



EMC News

June 5, 2001

Volume 8, No. 5

Environmental Review Committee

The Environmental Review Committee met on May 22. The first item of business was the ornell University Radiation Disposal Site (RDS) proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP); the committee held a lengthy discussion on this subject. After individual concerns were raised, a motion was made to reiterate our previous determination that the selected remediation alternative provide for improved long-term effectiveness and reduced toxic mobility. The motion favored Alternative 6 as it involves the construction of an appropriate low-level radioactive waste "container" in which the RDS material can be stored and monitored. The committee voted unanimously for this motion, and an additional list of concerns was added as a friendly amendment. A letter to New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and a resolution for full EMC consideration will be drafted.

The committee also discussed the Finger Lakes National Forest Oil and Gas Drilling EIS, a copy of which will be circulated among the committee members. This EIS will be the subject of the June 2001 committee meeting, as comments are due by July 3rd.

The committee reviewed the available materials related to three proposed actions by Tompkins County related to the airport, and determined that additional maps were needed to indicate the parcels to be purchased and the one on which 3 acres of trees will be cut. Barbara Ebert agreed to ask Bob Nicholas for these items. A subcommittee was formed to review the new materials if a decision is needed prior to the next committee meeting.

Herb Engman reported the death of Gary Hotaling, a former EMC member who had been an active participant years ago. The committee expressed an interest in forwarding a memorandum to the full EMC in which we would send our condolences to the family and acknowledge Gary's contribution to the EMC's work. Barbara Ebert will draft this resolution after researching other, similar resolutions passed by the Board of Representatives and others.

Submitted by Barbara Ebert



Energy Saving Tip of the Month: Water Heating

Water heating is the second largest energy use in the home, after space heating and cooling. Heating water with electricity costs over twice as much as with natural gas. If you have to mix cold water with the hot to get the right temperature, you are

wasting energy and money. For each 10 degree reduction you can save 13% on your water heating costs.

When choosing a new water heater, it may be tempting to select a model that is inexpensive to buy, ignoring how much it will add to your energy bill each month. Such a strategy will cost you dearly in the long run. That "cheap" \$425 electric tank heater can cost you \$5,500 (13 times its purchase price) in energy costs over its typical 13-year life. You can save hundreds of dollars a year by purchasing a tankless water heater. Since you only heat the water you use, instead of heating a tank for 24 hours, energy costs are 20 % less. You can never run out of hot water, and with no tank to rust out these units should last a lifetime.

Why doesn't everyone have one? Actually, they are in widespread use in Asia and Europe. North Americans are just beginning to understand that energy efficiency and conservation are an imperative component of a globally responsible citizen.

Submitted by Steve Nicholson



Announcements

Property Assessment: The Value of Open Space

Recently, EMC members (Lynn Leopold and Bruce Johnson) met with staff from the County Planning (Mikel Shakarjian and Katie Borgella) and Assessment Departments (Jay Franklin), and researchers from Cornell's Department of Rural Sociology (John Barney, David Kay and Joe Francis) to discuss a cooperative research project seeking to determine the real market value of open space in Tompkins County. Included as part of their project is an evaluation of property values near or adjacent to designated open space and possibly Unique Natural Areas. The purpose of the project is to determine what effect different factors related to open space, such as proximity to preserved or protected land, may have on property values nearby and development patterns across the landscape. The researchers have offered to give a presentation to the EMC as they begin to find results.

Submitted by Mikel Shakarjian and Bruce Johnson

Earth on the Edge

Keep an eye open for a TV special airing on PBS on Tuesday, June 19th, at 8pm (check your local listings). "Bill Moyers Reports: Earth on Edge" is collaboration between the World Resources Institute, and acclaimed journalist Bill Moyers.

The purpose of the program is to emphasize new data concerning the effect of human activities on the sustainability of our planet. This data includes many of the findings in the WRI's report, "World Resources: 2000-2001: People and Ecosystems: The Fraying Web of Life". The program will be complimented by an informative website, <http://www.pbs.org/earthonedge>, to be launched on June 11th. Until then there is a preview site at the same location.

In addition, on June 12th, WRI will launch Earth Trends (Earthtrends.wri.org). This site will deliver scientific information from "World Resources 2000-2001" to everybody, and may serve to assist the institutions, corporations, governments, and the civil society organizations that influence environmental policy.



Submitted by Scott Estro, EMC Intern

*******Draft*******

RESOLUTION NO. 4-2001 –RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION HONORING GARY HOTALING

WHEREAS, Gary Hotaling devoted seventeen ears of his life to providing loyal service and wise counsel to the Tompkins County Environmental Management Council, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Caroline recognized Gary's outstanding contribution by appointing him to the Environmental Management Council for all of those seventeen years, and

WHEREAS, Gary also served on the Tompkins County Economic Opportunity Corporation Board, and

WHEREAS, Gary devoted over thirty years of his life as a volunteer hunter safety instructor for the New York State Department of Conservation, and

WHEREAS, Gary served his country as a paratrooper during World War II, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, The Tompkins County Environmental Management Council extends it sincere appreciation for Gary's unselfish commitment to public service at the town, county, state and national levels to his family upon the occasion of his death, May 20, 2001. Gary will be sorely missed by all his friends in the conservation community.

*******Draft*******

RESOLUTION NO. 3-2001 - RESOLUTION RECCOMENDING CORNELL UIVERSITY SELECT THE SITE REMEDIATION ALTERNATIVE OFFERING THE HIGHEST DEGREE OF PERMANENCE

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has prepared a Proposed Remediation Action Plan (PRAP) identifying Alternative 2 (Containment of Source Area with Slurry Wall/Grout Curtain; Ground Water Recovery, Treatment and Discharge; and Natural Attenuation) as the preferred option for the site remediation of Cornell University's Radiation Disposal Site (RDS), and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Environmental Management Council serves as an advisory group on issues of the environment to the Tompkins County Board of Representatives and the community, and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Review Committee of the Environmental Management Council has reviewed the proposed alternative on behalf of the Council and remains concerned about the effectiveness of the proposed slurry wall and grout curtain in reducing the spread of radioactive material, the lack of rigorous testing and analysis at various locations at which paradioxane has been detected, and the need for ongoing and independent monitoring of the site and affected areas, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Environmental Management Council has determined that Option 6 appears to better address these concerns while remaining, according to the study, equally protective of human health and safety, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Tompkins County Environmental Management Council urges the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to select Option 6, which provides the most permanent solution possible without involving the transfer of contaminated waste outside of its county of origin.

Nominations for Liaisons



Flood Hazard Mitigation Committee
1.) Barbara Ebert

Cayuga Lake Waterfront Revitalization Plan:
1.) Joyce Gerbasi
2.) Bill Lesser (Alternate)

Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board
1.) Dooley

CU Lake Source Cooling Data Group
1.) Karen Edelstein
2.) John Dennis (Alternate)

Cornell's CWMAC
1.) Kenny Christianson

Intermunicipal Organization
1.) Dooley Kiefer

Water Resources Council
1.) Steve Uzmann

No Reports Submitted

Chair's Report

Coordinator's Report

County Towers Committee Report

Education Committee Report

Environmental Review Committee Report

Executive Committee Report

