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AFRICAN AMERICAN

EPA Reviewing Air Pollution Rules For Oil, Gas (*Black Enterprise Magazine*)

DENVER (AP) — Federal air pollution standards for the oil and gas industry are sorely outdated amid ramped up drilling, leaving thousands of emissions sources "under the radar," citizens groups said Wednesday.

The Environmental Protection Agency is reconsidering air pollution rules for oil and gas operations as part of a settlement with WildEarth Guardians and the San Juan Citizens Alliance. The groups say existing rules aren't enough to handle increased drilling and don't account for advances in technology that could reduce emissions.

The EPA is getting the public involved in its review by holding meetings in Arlington, Texas, on Aug. 2 and in Denver on Aug. 3 for government, industry and citizens to weigh in.

The EPA has agreed to finalize updates to three sets of rules under the Clean Air Act by Nov. 30, 2011.

The oil and gas industry continues to be one of the heaviest regulated industries, said Kathleen Sgamma, the Western Energy Alliance's director of government affairs. The group's members already are working with the Western Regional Air Partnership — an effort of tribal and state governments and federal agencies — in voluntarily providing detailed emissions data to state regulators.

"We want to make sure to reduce emissions from oil and gas production," she said.

Mike Eisenfeld of the San Juan Citizens Alliance said loopholes in existing rules have allowed thousands of air pollution sources to operate without permits. He said inventories are needed along with studies on public health.

The Four Corners area has thousands of wells that are "major contributors" to ozone levels that are edging close to federal limits, Eisenfeld said.

Sgamma said the industry accounts for only a small percentage of emissions of specific pollutants.

Artisanal cheesemaker Deborah Rogers operates a goat dairy in the Fort Worth, Texas, area, where residents have been concerned about health effects of drilling on the Barnett Shale. She is hoping the EPA decides to ban flaring, in which excess vapors are burned off from wells. She called it an antiquated process and said technology is available today to help capture emissions.

Other environmental groups said they hope for more monitoring, studies of cumulative effects of

toxins, and limiting the use of open waste pits in favor of closed-loop systems.

Sgamma said there is no one-size-fits-all solution, since conditions can vary for exploratory wells and production wells and from basin to basin.

"A lot of variables go into deciding what controls and technologies can be used," she said.

Online:
EPA's notice of public meeting: http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/2010-17042.htm

Group: Obama Should Enforce Environmental Laws (Black America Web)

The report calls upon President Barack Obama's administration to enforce many of the recommendations made. (AP)

Prolonged exposure to toxins and pollutants have long been shown to have an adverse effects on health.

When it comes to governmental policy, however, the trend has been to wait until illnesses manifest themselves in significant numbers before action is taken to clean up a neighborhood or even investigate the impact of toxic substances on a community.

A new report by the Environmental Justice Project of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law recommends that looking at actual exposures and biomonitoring data should be a routine part of risk assessment.

“A more qualitative assessment can also incorporate the psycho/social stressors that scientific literature has shown increase peoples' vulnerability to environment and health issues. This is a critical and long-standing environmental justice concern,” according to “Now is the Time: Environmental Injustice in the U.S. and Recommendations for Eliminating Disparities,” a 104-page report, which reviews the work of the environmental justice community over the past 10 years.

The report calls upon President Barack Obama's administration to enforce many of the recommendations made and environmental laws passed in the last decade but were allowed to go dormant during the Bush administration.

“Moreover, we believe that if individuals are known to have been exposed to certain pollutants or toxins, there is no need to wait until manifestation of adverse health effects occurs to take preventive action, especially if there is animal data that indicates possible adverse health impacts from exposure,” the report also said. “An agency could perform an audit where there is particularly suggestive evidence for exposure in a community or where there is strong evidence that there is a public health or environmental threat.”

The Project called for greater use of geographic and community-based data, including hospitalization and emergency room records for treatment of asthma or exposure to heavy metals, including lead and mercury, to determine the cumulative impact of exposure to toxins.

“This type of geographic focus in the analysis,” the report said, “can provide additional support for community/university partnerships to undertake further research.”

Researchers Present Ideas To Save Chesapeake Bay (*Black Enterprise Magazine*)

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) — Floating wetlands, porous asphalt and living walls are some of the ideas that universities, federal laboratories and private companies are developing to restore the Chesapeake Bay.

