

December 2008

WEST Energy News

Holland, MI

www.westmichiganenergy.org

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

The New Coal Rush! PUBLIC COMMENT TIME for Holland's Coal Plant

What's in store for Holland if the state approves the city request to build a larger coal-fired power plant on the downtown waterfront site of the DeYoung plant?

Citizens have many questions. How will it affect air quality here, especially for those with asthma? Do we want the waterfront marked for the next 50 years as a coal production site? What if, instead of rushing ahead with added coal capacity, Holland seriously cut back on electric use, lowering need? How will energy from the 20-turbine wind farm in the U.P., now under study, change our coal-energy needs? How will likely federal limits on carbon emissions affect Holland's plans? Will the Nov. 13th EPA appeals board decision, that blocked the permit for a new Utah coal plant until controls on carbon emissions are place, affect the permit for Holland's plant?

On Tuesday, Dec. 16th, Michigan's Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will present the plan during a 5 - 9 p.m. meeting at Doubletree Hotel (650 E. 24th St.). The written public comment period began on Nov. 26 and lasts until Jan. 30. On Jan. 12 (7 p.m.) and 13 (12-2 p.m. And 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.), DEQ will return to Doubletree Hotel for a formal hearing of public statements. Air emissions impacts don't stop at the city boundary, so all concerned area citizens are urged to attend.

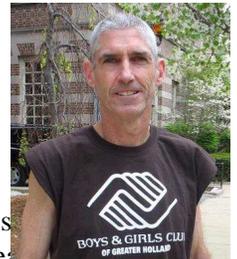
Check our website(www.westmichiganenergy.org) for updates on the public sessions. A copy of the plant permit application is posted at the DEQ Air Quality Division web site (www.deq.gov). The Sierra Club's site (www.sierraclub.org/coal) has in-depth background.

**COULD YOUR GROUP SPONSOR
AN ENERGY WEEK EVENT March 14-20, 2009?**
Send your idea to Marty Dugan mpdugan@macatawa.org.
He'll get you on the program!

GETTING OFF FOSSIL FUELS BY 2050?

Michigan Conference Highlights an
Alternative Future

by Marty Dugan,
WEST Co-founder



The mid-November *Conference on Michigan's Future: Energy, Economy and Environment* opened a new vision for Michigan's energy future. Keynote speaker Richard Heinberg, from the Post Carbon Institute, set a goal that we be off fossil fuels by 2050. His outline for the future included strong support for energy conservation; reduction of fossil fuel production and development of renewable options.

A speaker from Detroit Edison outlined a needed portfolio by 2010-12: 25% conservation, 25% nuclear, 25% renewable, and 25% coal. That utility wants to bring new nuclear power plants to Michigan. Some utilities supported more coal burning to keep pace with Michigan's 'growing needs', while most at the conference focused on working diligently toward moving away from coal.

ENERGY CONSERVATION NOON-HOURS at Holland's Herrick Library

Plan to come to film, panels and discussion at noon on Jan. 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th. Co-sponsored by WEST and Herrick library. Details in next newsletter or contact Don Triezenberg: [<dontriesenberg@gmail.com>](mailto:dontriesenberg@gmail.com).