

Conservation Committee Report

Volume 17 Issue 1

Jack Walters—Conservation Chairman

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EPA Administrator Applauds Efforts to Feed the Hungry While Protecting the Planet

The Conservation Pledge

I give my pledge as an American to save and faithfully defend from waste, the natural resources of my country; the soil, the water, the air, the minerals, the plant life and the wildlife.

This is my Pledge!

Inside this issue:

EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy came to Philadelphia to recognize Brown's ShopRite store in West Philadelphia and Drexel University's Culinary Arts & Food Science Program for developing a new way to help the environment and feed hungry people.

Both Brown's ShopRite and Drexel

University are partners in EPA's Food Recovery Challenge.

"Through EPA's Food Recovery Challenge, we're able to partner with private sector businesses, nonprofits and other entities to not only help reduce the amount of food in landfills and combat climate change, but help businesses save

money on waste disposal," said EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy. "The Brown's ShopRite and Drexel University Food Lab pilot program is a great example of an innovative solution to encourage food recovery,

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EPA Proposes Smog Standards to Safeguard Americans from Air Pollution

Based on extensive recent scientific evidence about the harmful effects of ground-level ozone, or smog, EPA is proposing to strengthen air quality standards to within a range of 65 to 70 parts per billion (ppb) to better

protect Americans' health and the environment, while taking comment on a level as low as 60 ppb. The Clean Air Act requires EPA to review the standards every five years by following a set of open, transparent steps and considering the advice of a

panel of independent experts. EPA last updated these standards in 2008, setting them at 75 ppb.

"Bringing ozone pollution standards in line with the latest

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while providing nourishing meals for the hungry."

In the past the produce department at Brown's ShopRite stores routinely threw away the less attractive or bruised vegetables and fruits that couldn't be sold, but were still nutritious. Those fruits and vegetables ended up in landfills where they rapidly decomposed and produced methane, a powerful greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change.

Now, Drexel University Food Lab students majoring in culinary arts, culinary science and hospitality management, visit Brown's ShopRite, collect the still usable fruits and vegetables, and experiment until they have turned the bounty into recipes that are nutritious and easy to prepare. Some of the recipes include fruit cobbler, strawberry jam, dried tomatoes, and stir-fried greens.

The students then turn the recipes over to shelters and other emergency food providers where staff use them to feed people in need

Dr. Jonathan Deutsch, professor of Culinary Arts and Food Science at Drexel University, and founder of the Drexel Food Lab says, "Our commitment in the Center for Hospitality and Sport Management at Drexel is to provide students an unparalleled experience to prepare the next generation of responsible industry leaders. This food recovery project allows our students to solve real world problems, do good for others, and do good for the environment, while building professional and interpersonal skills that will prepare our students for careers. It's exactly the type of work we should be doing."

"Since Browns began our partnership with Organic Diversions and Philabundance and joined the EPA Food Recovery Challenge in late 2012 we have shown continued improvement in our recycling efforts," said David Deets, director of Store Development and Sustainability for Brown's ShopRite. "We have diverted more than 2,500 tons of food waste to a local composting facility. Our stores have worked with local food service organizations to donate over 580 tons of fresh food which has been used to feed over 1, 175,000 meals to needy families. Our diversion efforts have helped us reduce our trash to landfills by 65 percent since 2012."

Surplus food is one of the largest types of materials sent to landfills. While much of it is actually edible, wholesome food that could potentially feed millions of Americans, only three percent is currently being diverted for this purpose.

Through its Food Recovery Challenge, EPA encourages organizations to reduce, donate, and recycle as much of their excess food as possible, which saves money, feeds the needy, and helps protect the environment.

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EPA Administrator Applauds Efforts to Feed the Hungry While Protecting the Planet (continued)

The Drexel Food Lab, in partnership with EPA and Brown's Shop Rite, has developed a series of low-cost, easy recipes to make surplus foods tasty and easily prepared as an attractive alternative to composting or, worse, sending it to a landfill. Recently, the U.S. Department of Agriculture awarded the Food Lab, and its partner, The Enterprise Center, a Local Foods Promotion Program Planning Grant to explore the commercial viability of the new pilot program.

As a participant in the Food Recovery Challenge, Brown's ShopRite works with EPA to track waste generation and reduction, including changes in purchasing, food donations, and composting.