Those ideas and others were presented Wednesday in Annapolis at a "Technologies That Can Save the Bay" event sponsored by the Maryland Technology Development Corporation and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

Many of the ideas focus on keeping pollutants like nitrogen, phosphorous and sediments out of waterways. Others would remove them once they reach the Chesapeake, where sediments cloud the water and bury grasses, and nitrogen and phosphorous act as nutrients feeding light- and oxygen-robbing algae.

Floating wetlands, for example, are floating mats, rafts or other structures on which plants grow with the roots dangling into the water, removing the nitrogen compounds that come from sewage, fertilizer runoff and other sources. Living walls are made of masonry but have voids in which plants can grow. And porous asphalt allows water to trickle through it into the ground, where pollutants are filtered out and consumed by bacteria, instead of running off into nearby waterways.

Kent Hansen of the National Asphalt Pavement Association said porous asphalt is just like traditional asphalt but doesn't have sand added to the gravel and thick petroleum byproduct that binds it together. While it is more expensive to install because it is normally laid over a thick gravel bed, it helps eliminate the need for stormwater retention ponds, he said.

"You're already building this pavement at a site, you may actually eliminate or reduce the size of a detention basin, saving land," Hansen said, as a video played behind him showing a hose running onto pavement but not off.

Michael Furbish, of The Furbish Company, discussed his firm's Smartslope system for reinforcing hillsides and other sloping areas that often are subject to erosion. The system uses what he calls "concrete drawers" that are stacked, filled with soil and plants, reinforcing the slope, consuming runoff and nutrients.

Keith Bowers, of Baltimore-based Biohabitats, discussed floating wetlands. Biohabitats has installed four systems, including a small demonstration system at the Living Classrooms Foundation campus in downtown Baltimore. While they have been used effectively on ponds and lakes, in an ecosystem as large as the Chesapeake Bay, they serve primarily as an educational tool, Bowers said.

"What makes ours unique is we are actually harvesting trash, debris, mainly plastic bottles from waterways, urban waterways, and using that as the flotation device," Bowers said.

The bottles are compacted into a mesh tub and wrapped with coconut husk fiber and plants are plugged into perforations in the mesh. As the plants grow, their roots reach down into the water absorbing nitrogen, he said.

Dr. Bill Hunt, an associate professor of biological and agricultural engineering at North Carolina State University, said they can be effective, opening wider areas than planting only on the bottom near the shoreline.

"The biggest thing is it's expensive to do the earthwork to get the soil close enough to the surface," said Hunt, who was not among those presenting ideas on Wednesday. "What's really nice about these things is they float and it doesn't matter what the water depth is beneath them."

Hunt said floating wetlands have been used for wastewater treatment in the western United States and in New Zealand, and their use for removing nitrogen from other waterways is being increasingly investigated. However, not enough data has been collected to justify incentives for developers and others to use them on stormwater containment ponds or other waterways, he said.

Hunt is currently studying floating wetlands on two ponds in Durham, N.C., and says he expected nitrogen removal and water temperature reduction will be the primary benefits.

Chuck Fox, the federal Environmental Protection Agency's senior bay adviser, spoke at the event, saying regulators can't "pick the horse to ride," but can define expectations and let the market respond with appropriate technologies. Fox noted the federal Clean Air Act mandated air pollution reductions and automakers later developed catalytic converters.

However, Fox said the challenge was daunting, noting that no one has ever restored a waterway the size of the Chesapeake Bay, although there have been success stories on smaller scales. He also encouraged researchers, entrepreneurs and others to focus on the core issues, noting the way past solutions have inadvertently continued to damage the bay.

"I would really recommend we focus instead on things that really are about getting at the core root of the challenges that we face in energy, nitrogen, phosphorous and sediment pollution," and the "less sexy stuff" of urban, suburban and agricultural stormwater runoff.

If those technologies are developed, they will have global reach because the problems that affect the Chesapeake are also affecting waterways worldwide, Fox said.

"What we figure out, here in Maryland, that works in the Chesapeake will, in fact, be exported around the world, guaranteed," Fox said.

Oil Pipeline Leak Pollutes Major Michigan River (*Black Enterprise Magazine*)

BATTLE CREEK, Mich. (AP) — Crews were working Tuesday to contain and clean up more than 800,000 gallons of oil that poured into a creek and flowed into the Kalamazoo River in southern Michigan, coating birds and fish.

Authorities in Battle Creek and Emmett Township warned residents about the strong odor from the oil, which leaked Monday from a 30-inch pipeline built in 1969 that carries about 8 million gallons of oil per day from Griffith, Ind., to Sarnia, Ontario.

