

Support for EPA Pollution Guidelines

Testimony in Support of EPA Proposed Carbon Pollution Emission Guidelines for Existing Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units
RE: Docket No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0602

[Note from newsletter editor: this is the document as Patricia DeMarco presented and submitted it to the EPA at the hearing in Pittsburgh on July 31, 2014; we consider that this information is so vital that we want to provide our readers with the statement in its entirety. Note that the record is open for comments until October 16, 2014, via the EPA website, for the docket number listed].

My name is Patricia M. DeMarco, resident of Pittsburgh, PA. I am a geneticist by training, with a thirty- year career in energy and environmental policy spanning both public sector and private utility sector service. I served as
Continued on Page 3 (EPA)

The People’s Climate March

On Sunday, September 21, more than 100,000 citizens from around the country are expected to take part in The People’s Climate March in New York City. The goal of the



march is to put pressure on the United Nations through the UN 3 Summit 2014, which will occur on

Continued on Page 3(March)

Protect Our Parks

“Protect Our Parks” and the fight for Allegheny County’s public lands

Protect Our Parks (“POP”) is a coalition of grassroots groups, established environmental organizations (including the Allegheny Group of the Sierra Club), and concerned individuals. It was launched in August, 2013, when Allegheny County (Pennsylvania) began soliciting proposals for “fracking” for natural gas under one of the County’s nine public parks.

Earlier that year, the County had agreed to lease the land around the Pittsburgh International Airport to Consol Energy for natural gas extraction. The public debate over that airport lease had been spirited but fairly brief. This time, the founders of POP believed that the prospect of industrial activity at the public parks would strike an emotional chord with citizens, and would give the anti-fracking
Continued on Page 3 (POP)

In This Issue

Support for EPA Pollution Guidelines.	Page 1 & 3-13	Bioneers	Page 7 & 8
Protect our Parks.	Page 1,3 & 5	Ex-com election	Page 8
The People’s Climate March	Page 1,3 & 4	DRYerson Festival.	Page 9
Clean Rivers Campaign.	Page 2	Puzzle	Page 13
Threats to Public Lands.	Page 2 & 6	Calendar order forms	Page 14
Climate Change Action	Page 2 & 7	Upcoming Events.	Page 15
Pic Nic.	Page 4	Group Directory.	Page 16
Notes From The Chair	Page 6 & 8		

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

THE CLEAN RIVERS CAMPAIGN and THE SIERRA CLUB

Getting the Biggest Bang Out of Our ALCOSAN Rate Increases

In Allegheny County, when it rains - even just a little bit - so much water flows off parking garages, roads and streets that it becomes more than the Allegheny County Sanitation Authority (ALCOSAN) can handle at their treatment plan in Woods Run. The result is that millions of gallons of raw sewage flow into our beloved three rivers. During the boating season, the water is not safe to touch nearly half the time.

The Clean Rivers Campaign believes that the best way to solve this problem is science-based large scale investments of rate payer dollars in green infrastructure such as trees, rain gardens and permeable pavements across the ALCOSAN service area. These projects would soak up the water before it gets into the sewer system. The huge advantage to this approach is that we solve our "sewage in the rivers" problem in an ecological manner AND we get many other benefits as well. Green investments would bring jobs to communities that need them. They would bring higher property values. They would bring revitalized shopping districts that would attract people. They would bring cooler temperatures and cleaner air.

Because of the work that the Sierra Club and the Clean Rivers Campaign have done over the last few years, ALCOSAN's "big tunnel" approach, which sends all that storm water runoff into giant tunnels under all three rivers, has

been rejected by the Environmental Protection Agency. As of this writing, the EPA, ALCOSAN, the County Health Department, and the PA Dept. of Environmental Protection are negotiating a new plan for how our region will solve its Stormwater problem. This will be the largest public works project in our region's history so we need to get this right.

The action right now is in the municipalities in the ALCOSAN service area. Sierra Club members should reach out to their municipal elected officials and urge them to contact ALCOSAN in support of green investments in their communities. For more information, contact Tom Hoffman, Allegheny Group Excom member, at tghoffman2@gmail.com.

Tom Hoffman

Threats to Public Lands

Pennsylvania's public lands face some serious new threats from the gas industry's near-total stranglehold on government, from Corbett right down to county level. Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald has prevailed in his plans to frack the county parks, starting with the 1,180 acres of Deer Lakes Park. The recent lifting of a moratorium on drilling in our state parks and forests, put in place by former governor Rendell, drew more than 200 citizens to a Lobby Day in Harrisburg. This opens more than 700,000 acres of the most pristine wild areas to new roads, well pads and water pollution.

Meanwhile, under the new federal Farm Bill, the entire Allegheny
*Continued on Page 6
(Public Lands)*

Climate Change Action: The Time is Now

We hear much about climate change nowadays. Every day there seems to be some reference to its effects. Every week, somewhere nature is telling us she is troubled. Pretty scary stuff. The task to stop or at least slow climate change seems so enormous that I wonder what a single person—like me—can do that would make a difference? Can the Power of One really have a significant influence?

But if I -- and the 70% of Americans (over 200 million) who are in favor of setting higher emissions and pollution standards for business and industry, and imposing mandatory controls on carbon dioxide emissions and other greenhouse gases (Gallup 2014), DID take some personal actions, what a collective difference we would make.

On the other hand, since 30% of Americans don't think climate change is caused by us human beings, it would be easy for me to throw in the towel and resign myself to the fact that we are not capable of mounting a sufficiently large campaign to stop or at least arrest the rate of climate change.

I have to agree with the late George Carlin who in good humor said the planet will be here long after we have screwed it up and are all gone. He is right, but what of our children and grand children? Perhaps I can make the planet slightly better for them. What of the fact that a significant portion of climate change has occurred under
Continued on Page 7 (Climate Change)

Continued from Page 1 (EPA)

a Commissioner of the Regulatory Commission of Alaska from 1999 to 2002 and have taught energy and environmental policy and ethics at the University of Pittsburgh for the last six years, while serving as the Director of the Rachel Carson Institute at Chatham University.

