

CHE-Penn E-Newsletter #2, July, 2005

---- Panel Discussion: **HEALTH IMPACTS OF MERCURY IN THE ENVIRONMENT** ----

WHERE:

The Children's Institute - Multi-Purpose Room, 1405 Shady Avenue, Squirrel Hill
Call 412-420-2400 for directions

WHEN:

Thursday July 14th - 5:00-6:30 p.m.
RSVP to 412-521-2873, Free and open to the public

PANELISTS:

Laura Hewitson, Ph.D., Magee-Womens Research Institute
Jo Ann Meier, M.Ed., Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation of Pittsburgh
Heather Sage, M.En., Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future (PennFuture)

Sponsored by:

- Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation of Pittsburgh,
- Collaborative on Health and the Environment in Pennsylvania,
- Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future (PennFuture)
- The Heinz Endowments.

Endorsed by: American Lung Association of Pennsylvania; Center for Environmental Oncology, University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute; Center for Healthy Environments and Communities, University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health; Conservation Consultants, Inc.; Group Against Smog and Pollution; Healthy Children Project of the Learning Disabilities Association of America; Lake Erie-Allegheny Earth Force; Magee-Womens Hospital of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center; Magee-Womens Research Institute; Mold Across America; Next Generation Choices Foundation; Sustainable Pittsburgh; the County of Berks and the Berks County Environmental Advisory Council.

Download the pamphlet at: http://www.che-penn.org/July14_leaflet.pdf

-----CHE-Penn Partner Introduction & Profile: **Mold Across America**-----

Mold Across America focuses on raising public awareness about various indoor environmental quality-related issues. The main goals of the organization are to educate the public on the dangers of, and prevention of, indoor molds, and to offer emotional support to those who have been exposed. Through such educational programs, Mold Across America concentrates on reducing illnesses and deaths caused by exposure to environmental microbes. The organization is based in Cleveland, OH.

For the latest news about mold, a comprehensive library of mold resources, or to read stories of those exposed to molds, please visit www.moldacrossamerica.org

-----CHE-Penn Partner Announcements – **PUSH** -----

FROM: Pennsylvanians United for Single-Payer Healthcare

The Pennsylvania HealthCare Solutions Coalition website is up and you can get copies of the proposed legislation, a summary, 101 reasons to support it, and other information, at www.pahcsc.org.

-----CHE-Penn Partner Announcements – **Air Toxic Guidelines** -----

FROM: Clean Water Action

The Federal Clean Air Act sets health-based standards for only six “criteria” pollutants in ambient air. Yet, hundreds of different chemicals are released every day; and over 80,000 chemicals are in use around the country. Allegheny County is in the top 50 counties in the US for such emissions, with over six million pounds of chemicals released locally each year. Using very basic lab analyses, Clean Water Action’s neighborhood-based “Bucket Brigades” have found over 50 toxic chemicals in our region’s air.

The lack of federal standards has prompted a number of states and cities to set their own standards for known air toxics. The Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) is currently proposing a set of **Air Toxics Guidelines** that would set standards for any company seeking permits to emit air toxics from a new or expanded plant. This proposal would cover several hundred pollutants of concern, including mercury, arsenic, benzene, and PCE.

ACTIONS NEEDED:

Please write to Roger Westman, Manager of the Air Quality Program at ACHD (rwestman@achd.net), and urge him to adopt strong air toxics regulations that protect the health of local residents.

Attend meetings of ACHD’s Air Toxics Subcommittee; next meeting is August 19 at 1:30pm at ACHD. For more information, contact Myron Arnowitz marnowitz@cleanwater.org.

-----CHE-Penn Partner Announcements – **Green Energy Event** -----

FROM: PennFuture

No matter what your organizational mission, buying clean energy should be your leadership goal.

Old power plants release nitrogen oxides in large quantities, which contribute to the formation of ozone – a primary component of smog. According to the EPA, exposure to smog decreases lung function, aggravates pre-existing lung disease, increases hospital emergency visits and admissions, and can even lead to death.

Microscopic soot from power plants makes the problem even worse. Every year, thousands of people die because of the strain this air pollution puts on their bodies.

Toxic chemicals from old power plants leach into the soil and into the food chain. Mercury contaminates the fish we eat, risking brain damage, birth defects or retarded growth in children.

Join other non-profits and clean energy providers to hear more about how purchasing clean electricity benefits health, the environment, and our communities.

Who: Leading public interest organizations

What: A free lunch! (Really...)

When: Thursday, July 21, 2005, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Where: CCI Center (Conservation Consultants, Inc.), 64 South 14th St., South Side, Pittsburgh. For a map, see www.ccicenter.org.

RSVP by Friday, July 15th to Heather Sage, 412-258-6681 or sage@pennfuture.org.

Brought to you by PennFuture, Conservation Consultants Inc., Community Energy, Green Mountain Energy, and Native Energy. More info at www.cleanyourair.org.

-----**Please submit to CHE-Penn E-News**-----

The deadline for the July E-Newsletter is July 31, 2005. Please send short (200 words or less) announcements and events to list to che-penn@comcast.net