



**Waukesha
County
Environmental
Action League**

E-newsletter October 2014

Updates on Proposed Gasification Projects in WI

By: Charlene Lemoine

GEITS (Global Environmental Infrastructure Technology Solutions)

GEITS and the City of Adams, WI reached a settlement Agreement and Mutual Release that terminates all contracts the City of Adams entered into with GEITS. The Settlement also required Adams to pay GEITS \$301,050.

The WEAL website (www.weal.org) has posted additional information along with the Settlement Agreement.

GEITS and the Village of Mukwonago

The Village has had no further communications with GEITS and has confirmed GEITS never responded to a 4/17/14 letter in which the Village asked a number of

questions, regarding finances, experience and asked for a list of similar gasification facilities in the U.S and Europe.



Oneida Seven Generations Corp. (OSGC)

Financing for the OSGC staged-incinerator project came from Federal loans, grants and from WI taxpayers through funding from WEDC (Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation). On 8/15/14 WEDC sent OSGC a Past Due Notice to OSGC and on 9/12/14 a Final Notice was sent stating a payment of \$161,654.00 was due within 30 days or WEDC could demand full payment of \$1,997,937.62.

The **WI Supreme Court** recently accepted the OSGC/Green Bay appeal. The first brief is scheduled for 10/20/14

“The Facts on Gasification” document posted on the WEAL website has more information on issues relating to the OSGC, GEITS and other gasification companies.

Advanced Disposal Emerald Park Landfill Expansion on Hold

By: Charlene Lemoine

WEAL submitted comments objecting to an additional 7.8 million cubic yards of disposal capacity for the Emerald Park Landfill in Muskego. The proposed expansion would require destroying approximately 12.9 acres of wetlands and would increase the site-life of the landfill beyond the 15 years of capacity allowed in Wisconsin. Additionally the expansion request was based on a potential waste disposal contract, which is not justification for DNR approval.

WEAL also addressed several design and environmental issues associated with burying waste (See WEAL Comments & DNR Response- www.weal.org)

The DNR received public comments from WEAL, the City of Muskego and from the Cornerstone Environmental Group, L.L.C. on behalf of Advanced Disposal Services. Residents most impacted by an expansion were unable to submit comments because the expansion extends a 1999 local

siting agreement that includes language requiring the landfill owner to purchase homes if buyer cannot be found. In return homeowners agreed not to interfere with the permitting process. This agreement effectively prohibits homeowners from submitting public comments. Although the DNR cannot intervene with local siting issues, WEAL included comments on strategies to limit public participation to establish a record of our objections.

A DNR letter sent to Advanced Disposal Services Emerald Park Landfill on 8/01/2014 informed the company an Individual Wetland Permit will be required and Advanced Disposal will have to “provide reliable evidence that it will receive a sustained annual waste volume that will result in a site-life of not more than 15 years.” (See DNR letter to Advanced Disposal 8/01/2014 at www.weal.org.)

WEAL plans to submit additional comments on a Wetlands Permit for the Emerald Park Landfill if Advanced Disposal pursues the proposed expansion.

Thanks to blogger and former journalist, James Rowen, for allowing WEAL to use his words to update you on Waukesha's Water Diversion Application. Some of the comments are included as well to extend the look-back period.

From The Political Environment

By James Rowen

POSTED AT 2:30 PM
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8,
2014

About Waukesha's water diversion - - not a drop after 54 months

Let us be the first to note that it has been exactly 4.5 years - - or fifty-four months - - since the Waukesha Common Council approved an application for a diversion of water from Lake Michigan.

And in those fifty-four months have come and gone two Waukesha mayors, at least a million dollars in consulting and legal fees, and Lord knows how many meetings, application rewrites, deadlines, fits and no starts - - but not a drop of water has been diverted, nor a shovel of earth turned nor a single regulatory approval won to get the show on the road.

And the potential price for all those pumps, pipes and plethora of project costs has shot past the \$200 million mark.

Kinda suggests that there's been a lot of official grandiosity, monument building

and development dreaming pumped out of Waukesha since April 8, 2010, but little demonstration of real need.

