



SUMMER 2021

Volume 43, Issue 3

The future of the Earth is in our Hands.

CACC NEWS

JOHN AND CARRIE WALES
Center for Environmental and Social Justice

www.caccmi.org

WATER WATCH – SUMMER, 2021

Chemical Soup Affecting Drinking Water – Despite the considerable efforts of waste water treatment plants, a virtual soup of toxic materials emerge unchanged and become part of urban drinking water. A study by the Environmental Working Group to estimate whether chemical levels that don't exceed government limits in drinking water could combine to increase health risks found that "Even at legal limits, we're seeing a hundred thousand potential lifetime cancer cases that could be related to drinking water contaminants as they are in the water today." Although waste water treatment plants do evaluate these stray contaminants, they only examine up to 30 chemicals every five years. And combinations of these chemicals aren't the focus of these studies.

- Lester Graham, Michigan Radio, 07/06/2021 www.michiganradio.org › [post](#) › [chemical-soup-can-get-your-drinking-water](#)

Great Lakes Water Diversion – Is this something we should worry about? – The Great Lakes region is often regarded as one of the most climate-resilient places in the U.S., mainly because of the protective lakes that define us. But those very resources are at risk as communities outside the basin target the fresh water to enable industrial and population growth. There have been four Great Lakes water diversion proposals in the past 13 years. Any proposal under the 5 million gallons per day threshold only requires approval from the state's regulatory agency. Over that threshold, all members of the Great Lakes Compact are required to approve. "Excepted from the diversion rule is the Chicago diversion which takes 2 billion gallons from Lake Michigan each day, humanitarian usage, and water use in products like manufacturing and agriculture," said Jim Olson, environmental attorney and founder of FLOW. "The product provision is the biggest loophole, which allows containers carrying less than 5.7 gallons from the basin." This last exemption, known as the "water bottle" loophole, was at the heart of the Nestle Ice Mountain facility in Mecosta County. In the years 2005 – 2015, Nestle withdrew and bottled 3.4 billion gallons of groundwater, about 10% of which was sold outside the region. Other companies, such as Pfizer Pharmaceutical (developers of the Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine) draw out billions of gallons of water a year for use in products. Other exceptions affect communities located partially in the basin or within a county located partially in the basin. According to Dave Dempsey, Policy Director for FLOW, the future of water diversions largely depends on the severity of climate change and what that will look like across the country as well as increased migration TO the Great Lakes region because of its stable climate and water resources.

- Elena Bruess, Bridge/Michigan Environment Watch 05/15/2021 [Water wars: Should Michigan worry about water diverted from Great Lakes? | Bridge Michigan](#) (continued on page 2)

ATTENTION CACC KITCHEN WORKERS:

The CACC Board would like to thank you for signing up to help us in the 2021 CACC Kitchen. You are all very brave and loyal to both CACC and Wheatland!

If you signed up this year you will be contacted next year to join us for Wheatland 2022.

Thanks again,
The CACC Board & Laura, Ann and Connie

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Now it's raining PFAS! – According to scientists at the Integrated Atmospheric Deposition Network (IADN), a jointly funded Great Lakes monitoring program of the US and Canada, rainwater collected over a two-week period in April contained a combined concentration of about 1,000 ppt of PFAS compounds. Although the data has not yet undergone peer reviews, it's not an exaggeration to say that it's literally raining PFAS as these persistent chemicals are a major contaminant of rainwater samples taken at sites around the Great Lakes, including the Sleeping Bear Dunes and Eagle Harbor in Michigan. Because the water cycle is interconnected between rainwater, surface water, and groundwater, scientists see this as another source of PFAS in lakes and streams and can help explain trace amounts in sites upstream of known PFAS contamination areas.

Garret Ellison, MLive 06/08/2021 It's literally raining PFAS around the Great Lakes, say researchers - mlive.com

Proposed Enbridge tunnel to require EIS – In a major block to Enbridge's plan to construct a tunnel through the Straits of Mackinaw to carry its controversial Line 5 pipeline, the US Army Corps of Engineers, the federal agency that regulates civil works projects, is requiring Enbridge to conduct an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the project instead of the more surface level "environmental assessment" the company proposed. This would be the first EIS required for Line 5, since the initial construction predated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The EIS will require Enbridge to investigate the environmental risks of building the tunnel, detail what efforts will be taken to mitigate those risks, and explore all possible alternatives. Such studies typically run three or more years, putting significant doubt on whether the project will move forward. Public comment will also be part of the process, and over 15,000 comments were received in December at a public hearing in Detroit.