Crews waded in oily water as they worked to stop the oil's advance downstream. Oil-covered Canada geese walked along the banks of the Kalamazoo River, and photos showed dead fish floating in the spill. The Kalamazoo River eventually flows into Lake Michigan, but officials didn't expect the oil to reach the lake.

Calgary, Alberta-based Enbridge Inc.'s affiliate Enbridge Energy Partners LP of Houston estimated about 819,000 gallons of oil spilled into Talmadge Creek before the company could stop the flow. Enbridge crews and contractors deployed oil skimmers and absorbent booms to minimize its environmental impact.

"We are going to do what it takes to make this right," Enbridge's president and CEO Patrick D. Daniel said during a news conference in Battle Creek.

The company had begun testing the air near the spill, with the primary concern being the possible presence of the cancer-causing chemical benzene. On Tuesday, the company said it hadn't found any levels that would be of concern in residential areas. Groundwater testing also was planned. Authorities evacuated two homes near the leak, and some locals said they were concerned about the fumes. But there were no reports of sickened residents.

As of Tuesday afternoon, oil was reported in about 16 miles of the Kalamazoo River downstream of the spill, said Mary Dettloff, spokeswoman for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment. She said state officials were told during a company briefing that an estimated 877,000 gallons spilled — a figure more than 50,000 gallons higher than the company's public estimate.

U.S. Rep. Mark Schauer, D-Mich., said he discussed the spill Tuesday with President Barack Obama at the White House. Schauer called the spill a "public health crisis," and said he plans to hold hearings to examine the response.

"The company was originally slow to respond and it is now clear that this is an emergency," Schauer told reporters on a conference call.

The cause of spill was under investigation. The oil spilled into the creek, which flows northwest into the river. The site is in Calhoun County's Marshall Township, about 60 miles southeast of Grand Rapids.

Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm activated the State Emergency Operations Center, and state officials conducted a helicopter flyover. Battle Creek and surrounding Calhoun County declared a local state of emergency.

"Our focus is protecting Michigan citizens and our environment by providing any needed state resources to expediently address the situation," Granholm said in a statement.

Enbridge said it had about 200 employees and contractors working on the spill. Local, state and federal agencies also were involved, and the National Transportation Safety Board launched an investigation. The pipeline was shut down Monday and isolation valves were closed, stopping the source of the oil, the company said.

The Kalamazoo River eventually bisects the city of Kalamazoo and meanders to Saugatuck, where it empties into Lake Michigan. Officials didn't think the oil would spread past Morrow Lake, which has a dam upstream of Kalamazoo, Dettloff said.

The river already faced major pollution issues. An 80-mile segment of the river and five miles of a tributary, Portage Creek, were placed on the federal Superfund list of high-priority hazardous waste sites in 1990. The Kalamazoo site also includes four landfills and several defunct paper mills.

U.S. Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., said in a statement that his office has been in close contact with federal agencies to ensure that cleanup crews have the needed resources to complete the job as quickly as possible.

"For now, the focus is on limiting the damage and cleaning up the oil, Levin said. "It is also vitally important that the company responsible for the spill bear the costs of cleanup and that it compensate anyone who has suffered damages related to the spill."

The Michigan Department of Community Health warned the public to stay away from the creek and river during the cleanup. It also said people shouldn't eat fish from the waterways or have contact with the water, and farmers and homeowners who use the water for irrigation or livestock should stop.

Associated Press Writer David Runk in Detroit contributed to this report.

Environmentalists: Don't Overlook Onshore Drilling (*Black Enterprise Magazine*)

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) — Dozens of environmental groups large and small are urging congressional leaders not to overlook onshore drilling amid debate over how to prevent another oil spill like the Gulf of Mexico disaster.

Drilling for oil and gas often occurs in residential areas, yet it uses large volumes of toxic chemicals and creates large amounts of toxic waste, Earthjustice, the Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society and others wrote in a letter Wednesday to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid.

The groups want more onshore drilling regulation to accompany new rules offshore.

"Although onshore incidents may not make national headlines, communities across the United States regularly experience tragic incidents of their own," they wrote.

Drinking water contamination, air pollution, well blowouts and spills have been happening onshore within the past few months, they said.

Giving more oversight to the federal regulators who failed to prevent the Gulf disaster would be a bad idea, said an industry group, the Western Energy Alliance.