For more information about food waste:

EPA's Food Recovery Challenge: www.epa.gov/smm/foodrecovery/index.htm

To view EPA's Food Recovery video, go to; <http://youtu.be/EwNpnUUSk4M>

The video features several businesses donating food to homeless shelters and for composting.

Source: U.S. EPA

EPA Proposes Smog Standards to Safeguard Americans from Air Pollution

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science will clean up our air, improve access to crucial air quality information, and protect those most at-risk. It empowers the American people with updated air quality information to protect our loved ones - because whether we work or play outdoors – we deserve to know the air we breathe is safe,” said EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy. “Fulfilling the promise of the Clean Air Act has always been EPA’s responsibility. Our health protections have endured because they’re engineered to evolve, so that’s why we’re using the latest science to update air quality standards – to fulfill the law’s promise, and defend each and every person’s right to clean air.”

EPA scientists examined numerous scientific studies in its most recent review of the ozone standards, including more than 1,000 new studies published since the last update. Studies indicate that exposure to ozone at levels below 75 ppb -- the level of the current standard -- can pose serious threats to public health, harm the respiratory system, cause or aggravate asthma and other lung diseases, and is linked to premature death from respiratory and cardiovascular causes. Ground-level ozone forms in the atmosphere when emissions of nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds “cook” in the sun from sources like cars, trucks, buses, industries, power plants and certain fumes from fuels, solvents and paints. People most at risk from breathing air containing ozone include people with asthma, children, older adults, and those who are active or work outside. Stronger ozone standards will also provide an added measure of protection for low income and minority families who are more likely to suffer from asthma or to live in communities that are overburdened by pollution. Nationally, 1 in 10 children has been diagnosed with asthma.

According to EPA’s analysis, strengthening the standard to a range of 65 to 70 ppb will provide significantly better protection for children, preventing from 320,000 to 960,000 asthma attacks and from 330,000 to 1 million missed school days. Strengthening the standard to a range of 70 to 65 ppb would better protect both children and adults by preventing more than 750 to 4,300 premature deaths; 1,400 to 4,300 asthma-related emergency room visits; and 65,000 to 180,000 missed workdays.

EPA estimates that the benefits of meeting the proposed standards will significantly outweigh the costs. If the standards are finalized, every dollar we invest to meet them will return up to three dollars in health benefits. These large health benefits will be gained from avoiding asthma attacks, heart attacks, missed school days and premature deaths, among other health effects valued at \$6.4 to \$13 billion annually in 2025 for a standard of 70 ppb, and \$19 to \$38 billion annually in 2025 for a standard of 65 ppb. Annual costs are estimated at \$3.9 billion in 2025 for a standard of 70 ppb, and \$15 billion for a standard at 65 ppb.

A combination of recently finalized or proposed air pollution rules – including “Tier 3” clean vehicle and fuels standards – will significantly cut smog-forming emissions from industry and transportation, helping states meet the proposed standards.

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EPA Proposes Smog Standards to Safeguard Americans from Air Pollution

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EPA's analysis of federal programs that reduce air pollution from fuels, vehicles and engines of all sizes, power plants and other industries shows that the vast majority of U.S. counties with monitors would meet the more protective standards by 2025 just with the rules and programs now in place or underway. Local communities, states, and the federal government have made substantial progress in reducing ground-level ozone. Nationally, from 1980 to 2013, average ozone levels have fallen 33 percent. EPA projects that this progress will continue.

The Clean Air Act provides states with time to meet the standards. Depending on the severity of their ozone problem, areas would have between 2020 and 2037 to meet the standards. To ensure that people are alerted when ozone reaches unhealthy levels, EPA is proposing to extend the ozone monitoring season for 33 states. This is particularly important for at-risk groups, including children and people with asthma because it will provide information so families can take steps to protect their health on smoggy days.

The agency is also proposing to strengthen the "secondary" ozone standard to a level within 65 to 70 ppb to protect plants, trees and ecosystems from damaging levels of ground-level ozone. New studies add to the evidence showing that repeated exposure to ozone stunts the growth of trees, damages plants, and reduces crop yield. The proposed level corresponds to levels of seasonal ozone exposure scientists have determined would be more protective.