Thank you for pursuing this important rulemaking initiative. We are facing the definitive challenge of our time – the need to shift from a fossil-fueled economy to a renewable and sustainable economy. I stand to speak for the countless constituents who will not be heard in these proceedings – the unborn generations whose fate will be determined by our actions but who have no voice in the decisions that will shape their future.

Our fossil fueled energy system is by far the largest contributor to carbon dioxide emissions that are causing climate changes. The transition from a fossil fueled economy to a renewable energy powered economy is the surest way to abate the effects of climate-changing gas emissions, and it will preserve the land from more and more invasive and destructive methods of extraction. While a change from an energy system entrenched for 200 years seems daunting, the consequences of continuing this pattern of energy use are surely devastating both to the atmosphere and to the fresh water system, for us and especially for our children and their children and grandchildren. We can make better choices that lead us to a stable economy based on renewable and sustainable energy solutions. The choices are not primarily about technology but rather about our values and priorities.

Continued on Page 10 (EPA)

Continued from Page 1 (March)

September 23, and through the UN to put pressure on governments world-wide to move rapidly to prevent world-wide climate disasters. Further information on the UN Summit is available at <http://www.un.org/climatechange/summit>.

According to a statement on the United Nations website by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (Remarks at the Council on Foreign Relations, February 2013), “We must limit global temperature rise to 2 degrees. We are far from there, and even that is enough to cause dire consequences. If we continue along the current path, we are close to a 6 degree increase.

“Too many leaders seem content to keep climate change at arm’s length, and in its policy silo. Too few grasp the need to bring the threat to the centre of global security, economic and financial management. It is time to move beyond spending enormous sums addressing the damage, and to make the investments that will repay themselves many times over.” He also noted, “Yet, we know that we are not on track, and time is not on our side.”

By now, many of our newsletter readers are aware that over 250 busses nationally are expected to carry people from numerous environmental groups, unions, and faith communities to the New York City March, and the marchers are planning a huge display of signs, puppets, and banners calling for action to curb man-made climate change.

Continued on Page 4 (March)

Continued from Page 1 (POP)
movement a very immediate threat around which to mobilize their energies.

Not all the members of the POP coalition have the same fundamental position on fracking. Some, like Marcellus Protest, are adamantly opposed to fracking – anywhere, under any conditions. Although there are already thousands of Marcellus Shale wells in Pennsylvania, Marcellus Protest looks forward to a total ban on fracking, even if our state is one of the last hold-outs in that process. But other POP members, such as Pittsburgh’s Group Against Smog and Pollution (GASP), are trying to make fracking less destructive by improving regulatory processes and industry standards. Nevertheless, all POP’s members agreed upon a simple mission statement for POP: “No drilling in or under County parks!”

So POP began a campaign of speaking out in County Council meetings, educating Council members on the dangers of fracking and its likely impact on the character of the County’s parks. Rich Fitzgerald, the County Executive, was elected in 2012 with public support of the fracking industry, so there was never any prospect of diverting him from his goal of leasing the County’s land. But POP believed that the County Council could at least be moved to debate the matter, and– no matter how the Council ultimately voted – that a public debate would be constructive.

On September 2013, the Fitzgerald administration released its “Request for Proposal” for drilling under Deer Lakes Park, a 1200-acre facility in the County’s
Continued on Page 5 (POP)

Continued from Page 3 (March)

The march is the main focus, but there will be other events over the weekend.

Here in Pittsburgh, the Allegheny Group and the Thomas Merton Center have arranged for two buses to travel to New York City for the March. The buses will depart from Edgewood Town Center (off the Parkway East) at **3:00am on Sunday morning, September 21;**

and are expected to arrive in New York City in time for the 11:30am start of the March. The March itself will go from Columbus Circle over to Sixth Avenue, across 42nd Street, and finish on Eleventh Avenue (less than three miles in total). The bus will depart from New York City at about 4:00pm, expecting to **arrive back in Pittsburgh shortly after Midnight on the 21st.**

The fare for the bus ride is **\$68 per passenger** (some scholarships are available). To reserve a seat, you can send your name and zip-code area to pjwray@verizon.net with CLIMATE MARCH in the subject line (the deadline is Wednesday, September 17).

For any additional information, you can check our local SC website (see <http://alleghenysc.org/#19843>).



Second Annual Summer Picnic

Sunday, August 10, 2014

The Allegheny Group held its Second Annual picnic on Sunday, August 10, one of the nicest days of our climate-change-plagued summer! This event was our way of joyously celebrating and saying THANK YOU to our many, many dedicated volunteers and supporters, without whom we could not do our work.

Only a portion (about 60) of that marvelous group congregated on a breezy rise in Mellon Park, under a wooden shelter in the shade of big trees and within a short stroll of some of Pittsburgh's boldest public sculptures. The sounds from the nearby playground and from Shadyside's Fifth Avenue traffic were muted, so the band – "Smokestack Lightning," led by Tom Hoffman of Cleanwater Action and the Sierra Club and backed by solar-powered amps, played with little aural distraction. The band saluted Randy Francisco's "Beyond Coal" campaign with their first song, Woody Guthrie's satiric lament about Pittsburgh industry in the early to mid 20th century. Arlene Mercurio led a sing-along and a 50-50 raffle was held.

Later in the afternoon, city kids from the playground, attracted by the music, came over and enjoyed the hot dogs, so we hope that the name Sierra Club will have happy associations for them in the future. Lots of grilled food, salads, and plenty of beer and good-fellows hugs made for a great afternoon. And everyone is looking forward to the third annual picnic in 2015!

Jackie Apone

Continued from Page 3 (POP)
relatively sparsely-populated northeastern corner. At the October deadline, only one response was received: from Range Resources, teamed with Huntley & Huntley. The County Executive began closed-door sessions with company representatives, and – using the logic that a contract was “in negotiation” – the Range/Huntley response to the RFP was never made public.