• Grist, 07/02/2021 [The feds just threw a wrench into Enbridge's plan to keep Line 5 running | Grist](#)

Rocket Launch Sites for Michigan?

Michigan Aerospace Manufacturers Association (MAMA) has proposed two rocket launch sites for Michigan – one in Oscoda and another near Marquette and Lake Superior. Also, a proposed command and control center is planned for Chippewa County in the Upper Peninsula. Citizens for a Safe and Clean Lake Superior has information for Michigan and the Great Lakes residents about the serious and likely long-term industrial pollution concerns that would be associated with a rocket launch site by Lake Superior. They also have a petition and actions citizens can take. Learn more at: stoptherocket.com

CACC ANNUAL MEETING AND BOARD ELECTION



At the CACC Annual Meeting on June 5, a new member was elected to the CACC Board. Tom Strawn of Standish, a teacher and carpenter, joins the board for a term running July 1 to June 30. Former board members Cameron Harwell, Chance Hunt, and Stanley Yascolt stepped down. Murry DeSanto was elected Chairperson, while Laura Sanderson and Ann Hunt stay in their roles as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively.

The meeting featured a panel

presentation on nuclear issues facing the Great Lakes as well as the renaming of the CACC office to honor John and Carrie Wales who donated the building. The panel presentation via ZOOM has been saved and is available on the CACC website www.caccmi.org

Left photo, new sign on CACC office. Right photo, Linda Wales Donohoe, Mary Wales Guzowski, and CACC Chairperson Chance Hunt.

Photo credits, Ann Hunt.



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Thank you to Chance Hunt for serving as CACC Chairperson for the past two years. Quite the generous act in light of his very full schedule! Thanks also for the opportunity to take on this position.

We are all disappointed that the Wheatland Music Festival was cancelled, but I am grateful that the WMO board made this decision. I'm sure it was a tough, but safe conclusion. Please put on your brain storming hat and send us your fundraising ideas in lieu of feeding the masses at the festival.

If someone wants to make a YouTube clip about composting, no till gardening, rock polishing, vegan stew, etc.,etc.,etc. under the name of CACC it would help raise awareness about our organization. If/when you do this it will be run by the Board for approval and would be accessible through our website and Facebook page. Thanks in advance.

We can share social media sites such as Facebook's The Non-consumer Advocate just to promote Earth-friendly living. Small and frequent or large and occasionally, we will keep our actions moving in the right direction.

Murry

CHLORPYRIFOS FINALLY BANNED FOR FOOD USE

Despite decades of scientific evidence linking the popular pesticide chlorpyrifos to neurological damage in children, the Trump Administration overruled its scientists to keep the insecticide on the market for use on fruits and vegetables. In 2000, it was banned for use in termite control where it was injected into the soils around homes and eventually made its way to groundwater.

The insecticide was used on soybeans, almonds, cauliflower and other food crops. Farmers often used it when no other pesticide was effective in pest control.

A review by the Biden Administration following a ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit that the EPA must ban the use of chlorpyrifos on food crops unless staff could prove that it could be used safely, resulted in an immediate ban for its use on food crops, although it can be used on cotton and golf courses. A decision on these and other nonfood uses is expected before the end of 2021.

Dino Grandoni, "Trump let this pesticide stay on the market. Under Biden, EPA is banning its use in food."

[Washington Post](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2021/08/06/epa-banning-chlorpyrifos-use-in-food/), 08/06/2021

ECO CALENDAR

CACC Board Meetings - Third Thursday of every month at 7 pm, by conference call. Check the CACC website www.caccmi.org for details of how to join.

10/15 – Rural Michigan Initiative, Alma College. Climate change, the pandemic, and a changing economy have revealed vulnerabilities in our rural communities that demand attention, consideration, and action. At this conference, we'll explore the appropriate avenues for change – and how to garner the most input and support from our wider audience. Learn more at: alma.edu/rmi



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