

Sierra Club Annual Meeting Coralville on Saturday, October 1

Start making plans to attend Iowa Sierra Club's annual dinner to be held at 6 p.m. on Saturday, October 1st in Coralville.

Our dinner will be held at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference Center | Hampton Inn, 1220 First Avenue, Coralville, IA 52241. For more information on plans for the dinner, visit our website at www.iowa.sierraclub.org. Exit I-80 at the Coralville First Avenue interchange and turn north. The Holiday Inn is on the left. Several motels and hotels can be found in the Iowa City area.

The schedule for the evening is:

6:00 p.m. Registration and social hour
(cash bar)

7:00 p.m. Dinner

Dinner tickets can be purchased for \$35 per person. Make checks payable to Sierra Club, Iowa Chapter.

Mail reservations by September 15th to:

Jane Clark by mail to
9871 Lincoln Avenue, Clive, IA 50325

For information:

[jrcClark\(AT\)radiks.net](mailto:jrcClark(AT)radiks.net) or 515-223-5047

Number attending dinner:

_____ X \$35 = _____

Vegetarian option for dinner: _____

Amount enclosed: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Update from the Legislature

By Neila Seaman, Chapter Director

After a two-month marathon of negotiations on the two-year budget required by Gov. Terry Branstad, the Legislature finally came to a close for this session on June 30. The Chapter followed a whopping 180 bills through this session. The state narrowly escaped a handful of bills that would strip environmental protections.

Nuclear Power Bill Still Alive in the Senate

Although the Legislature has ended its 2011 session, bills could come back for debate during the 2012 session. Two bills that would make it easier for utilities to build nuclear power plants are SF390 and HF561. The House passed its version (HF561) by a vote of 68-30 on April 26. The bill was then attached to SF390 the next day. Pressure on senators by a coalition of allies prevented the bill from ever reaching debate.

Here's how passage could affect Iowans and MidAmerican Energy's ratepayers.

- Enabling MidAmerican Energy to begin charging ratepayers for a nuclear power plant that may never be built.
- MidAmerican Energy is exploring new technology for nuclear reactors that will not be approved until 2013 -- or maybe not at all.
- Ratepayers would bear 100 percent of the risk.
- Consumers' electricity bills would rise by a minimum of 10 percent for each \$1 billion MidAmerican spent beginning as soon as is legally possible.
- The average household would see at least a \$7 per month increase for each \$1 billion MidAmerican Energy invested.
- Ratepayers would be forced to pay all costs including licensing, construction and production and any litigation costs or expenses incurred even if the project is canceled.

MidAmerican Energy's calculations *do not* include operating costs. There is a 100 percent chance this issue will return during the 2012 session. It wouldn't hurt to begin contacting your senators now to reinforce in them that you are opposed to new nuclear power plants in Iowa. Because it is still a live bill, it's highly possible that MidAmerican Energy will attempt to push it through in the opening days of the new session in January.

Learn more about "MidAmerican Energy's Misguided Pursuit of Nuclear Power" on our webpage at <http://iowa.sierraclub.org/Nuclear/Misguided%20pursuit%20of%20nuclear%20energy.pdf>

DNR Budget

The Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship/ Department of Natural Resource appropriations bill (SF509) finally passed both chambers on June 27. General Fund appropriations to the DNR total \$12,266,688 "[f]or purposes of supporting the department, including its divisions, for administration, regulation, and programs; for salaries, support, maintenance, and miscellaneous purposes; and for not more than 1,145.95 full-time equivalent positions.

Weary of hearing complaints of the downtrodden appearance of Iowa's state parks, legislators allocated \$3.21 million for state park maintenance, upkeep and sanitary operations. Park ranger positions were not impacted.

REAP Reduced -- Again

Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) took a big hit again this year. Although REAP is legislatively approved to receive \$20,000,000 per year, the 2011-2012 budget appropriates \$12,000,000. REAP received \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2010-2011.

DNR to keep water quality programs -- for now

HF643 (formerly HSB180) is a bill Gov. Terry Branstad and some legislators wanted adopted because agricultural practices are the primary source of non-point source water pollution in Iowa. Section 319/Clean Water Act programs include compliance functions, water monitoring and other water quality protection programs. The bill passed the House by a vote of 64-32 on March 23 but the bill never made it out of the Senate Natural Resources and Environment Committee. However, it could reappear during the 2012 session.

