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ADMINISTRATOR JACKSON

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Authority over use of dispersants debated (Times Picayune)

July 18, 2010
During a Senate hearing last week, Sen. Barbara Mikulski, D-Md., issued a mild rebuke of Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson when Jackson testified that she believed she had the authority to instruct the Coast Guard to stop BP from using chemical dispersants.

Michael DeMocker/The Times-PicayuneEPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, center, with New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu and Coast Guard commandant Thad Allen, listen as President Barack Obama addresses the federal response to the BP oil spill disaster during a May 2 visit to the U.S. Coast Guard Station in Venice.

Jackson said she wanted her lawyers to respond to the issue of legal authority in a written statement to Mikulski's appropriations subcommittee.

"But that's a question you needed to know from day one, Ms. Jackson," Mikulski told Jackson. "We in Maryland love our Coast Guard. But they're operational people, they do search and rescue."

It is the EPA, Mikulski said, which is charged with protecting the environment.

Jackson went on to explain that it wasn't really a major issue because when she asked the Coast Guard to limit BP's use of dispersants, the agency quickly responded with the appropriate orders.

But Jackson agreed with Mikulski that it would be good if Congress clarified through legislation the EPA's authority over use of dispersants in a spill situation. Mikulski did praise Jackson, a New Orleans native, for her regular visits to the Gulf Coast, and for setting up a response in which diverse federal agencies seem to be working together.

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Related topics: oil spill gulf of mexico 2010

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no the contents are not being kept secret. you can do a search on it and get the material safety datasheet and find out exactly whats in it. and contrary to the hysteria being spread by the media and wacko environmentalists and other weak minded conspiracy lovers, the ingredients are essentially non hazardous to humans and wildlife. less toxic than dish soap in fact

the one ingredient always sited is butoxy ethanol which is not harmful at all

but that wont stop people like you from spreading ridiculous rumors or listening to stupid claims from wackos will it?

Why is it banned in other countries, if, it is so user friendly.

Well then lets put it in our cereal and have it for breakfast. The problem with dispursants is that it puts the oil throughout the water colum and hides it. Like sweeping the oil under the rug instead of cleaning it up. Hayward said he would clean up every drop. In reality, they are trying to dilute it so it can't wash up on the beach but will still be in the water affecting the ecosystem in the gulf. Jackson is a total idiot and incompetent politcal appointee with no capacity to understand to this situation or respond. I'm from New Orleans so I guess I can be the administrator of the EPA. Oh, I don't have those connections. Dispursants are a big issue and the fact she doesn't know the answer to the question on her authority or know what the Coast Guard is doing or even know that dispursants are BP's public relations answer to the oil spill but that the oil is still there, is a major problem. She needs to be sacked and fast and someone with some real mental power and sense should take over and stop the use of dispursants ASAP. Obama is responsible for the use of dispurseants in the end. He is on notice and what is he saying on this topic? and what is he doing? Its good for his PR if no oil washes up so he isn't doing a thing.

then the question is whether dispersents should be used. thats a good question. i dont know the answer

i do know that corexit is harmless to the environment and humans as per EPA and the consensus of most scientists

first of all i dont know if it is banned in other countries or not. I dont just believe what bloggers claim

but even if it is banned in some countries doesnt mean they know better than the EPA. Lots of left wing governments ban things just because

like banning genetically modifies crops. EU countries ban that despite the scientific consensus they are safe

Suit filed seeking more details on dispersants (*Sacramento Bee*)

NEW ORLEANS -- BP's use of chemicals to disperse the Gulf of Mexico oil spill is coming under renewed scrutiny, as environmentalists head to court to seek more information about potential health hazards and a Senate panel plans a Thursday hearing on the issue.

The company has used at least 1.8 million gallons of dispersants on the Gulf's surface and 5,000

feet deep at the source of the leak.

Earthjustice filed a federal lawsuit Wednesday in Florida to force the Environmental Protection Agency to turn over safety studies on the chemicals.

On Thursday, EPA chief Lisa Jackson is scheduled to testify on dispersants before the Senate Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science.

BP says the chemicals have kept much of the spill from reaching the Gulf coast.

Senator gently scolds EPA's director (*Times Picayune*)

During a Senate hearing last week, Sen. Barbara Mikulski, D-Md., issued a mild rebuke of **Environmental Protection Agency** Administrator Lisa Jackson when Jackson testified that she believed she had the authority to instruct the Coast Guard to stop BP from using chemical dispersants. Jackson said she wanted her lawyers to respond to the issue of legal authority in a written statement to Mikulski's appropriations subcommittee. "But that's a question you needed to know from day one, Ms. Jackson," Mikulski told Jackson. "We in Maryland love our Coast Guard. But they're operational people, they do search and rescue." It is the **EPA**, Mikulski said, which is charged with protecting the environment. Jackson went on to explain that it wasn't really a major issue because when she asked the Coast Guard to limit BP's use of dispersants, the agency quickly responded with the appropriate orders. But Jackson agreed with Mikulski that it would be good if Congress clarified through legislation the **EPA's** authority over use of dispersants in a spill situation. Mikulski did praise Jackson, a New Orleans native, for her regular visits to the Gulf Coast, and for setting up a response in which diverse federal agencies seem to be working together.

EDITORIAL / OP-ED / COMMENTARY / LETTERS

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Truman Chafin: The no realistic substitute for coal (*Charleston Gazette*)

July 18, 2010
By Sen. Truman Chafin
NOW, more than ever, we need coal! Tuesday, July 6, electricity demand in the East surged to levels near those in the summer of 2006. With temperatures soaring above 100 degrees in cities from New York to Washington, utilities and grid operators witnessed power output close to the 2006 records. Fortunately, the power grid has been up to the task, thus far.

An engineer at John Amos elaborated that the Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Maryland Interconnection, 'PJM', is stressed to near breaking. PJM is near max capacity, and it has been said that the grid may hiccup in the following days due to the extreme heat. One result of this misfortune, would be to shed load and cut off big users, which would essentially cause layoffs to

keep the grid from crashing.

The increased demand is straining the system as it is; yet, there is another component that is frequently scrutinized but essential for the grid survival, which is coal.

Coal, alone, is supporting the PJM base load demand. According to the West Virginia Division of Energy, our state ranks second in coal production, at 148 million tons per year. Additionally, the coal from West Virginia is a major source of energy for 32 states. It is not only the means of our livelihoods in the West Virginia coalfields, but it is a means of survival for many others across the nation.

Coal has been under siege, and it has to stop.

So, now is the time to question why a bureaucratic agency (EPA) is withholding mining permits that would help ease the obvious strain on the grid and prevent a possible blackout.

Yes, there are other energy sources, but there are also consequences to those energy routes in addition to the obscure facts. For example, wind energy would not be able to provide near the amount of electricity that is currently being demanded. Wind varies. These variations do not match the electricity demand. Because there is not currently an economically viable method to store electricity, the variations in wind generated electricity levels that do not match demand levels have to be met by adjusting the output of conventional power stations.

Wind turbines also require hardware costs and energy to build, which is typically derived from fossil sources.

More importantly, one needs to maintain a conventional backup power generator that has the capacity close to that of the installed wind power turbine. Researchers have also disputed what impact these turbines will have on the ecology system. In layman's terms, other energy sources do have their associated costs, there is a significant chance that the sources of energy may fail, and each also carries associated risks.

There is no concrete solution to the war on coal, but the facts remain the same. Coal is the fuel for our nation. We need it. I am again contacting officials throughout the state and nation and asking for their assistance in this fight.

The Obama Administration and the EPA need to remember coal every time they flip a switch, turn up the air conditioner or use the telephone. We're not far from the White House. It's West Virginia, Mr. President. It's West Virginia, the little state that lights up our country! Join me. Pray for West Virginia. Support West Virginia and support our coal mining industry.

We need it now, more than ever!

Chafin, D-Mingo, is majority leader in the state Senate.

Safe technology (*Pittsburgh Post Gazette*)

Tony Norman's July 9 column "We're Becoming Victims of Shale Game" does more to scare readers than inform them about hydraulic fracturing or natural gas.

Natural gas is a clean-burning, abundant fuel source that accounts for 24 percent of our national energy demand. And hydraulic fracturing is a proven technology that allows us to tap into previously unreachable deposits and recover more oil and natural gas. Studies by the **Environmental Protection Agency** and Groundwater Protection Council have shown no direct link between hydraulic fracturing and groundwater impacts.

Hydraulic fracturing has always been overseen by state regulators and has been safely used for more than 60 years to help produce oil and gas in more than one million wells. Using this technology to tap into our natural resources in the Marcellus Shale can create more than 211,000 jobs over the next 10 years in Pennsylvania alone and help us meet our energy needs in the future.

JOHN FELMY
Chief Economist
American Petroleum Institute
Washington, D.C.

We Still Have Much Work To Do On Air Quality (*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*)

(Pennsylvania)
July 17, 2010 Saturday
SOONER EDITION
EDITORIAL; Pg. B-6
WE STILL HAVE MUCH WORK TO DO ON AIR QUALITY
Allegheny County has made strides in recent years in reducing its air pollution. However, according to the Environmental Protection Agency, our air still fails to meet the federal government's air quality standards. This means that our air is still far from healthy.

Anthony Fenech's July 8 article "Heat, Smog a Double Whammy" reported on one effect of Allegheny County's poor air quality. The article was about Allegheny County's 13th Air Quality Action Day.

These days carry increased incidents of pollution-related breathing trouble, because of the combination of pollution and heat. Pollution here is a huge issue year-round, though. According to the **EPA,** Allegheny County has cancer rates 20 times the national average in some areas. Kids here still visit the emergency room due to asthma attacks at a rate four times the national average.

We have to crack down on air pollution, then these rates will go down. We should update, and strengthen, our air pollution laws on cars, trucks and buses. Also, we need to crack down on polluting factories and make sure they clean up their act.