POP received a huge boost in December, 2013, from the Pennsylvania Supreme Court’s ruling (in *Robinson Twp. v Commonwealth of Pennsylvania*) on the state’s “Act 13,” which governs natural gas operations. The court found (a) that Governor Tom Corbett and the majority leadership in the legislature had been protecting the interests of the natural gas industry rather than those of Pennsylvania citizens, and (b) that elected officials at all levels of state and local government had an “affirmative obligation” to recognize the environmental impact of fracking and to weigh that environmental impact against any putative economic benefits before allowing fracking within their jurisdictions. This judicial call for “due diligence” became the cornerstone of POP’s message to Allegheny County Council.

In January, 2014, following the election of three new members, the County Council elected new officers and appointed new chairs of its committees. The composition of the new leadership clearly reflected the influence of the County Executive: overwhelmingly white, male, and drawn from old-line political

connections. In particular, Councilman Nick Futules (who has business connections of his own with the fracking industry) was appointed to the Committee on Parks, where he would direct the consideration of any leasing of park lands.

As POP surveyed the political terrain, it became apparent that defeating the Deer Lakes Park proposal would require “No” votes from “all the women and African-American members, plus two white men.” As it turned out, on May 6, the 6 women and African-Americans did vote “No” – or abstained, which had the same effect – but all 9 white males (and only the white males) voted “Yes.”

Along the way, Mr. Futules’s Committee had held three “public hearings” – all of which were platforms for Range Resources, Huntley & Huntley, and representatives and allies of the Fitzgerald administration. Various members of the Committee, and of Council itself, had tried to arrange meetings to hear other viewpoints, only to have witnesses “un-invited” by the leadership. Finally, in the closing days before the vote, Councilwoman Sue Means convened her own public meeting in order to give “the other side” a hearing. The meeting was boycotted by the drilling advocates on Council, and the County employees were instructed to give no staff support to Ms. Means’ event.

POP submitted a summary of “The Case Against Leasing” (<http://www.protectparks.org/sites/default/files/The%20Case%20Against.pdf>) in the week before the vote, making these points, among others:

- Industrial activity is incompatible with the purpose of public parks;
- Fracking at Deer Lakes Park is unfair to residents who use that particular park;
- The aggressive campaign to “sell” this lease has undermined the ability of the County government to discharge its responsibility for oversight of the contract execution;
- The Executive and leadership of Council have misrepresented risks and benefits of leasing;
- Public opinion is against the lease;
- Range Resources has a history of bare-knuckled relations with lessors and the public;
- Fracking of County land will add to the overall negative impact of fracking in our region.

Now, in the aftermath of the Deer Lakes Park vote, POP has retained legal counsel to explore its options for further steps. There may be avenues to pursue overturning the County’s decision; but, even if the Deer Lakes Park lease goes forward, POP wants to show that the “due diligence” standard was not met – and, in fact, that the Executive and the Council leadership were aggressively thwarting any honest attempts at a balanced process.

POP is also seeking donations to meet the costs of a possible legal campaign (see details at www.protectparks.org) . With eight more County parks remaining at risk, POP is determined to continue to “protect the parks,” as long as there is fracking and as long as there are parks.

John Detwiler

Continued from Page 2
(Public Lands)

National Forest has been declared an “insect and disease infestation area” at Corbett’s request, opening the forest up to logging up to 3,000 acres at a time, without any public comment or oversight. Documents obtained in a FOIA request filed by the Allegheny Defense Project indicate that secret negotiations for this designation were conducted by Corbett’s government with the industries which will benefit from the new designation, while the public was excluded from the process.

This renewed attack on our public lands highlights the need for citizens to get active in the fight to protect these places! This year, the Sierra Club Allegheny Group has been coordinating our Outings program with grassroots groups in our region, using these events to educate our members and bring attention to regional “hot spot” campaigns. A recent tour of Greene County brought more than two dozen of our members together to see firsthand the combined impacts of coal and gas extraction, led by our friends at the Center for Coalfield Justice.

Also, the Club cosponsored the Second Annual Firefly Festival held by the Allegheny Defense Project at the Black Caddis Fly Ranch in the heart of the Allegheny National Forest. This year’s festival was attended by about 600 people, despite a nearby road washout from a stormy spring season. The fireflies put on a splendid display, and the message of conservation and the wonder of diversity were demonstrated in a day of music, celebration, face painting, night hikes, and more.

A bike tour of southern Butler County is being planned for this fall with Marcellus Outreach Butler: specifics will be posted on the Allegheny Group website (<http://alleghenysc.org>) as soon as they are available. Look for other upcoming events on our web page, and renew your membership today!

Matt Peters

Notes from the Chair

I hope you enjoyed a delightful summer with an increase in time to relax, time to go to Farmer’s Markets, and time to be with friends and family. Labor Day is past and now Fall rather than Summer activities will command your (and our) attention and energies. EXCITEMENT REIGNS for us as we gear up for TWO MAJOR events this Fall: The People’s Climate Change March on Sunday, September 21 in New York City, and the PA Governor’s Race culminating on election day, November 4. The historical significance of these events is hard to overstate. The March is likely to be the largest Climate Change March in history (Goal: 100,000 attendees). Also, if Governor Corbett is defeated, he will be the first governor in Pennsylvania history to NOT win a second term. POWER TO THE PEOPLE!

The March:

The National Sierra Club is partnering with 350.org (350.org) and other organizations to recruit thousands of people for about a three-mile march, starting at Columbus Circle: you can check our Sierra Club website, as there

may be additional route changes (<http://alleghenysc.org/#19843>). The United Nations is holding a Climate Summit on Tuesday, September 23. This march is designed to let the world leaders know that the PEOPLE want action to deal with this most critical issue of our time. It would be difficult to ignore that mass of humanity moving through this magnificent city. We and the Thomas Merton Center are each sponsoring a 56 passenger bus to New York City. Join us and YOU can be a part of history.

The Governor’s Race:

We are urging Sierra Club members to work for Tom Wolf’s campaign and get all Wolf supporters to the polls on November 4. The official website of the Wolf campaign is at wolfforpa.com. As you are probably aware, Governor Corbett’s environmental policies do not align with the mission of the Sierra Club. Gov. Corbett’s actions on other issues such as Education, Health Care, and Workers’ Rights are extremely troubling from a Social Justice stance. In late September, our website will have details about specific ways you can get involved in the Wolf campaign here in southwestern Pennsylvania. You can check also in your area to see how you can help.

