 1990.

The Michigan Low Level Radioactive Waste Authority has recently started a new publication called *Update* which provides current news and information on the siting process. To be added to the mailing list, write: Michigan LLRWA, PO Box 30026, Lansing, MI 48909, or call: 517-335-0430.

A video entitled, "Safely Managing Low-Level Radioactive Waste in Michigan," is available for any group or individual who would like to view it. Although it contains a lot of film footage of Eisenhower and Atoms for Peace, it does thoroughly explain the siting process. To obtain the video, call Gayle Coyer at 942-7767.

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The trip to Sylvania will be in late September. Doug describes Sylvania as a "great place—almost all virgin forest, beautiful lakes, great small mouth bass fishing." Doug plans to camp on Loon Lake, which involves about 1.5 hours of paddling with one short, easy portage, or a 1.5 hour hike. There is excellent sand beach swimming. More details on both trips will be in the September newsletter.

Great Lakes United Proposes Freeze on Toxic Discharges

A toxic freeze resolution adopted at the Great Lakes United meeting in early May calls for a prohibition against any net increase in discharges, and for phased

states and provinces in the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, first signed in 1978 and revised in 1987.

Resolutions were also passed recommending that research into the human health effects of Great Lakes water quality be a priority of the Great Lakes Protection Fund; Michigan's portion of the Fund was passed by voters last November as part of the Quality of Life Bond.

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The James River representatives gave a run-down on the nature of their \$6 billion (annual sales) corporation and opened the meeting to questions from those in attendance. Among the facts and answers given: (1) Envision a "major complex"—after extensive environmental studies; (2) corp. now produces Northern Tissue, Bolt, Gala, and a wide variety of printing papers; (3) corp now has 39,000 employees, 15 pulp mills, 41 papermills; (4) reasons for a U.P. location: area has underutilized supply of wood that is best suited for high quality papers (as opposed to southern woods), area has a resource of high quality workers, U.P. is relatively close to major markets; (5) corp. is exploring non-chlorine bleaching

technologies; (6) plant would be constructed with facilities for utilizing recycled paper; (7) market tests for unbleached paper have shown that a very small market exists—implication was made that it may be time for new marketing studies in this regard; (8) environmental studies would be made to establish base line biological data, permits obtained, etc., with a view toward construction beginning after about 1992.

UPEC will continue to monitor this project, which could be a source of jobs in this area, but which could also be a source of needless pollution if the complex is not well-planned to avoid it.

Pictured Rocks Road Planning Begins

The National Park Service (NPS) has announced planning for the future construction of a 12.2 mile section of a scenic drive within a narrow corridor adjacent to the Lakeshore's Beaver Basin along the southern boundary of the Lakeshore. In mid-June, NPS planners will begin compiling information on the natural and cultural resources of the study area in preparation for writing the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS will assess the potential impacts of the various alternative road alignments which will be prepared.

The road alignment alternatives study and EIS preparation is the first phase of a planning process expected to span two years. Following the NPS planning work in June, a program will be announced for obtaining input from interested agencies, groups, public officials, and the general public as to the merits and weaknesses of each of the road alignment alternatives developed; the program is expected to begin in late summer or early fall of 1989.

UPEC Invited to Join Timber Wolf Alliance

UPEC has been invited to join the Timber Wolf Alliance (TWA). The TWA was formed in 1987 and is a coalition of 22 business, environmental, and outdoor organizations dedicated to bringing accurate information about wolves to the public. The alliance is working to increase and improve public awareness and acceptance of the wolf in its native habitat and appreciation of its ecological roll.

On March 7th of this year, the Wisconsin Timber Wolf Recovery Plan was approved by the WI DNR. The Plan detailed that wolves will not be transplanted from other states but they will be allowed to reproduce naturally to a level of about 80 wolves (current estimates are 28). To help protect the wolves, key management strategies include; law enforcement, rewards, cooperative

habitat management, livestock damage control, and population control.

Whether a program similar to this would be implemented in Michigan remains to be seen. A decision on joining the TWA will be made at the August meeting.

Get to Know the Michigan Environmental Council

UPEC is a member of the Michigan Environmental Council (MEC), which is made up of about 20 environmental organizations throughout the state. MEC is our voice in Lansing, and lobbies, negotiates, and shapes major environmental issues that affect the entire state. MEC publishes the *Michigan Environmental Report* which contains concise, timely reports on the most important actions and issues in Michigan, such as solid and hazardous waste management, air and water quality, groundwater protection, wetlands regulation, pesticide law and environmental enforcement. Special projects by the Council's member groups are discussed and conferences and publications are listed. Enclosed in this newsletter you will find a brochure on MEC with a blank for subscribing to the *Michigan Environmental Report* or for making contributions to MEC.

