



Environmental
Stewardship
Concepts

Stewardship News

November/December 2009

To Our Clients and Friends,

Amidst holiday festivities and preparations for the New Year, we at ESC continued ongoing work and began a few new projects. Read on for project updates and recent developments at ESC and around the country.

ESC News

E² Inc. Ecology & Economics

ESC is excited to begin our first foray working with E² Inc, the EPA's contractor for its Technical Assistance Services for Communities program. E² contracted with ESC to provide factsheets and technical expertise on several documents for two different community groups. The first, Lone Tree Council, is based in Saginaw, Michigan. The Lone Tree Council sought more community participation during the cleanup of the Dow Chemical site, which includes the Tittabawassee River, the Saginaw River, and the Saginaw Bay. ESC provided a fact sheet and technical comments on the Administrative Order on Consent between Environmental Protection Agency, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and Dow Chemical. Secondly, ESC provided services to the Roane County Community Advisory Group in Roane County, Tennessee as the second phase of remediation of the infamous TVA coal ash spill begins. ESC attended several meetings to meet the CAG members and to inform the public of the documents out for public review so that their concerns would be incorporated into the cleanup strategy. All of our comments and factsheets are available on our website under each project's individual page. We thoroughly enjoyed our work with these community groups and E² and look forward to continued collaboration in the future.

Client Updates

Fort Ord Environmental Justice Network

In early January 2010, the grant period for the EPA Technical Assistance Grant awarded to the Fort Ord Environmental Justice Network (FOEJN) will end. Environmental Stewardship Concepts has provided technical services to FOEJN since 2003 on the cleanup of the former Fort Ord Army Base. Fort Ord is considered one of the most complex contaminated sites in America. Past military activities at the 28,000 acre-site left four contaminated ground water plumes, a leaking landfill and hundreds of thousands of pounds of military debris and unexploded ordnance. In the most recent grant period, ESC team members travelled to Monterey twelve times to be a part of community involvement workshops (CIWs), to attend meetings pertaining to Fort Ord Reuse Authority activities and to communicate with different EPA, Army and state officials. Peter deFur also travelled to Monterey twice for FOEJN's Annual Public Fora. He debuted a white paper prepared by the ESC team that outlines the public health concerns related to the cleanup activities at Fort Ord, including the controversial issue of prescribed burning. FOEJN is in the process of re-applying for the Technical Assistance Grant funding. ESC's latest work for Fort Ord involved preparing a fact sheet on the health effects of burning, a continued problem for the community since another prescribed burning was conducted by the Army on November 15th. The Army has yet to organize any studies on the effects of the burning on the surrounding populous, even by simply gathering hospital admittance rates that would indicate increased health problems from high particulate matter.

Spring Valley

Emily participated in a Partners Meeting via conference call on December 8th to discuss the work that remains before Spring Valley can be considered a clean site. Currently, only four residential properties remain before geophysical surveys to check for anomalies is concluded. The geophysical surveys in Dalecarlia Woods are projected to finish up in

February 2010. Additionally, ESC submitted comments on the Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) for Munitions Disposal, which advocated an alternative involving an onsite destruction system, thus precluding the unnecessary risks posed by offsite transport of the munitions and hazardous waste.

Dow Dioxin

In November Peter visited the Dow Chemical Company site in Michigan to meet with the agencies involved in the cleanup of dioxins along the Tittabawassee River, the Saginaw River, and the Saginaw Bay. At a December 15th public meeting, Peter presented on the Administrative Order of Consent and informed the community of the cleanup process. To refute Dow's claims that no substantial evidence exists of the toxicity of dioxin, ESC Research Assistant Martha Ellen compiled a 47-page list of scientific research on the contaminant, which only skimmed the surface of literature on the matter.

TVA Fly Ash

Peter visited the site in November to meet the Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) and for a site tour. Also in November, Emily attended the agencies' Availability Session, which provided an opportunity for citizens to ask questions of the Tennessee Valley Authority and other involved government agencies. On December 14th, Peter presented at the CAG's first public meeting on TVA's EE/CA work plan and the Community Involvement Plan, providing ESC's comments and encouraging the community to get involved in the cleanup process.

Willamette Riverkeeper

In November, Peter visited Portland to meet with the Lower Willamette Group's consultants and the Citizen Advisory Group concerning the removal of PCBs from the Harbor. Currently, the Group has submitted the Remedial Investigation for review, and ESC is compiling its comments on the Baseline Human Health Risk Assessment and the Baseline Ecological Risk Assessment. These two documents are crucial to an effective cleanup that is protective of human and environmental health.

Badger Army Ammunition Plant

We are currently awaiting the Feasibility Study on the settling ponds and disposal areas for the former ammunition plant located in Wisconsin. Peter will be travelling to meet with Army representatives and RAB members in early January to give a presentation and get further understanding of upcoming remediation activities at the site.

Recent Developments

The stories below highlight only a few of the news stories we have followed in the past two months. These recent developments relate to our projects and the communities in which we work. To follow current events each week, click on "Recent Developments" on our home page, www.estewards.com.

2 November 2009

Environment America's report on toxic discharge into the nation's rivers is gaining attention, with the Ohio River, a major source for drinking water, leading in pounds of chemicals discharged during 2007.

[To read the full article, please click here](#)

6 November 2009

Dow's dioxins in Michigan have the nation's attention – the LA Times reports on the long-awaited agreement between the EPA and Dow to clean up its mess. [To read the full article, please click here](#)

18 November 2009

To add to the list of the many detrimental health effects of PCBs, a new study has found a correlation between the compounds and an increase in blood pressure. [To read the full article, please click here](#)

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4 December 2009

The Endocrine Disruption Prevention Act, recently introduced by Rep. Jim Moran and Sen. John Kerry, would authorize research on reducing use of the harmful chemicals, and is endorsed by the Endocrine Society.

[To read the full article, please click here](#)

18 December 2009

The EPA has postponed releasing new rules on the disposal of coal fly ash. The issue was brought to the forefront by the spill in Tennessee one year ago, and the federal government has been debating whether to change its classification to hazardous waste, in turn modifying how it is handled and disposed of.

[To read the article in full, click here](#)

29 December 2009

A team of scientists from China and Iowa have shown that poplar trees remove the chlorine atoms from PCBs, bringing phytoremediation of PCBs at contaminated sites one step closer to reality. [For the study, click here](#)

As we hunker down for another crazy Virginia winter, we at ESC look forward to assisting you in a collaborative effort for improved environmental quality and social wellbeing. Thank you for your continued support, and as always, feel free to contact the ESC office with any questions or concerns.

**Until next time,
The ESC Team**

**Peter deFur, President
Emily Russell, Research Scientist
Martha Ellen Wingfield, Research Assistant
Laura Barry, Office Manager**



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