



GREAT WATERS GROUP NEWSLETTER

WWW.GREATWATERSGROUP.ORG greatwatersgroupsc@gmail.com

Winter 2019 NO. 4

Oak Creek plants keeping a place in the public eye

The We Energies power plants in Oak Creek, WI have generated plenty of news and controversy in addition to electricity. Following are some of the latest developments:

We start with a September letter to the editor by Sierra activist Carl Lindner published in the Racine County EYE.

“Residents of Southeast Wisconsin inhale the most polluted air in the state. The air quality consistently receives an ‘F’ from the American Lung Association. We Energies, with its two large coal plants in Oak Creek, continues to endanger the health of all who live within 25 miles of the plants.

“The coal dust particles being dispersed lead to respiratory problems such as asthma, bronchitis and emphysema. And the mercury and lead being spilled into Lake Michigan are toxic and carcinogenic as well.

“Scientists have been warning us for decades about the threat posed by fossil fuels energy. They tell us we have until 2030 to make dramatic changes in how we meet our energy needs, and that we must be carbon-free no later than 2050. The only remedy is clean, renewable energy.

“And how do We Energies and its parent company WEC respond?”



The state’s most polluted air can be found in the southeast where We Energies’ coal powered plants continue to endanger the health of the people living nearby.

Only a few months ago, We Energies sought a variance from our Department of Natural Resources to permit three times the amount of mercury spillage into Lake Michigan than was considered safe. And just last month, in a conference call, ‘Chairman Gale Klappa told investment analysts he expects to continue running the Elm Road plant through mid-century.’ (Wisconsin State Journal, August 2019).”

(Continued on page 8)

Winter Programs

School of Freshwater Science

Monday, Nov. 18, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Wauwatosa Library

The program will focus on the important research and policy work that the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee School of Freshwater Sciences is doing. An academic division of the university, SFS is focusing on freshwater research and graduate education. Located at the edge of Lake Michigan on Milwaukee’s south side, it is the only graduate school of freshwater science in the US and just the third in the world.

Documentary film: *Wild and Scenic Rivers: An American Legacy*

Monday, Jan. 20, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wauwatosa Library

Tim Palmer, author and photographer, will chronicle the history of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act on its 50th anniversary, sharing photographs of the designated rivers.

Celebrating African American Environmental Heroes of Yesterday and Today

Monday, Feb. 17, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Museum Tours. 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., Program

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Four candidates nominated for GWG Committee

The Nominating Committee submits the following nominees for the Great Waters Group Executive Committee: Jennifer Abel, Chris Zaph, Eric Hansen and Barbara Richards. Please see their bios and statements.

Eric Hansen

Eric was raised to believe that thoughtful environmental consciousness is as important to the wellness of the world as treating all people with respect. A late blooming writer, his op-ed commentaries have earned national awards and played a role in key water protector campaigns against mining, the oil industry and climate threats.

His climate essays have earned a Wisconsin Broadcasters Association first place award and invitations to be a pulpit guest in 17 congregations. Also a widely traveled outdoorsman, his credits include 44 backpacking trips in the Grand Canyon and walking 1,700 miles to research his Wisconsin and Michigan Upper Peninsula books.

Chris Zaph

Chris was given a gift of Sierra Club Membership in 1984 and grew to become a “Life Member” thereafter. The outings and environmental activism inspired her to spend two years as the John Muir Chapter Secretary while remaining active with the local Great Waters Group. Chris also continued to lead outings as well as fulfill secretarial and other duties for the Group, including being the Volunteer Coordinator. To put it mildly, Chris is a “true” tree hugger.

Jenny Abel

A recent arrival to the Milwaukee area, Jenny is an active member of the GWG Volunteer Leadership Council, who became Programs Chair in May. She moved to Wisconsin from Arlington, Va., where she had been a member of the Mount Vernon Group Sierra Club Executive Committee. During her tenure she served as treasurer and environmental education chair.

Some of the MVG’s proudest accomplishments included shutting down the Gen On coal-fired power plant in Alexandria and, in September 2019, realizing many years’ worth of work when the Arlington County Board agreed to a resolution to transition to 100% renewable electricity by 2035.

In 2016 Jenny received the Arlington Green Patriot Award, a recognition given annually to an individual for contributions to promoting environmental sustainability across the county.

