



# ACTIVISTS AROUND THE STATE

Activists are encouraged to submit an update on their groups events and successes to: Editor, Michigan Toxics Watch, 417 Detroit Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 48104.

## GRAYLING

AuSable Conservation Trust, featured in the last issue of MTW, scored a long-sought victory when the Air Quality Division finally responded to numerous odor complaints from area residents by citing Weyerhaeuser with a violation of the Air Pollution Control Commission's Rule 901 "a person shall not cause or permit the emission of any air contaminant... in quantities that cause... unreasonable interference with the comfortable enjoyment of life and property." The company is now required to remediate and monitor the facility.

## FREELAND

Residents of Freeland, home of the CSX trainwreck and toxic spill, are hoping to stop the delisting of hazardous soil contaminated from the accident. The soil has been traveling around without a home as activists have been successful in alerting potential host communities to the real contents of the load. Freeland area activists are encouraging groups to contact DNR Director Hales and Governor Engler to stop the deregulation.

## MUSKEGON

Muskegon environmental groups scored an important victory when Diana Anderson, local activist and member of Citizens United for the Environment was appointed to the Muskegon County Local Emergency Planning Commission- a group which is dominated by industry groups. Diana's appointment will give citizens at least one voice in the county on hazardous materials issues.

## ANN ARBOR

A senior housing group successfully stopped a pesticide spraying in their apartment complex through an impressive community organizing and educational effort. Two area city council people, themselves chemically sensitive, came to their aid. Less toxic IPM (Integrated Pest Management) practices will be instituted in their housing unit.

## AUBURN HILLS

Residents Against Incinerators and Landfills, HOPE, CAP, Evergreen Alliance and other anti-incinerator groups have formed a strong coalition to defeat proposed incinerators in southeastern Michigan. A funeral march in Madison Heights drew attention to the dangers of incineration. Area groups also recently organized a debate between Paul Connett, incinerator expert, and the county commissioners. The commissioners declined to debate, however several stood with the crowd of 600 concerned residents as Mr. Connett spoke about the dangers of incineration.

The group was also one of a number of grassroots toxics groups that ran candidates in the most recent election. Several of the coalition's candidates for county commissioner were narrowly defeated, but important issues were raised as a result of their candidacy.

## MELVINDALE AND SOUTHWEST DETROIT

Regulatory changes proposed by the DNR may prevent Crystal Salt Mines President and trash mogul Walter Tomy from resurrecting his plan to build a hazardous waste disposal facility in the salt mines of Detroit. Area groups are organizing to fight any attempts to use the salt mines for disposal, or to weaken regulations regarding salt mine use. Concerns about increasing the disposal capacity in Michigan without proven need, integrity of the mine, transport of hazardous chemicals and past poor performance of similar facilities are some of the issues. Groups working in coalition against the plan include MECA, DCSE, Evergreen Alliance, ERC (see page 8 MTW).

## WALPOLE ISLAND, ONTARIO

Residents of the Indian Reserve on Walpole Island are trying to call attention to the contamination sites upstream which are poisoning their drinking water (their water treatment facility is primitive and inadequate to handle the frequent spills from plants like Dow Chemical upriver) and making their fish dangerous to eat. Activists on the Reserve are pressing the Canadian Government and the responsible polluters to insure a safe water supply for residents, and to adequately warn people of the risks of eating fish or drinking contaminated water.

