

ALERT

April-May
1993

315 Peffer Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102-1834

Telephone: 717/233-3072

Earth Day Honors Indigenous Peoples

Earth Day USA President Bruce Anderson and other environmental group leaders met with indigenous leaders from around the world at the U.N. in December and informed them of Earth Day's 1993 theme: "Working with the Earth - Honoring Indigenous Peoples."

"It's been 500 years since people from the rest of the world started coming to this continent," Anderson said. "In all that time there has never been a mass opportunity to sit and listen carefully to what indigenous people have to say and to discuss the Earth with them. Earth Day '93 is that opportunity."

Native leaders, including Chief Oren Lyons of the Onondaga (Iroquois Six Nations) expressed appreciation for Earth Day's efforts and offered advice and support. In remarks to the U.N. General Assembly, indigenous leaders noted that the special knowledge of their ancient traditions could be of enormous value to people who were grappling with the many modern environmental problems.

A Message from President Clinton:

Our victory in November was due in no small part to the hard work of many committed environmentalists all over the country who brought the message to voters everywhere that it was time for a change - a change in the way we approach vital questions such as the protection of our environment.

Al Gore and I know that within the past decade, climate change, ozone depletion and other global environmental problems have emerged as threats to the survival of humankind. We will not shrink from our responsibilities to lead this nation and the world in facing these difficult problems.

At home, we must reject the false choice between jobs and environmental protection. Today you can't have a healthy economy without a healthy environment, and you don't have to sacrifice economic growth.

Al and I are very grateful for your support and we look forward to your continued support as we move forward with a new approach to the environment in this country.

*Reproduced from the Program for the Environmental Inaugural Ball,
January 22, 1993, courtesy of Renew America.*



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Earth Day is also Sun Day 1993

Formally launched on Earth Day 1992, SUN DAY 1993 is an ongoing, nationwide, grassroots, organizing and educational campaign to promote improved energy efficiency and renewable energy (i.e., solar, wind, biomass, solar-hydrogen, geothermal, and hydroelectric) technologies as solutions to global climate change, energy imports, acid rain, radioactive waste, and other energy-related environmental problems.

The SUN DAY 1993 campaign is advocating an national energy policy that, at a minimum, reduces total energy use by ten percent and triples the current contribution of renewable energy technologies by the year 2010.

Two Named to Public Utility Commission

Attorneys John Hanger and John Quain were appointed by Gov. Robert Casey to the state Public Utility Commission. John Hanger, of Philadelphia, served as Legal Counsel to PUC Commissioner Joseph Rhodes since 1988. He previously served as public advocate for Philadelphia's 500,000 municipal gas and water customers. Quain, who served as a PUC staff attorney from 1982-1986, left government service to serve as managing partner of the Harrisburg office of the Pittsburgh powerhouse law firm of Tucker-Arensberg. The firm specializes in utility law and has a number of major utilities on its client roster. TMIA's Kay Pickering encourages members to get acquainted with them as they'll be deciding future rate cases.

News Notes

•Attention Recyclers: Friends of the Earth offers labels which enable you to reuse the envelopes you get in the mail. We use them at the TMIA office and like them very much. The cost is \$4.25 for 100. Make checks payable to Friends of the Earth, 218 D Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003.

•Eric Epstein and Veronica Rodriguez are the proud parents of Gabriela, born April 14, 1993. She weighed 8 lb. 13 oz. at birth and her father reports she has a full head of hair.

•Congratulations to Joanne Doroshow, longtime TMIA member and former Harrisburg resident, for the Oscar she won at the Academy Awards on March 29. Joanne was a co-producer of the award-winning documentary *Panama Deception*. Joanne now lives in New York City where she is involved with distribution of the film.

•Spruce up your wardrobe for spring and summer with a new TMIA tee-shirt. Available in sizes small, medium, large and extra large, these 100% cotton shirts are available in California blue and ash with black art and lettering. They're still only \$10.00 (+ \$1.00 for mailing) and feature that fabulous Jules Feiffer "They Lie" design.

•The PUC and Penn State University will be hosting a three-day statewide forum on August 9, 10 & 11 for the exchange of ideas on utility consumer problems, policies and programs. Consumers and community groups, utility management, researchers, PUC Commissioners, and other government officials will be taking part in exploring the issues and discussing solutions. Call Mitchell Miller, the PUC's Director of Consumer Services, at 717/783-5391 for more information.

