

WEST ENERGY NEWS September 2010

"To educate and advocate for a sustainable energy future for the Macatawa area

www.westmichiganenergy.org



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September 10th & 11th 2010



West Michigan has over 120 LEED (leader in energy and environmental design) certified buildings, and the Holland area is home to a number of them. The Hospitality Tour will include City Flats Hotel and the Holland Plaza East Office Building. The Furniture City Tour will include Herman Miller's Building B West in Zeeland and Haworth's One Haworth Center in Holland.

For more information, go to <http://www.usgbcwm.org/green-buildings-tour-track> Even if you don't go to the conference, the tour schedule gives you a list of outstanding green buildings to drive by or visit!



Speakers Ellen Davis (Scripture: Culture and Agriculture) and Norman Wirzba (Renewing Religion in an Ecological Age) and also experiential tours (energy audit of a church is one), films and worship. Holland resident Peter Boogaart will speak on "Green Teams and the Local Church." Travis West will speak and lead a tour on Gardening and Food. Google Western Theological Seminary and click on the conference title.

Holland Power Plant Permit Refused by DNRE

Holland City Begins Appeal Process

Timeline

- July 7 Michigan Public Service Commission reports that the Holland request to build a 78MW coal-fired power plant over-estimates future demand and future costs of renewable energy, while under-estimating energy efficiency potential. MPSC advised considering alternate fuels and buying more energy produced elsewhere. The report goes to Dept. Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE).
- Aug.12 Holland BPW sues state, demanding quick action on permit from DNRE.
- Aug.16 DNRE denies permit, citing the information in the MPSC report (above).
- Aug 29 Holland Sentinel editors write that "half the size of the 78 MW plan — would provide a prudent though modest increase in capacity."
- Aug.27 Holland Board of Public Works votes to spend \$65,000 to retain law firm Barnes and Thornburg to prepare a cost estimate of a legal appeal in Ottawa County Circuit Court.
- Sep. 1 Holland City Council votes unanimously to support the appeal, saying that the state has overreached its rights. Instead of using only clean air standards, the DNRE considered need, alternatives and other factors. Concern about the city's right to make decisions about its energy future was the deciding factor for council-members.



WATCH FOR: News on the cost/timeline for City appeal of DNRE ruling

WEST members have repeatedly spoken at meetings of the HBPW and City Council, emphasizing the need to:

- ◆ avoid the climate-change triggering CO2 emissions associated with coal burning;
- ◆ make Holland's energy production more affordable in the long term, and
- ◆ invest in making the Holland area a national model for energy-efficiency since this will help citizens and businesses survive and thrive.



Background: consider the actual U.S Clean Air Law, cited by Gov. Granholm as the reason for more than the usual air-quality requirements: "No major emitting facility on which construction is commenced after August 7, 1977, may be constructed in any area. . . unless (1) a permit has been issued for such proposed facility . . . setting forth emission limitations for such facility and. . . (2) the proposed permit has been subject to a review. . . the required analysis has been conducted . . . and a public hearing has been held with opportunity for interested persons. . . to submit written or oral presentations on the air quality impact of such source, alternatives thereto, control technology requirements, and other appropriate considerations. Clean Air Act (Sect. 165 (a)(2).

---report by Sara Leeland