"It doesn't make sense to take more control away from state oil and gas regulators and give it to the federal agency that just oversaw the worst environmental catastrophe in the history of our nation," Marc Smith, executive director of the alliance, said Friday.

He pointed out that 17 Democratic representatives wrote to Pelosi and House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer on Wednesday, urging the leaders not to have a "knee-jerk" reaction by passing "extraneous proposals" restricting onshore energy development.

What Congress really should do, Smith said, is pass a more predictable process for oil, gas and renewable energy development on public land, one that helps companies be more certain about whether their plans can move ahead.

"That's the real reform that's needed," he said.

One bill before Congress would require companies to disclose to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency the chemicals used in a process that improves the productivity of oil and gas wells by pumping water, sand and chemicals underground at high pressure.

Hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," opens rock fissures and improves the flow of oil and gas. Companies currently don't have to disclose their fracking recipes, and they say they need to keep the formulas secret for competitive reasons.

That's been a problem in places like Pavillion in central Wyoming, where the EPA has been investigating whether fracking has contaminated residential water wells, said Steve Jones with the Wyoming Outdoor Council, one of the groups that signed the letter to Pelosi and Reid.

"Keeping the information secret has been hampering the overall investigation. It seems to me all landowners ought to be entitled to know the chemicals that are being used on their property," Jones said.

The EPA plans to host a public meeting on the Pavillion situation next month.

In the East, people have been crowding public meetings on fracking while companies have started using the process to tap gas in the vast Marcellus Shale beneath Pennsylvania, New York, West Virginia and Ohio.

Environmentalists also want Congress to end tax benefits for oil and gas and make sure federal research money focuses on public safety and environmental protection. Another bill would do away with fast-track approval of oil and gas drilling on public land.

"The Deepwater Horizon disaster showed the flaws in the system for offshore drilling," said Jessica Ennis, a legislative associate for Earthjustice in Washington, D.C. "A lot of those flaws are mirrored for the onshore drilling process, too."

Congress could pass drilling legislation next week, she said, but it's not clear yet whether that would cover onshore as well as offshore drilling.

"We obviously think it's important for it to be a comprehensive package," Ennis said.

Other groups signing the letter included the National Audubon Society, Natural Resources Defense Council, Environment America, Biodiversity Conservation Alliance, WildEarth Guardians and smaller organizations in 14 states.

Go Green or Go Home (*Black Enterprise Magazine*)

Time's up. The green economy is making significant headway and will soon be woven into the fabric of business. Unfortunately, many small-business owners and entrepreneurs need to play catch-up.

In recent years, we've realized the green economy impacts nearly every industry. Businesses—especially those that are minority-owned, which have historically lagged in participating—need to learn how their operations, products, and/or services can utilize green innovations and seize the opportunities. It doesn't require a complete overhaul of processes and procedures, but a long-term strategy for establishing a solid footprint in this space should be the goal.

Consumer demand for green products and services is on the rise, and businesses are evolving to provide the supply. U.S. patents for clean-energy technologies in 2009 were at an all-time high, with 200 more patents filed than in 2008, according to the State of Green Business 2010 report by industry website GreenBiz.com. And, according to The Clean Energy Economy report by the Washington, D.C.-based think tank Pew Charitable Trusts, the clean energy segment of the green economy alone includes more than 68,000 businesses and 770,000 jobs in all 50 states. Taking an active role in the green economy and looking for ways to incorporate sustainable resources and green energy will help solidify your place in the changing business landscape.

I know the green space is unfamiliar territory for many entrepreneurs, and some of you are hesitant about the cost and time it takes to see a return on investment. But resources exist for you to get there. The Obama administration invested $80 billion in clean energy programs last year. And organizations such as the Environmental Protection Agency and the Small Business Administration are available to help teach business owners about existing programs and opportunities.

Noble Strategy L.L.C. is an example of how an existing business model can be adjusted to participate in the green economy. The South Orange, New Jersey, construction management and consulting firm's president and CEO, William S. Parrish Jr., received his LEED accreditation (a certification developed by the U.S. Green Building Council) in 2004. He now uses his expertise in sustainable design and construction practices for clients in the private and public sector. Revenues for 2009 were almost $3 million, 20% of which came from green or sustainable projects. And Parrish anticipates that figure to reach 35% by year-end.