EPA will seek public comment on the proposal for 90 days following publication in the Federal Register, and the agency plans to hold three public hearings. EPA will issue final ozone standards by October 1, 2015.

To view the proposal: <http://www.epa.gov/glo/>

Source: U.S. EPA

EPA Settlement with Dura Bond Pipe will Help Protect Residents in the Harrisburg Area

In an EPA settlement, Dura Bond Pipe, LLC, located in Steelton, Pa., has agreed to pay a \$45,040 penalty to settle alleged violations of hazardous waste regulations at its metal coating facility in Steelton, Pennsylvania.

EPA cited Dura Bond Pipe for violating the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), the federal law governing the treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste. RCRA is designed to protect public health and the environment, and avoid costly cleanups, by requiring the safe, environmentally sound storage and disposal of hazardous waste.

Following a June 2013 inspection, EPA cited the company for RCRA violations involving hazardous waste stored at the facility, including two 55 gallon drums of ignitable hazardous waste, one 55 gallon drum of used rags and gloves, and universal waste lamps (i.e., lamps that may contain mercury or other hazardous substances).

The alleged violations included: failure to make hazardous waste determinations; failure to conduct weekly inspections of hazardous waste storage areas; failure to label and keep closed containers of universal waste; failure to document how long the universal waste has been accumulated.

The settlement penalty reflects the company's cooperation with EPA in the resolution of this matter. As part of the settlement, the company has not admitted liability for the alleged violations, but has certified its compliance with applicable RCRA requirements.

For more information about hazardous waste and RCRA, visit <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/hazard/index.htm>

Source: the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

EPA Settlement with Mack Trucks Inc. Protects Community Health and the Environment from Hazardous Waste Pollution in Lehigh County, Pa.

In a settlement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Mack Trucks Inc. has agreed to properly manage the hazardous waste at its truck assembly plant in Macungie, Pa.

Mack Truck, located at 7000 Alburtis Road, Macungie, Pa., has also agreed to pay a \$54,800 penalty to settle the alleged violations of hazardous waste regulations.

EPA cited Mack Trucks for violating the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), the federal law governing the treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste. RCRA is designed to protect public health and the environment, and avoid costly cleanups, by requiring the safe, environmentally sound storage and disposal of hazardous waste.

After a facility inspection, EPA cited the company for several RCRA violations involving hazardous waste stored at the facility, including solvents and paint wastes. The alleged violations included: operating a hazardous waste storage facility without a permit or interim status; maintaining an open container of hazardous waste; failure to comply with regulations on hazardous waste marking and record-keeping; failure to comply with contingency planning safeguards; failure to provide hazardous waste training to employees; failure to maintain documents and records for hazardous waste training; failure to comply with contingency plan requirements; and failure to maintain a tank certification.

The settlement penalty reflects the company's compliance efforts, and its cooperation with EPA in the resolution of this matter. As part of the settlement, Mack Trucks has not admitted liability for the alleged violations, but has certified its compliance with applicable RCRA requirements.

For more information about hazardous waste and RCRA, visit <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/hazard/index.htm>.

Source: the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

EPA Takes Action to Protect Public from Harmful Lead Exposure

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced 62 enforcement actions that require renovation contractors and training providers to protect people from harmful exposure to lead dust and debris, as required by EPA's Lead-based Paint Renovation, Repair, and Painting (RRP) standards.

The enforcement actions include 55 settlements and six complaints issued between February and October 2014 for renovations performed on pre-1978 homes and child-care facilities. All of the settlements require that the alleged violators certify their compliance with RRP standards and, in most cases, pay civil penalties. In two of the settlements, the violators agreed to fund voluntary lead abatement supplemental environmental projects, which require the removal of lead-based paint and post-construction testing to ensure that no hazardous conditions remain. The settlements led to \$213,171 in civil penalties and the violators coming into compliance with federal law. These recent actions are in addition to EPA's settlement with Lowe's Home Improvement in April 2014, which included a \$500,000 civil penalty as well as implementation of a corporate-wide RRP compliance program.

"Children are most vulnerable to the dangers of lead paint exposure, especially those in predominantly minority and low-income communities, where housing is more likely to contain lead-based paint," said Cynthia Giles, assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. "These cases to enforce the RRP rule are vitally important to improving compliance among companies that handle lead-based paint. This leads to safer communities, healthier children and a level playing field for companies that follow the law."