Continued on Page 8 (Chair)

Continued from Page 5
(Climate Change)

my watch, under my stewardship? And that the vast majority of scientists attribute the planet's warming to our man made activities? Doesn't all this mean I need to do something about it?

Here are some of the actions I can do as one person. If 70% of all Americans took at least some of these few actions, the difference would be huge:

1. Go to The People's Climate March in New York City on Sept 21 (more details below)*;
2. Be more vigilant about recycling and composting by reducing, reusing and recycling;
3. Use my own bags when I go shopping;
4. Turn my heating down to 68 deg. F and put on a sweater;
5. Turn my air conditioning up to 80 deg F until I get renewable electricity;
6. Use public transit whenever I can;
7. Join the Sierra Club and participate in local Climate Change activities, alleghenysc.org;
8. Join 350.org and participate in their local Climate Change activities;
9. Read *The Collapse of Western Civilization: A View From the Future* by Naomi Oreskes and Erik M. Conway, to make me get a little insight into what the future will look like if I do nothing;
10. Replace my gas powered lawn mower and weed eater with electric models;
11. Buy renewable electricity to run my house and business:

there are a variety of options to chose from, one is <http://www.communityenergyinc.com/>;

12. Choose an electric car;
13. Plug the electric car into my house renewable electricity power supply;
14. Think really big and have Solar Panels installed at my house;
15. What other actions are there?

*** The People's Climate March in New York City Sept 21 is an invitation to change everything.**

In September, world leaders are coming to New York City for a UN summit on the climate crisis. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon is urging governments to support an ambitious global agreement to dramatically reduce global warming pollution.

With our future on the line and the whole world watching, we'll take a stand to bend the course of history. We'll take to the streets to demand the world we know is within our reach: a world with an economy that works for people and the planet; a world safe from the ravages of climate change; a world with good jobs, clean air and water, and healthy communities.

The movement converging in New York will be multi-faceted, but our core message will be simple: the time for mere speech-making on global warming is past, and the time for **action** is at hand. If that's a message you feel comfortable spreading, we need you.

To change everything, we need everyone on board. Sunday, September 21 in New York City. Join us.

The Pittsburgh Sierra Club and the Thomas Merton Center have chartered coaches to go to NYC for the March. If you would like to be on a coach and reserve a seat, please send your name and zip code to pjwray@verizon.net with CLIMATE MARCH on the Subject line, by Wednesday, September 17.

Warwick Powell

Bioneers Offers Discount to Sierra Club Members for Its 25th Anniversary Conference

Bioneers was founded 25 years ago to focus on developing solutions for our world's wicked problems. The annual conference is a world-famous convening of global experts. Bioneers beautifully weaves together environmental topics such as food and farming and climate change with programs such as Indigenous Culture and women's empowerment. Bioneers has been at the forefront of ideas that have evolved into movements. Michael Pollan first drew attention and inspiration for his work on food through Bioneers. Bill McKibben was an early Bioneers speaker. The Precautionary Principle was a concept that arose from conversations that began at a Bioneers Conference.

Bioneers Founders Kenny Ausubel and Nina Simons and their team have put together an appropriately high level line-up. This year's conference will feature Paul Stamets on how mushrooms can help us survive extinction;

Continued on Page 8 (Bioneers)

Continued from Page 6 (Chair)

In addition to those BIG campaigns, we continue to work with:

1. The Clean Rivers Campaign to influence ALCOSAN to include significant, sustainable, green components to its storm water control plan it submits to the Environmental Protection Agency.
2. Pittsburgh United, a collaborative among labor, faith-based, and environmental organizations, to support social and environmental justice issues.
3. The Center for Coalfield Justice to address air/water/land pollution issues resulting from coal mining and fracking.
4. Protect Our Parks to prevent fracking in/on/under any local or state parks and public lands.

I encourage you to review the articles in this newsletter for more details on our activities and go to our website (allegheny.org), for the latest news and events.

There are many opportunities to be involved and know that **'YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE'!**

As always, you can contact me at 412-521-9526 or barbgrover1@gmail.com with your questions or concerns.

Barbara Grover, Chair

A large, stylized graphic of the word "ALERT!" in red, slanted, and outlined in black, with an exclamation point.

Allegheny Group Executive Committee Elections

Each year, YOU have the opportunity to vote for 4 or 5 candidates for a 2-year term on our Executive Committee. The responsibilities of the 9 member Executive Committee are to assure that the activities and services provided for the benefit of the members by the Group are consistent with our Bylaws, policies and directives of the PA Chapter and the National Sierra Club. These activities include financial management, membership services, production of publications, and conservation, outings, and political programs.

About half the committee is elected each year to a 2-year term. If we have your email address, you will receive candidate information and voting information via email. If we do not have your email address, you will receive that information via US postal services. This information will be sent to you in the next few weeks. PLEASE review the candidate information and **VOTE.**

Continued from Page 7 (Bioneers)

Eve Ensler on her campaign "One Billion Rising for Justice"; Clayton Thomas-Muller, founder of Idle No More and a leading native voice in the fight against Tar Sands; and John Warner, the "father" of Green Chemistry. These are just a few of the dozens of great speakers participating in inspiring plenary talks and enlightening breakout sessions and discussions.

John DeCock, Bioneers' Chief Operating and Outreach Officer, is a life member of the Sierra Club and was on the staff of the Sierra Club and the Sierra Club Foundation for 27 years, serving 9 years as Executive Director of The Sierra Club Foundation. "I greatly respect the grassroots power of the Sierra Club's members," says John, "and I think it is essential to our goal of spreading solutions far and wide to bring more members of the Sierra Club to the Bioneers Annual Conference."

