



CHESAPEAKE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ASSOCIATION, INC.
P.O. Box 117, Galesville, Maryland 20765

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2007

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Gary Antonides, Co-President, 2007



In September, Anne Arundel County awarded a grant to CEPA for the purpose of long term monitoring of the groundwater near the PST Landfill in Harwood. We will monitor already planned tests and conduct additional tests as necessary to ensure the quality of residents' drinking water. The grant establishes a precedent in that an independent entity will be responsible for testing at the landfill

rather than the owner or operator. For CEPA, the grant is also a precedent since we have never before been tasked to do environmental work for a government agency. These precedents make this task even more important. The recent controversy regarding toxic materials leaching from dumped flyash in Anne Arundel County highlights the importance of both monitoring and controlling the leachate from landfills. See the article on Page 2.

In the article on the proposed new reactor at Calvert Cliffs on Page 2, Rich Romer reports that some environmental groups believe that a combination of conservation and renewable energy will meet our growing need for power. Those groups have general statistics to support that view, but to really make a valid comparison, it seems to me that a comprehensive proposal involving wind, solar, and/or other renewable sources would have to be developed for this specific application. Subsidies should be comparable to those for nuclear energy. It would be nice if the Department of Energy would require such a proposal, including total costs (land, new infrastructure required, and the disposal of any waste) that we could compare to the nuclear proposal.

I want to thank the CEPA Trustees for all their efforts during the past year. As a result, we are now more active now than we have been since I joined CEPA in 1998. I'm also grateful to Jerry Hill whose steady hand made our co-presidency in 2007 more effective. At least in this case, two heads were better than one. We are confident that our new President, Al Tucker, will lead us to bigger and better things in 2008.

Finally, please come to our forum on WATER RESOURCES on February 29th. Recent events have CEPA concerned about our water supply, and we believe the public needs to be aware of the issues and what our government officials plan to do to maintain an adequate and safe supply.

CEPA TO SPONSOR FORUM ON GROUNDWATER

**Dr. Robert Summers, Deputy Secretary,
Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)**

**Robert Shedlock, Associate District Chief &
Supervisory Hydrologist, US Geodetic Survey (USGS)**

**Friday, February 29, 2008, 7 PM
South River H.S. Auditorium, Edgewater**

We know that the water levels in our aquifers have been falling over the last 30 years, and now part of South County cannot tap into the Aquia Aquifer because it is below "management level," which is only 20% of it's historic level. At the same time, the recharge area, which is in the northern and western parts of the County is being paved over. On top of that, there are new concerns about the quality of our water as exemplified by the flyash dumping found to be responsible for heavy metals and sulfates in some resident's wells.

And then there is the landfill in Harwood, which is closed now, but a few years ago was receiving more waste than the Millersville landfill. Many people are not aware of it because it was not open to the public. It did not have a liner, which would be required today, and, as a result, we are concerned about contaminants leaking into the water supply in that area.

During the Ehrlich and O'Malley administrations, a Water Resources Commission has been studying our water supplies and how they can best be managed. CEPA was instrumental in establishing this commission, which came out with one report in 2004 and is due to issue another in 2008.

CEPA is pleased to announce the sponsorship of a forum on groundwater in February. Our keynote speaker, Dr. Summers, Deputy Secretary of MDE, is a member of the Water Resources Commission. We will also hear from Robert Shedlock from USGS about their work in mapping the aquifers. Watch for more details as the time gets closer.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jerry Hill & Gary Antonides, Co-Presidents	
Lloyd Lewis, Secretary	
David Casnoff, Treasurer	
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Bob Gallagher	Lee Greenbaum
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Steuart Pittman	Richard Romer
Albert Tucker	Dennis Whigham

RIVERKEEPER'S REPORT

Bob Gallagher, West/Rhode Riverkeeper, Inc.



Thanks to a fantastic group of volunteers, we were able to collect water quality data and bacteria samples throughout the summer. The absence of rain throughout the summer had a predictable impact on results. We saw only isolated instances of bacteria concentrations, mostly in areas thought to be affected by populations of resident geese and ducks. Other water quality indicators,

such as dissolved oxygen, were above average. With little rain, there appears to have been little nutrient runoff and less of the algal blooms and oxygen depletion that typically follow. There were however, some major algal blooms and a few significant fish kills. I still haven't heard a good scientific explanation of why they occurred during such a dry period.