Government and nonprofit organizations have a strong incentive to help businesses go green because the implications extend beyond dollars toward saving the environment before it's too late. The Gulf of Mexico is being devastated by the biggest oil spill in U.S. history. Both the ecosystem and small businesses that depend on the Gulf for survival are suffering. Looking forward, sustainability offers small businesses the opportunity to execute three goals: help the environment, help your business, and help the economy. Who's ready to get started?

Tennille M. Robinson is BE's small business editor.

Senate Democrats Turn Focus To Gulf Spill Response (*Black Enterprise Magazine*)

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Democrats hope to pass a narrow energy bill next week that responds to the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico and takes steps to improve energy efficiency, after abandoning plans for a sweeping measure that caps greenhouse gases blamed for global warming.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said no Republican senator was willing to back a comprehensive energy and climate bill, a development he called "terribly disappointing" and even dangerous.

"It's easy to count to 60," Reid told reporters Thursday. "I could do it by the time I was in eighth grade. My point is this, we know where we are. We know we don't have the votes."

Still, the Nevada Democrat said he was optimistic about the more limited measure, which would crack down on oil giant BP PLC, boost energy efficient homes and provide incentives to convert many of the nation's large trucks from diesel fuel to natural gas.

"Number one, we're going to hold BP accountable to ensure that they clean up their mess," Reid said. "Hopefully, we can stop (accidents) from ever happening, but if they do, there will be a process to move forward."

While far from comprehensive, the new bill "is a step forward," Reid said.

Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., lead sponsor of the now-abandoned climate bill, said he was not giving up on efforts to cap heat-trapping carbon emissions. He noted that it took more than two decades for Congress to approve a health care bill championed by his friend and fellow Massachusetts senator, the late Ted Kennedy.

"This is not going to take that long. This is not going to take close to that long. I am absolutely confident that as the American people make their voices heard, and as our colleagues go home and listen to them we're going to grow in our ability to be able to pass this," Kerry said.

Still, the climate bill faces bleak prospects.

Democrats have been trying for more than a year to pass a plan that charges power plants, manufacturers and other large polluters for their carbon dioxide emissions, the leading contributor to global warming.

Last year, the House voted 219-212 for a "cap and trade" plan featuring economic incentives to reduce carbon emissions from power plants, vehicles and other sources.

Republicans slammed the bill as a "national energy tax" and jobs killer, arguing that the costs would be passed on to consumers in the form of higher electricity bills and fuel costs that would lead manufacturers to take their factories overseas.

In recent weeks, Senate Democrats floated a more modest approach that would limit the carbon tax to the electricity sector. That plan, which drew support from the White House and words of encouragement from Republican Sen. Olympia Snowe of Maine, was never formally proposed. But it, too, failed to attract the 60 votes needed to advance it in the 100-member Senate.

White House energy adviser Carol Browner said President Barack Obama continues to support a comprehensive bill that includes a cap on carbon emissions, but said the president also supports Reid's decision to go forward with a narrower bill. For Obama the effort has ranked behind only overhauling the nation's health care system and its financial regulations on his list of priorities.

Sen. Ben Nelson, D-Neb., said Reid and Kerry were wise to withdraw the carbon tax, which many environmental groups say is the best way to combat global climate change.

"If you can't get 60 votes for a package, there's no reason to bring it to the floor," Nelson, who opposed the carbon cap legislation. He said he might support the more limited energy package, but wanted to see the details.

Larry Schweiger, president and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation, said the Senate was on the brink of a colossal failure.

"Too many senators are listening to polluters instead of the American public," he said. "Too many senators have learned nothing from the Gulf disaster and the high price we pay when oil lobbyists dictate our energy laws."

Montana-Saskatchewan Climate Project Shelved (*Black Enterprise Magazine*)

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — Money troubles have stalled indefinitely a proposal to capture carbon dioxide emissions from a Canadian coal plant and store the gas underground in Montana — a largely unproven concept considered key for addressing climate change.

Montana and Saskatchewan's elected leaders had sought $100 million from each of their federal governments for the proposal, but have failed to deliver the money.

It was billed as an industrial-scale test of technologies that could reduce carbon emissions from some of the 650 coal-fired power plants in the two countries. Coal power is the leading industrial source of greenhouse gases blamed for global warming.

But without money for construction, Montana's sponsor in the proposal, the six-state Big Sky Carbon Sequestration Partnership, is shifting its efforts to another carbon storage project, said partnership director Lee Spangler, a professor at Montana State University.