•Susan M. Wilson has been named executive director of the Department of Environmental Resources

Please renew your membership, then give more to support TMIA activities

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Intervention Fund Contribution: \$10 \$20 \$50 \$100 MORE (Checks in the amount of \$50 or more can be made payable to the TMI Legal Fund for tax deduction purposes.)

Membership: _____ \$15 Regular Members _____ \$50 Sustaining Membership
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Citizens Advisory Council. Her credentials include two BA degrees from Penn State (Environmental Resource Management and Biology) and a Master's in Public Policy from Carnegie-Mellon. Wilson has 12 years with state government, most recently as deputy director of the Governor's Policy Office. The Citizens Advisory Council has offices on the 5th floor of the new DER building (officially the Market Street State Office Building, MSSOB). The telephone number remains 717/787-4527.

Energy Blueprint Presented to Clinton, Congress

A large coalition of environmental and sustainable energy organizations presented President Clinton and Congress with an energy policy blueprint that links economic initiatives with environmental gains. The organizations' goals were to outline a comprehensive, yet achievable path to a sustainable energy future with the following objectives: creating at least one million new jobs by the year 2000 through investments in sustainable energy technologies and policies; reducing overall energy use at least 10 percent by 2010; reducing U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by 25 percent from 1990 levels by the year 2005; tripling the current contribution of renewable energy technologies by 2010; and reducing the production of radioactive waste.

Central Pennsylvania Congressmen, Senators Have Poor "Green" Voting Records

According to records compiled by the League of Conservation Voters, Sen. Harris Wofford voted with environmental groups on two of three votes, compiling a 67 rating on a scale of 100 (Ohio's Howard Metzenbaum got 100%), voting right on issues involving energy use, protecting the deserts and ancient forests, but voting wrong on several nuclear safety matters. Sen. Specter only voted "green" on half the issues (a 50 rating). In the House matters were worse with Congressmen Gekas and Goodling compiling 19s. The worst Pennsylvania record belongs to Republican Bud Shuster, a "0," and the best was Democrat Peter Kostmayer with an "88." Lancaster's Robert Walker scored a 6, voting correct only once. The votes monitored were on energy security, global warming, energy efficiency, nuclear energy, ancient forests, pollution, nuclear safety, nuclear wastes, and other environmental concerns.

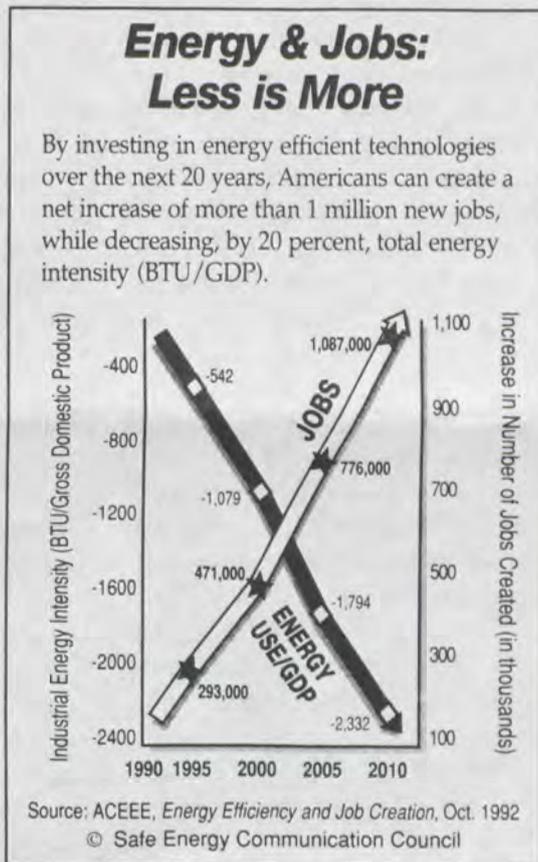
Letters Needed on Federal Budget

Letters are needed to President Clinton, Vice President Gore and members of Congress urging support for the complete elimination of federal funding for commercial nuclear technology. The real battle will be in Congress, where pro-nuclear members are attempting to reinstate all of Clinton's budget cuts. The nuclear industry has lobbyists roaming the halls of Congress daily, so regular contact from safe energy activists is important. In addition to Pennsylvania's delegation, a letter to Sen. Paul Simon (D-Illinois) is key. Sen. Simon, who had wide support from safe energy activists in his presidential bid, has actively lobbied for support for recycling plutonium into slightly less pernicious strontium, a project proposed by the Argonne Labs, located in Iowa but headquartered in Simon's home state. Remind him his porkbarrel efforts to obtain unnecessary and dangerous funding for nuclear projects will be remembered next time he expresses aspirations for higher office.

