

**Sierra Club of Pennsylvania, Southeastern PA Group Executive Committee Meeting**  
**April 3, 2019 Meeting**  
**City Coho, 2401 Walnut Street, Philadelphia**

**ExCom Members Attending:** Pratima Agrawal, John Butler, Sue Edwards, Ken Hemphill, Jim Kaff, Kevin Little, Dave Moscatello, Prasad Ramnath, Jim Wylie

**ExCom Members Absent:** Ann DiCampello, Dennis Winters

**Other Members Attending:** Mina Cimino, Karen Melton, Tim Beckham, Mike Ewall, Meenal (Energy Justice Network, Howard Sherman, Lynn Robinson

The Meeting was called to order by Dave. [Agenda](#)

Secretary: (Emily Davis)

The minutes were approved as emailed

Treasurer: (Dennis Winters) no report

Following introductions, Jim suggested that several individuals who asked to make presentations be allowed to speak first. These are reported under [new business](#).

**Standing Committee Reports**

**Nomination Committee:** Jim

Jim reported that Dennis has resigned as treasurer and from the Executive Committee. Ken moved and Jim seconded that Emily be the new treasurer. The motion passed. (She was appointed assistant in January). A person from the chapter will also be added to the account

He also noted that this is the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting the Ann DiCampello has missed. He did say the two meetings had been excused. So, we are down 2 members. It was suggested we reach out to Abby Wysor who was also nominated this year. We would like to have person from Montgomery county join the ExCom.

**Conservation Committee:** (Jim Wylie, Dave)

[Future Energy](#)

**Political Committee:** (Robin Mann, Jim Wylie)

Endorsements for the primary will be discussed at a special meeting of the ExComm on April 10. The county committees should have their materials on the shared drive by the evening of the 7<sup>th</sup> so members can review them before the vote. Materials of those candidates that receive SPG approval will be sent on to the Chapter Political committee so they can review, then vote the third week in April.

The Philadelphia team reported that they intend to present 7 candidates, (5 at-large and 2 district City Council). The Bucks County team plans to present Jordan Yeager, a candidate for the Court of Common Pleas, who has been a lawyer for the Delaware River Keeper Network.

**Newsletter/Communications:**

Sondra is working on the next newsletter and could still use more articles.

**Education Committee:** (Karen Melton / Kevin Little, Pratima Agrawal)

Karen reported that the Huplits grant has supported 8 or 9 presentations by Jackie Kent of the Philadelphia Metro Wildlife Center. They are planning to write a second grant focusing on programs at schools

**New Member Engagement:** (Pat Beaudet)

A program is scheduled this Saturday at the Falls of the Schuylkill library. The focus will be engaging members in local campaigns, particularly, Ready for 100, Plastics and Fossil Free SEPTA

**Outings:** (Jim Kaff, Amy Kwasnicki)

The group has a new outings Leader: Emily Meching.

The outing now scheduled include:

Sat 4/13/19 8:30	Drinking Water Reservoir - Debris Clean up Outing	Service/Stewardship
Sat 4/13/19 2:00	Community Garden Walking Tour - Kensington	Walking
Sun 4/14/19 2:00	Walk in the Wissahickon	Walking
Sat 4/20/19 10:00	Hike the Pennypack watershed	Hike
Mon 4/22/19 6:00	Earth Day & Full Moon Hike	Hike
Fri 4/26/19 5:30	CityNatureChallenge - Rittenhouse	Educational
Sat 4/27/19 2:00	CityNatureChallenge - Wissahickon Valley	Educational
Sun 4/28/19 2:00	CityNatureChallenge - Fairmount Horticultural Center	Educational
Mon 4/29/19 5:30	CityNatureChallenge - FDR Park	Educational
Sat 5/4/19 10:00	Thomas Breden Preserve at Milford Bluffs	Hike

**Old Business**

***Elcon Hazardous Waste plant:***

The Bucks Co team wants to stop this plant through zoning. They are working with the Delaware River Keeper and would like to contribute \$500 to the legal fund for that group. It was decided to wait until the issue is clear.

**New Business**

***EV Charging stations:*** Howard Sherman said he had been checking into the availability of EV charging stations at hotels and motels around the area. Most do not have this facility but he found three that did. He wanted to encourage this by first thanking the three motels for providing EV charging stations. He had prepared a letter to each of them and asked if we, as individuals would be willing to sign. The letters were passed around and each of us signed.