The conference is October 17 - 19, 2014, at Marin Civic Center in San Rafael, CA (see <http://conference.bioneers.org> for details). Bioneers is offering a 10% discount for the first 100 Sierra Club members who register for any part of the conference, from a full three-day pass to a single afternoon of sessions (not valid for pre and post conference intensives or the 25th Anniversary Dinner; and cannot be combined with other discounts). To take advantage of this code, enter SCB10.

This message is by Michael Lerner, President, Commonweal (<http://www.commonweal.org/about/>); sent to us by Greg Casini of the national Sierra Club.

8th Annual DRYerson Festival

Fighting for the Return of Duke Lake: CONSOL – Irony at its Finest!

The Center for Coalfield Justice (<http://coalfieldjustice.org>) recently held its 8th Annual DRYerson Festival at Ryerson Station State Park. The festival has been held annually following the 2005 destruction of Duke Lake, a beloved recreation site in Ryerson Station State Park. The lake had to be drawn down due to structural damage to the dam as a result of nearby longwall mining (<http://allegHENYsc.org/?p=1008>).

This year's Festival focused on celebrating the promised return of Duke Lake, but also geared up for the new fight to protect the surrounding feeder streams that will support the return of the lake. DRYerson was an all around success, with beautiful weather, a great crowd, and a surprise puppet show (<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10152395491463382.1073741831.147068983381&type=1>).

In 2013, Consol Energy entered into a settlement agreement (<http://allegHENYsc.org?p=2313>) with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that required that Consol pay for the damage and restore the dam and Duke Lake. However, as part of the agreement, the State set the groundwork for the expansion of the Bailey Mine Complex by giving Consol the right to mine under a portion of the park. This expansion could hinder the reclamation process of Duke Lake.

The Bailey Lower Expansion would seriously affect four of the streams that feed into Duke Lake.

Consol's permit predicts that the dewatering of these streams is likely to last up to three years. Ten other nearby streams could also be affected to varying degrees. Not

to Polen Run, one of the feeder streams that feed into Duke Lake. Act now! Please sign a comment letter to the PA DEP (<http://bit.ly/PolenRun>) and add any of your



only will the mining stop the flow of the streams into the restored Duke Lake and eliminate fishing opportunities, it will destroy community recreation spots and habitat for wildlife.

On May 20, 2014 the Sierra Club and the Center for Coalfield Justice filed suit (<http://bit.ly/1qvzWe3>) to appeal the permit. Currently there is a public comment period specific

own comments. Thank you for adding your voice to protect our streams and community spaces. We will notify you as more updates are available.

Eva Westheimer

Continued from Page 3 (EPA)

I support this regulatory action to face directly the major cause of carbon dioxide emissions that are contributing to climate change. Existing fossil fueled Electricity Generating Units emit 38.7% of the greenhouse gas emissions contributing to climate change. The approach presented in this rulemaking addresses the need for just and reasonable outcomes for the industry affected as well as for the consumers and the general public interest. The EPA analysis (Federal Register-Carbon Pollution Emission Guidelines for Existing Stationary Sources: Electric Ut.webarchive) shows net benefits of \$46 to \$82 billion dollars, well over the \$5.5 to \$7.3 billion dollar estimated cost of compliance. These benefits are validated by a later study conducted by the National Academies of Science in 2010 titled, "The Hidden Costs of Energy: Un-priced Consequences of Energy Production and Use." The section on Coal, pages 104 to 142, indicate that the oldest 10% of coal-fired power plants contribute the most emissions, and cause the majority of the health effects and climate effects. Most of the carbon emissions from Existing Generation Units, addressed in this rulemaking, come from coal fired electric generation plants that are over 50 years old.

RE: Section 2.b State Plans and Goals:

By offering flexibility in developing plans for each state, there is room for regional and state-specific tailoring of the effects. However, it is critical that the federal standards apply uniformly across the nation. Our

energy policy since the 1992 initiatives restructuring the energy industry has resulted in a patchwork of regulatory regimens with sometimes conflicting and contradictory paths. In the 23 states where consumer choice in generation is permitted, surges in renewable energy and distributed generation practices have taken place. In states with continued regulatory controls, such progress comes with great effort.

Moving to a market based system of energy policy may have had grounds in theory, but in a market so distorted and layered with subsidies, incentives and unevenly applied penalties, there is no clarity in the market signal. The benefits of controlling climate change do not appear in the fuel price. The costs of production and use do not appear in the fuel price. Annual subsidies of over seven billion dollars to the coal, oil, and fossil gas industries are hard wired into the budget process by laws accumulated over decades. The \$400 million average annual incentives to renewable energy systems must be reinstated in each budget cycle. The explicit monetizing of benefits of controlling climate change illustrated in this regulation may be a start to correcting these market failures.

Pennsylvania is one of the major producers of carbon emissions because of the age and technology of many of the electricity generating plants operating in the state. Of 406 coal-fired power plants studied in the National Academy of Sciences evaluation of the uncounted costs of energy, 19 of the worst emitters of

pollution came from coal plants in Pennsylvania. The age and ancient technology employed in these plants contribute to this sorry profile.

By adopting firm metrics to measure reductions, there is certainty of the outcome. It is time to seize boldly the opportunity to transition away from fossil fuel combustion as the principal form of electricity generation in the 21st century. **Guidance to the states in developing climate control plans should include a recommendation that the oldest and least efficient coal fired power plants should be retired, dismantled and removed from service.** The steam turbine, invented in 1866, fueled by burning fossil coal, converts only 33 % of the fuel value to electricity; the rest is lost as waste heat. If there is a scrubber added to control fine particulates, the net output is less, and if there is further treatment to capture mercury, cadmium and lead the output falls even more. In the projected eventuality of carbon capture and sequestration – that means putting the smoke from the combustion away – the net output of electricity for sale can be as little as 11% of the fuel value. Which means even more coal would have to be burned to produce the same amount of useful power! It is a diminishing return.

In addition to the inefficiency of conversion from fuel to electricity, there is a tremendous burden on the water supply. **According to the U.S. Geologic Service, thermoelectric cooling of power plants uses 50% of available surface and groundwater** (U.S.