It is great that Pittsburgh's air quality has been improving, but we cannot rest on our laurels when they are still covered in soot.

JONATHAN SEPPI
Regent Square

AIR

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New federal power plant rule could clean air but raise bills EPA calls on power plants to save lungs, but plan is hazy (*Florida Times-Union*)

July 19--A federal plan to cut air pollution from power plants within two years and lower lung disease nationally could make Northeast Florida's electricity more expensive.

How much more isn't clear, though, and JEA says it will need more details from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to know how a plan floated this month will affect the agency and its customers.

The EPA has targeted power plants in 31 states and the District of Columbia in a proposal to cut utility smokestack pollution that drives up levels of ozone and gritty airborne particles.

Those changes would reduce the amount of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides released in many fossil-fuel-burning Florida plants. Health activists say those substances increase suffering from lung and cardiovascular diseases.

The rules are separate from potential carbon cap-and-trade requirements that utilities have been bracing for.

A proposal the EPA circulated last week calls for some emissions changes by 2012.

But some utility operators expect the rule to trigger a court fight that could change or scrap the entire effort.

"A rule as big as this, affecting as many people as this, it's going to be litigated," said Bud Para, JEA's director of legislative affairs. He said JEA rarely takes cases to court, but utility groups it belongs to could take action.

He said the 1,361-page proposal from EPA leaves unanswered questions about exactly what changes will be expected at individual plants within a short time.

"It is going to cause some additional [pollution] controls for us. We can't tell yet how significant it's going to be," Para said. "We're concerned about it. We're not panicking."

JEA and Florida Power & Light together spent $282 million in the past few years installing emissions controls at the jointly-owned, coal-burning Johns River Power Park. Those will help the plant meet new standards, but may not fully address the problem.

JEA also expects to spend $90 million by 2012 to cover its share of emissions upgrades planned at a plant near Macon, Ga., the utility partially owns, said spokeswoman Gerri Boyce.

American Lung Association President Charles D. Connor praised this month's new rule, saying it could save 14,000 to 36,000 lives yearly.

"Cleaning up power plants is critically important because particle pollution and ozone smog cause coughing and wheezing, trigger asthma attacks, send people to the emergency room and cause heart attacks and strokes," Connor said in a written statement.

A 2008 Duval County Health Department report called asthma "an emerging epidemic" locally, with more emergency room treatment than other large Florida counties.

But EPA's new rule, called the Transport Rule, is designed to relieve pollution problems far from the power plants being targeted. And it's not clear yet how the new controls would affect air quality in Northeast Florida.

The rule builds on efforts EPA started in 2005 to lower the effect of airborne power plant pollution on "downwind" communities in other states, often hundreds of miles away. That earlier effort, called the Clean Air Interstate Rule, was struck down by a federal appeals court in 2008, then reinstated by the same court later that year with instructions for EPA to draft a new rule.

The Transport Rule is meant to be that successor. Knowing new rules would arrive eventually, some utilities had simply continued improvements they started for the Clean Air Interstate Rule, which is why the Power Park upgrades were done.

To control how pollution damages air across state lines, EPA plans to set budgets for the amount of pollutants that can be released by each state.

The new rule describes effects of Florida's air pollution on counties as far away as the Houston and Atlanta areas, but doesn't break down how Jacksonville's pollution contributes to that.

Para said that's one of the issues of concern to JEA, along with questions about whether EPA could end up forcing utilities to make excessive reductions to benefit communities that already have bad air caused by their own local sources, such as traffic.

EPA argues the cost of meeting the rule, which it estimates at $2.8 billion nationally, would be dwarfed by savings to the general public of $120 billion to $290 billion for avoided sickness and deaths.

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Carbon capture facing numerous hurdles (*Charleston Gazette*)

CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- Technology to capture greenhouse emissions from coal-fired power plants might be commercially deployable within 10 to 15 years, but faces serious concerns about cost, legal liability and the lack of a national policy mandating carbon dioxide reductions, according to a new congressional audit released Friday.

The Government Accountability Office concluded that carbon capture and storage, or CCS, offers major opportunities to reduce global warming pollution, while continuing to use coal to power the nation.

But confirming numerous previous reports and studies, the GAO said CCS faces "a variety of economic, technical and legal challenges" that lawmakers, regulators and industry have been slow to try to resolve.

High on the list, according to the GAO report: "Without a national carbon policy to reduce CO2 emissions, nearly all stakeholders said CCS would not be widely deployed.""Without a tax or a sufficiently restrictive limit on CO2 emissions, plant operators lack an economic incentive to use CCS technologies," concluded the GAO report, which was based in part on interviews with regulators, power company officials and government experts.

Among the congressional representatives who requested the GAO review was Sen. George Voinovich, R-Ohio, who is a co-sponsor with Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va., of narrow legislation aimed at promoting CCS.

In recent months, Rockefeller has voted in favor of a Senate resolution to overturn a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency finding that greenhouse gas emissions pose a threat to public health and welfare. Rockefeller has also urged congressional leaders to abandon legislation that would limit greenhouse emissions in favor of his bill focused on providing more money for CCS research and deployment.

The GAO report was provided to Congress in mid-June, but when it was not released by Voinovich within 30 days, the GAO made the findings public itself on Friday.

Before his death last month, Sen. Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., appeared to be far more open than Rockefeller to voting in favor of a broader energy and climate bill that would have capped greenhouse emissions.

On Friday, Gov. Joe Manchin's pick to temporarily replace Byrd, Charleston lawyer Carte Goodwin, indicated that he had no interest in voting for such a bill."From what I've seen of the Waxman-Markey bill that passed the House of Representatives and other proposals pending in the Senate, they simply are not right for West Virginia," Goodwin said.Goodwin said he favors the Rockefeller-Voinovich bill because it "recognizes the practical effect of coal on our economy

and our energy portfolio.""I will not support any piece of legislation that threatens any West Virginia job, any West Virginia family, or jeopardizes the long-term economic security of this state," Goodwin said.Coal is the nation's largest source of global-warming pollution, representing about a third of U.S. greenhouse emissions, equal to the combined output of all cars, trucks, buses, trains and boats. Scientists recommend that the nation swiftly cut carbon dioxide emissions and ultimately reduce them by at least 80 percent below 2000 levels by mid-century to avoid the worst consequences of climate change.

Also Friday, the National Academy of Sciences issued a new report to warn that decisions being made now about greenhouse emissions could lock the planet into serious climatic changes for decades or millennia to come.

Because the amount of human-caused CO2 emissions already far exceeds the amount that can be removed through natural carbon "sinks" such as oceans, keeping emission rates the same will not stabilize the concentrations of CO2 in the atmosphere, the report said.

So even if emissions held steady, the CO2 concentrations in the atmosphere would increase, much like the water level in a bathtub when water is coming in faster than it is draining, the report said.

Warming that occurs in response to a given increase in CO2 is only about half of the total warming that will occur, the report said. "Waiting to observe impacts before choosing a stabilization target would therefore imply a lock-in to about twice as much eventual crop loss, rainfall changes, and other impacts that increase with warming," the report said.Reach at kw...@wvgazette.com or 304-348-1702.

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BP SPILL

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Scientists use their well-trained senses on Gulf seafood to smell any threats to the nation's food supply (*Chicago Tribune*)

July 18, 2010 Sunday
Final Edition
NEWS ; ZONE C; Pg. 25
A nose for oil, a taste for sleuthing;
Scientists use their well-trained senses on Gulf seafood to smell any threats to the nation's food supply
By Bob Drogin, Tribune Newspapers
PASCAGOULA, Miss.

Robert Downs leads the scientists who sniff at fish.

Each day, his team of seven sensory experts dip their noses into large Pyrex bowls of snapper, tuna and other raw seafood to test for even a whiff of the oil that until late last week was gushing into the Gulf of Mexico.

"We use specific terms for the aroma," said Downs, who supervises the seafood smellers at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's marine lab here. "Diesel oil. Bunker oil. Asphalt. Rubber-band-like. Tar."

Each olfactory analyst has a super schnoz, able to smell oil diluted to 1 part per million. That's 40 times more sensitive than your average proboscis.

It's also more sensitive than science can explain. Last month, the team caught a faint scent in a red snapper that chemists and toxicologists could not confirm despite three days of testing at a NOAA marine science lab in Seattle. The result: A rich fishing area off Louisiana's coast stayed off-limits.

"The nose knows," Downs said.

Strong stomachs help. The group has sniffed or tasted more than 1,000 fish in the nearly three months since the BP oil spill, and no one has gotten sick.

The fish smellers are part of a major effort by NOAA, the Food and Drug Administration, the **Environmental Protection Agency** and state governments to ensure that the oil doesn't pollute the nation's food supply. So far there are no confirmed reports of contaminated Gulf Coast seafood reaching consumers.

Partially because of the sniffers, NOAA has banned fishing in more than a third of the Gulf, 81,181 square miles in all. State officials also have barred fishing along more than 550 miles of beaches and bayous from Louisiana to northern Florida.

"We have found tainted fish," said John Stein, who runs the BP oil spill seafood safety testing program for NOAA. "It's not uncommon."

Under federal law, fishing is banned if oil is seen in the water. So most samples that are tested are caught outside the vast no-go zone or in other waters that are not visibly oiled. Pelagic fish, which migrate, pose a special concern for fear they may ingest oil and swim away.

BP on Thursday announced that it had capped the Deepwater Horizon rig's leaking oil well and was testing to be sure the well could withstand pressure from the sealed cap. But until the danger has passed, the NOAA team's job will go on: Fish will be caught, cut into filets and carefully labeled. Some will be refrozen and flown to NOAA's Northwest Fisheries Science Center in Seattle. Scientists there will test the fish for polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, compounds in petroleum that are toxic and carcinogenic.

Recently, the other portion went down the hall to Steven Wilson, chief quality officer for NOAA's Seafood Inspection Program.