***Waste Incineration Plants:*** Mike Ewall of the Energy Justice Network asked for the SPG to sign on to a letter to Mayor Kenney regarding the signing of a contract to burn trash. He said this issue may be presented to City Council in May. He asks that the city not incinerate any of its trash (or recycling). The process on incineration, recovers very little energy, one of its purported benefits, and not less expensive that using a landfill. The plant in Chester City is the third largest polluter in the 5 count region admitting a large amount of NO<sub>x</sub> as well as mercury. The toxic solid waste left over after incineration is sent to the landfill. As the plant is grandfathered, it does not have to meet current air pollution standards. Mike reported that the landfills could absorb the additional Philly waste as the state accepts trash from other states. There are also more jobs in recycling.

Dave moved, and Jim seconded, that we sign on to the letter the mike presented.

***Nicotown Gas Plant:*** Lynn Robinson, from Neighbors Against the Gas Plant, said that the final appeal hearing would be on April 30<sup>th</sup> at noon. Because this is a minor synthetic plant it is not subject to the emission standards of larger plants and monitors are not required. It is a combined heat and electricity generating plant but recovers only about 5% in the heat generated. The next action is to ask council to prohibit the construction of future plants of this type. Karen added that this has been a 3 year project.

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**Announcements:**

**Meeting Call-in Number:**

1-866-501-6174, PIN is 1004100#.

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## SPG April 3, 2019 Ex Com Agenda

1. **Introductions**
2. **Approval of March Meeting minutes (Emily sent out)-**
3. **Treasurers Report** – (Excom only) Dennis
4. **Vacant ExCom seats to be filled – Jim**
5. **Political endorsements Status Philly & Suburban County Races** – Jim W and others  
2019 elections/endorsement progress  
County commissioner races in the 4 suburban counties.  
Phila City Council District & At-Large candidates (primary in May, effectively the election).  
Questionnaires, Interviews, recommendations

6. **Education**– Update on the Huplits grant – Karen
7. **Communications**

a. Newsletter Update – Ken, Sondra I saw in the last meeting minutes that the newsletter got some mention. I want to make a request that interested contributors sign up here:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/10evcMA00u5yFMimdZEFakUSBISoCkIH7FPmxNncf8ro/edit#gid=0>

to write for the newsletter for the rest of 2019. Anyone interested can go right to the google spreadsheet and sign themselves up, and then at the end of that month, I will contact them with a friendly reminder to forward their article to me. As well, anyone can contact me with questions about the process. [Blog rotation](#)

**8. Outings** – New Outings Chair Jim K, Amy - Emily Mechling has graciously agreed to step up and be the new SPG Group Outings Chair

**9. Member Engagement** – Prasad, Pat

**10. Thank You Letter for EV Chargers – Howard Sherman**

**11. Conservation:**

-**SEPTA Gas Plant Status and more** – Karen, Pratima, Lynn Robinson

[Draft Letter to SEPTA chairman](#) from SPG ExCom

[Plastics](#)

[Ready For 100](#)

[Open Space](#)

[Air & Water Quality](#)

[Transportation](#)

[Pipelines](#)

[Don't Spray Me](#)

**12. Other Business?**

## Future Energy - Report April 2019 – DKM

### POLITICS

Elizabeth Fiedler, a Pa. state lawmaker and member of the Millennial generation, says climate change is the issue of our time. By Elizabeth Fiedler The Philadelphia Inquirer Sunday March 10, 2019, pC2

### POLICY

Whites are mainly to blame for air pollution, but blacks and Hispanics bear the burden, says a new study. By Isaac Stanley-Becker The Washington Post March 12, 2019 at 4:59 AM

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2019/03/12/whites-are-mainly-blame-air-pollution-blacks-hispanics-bear-burden-says-new-study/?utm\\_term=.c532b5085772&wpisrc=nl\\_most&wpmm=1](https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2019/03/12/whites-are-mainly-blame-air-pollution-blacks-hispanics-bear-burden-says-new-study/?utm_term=.c532b5085772&wpisrc=nl_most&wpmm=1)

Climate and Environment. Federal judge demands Trump administration reveal how its drilling plans will fuel climate change. The ruling temporarily halts drilling on 300,000 acres of leases in Wyoming. By Juliet Eilperin The Washington Post March 20, 2019 at 1:27 PM

