

**NETWORK NEWS**

PPA to Expand Activities in the Great Lakes Region

The Pollution Prevention Alliance has received a generous three-year grant from the Joyce Foundation to broaden and strengthen our work on pollution prevention within the Great Lakes region. The grant allows EDF to enhance our current base of work with a host of projects, including:

- 1) developing and refining a web-accessible, interactive database that, when complete, will provide human health, emissions and environmental impact data, as available, on over 5,000 individual chemicals. Additionally, the database will provide permit data on all TRI and other regulated facilities across the country, as well as sector-specific pollution prevention information. PPA will work with partners in Cleveland to ensure that this database is useful and accessible for community-based advocates;
- 2) working with PPA members to develop a “livability index” which will provide individuals and communities with various environmental/quality of life indicators. This project will encourage the public to evaluate their current environmental performance and identify areas that need to be addressed. Over time, the index will enable communities to measure whether they are making progress toward the goal of sustainability. PPA will be working with partners in Milwaukee to develop the index and its key indicators;
- 3) promoting materials accounting and the public’s right-to-know in the U.S. and Canada;
- 4) developing resources for tracking product stewardship and pollution prevention innovations in order to promote these principles and integrate them into core business practices;
- 5) helping activists develop infrastructure to act more effectively in the pollution prevention policy arena through technical assistance programs, information-sharing, and the development of action networks.

In addition, PPA received a generous one-year grant from the C.S. Mott Foundation which includes \$25,000 for re-grants to state and local PPA partners. Future newsletters will provide further information about how PPA will distribute these funds. For more information on these grants, contact Kevin Mills, EDF, at 202/387-3500.

*Inside: Key PRISM Priorities Established (p.2)*  
*USEPA and Michigan DEQ Strike Deal on Audit Secrecy Privilege (p.3)*  
*Local RTK Law in Oregon Survives Challenge (p.4)*  
*Resources Available (p.5)*  
*New Feature: Web Watch (p.7)*  
*Calendar (p.8)*

## Key PRISM Priorities Established

Pollution Prevention Alliance staff, the Ecology Center of Ann Arbor, Ohio Citizen Action, and the Edgemont Neighborhood Coalition are continuing to develop a model alternative regulatory system (ARS) emphasizing pollution prevention, product stewardship, and community involvement. Through the Partnership for Regulatory Innovation and Sustainable Manufacturing (PRISM), these groups are negotiating with General Motors and government regulators and hope to have an effective ARS model available soon.

The PRISM Project Team is defining key components of the ARS model, including environmental priority-setting methods, a regulatory baseline, and accountability measures which are more performance-oriented than current regulatory systems. One workgroup has agreed that materials accounting should be the backbone of the reporting system for tracking progress because it refocuses ARS efforts to enhance pollution prevention. Conceptual agreement has also been reached on the value of tracking waste reduction and the conservation of resources such as energy and water.

The Project Team is still discussing how to deal with risk reduction issues. EDF is promoting a system of measurement that deals with the inherent limitations of quantitative risk assessment, such as scientific uncertainty and environmental effects beyond end-of-pipe emissions. EDF also is interested in building into the model ways of flagging regional priorities, such as persistent toxins used in the Great Lakes region, as well as community concerns beyond traditional regulation such as noise, odor, and land-use.

At a July community forum in Dayton, the Project Team presented the ARS idea to community members for comment, offering them an opportunity to provide input into team

The Pollution Prevention Alliance (PPA) joins the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) with regional, state, tribal, and community-based activists working to promote pollution prevention and sustainable communities in the Great Lakes region. PPA is supported by the C.S. Mott Foundation, The George Gund Foundation, the Great Lakes Protection Fund, The Joyce Foundation, and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

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deliberations (e.g., local environmental and human health priorities) and ensuring a balanced and effective ARS. The public comments also were useful in focusing the efforts of the Project Team. For example, one comment suggested a clarification of the term "sustainable manufacturing" for the general public, which in turn led to a refining of EMS priorities. Another suggestion led to a greater focus on such tangible environmental targets as noise pollution, odors, and other problems that tend to have a clearer meaning to the public but that are often not addressed by regulation. For more information, contact Kevin Mills or Kevin Bryan, EDF, at 202/387-3500.

