



Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition NEWSLETTER

June 1989

June Meeting

The June UPEC meeting will be held on Saturday, June 17th in the Iron Mountain area. There will be both a business meeting and a tour of the facilities of the Champion International pulp mill in Quinnesec. It is extremely important that all Board members, members and other interested persons attend this meeting, since it has been about three months since we have had a business meeting, and there are lots of issues that need decisions.

The Champion tour will begin at 11:00amEDT (10:00amCDT). We will meet at the administrative building, which is located on the south side of U.S. 2 between Quinnesec and Norway. We will be given a tour of the plant by Bill Stephenson, Process Control Manager, and Doug Karttunen, Environmental Supervisor. After the tour we will move into a conference room for discussion and questions. [also, see boxed column at the right→]

After the tour, we will meet at the Bethany Lutheran Church at 815 Iron Street in Norway. To reach the church, when traveling east into Norway on U.S. 2, turn left one block after the stoplight (by the Corner House Restaurant). The church is at the end of that block, and the meeting room is downstairs. The meeting should begin right around 1:30pmEDT—12:30pmCDT—in case someone is interested in just attending the meeting and not the tour. Bring a lunch, and we can eat while we have the business meeting. We'll try to have the meeting last no more than two hours and, hopefully, we can conduct a lot of business during that time. We need to schedule future meeting dates, assign newsletter editors, and make committee assignments, as well as discuss issues. If you have any questions about the meeting or the tour, please give Gayle Coyer a call at 249-1448 (work) or 942-7767 (home).

President's Report

—*Gayle Coyer*—

I had an opportunity to meet with Dave Dempsey, formerly Governor Blanchard's environmental advisor and now

Champion Pulp Mill Tour

As mentioned above, UPEC will tour the Champion Quinnesec bleached kraft pulp mill on Saturday, June 17th. Besides observing how the pulping process works, we will be examining a variety of issues associated with the operation, including air emission, wastewater emissions, and timber harvesting practices.

The pulp mill has been operating since 1985. Since it first became operational, citizens in the area have had concerns about air emissions that cause odor and potential health problems. In February, 1987, the Dickinson County Citizens for Clean Air was formed to address concerns with the plant.

The group is especially concerned about the level of Total Reduced Sulpher (TRS) emissions from the plant. They find that the incinerator installed to control the emissions, which is a wood waste boiler incinerator, is inadequate, and instead a dedicated concentrated TRS incinerator should be installed, which was originally planned and later dropped. They are also concerned that the existing permit does not adequately regulate uncontrolled, unmonitored venting of TRS emissions.

The group also discovered the pulp diffusion washer was changed to a vacuum drum washer, which has higher TRS emissions, after the permit was issued. Citizens are concerned that they don't know what other changes the plant may have made after its permit was issued. Also, with Champion currently building a new paper machine, they are uncertain how the new equipment will affect air emissions.

Another issue UPEC is interested in examining is the wastewater emissions. As we have recently been discovering nationally, pulp mill emissions contain high amounts of dioxin and other organochlorines. We should be able to discuss Champion emission standards and their monitoring procedures, and to see what action the mill is planning for the future to reduce these types of emissions.

Another issue is timber harvesting practices. What tree species are used for the pulp, and what species will be used for the new paper machine? Does their wood come from their own lands or from state or federal lands, and in what percentages? What are their cutting practices for the different species of trees?

Please plan on attending the tour. It promises to be an interesting tour and it will generate some good discussions.

and paper mill issues. The EPA study of the effluent emissions of 104 mills should be released soon, and we should have a better handle on the extent of the dioxin problem nation-wide. Greenpeace is promoting citizen participation in the International Joint

charge standards, are currently out for public review. There will be a public hearing held on June 6th in Marquette. If anyone is interested in working on comments for the hearing, please contact me.

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President's Report

—*Gayle Coyer*

- I had an opportunity to meet with Dave Dempsey, formerly Governor Blanchard's environmental advisor and now director of the Council on Environmental Quality, and Tom Baldini, Blanchard's U.P. representative. Issues discussed were state forest planning, open dumpclosure and recycling, low level radioactive waste issues, and dioxin issues, among others. Dave will be directing the newly formed Council on Environmental Quality, which will be coordinating long-range environmental planning for the state. Dave can be reached at 517-373-8646.
- Carol Linteau will be Governor Blanchard's new environmental advisor. She can be reached at 517-373-8544.
- I had an opportunity to meet with Joan D'Argo from the Chicago Greenpeace office. We talked mostly about pulp

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and paper mill issues. The EPA study of the effluent emissions of 104 mills should be released soon, and we should have a better handle on the extent of the dioxin problem nation-wide. Greenpeace is promoting citizen participation in the International Joint Commission's biennial review of the Joint Water Quality Agreement in Hamilton, Ontario, in October, to send a loud and clear message that we want zero discharge (of dioxin) on the Great Lakes. More information will be forthcoming on this in later newsletters.