Continued on Page 11(EPA)

Continued from Page 11 (EPA Study of Water Sources and Uses in the United States, 2005: www.usgs.gov). Thermoelectric cooling = 201,000 mgd of 410,600 mgd total available water. Water availability and distribution, especially for surface water, is expected to be affected by climate change. Many areas of the country already experience droughts and major shifts in precipitation patterns attributed to climate change. Priority uses for food production, sanitation, industry and domestic use will compete with this large demand in the electricity generation sector. The steam driven cycle used to produce fossil fueled power is not a viable approach to our future energy needs. If we continue using fossil fuels for energy in this inefficient and destructive manner, we will follow the fate of the dinosaurs whose bones we are burning.

RE: Section E Determination of the Best System of Emission Reduction:

The illusion of cheap and plentiful coal supplies acts as a deterrent to developing more effective and less damaging ways of providing the necessary work of producing electricity. Of the 38.4 Quadrillion Btu of energy used in generating electricity in 2013, only 12.4 Quadrillion Btu went to customers to perform energy services; all the rest was wasted (Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Energy Flow for 2013). This amount of energy could be generated by solar photovoltaic power from 2.2 million acres of land, which is less than one tenth of one percent of the total area of

the country (www.landartgenerator.org). If the existing developed land, estimated at 108.1 Million acres, including interstate highway medians, rooftops and other flat areas, were offered as surface for such installations, more than ten times the necessary amount of surface is already available, with the power source already distributed to the load (EPA Report on the Environment. 2008. Exhibit 4-5; <http://cfpub.epa.gov/eroe/index>).

Establishing an energy system with a focus on meeting the work of energy services, rather than on replacing fuels, yields many exciting and innovative possibilities. The President's Executive Order requiring all federal installations to achieve zero net energy/zero net water/zero net waste profiles by 2030 has created a model forward for the nation (Executive Order 13514; Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy and Economic Performance, October 5, 2009). If this kind of cost-effective sustainable development is applied nationwide, the electricity generation requirements will be met without the carbon emissions and without the waste and environmental devastation inherent in mining thin seam coal from mountain top removal, or generating power from nuclear sources with the continuing challenges of subsidized insurance, intense thermoelectric cooling requirements and long term high level radioactive waste issues.

The requirement for a state plan for compliance is an important opportunity for involving citizens, industries and local government in a wider dialogue about our energy future. Recent polling shows that 62% of Americans,

across all persuasions of the political spectrum, believe climate change is a serious issue and support government action to control carbon emissions (Yale and George Mason Poll March 2014). Even in Pennsylvania, 72% of registered voters favor the EPA rules limiting carbon emissions (Hart Research Associates, June 2014, Poll of Pennsylvania Attitudes about EPA Carbon Regulations and Climate Change). However, people do not know what they can do themselves, and are confused about the effectiveness of individual actions. It is the responsibility of government, acting in the public interest, to offer guidance and direction. Among a menu of choices, all are not equally effective. I reject the premise of an energy policy that supports "all of the above" as a strategy. There are some courses of action that should be retired for the sake of preserving climate stability, and for the sake of the health of our citizens and for generations to come. The choice we make for our children and grandchildren is not based on technology. We have the technical capacity to do more and more elaborate and exotic manipulations of the natural world. The choice is one of the ethical responsibilities we have to those who will follow us. Our choices today will constrain the options available to our progeny because the forces of natural law acting on the flow of carbon between atmosphere and ocean spans hundreds of years, not hours. The carbon dioxide already in the atmosphere, will take hundreds of years to resolve. The daily destruction of forest and

Continued on Page 12 (EPA)

Continued from Page 11 (EPA)
vegetation adds to the pace of atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration.

Providing effective public information about the gravity of the climate change situation is a serious responsibility of the EPA, the Department of Energy and the federal and state governments across the country. The United States has the highest per capita Carbon Dioxide emissions in the world (British Petroleum Global Statistical Report for 2012), and falls thirteenth out of sixteen industrialized countries in efficiency and conservation practices (2014 International Energy Efficiency Scorecard, American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy: www.aceee.org). In the period from 1978 to 1982 under the Energy Conservation and Production Act of the National Energy Acts of 1978, the direct tax deduction for residential and small commercial energy efficiency and conservation improvements caused a surge in local investment in conservation, efficiency improvements and renewable energy installations. This was accompanied by a directed and constant outreach effort ranging from “Tips to Energy Savers” in Spanish and English distributed to all sixth graders and available everywhere, including banks, to active community weatherization efforts coordinated through state energy offices. Today, the public hears widely divergent and often biased information on the mainstream media. The kind of information on government web sites is NOT mainstream. The Climate Action

Plan, the 2014 National Climate Assessment and the background information for this rulemaking should be offered to the public in infomercials and on billboards. We have serious choices to make. We can unleash the innovation and creativity of the American people for adopting energy efficiency, energy productivity improvements and renewable energy applications through appropriately focused information and incentives. We can at least match the accomplishments of Germany and other countries where renewable resources are used first before fossil and nuclear resources feed into the electric generation mix. Instead of curtailing and limiting the use of renewable resources, we should be finding ways to enhance and expedite their adoption in broad applications. The State Plans for compliance with this proposed regulation can be effective, but enhanced public information will be an important component of success.

If the many advocates for the coal industry that you will hear from today wish to be in the energy industry in 50 years, they will turn their talents and attention to the needs of the future, not cling stubbornly to a technology whose time has passed. It is time to revisit the laws that govern regulated utilities. Utilities experience conservation, efficiency improvements and renewable distributed generation by customers as revenue loss. There needs to be a reform of the utility tariff structure to allow utilities to invest in distributed renewable resources on customer properties, financed through the tariffs, and recovered

as investments in the rate base.

Moving the concept of a utility generation system away from central station, fossil-fueled antiquities into distributed resources connected in micro-grids offers the utility system a more robust, reliable and resilient service model. Whole categories of utility service, such as load balancing, backup and storage facilities, and smart metering await integration into a new way of providing electric service. As the electric vehicle begins to penetrate the market, the need for such advanced utility services will expand.