On one side of the lab, a tray held 10 perfumelike vials that the sniffers use to "harmonize and recalibrate" their senses each day, Wilson said. Each vial has a distinct bouquet -- creosote, Alaska sweet, Louisiana crude, used oil, ammonia and so on.

The group works behind cardboard screens to hide their reactions. They mark pass or fail, and any comments, on a score sheet.

Neither the sniffers here nor the chemists in Seattle test for the 1.76 million gallons of chemical dispersants that BP has used at sea to help break up the oil. Critics say no one has adequately tested the dispersants for long-term effects on marine life or consumers. The FDA has ruled that the chemicals pose "little public health risk."

NOAA has trained thousands of fish sniffers over the years. Working with industry, they inspect seafood on ships and docks, in processing plants and markets for decomposition, contamination or other hazards to consumers. Other industries use sensory experts to ensure quality in coffee, beer and other foodstuffs.

But NOAA ramped up an emergency program after the BP spill began April 20, sending a team of trained sniffers to a laboratory in Gloucester, Mass., for a crash course with crude oil.

And it is sniffers who will help decide when fishing is safe again in the Gulf of Mexico, and when tens of thousands of people can return to their livelihoods.

Downs, the team leader, is up to the task. He has spent two decades training sensory experts and says his sense of smell gives him a nose up on most people.

"Last night, I went to a restaurant and took a whiff," he said. "I knew right away the lobster was bad."

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CLIMATE CHANGE

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To the Mat On Global Warming (*New York Times*)

July 18, 2010 Sunday
Late Edition - Final
SECTION: Section BU; Column 0; Money and Business/Financial Desk; OFF THE SHELF; Pg. 5

To the Mat On Global Warming
By HARRY HURT III
SHORTLY after losing the 2000 presidential election, Al Gore embarked on an arguably even more ambitious campaign: to save the planet from destruction by global warming. His efforts, which included his documentary film "An Inconvenient Truth," won him a Nobel Prize. But Mr. Gore has not yet achieved his goal of convincing America to limit the industrial pollution that causes climate change.

''America is still debating whether and how to reduce carbon emissions, and a loud minority continues to insist that **global warming** isn't real or caused by man,'' writes Eric Pooley in ''The Climate War: True Believers, Power Brokers, and the Fight to Save the Earth'' (Hyperion, $27.99), an illuminating if often ponderous book.

''The Climate War'' focuses mainly on the economic and political aspects of the **global-warming** issue. That is in keeping with Mr. Pooley's areas of journalistic expertise. He is the deputy editor of Bloomberg BusinessWeek, a former managing editor of Fortune and a former national editor, chief political correspondent and White House correspondent for Time.

Mr. Pooley calls his account ''an epic without an ending,'' saying that the American political system gives a ''natural advantage to the opponents of climate action'' and that Congress has ''become so distorted by special-interest dollars and partisan bile'' that it seems ''to block progress of any kind, no matter how urgent.''

If statements like that suggest that Mr. Pooley favors Mr. Gore's position, the book nevertheless allows corporate opponents of climate legislation and disparate environmental groups with conflicting agendas to state their case.

Along with Mr. Gore, the main characters in ''The Climate War'' include Fred Krupp, executive director of the Environmental Defense Fund; James E. Rogers, chief executive of the coal-burning utility Duke Energy; the climatologist James Hansen, who called public attention to **global warming** in the 1980s; and the coal lobbyists Steve Miller and Joe Lucas. And there is also Myron Ebell of the Competitive Enterprise Institute, a leader of what Mr. Pooley calls ''the professional denial-and-delay movement,'' a k a the ''Denialosphere.''

The book opens with a recounting of Mr. Gore flying from the Nobel ceremony in December 2007 to a climate conference in Bali, where he unsuccessfully tried to persuade the Bush administration to commit to a drastic reduction in America's carbon emissions.

From there, the **global-warming** fight rages downhill, uphill and sideways, depending on the perspectives of the various combatants. Mr. Krupp provoked the ire of other environmental groups by working with Mr. Rogers of Duke Energy in the hope of getting Congress to pass a form of cap-and-trade legislation.

Their aim was to put a mandatory limit on carbon emissions by coal-fired plants. At the same time, they sought to keep the coal industry from immediate bankruptcy by allowing companies to trade -- that is, buy and sell -- pollution permits.

Mr. Pooley casts Mr. Krupp's predilection for market-based solutions like cap-and-trade as a triumph of enlightened pragmatism over ineffective idealism. ''Altruism wasn't going to save the planet, he figured, but the profit motive might, if it could be properly harnessed,'' Mr.

Pooley writes.

Mr. Rogers's support for the Environmental Defense Fund's **global-warming** initiative attracted backing from Jeffrey Immelt of General Electric and other corporate chiefs. But in the spring of 2008, as the language in the initiative became more and more specific, Mr. Rogers dispatched an army of lobbyists to Capitol Hill with a study that contended the economy would shrivel if Congress enacted cap-and-trade legislation that was under consideration.

''For someone who gave speeches all over America calling for climate action, Jim Rogers was doing a great job of killing the climate bill,'' Mr. Pooley writes.

Mr. Pooley also describes how coal interests, led by the likes of Mr. Miller and Mr. Lucas, started multimillion-dollar public relations and advertising campaigns designed to encourage doubt about the very idea of **global warming** caused by humans.

MR. GORE, meanwhile, suffered further frustration in his attempts to enlist the full-throated support of President Obama for what came to be known as the Waxman-Markey climate bill. According to Mr. Pooley, the White House ''was not arming its warheads.''

''It was working behind the scenes,'' Mr. Pooley adds, ''and that was all.''

The bill passed the House 219-212 in June 2009, but the closeness of the vote foreboded doom for a Senate version. (Last week, it was reported that President Obama and Senate Democrats would soon push forward with a scaled-back energy bill -- one that would limit carbon pollution by power plants but not by other industries.)

''The Climate War'' is impressively documented with more than 20 pages of source notes and citations, but it is not easy reading. Although the author mercifully spares the reader a lengthy recitation of the scientific evidence supporting **global warming**, his blow-by-blow account of the public and private maneuverings of environmentalists, corporate executives, lobbyists, politicians, news commentators and Congressional committee staff members is often tedious, especially because so many of their efforts lead down rabbit trails.

Still, the book shows just how arduous the climate fight has been -- and will likely continue to be -- for years, if not generations, to come.

Study spells out climate change's possible outcomes (*Denver Post*)

July 17, 2010 Saturday
FINAL EDITION
DENVER & THE WEST; Pg. B-02
Study spells out climate change's possible outcomes The research shows how increases in temperatures could affect Colorado.
By: Bruce Finley The Denver Post
A new National Academy of Sciences study quantifies potential impacts of climate change - linking reduced streamflow, rainfall and crop yields, and more wildfire damage to specific temperature increases.

For example, for every 1.8 degrees of warming, Colorado can expect 5 percent to 10 percent less water in the Arkansas River and Rio Grande, the government-funded study found.

The Colorado River Basin, which sustains people in seven western states, likely would see 6 percent less water for every 1.8-degree increase.

Wildfires would devour three times as much land, the study found. And rainfall in Colorado and other southwestern sates would decrease by 5 percent to 10 percent.

The study represents the nation's most comprehensive recent effort to pull together a growing body of scientific data on **climate change** - and to look beyond how warming may be happening to anticipate specific impacts depending on future temperatures.

It focuses on impacts in the United States, Australia and the Mediterranean region.

"Our goal here is to provide the information. It is very important for the public to understand this kind of stuff," said Susan Solomon, a Colorado-based National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration senior scientist, who led the effort by a 15-member team.

Scientists said the study builds an understanding of how long temperature changes and impacts would last if communities continue to emit large amounts of carbon dioxide - the main gas thought to be driving **climate change.**

They concluded that today's emissions effectively are locking the planet and future generations into warming for thousands of years.

"It gives new weight to the decisions we make," Katharine Hayhoe of Texas Tech said as the report was released.

Certain crops are expected to endure **climate change** better than others. Rice, for example, will be more sustainable than the corn grown in the U.S., said David Lobell of Stanford University.

The report was sponsored by the Energy Foundation and the U.S. **Environmental Protection Agency.** The National Academy of Sciences includes the National Academy of Engineering, Institute of Medicine and National Research Council. These are independent, nonprofit institutions that provide science, technology and health-policy advice under an 1863 congressional charter.

Scientists who conducted the study served as volunteers. They were chosen based on their expertise and experience and had to satisfy the academies' conflict-of-interest standards. The study report went through a peer review.

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Scientists: Climate change launches new geologic epoch (*USA Today)*

July 17, 2010

The world has entered a new geologic epoch, in which human activities will largely determine the planet's evolution, reports the United States' chief scientific body, the National Academy of Sciences.

Rising carbon dioxide emissions from the burning of fossil fuels have triggered this epoch, which could include profound changes in rainfall, crop yields, wildfires and sea levels, according to the sobering report, released Friday. It says:

The world is entering a new geologic epoch, sometimes called the Anthropocene, in which human activities will largely control the evolution of Earth's environment. Carbon emissions during this century will essentially determine the magnitude of eventual impacts and whether the Anthropocene is a short-term, relatively minor change from the current climate or an extreme deviation that lasts thousands of years.

The scientists say atmospheric concentration of CO2 has risen about 35% since 1750 and is now at about 390 parts per million, the highest level in at least 800,000 years. Depending on emission rates, they estimate those levels could double or nearly triple by the end of the century.

The report, requested by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, does not make specific policy recommendations but suggests major action is needed, adding:

Emissions reductions larger than about 80%, relative to whatever peak global emissions rate may be reached, are required to approximately stabilize carbon dioxide concentrations for a century or so at any chosen target level.

