



Environmental  
Stewardship  
Concepts

# Stewardship News

September/October 2009

**To Our Clients and Friends,**

**The leaves are changing colors and the temperatures are dropping as we continue to advise on environmental contamination issues. Read on for project updates and recent developments at ESC and around the country.**

## ESC News

### *2009 VA Water Research Conference*

ESC team members Emily Russell and Martha Ellen Wingfield attended the 2009 Virginia Water Research Conference on October 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> at Virginia Commonwealth University. They presented a poster on the relationship of climate change and contaminated sites and its effects on water resources around the Commonwealth of Virginia. For information on the program, please visit <http://www.vwrrc.vt.edu/2009conference.html> . To view ESC's poster, please see the "ESC In the News" section on our website, [www.estewards.com](http://www.estewards.com).

### *PCBs in the James River*

Recent tests by Virginia's Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) found high levels of PCBs – sometimes at levels hundreds of times greater than the state limit - in the James River near Richmond, ESC's home base. DEQ has long upheld that PCBs are not a problem in water, although recent advances in water testing prove that is not the case. ESC will advocate continued testing and plans to clean up the polluted, yet still beautiful, James River.

### *Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council*

Peter attended the first Council meeting of the new delegation in August and enjoyed it thoroughly! He has chosen the committees on which he would like to serve and will soon be notified of the final decisions. He also had new member training on September 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> in New Gloucester, Massachusetts. He is working to create an open dialogue on fishery issues by meeting with members of Congress as well as sports fisherman and concerned citizens.

### *Lone Tree Council*

ESC is excited to welcome a new client, the Lone Tree Council, a non-profit organization dedicated to environmental justice. We will assist a Charlottesville, VA-based company, Ecology and Economics, Inc., in providing technical assistance on the cleanup of the Dow Chemical site in Michigan. Not yet listed on the National Priorities list, the site consists of dioxin contaminated areas on the Tittabawassee River, Saginaw River and Saginaw Bay. EPA released the Superfund Administrative Order of Concern and the work plan for the remedial investigation and feasibility study on October 19<sup>th</sup>.

## Client Updates

### *Fort Ord Environmental Justice Network*

Peter attended the Fort Ord Annual Forum on September 16<sup>th</sup>, which was again a great success. FOEJN's Executive Director, LeVonne Stone, organized the forum's speakers and program. At the Forum, ESC debuted a white paper prepared for FOEJN on the health effects of the contaminants at the former military installation. To view ESC's white paper, please visit [http://estewards.com/assets/Ft\\_Ord\\_Health\\_Threats\\_White\\_Paper\\_9.14\\_1.pdf](http://estewards.com/assets/Ft_Ord_Health_Threats_White_Paper_9.14_1.pdf).

In addition, a prescribed burn took place on October 6; wind patterns, however, quickly changed and the Army was not

able to continue the burn. The prescribed burns pose many health problems, as outlined in the white paper, yet the Army continues to employ this method and will keep the burn season open until December 31<sup>st</sup>.

#### *Spring Valley*

Peter attended a Spring Valley Partners Meeting on October 7<sup>th</sup> to review recent cleanup activity, including arsenic sampling and remediation, groundwater and ordnance investigations, and munitions disposal options, as well as to discuss the timeline for finishing remediation at the site.

#### *Housatonic River Initiative*

ESC recently completed its review of the Rest of River Work Plan, recently released by General Electric, the corporation in charge of the PCB cleanup. The alternatives suggested are based on the assumption that the fish consumption advisories on the river will never be lifted, a prospect that is rightfully unsatisfactory to concerned community members. The Work Plan will be submitted to the EPA on October 23 for a final review.

#### *Delaware River Basin Commission*

The Commission recently released its Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plan for PCBs in the Delaware River to protect human health. The Plan outlines requirements for reducing PCB loading from point and nonpoint sources into the Delaware Estuary and Bay. Peter attended one of the public hearings offered by DRBC, and ESC has submitted comments on behalf of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, the American Littoral Society, and Clean Water Action. DRBC will hold its next public hearing on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.


#### *Velsicol*

The National Remedy Review Board postponed its submission of the selected remediation option until January 2010. The Pine River Superfund Citizens Task Force is working on alternative remediation options to submit for review, such as a combination of removal and in situ treatment of the PBB-contaminated soil and groundwater.

**As we get closer to the holiday season, 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  
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*ESC provides consultation in problem solving, networking, leadership, and technical expertise to organizations, agencies, and business on environmental issues.*