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2019/03/20/federal-judge-casts-doubt-trumps-drilling-plans-across-us-because-they-ignore-climate-change/?utm\\_term=.117f54e05502&wpisrc=nl\\_most&wpmm=1](https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2019/03/20/federal-judge-casts-doubt-trumps-drilling-plans-across-us-because-they-ignore-climate-change/?utm_term=.117f54e05502&wpisrc=nl_most&wpmm=1)

U.S. judge upholds ocean drilling ban. Decision affects the Arctic and areas of the Atlantic stretching from the Chesapeake Bay to New England. By Juliet Eilperin Washington Post The Philadelphia Inquirer Sunday March 31, 2019, pA1

As waters rise, still denying the undeniable. From Daryl Metcalfe in Pennsylvania to Mike Lee in Utah, there are many leaders still not serious about climate change. *Will Bunch* The Philadelphia Inquirer Sunday March 31, 2019, pC3

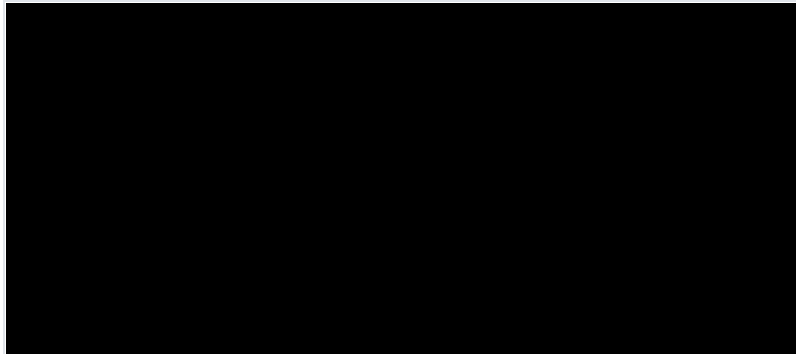
### FOSSIL FUEL ISSUES

Criminal Investigation Into Sunoco Pipeline. No details, but misconduct allegations in Mariner East. By *Andrew Maykuth Staff Writer* The Philadelphia Inquirer Wednesday March 13, 2019, pA9

Shore rally protests seismic tests. “It’s torture for the fish,” boat captain says of plan to use air-gun blasts to seek gas and oil. By Amy S. Rosenberg Staff Writer The Philadelphia Inquirer Tuesday March 19, 2019, pB2

Report: Banks Have Invested \$1.9 Trillion in Fossil Fuels Since 2015. Fossil fuel investments continue apace, even as banks pledge money for sustainable development. Emma Foehringer

Merchant Greentech Media **March 20, 2019.** [Report: Banks Have Invested \\$1.9 Trillion in Fossil Fuels Since 2015](#)



***Report: Banks Have Invested \$1.9 Trillion in Fossil Fuels Since 2015***

Fossil fuel investments continue apace, even as banks pledge money for sustainable development.

**Study: Fossil Fuel Generation Has No Business Case in Australia. Plummeting wind and solar costs leave “no expectations of people investing in anything else,” according to the author of a report by CSIRO and the Australian Energy Market Operator. Jason Deign Greentech Media **March 21, 2019****

<https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/study-fossil-fuel-generation-has-no-business-case-in-australia>

**Business UPDATE 1-U.S. drillers cut most oil rigs in a quarter in three years -Baker Hughes. By Scott DiSavino, Reuters March 29, 2019. <https://www.yahoo.com/news/1-u-drillers-cut-most-172520155.html>**

#### CLIMATE CHANGE & ADAPTATIONS

**Ruined crops, salty soil: How rising seas are poisoning North Carolina’s farmland. By Sarah Kaplan The Washington Post March 1, 2019 at 7:27 PM**

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/ruined-crops-salty-soil-how-rising-seas-are-poisoning-north-carolinas-farmland/2019/03/01/2e26b83e-28ce-11e9-8eef-0d74f4bf0295\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.5a9222ede05e&wpisrc=nl\\_most&wpmm=1](https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/ruined-crops-salty-soil-how-rising-seas-are-poisoning-north-carolinas-farmland/2019/03/01/2e26b83e-28ce-11e9-8eef-0d74f4bf0295_story.html?utm_term=.5a9222ede05e&wpisrc=nl_most&wpmm=1)