President Obama is prodding the Senate to pass a climate bill, similar to one the House of Representatives approved last year that would reduce greenhouse gas emissions

PreviousAlong the Gulf: Spill puts tribal fisherman out of work

NextHabitat for Humanity builds efficient LEED home

About Wendy Koch

Wendy Koch has been a reporter and editor at USA TODAY since 1998, covering politics and social issues. She's begun a quest to build the most eco-friendly home her budget allows. She'll share her experience and give you tips for greening your home. More about Wendy

Running features
Mondays: How-to Green House
Tuesdays: My Green House
Wednesdays: Green House Book Club
Fridays: This Week's Green House

ENERGY

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Boxer, Fiorina offer sharply contrasting views of state (*Los Angeles Times*)

July 17, 2010 Saturday
Home Edition
LATEXTRA; Metro Desk; Part AA; Pg. 3
CALIFORNIA;
ELECTION 2010;
Boxer, Fiorina offer sharply contrasting views of state;
The Democrat touts a future in clean energy. Her GOP challenger cites jobless figures.
By Maeve Reston
For Sen. Barbara Boxer and her opponent Carly Fiorina, the battle in the next four months may be over two Californias: whether the state is a gloomy place where businesses are still struggling to survive or one that is about to turn the corner and become the bustling hub of the clean-energy economy.

In dueling appearances in the Los Angeles area Friday, both characterizations were on display as the Democratic senator and her Republican challenger offered starkly different visions of the progress of the recovery and their different plans to revive the economy.

For Fiorina, that meant a trip to a pizza business in Marina del Rey that supplies its products to local grocery stores and has been hit hard by the economic downturn.

Standing before a backdrop of a dozen workers who smoothed tomato sauce and sprinkled cheese onto pizzas moving down the conveyor belt, founder Patty Phillips said she had closed her Santa Monica restaurant after 20 years, laid off more than 40% of her workforce this year and forgone her own salary since December to keep the business afloat. "We are literally being taxed out of business," Phillips said.

Next up at the event was the owner of an online consumer credit services company who said he was moving his business out of California to Arizona. He was followed by an electrical contractor who said his company had been "profit-free for 183 days."

"We are crushing small businesses and family-owned businesses every single day here in the state of California," said Fiorina, standing next to a sign that blared the May unemployment estimates for Los Angeles County -- 588,000 -- in enormous red lettering. "We are not just suffering through tough times ... we are suffering through bad government policy: too much taxation, too much regulation, too many bureaucrats and not enough focus on job creation and getting off of these people's backs so they can create jobs."

After ticking off a stream of gloomy economic figures as she stood on the flour-dusted floor, Fiorina mocked Boxer's recent "jobs tour" around the state: "With all that terrible news I just

gave you, Barbara Boxer has the gall to be declaring victory and traveling up and down this state saying the stimulus package has worked.

"Ladies and gentlemen, only a cynical career politician like Barbara Boxer could look at 588,000 unemployed people in the county of Los Angeles and declare victory," she said.

But an hour later and 15 miles away at a Torrance plant that manufactures hybrid engine components, Boxer was armed with a far sunnier set of economic statistics.

Greeting more than two dozen employees who lined up for her arrival, the Democrat applauded them for doing their part to help the U.S. reduce its reliance on foreign oil.

"We become energy independent, and we have clean air and we create jobs," she said clapping her hands. "Which is why I'm here!"

US Hybrid's president, Abas Goodarzi, who said he tripled his revenue and doubled his workforce last year despite the economic downturn, whirled the three-term senator around the factory floor, showing her hybrid trucks components that his company is manufacturing for the Taiwan postal service, yard tractors to move containers around the Port of Long Beach, and more energy-efficient engines for military trucks and helicopters.

Though Goodarzi said he had not directly benefited from the Obama administration's stimulus package, he estimated that a third of his business comes from government projects, including a competitive grant from the **Environmental Protection Agency** that provided part of the funding to help the firm develop the port's hybrid yard tractors.

In remarks after her tour, Boxer hailed the 17 jobs the company had added since 2009, asking employees at one point to applaud the fact that the firm is hiring. "We're going to get past this recession, job by job by job," she said, pounding the lectern for emphasis. "New people here, who are working here, show that -- yes -- it can be done."

After arguing that the U.S. needed to lead the world in development of wind and solar technologies, she added: "Feel that wind. Feel that sun. This is the hub of the clean-energy economy."

Earlier Friday morning, Fiorina dismissed as fiction new estimates by the Obama administration that the government's stimulus program had created or saved 3 million jobs. "I don't believe the numbers, and frankly I don't think most people believe the numbers," she said.

But Boxer, insisting that she had met hundreds of those workers, charged that "facts don't seem to play any role in Carly Fiorina's statements."

"The jobs from the economic recovery package are out there," Boxer said. "At some point in this campaign, I'd love to see Carly Fiorina meet the people that I've been meeting so she can shake their hands.... There's the reality, and there's the myth," she said.

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Kohl's, Office Depot Add More Energy-Efficient Stores (*Environmental Leader*)

July 18, 2010
Continuing on their path to save energy and cut costs at their retail stores, Kohl's Department Stores and Office Depot have recently added to their portfolio of energy-efficient stores.

Kohl's Department Stores has celebrated its 500th Energy Star store milestone in Menomonee Falls, Wis. The retail store chain estimates it has lowered its electricity costs by nearly $50 million through energy-efficiency programs over the past four years.

The retailer will pursue Designed to Earn the Energy Star designation for all newly constructed stores starting in spring 2011. Five Kohl's stores in 2010 have already received the Designed to Earn designation.

Energy-efficiency programs implemented at the stores include replacing 75-watt incandescent bulbs with 24-watt metal halide bulbs, implementing building automation systems and better controlling variable speed fans on commercial rooftop HVAC units. The retailer estimates that these and other energy management initiatives have improved energy efficiency by more than 20 percent primarily in its stores.

Kohl's has been a member of Energy Star since 1998 and earned the 2010 Energy Star Partner of the Year award .

Kohl's recently announced plans to convert 10 of its 23 Colorado stores to solar power by the end of this year.

Energy Star Leaders prevented the emissions of more than 220,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide and saved more than $48 million across their commercial building portfolios in 2009.

Meanwhile, Office Depot has opened its first store registered by the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) for Commercial Interiors (CI). The office supply retail chain expects the Austin, Texas, store to be certified in a few months.

Beginning with the Austin store, all new and relocated North American Office Depot retail locations will receive LEED CI certification , including 14 stores planned for 2010.

Office Depot opened its first LEED Gold certified store in 2008. The store lowers emissions by 23 percent and is about 15 percent more energy efficient (per square foot) than other Office Depot retail locations in Austin.

Office Depot joined the Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star Commercial Buildings Partner program in May.

Regulation can lead to innovation, despite big business' opposition (*St. Petersburg Times*)

By Steven Pearlstein, Washington Post
The big complaint from the business lobby these days concerns a "lack of clarity" about regulation that prevents companies from using all that cash piling up on balance sheets to hire workers and make major investments.

Then, without missing a beat, those same business groups declare themselves unalterably opposed to any climate-change legislation that sets plant-specific targets for carbon reductions, puts a floor and a ceiling on the price of carbon, tells utilities exactly how much of their power should come from low-carbon sources or sets specific standards for the energy efficiency of cars and appliances.

Apparently the Chamber of Commerce types think Americans are so gullible that we won't notice their blatant and self-serving hypocrisy. And here I was thinking how much progress had been made in getting past the stale political bromides.

It's been 20 years since Harvard Business School professor Michael Porter provided scholarly support for the notion that, rather than hamper economic growth and competitiveness, well-crafted regulation could actually promote it. Porter's first observation was that some of the world's most prosperous and economically vibrant countries were also those with some of the most stringent business regulations, such as Germany and Japan. His studies of specific industries also turned up examples of new products and more efficient ways of doing business that came about only because companies and industries were forced to comply with rules.

Subsequent research confirmed what some of us have long since discovered — namely, that corporate executives can be stuck in their ways, averse to risk and unwilling to sacrifice short-term profitability for long-term gain. And as a result of these market "imperfections," sometimes a new regulation comes along that spurs innovation by forcing companies to look at things in new ways. That doesn't mean that regulation is costless, but it does suggest that, on an economywide basis, those costs can be offset by subsequent investment and innovation.

That's the message I got Thursday from the CEOs of two electric utilities.

At Public Service Enterprise Group, the giant New Jersey utility, chief executive Ralph Izzo says his greatest fear is that Congress will do nothing about carbon emissions, the EPA will step in with regulation, and the next decade will be spent in endless litigation until global warming becomes a crisis. Better, he says, to bite the bullet and set a long-term price for carbon now, phase it in slowly and give businesses time and flexibility to adjust.

"We all know something will have to be done, but we don't know what and we don't know when — and that's putting us in limbo," said Lew Hay, chief executive of NextEra Energy, the latest incarnation of the old Florida Power & Light.

Once the rules are set, Hay says he'll spend $3.5 billion on new wind and solar production, in addition to what NextEra is already spending, that he estimates will generate 50,000 jobs over five years.

The problem in Washington is not that President Obama and the Democratic Congress have created a hostile regulatory environment for investment and job creation. Rather, the problem is the hyperbole and poisonous rhetoric from the business lobby that have created a hostile environment for political compromise. Over the years, Americans have shown that they can respond creatively, even profitably, to reasonable regulation. Apparently our business leaders have lost faith that we can do it again.

ENFORCEMENT

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Anchorage developer faces EPA fine of $177,500 (Anchorage Daily News)

July 17, 2010
Anchorage developer David D'Amato is facing a federal fine of $177,500 for destroying wetlands and streams on his property in the Bear Valley area, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced this week.

Beginning in 2005, D'Amato used heavy equipment at the Hunter Heights subdivision to illegally excavate 1,300 feet of streams, then filled nearly an acre of wetlands on a 29-acre property with the stream material, according to the EPA. D'Amato performed this work without obtaining needed permits from the Army Corps of Engineers, a violation of the Clean Water Act, the EPA said.