We have been busy on the legislative front and the real legislative season hasn't started yet. At the County level, we successfully asked the County Executive to amend a bill that would give special consideration to development caused traffic problems on peninsulas to include Shady Side. We are working with Ed Reilly to limit a bill that would potentially allow expansion of a private golf course in Harwood.

The most controversial piece of proposed county legislation is the County Executive's Smart Fund proposal. It would raise \$5 million to be used to mitigate storm water run off from existing development by a small fee on newly constructed hard surfaces. Competing proposals from two other council members would broaden the fee to all property owners or replace the fee with incentives for better practices. None of these proposals would make any real progress in correcting our legacy of contaminated storm water runoff.

At the state level, a "Green Fund" was proposed to raise money for bay restoration through a fee on all property owners. It had the support of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and most environmental groups. It was debated in the Special Session of the General Assembly called by the Governor to deal with the state's budget deficit, but was not passed.

We hope and expect that reform of Maryland's Critical Area Act will be taken up during the regular session of the General Assembly beginning in January. Calling attention to the lack of enforcement and uneven enforcement of this important law has been a priority of West/Rhode Riverkeeper since the beginning of our program.

We're hoping for a few more nice days left before winter sets in. See you on the water.

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E-mail: riverkeeper@comcast.net

Website: www.westrhoderiverkeeper.org

CEPA TO MONITOR PST LANDFILL IN HARWOOD

CEPA received a grant of about \$92,000. from Anne Arundel County to monitor the groundwater in the vicinity of the PST Landfill in Harwood. The landfill was closed about two years ago, and the owner of the landfill is required to monitor the groundwater for five years after closure, so CEPA's grant will initially be used to evaluate the adequacy of their monitoring. After that, CEPA would be responsible for the monitoring, which could last for five or more additional years. CEPA will use the grant solely for technical support and expenses.

A committee for the landfill monitoring was appointed, chaired by Bob Gallagher. They met for the first time on September 24 with Andrew Garte, an environmental consultant, attending. A few years ago, Mr. Garte made a proposal to the County for monitoring that landfill. To get the project started, CEPA has taken the following steps:

- The funds have been deposited in a money market account and CDs. The interest earned will allow us to extend the monitoring as long as possible.
- CEPA has applied for Directors and Officer Insurance through the Maryland Association of non-profits.
- CEPA has filed a Freedom of Information request to the Maryland Department of the Environment to obtain all pertinent reports and data on the landfill. We also hope to meet with MDE officials to discuss what role they expect to fill during the monitoring process.
- The next step will be to write a Request for Proposals for an independent expert to review and report on the test results.
- Once the expert is in place, we will consider whether current testing is adequate and, if not, what further steps by CEPA may be warranted.

THIRD REACTOR PROPOSED FOR CALVERT CLIFFS

By Rich Romer

From its beginning, the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant (CCNPP) has played a pivotal role in the processes and consciousness of the Chesapeake Environmental Protection Association (CEPA). When the plant was first proposed by Baltimore Gas and Electric (BG&E) in the middle of the 20th Century, CEPA was formed to provide a forum for those who were concerned about the environmental impact of the extensive network of power lines which would be constructed to distribute the electricity generated at the plant.

Maryland's deregulation of electricity in 1999 brought about a number of organizational and business model changes. The corporation known as BG&E was broken up into separate operating companies under a newly formed holding company named Constellation Energy Corporation (ConEnergy). BG&E is now little more than a purchaser and distributor of electricity, but it is the primary interface with its corporate and residential customers. CCNPP has become a separate operating company under ConEnergy which has expanded its own interests through the purchase of another nuclear power plant in New York State, known as Seven Mile Island.

Two years ago, the US Congress passed and President Bush signed legislation which provided a comprehensive overhaul of our national energy policy. Intended to lessen the nation's dependence on imported oil, the Energy Bill provided significant new incentives to the electrical generation industry to pursue the construction of nuclear power plants, something which had not taken place for 30 years.