In Saskatchewan, officials say the province may now work without Montana on a scaled-down carbon capture proposal, using $50 million in provincial money.

"It's got enough viability that we could go ahead without the Montana portion," said the province's energy minister, Bill Boyd.

The proposal called for retrofitting a SaskPower coal plant in southern Saskatchewan with equipment to capture 30 percent of its carbon dioxide emissions.

More than 1 million tons of the gas would have been sent through 50 miles of pipelines ending in Montana, where the carbon dioxide was to have been injected deep underground for long-term

storage.

The apparent derailing of that cross-border initiative comes 14 months after it was announced by Montana Gov. Brian Schweitzer and Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall.

At the time, Montana officials said they had requested an Obama administration stimulus grant to pay their half of the bill. But a formal application was never made, according to Spangler and Schweitzer aide Mike Volesky.

The incident has close parallels with another cross-border deal Schweitzer recently made that also hinged on federal money — the retirement of mining company leases near Glacier National Park in the Flathead Valley of British Columbia.

That case led to a high-profile political spat with the state's two U.S. senators, Max Baucus and Jon Tester, after Schweitzer panned the congressional delegation for not delivering money for the mining buy-out — even though he had yet to formally ask for the funding.

Volesky said the Montana-Saskatchewan case was different, and that the state actively sought out the Department of Energy grants even though it never formally applied.

Those efforts were dropped after officials determined the carbon capture project did not qualify for the stimulus grants, Volesky and Spangler said.

In January, Spangler said, the Big Sky partnership applied for a $65 million grant through another Department of Energy Program. That application has since essentially been abandoned after the partnership could not come up with $35 million to cover the rest of the project costs.

"It is our assessment that this project, even though it's a very good project, would take too much time to get together," he said.

Spangler said the $65 million grant was being rewritten to be used on another project, also in Montana, that involves capturing carbon dioxide from a source other than a power plant.

He would not release any further details, citing a confidentiality request made by a private sector partner in the new proposal.

HISPANIC

Peru: miner Doe Run fails to fulfill environmental agreement and is left the closing on the brink (*Univision*)

27 of Julio of 2010, 09:00 p.m. ET
LIMA, 28 Jul 2010 (AFP) -
American miner Doe Run failed to fulfill Tuesday the last term given by the Peruvian authorities to reinitiate activities with the required environmental guarantees, with which the government was in condition for cancelling his operations in a metallurgical complex of the center of the country.

The company, property of Grupo Renco of the United States, raised nevertheless in an official notice that will reinitiate operations in a later date (without needing it) in view of that “subjects subsist that they require to be solved to guarantee the sustainability of the metallurgical complex of the Basket”.

In a warning paid in the local press, Doe Run was committed to continue paying 70% of the wage to the workers, like has done it in the 13 months that take closed the metallurgical one.

The Ministry of Energy and Mines at night announced that Doe Run failed to fulfill its commitment to reinitiate the operations in the Basket and that did not apply a program of environmental protection either, when winning the term of 10 months.

“This breach of the company will be communicated to the supervise institutions (of the State) so that they take the actions that correspond within the framework of their competitions”, indicated the ministry, without needing the measures.

In its official notice, Doe Run indicated that it presented/displayed to his creditors a plan of businesses to reinitiate his operations, including the payment of the total of the debt and the constitution of guarantees for a strategic partner that it will grant the financing.

According to the company --that it said to be in the process to formalize its commitment with the creditors-- that proposal was welcomed “positively” by the government.

The ministry of Energy and Mines had ratified last Friday that the maximum term for the entrance in operation of Doe Run overcame east Tuesday, reason why the closing of the company is considered imminent, that has 3,500 workers.

The Manuela, Secretary of Labor Garci'a, said Tuesday that before the probable closing of the company will put in practice a plan to relocate to the workers in other mining projects of the country.

Doe Run controls the metallurgical complex of the Basket from its privatization in 1997, but it closed operations in June of the last year arguing that was affected by world-wide the financial crisis, the loss of prices of metals and the suspension of a credit of a group of foreign banks.

The Basket, city of about 30,000 inhabitants located 185 km to the east of Lima, to 3,500 meters of altitude, has been living on the mining for more than 100 years and is considered one of the most contaminated of the world.

In spite of it most of its inhabitants it defends to the company by the work sources that it generates.