Barbara Richards

Barbara brings an active interest in bringing resilient life ways to individuals and communities through her personal lifestyle as well as through volunteer work with local organizations. The challenge of Micah 5: “Act Justly, Love tenderly, Walk humbly with God”, and the Ethical Principles of permaculture: Care for Earth, Care for People, Fair Share for all; purpose the daily choices she makes affecting earth and others, now and forever.



Jenny Abel



Eric Hansen



Barbara Richards



Chris Zaphl

City, county combine to form green task force

The Milwaukee City Council and the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors have formed a 13-member Task Force to lay the groundwork for a comprehensive plan for 45% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 or sooner.

The task force is also charged with making recommendations on how to dramatically reduce racial inequality by creating permanent living wage jobs for people who live in the most impoverished Milwaukee neighborhoods.

It will be co-chaired by the Chairman of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors or his designee and the president of the Milwaukee County Council or his designee, and it will include representatives from the County Board, the Common Council, the Milwaukee Youth Council, Citizen Action of Wisconsin, Clean Wisconsin, Community Advocates Public Policy Institute, Milwaukee Area Labor Council, Milwaukee Environmental Collaboration Office, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Sierra Club and the Wisconsin Climate Table.

The task force will advise the city and county in creating a road map for measurable government actions that will accomplish green house gas reduction, and it will provide advice on creating vocational programs that will maximize “green jobs” in Milwaukee. It will also compile a list of outside experts that the city and county can contact for help in accomplishing its goals.

Enjoy food, music at Holiday Party

Join us for our annual Great Waters Group Holiday Party and Fundraiser on Sunday, Dec. 8, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Wil-O-Way Grant Park recreation center in South Milwaukee.

If you haven't attended before, this is a great opportunity to mingle with other nature lovers over appetizers, dinner and music — and try to outbid them at the silent auction. If you have any items to donate for the auction, please contact Janet Anderson at janeta16@sbcglobal.net.

Note the change in date and location: It is scheduled for the second Sunday in December (the first falls on Thanksgiving weekend) at Wil-O-Way Grant where we partied a number of years ago. If you have time, go early and wander through Grant Park.

Doors open at 4 p.m. with drinks and snacks, and then we will sit down to a delicious Middle Eastern dinner at 5:30 p.m. Vegetarian and non-vegetarian options are available.

The cost of this enjoyable evening is \$30 per person, due by Monday, Dec. 2. Any reservations postmarked after that will be \$35 per person. Checks should be made payable to "Great Waters Group-SC" and sent by Dec. 2 to: Great Waters Group, P.O. Box 26798, Wauwatosa, WI 53226-0798.

If you'd like to volunteer to help at the event, bring drinks, appetizers or desserts, or have any questions, please contact Jane Schneider at janes0502@gmail.com or (262) 391-7502.

After dinner, you can relax to music from the Gutekunst Flute Choir, whose repertoire will include holiday classics. Some



The Gutekunst Flute Choir will provide the entertainment for guests at the GWG Holiday Party and Fund Raiser.

members may remember the group from its delightful performance at a 2018 Nearby Nature fundraiser.

If you can't attend this year, please consider sending a donation to help our group continue efforts in our four-county area. Donations are not tax-deductible.

In an effort to make this a low-waste event, we encourage you to bring your own place settings, glasses and cloth napkins. We will have reusable plates, cups and silverware available, but we want our dedicated volunteers to have time to enjoy the music instead of washing lots of dishes.

Location: Wil-O-Way is at 207 S. Lake Drive, South Milwaukee. The entrance is north of the frequently used Grant Park Drive entrance to the park.

New look newsletter offers facts, photos

Did you get our new e-letter, which debuted in October? The e-letter, which provides useful information about local outings and programs as well as time-sensitive events and action items, has a fresh look, thanks to new software.

We hope you enjoy the photos and the links to webpages where you can register for events. The new software allows us to reach more than 10,000 Sierra Club members and supporters in our four-county area.

If you were a fan of our e-letters and haven't received one since September, check your spam folder, or go to "manage preferences" at the bottom of an email from Sierra Club national or the chapter and make sure "my Chapter" is clicked. This governs both Great Waters Group and John Muir Chapter emails.

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Nonmembers can get on the mailing list for GWG and JMC emails by clicking on the big "Sign Up" button on the right column of sierraclub.org/wisconsin or by signing up for one of our events online. If you need assistance, email greatwatersgroupsc@gmail.com.