**A warning on flooding in back bays. New Jersey coastal towns could face \$1.6 billion in annual damage from rising sea levels, new study says. By Frank Kummer Staff Writer The Philadelphia Inquirer Monday March 4, 2019, pA3.**

**Climate change's fingerprints are on U.S. Midwest floods: scientists. By Timothy Gardner, Reuters Fri, Mar 22, 2019 5:40 AM EDT**

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/climate-changes-fingerprints-u-midwest-floods-scientists-094006471.html>

**2018 spike in energy demand spells climate trouble: IEA. Marlowe Hood, AFP March 26, 2019**

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/2018-spike-energy-demand-spells-climate-trouble-iea-045429215.html>

## NUCLEAR POWER

### 40 YEARS AFTER TMI | THE STATE OF THE INDUSTRY

**Are Aging Nuclear Plants Still Safe? Peach Bottom and other facilities could be running decades longer than first planned. Amid assurances, some are wary. By Andrew Maykuth Staff Writer The Philadelphia Inquirer Sunday March 3, 2019, pA1**

### 40 YEARS AFTER TMI | THE STATE OF THE INDUSTRY

**Nuclear rescue's costly implications. Pa. bill would provide a subsidy that not all plants need. From other corners, accusations that it would hurt gas industry.**

**By Andrew Maykuth Staff Writer The Philadelphia Inquirer Sunday March 10, 2019, pE1**

**No more rescues of energy's polluting dinosaur. By Lance Haver The Philadelphia Inquirer Wednesday March 20, 2019, pA14**

**Bill is not a bailout; closing Pa. nuclear plants is much worse. By Josh Freed The Philadelphia Inquirer Monday March 26, 2019, pA13**

## RENEWABLE ENERGY

**SunPower Introduces Its Key Product for 2019. Travis Hoium, The Motley Fool, Motley Fool Wed, Mar 6, 2019. <https://www.yahoo.com/finance/news/sunpower-introduces-key-product-2019-132100316.html>**

## GRID OPTIMIZATION

**Distributed Energy Still Isn't Valued Properly, Report Finds.** The result is underpaying on some small-scale projects and overpaying for others, with billions of dollars on the line. Julian Spector Greentech Media **March 11, 2019.**

<https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/distributed-energy-value-properl>

**Siemens Buys Transmission Line to Take Iowa Wind to the Eastern Grid.** The 2,100-megawatt line would go underground on a railroad right-of-way in the hopes of speedier permitting. Julian Spector Greentech Media **March 12, 2019**

<https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/siemens-buys-transmission-line-to-take-iowa-wind-to-the-eastern-grid>

#### UTILITY-SCALE SOLAR

**Utility-Scale Solar Projections Now Exceed Pre-Tariff Forecasts.** The latest data from Wood Mackenzie Power & Renewables shows a year-over-year dip for solar, but growth above pre-tariff levels on the horizon. Emma Foehringer Merchant Greentech Media **March 13, 2019**

<https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/utility-scale-solar-projections-now-outrank-pre-tariff-forecasts>

#### MARKETS & POLICY

**Solar Is Gaining in Wind Markets as the PTC Steps Down.** Growth of the solar industry is inching into traditional wind markets, and developers are taking note. Emma Foehringer Merchant Greentech Media **March 15,**

**2019.** <https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/solar-gaining-in-wind-markets-as-ptc-steps-down>

#### MICROGRIDS

**New Microgrid Initiative Launches in Puerto Rico Amid Energy Policy Uncertainty.** The Environmental Defense Fund plans to help build low-carbon microgrids in Puerto Rico, amid delays on 100% renewable energy legislation, PREPA's IRP and microgrid interconnection rules. Emma Foehringer Merchant Greentech Media **March 21,**

**2019.** <https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/microgrid-project-in-puerto-rico-edf>

#### MARKETS & POLICY



**Inside California's Community Solar Experiment. Contracts are being written, but big questions remain about how the community solar market will take shape in the state. Kevin Stark Greentech Media March 18, 2019.** <https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/inside-californias-community-solar-experiment>

**The U.S. Solar Industry Shows Resilience in 2018. Travis Hoiium, The Motley Fool, Motley Fool March 22, 2019.** <https://www.yahoo.com/finance/news/u-solar-industry-shows-resilience-011900011.html>