#### New Staffer at PPA

Ben Smith joined the PPA staff in September as Outreach Coordinator. Ben will focus on the Sustainable Cleveland Partnership, the PPA newsletter, and PPA's 1998 conference. He came to us from New York City where he was Program Officer for The Rene Dubos Center for Human Environments, a non-profit environmental research and education organization. Ben replaces Meena Palaniappan, who will continue on with PPA part-time out of EDF's California office while she attends graduate school at U.C. Berkeley. Contact Ben at 202/387-3500 or by email at bens@edf.org.

#### More Network Comings and Goings

Bowden Quinn, formerly the Pollution Prevention Coordinator for the Grand Cal Task Force in northwest Indiana, is now its Executive Director replacing Dorreen Carey, who will work on pollution prevention projects for the City of Gary, Indiana. Citizens for Alternatives to Chemical Contamination (CACC) Executive Director, Ann Hunt, will be leaving for a new position in environmental health and safety at Randell Manufacturing, a central Michigan commercial kitchen equipment manufacturer.

## **GREAT LAKES REGIONAL NEWS**

### USEPA and Michigan DEQ Strike Deal on Audit Secrecy Privilege

Federal and state environmental officials have reached an agreement on amending Michigan's recently passed "pollution secrecy law." The change would eliminate secrecy provisions pertaining to criminal violations of environmental laws discovered during environmental audits. The agreement does not lift secrecy provisions pertaining to civil violations, however, worrying many environmental and community groups who feel such provisions limit community right to know, hamper enforcement of environmental laws, and set bad precedents for the seventeen other states that have passed pollution secrecy legislation.

A similar agreement was made recently in Texas. Under so-called "environmental audit privilege and immunity" laws, companies or governmental agencies that conduct environmental audits are permitted to keep audit results from enforcement agencies or citizens. For more information on audit privilege developments, contact Sanford Lewis, the Good Neighbor Project, at 617/489-3686 or sanlewis@igc.apc.org.

### Judge Blocks Permits for Michigan Incinerator

A Genesee County Circuit Court judge issued an injunction May 29 blocking the state DEQ from issuing permits for a Morris Township waste incinerator. Judge Archie Hayman found that the impact of an estimated 2 tons per year of additional lead emissions from the incinerator would disproportionately affect minority citizens downwind in Flint. His ruling also required the DEQ to take meaningful steps to ensure that citizens of one jurisdiction have a say in siting decisions made in a neighboring jurisdiction. For more information, contact Tom Stephens at 313/567-6165.

## NATIONAL NEWS

### Clinton Administration Signs New Clean Air Standards Into Law; Critics Vow a Fight

New, tougher air quality standards for ozone and particulates were signed into law by President Clinton in late June. USEPA Administrator Carol Browner, a long-time advocate of stricter standards, had been urging Clinton's endorsement for some time, citing the most recent health studies linking exposure to ozone (which causes smog) and airborne particulates (soot) with adverse health effects, especially in urban residents and children. EPA estimates that 15,000 people die every year from exposure to pollutants under current standards. Additionally, hundreds of thousands of acute asthma attacks could be avoided with reduced smog.

Critics in Congress are gearing up to fight the new standards. H.R. 1984, introduced by Representative Ron Klink (D-PA) with over 180 co-sponsors, would force EPA to reinstate the old standards and would impose a moratorium on issuing new standards for four years. A similar bill is now being drafted in the Senate. For more information contact Jayne Mardock, Clean Air Network, at 202/289-2404.