As part of our effort to upgrade our electronic communications, we're also in the process of revising our website. When it debuts, the new version will make it easier for you to register for events online and find out what's going on.

We're eternally grateful to Janet Anderson for her tireless work putting together her comprehensive e-letter and updating the website over the years. Thanks also go to Dave Wehnes for his behind the scenes support as webmaster.



GWG members were well represented at the annual October Muir Chapter awards ceremony in Milwaukee.

Chapter honors GWG members

Several Great Waters Group members were honored Oct. 5 when the John Muir Chapter brought its annual awards ceremony to Milwaukee. They included:

Bill Moore, who has served in many key roles in decades with the Great Waters Group, received the JJ and Pat Werner Award, the chapter's highest honor. Among the hats Bill has worn are group chair and member of the chapter Executive Committee. He also has shared his knowledge and love of the outdoors by leading countless outings, most notably his Boundary Waters canoe trips.

Rose Both, who was honored with the LD Rockwell Award for her exceptional service to the Sierra Club political program. As GWG political chair for the past two years, Rose has canvassed neighborhoods in Waukesha County on behalf of environmentally friendly candidates and attended lawmakers' town halls and many other forums.

James Davies, the director of Bublr Bikes who has been active with the chapter's transportation team and received the New Activist Award for his work advocating for public transit accessibility and biking and walking infrastructure in Milwaukee and statewide.

In addition, Milwaukee Common Council President **Ashanti Hamilton** and County Supervisor **Supreme Moore Omokunde** received the Torchbearer Award for their environmental efforts, including co-sponsoring a resolution to eliminate greenhouse gases by 2050 and create a joint City-County Task Force on Climate and Economic Equity.

The Clean Power Coalition of Southeast Wisconsin was among other award winners. It was honored for its fight to close We Energies coal plants in Oak Creek and protect neighbors from coal dust.

Volunteer Leadership Council (VLC) Contact List

Crystal Hoecherl, Chair 414-614-3034
 William Baurecht, Vice-Chair 414-882-7218
 Jane Schneider, Treasurer 262-391-7502
 Veronica Bell, Secretary, 414-202-6219
 Jenny Abel, Program Chair 571-305-3821
 Von Roberts, Trails Chair 414-313-6483
 Chris Zapf, Volunteer Chair & Hospitality Chair 414-202-8069
 Ed Anderson, Membership Chair 414-520-2751
 Rashi Grewal, Fundraising Chair 908-240-7043
 Rose Both, JMC Delegate & Political Chair 262-751-4802
 Karen Samelson, Publicity Chair 414-481-1596
 David Thomas, Nearby Nature Chair 414-810-2286
 Dan Buckler, Outings Chair 330-261-2088
 Janet Anderson, Communications Chair 414-258-5624
 (Communications, E-Letter, Facebook, Website)
 Barbara Richards, Conservation & Newsletter Chair 414-259-0731
 Dave Wehnes, Website Super Administrator 414-453-1689
 Dale Hofmann, Newsletter Editor 414-476-8636
 David Hetzel, Newsletter Reimbursement 414-228-9512

Ice Age Trail hike set

Join us for a scenic and festive outing on the Delafield segment of the Ice Age Trail. We will start on the trail (AKA Lake Country Recreational Trail), hiking along the undulating hills of the Kettle Moraine. The hike begins at the trailhead behind Naga-Waukee Ice Arena Park & Ride near Hwy. 83.

Our destination will be downtown Delafield where we will finish with hot chocolate and holiday shopping. Join us for just the hike or just the Delafield segment, though please RSVP so we know who to expect.

Date: Saturday, Dec. 14 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Location: Delafield. Contact Rose Both for exact location: rboth@wi.rr.com.

Leader: Bill Moore. **RSVP:** to Rose Both at rboth@wi.rr.com or 262-751-4802.

Chapter combines with Kohler group

The Sierra Club's John Muir Chapter announced at its annual awards ceremony in Milwaukee that it is forming a coalition with Friends of the Black River Forest to oppose the Kohler Company's proposed golf course development north of Kohler-Andrae State Park.

Friends of the Black River Forest president Mary Faydash, said, "Friends is so grateful that the Sierra Club has partnered with us in an effort to retain Wisconsin's ownership of their state park land and preserve a rare Lake Michigan coastal ecosystem."