#### OFF GRID/ENERGY ACCESS

**Report: Investment in Off-Grid Energy Access Totals \$1.7B Through 2018. A new Wood Mackenzie Power & Renewables report highlights the strategic business case for bringing off-grid energy to the billion-plus people who lack grid power. Jeff St. John Greentech Media March 06, 2019**

<https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/investment-in-off-grid-energy-access-2018>

#### ENERGY STORAGE

**Why Did Elon Musk Spend \$218 Million on an Ultracapacitor Company? Maxwell has "demonstrated" batteries using its technology with an energy density of greater than 300 watt-hours per kilogram. Eric Wesoff Greentech Media February 27, 2019**

<https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/why-did-elon-musk-spend-218-million-on-an-ultracapacitor-company>

**US Energy Storage Broke Records in 2018, but the Best Is Yet to Come. The groundbreaking installations came from business as usual, rather than in response to extreme events. Julian Spector Greentech Media March 05, 2019.**

<https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/us-energy-storage-broke-records-in-2018-but-the-best-is-yet-to-come>

#### ELECTRIC VEHICLES & TRANSPORTATION

**Coatesville rail service may return. SEPTA considering extension of Paoli-Thorndale Line after completion of new station and expanded Regional Rail fleet. By Jason Laughlin Staff Writer The Philadelphia Inquirer Saturday March 9, 2019, pB1**

**MIGHTY LIGHT. Penn's "metallic wood" as strong as titanium. By Tom Avril Staff Writer The Philadelphia Inquirer Monday March 26, 2019, pB1**

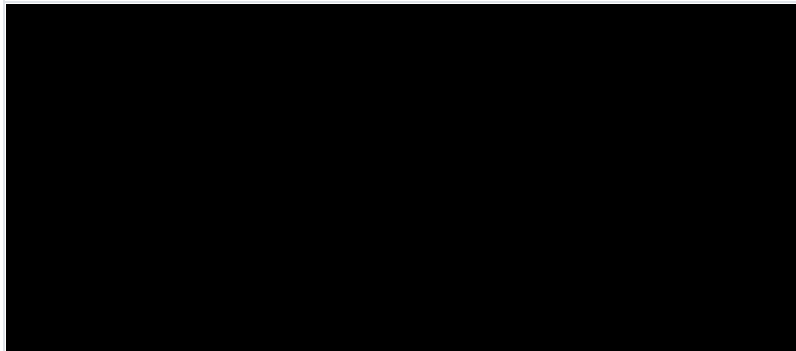
## CONSERVATION

**Table scrap economy. Even your food waste can put cash in someone's pocket. By Frank Kummer Staff Writer The Philadelphia Inquirer Sunday March, pE1.**

**The frustrating charade of recycling in Philadelphia. By Nathaniel Popkin The Philadelphia Inquirer Sunday March 3, 2019, pC1.**

**Phila. to install cameras to catch illegal dumpers. By Michaelle Bond Staff Writer The Philadelphia Inquirer Tuesday March 5, 2019, pB2.**

**Climate and Environment. A Trump official said seismic air gun tests don't hurt whales. So a congressman blasted him with an air horn. By Darryl Fears The Washington Post March 7, 2019. [A Trump official said seismic air gun tests don't hurt whales. So a congressman blasted him with an air horn.](#)**



***A Trump official said seismic air gun tests don't hurt whales. So a cong...***

Rep. Joe Cunningham's stunt made a bang in a subcommittee hearing that questioned the National Oceanic and Atmos...

**Animals**

**Mallards are in decline across state. Waterfowl Symposium, held in Northeastern Pa. for first time, hears of duck losses. By Tom Venesky Wilkes-Barre Times Leader The Philadelphia Inquirer Thursday March 21, 2019, pB2**

**America's reindeer have quietly gone extinct in the Lower 48**

**By Karin Brulliard The Washington Post March 22, 2019 at 6:00 AM**

**[https://www.washingtonpost.com/science/2019/03/22/americas-reindeer-have-quietly-gone-extinct-lower/?utm\\_term=.02e97b5f523f&wpisrc=nl\\_most&wpmm=1](https://www.washingtonpost.com/science/2019/03/22/americas-reindeer-have-quietly-gone-extinct-lower/?utm_term=.02e97b5f523f&wpisrc=nl_most&wpmm=1)**