### Local RTK Law in Oregon Survives Challenge

In Eugene, Oregon, the nation's first local right-to-know law requiring chemical use reporting survived an industry-sponsored lobbying blitz in the state legislature aimed at overturning it. The law, passed by voter initiative last November, requires certain Eugene businesses to utilize "materials accounting" to report what chemicals they use and where they go. The law was supported by a broad coalition of public interest and community groups, as well as the Eugene City Council and Governor Kitzhaber. RTK

critics in Oregon, however, claim they will continue to fight the measure.

### Compromise in Washington State Encouraging Alternatives to Household Toxics

The household chemical products industry, fearing that local education programs encouraging the use of safer alternatives to common household chemical products misinform the public, are working to block such programs at the local level. In Washington State, legislation intended to limit such educational programs was introduced. Strong opposition to the legislation, however, has led representatives of state and local governments, industry, poison control centers, and environmentalists to strike a unique compromise. This compromise establishes a committee to review educational materials relating to household hazardous waste to ensure accuracy. While review by the committee is voluntary, all sides are hopeful that it will be fully utilized, serving as a model for other states which have similar restrictions pending, including Arizona, California, New Mexico, Iowa, and Vermont. For more information contact Philip Dickey of the Washington Toxics Coalition at 206/632-1545.

### USEPA Issues New Rules on Pesticide Information Disclosure

The USEPA announced new rules strengthening requirements that pesticide manufacturers report to the Agency new information on the potential adverse effects their products may have on human health or the environment. The rule, published September 19 in the Federal Register, requires pesticide manufacturers to provide information about the amount of pesticides found in food and water above "approved" levels; newly identified ingredients which may be of "toxicological concern;" "specific details about incidents causing adverse effects;" and any findings that show a pesticide's ineffectiveness

due to pest resistance. The rule takes effect in June of 1998. For information on health and environmental effects of specific pesticides, call the National Pesticide Telecommunications Network at 800/858-7378. For more information on the USEPA's new reporting requirements, contact Al Heier, USEPA, at 202/260-4374.

National Pollution Prevention Roundtable Announces Most Valuable Pollution Prevention (MVP2) Awards for 1997

At a ceremony September 19, the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable (NPPR) marked National Pollution Prevention Week by announcing the winners of its first annual MVP2 awards honoring the most innovative and successful pollution prevention projects in the country. Applicants were judged on a variety of characteristics, including innovation, measurable results, transferability, level of commitment from upper management, and efficiency of resource use.

First place went to the Lower Colorado River Authority's Pilot Pollution Prevention Program for public utilities within the Colorado River basin in Texas. Second place went to the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission's Texas Pollution Prevention Partnership working to prevent pollution in federal facilities. There was a three-way tie for third place, with these awards going to the National\*A\*Syst/Home\*A\*Syst, a nationwide pollution prevention technical assistance program for ranchers, farmers, and households; the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for its Facility-Wide Permit Pilot Program, a systematic, multi-media pollution prevention-based permitting program; and Radiance Services Company for its "Radiance Process," a water and chemical free method of cleaning surfaces. EDF Engineer Lois Epstein served as a judge for the awards. For more information, contact Michele Russo, NPPR, at 202/466-P2P2.

Chemical Strategies Partnership (CSP) Launched to Develop Chemical Use Reduction Programs

CSP, a cooperative effort among The Pew Charitable Trusts, The Heinz Endowment, Tellus Institute, and several electronics manufacturing companies, has been established to develop strategies encouraging companies to reduce the use and release of toxic chemicals in manufacturing while improving production efficiency. In what may be the biggest challenge for the CSP, the program seeks to solicit the support and technical expertise of chemical manufacturers and suppliers by developing financial incentives for them to encourage chemical use reduction by their clients. Defying the traditional volume and sales approach that chemical suppliers have previously relied upon, this new approach would encourage a "service" orientation. For example, if suppliers sell a cleaning agent, they could reorient their operations to include cleaning services whereby they would profit from the service as opposed to the volume of cleaning agent sold. This would encourage use reduction by traditional suppliers, thus increasing efficiency while reducing the use of toxic chemicals. For more information, contact the Tellus Institute at 617/266-5400.