The excavation caused erosion in the streams and sediment flowed into nearby Little Rabbit Creek, which is used by salmon to spawn. The sediment flows on through the creek to Potter Marsh, where it threatens salmon and bird populations said Heather Dean, environmental scientist at the EPA.

The EPA sent D'Amato warnings over the years but he never fixed the problem, Dean said. In 2007, the EPA issued D'Amato a compliance order requiring him to restore the damaged wetlands and streams. He hasn't yet taken care of it and continued to dredge and fill the streams and wetlands on his property until at least July 2008, the EPA said.

D'Amato couldn't be reached for comment.

Dean said in 20 years, she has never had a case where someone let a fine go on this long without fixing the problem.

"When a property owner ignores his obligation to build housing developments responsibly, Alaska's environment takes the hit," said Michael Szerlog, manager of EPA's Aquatic Resources Unit in Seattle. "There are real consequences -- environmental and legal -- from skirting the law."

D'Amato has until August 7, 2010 to contest the fines.

Find Kaylin Bettinger online at adn.com/contact/kbettinger or call her at 257-4349.

FUEL

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Indian truck delivery stalls; distributor sues (*Atlanta Journal-Constitution*)

July 17, 2010 Saturday
First Replate Edition
SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 1A
Indian truck delivery stalls; distributor sues;
Dealers ready, waiting ... and waiting, and waiting, complaint says.
By Dan Chapman; Staff
Like a clunker hiccupping down the highway, John Perez's automotive dream sputters.

Perez's Alpharetta company, Global Vehicles USA, is the sole U.S. distributor for an economical, diesel-fueled light truck made in India. Perez has 350 dealerships lined up nationwide to sell Mahindra pickups. He has raised $60 million, spent $35 million and awaits delivery of 700 two- and four-door trucks.

Nearly two years after the pickups were first promised, Perez is still waiting - but no longer patiently.

Global Vehicles sued Mahindra claiming the Indian conglomerate "engaged in bad faith dilatory conduct," according to an amended lawsuit filed last week in U.S. District Court in Atlanta. The suit demands immediate shipment of the trucks from India.

Perez, a former Dodge dealer in Decatur, isn't talking and neither is Mahindra. While both sides say through spokesmen that they're committed to selling the trucks in the United States, the lengthy delay and the burgeoning litigation make it unlikely the first Indian-made trucks will tootle along Georgia highways anytime soon.

"We just got tired of waiting and asked for our money back about a year and a half ago,"

said Allan Vigil, who owns dealerships in Morrow and Fayetteville and plunked down $125,000 for a Mahindra franchise. "The thing was supposed to come on the market two or three years ago and we're no closer now. I don't think it'll ever come."

Roma Balwani, a Mahindra spokesman, said the Indian automaker "has not intentionally delayed the process" and Global's claims are groundless.

"Mahindra remains committed to launch its products in the U.S. market," Balwani added in a June 30 statement.

Skeptics abound, though. Last year was the worst since 1970 for U.S. auto sales. Industry experts say tight-fisted consumers, if they buy at all, are unlikely to trust a new, foreign-made, diesel-powered truck. And Perez tried, and failed, previously to introduce a foreign-built SUV into the U.S. market.

"I was always skeptical of Mahindra to begin with," said Michelle Krebs, a senior analyst with Edmunds.com, an auto industry research Web site. "It's easy to make big promises and collect franchise money, but difficult to execute and bring in a product people want to buy. They have major, major challenges coming into this market."

Yet Mahindra hopes to copy the automotive success of Asian carmakers that have hit it big in the U.S. market. The Mumbai-based industrial giant, one of India's biggest car manufacturers, exports trucks and SUVs to 25 countries. It also sells tractors --- until recently made in Calhoun --- across the United States.

Global Vehicles signed an exclusive distributor agreement with Mahindra in September 2006, then went about signing up dealers. The four-cylinder, four-wheel drive pickups aimed at Toyota Tacoma and Ford Ranger enthusiasts would be priced in the low-$20,000s. Mahindra claims its diesel engine gets 30 mpg in combined city-highway driving.

Mahindra first promised to deliver the yet-to-be-named trucks in August 2008, according to the lawsuit. Then it was late 2009. Early 2010 came and went and none rolled onto the docks in Brunswick. Mahindra now says they will be delivered in December.

"It's frustrating for everybody, especially the dealers who made an investment," said Derek Jackson, general manager of a Chrysler, Dodge and Jeep dealership in Union City that ordered a dozen. "The trucks would sell. There'd certainly be a lot of curiosity about them. But they just keep delaying it."

Jackson's father, Don, who owns the dealership, has asked Global Vehicles to refund his $150,000 franchise fee.

Mike Geylin, a Global Vehicles spokesman, said nearly 350 dealers have signed up to sell Mahindras. Franchise fees have raised $60 million. Global has spent $35 million recruiting dealers, preparing to market the trucks to the public and establishing a parts network. It also paid Mahindra $8.5 million for the 10-year exclusive deal to distribute the trucks in the United States.

In its lawsuit and subsequent statements, Global Vehicles accuses Mahindra of regulatory foot-dragging in its pursuit of environmental approval from Washington. A Mahindra official said U.S. certification has taken longer than expected.

Officials with the U.S. **Environmental Protection Agency** and the National Highway

Traffic Safety Administration confirmed last week that Mahindra continues to pursue emission, fuel-economy and truck-safety approval.

In addition to shipment of the trucks, the lawsuit also seeks an injunction prohibiting Mahindra from dealing with another U.S. distributor and from contacting any dealer in Global's network.

"Our goal is still to sell Mahindra pickup trucks to our U.S. customers through our dealer organization as soon as possible," Geylin said Tuesday.

Mahindra's Balwani responded that the company "is diligently working towards satisfying all U.S. (environmental and safety) requirements and intends to submit its final application as soon as possible."

The automaker, though, faces other, significant roadblocks, which prompt analysts to suggest Mahindra purposefully slowed its U.S. entry. Economic recovery remains stilted, particularly with the housing industry --- and its truck-buying work force --- in the doldrums.

Compact truck sales fell almost 29 percent in 2009, to 267,000, according to Edmunds.com, and 2010 sales look even weaker.

Americans remain wary of diesel-fueled vehicles, which conjure images of smoke-belching imports polluting the skies, even though new versions run cleaner. Volkswagen is building a diesel sedan in Chattanooga, but Americans are familiar with the German automaker.

Meanwhile, Mahindra has been on an acquisition spree the past few years --- an Australian aircraft maker, an Indian-American electric car company, an Indian IT firm --- that give the company plenty to do without trying to crack the U.S. market amid sour conditions.

"I will be surprised if we have an Indian vehicle in this marketplace by spring 2011," said Chuck Parker, publisher of automotivedigest.com. "I also sense the Indians have a lot of difficulty in coordinating their manufacturing capabilities with their distribution and public relations. You can no longer be detached in dealing with your primary client, the distributor channel."

Global's role, too, raises eyebrows. Earlier this decade, Perez lined up about 150 U.S. dealers to sell the Aro/Cross Lander, a Romanian-built, diesel-powered SUV. The deal fell apart and by 2006 Perez pulled the plug amid lawsuits, lost millions and frustrated car dealers.

Andy Jones, an Augusta car dealer, paid $125,000 for a Mahindra franchise and awaits delivery of 14 trucks.

"I don't get the impression we're in trouble yet," said Jones, who sells Volvos, Subarus and Hondas and sits on Mahindra's U.S. distribution council. "They don't want to bring the truck in until everything is ready and that's the correct way of doing it. But I'm just not certain what's taking so long. It's time to sell some cars."

RECYCLING

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Ban would punish consumers, retailers (*Sacramento Bee*)

(California)
July 18, 2010 Sunday
SECTION: E; Pg. 1
The Conversation: Ban would punish consumers, retailers
By Tim Shestek; Special to The Bee
Should California ban plastic bags at supermarkets, or would the proposal to charge a nickel for paper bags constitute a new tax on groceries? To comment on this issue, please use our forum .

We all care about the environment and want to prevent litter, but hidden taxes and banning shopping bags aren't the answer.

Our representatives in Sacramento should be finding solutions to urgent problems – a huge budget deficit, rampant home foreclosures, millions of people without jobs. Instead, some lawmakers are wasting time and money on legislation that would tell us how to bag our own groceries.

Assembly Bill 1998 sounds simple enough: Punish Californians who don't bring enough reusable bags when shopping by charging us for each grocery bag. This ostensibly would help combat litter.

In reality, AB 1998 would create a "bag police," impose the equivalent of a new $1 billion grocery tax on all of us, put Californians out of work, dismantle growing recycling programs – and not spend one penny combating litter.

The state budget crisis has impacted all of us. Public safety jobs are being cut, school budgets are being slashed, essential services are being chopped – and there's no end in sight.

Yet some lawmakers are suggesting that now is the time to establish a new government program that would spend $1.5 million to police grocery bags. Business owners large and small – who should be focused on creating jobs – would be subject to another layer of government bureaucracy and punitive fines up to $10,000 for handing out a bag. Is this an essential government service?

Many Californians are struggling to pay the mortgage, keep or find a job and pay the bills. Yet AB 1998 would force Californians to pay at least 5 cents (the bill says it could go higher) for each bag we accept when we shop for food. That could equal an additional $1 billion in our grocery bills when simply paying for food is a struggle. Working and non-working Californians can't afford another hidden tax – and raising costs on our food bills during tough times is simply wrong.

Speaking of working Californians, this bill would produce fewer of them. AB 1998 would

destroy at least 500 jobs in California when unemployment is crushing families across the state. We need incentives to create jobs – not bans and higher costs to destroy them.

