



Environmental
Stewardship
Concepts

Stewardship News

November/December 2008

To Our Clients and Friends,
The past few months have passed quickly, but ESC has kept pace - working diligently on projects both old and new, keeping abreast of evolving environmental policy, and celebrating Virginia going blue! Read on for details on ESC's newest addition, President Bush's dangerous last minute regulations, project updates, and more...

ESC News

Peter deFur selected to speak at League of Women Voters Dioxin Conference

The League of Women Voters in Washington State invited Dr. deFur, President of ESC, to speak at a public forum on dioxin in March 2009. The details of this public event will be made available in coming months.

Emily joins ESC

Emily Russell joined ESC as a fall Environmental Science Intern and liked the position so much that she agreed to stay on as a Research Assistant. Emily graduated from the University of Virginia with a dual degree in Spanish and Environmental Thought & Practice. She conducted undergraduate research on sustainable development and marine ecology during a six-month internship with Lee's Reef Project on the island of Curacao and has volunteered for several nonprofits in Virginia including Mountain Justice and the Chesapeake Climate Action Network. She is enthusiastic about working with ESC and its clients to address environmental cleanup and justice issues around the country.

Client Updates

Neuse River

The EPA issued its Record of Decision regarding the Ward Transformer site cleanup in September. On the bright side, the ROD requires more investigation and cleanup than the original proposed plan. The ROD fails, however, to address the PCBs contaminating lower Brier Creek and Lake Crabtree, or the

chemicals' impact on fish in the lake. In five years, the EPA is required to conduct a site review as with all Superfund sites where contamination remains. Additionally, in October, the NRF selected a new Upper Neuse River Keeper, Ms. Alissa Bierma. We at ESC look forward to working with her in continuing to protect the Neuse River's ecological and social values.

Portland Harbor

Dr. deFur made a second visit to the Portland Harbor in November to attend a meeting with state environmental officials, the EPA, and the Portland Community Advisory Group. Before the trip's conclusion, he even braved the rain to tour the Willamette River by boat.

Edison Wetlands Association

Robert Spiegel, Executive Director of the Edison Wetlands Association, recently filed suit against Akzo Nobel Chemical, Inc. for unsatisfactory cleanup of its formerly owned plant, resulting in toxic releases to the lower Raritan River in New Jersey. Edison Wetlands Association retained Dr. deFur as a technical expert on the area's environmental quality and the public health risks associated with the remaining toxins.

Badger Army Ammo Depot

The Army issued a solicitation for a technical advisor during cleanup at the Badger Army Ammunition Plant. In November, ESC responded to the solicitation and is looking forward to a response in the coming weeks.

Delaware River TMDL for PCBs

The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) is now preparing to promulgate a regulatory program that will implement TMDLs for PCBs in the Delaware River. The public can anticipate a January publication date with a 60-day comment period. The program's components are unlike TMDLs for conventional pollutants. For example, permit holders will have 10 year period to reduce PCB levels in their effluents, must prepare pollution minimization plans and will have action limits, but not yet numeric permit limits.

Housatonic River

In September, the EPA rejected General Electric Corporation's Corrective Measures Study for the cleanup of PCBs in the Housatonic River. The EPA, citing inadequate attention to impacts on the river ecosystem, on sensitive species, and on the various social values of the river for public use, insisted a revision is necessary. Despite GE's request for a longer extension to revise the CMS, EPA granted 30 days for the completed version.

Former Fort Ord

Despite staunch opposition from ESC and the Fort Ord Environmental Justice Network, the Army is still calling for prescribed burns at Former Fort Ord, but at least one burn was cancelled this fall due to

unfavorable weather conditions. The burn season for 2008 is ending soon. Also, the Fort Ord Reuse Authority (FOR A) released a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Work Plan for two areas slated for future residential and commercial development.

In Other News

Bush Administration

In keeping with the past eight years, President Bush is working hard to instill a legacy of industry over environment with the release of his Midnight Regulations. Though President-elect Obama may be able to reverse some of the regulations, environmentalists are concerned about implementation of policies that will allow mining operations to take place closer to waterways, open protected areas in Wyoming to oil shale mining, and weaken air emissions from power plants, to name a few.


Recent Developments Page

For a collective source of information on stories like Bush's midnight regulations and issues pertinent to environmental remediation, ESC has created a Recent Developments page on its website (www.estewards.com). ESC staff work to find policy changes, current trends, and scientific studies to augment our client services. Please check back regularly for the latest updates or feel free to email us information you'd like to see posted!

With December upon us, ESC wishes you a happy holiday season. Thank you for your continued support, and as always, feel free to contact the ESC office with any questions or concerns.

Until next time,

ESC



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ESC provides consultation in problem solving, networking, leadership, and technical expertise to organizations, agencies, and business on environmental issues.