Ottawa Review Newsletter Available

The Ottawa National Forest has recently begun a new publication, called the *Ottawa Review* that is designed to keep interested people informed on issues on the Ottawa. Such items as the peregrine falcon release, aspen management, loons, the North Country Scenic Trail and much else is contained in the first issue. To be placed on the mailing list, send your name and address to: Ottawa Review, Ottawa National Forest, East U.S. 2, Ironwood, MI 49938.

June Meeting Report

Tour of Quinnesec's Champion Pulp Mill

The June meeting began with a presentation and discussion at the Champion Quinnesec bleached kraft pulp mill on the pulp production process, conducted by Bill Stephenson, Process Control Manager, Doug Karttunen, Environmental Supervisor, and Bob Lee, head of the Timberlands department. A tour of the plant followed the presentation. Our meeting then continued at the Bethany Lutheran Church in Norway.

Doug Karttunen spoke about how the air, water, and solid wastes generated by the plant are handled with various pollution control devices. The plant operates a wood-waste boiler, but the boiler occasionally operates with coal, oil, or natural gas.

Electrostatic precipitators trap particulates generated by this process. The recovery boiler reclaims some of the chemicals used in the pulping process, and converts others into energy. An electrostatic precipitator and bag house filtering system are used with the recovery boiler.

It is the odors from the plant that have, until now, been the most controversial issue, and the Dickinson County Citizens for Clean Air (DCCCA) have contested this point with the Champion mill and the DNR for several years now. There are two separate collection and destruction systems for the noncondensable, odorous gases produced by the pulping process. Dilute vent gas (DVG) is collected from weak or dilute gas sources, and is incinerated in either the wood-waste boiler or the recovery boiler. Concentrated vent gas (CVG) which is explosive, high in total reduced sulfur (TRS) concentration, but low in volume, is conveyed to a lime kiln for incineration. If the kiln flame fails, the CVGs are injected into the wood-waste boiler, where they are incinerated with added fuel. For safety reasons, CVGs are vented to the outside air for a short time while changing over from one incineration system to the other. Also, if the lime kiln and wood-waste boiler are both unavailable, CVG venting will occur.

Changes have been made at the plant over the last three years to reduce episodes of CVG venting. According to Champion, in 1986, total CVG venting occurred for 12,317 minutes, as compared to 1988, when total CVG venting was 205 minutes. The DNR requested the Champion mill to study possible ways to decrease the amount of CVG venting by mid-April of this year. The Champion mill has completed this study, and its consultant engineering firm, Rust International Corporation, reported all five options considered were not economically and/or technically feasible. DNR staff, in a report dated June 20, determined that all five of the alternatives investigated by the consulting firm, plus an additional alternative, were feasible, with some modifications, and would reduce TRS emissions from CVG venting. The methods of odor control were ranked based on "overall removal efficiencies." The DNR Air Pollution Control Commission will meet on August 1 to review the staff recommendations.

About 15 million gallons of Menominee River water per day are used for plant processing, and approximately 11-13 million gallons per day are returned, after in-plant treatment. The question of dioxin release in the discharged water was discussed; dioxin is a by-product of the chlorine-based kraft-pulp bleaching process. Chlorine in the bleaching process acts to form toxic chlorine-

preparation for writing the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS will assess the potential impacts of the various alternative road alignments which will be prepared.

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UPEC Officers: President Gayle Coyer, Skandia, 942-7767; Vice President Marilyn Cooper, Houghton, 482-7834; Secretary-Treasurer Dave Bach, Atlantic Mine, 482-6543; Corresponding Secretary Dickie Selfe, Houghton, 482-5663; **Board Members-at-Large:** Robert T. Brown, Houghton, 482-0945; Kraig Klungness, Houghton, 482-2967; William Malmsten, Ishpeming, 485-5909; William L. Robinson, Marquette, 226-2723; Jon Saari, Marquette, 228-4656; Gregory Seppanen, Harvey, 249-3949; Scot Stewart, Marquette, 225-1418; Rolf Swanson, Marquette, 228-6702; Douglas Welker, Pelkie, 338-2680. [All telephone numbers are Area Code 906.]