**RESOURCES AVAILABLE**

*Six Steps to Cleaner, Greener Printing*  
Pollution Prevention Alliance;  
*Action Guide to Greener Paper*  
Environmental Defense Fund;  
*Buy Recycled and Save*

Environmental Defense Fund (1997); The first brochure offers tips on how you can ensure your printing needs are satisfied in an attractive, cost-effective and environmentally responsible manner. The second brochure offers practical advice on how each of us can reduce, re-use and recycle paper, saving resources and protecting the environment, including specifics about how to purchase environmentally superior paper. The third brochure outlines the environmental benefits

of buying recycled and offers practical tips on how consumers can identify which products are made from recycled materials. For free copies of these three brochures, including multiple copies for broader distribution, contact EDF Publications at 800/684-3322.

*Great Lakes Report on Hormone Disrupting Chemicals*

Environmental Information Center (June 1997); This report shows that the Great Lakes region is both the top emitter of reportable endocrine-disrupting chemicals and, due to its geographic location downwind from other polluting regions, the largest recipient of endocrine-disrupting pollution. The report offers pollution data and links developmental problems in both humans and animals with this form of pollution. For more information, contact Tom Natan, EIC, at 202/887-8877.

*Mercury Source Sector Assessment for the Greater Milwaukee Area*

Pollution Prevention Partnership (September 1997); This report provides estimates of the amounts of mercury used and released annually to air, land and water within the 420 square mile area served by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD). The mercury sources included in this report are batteries, coal combustion, dental facilities, schools, fluorescent lamps, general industry, hospitals, households, incinerators, motor vehicles, wastewater treatment, etc. Released by the Pollution Prevention Partnership in conjunction with the MMSD, this report is the first phase of the Mercury Reduction Project and will serve as a platform for the development of effective mercury reduction programs in the area. Contact Steve Skavroneck, Mercury Reduction Project Manager, at 414/486-1613.

*Mercury Pollution Prevention In Healthcare: A Prescription for Success*

National Wildlife Federation (July 1997); Based on a cooperative effort to promote

successful mercury pollution prevention strategies at hospitals primarily in the Great Lakes region, this report outlines health problems associated with mercury exposure, including neurological disorders, and common sources of mercury pollution in the region, the largest being medical waste incinerators. Also covered are specific cooperative steps being taken to reduce mercury emissions and case studies outlining success stories. For more information, contact Kathleen Eales, NWF, at 313/769-3351 or eales@nwf.org.

*The Burning Question: Chlorine and Dioxin*

Pat Costner, Greenpeace

*The PVC Lifecycle: Dioxin from Cradle to Grave*

Joe Thornton, Greenpeace

*Secret Sampling at U.S. Vinyl Plants: Dioxin Factories Exposed*

Melanie Duchin, Greenpeace (April 1997);

These Greenpeace-sponsored reports document the health and environmental threats posed by the manufacturing and incineration of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and this material's most harmful pollutant - dioxin, a by-product of chlorine use. These reports indicate that PVC manufacturing represents the single largest source of chlorine usage in the country and that some of the highest levels of dioxin pollution ever recorded were found at several PVC manufacturing plants in the U.S. For more information, contact Greenpeace at 202/462-1177.

*Toxic Substances: Few States Have Considered Reporting Requirements for Chemical Use Data*

General Accounting Office (June 1997);

This report assesses the need for a federal requirement to report chemical use data by surveying and analyzing similar actions and initiatives taken at state and local levels. It also discusses the findings of various studies already conducted on the advantages and disadvantages of chemical use reporting requirements. As of the report's release date, only 2 states -

Massachusetts and New Jersey - require chemical use reporting, while 6 other states - California, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Maryland, and Michigan - considered but did not enact such bills. To order, contact the GAO at 202/512-6000.