A public hearing on the rules for P.A. 307, the State Superfund, was held on May 1st. I gave comments that were coordinated with the Michigan Environmental Council, mostly that the standards should be clearly written in the rules and any variances or exceptions should be clearly detailed.

The Part 22 rules, groundwater dis-

charge standards, are currently out for public review. There will be a public hearing held on June 6th in Marquette. If anyone is interested in working on comments for the hearing, please contact me.

Cliffs Dow 550 Site Federal Superfund Cleanup Plan Public Hearing

This site is the first in the U.P. to reach the Remedial Action Plan stage. This site contains old charcoal plant tars and wood waste with high levels of various chemical compounds. The EPA and the Responsible Parties agree that the 200 cubic yards of tars need to be disposed of off-site, but there is fierce disagreement on whether the 10,000 cubic yards of fill material needs to be disposed of off-site or left on-site with a soil cap and monitoring. President Gayle Coyer commented at the public hearing and stated that instead of fighting it out in court, all parties should agree to

All-Purpose Membership Form

Check Appropriate Box: Application

Information Request

Change of Address/Telephone Number

Name: _____ Telephone Number: (_____) _____ - _____

Address: _____ City/Town: _____ ZIP: _____

- I would like to support the goals of UPEC by becoming a member. My dues are enclosed as follows (check one):
 - Individual Member, \$10; Student, \$5; Senior Citizen, \$5; Unemployed, \$5.
- I belong to an organization whose goals support UPEC goals, and would like to obtain a copy of the UPEC constitution and other appropriate information in preparation for possible membership application. Organizational membership dues are \$15 annually.
- Please send me additional information, such as a copy of the UPEC constitution, so that I may further consider UPEC membership.

immediately remove the tars, and then re-examine the fill material with realistic standards to determine if the fill should be moved or not. The comment period lasts for another thirty days and then the EPA will issue its decision.

First Annual U.P. Recycling Conference Held

A surprising 110 persons turned out for the conference, held at the Ford Forestry Center in Alberta on a snowy first Saturday in May. Judging from the answers to the conference questionnaire, the conference was a huge success; the ratings were high overall. Topics ranged from state perspectives on recycling to local government interest. Private sector recyclers were on hand with their point of view as well.

Speakers included Fred Clinton from the DNR's Resource Recovery Section, and Dave Dempsey, the Governor's Environmental Advisor, who distributed copies of the new State Solid Waste Policy. Speakers for private recycling concerns were Terry Guerin, Vice-President of Midway Cullet in the Detroit area, and Chairperson of the Michigan Recycling Coalition and Governor's Recycling Committee; Tom

Deschaine of TASCO in L'Anse; Gordon Hermes of Lakestate Industries in Delta County; and Bill Niepeth of Peninsula Sanitation of Marquette and Houghton.

Wayne Stroessner, Chairperson of the Monroe Area Recycling Committee, gave a very interesting talk on how he and others began an extensive recycling project that utilizes both curb-side collection and drop-off centers, and has already extended the life of their landfill from ten to fifteen years. Other organization speakers were Carl Tausch of *Recycle! Marquette* and Ruth Greek of the *Copper Country Citizens for Recycling*.

The large turnout and great show of interest indicate that recycling will be playing a big part in our daily lives in the near future.

Clean Michigan Grant Funds Awarded

We don't have a complete list yet, but at least two recycling projects were funded in the U.P. One is the Marquette County Recycling Coordinator. This grant will provide half the salary for the Coordinator, and will supply some funding for educational materials to be produced by

Recycle! Marquette. Houghton County received a used motor oil collection facility for the Houghton County Transfer Station. The grant was written by a *Copper Country Citizens for Recycling* member.

Winner of the UPEC Canoe Raffle

Sylvia Matthews' father is the winner of the UPEC canoe raffle. He bought his ticket from Becky Bach at the Folk and Food Festival.

Mr. Matthews will make good use of the canoe as he retired a year ago after a career teaching math and as math ed professor. He canoes with his wife in the small rivers and lakes of Ohio and Kentucky near his home in Cincinnati.

Recently he purchased a pop-up camper and this summer will attend the L. L. Bean fly fishing school in Maine. He is a member of the Nature Conservancy as well as several other environmental groups.

He comes to the Keweenaw to visit his daughter and grandson, Neal. We thank Sylvia for furnishing this information about this year's winner—it's nice to know that someone won the canoe who will really make the most of it.

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.]



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