Last June, Judge Mark Kaiser ruled against the DNR's wetland-fill permit for the golf course project. Kohler planned to build a championship golf course by filling in a rare wetland and clear-cutting a beech forest on 247 acres it owns outside Kohler-Andrae State Park. The area is home to several endangered bird and plant species as well as critical habitat for migrating birds.

In his ruling last June, Judge Kaiser pointed out that the Scott Walker-era DNR had acted in haste, and the project could cause significant environmental damage. However, Kohler Company is appealing that decision in Sheboygan County circuit court.

For many Wisconsin taxpayers, the most unwelcome aspect of the project is a proposed land swap. Kohler is asking the State to deed four acres at the entrance to Kohler-Andrae State Park to the company in exchange for an already developed piece of land north of the park with no natural resources value. FBRF plans to file an appeal of the land swap.

Kohler's plans for the State Park include building a 22,000 square foot golf course maintenance facility on what is now a wetland near the park entrance, and a four-lane road with a roundabout to replace the current entrance to the park. The four-lane road would lead directly to the proposed golf course.

Boundary Waters defenders win in court

From Friends of Boundary Waters Wilderness e-Newsletter

Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness (FBWW) claimed a major victory in keeping copper-sulfide mining out of Minnesota when the Minnesota Court of Appeals suspended the PolyMet mining corporation permit in October.

A significant issue in the court's decision was the failure of a 28-story high dam in Brazil with a design similar to the one PolyMet had planned in Minnesota. The dam's collapse killed at least 350 people and wreaked environmental havoc in the area.

In a separate matter, the August 2019 Neighborhood News Service reported on a "flip-flop" decision by the Environmental Protection Agency on the Back Forty Project in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

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Notes from the Chair

Please join me in congratulating two Great Waters Group members upon their receipt of awards from the John Muir Chapter.

Rose Both received the LD Rockwell Award for providing service to our political program. Among many other activities, she has attended town hall meetings of multiple legislators and held them accountable for their votes on bills affecting the environment.

Bill Moore received the Chapter's highest honor, the JJ & Pat Werner Award for his decades of advocacy and leading hikes throughout Wisconsin.

He was also recognized for his work with the Great Waters Group in numerous leadership positions, fighting proposed coal plants, serving on the state Executive Committee and decades of outings teaching people about Wisconsin and encouraging and inspiring them.

Crystal Hoecherl

Naturalist James Buchholz, who served as Kohler-Andrae park superintendent for 25 years, said in a letter to the DNR, "Removal of 4 acres of Wisconsin State Park property (which is owned and cherished by the citizens of Wisconsin) and giving it to the Kohler Company for their [commercial] use is wrong. It is also against the rules governing the Federal Land and Water Conservation Act (LAWCON). In addition, this action would be contrary to State of Wisconsin rules and past policies against giving away or selling state park property without just cause or need."

In 1995, Kohler Company built Whistling Straits, a 36-hole championship golf course about 16 miles north of Kohler-Andrae State Park on the Lake Michigan shoreline. According to the group DNR Watch: Natural Resource Accountability Project, the permits granted by the state to Kohler Company were "almost immediately" violated."

The Back Forty is an open pit copper, zinc and gold mine that had science and the Michigan DNR as well as EPA questioning its impact on Wisconsin and Michigan watersheds, Lake Michigan.

It also endangers sacred burial grounds of the Menominee Indians of Wisconsin, but it was quietly and "suddenly" approved by the EPA's Region 5, which is overseen by Cathy Stepp former head. of Wisconsin DNR under Governor Scott Walker.

The Neighborhood News Service's Bruce Murphy quotes a Detroit Free Press article that said, "The mine would operate on 83 acres. and its pit would be 2,000 by 2,500 feet and 750 feet deep and would be located just 150 feet from the Menomonee River. This is one of the most important rivers in Michigan, part of a system that drains more than 4,000 square miles of the Upper Peninsula and northern Wisconsin, and flows into Lake Michigan."

End of festival brings back fond memories

By Rick Whaley

When I was a young man, I followed the Irish bioregional vision to be a “dweller in the land.” It led me to Indian Summer Festival (ISF) and the struggle of Chippewa spearfishing rights in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

For 32 special years from 1987 to 2018 Indian Summer Festival has framed my political activism and vision. For the time being, it is shape-shifting from its traditional home at the lakefront and its September festival weekend into a series of programs, reinvented and to be presented throughout the Milwaukee area.