The first electric utility in the nation to propose construction of new nuclear powered electricity generating capacity is ConEnergy. CCNPP currently has two reactors operating which produce a total of 1.6 megawatts at full capacity. The proposed third reactor would generate an additional 1.5 megawatts. The original design for Calvert Cliffs envisioned that ultimately four reactors would be located on the reservation located on the western edge of the Chesapeake Bay in the Lusby area of southern Calvert County.

ConEnergy has teamed with the French nuclear energy company, Areva, to form a joint venture for the Calvert Cliffs project called UniStar. The third reactor being proposed for CCNPP is a new design which has never been constructed in the U.S. although Areva is currently constructing one in Finland. The Finnish project is reported to be running behind schedule and over cost, a normal occurrence for any prototype design in most high tech industries.

Responsibility for reviewing the ConEnergy proposal rests with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) which is also charged with the responsibility for issuing the construction and operation license for the new reactor once all of their safety and environmental concerns have been satisfied. ConEnergy is preparing two proposals for the NRC, the first of which will address environmental concerns, and the second, nuclear safety and operations issues. An initial environmental submission has already been delivered but the NRC has determined that it was incomplete, and they have asked ConEnergy for significant additional information.

The NRC's review and evaluation process is projected to take at least 2½ to 3 years under ideal conditions with the licensing process taking at least an additional year. The issuing of a license to begin construction could not possibly occur before 2011. Even if ConEnergy began construction of the new third reactor as soon as their license is approved, an unlikely prospect, the construction would take at least 4 years. It is considered more realistic that no additional electrical energy will be generated at Calvert Cliffs before 2020.

The NRC public process began this past summer with a public meeting held in Solomons, Maryland attended by 300 people including three CEPA trustees, Co-President Gary Antonides, Secretary Lloyd Lewis, and Rich Romer. Mixed in with a large number of interested and concerned citizens were state and local politicians, NRC and state bureaucrats, and a number of concerned anti-nuclear activists from such organizations as the Sierra Club, GreenPeace, and Public Citizen, many of whom set up booths outside the hearing room and distributed literature. Although scheduled for two hours, the public meeting actually ran for 3 ½ so that all sides could be fully heard.

As many as 30 more new nuclear reactor proposals are expected nationwide in the next two or three years. This places additional pressure on the NRC and all the associated

interest groups to define their places within the process as they work their way through this first one.

As one of the area's environmental protection organizations, CEPA is being pursued by parties on both sides of the CCNPP third reactor issue. CEPA's Trustees have taken no position on the matter as they collect objective information from both sides. At their September meeting, the Trustees heard from Allison Fisher, pictured (photo by Rich Romer), an anti-nuclear activist who is employed by Public Citizen at their Washington, D.C. headquarters. Fisher provided a



number of documents and pamphlets as she presented the case that alternative sources of energy combined with conservation measures can satisfy Maryland's energy needs into the foreseeable future without introducing the risk associated with increased nuclear capacity.

At the CEPA Trustee's meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 25 at 7:30 PM at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC), ConEnergy and UniStar will have representatives present to discuss the technical aspects of the proposed third reactor and respond to questions.

CEPA's Trustees expect to examine the CCNPP third reactor proposal, and evaluate it for a number of environmental impacts. Some of the issues of concern for CEPA are:

- The disposal and transportation of nuclear waste
- Environmental impact of cooling the new reactor
- Impact on ground water resources and septic system
- Impact of increased population on Calvert County
- Environmental impact of any new power lines required.
- Physical security from terrorist attacks

Calvert County's Board of County Commissioners has unanimously declared itself in support of a third reactor at CCNPP. They have offered tax incentives to ConEnergy for the first 15 years of operation which could result in savings to the company of as much as \$300 million. The benefit to the County is a long term increase to its tax base and the addition of local high tech, high salary jobs to what is currently an economy which predominately commutes to work in D.C., Annapolis, and Baltimore.

The proposed third nuclear reactor at Calvert Cliffs and the process for evaluating it will play out over an extended period. CEPA is involved in the process at an early point and will remain so to insure that, whatever the eventual decision, the long term needs for electrical energy are balanced with the needs of the people and the creatures for a safe and protected environment.

CEPA ELECTS OFFICERS FOR 2008

At CEPA's November Trustees meeting, the following officers were elected for 2008. They will assume office on 1 January 2008.