*Pollution Prevention 1997: A National Progress Report*

US Environmental Protection Agency (July 1997); This report reviews the latest in innovative pollution prevention programs, and trends. Included are entries from 23 pollution prevention experts from outside the EPA describing pollution prevention efforts in their particular sectors, from industry, government, the non-profit community, and academia. For a copy of this report, call 202/260-1023.

*Forming Partnerships for Environmental Justice: A Handbook for Environmental, Civil Rights, and Community Organizations*

Ecology Center of Ann Arbor (1996); This handbook was produced by Ecology Center staff members who worked with the Ypsilanti/Willow Run branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on the Ypsilanti Pollution Prevention Project, an environmental justice project. Combining the resources and expertise of these two organizations, the handbook outlines partnership strategies and steps to take to involve citizens, educators, and students in the fight against environmental injustice. For a copy of the handbook, contact the Ecology Center at 313/761-3186.

**New Feature: Web Watch**

*Non-Profit Gateway*

White House Office of the Public Liaison; Designed specifically for non-profits, this website provides links to a wide range of federal information and services, including all cabinet departments and most federal agencies, including the USEPA. It contains information on programs, grants, regulations, publications, staff directories, and more. You can find this site at <http://www.nonprofit.gov>.

*Envirofacts*

US Environmental Protection Agency; This site integrates USEPA databases and contains the latest data on all EPA-regulated facilities across the country. The site can be queried to find facility-specific data covering Superfund, the Safe Drinking Water Act, hazardous waste management, the Toxics Release Inventory, and more. Users also can find information on facilities regulated under these programs in their own community by searching by state, city or zip code. Maps pinpointing facility locations are also available. To access Envirofacts, go to the USEPA website at <http://www.epa.gov> and click on "databases and software."

*Promoting a Healthy Environment: A Practical Guide to Avoiding Common Environmental Hazards*

Lake Michigan Federation; This site provides information on alternatives to common environmental hazards in the home and at work. Tips are offered on how you can ensure your hobbies do not pollute, environmentally-friendly lawn care products and practices, and instructions on how to reduce your risk of exposure to toxins when eating fish from the Great Lakes. This site is at <http://www.lakemichigan.org>.

*High Costs of High Tech*

Corporate Watch; This colorful website examines the social and environmental impacts of the computer and high-tech industry. Featured is a "virtual computer" allowing you to click onto certain parts of a computer to get a list of waste created in the production process, exposing workers and the environment to a wide variety of toxics. This website can be found at <http://www.corpwatch.org/feature/hitech>.

If there are useful resources or websites you would like to see listed in our next newsletter, forward your ideas to Ben Smith, EDF, at <a href="mailto:bens@edf.org">bens@edf.org</a> .
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## CALENDAR

**13 September - 25 October, 1997** - Great Lakes Women's Leadership Training Sessions offered throughout the Great Lakes region. For locations and dates, contact the Great Lakes Women's Leadership Network at 218/726-1828.

**25, 26 October, 1997 (Carlisle, PA)** - Fourth Annual Pennsylvania Environmental Congress at Dickinson College. For more information, contact Pennsylvania Wildlife Federation at 717/232-3480.

**1, 2 November, 1997 (Niagara Falls, Ontario)** - International Joint Commission Public Forum on U.S.-Canadian efforts to protect the Great Lakes environment, at the Americana Resort and Conference Centre. For more information, contact Great Lakes United at 716/886-0142.

**8 November, 1997 (Toledo, OH)** - Our Environment, Our Families, Ourselves, presented by the Health/Environment Coalition. For more information, call 419/882-1343.

**22-24 November, 1997 (Oak Brook, IL)** - The 1997 'Priming the Pump' Workshop and Groundwater Guardian Designation Conference presented by the Groundwater Foundation, at McDonald's Corporate Campus. Contact the Groundwater Foundation at 800/858-4844.

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