Into the smelting and refinery of the metallurgical complex typical minerals of Peruvian the $andes are transformed, as it receives, zinc, silver, lead, bismuth, gold, selenium, tellurium and antimony. Also, the company sets off the polimetálica mine Cobriza, also in the central region and equally paralyzed.

The miner must about 200 million dollars to suppliers and to the state treasury and fails to fulfill with the financing of 160 million dollars to put in practice a plan of defense of environment. In the last years it obtained terms to adapt itself to the environmental program, but always it failed to fulfill.

When winning the term, workers of Doe Run went to their center of workings but they stated that there were minerals no to process, informed Royberto Guzmán, Secretary General of the union.

In last January the National Society of Mining, Petroleum and Energía (SNMPE) expelled from its sine to Doe Run not to have will to solve its problems nor to fulfill its commitments.

Joint Center Convenes Experts on 'Climate Change, Human Health and the Well-Being of Vulnerable Communities (*Hispanic Business*)

WASHINGTON, July 26 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- Climate change is predicted to increase the intensity and negative impacts of urban heat events, prompting the need to develop preparedness and adaptation strategies that reduce societal vulnerability to extreme heat. The potential health impacts resulting from climate change are essential to policy discussions about reducing greenhouse gas emissions and about social adaptation to climate change. Children represent a particularly vulnerable group that is likely to suffer disproportionately from both direct and indirect adverse health effects of climate change. Anticipated direct health consequences of climate change include injury and death from extreme weather events and natural disasters; increases in climate sensitive infectious diseases; increases in air pollution-related illness; and more heat related, potentially fatal, illness. Within all of these categories, children experience greater vulnerability in comparison to other groups. The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies has brought together experts to discuss these issues with key stakeholders and provide policy solutions.

What: Joint Center's 40th Anniversary Critical Issues in Climate Change Speakers Series will examine these issues using an interdisciplinary approach that includes information about weather and climate, the natural and built environment, social processes and characteristics, interactions with stakeholders, and an assessment of community vulnerability at the local level.

Who: Georges C. Benjamin, M.D., Executive Director, American Public Health Association

Kimberly Thigpen Tart, Esq., Program Analyst, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Mary H. Hayden, Ph.D., Research Scientist, National Center for Atmospheric Research

Nsedu Obot Witherspoon, Executive Director, Children's Environmental Health Network

Ralph B. Everett, Esq., President and CEO, Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies

When: Tuesday, July 27, 2010 ~ 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (Lunch will be provided.)

Where: Columbus Room at Union Station, 50 Massachusetts Ave., NE Washington, DC 20002

The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies is one of the nation's leading research and public policy institutions and the only one whose work focuses primarily on issues of particular concern to African Americans and other people of color. To learn more, please visit http://www.jointcenter.org/. Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies

Web Site: http://www.jointcenter.org/

NATIVE AMERICAN

7/27/2010 10:29:00 AM

Hopi Council approves carbon capture storage project (*Navajo-Hopi Observer*)

Rosanda Suetopka Thayer
The Observer
KYKOTSMOVI, Ariz. - In a surprise move, the Hopi Tribal Council approved a controversial project with an 8 to 4 vote, giving four western energy companies (WEC Consortium) and the Hopi Tribe the go-ahead to evaluate geologic characteristics of the Black Mesa Basin for potential commercial storage of carbon dioxide (CO2) in a new method known as carbon capture sequestration (CCS).

Nada Talayumptewa, chair of the Hopi Tribe's Energy Team and council representative from Kykotsmovi, placed the action item and resolution on the council's agenda.

The proposed project seeks to drill a series of exploration wells on Hopi land for the purpose of collecting and analyzing detailed geological, geophysical and water quality data. Wells will be drilled to a depth of approximately 9,000 feet to determine if the rock strata is hospitable enough to store toxic CO2 extracted from coal plant emissions underground on Hopi and near Navajo reservation communities.

This project builds from an ongoing Department of Energy (DOE) funded project known as the Arizona Utilities Northern Arizona Pilot Project located at the Cholla Power Plant near Joseph City. The project budget will cost approximately $5.02 million and work would be completed within 15 months of DOE approval.

The other participants include Salt River Project (SRP) as the lead applicant with the Hopi Tribe, Tri-State Generation and Transmission, Tucson Electric Power (TEP) and Peabody Coal Company.

SRP, TEP and Tri-State currently supply generation, transmission and distribution of electricity to communities through Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming and Nebraska. Peabody is one of the major coal producers in the United States.