AB 1998 repeals recycling programs that actually help reduce litter. AB 1998 would dismantle the statewide plastic bag recycling infrastructure that our lawmakers voted to establish only four years ago.

That groundbreaking law requires large grocers to take back plastic bags and, in effect, provide recycling bins for plastic dry-cleaning bags, plastic bags used to deliver The Bee and other newspapers, and plastic wraps from bread, paper towels, cases of soda and other products. Recyclers then turn these products into long-lasting decking products, city park benches and recycled plastic bags and wraps.

These recycling programs are working, in California and across the country. Plastic bag recycling programs haven't been around long, but they are growing rapidly. Already the recycling rate has doubled and the Environmental Protection Agency estimates about 13 percent of these plastic bags and wraps are recycled. This growth is due in part to California's recycling law. There are now more than 15,000 recycling bins at stores across our nation. More than 832 million pounds of bags and wraps were recycled in 2008, a 28 percent increase since 2005. Plastic bag recycling in Los Angeles County grew 62 percent from 2007 to 2009.

AB 1998 would devastate the primary method to recycle dozens of recyclable products that often are not collected in curbside programs. Lawmakers should encourage these recycling programs, not repeal laws that are working.

We need jobs. We need teachers and police. We need a state budget. Lawmakers should focus on these urgent problems facing Californians, not "paper or plastic?"

Robert Morris students recycling cell phones (*Pittsburgh Post Gazette*)

A student group at Robert Morris University is collecting old cell phones to recycle, a project that is both a fundraiser and ecologically friendly.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, most cell phones contain harmful elements like lead, arsenic and mercury that can leach into landfills if thrown away.

PaceButler Corp. will pay members of Robert Morris' Society for Advancement of Management $10 for each phone collected, money that will fund the students' trip to the society's national conference and case competition.

Collection boxes are at the following Moon campus locations: third floor, Hale Center; lobby, Massey Hall; third floor, Sewall Center; and RoMo's and Bookstore, Nicholson Center.

A collection bin also is located in the lobby of the Pittsburgh Center, 600 Fifth Ave., Downtown.

Phones should be inactive when donated.

Recycling: Are we doing enough? (Asbury Park Press)

July 18, 2010
New Jersey adopted the nation's first mandatory recycling law in 1987 and set an ambitious goal, five years later, of recycling at least 50 percent of our household trash and other garbage. We're not there yet.

As a matter of fact, we're further away from the goal than we were in 1995, when recycling of municipal solid waste peaked at 45 percent. Less than 38 percent was recycled in 2008, compared with the national average of 33.2 percent.

Advocates say several bills in Trenton, including one that would impose a 10-cent, refundable deposit on plastic and glass bottles and aluminum cans, along with increased spending on education and enforcement, would get New Jersey closer to the 50 percent recycling goal.

The state Department of Environmental Protection, on its website, acknowledges funding limitations amid the fiscal crisis but calls for a "renewed focus on enforcement for recycling."

Much is being done at present, but it is the many missed opportunities that vex recycling advocates.

"We still don't set the world up as if we think recycling really matters," said Priscilla E. Hayes, program coordinator for the Solid Waste Resource Renewal Group at the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station.

"The kids who bring their water bottles and Gatorade bottles, on most (playing) fields, don't have recycling. What message would that give to you?" Hayes said.

Recycling benefits us in a variety of ways. New Jersey Sierra Club Director Jeff Tittel said recycling reduces pollution and greenhouse gases and encourages companies "to be more environmentally friendly." It also has the potential to lower property taxes by lowering the tipping fees levied at landfills.

"The more we throw out, the more it costs," Tittel said.

Recycling rates significantly declined after a $1.50-per-ton tax on solid waste disposed at landfills expired in 1996 and the U.S. Supreme Court ended local flow control, making it cheaper to dump garbage.

Recycling rates have crept back up in recent years but it is too early to assess the impact of the 2008 Recycling Enhancement Act, which restored, and doubled to $3 per ton, the previous tax on solid waste disposed at landfills and transfer stations.

(2 of 4)

Tittel noted that $7 million in revenues, including funding for recycling education, was diverted elsewhere in the state budget this year.

"The recession is making a bigger difference. People are throwing out less," Tittel said.

Just how far government should go in promoting recycling is an issue that continues to divide New Jersey residents and policy makers.

"I regard wasting assets and wasting resources as almost inexcusable," state Assemblyman Michael Patrick Carroll said.

Yet Carroll, a Republican from Morris County, voted against the Recycling Enhancement Act. "It's a moral issue, to me. To my way of thinking, you recycle everything you can. I don't think it should be much of a governmental issue," Carroll said.

In Hunterdon County, officials received state approval in December for a revised county recycling plan that added antifreeze and acid batteries for businesses and corrugated cardboard for residences, among other mandatory items, and required municipalities to adopt new recycling ordinances.

The new requirements, though, are sparking controversy in several municipalities where no action was taken within a six-month deadline. The period expired last month.

At a recent public hearing in Clinton Township, several critics assailed the proposed local ordinance. Under state regulations, the township risks a $3,000-per-day fine for not adopting it. Clinton resident and recycling advocate Ron Williams was dismayed by the local opposition.

"They feel it's the government telling them what to do. It's as simple as that," Williams said.

The 1987 New Jersey Statewide Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act law directed counties to mandate the recycling of at least three designated recyclable materials, in addition to leaves.

To encourage recycling, the Legislature created a $1.50-per-ton tax on solid waste disposed at landfills and transfer stations. Revenues went toward municipal and county recycling tonnage grants — offering a significant local incentive — along with public education programs and low-interest loans or loan guarantees to recycling businesses.

(3 of 4)

However, when the tax was lifted in 1996, recycling rates began to decline. After reaching its 45 percent peak in 1995, it plummeted to 33 percent by 2003. The Recycling Enhancement Act was aimed at reversing that trend by re-establishing a funding source.

Carroll said he would have preferred a recycling "tax credit."

In Trenton, several recycling bills that would add rules are being reviewed in Trenton. In addition to the "bottle bill," one would require every rigid plastic container manufactured or sold in New Jersey to be composed of at least 25 percent recycled content by 2011. Another would require retailers to offer reusable bags to customers and eliminate all plastic bags by Dec. 31, 2012.

State Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Robert Martin, in a recent interview with the Daily Record editorial board, said his office is reviewing the feasibility of recycling road and other construction materials.

"We've got mountains of this stuff accumulating," Martin said.

In New Jersey, recycling can benefit the economy as well as the environment.

A U.S. Environmental Protection Agency study found that almost 27,000 people in New Jersey work in recycling-related businesses that generate $5.9 billion annually. If the 50 percent municipal recycling goal were met, the state DEP estimates that nearly 9,000 additional jobs would be created.

Recycling supporters often tout the potential property tax benefit of increased compliance. Hunterdon County's recycling coordinator, Alan Johnson, said that in Hunterdon the cost for regular disposal is $77.50 per ton, compared with around $50 per ton for recycling.

"The more you recycle, the less you pay in taxes," Johnson said. "You've saved that money due to cost avoidance."

What are New Jersey's enduring recycling trouble spots?

Morris County's recycling coordinator, Kathy Hourihan, said "a lot of paper" is not getting recycled, along with bottles and cans. "Our focus is trying to get back to basics," she said.

Marie Kruzan, executive director of the Association of New Jersey Recyclers in Somerset County, said recycling rates tend to lag in schools and small businesses.

(4 of 4)

"It's not that they've never done it. It's that they've done it and stopped," Kruzan said. "The breakdown can occur at any point in the system. People say they have a recycling program, then you look outside and they have one dumpster," she said.

Petra Ludwig, director of public relations at Monmouth University, said the West Long Branch campus facilitates recycling of glass, aluminum and metal containers along with paper, cardboard and electronic devices. The food service uses 100 percent biodegradable, disposable surfaceware, and containers and restrooms utilize paper products that are 100 percent recycled, she said.

In Ocean County, Freeholder Director James F. Lacey recently urged summertime visitors to beaches and marinas to place their recyclables in the hard-to-miss "big green igloos" placed throughout the region. Many municipalities in Ocean allow "single-stream recycling," in which cans, bottles, newspapers and other items may be placed in the same bin.

"When you are leaving an area we encourage you to deposit your recyclables in the igloo. It is much more convenient than taking them home with you or back to where you may be staying," Lacey said. "The goal of our recycling program in Ocean County is to make it easy so people want to recycle."

SUPERFUND

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Conshohocken manufacturer finds yoga helps soothe economy's sting (*Philadelphia Inquirer*)

July 17, 2010 Saturday
CITY-C Edition
NATIONAL; P-com News for PC Home Page; Pg. A01
Conshohocken manufacturer finds yoga helps soothe economy's sting
By Diane Mastrull; Inquirer Staff Writer
As the region stumbles around in a recession hangover, Dean Jerrehian is an odd assemblage of calm, cheerfulness, and optimism for a guy making a living in one of the economy's hardest-hit sectors - manufacturing.

He credits yoga. No, not his practice of it, though he does an impressive downward dog.

Jerrehian's happy place is the result of an estimated 500,000 to a million people around the world trying to get to that place stretching, meditating, and deep breathing while perched on the natural-rubber yoga mats produced by Jerrehian's JadeYoga in Conshohocken.

Those mats now sell in 50 countries and account for half of his company's sales and revenue. The rubber is tapped from trees on plantations in Vietnam.

How a rug company with Philadelphia origins dating from 1916 evolved into what is now a steadily growing (it is even hiring!) green business specializing in eco-friendly exercise mats is a story with a lesson Jerrehian said all business owners would be wise to heed:

Never blow off a suggestion.

When Jerrehian Brothers was founded by Aram Jerrehian, Dean's grandfather, on Walnut Street, the business offered rug cleaning, renovating, and repair. It later started collecting rugs.