Greenpeace Study Shows Energy Savings Creates Jobs

Energy for Employment, a 1992 Greenpeace study, finds that energy efficiency programs—home weatherization, insulating roofs and walls, caulking cracks, improving furnace and air conditioner efficiency, and installing water-saving showerheads—generate jobs while saving money and protecting the environment. Greenpeace estimates that "weatherizing all U.S. households would generate over 600,000 jobs for ten years while saving Americans more than \$40 billion each year."

In a comparison of the time required to get power "on-line," the California Energy Commission found that efficiency, solar and wind all come "on-line" from between six months and three years, while gas, coal, and nuclear facilities all take between three years and 12 years to complete.



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VIEWPOINT

A Forum on Energy and Environmental Issues

Clinton Charts a New Course for U.S. Energy Policy

By MARTIN GELFAND

VPT - The promise of economic change swept Bill Clinton into office. President Clinton is now moving quickly to realize his mandate. In his first address to Congress, the President boldly declared, "We're eliminating programs that are no longer needed, such as nuclear power research and development." This promise breaks with every administration since World War II.

Clinton's specific reference to nuclear power pinpoints an outrageous history of bias in federal energy research and development (R&D) spending. From 1948 to 1992, the federal government gave 65 percent of all federal energy R&D money to nuclear power, according to the Congressional Research Service. Fossil fuels (oil, coal and gas) received 19 percent; renewable energy, 11 percent; and conservation, 6 percent.

For years, Americans have been calling for a major redirection of U.S. energy funding. A bipartisan national survey conducted by Greenberg/Lake and The Tarrance Group in January 1993 revealed that 63 percent of voters think renewable energy or energy conservation should be the Energy Department's top priorities for R&D funding. Only 11 percent believe DOE's first priority should be nuclear power.

Household and business electric bills also confirm the need for a fundamental shift in energy priorities. The average cost per kiloWatt-hour (kWh) of nuclear electricity is now 9 cents, 3 or 4 cents higher than more environmentally-friendly sources like wind power, hydro, and natural gas. At some nuclear plants, particularly those that opened since 1980, the cost is much higher. For example, electricity from the Seabrook reactor in New Hampshire costs more than 20 cents per kWh.

Today, despite huge federal subsidies, nuclear power provides less than 10 percent of the nation's en-

ergy. Compare this to energy efficiency, which yields dependable, lowest-cost energy savings, but has historically received the least R&D support of any energy resource. Since 1975, conservation and improved energy efficient technologies have allowed the United States to experience steady economic growth without an appreciable increase in energy use. In fact, conservation and efficiency have reduced our nation's energy needs by about 25 percent. These gains stem from energy programs initiated during the 1970s.

However, in the 1980s, while utilities were cancelling nuclear plants faster than they were bringing them on line, the Reagan and Bush Administrations slashed federal support for conservation, efficiency and renewable energy R&D to about half of that for nuclear power.

On the campaign trail and in his book, *Putting People First*, President Clinton definitively established his opposition to increased reliance on nuclear power. Instead, he promised to increase energy efficiency and conservation and to expand the use of safe, renewable energy options.

Now, as witnessed by his February address to the nation, President Clinton intends to deliver on this promise. His first recommendation is to shift \$1.2 billion away from nuclear reactor R&D during fiscal years 1993 through 1998, into these cleaner and more cost-effective energy programs.

Investments in energy efficiency and renewable resources make good economic and environmental sense. Because energy production is less labor-intensive than most other industries, the money saved on energy can be spent on production of other goods and services - more efficient cars and appliances, better lighting and manufacturing improvements. This shift will create more jobs and international

competitiveness while protecting the environment. A study conducted by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy shows that a net of more than one million new jobs spread across all sectors can be created by 2010 through aggressive investments in energy efficiency.

Now it's up to the American people to convince Congress. Between 1985 and 1992 the nuclear industry PACs poured more than \$21 million into Congressional campaign coffers. Our voices must pierce this wall of money if we are to create a sustainable energy future. It's time to stop handing nuclear welfare checks to Westinghouse, General Electric and other Fortune-500 companies.

Martin Gelfand is Research Director for the Safe Energy Communication Council.

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Letters should be addressed to **VIEWPOINT**, c/o SECC, 1717 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Suite LL-215, Washington, D.C. 20036

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