Lead dust and debris from improper renovation activities on properties built prior to 1978 is a major source of lead exposure that can cause lead poisoning. Although using lead-based paint in dwellings was prohibited after 1978, it is still present in more than 30 million homes across the nation, in all types of communities. The RRP Rule provides important protections for children and others vulnerable to lead exposure. Even low levels of lead in the blood of children can result in behavior and learning problems, lower IQ and hyperactivity, slowed growth, hearing problems and anemia. In rare cases, ingestion of lead can cause seizures, coma and even death.

The RRP Rule, which is part of the federal Toxic Substances Control Act, is intended to ensure that owners and occupants of pre-1978 "target housing" and "child-occupied facilities" receive information on lead-based paint hazards before renovations begin, that individuals performing such renovations are properly trained and certified, and that renovators and workers follow specific lead-safe work practices during renovations to reduce the potential for exposure to lead.

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EPA Takes Action to Protect Public from Harmful Lead Exposure (continued)

The penalties in the settlements address the cited violations. Enforcement penalties also help deter violations by others in the regulated industry, and level the playing field for complying companies, since the fines help eliminate the financial advantage a violator may derive from non-compliance which, otherwise, would allow the violator to underbid its complying competitors.

Contractors that are certified under EPA's RRP standards are encouraged to display EPA's "Lead-Safe" logo on worker's uniforms, signs, websites, and other material, as appropriate. Consumers can protect themselves by looking for the logo before hiring a home contractor, and by being generally aware of whether a renovator is following lead-safe work practices when working on their property. Those practices, such as what a renovator must do to minimize lead dust dispersion, are outlined in EPA's *Renovate Right* lead hazard information pamphlet, available at

<http://www2.epa.gov/sites/production/files/documents/renovaterightbrochure.pdf>

Renovators are required to give the pamphlet to property owners and occupants within 60 days before starting any renovation.

Between mid-February and September 30, 2014, EPA settled enforcement actions with, or issued complaints against, the companies below. In the following settlements, the companies paid civil penalties in excess of \$10,000, respectively:

Student Works Painting, Inc. d.b.a. College Works Painting (CA) paid a \$39,532 fine for violating work practice and recordkeeping requirements.

Manhattan Construction Co. and Ark Wrecking Co. (OK) paid a \$24,038 penalty for violating requirements for certification, information distribution, ensuring personnel were certified or properly trained, and ensuring that a certified renovator was assigned and performed required tasks.

Z&B Holdings, LLC d/b/a Berry Door & Window (MO) paid a \$23,300 fine for failing to comply with information distribution and recordkeeping requirements, and failing to assign a certified renovator.

Goldman Enterprises Inc., d/b/a Paul Davis Restoration of Kansas City (MO) paid a \$16,710 penalty for failure to comply with work practice standards.

Groen Builders, Inc. (NH) paid a \$14,950 penalty for violating certification and information distribution requirements, failing to ensure personnel were properly certified or trained, failing to assign a certified renovator, and failing to comply with work practice standards.

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EPA Takes Action to Protect Public from Harmful Lead Exposure (continued)

Tilt-In Window and Siding Co. / NJ Window & Siding Co. (NJ) paid a fine of \$12,504 for failure to comply with certification, information distribution, work practice, and recordkeeping requirements.

EPA entered into expedited settlement agreements with the 22 companies below. These agreements allow violators to quickly resolve certain minor lead-based paint offenses (not including work practice violations) with a reduced penalty, typically \$2,000 or less.

Tim Jones New Look Remodeling Co. (CT)
Construction Education Foundation of Minnesota (MN)
Holman Brothers Painting (OH)
Think People, Inc. (IL)
Gunton Corporation (OH)
Builders License Training Institute (MI)
Midwest Training Services LLC (MI)
Kaplan AEC Education (WI)
Vinyl Sash of Flint, Inc. (MI)
Wonder Makers Environmental (MI)
ETC Training Services Group (MI)
Greentree Environmental Services Inc. (IN)
AB Builders (CA)
A&D Construction (CA)
CF Contracting (CA)
Cogent Construction and Consulting (CA)
EF Brett (CA)
Nema Construction (CA)
Regency Construction (CA)
Southland Management (CA)
Welliver Construction (CA)
Dakota Remodeling LLC (OR)

In the following 27 settlements, the companies paid fines less than \$10,000, generally because the penalty was reduced for an inability to pay. Every case obtains compliance with RRP standards.