Dean's father, Aram Jr., took over the company in the mid-1960s, renaming it Jade Industries and expanding into production of rug padding made of natural rubber. By the late 1980s, Jade was exclusively in the padding business.

Dean Jerrehian joined the company in 1998, after seven years as a lawyer for the **Environmental Protection Agency.** There, he had fought against incinerators that polluted and for cleanup of **Superfund** sites.

"Tired of fighting with people," he went home to join the family business. Ironically, it was also to take up another fight. His son Matt had been born with a disorder that prevented him from properly metabolizing protein. Because Matt had been tested for the disorder, phenylketonuria, or PKU, at birth, he was treated immediately and the 17-year-old has led a healthy life.

Other children were not so lucky, Jerrehian said. They lived in states that did not require testing of newborns for PKU. By leaving the **EPA,** Jerrehian was free to lobby for more proactive testing, which has resulted in more states requiring it, he said.

Meanwhile, the rug-padding business was helping pay the household bills. In 2000 came the suggestion from "a very savvy yogi," as Jerrehian described him, and it was advice he did not ignore: "There's a big problem in the yoga world - yoga mats are really slippery."

That's because they were largely made of plastic. Jerrehian decided to try rubber. In the last 18 months or so, he has gained about four competitors - none manufactured in the United States, Jerrehian said.

"I have to admit I didn't take it all that seriously in the beginning," he said last week at JadeYoga, which recently launched two other green lines: organic-cotton yoga blankets and yoga blocks made of balsa wood.

The 49-year-old Chestnut Hill resident said he "knew we were definitely onto something" with the rubber mats when 300 calls for orders followed distribution of 500 sample mats, mostly to yoga studios.

Jade Industries' yoga-mat division has grown from one-half of 1 percent of the company's sales that first year to the 50 percent of sales and revenue it accounts for now.

That's without a dedicated sales force, and with little presence in sporting-goods or health stores - where Jerrehian plans future efforts. He's also exploring iPhone applications and a Facebook push.

Jerrehian would not release additional financial details on the company, which has 10

employees. But he did describe the manufacturing process: After the rubber is harvested from the Vietnamese plantations, it is reduced to a solid and sent by container ship to a factory in Moosup, Conn., where it is further processed into sheets that are sent to JadeYoga. In Conshohocken, those sheets are cut into yoga mats and packaged for sale.

For every yoga mat sold, the company plants a tree through Trees for the Future.

That the mats are eco-friendly "makes me feel good," said Jerrehian, a vegetarian who bikes to work when practicable. It also drives up their cost substantially. Jade mats sell for $60 each - at least three times the price of a plastic alternative.

Melanie Smith, owner of Yogaphoria in New Hope, said synthetic mats were a distraction in yoga - "icky under my hands, or too slippery or too hard."

With Jade mats, yoga practitioners "and the mat are from God and there's a resonance there," Smith said.

Bobbi Tighe, owner of Chestnut Hill Yoga and a fan of the Jade mat but not the price, said she was hoping for "more econ-eco mats in the near future."

"We must remember the great yogis of India from times gone by practiced on the clay earth," she wrote in an e-mail. "Maybe the next evolution of yoga mats will be the Mad Max compact-dirt floors."

Contact staff writer Diane Mastrull at 215-854-2466 or dmastrull@phillynews.com.

TOXICS

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Toxic waste dump receives new EPA order (Los Angeles Times)

July 17, 2010 Saturday
Home Edition
LATEXTRA; Metro Desk; Part AA; Pg. 3
CALIFORNIA;
Toxic waste dump receives new EPA order;
Many Kettleman City residents suspect the landfill is linked to serious birth defects.
By Louis Sahagun
Federal authorities have given a toxic waste dump near a Central California farming community plagued by birth defects 60 days to clean up soil contaminated with carcinogenic PCBs, or lose its permit to receive the dangerous substance trucked in each year from throughout Southern California.

The facility's owner, Waste Management Inc., received the order late Thursday from the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency in connection with PCBs discovered in soil beneath a concrete pad adjacent to a building where extremely **hazardous wastes** are treated for disposal.

Preliminary results released Friday showed PCB at concentrations of up to 440 parts per million.

Spills and other uncontrolled discharges of PCBs at concentrations of 50 parts per million on concrete or soil constitute a violation of the **Toxic Substances** Control Act, **EPA** officials said.

The landfill is the largest **hazardous waste** facility in the western United States and the only one in the state permitted to accept polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs.

Employees of Chemical Waste Management Inc -- the managing company of the facility -- discovered the contamination while they were cleaning up spilled PCBs related to an earlier **EPA** warning of noncompliance with **hazardous waste** regulations at the same location about 3 1/2 miles southwest of Kettleman City, an impoverished Kings County community of about 1,500 mostly Spanish-speaking residents.

Many residents suspect the landfill is causing serious birth defects, including heart problems and cleft palates and lips, and adding toxins to the community that for decades has already been surrounded by agricultural sewage, diesel exhaust, **pesticides** and elevated levels of **arsenic** in drinking water.

In an interview, Chemical Waste spokeswoman Jennifer Andrews said the latest **EPA** action "was unnecessary."

"We were unpleasantly surprised to get hit with a second violation at the same place because we were already in the process of cleaning it up," she said. "In other words, while cleaning it up we found more PCBs there and reported it."

Last year, the landfill took in 400,000 tons of **hazardous waste**. PCBs made up roughly 1% of that amount.

State health and environmental safety officials are conducting ongoing investigations into possible causes of the birth defects. In recent weeks, they have launched studies of the medical histories of half a dozen impacted families and tests of air, water and soil throughout the region.

The investigations were prompted by local health surveys showing that at least five of the 20 babies born in the community between September 2007 and November 2009 suffered serious birth defects. Three of them died.

Political tensions have been on the rise in the community since the company in 2009 requested a county permit to expand its landfill operations. About 499 acres of the facility's 1,600-acre parcel is currently used for the management of **hazardous waste.**

California's two U.S. senators have called for a moratorium on plans to expand pending the

completion of the investigations into the birth defects.

Sam Delson, spokesman for the California **Environmental Protection Agency**, said Friday, "No decision will be made on the request for a permit for landfill expansion until our environmental exposure investigation is completed at the end of this year."

Waste Management officials said they welcome the scrutiny. The landfill has operated for 28 years and is monitored, regulated and controlled by nearly a dozen state and federal agencies.

In those 28 years, the company has been fined more than $2 million for infractions, including mishandling of PCBs, failing to properly analyze incoming wastes, storm water and leachate for PCBs, and failing to properly calibrate equipment.

"The fact that Chem Waste has had years of problems with the improper disposal, handling and monitoring of PCBs is a major concern," said Bradley Angel, executive director of Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice, "due to its extreme toxicity and the birth defect crises plaguing Kettleman City's residents."

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Lead is hidden threat in gardens But dangers in city plots can be easily neutralized (Cleveland Plain Dealer)

(Cleveland, OH)

July 18, 2010 Sunday
FINAL EDITION
SECTION: NATIONAL; Pg. A1
Lead is hidden threat in gardens But dangers in city plots can be easily neutralized Lead is threat to emerging movement But dangers in city gardens can be easily neutralized Lead in gardens a growing concern But dangers in city plots can be easily neutralized Farms: Lead in gardens a growing concern
By: Michael Scott, Plain Dealer Reporter
URBAN FARMING

Toxic lead might still be the dirty little secret beneath Cleveland's growing patchwork of urban farms and community vegetable plots – but it doesn't have to ruin the garden party.

Even moderately lead-contaminated soil, of course, is still considered dangerous if untested or untreated – and city garden spots are among the most likely to have those dangerous levels.

But lead contamination is also fast becoming an easily cleared hurdle for the new, aggressive agricultural pioneers pushing for more city farms and gardens. That goes for the rest of us simple

backyard tomato, bean and zucchini growers, too, if we follow a few basic guidelines to keep toxic lead at bay.

"We don't merely look at community gardens any more as just a temporary solution but as a complement to our long-term development plans."

Bob Brown, director of the Cleveland Planning Commission.

cleveland.com/metro

See a Scott Shaw photo gallery from Buckeye Farms.

That's the consensus from top researchers, soil scientists and agricultural experts in Northeast Ohio, where a new urban-farming frontier is being carved from among 20,000 vacant or foreclosed city properties. The movement is being accelerated by a budding interest in locally grown food and increasing commitment to improving community health.

"We don't merely look at community gardens any more as just a temporary solution but as a complement to our long-term development plans," said Bob Brown, director of the Cleveland Planning Commission.

"Making sure those gardens are safe from lead is part of that picture."

Lead's lethal legacy in urban soil

That's good news, because lead, even in minuscule amounts, is very bad news - especially for children and pregnant women.

Lead is a powerful neurotoxin that is bad for all of us but that can severely damage the central nervous system of a fetus or child younger than 6, government officials warn.

It has accumulated generally in soils because of the pervasive use of leaded gasoline for decades and because it wasn't banned as a paint additive until 1978.

So gardening - digging in dirt laced with lead - poses a real problem, even though very little lead ever makes its way into the stalk of a plant and none into the fruit, said researcher Sandra Albro of the Cleveland Botanical Garden.

"The real issue is ingesting the dust, inhaling it into the stomach and then the bloodstream," said Nicholas Basta, a professor of Soil and Environmental Chemistry at Ohio State University. "That can also happen if the soil is on the vegetables, but most people wash their produce."

But if you're gardening in the city, the danger is even greater.

"Lead is often especially concentrated in urban areas that are close to roads and where houses have been repainted or torn down," said Basta, who is working with the Botanical Garden by

testing its soils at the Woodland Avenue site before and after treatments.

"That's why lead is a growing concern in cities where there is a trend toward farming on these very sites in urban areas."

City lots are likely to have lead well above natural background levels (about 30-40 parts per million) and many will also exceed the threshold of "safe" (410 ppm) set by the Environmental Protection Agency, Basta said.