Walt Bresette, shield of the north, would be at ISF with his Buffalo Bay Trading booth, “selling trinkets,” he’d say. But really, he was calling all allies to witness in northern Wisconsin for Chippewa cultural and sovereignty rights.

For many years, the ISF’s Environmental Tent was its own gathering place of clean water, peace, and sovereignty activists, and of artists and storytellers.

Milwaukee Area Greens had a table there, right between the stuffed teddy bears of the animal rights group, on one side, and the taxidermal forest critters of Wisconsin Women Hunters on the other.

Nearby were the craft tents. My favorite was birch-bark biting designs, which reminded me of when I was a child and first took the time to look at birches.

From the beginning, Nick Hocking’s WaSwaGoning village welcomed visitors to the ISF gatherings at the entrance plaza of the Summerfest grounds. Nick and Art Shegonee (Menominee/Potawatomi) would tell stories that were environmental instructions and lead dances for interested adults and rapt children.

In recent years, and nearing my older age (70s now), I would hike around the Indian fest grounds and remember more people who have been walked-on than people who are still here to talk to.

Then I would run into bright young activists (Penokee Hills and Back Forty support; Water Walkers; Standing Rock) or go listen to the Strawberry Moon Women Singers. They keep the flame going.

Rick Whaley of Milwaukee is co-author with the late Walt Bresette of [Walleye Warriors: The Chippewa Treaty Rights Story](#) (NSP, 1994; [Beech River Books](#), 2015). Indian Summer Festival future updates will be available, online at www.indiansummer.org ISF mailing address is 2931 S. 108 St., Box 184, West Allis, WI 53227.



A few newcomers joined Sierra Club members on a crisp October hike near the Little Oconomowoc River.

Snowshoe trek scheduled at Havenwoods Forest

Come join us for a snowshoe trek at Havenwoods State Forest and enjoy a winter wonderland right here in the city. We’ll trek along relatively easy trails that wind through a variety of habitats. If there isn’t enough snow to warrant snowshoes, we will hike instead.

Afterwards we’ll treat you to sweet potato chili and cornbread for lunch at the Havenwoods Nature Center. We encourage you to bring your own place settings.

Don’t have snowshoes? Havenwoods will have a limited number of plastic snowshoes available, or contact Jane Schneider for other possible options. Please dress appropriately for the weather, and bring water. Bathrooms will be available before and after the hike in the Nature Center.

Children are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult. Sorry, Fido, but pets are not allowed on this trek. As Wisconsin’s only urban state forest, Havenwoods does not charge admission.

Date: Saturday, Jan. 25 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Location: Meet in the parking lot of Havenwoods State Forest, 6141 N. Hopkins St., Milwaukee.

Leaders: Jane Schneider and Karen Samelson. RSVP to Jane at janes0502@gmail.com or 262-391-7502.

Green New Deal looks to future

Abstracted from: Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development ISSN 22152-0801 on line; by John Ikerd, The Economic Pamphleteer

The article abstracted here explains the broad scope of the document named the Green New Deal introduced as Resolution 109 in the 116th Session of US House of Representative on February 7, 2019 and referred to the Energy and Mineral Resource Committee on February 12, 2019 where it sits at this time.

The text in italics is from Resolution 109. We present this as a significant plan for a sustainable future for our grandchildren.

“It is the duty of the Federal Government to create a Green New Deal – (A) to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emission, fairly for all; (B) to create millions of good, high-wage jobs and ensure prosperity and economic security for all; (C) to invest in infra-structure and industry to sustainably meet the challenges of the 21st century; (D) to secure for all people for generations to come – (i) clean air and water; (ii) climate and community resiliency; (iii) healthy food; (iv) access to nature; and (v) a sustainable environment; and (E) to promote justice and equity by stopping current, preventing future, and repairing historic oppression’ (116th Congress, 2019, pp. 5-6).

The Green New Deal addresses the responsibilities of government not as separable ecological, social, and economic policies but as a single, inseparable policy mandate to secure the basic rights of all.

The Green New Deal...requires the U.S. Government to give the basic human rights of real people over the economic rights of corporations. The Green New Deal proclaims a new economic bill of rights: by *‘(O) providing all people of the United States with- (i) high-quality health care; (ii) affordable, safe, and adequate housing; (iii) economic security; and (vi) clean water, clean air, healthy and affordable food, and access to nature’ (116th Congress, 2019, p 14).*

To claim that everyone has an equal right to everything of economic value could accurately be labeled as socialism. However, this is fundamentally different from the claim that everyone has an equal right to meet their basic human needs for clean air and water, healthy food, adequate housing, quality health care, and basic economic security.