Immediately adjacent to both Hopi and Navajo communities, the project has very little research available to assess long range impacts on the Black Mesa Basin, which contains billions of tons of high quality, low sulfur coal reserves as well as coal bed methane, oil and gas reserves. The basin is currently surrounded by six coal-fired energy plants which produce over 11,000 megawatts of power and emits 65 million tons of harmful CO2 annually.

Concerns about the approval of this controversial project have raised many questions from the Hopi people, who heard about the approval through tribal department heads.

One of the more immediate concerns was that Hopi tribal members were never given an opportunity to voice their concerns and question the council regarding such a new technology as CCS, since it is still considered experimental, and long term storage of CO2 is a relatively new concept. Scientists have stated that CO2 can be "captured" with one such experiment taking place at the Cholla Power Plant by Arizona Public Service, but long term outcomes are still being researched.

There are also questions about how long the CO2 will be stored. The short answer is: forever.

Another concern is water. Since CCS requires massive amounts of water because the capturing and compression requires much energy, the Consortium also states that they don't have the water right now, which would mean an increase in pumping Hopi and Navajo water from its current water rate. Proposed increases call for another 25 to 40 more water being pumped.

Safety is also a critical issue since scientists have stated that they cannot predict how long CO2 can be safely stored since it could potentially leak into other underground aquifers or into the air.

Hopi community members have also asked: Can the Hopi Tribe pull out of the project? The answer is yes, but not without consequences. SRP, which operates the Mohave Generating station, is the principal investigator and applicant for the $5 million dollar grant from the DOE. If the Hopi Tribe pulls out of the project, they could possibly be put into a serious liability situation for "misleading" DOE in accessing the money for this experiment.

Peabody has also been actively participating and supporting the CCS project because they want to keep mining Hopi and Navajo coal for a very long time.

Joelynn Roberson, a consultant to the Consortium, is also under fire from the Hopi community since part of her position description requires her to act as facilitator to the Hopi nation to "ensure permitting" and to engage in public outreach on tribal lands concerning the project, which to date has not occurred.

Two former Hopi Chairmen, Vernon Masayesva and Benjamin Nuvamsa, spoke to the Observer about their concerns.

Nuvamsa stated, "The Hopi Tribe is assuming a lot about this project. These are poisonous gases ... from the coal fired plants [that will be] deposited into wells 9,000 feet deep for more than a lifetime. Therein lies the problem. It's just another way to allow these plants to keep polluting but this time, they would be polluting our water, not the air."

"It's a pretty clever way ... for these companies to get around tough EPA air emissions control requirements like [Best Alternative Retrofit Technology] (BART). They are trying to divert our tribal attention away from the coal plants polluting the skies and a way to justify the continued existence of their plants," he added.

Masayesva stated, "This project approved by the Hopi Council, which will allow the Hopi and Navajo geologic strata and water reserves to store CO2 is highly experimental. Hopi and Navajo people have good reason to suspect that the sequestration model cannot accurately predict the migration of CO2 We have no idea and neither do scientists of the true picture of the extent of damages that can be done to the ground water in the Black Mesa Basin."

He added, "Bottom line, the question that this project and its supporters must answer to the Hopi and Navajo people is this: Did the Hopi Tribe actually want the CO2 sequestration on Hopi land, or are they using this sequestration project as a vehicle to collect mineral data? If the latter is true, then the Hopi Council has now acted in bad faith, and this could have serious consequences for our tribe because it would mean that SRP, Peabody and the other energy companies along with Hopi water consultant Joelynn Roberson could be accused of securing federal money for this project under false pretenses."

Nuvamsa concluded, "What everyone here on Hopi and Navajo should understand is that once the CO2 is injected into our reservation homeland ground, it will not be possible to extract those poisonous gases or stop them from permeating into our aquifers. Our aquifers will be forever poisoned. Future Hopi and Navajo generations will pay the price for a few measly dollars that these Hopi council members want. This is what I call environmental extortion."

The eight Hopi Council members who approved the project included: Nada Talayumptewa, Phillip Quochytewa, Norman Honanie, Danny Honanie, Everett Calnimptewa, Wayne Kuwanhoiyoma, Velma Kelyesva and Arvin Puhuyesva.

A public information meeting sponsored by the InterTribal COALition group to discuss this topic will be held at the Hotevilla Youth and Elderly Center at 10 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 6. A meal will be provided and all Hopi and Navajo tribal members are encouraged to come to share their opinions and concerns regarding this project.