"Which means that people should be concerned - but not scared," said Albro.

"Everyone should know what they can about the dangers of lead, but they should also know about how to lessen those dangers, especially as we add more and more farms here in the Cleveland area."

Rendering lead less harmful

And there is a fairly simple way to lessen the danger.

A little-known catalyst in the new farm explosion is the recognition that cleaning up lead-tainted soil from urban properties is no longer an expensive endeavor.

Previously, organizations or private farmers might spend tens of thousands of dollars to dig out and haul away the top few inches of toxic topsoil and replace it with new dirt.

Today, they can effectively neutralize the toxic effects of lead in all but the worst soils simply by applying old-fashioned, reliable composting or raised-bed techniques.

"It's making a huge difference for us just one year to the next," said Geri Unger, education and research director for the Cleveland Botanical Garden, which in 2009 spent between $10,000 and $20,000 to remove topsoil from its garden at East 79th Street and Amos Avenue.

This year, however, student gardeners in the Garden's Green Corps Urban Learning Farms program are merely putting in raised garden beds and mulching equally lead-contaminated soil at the Botanical Garden's newest farm on Woodland Avenue.

The result: Lead rendered inactive at a fraction of the cost.

The science behind it is actually quite simple, Basta said.

In short, any time you mix a phosphorous material - manure, food scrap compost, mulch, bone meal - any dangerous lead in the soil attaches itself to that material.

"The problem with lead is that it can be sitting in the environment indefinitely, but when it hits stomach acid after you ingest some dust, it dissolves," Basta said.

When it does, it essentially attaches itself to our bones, he said.

But by simply mixing compost materials into soil, we force lead to make that attachment before it goes airborne - rendering it harmless to our bodies if we do end up breathing it in.

Rise of urban farming increases concern

And there's no question that city farming is growing fast.

"There is incredible momentum compared to when I started at OSU Extension just five years ago," said Morgan Taggart, a program specialist in agricultural and natural resources at Ohio State University who has helped train some 140 urban farmers over the last three years.

"I think the growth has been so fast because we're also seeing a cultural shift in the way people relate to food - and to their neighborhoods."

No single agency officially tracks the number of new urban gardens - especially since there are untold hundreds being started each year by rookie gardeners in their own back yards.

However, a survey last year by the Ohio State Extension Service concluded there are at least 250 farms or gardens in Cleveland alone (covering a total of 65 acres) and maybe 50 more farms or gardens in the surrounding inner-ring suburbs.

About two-thirds of those Cleveland farms are community gardens, often plots leased for free by the city land bank to a neighborhood group or community development corporation. The remainder are run by entrepreneurs who often sell to local farm markets or restaurants.

"What we really have going now is an experiment on how to bring life back to a city," Unger said.

The climate for city farms in Cleveland was improved dramatically two years ago when an existing city zoning law was loosened to allow for vegetable farming and the raising of small animals like chickens on individual parcels.

Brown said the City Council this month is likely to see two new proposals - one that would create an actual farming district (the location has not been determined but is likely to encompass the Kinsman or "forgotten triangle" area) and another that could allow limited sales of produce by residents (a small garden stand, not a grocery store).

"I don't think there's any doubt - city farming is here to stay," Taggart said.

To reach this Plain Dealer reporter: mscott@plaind.com, 216-999-4148

BOX:

Coming tomorrow

A look at what can happen when land is reclaimed and a community comes together.

Reason lies in new rules on lead paint (*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*)

(Wisconsin)
July 17, 2010 Saturday
Final Edition
B News; Pg. 3
Plan leaves repair program dry of funds <|> Reason lies in new rules on lead paint
By: GEORGIA PABST, Staff, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
By GEORGIA PABST
For more than 10 years, Milwaukee low-income residents have been able to get quick and needed home repairs through the city's minor home repair program financed with federal community development block grant money.

It's been one of the most popular and the largest housing-related programs offered by the city, according to Steven Mahan, director of the city's block grant office.

But in the 2011 proposed funding allocation plan, in which the city lays out how it plans to spend $18 million in block grant money it expects to get next year, the $250,000 for the program has been eliminated. That's because of new federal guidelines related to lead paint removal, Mahan said.

At two public hearings this week on the block grant spending plan - one on the north side and one on the south side - the elimination of the popular home repair program drew a chorus of complaints from residents and community organizations.

The most complaints came from the Sherman Park area.

"Many elderly residents use the minor home repair for upkeep on their homes because a lot can't afford large amounts of money for renovations," resident Danielle Robinson told members of the Common Council's Community and Economic Development Committee at the hearing at Carson Academy.

And many can use it for emergency home repairs that can be done quickly, she said.

"I hope you think about how this program helps the community, especially in these times when many are losing their incomes," Robinson said.

Patrice Olin, another Sherman Park resident, said: "This program allows residents to get minor repairs made before they become major violations."

Under the program, a resident can get a maximum of $750 for a repair that's matched by the homeowner, and repairs can be made within a few days, said Steve O'Connell, the former executive director of the Sherman Park Community Association, who advocated that ways be found to continue the program.

The association, along with five other agencies, including Housing Resources Inc., Lisbon Avenue Neighborhood Development, Merrill Park Neighborhood Association, the Milwaukee Christian Center and the YMCA, have operated the programs in their neighborhoods.

"We've had the program for 11 years and we all feel it's been proactive and efficient," said Barry Givens, president of the Sherman Park Association. "It's a prime example of a community organization making it work and allowing people to take pride in their homes and keep their homes. We need a similar program."

At the south side hearing at Kosciuszko Community Center, Steve Fendt, executive director of the Southside Organizing Committee, also asked that the minor home repair program be reinstated because of the number of people it helps.

Charlotte John-Gomez, executive director of Layton Boulevard West Neighbors Inc., called the minor home repair program an important resource that she hoped would be restored.

Mahan explained that the program had been eliminated because in April the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency created a new rule that requires that any contractors performing "renovation, repair and painting" projects be lead-certified because of the potential of disturbing lead paint.

Home Depot and Sears have filed appeals to the new ruling because it is hurting their repair work, he said.

In 2007, 2008 and 2009, an average of 269 homes a year used the minor home repair program, Mahan said.

"Be patient," Ald. Joe Davis, chairman of the economic development committee, said at the hearing on the north side. "We hear you loud and clear."

He said the city will try to find ways to continue to make available to residents assistance for minor home repairs.

The Common Council's Community Economic Development Committee will take up the proposed 2011 block grant allocation plan beginning at 9 a.m. Monday at City Hall.

WATER

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Pompton Lakes residents urged to install vapor mitigation systems (NorthJersey.com)

Sunday, July 18, 2010
BY LESLIE SCOTT
Suburban Trends
STAFF WRITER

Residents living in the area of contamination known as The Plume can now choose from a list of contractors that are authorized to install vapor mitigation systems and do pretesting.

Members of the action group Citizens for a Clean Pompton Lakes say that having this choice is a victory for residents of The Plume.

When these residents first learned that vapors were seeping into their homes from the contaminated groundwater, some were hesitant because they did not want the polluter, DuPont, which operated a munitions factory for almost 100 years in the borough, in their homes to install this system.

These systems are needed to keep the gases trichloroethylene (TCE) and tetrachloroethene (PCE) from entering their homes. These gases are coming from the contaminated ground water.

According to DuPont's Pompton Lakes Works website, as of July 12, of the 439 homes in the plume, DuPont has collected 375 indoor air samples and 196 mitigation systems have been installed. In addition to this, DuPont has completed designs for 64 other homes.

DuPont, the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) urge every homeowner in The Plume to get a vapor mitigation system in their home.

EPA spokesperson David Kluesner said, "Trichloroethylene and tetrachloroethene in the soil gas below homes in your area are at levels that exceed health standards. Contaminated gas from the sub-slab soil could be migrating into your home and putting you and other household residents at risk.

Because of this, and the fact that cleanup of contaminated groundwater may take many years to complete, we strongly encourage you to protect your health by having a vapor mitigation system installed."

Even residents that had low or non-detectable levels of TCE and PCE are also encouraged to get the system.

"Nevertheless, even if indoor air concentrations do not exceed applicable standards, NJDEP and EPA recommend that vapor mitigation systems be installed due to the possibility that contaminants could potentially migrate from the sub-slab into your home," Kluesner said.

He said the EPA distributed information that explained what options were available to residents in The Plume last week.

"The vapor intrusion sampling conducted by DuPont's contractor or DEP's contractor would be conducted at no cost to you. DuPont or NJDEP will make all arrangements for the sampling when they perform the work," Kluesner said.

A list of New Jersey Licensed Site Remediation Professionals is available at http://datamine2.state.nj.us/DEP_OPRA/OpraMain/categories?category=SRRA.

Those with additional questions can contact Dave Kluesner at 212-637-3653 or Mindy Mumford, DEP, at 609-777-1976.

E-mail: scottl@northjersey.com

Stormwater Comment Period Extended (Boston Globe)

STORMWATER COMMENT PERIOD EXTENDED - Residents of Milford, Bellingham, and Franklin will have two more months to submit comments to the **Environmental Protection Agency** regarding controversial stormwater regulations. The initial public comment period was scheduled to end June 30 but many local and state politicians, including US Representative Richard Neal, asked the **EPA** to extend the period in order for people to voice their concerns and raise awareness about the regulations. The regulations, proposed several months ago, call for the towns and business owners to reduce stormwater runoff which contains harmful chemicals, specifically phosphorus. In order to do so, said **EPA** counsel for special projects Bill Walsh-Rogalski, some towns and businesses would have to install filtration systems or make structural changes to buildings and roads. The program could cost the three towns and their business owners hundreds of millions of dollars, said Bill Buckley, chairman of the Milford board of selectmen. The **EPA** will take into account the public comments when finalizing the draft of the regulations this fall, according to Walsh-Rogalski.