In market economies, there is no way to secure these rights without ensuring that the basic economic needs of all are met.

For the full version see: <http://www.foodsystemsjournal.org>
<https://www.foodsystemsjournal.org/index.php/fsj/issue/view/37>.

Winter 2019

Winter Programs

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Wisconsin Black Historical Society/ Museum 2620 West Center Street.

To recognize Black History Month, the Sierra Club Great Waters Group will gather to celebrate the achievements and lives of important environmentalists in the African-American community and to acknowledge our local environmental heroes. Speakers TBA.

Food waste in the GWG area

Monday, March 16, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

West Allis Library

A panel of local activists and entrepreneurs will present the issues related to food waste for discussion. They will talk about their efforts to reduce food waste and what we as consumers can do in our own lives to reduce the waste that we generate.

Climate alliance planning meetings

The Milwaukee Equity and Climate Alliance (MECA) is hosting community information meetings on a comprehensive plan to move government operations and the community as a whole to 100% renewable energy and net zero greenhouse gas emissions. Look for updates on these meetings on the MECA Facebook page or the new GWG e-newsletter

MECA is an alliance of organizations dedicated to ensuring that Milwaukee requires high labor standards and provides job opportunities and training in energy efficiency and renewable energy to disadvantaged populations that suffer from discrimination.

The goal of MECA is to build the public support and political power necessary to dramatically change Milwaukee’s energy sources, resource management and other public investment decisions that relate to climate action and to economic opportunity.

Holidays highlighted

Why do we sing about the holly and the ivy, or kiss under the mistletoe, or chop down an evergreen and dress it up in colors? Join us to celebrate the holiday season by learning about the plants that play such a large role in traditional holiday celebrations.

We will hike around the park and talk about the biology of, and traditions behind, such holiday plants as mistletoe, holly, ivy, poinsettias and, of course, the Christmas tree.

Date: Saturday, Dec. 7 from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Location: Whitnall Park. Meeting in the Boerner Botanical Gardens parking lot at 9400 Boerner Dr, Hales Corners.

Leader: Dan Buckler. RSVP: to Dan at daniel.c.buckler@gmail.com or 330-261-2088.



Protect America's Environment for Our Families, For Our Future

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Oak Creek plants generating controversy

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Picking up on the mercury permitting story, the DNR revised its pollution discharge permit after a February 2019 public hearing, having received more than 600 comments. The new rules were then submitted to the EPA and were approved.

There were three adjustments: 1) The time line to change from water based ash handling (sent into Lake Michigan) to dry ash handling (sent to a landfill) was moved up from 2023 to 2021; (2) The limit on the amount of mercury that can be discharged was lowered; and, (3) A limit was set for discharging arsenic.

The Clean Power Coalition of Southeastern Wisconsin has had surface waters near the Oak Creek Power Plant/Elm Road Generating Station tested by UW – Parkside students who found unsafe levels of boron, arsenic, copper, lead, manganese and other metals.

We Energies' response is that Lake Michigan already has a baseline level of such metals higher than any water returned to the lake by the power plants and that the power plants do not discharge waste water into these surface waters.

In mid October the Public Service Commission held hearings in Milwaukee on a request by We Energies to raise rates to its customers. Expert testimony requested by the Sierra Club held that ratepayers are paying \$75 million a year more for fossil fuel power generation than would be required for clean energy generation. Also, expert testimony



filed with the Public Service Commission found that the utilities have been losing money on these plants since 2014. We Energies disputes both these assertions.

Finally, an article by Isiah Holmes, in the Aug. 19 Wisconsin Examiner reports that a coalition of Clean Wisconsin and nine other groups have sued the Trump Administration on its revision of clean air standards for coal fired electric power generation. Twenty-two states have also sued over the rule changes.

The Trump Administration's plan enacted in August 2018 is called the Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) rule. It claims it would allow states to continue, "environmental progress while fulfilling President Trump's goal of energy dominance."

Holmes quotes Scott Blankman, Clean Wisconsin Director of Energy and Air Programs saying that "Wisconsin utilities understand that there are cleaner and cheaper ways to produce electricity. Many of them are already replacing coal plants with renewable energy sources like wind and solar. This rule only slows our progress toward clean energy."