President Dr. Albert Tucker, Lothian
Vice President Dr. Leon Greenbaum, Edgewater
Secretary Dr. Lloyd Lewis, Edgewater*
Treasurer Dr. David Casnoff, Davidsonville*

*Re-elected

PROFILE OF A TRUSTEE

DAVID M. CASNOFF, Ph.D.



Photo by Rich Romer
David Casnoff was born and grew up in Philadelphia. He got his B.S. from Pennsylvania State University in Turf Management. His M.S. was also from Penn State, in Soil Physics. He earned a Ph.D. from University of Nebraska-Lincoln in Quantitative Genetics, Statistics and Computer Sciences. While at the University of Nebraska, he was a research assistant working in the corn breeding program where he directed field experiments and the associated statistical analyses.

David Casnoff was born and grew up in Philadelphia. He got his B.S. from Pennsylvania State University in Turf Management. His M.S. was also from Penn State, in Soil Physics. He earned a Ph.D. from University of Nebraska-Lincoln in Quantitative Genetics, Statistics and Computer Sciences. While at the University of Nebraska, he was a research assistant working in the corn breeding program where he directed field experiments and the associated statistical analyses.

He was a Post Doctorate Research Associate at Texas A&M University where he developed and directed studies for water use projects funded by the U.S. Golf Association and served on the faculty for undergraduate advanced turfgrass management.

Later he was Director of Turfgrass Research and Development for Northrup King Corporation where he designed and executed studies on water use efficiency and the reclamation of landfill and wetland areas. He also served as a turfgrass consultant to golf courses and sports fields.

He then formed Casnoff Austein Casnoff Associates, where he is now a consultant for agricultural and environmental policies for sports fields, golf courses, and other agricultural systems. He conducts research and provides guidance on soil and water conservation methodologies. He provides technical assistance to local and state government officials, policy experts, political, professional, university and small business organizations as well as farmers and environmentalists. He has expertise in many issues impacting the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, including water quality and run off as well as a wide range of agricultural and environmental issues impacting Maryland.

He and his wife, Cheryl, set up an endowment for Turfgrass Science and Landscape Ecology at Penn State. Cheryl has an M.S. in Public Health from Yale and is now working for the Health Resources and Services Administration.

David was recently selected for the Class of 2008 LEGACY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE ON PUBLIC POLICY, established to address the challenges facing the State of Maryland. He received intensive instruction at the University of Maryland in

the legislative process; budgets and finance; and public policy. As a Leader, he will be matched with (a) legislator(s) during the legislative session and participate in such activities as conducting research on policy issues, assisting in responses to constituent issues, attending legislative sessions, committees and briefings, and collaborating on special projects.

David became a Trustee of CEPA in 2003, and currently serves as Treasurer. In addition to CEPA, he is a member of the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, Soil Science Society of America, and Golf Course Superintendents Society of America.

David and Cheryl live in Davidsonville, where he does a limited amount of turfgrass research on his lawn. David enjoys playing golf and woodworking.

HOW TO GET ON CEPA'S MAILING LIST

CEPA distributes its newsletter primarily by electronic means, but if you prefer to get it by mail, just let us know. Either way, to get on our mailing list, please contact Gary Antonides (410-956-6378, garyantonides@comcast.net) or go to www.cepaonline.org and click on Contact Us. The newsletters are posted on www.cepaonline.org in a .pdf file. This requires Adobe Acrobat Reader, which can be downloaded free. We send emails when a new newsletter is available and provide the link to go directly to it.



CEPA
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2007 CEPA MEMBERSHIP AND/OR RIVERKEEPER CONTRIBUTION

To support CEPA or the West/Rhode Riverkeeper, please use the form below. Donations to both are tax deductible. Donations for the Riverkeeper go directly to that organization. A CEPA membership for 2007 is \$30., and entitles you to vote for our Trustees.

Mail to: CEPA, PO Box 117, Galesville, MD 20765

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ (Optional)

Email _____ (Optional)

Occupation _____ (Optional)

Enclosed is: [] \$20. for my CEPA membership.

(Or other amount: \$_____)

[] \$_____ Contribution to the West/Rhode Riverkeeper.