CDL Commercial, LLC (CT)
East Coast Pros (CT)
Gerard Therrien (NH)
Alstar Construction, Inc. (NJ)
AZ Water Man Corp. (NY)

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EPA Takes Action to Protect Public from Harmful Lead Exposure (continued)

JC Painter (NY)
Raymond Demers (NY)
APM Vocational Institute (VA)(Settlement)
Moyer Holdings Corp., T/A Window World of Lehigh Valley (PA)
Santos D. Flores Svc. Inc. (MD)
Windows R Us, LLC (PA)
Clear Choice Windows & Sliding, Inc. (IL)
Jim Knibbs Building & Remodeling, Inc. (MI)
Michiana Window World, Inc. (IN)
Richmond's Complete Home Improvement (ID)
ACE Service Team, LLC (MO)
Brackmann Construction Inc. (MO)
Douglas Thoman Construction (NE)
First Choice Builders LLC d/b/a Intext Builders (NE)
Jaime Diosdado (MO)
JDC Construction & Remodeling LLC (MO)
Kansas City Home Doctor, Inc. (MO)
MCB, LLC (NE)(Settlement)
Mesa Enterprises, LLC (MO)
M&L Construction Co., Inc. (MO)
Aesthetica Painting & Contracting, LLC (CO)
Vanguard Construction Companies, Ltd. (CO)

EPA issued Complaints against the following six companies:

John Fogg Jr. Enterprises, LLC (CT)
Waterway Realty LLC (NH)
Creative Home Builders (MO)
Dynamic Construction and Roofing, LLC (FL)
Matthew Andersen d/b/a Andersen Painting (NE)
Zane Inc. d/b/a ServPro of Freemont/ NW Omaha, Inc. (NE)

More information about these actions is available at <http://www2.epa.gov/enforcement/lead-renovation-repair-and-painting-rule-december-2014>

More information about the RRP Rule and how contractors can get certified is available at www.epa.gov/lead.

Source: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

DEP Reminds Pennsylvanians that January is Radon Action Month

January is National Radon Action Month, marking a time of increased public awareness for this serious health hazard.

Radon is a colorless, odorless, radioactive gas that occurs naturally through the breakdown of uranium in soil and rocks. It can seep into homes through cracks in basements and foundations, and can build up inside to concentrations many times the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) recommended level of 4 picocuries per liter (pCi/L).

Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States, causing about 20,000 lung-cancer deaths in the United States every year. About 40 percent of Pennsylvania homes have radon levels above the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's action level of four picocuries per liter. While radon problems may be more common in some regions, the potential exists for any home in Pennsylvania to have high radon levels.

This year, DEP identified a record-high radon level in a Lehigh County home. The concentration measured was 3,715 pCi/L. In this case, DEP recommended the occupants vacate the home until the measured radon concentration was remediated to a level less than 4 pCi/L. Several other homes in that area were found to have measured concentrations over 1,000 pCi/L.

Pennsylvania is particularly prone to elevated radon levels, and the only way to know if there is a radon problem is to test the home. DEP recommends testing all homes and public and private buildings. The best time to test is during the cold-weather months, when homes and buildings are closed and radon is most likely to build up to unhealthy levels.

Residents may hire a certified radon testing company, though it is easy to perform a radon test by using a kit that can be purchased at a home improvement store or a Pennsylvania-certified radon laboratory. Completed test kits are to be sent to a Pennsylvania-certified lab, where the samples are analyzed and the results are then sent to the resident. If results reveal radon levels above the action level, a radon mitigation system may be necessary.

Radon mitigation systems cost between \$800 and \$1,200 and require minimal maintenance. Most home or building owners choose to hire a radon mitigation professional to install the system.

For more information about radon, including information about interpreting test results or to find a Pennsylvania-certified radon contractor, visit www.dep.state.pa.us, keyword: Radon, or call 1-800-23-RADON.

Source: PA DEP