Here's a few other ways to measure how much time has passed since the Waukesha Common Council said it was sending the Wisconsin DNR an application worthy of implementation:

- * Jim Doyle isn't Governor of Wisconsin anymore. Scott Walker moved to the mansion from the Milwaukee County Executive's office nearly four years ago at a time when people thought John Doe was in an old movie.
- * iPhone 3 was Apple's latest and greatest.
- * The TV hit series "Modern Family" hadn't begun its second season.
- * You could still buy a new Ford Crown Vic or a Ford Ranger.
- * Prince Fielder was the Milwaukee Brewers first baseman. Jeff Suppan was in the starting rotation. Primoz Brezec played for The Milwaukee Bucks.
- * In fact, when the Waukesha Common Council said it was done with the application - - and city officials began talking about quick approvals and tight timetables - - Brett Favre was already gone from Green Bay, had played one season with The New York Jets and was halfway through a two-year stint with The Minnesota Vikings.

See what I mean? April 2010 was a long time ago.

Maybe that Waukesha application is history, too, since there are available alternatives through conservation, better filtration, wells at the Fox River bank and closer shallow aquifers at the ready.

COMMENTS: Anonymous said...

It's funny how Waukesha needs to ask for a handout after mismanaging their resources. It's so hypocritical.

[OCTOBER 8, 2014 AT 3:07 PM](#)

Boxer said...
Lots of money over the dam, but no water.
Egos, Water Utility and City hubris
exceeding flood stage.

[OCTOBER 8, 2014 AT 5:02 PM](#)

Boxer said...
Your timeline, though accurate for the time period covered, doesn't include the water drama that preceded the "first" application. That goes all the way back to 2000-2001 as Waukesha tried to influence the content of the Great Lakes Compact to favor its preselected "alternative" of a Lake Michigan diversion. Or the legal water drama that raged throughout the '80s and '90s as Waukesha tried to wiggle out from complying with the EPA's radium standard, all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court where they lost -- and lost every step of the way. More tax- and ratepayer-- money wasted. But we're supposed to trust our "leaders" who keep insisting they know what's best for Waukesha residents, the City of Milwaukee, and the Great Lakes region.

[OCTOBER 8, 2014 AT 5:13 PM](#)



Top 10 Countries with Healthiest Environment

The Environmental Performance Index (EPI) is a metric used to rank countries on how they fare in terms of environmental health and ecosystem vitality. A total of 12 indicators are combined to come up with an EPI for each country.

- Switzerland. -----EPI: 87.7
- Luxembourg. -----EPI: 83.3
- Australia. -----EPI: 82.4
- Singapore ----- EPI: 81.8
- Czech Republic----- EPI: 81.5
- Germany. -----EPI: 80.5
- Spain. ----- EPI: 79.8
- Austria. -----EPI: 78.3
- Sweden. -----EPI: 78.1
- Norway. -----EPI: 78.0

There is a clear positive relationship between EPI and GDP of each country: places with a high GDP also have high environmental performance indicators.

Source Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy



Waukesha County Environmental Action League

Invites you to attend their

Annual Meeting Event

November 13, 2014 -- 7pm

Retzer Nature Center

S14 W28167 Madison St, Waukesha, WI

Turning the Tide: Citizen Action in a Warming World

Speaker: Mike Arney

Milwaukee West Group Lead, Citizens' Climate Lobby



In 1988, NASA scientist James Hansen testified that the planet was warming due to human activities. Since that time, greenhouse emissions have accelerated, temperatures have risen, and we have seen extreme weather events from Hurricane Katrina to the drought of 2013. There has not yet been a global-scale response to this global problem. But there are good reasons for hope. **In fact, Waukesha County may be the perfect place.**

Join us for an evening discussion of the great problem of our century. And learn about the efforts of Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL), a 7-year-old grassroots nonprofit with a laser focus and a passion for citizen empowerment.

"America's true history is not about 'Great Men' but about grassroots rebels and movements." *Jim Hightower*

Learn more about WEAL at: www.WEAL.org