Technology in compressed air storage, shaft torque, battery and phase change chemistry remain in the archives of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Administration, paid for by tax dollars and classified as national security priorities. We can apply the same approach that achieved space station construction and interplanetary exploration devices to the logistical problem of energy storage and distribution. There are whole categories of new utility services available for development in support of renewable and sustainable distributed energy systems. Surely in the 21st century we can secure our energy needs in ways that are more efficient, less damaging to health and environment, and more productive of jobs and protective of resources than the draconian application of a Victorian age technology through brute combustion!

The gaping scars of strip-mined land, un-remediated and barren with rusty, sterile streams running as the tears of the weeping earth are the legacy of coal in Pennsylvania.

and fields of this state. It is time to call a halt to this practice, to embrace a future that preserves and finds harmony with nature - the fresh air, clean water, fertile ground and biodiversity of species that are our life support system, our gifts from the living earth. It is time to build the infrastructure to support widespread use of renewable resources. A federal mandate that provides for using renewable resources as the first choice before loading in service from fossil fueled electric generating units would create a positive incentive for ramping down the coal in an orderly manner, taking the oldest, most polluting units off line permanently as non-combustion renewable capacity expands.

The regulation presented here to control emissions from existing Electric Generation Units is a very modest start. This is no time for timid responses. We must take bold and decisive action to preserve the stability of our fragile climate. Our actions will determine the fate of our children and their children and grandchildren.

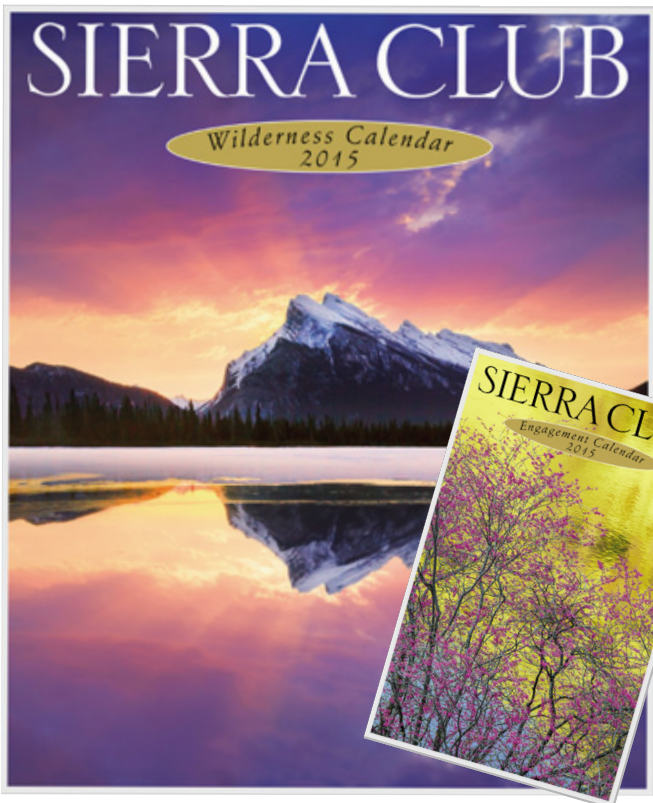
Patricia M. DeMarco, Ph.D.

Word Search

R Q B X Q T T C U E G D H L X P R F K G
 L E G X L B Z Y X K E J C A R A B Y A O
 A S F M G K R T X H B I F Q E R O A Z B
 N I U I P E I O S P Y O S G W T E N Z E
 D H M J U N R R W Q O F U U O I A F A K
 F K S X C Q E E C N P R Q I P C Z M K L
 I H O T L T A C H Q F F X P D U P A N Z
 L B I D A B Y Q B P H I E G N L Y R D G
 L O U W E Z S N W L S D E Y I A B P E C
 N C O N S E R V A T I O N L W T U X Z U
 T U C G U K R G R X I X I F D E Y C U C
 D A G Q Y V R W O Y V Z F B T S D S Y T
 O M R Y L E D I E T A M I L C K T Q T Y
 A K A S E V D L A M R E H T O E G Q W Y
 F H R N A N F R A C K I N G I Y M G G H
 K X W O O N W H N B S D A N R L V H C F
 P A X B R L D H B Q N L V C F O C Q R A
 Y H R J T C H S Y Q C R X P Z E L C B H
 H A F B J S B M U C R V G I E R S B A O
 C E L N F A W U D I H V H P L Q F V T B

- AQUIFER
- BIOSPHERE
- BROWNFIELDS
- CARBONDIOXIDE
- CLIMATE
- CONSERVATION
- EXTINCTION
- FRACKING
- GEOTHERMAL
- GREENWAY
- LANDFILL
- PARTICULATE
- TARSANDS
- WATERSHED
- WINDPOWER

Puzzle Solution



2015 SIERRA CLUB CALENDARS

	Cost	Quantity	Total
Engagement Calendar	\$13.95	_____	_____
Wilderness Wall Calendar	\$12.95	_____	_____

Make checks payable to Allegheny Group, Sierra Club. Send check and order form to: Rick Arnold, 839 N. Sheridan Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15206 1bud401@gmail.com 412 600 6695

Subtotal	_____
Shipping & Handling *	_____
Total	_____

We have the new 2015 calendars, and they are available to be ordered. Please expect delivery within 7-10 days of placing your order.

* Prices include sales tax.
* Shipping & Handling: For calendars to the same address, add \$3.50 for one item and \$0.50 for each additional item.

Ship to
 Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City/State/Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

Calendars can also be ordered online at www.alleghenysc.org using a credit card.