**Recycling with a click of a button. Townships have teamed up with a local app that collects electronics and clothes for reuse. By Michaelle Bond Staff Writer The Philadelphia Inquirer Monday March 26, 2019, pB2**

**N.J. sues Exxon over PCBs. "We're going to bring the hammer down," the AG said, alleging years of dumping in Paulsboro. By Frank Kummer Staff Writer The Philadelphia Inquirer Friday March 8, 2019, pA11.**

#### **Opinions**

**Butterflies aren't expendable. Our brittle reality depends on them, too. By Michael S. Engel The Washington Post March 1, 2019**

**[https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/butterflies-arent-expendable-our-brittle-reality-depends-on-them-too/2019/03/01/b70862a2-3b65-11e9-a06c-3ec8ed509d15\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.79f92762ba3f&wpisrc=nl\\_ideas&wpmm=1](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/butterflies-arent-expendable-our-brittle-reality-depends-on-them-too/2019/03/01/b70862a2-3b65-11e9-a06c-3ec8ed509d15_story.html?utm_term=.79f92762ba3f&wpisrc=nl_ideas&wpmm=1)**

**Butterflies were symbols of rebirth. Then they started disappearing. By Dan Zak The Washington Post March 8, 2019**

**[https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/style/butterflies-were-symbols-of-rebirth-then-they-started-disappearing/2019/03/07/8eb5f784-3b91-11e9-a2cd-307b06d0257b\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.69569c573d6c&wpisrc=nl\\_most&wpmm=1](https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/style/butterflies-were-symbols-of-rebirth-then-they-started-disappearing/2019/03/07/8eb5f784-3b91-11e9-a2cd-307b06d0257b_story.html?utm_term=.69569c573d6c&wpisrc=nl_most&wpmm=1)**

**Formal tick tally in N.J. is a first. A Rutgers-led team has identified 11 tick species living in New Jersey, including two invasive species from other countries. By Frank Kummer Staff Writer The Philadelphia Inquirer Saturday March 9, 2019, pB1**

**Trader Joe's is dropping 1 million pounds of single-use plastic from stores. Walter Einkenel Daily Kos Staff DAILY KOS Monday March 11, 2019 · 1:54 PM EDT**

**<https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2019/3/11/1841235/-Trader-Joe-s-is-dropping-1-million-pounds-of-single-use-plastic-from-stores?detail=emaildkre>**

**Brewing a good beer depends on keeping Del. River watershed pure. *By Gene Muller* The Philadelphia Inquirer Tuesday March 12, 2019, pA11.**

**Mining company leaves taxpayers with a \$100 million cleanup bill—and it's just one of many. Mark Sumner Daily Kos Staff DAILY KOS Monday March 18, 2019.**

<https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2019/3/18/1843071/-Mining-company-leaves-taxpayers-with-a-100-million-cleanup-bill-and-it-s-just-one-of-many??detail=emaildkre>

**Climate and Environment**

**Chemical that EPA allows to help clean up oil spills sickens people and fish, lawsuit claims. People exposed to the chemical suffer coughing, wheezing and rashes, lawsuit says. *By Darryl Fears* The Washington Post March 26, 2019**

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2019/03/26/chemical-that-epa-sanctions-help-clean-up-oil-spills-sickens-people-fish-lawsuit-claims/?utm\\_term=.b458e1a02414&wpisrc=nl\\_green&wpmm=1](https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2019/03/26/chemical-that-epa-sanctions-help-clean-up-oil-spills-sickens-people-fish-lawsuit-claims/?utm_term=.b458e1a02414&wpisrc=nl_green&wpmm=1)

**New York races to craft budget. Highlights include auto tolls in Manhattan, ban on plastic bags. *By Chris Carola and David Klepper.* AP The Philadelphia Inquirer Sunday March 31, 2019, pA9**

**DRUMPFS OF THE MONTH:**

**Trump Has Done Nothing About His Month-Old Wall Emergency Other Than To Declare It. S.V. Date, HuffPost Mon, Mar 11 5:47 PM EDT**

<https://www.yahoo.com/huffpost/trump-done-nothing-month-old-214721605.html>

**Trump cites debunked Greenpeace 'co-founder' to discredit 'the whole climate crisis' Yahoo News Dylan Stableford March 12, 2019**

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/greenpeace-blasts-trump-for-quoting-climatechange-denier-who-misrepresents-himself-as-cofounder-184205889.html>

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