Allegheny National Forest Hiking Guide

The 800-square mile Allegheny National Forest contains over 250 miles of foot trails for hiking, backpacking and ski-touring. Edition 4 of this guide describes hiking and ski-touring opportunities and points of scenic interest. 192 pages. \$9.95

The Laurel Highlands: A Hiking Guide

This guide to the foot trails of Chestnut Ridge, Laurel Ridge and Allegheny Front covers 446 miles of foot trails, mainly in state forests and state parks. Features: directions to trailheads, ski-touring and backpacking info, difficulty ratings and more. Does not cover Laurel Highlands Trail (see separate guide). 288 pages. \$8.95

Hiker's Guide to Laurel Highlands Trail

The 6th edition of this guide to the 70-mile Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail features: the geology, climate, vegetation and wildlife of Laurel Hill; tree identification; elevation profile; directions to the trailheads; back packing info and shelter reservations; a list of hiking organizations in the area and more! 128 pages. \$7.00

These trail guides and other items can be ordered online at www.alleghenysc.org using a credit card.

"This is our only fundraising event of the year. If you're not purchasing a calendar, then a donation would be most welcome. This will help us do the work that we do".

Western Pennsylvania Hiking Guides

	Cost	Quantity	Total
Allegheny National Forest Hiking Guide	\$9.95	_____	_____
Laurel Highlands: a Hiking Guide	\$8.95	_____	_____
Hiker's Guide to Laurel Highlands Trail	\$7.00	_____	_____
Subtotal			_____
7% Sales Tax (PA residents)			_____
Shipping* Add \$3.50			_____
Total			_____

Make checks payable to Allegheny Group, Sierra Club. Send check and order form to: Rick Arnold, 839 N. Sheridan Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15206 1bud401@gmail.com

Add \$3.50 for one guide plus \$0.50 for each additional guide

Ship to
 Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City/State/Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

Upcoming Events Fall 2014

September 13 – PA Chapter ExCom Meeting, 10am-5pm, Harrisburg Area Community College, Room 224, 1500 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg, PA 17102; BYO Potluck Lunch; RSVP via email to pennsylvania.chapter@sierraclub.org.

September 13 – Household Chemical Collection – 9am-1pm, Settler’s Cabin Park, Wave Pool Parking Lot (see www.zerowastepgh.org for details).

September 21 – Peoples Climate March in New York City; SC sponsoring busses; check <http://alleghenysc.org/#19843> for details on the march and how to sign up for the bus.

September 27 – Allegheny County Green and Innovation Festival, Hartwood Acres 11-4pm. Need volunteers.

Oct. 4 – Hard to Recycle Collection 9am-1pm Mall at Robinson (see www.zerowastepgh.org for details).

Oct. 18 – Household Chemical Collection 9am-1pm Brady Run Recycling Center, Beaver County. (see www.zerowastepgh.org for details).

Nov. 4 – **ELECTION DAY – VOTE!**

Nov. 7-22 – The Three Rivers Film Festival – over 60 films – documentaries, independent films, foreign films, restored classics, a short film competition, as well as movies with a local connection (details available on Oct. 13 at 3rff.com).

Nov. 12 – Thomas Merton Center Award Dinner. Honoree Jeremy Scahill, investigative reporter; Station Square Sheraton Hotel, 6 PM (See thomasmertoncenter.org; click on Merton Award tab for details).

Don't forget to check the Facebook site and the Allegheny Group's website:

Check out “Sierra Club – Pittsburgh” on Facebook – lots of updates on action items and events. And very helpful scheduling and background information on the website: <http://alleghenysc.org/>.

Allegheny Sierran Fall/Winter 2014

The Allegheny Sierran is published by the Allegheny Group of the Sierra Club. For issues sent via the United States Postal Service, third-class postage is paid at Pittsburgh, PA.

Opinions expressed in the Allegheny Sierran are those of the authors and should not be taken as Sierra Club policy unless specifically so stated. The Allegheny Sierran is the newsletter of the Allegheny Group and is intended to keep the membership posted on the activities of the Group. Any production costs are paid from Group fundraising activities.

All parties are encouraged to respond to any of the articles we publish and to submit any materials they feel may be appropriate. Submissions and questions regarding newsletter content should be addressed to the editor, Claudia Kirkpatrick (kirkclaudia@gmail.com).

The Sierra Club's members are 700,000 of your friends and neighbors. Inspired by nature, we work together to protect our communities and the planet. The Club is America's oldest, largest, and most influential grassroots environmental organization.

The Allegheny Group of the Sierra Club was organized in the early 1970's. It is one of 10 groups comprising the Pennsylvania Chapter.

Contact Information:

Allegheny Group of the Sierra Club
425 N. Craig Street, Suite 202
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
412-802-6161
info@alleghenysc.org
www.alleghenysc.org

**Bob Lauth, Coordinator with
Sierra Student Coalition**

bobby2socks1@gmail.com

**Matt Peters (also Public Lands
Chair)**

attnedludd@gmail.com

**Rick Arnold,
Publications Chair**

1bud401@gmail.com

**Veronica Coptis,
Mining Chair**

veronica@coalfieldjustice.org

Executive Committee:

Barb Grover, Chair

bdgrover1@verizon.net

Gwen Chute, Vice Chair

(also Endangered Species Chair)

gwenchute42.me.com

Laura Donovan, Secretary

lauraedonovan@gmail.com

Chris Shepherd, Treasurer

(also Global Warming Chair)

shepherd999@gmail.com

Angel Gober (also Political Chair)

angeldaguard@gmail.com

Tom Hoffman (also Water Chair)

tghoffman2@gmail.com

Roni Kampmeyer

(also Coal Chair)

kampmeyerr@gmail.com

Additional Issue Chairs:

Veronica Coptis, Mining Chair

veronica@coalfieldjustice.org

Claudia Kirkpatrick,

Transit Co-Chair

kirkclaudia@gmail.com

Michael Lamark,

Communications Chair

lamarkmichael@yahoo.com

Michael Pastorkovich,

Transit Co-Chair

treesnrivers@yahoo.com

Peter Wray, Conservation Chair

pjwray@verizon.net

**Jacqueline Apone, Fundraising
Co-Chair**

Japone46@hotmail.com

Tim Ludwig,

Shale Gas Chair

bsballtim@gmail.com

Lisa Mekovsky,

Fundraising Co-Chair

lisamekovsky@gmail.com

Peri Unligil,

Air Quality Chair

unligil@hotmail.com



**SIERRA
CLUB**

FOUNDED 1892
Allegheny Group
www.alleghenysc.org