If the Section 319 programs were moved to IDALS, Iowa's impaired waters list and improvement plan processes could be drastically altered so improvements could take years or decades. More than \$4.4 million in 319 water quality programming would be transferred to an agency whose primary function is to serve and promote agriculture.

See how all of the 319 programs are interconnected and the DNR's budget for fiscal year 2010 at <http://www.iowa.sierraclub.org/319FlowChart.pdf>

Legislators were told by supporters of this move that water quality programming could be done "more efficiently" if given to the Secretary of Agriculture. If this responsibility is abdicated to the Secretary of Agriculture, all current DNR water rules would have to be rescinded and new processes started to adopt IDALS rules. Each rule making procedure is a multi-year process and IDALS has no oversight commission. All EPA funds would have to be de-obligated from DNR and new contracts written with IDALS. Sierra Club is concerned about how public or transparent the process under IDALS would be.

Gov. Branstad has the authority to move 319 programs to a different department. If he chose that route, a future governor could move them back to the DNR. However, if the Legislature voted to move the programs, it would take a Legislature to return the programs to the DNR.

No Senate Action on "Ag Gag" bill

On March 17, the House passed by a vote of 66-27 on HF589, also known as the "ag gag bill." It never reached the Senate floor for debate.

The bill would have prohibited entering on or damaging property associated with a facility or operation where animals or crops are maintained; prohibit tampering with property associated with an animal facility or crop operation, including damaging property, killing or injuring an animal or crop, committing theft, or disrupting operations; prohibit a person from interfering with an animal facility or crop operation, including producing an audio or visual record which reproduces an image distributing the record; prohibit committing fraud by obtaining access to an animal facility or crop operation by false pretenses for the purpose of committing an act not authorized by the owner, or making a false statement as part of an application to be employed at the location. Because the House passed the bill, it could come up in the Senate in 2012.

Dove Hunting

As detailed in the Spring/Summer newsletter, a bill added Mourning doves to a list of birds that could be hunted during a season established by the Natural Resources Commission (NRC). The bill passed the Senate 30-18-2, then passed the House 58-39 and was signed by the Governor all within 72 hours.

The NRC drafted rules and sent them out for public comment. At the July NRC meeting, the DNR reported that it had received 1,000 comments during the public comment period and 900 of them opposed a dove hunting season. The DNR still recommended its passage. Conrad Clement, a Cresco Republican recently appointed to the commission by Gov. Branstad, offered an amendment that unanimously passed. The amendment reads, "No person shall take a Mourning dove or Eurasian collared-dove on any land or water of the state of Iowa while having in one's possession any shot other than nontoxic approved by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service."

Dove hunting opponents will have one last opportunity to express their views. The Administrative Rules Review Committee (ARRC) will have to give the final nod to the rule. You can contact the ARRC members and express your opinion. ARRC legislators and their contact information can be found at <http://www.legis.iowa.gov/Schedules/committee.aspx?GA=84&CID=53>

Miscellaneous

In other news, Gov. Branstad had to backpedal after making too many Republican appointments to the Environmental Protection Commission. The Iowa Chapter discovered that Branstad nominated three Republicans and Delores Mertz, a Democrat, to join two Independents and three Republicans currently seated on the Commission. If Branstad's nominees had been confirmed, the Commission would not meet the legal requirement of political balance. The Chapter then sent a letter to Iowa Senators detailing the incongruity. Branstad then "uninvited" one of his nominees and replaced that commissioner with a Democrat. Read the letter to Senators at <http://iowa.sierraclub.org/EPCappointeesltrtoSenate3-14-11.pdf>.

Stay up-to-date with what's happening at the Capitol during the session at www.iowa.sierraclub.org/Legislature.htm.

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 1611
Des Moines, IA

Sierra Club Iowa Chapter
3839 Merle Hay Road, Suite 280
Des Moines, IA 50310

Donna Buell Elected Secretary of Sierra Club's National Board of Directors

The Sierra Club Iowa Chapter proudly announces that Donna Buell of Spirit Lake has been elected to serve as secretary of the national Sierra Club's Board of Directors.

Board of Directors President Robin Mann said, "I am delighted that Donna will be taking on the role of Secretary and serving on the Board Executive Committee. As I've seen particularly in my interaction with her on the Finance Committee, Donna brings experienced perspective and judgment to the work at hand, as well as a willingness to ask the hard questions."

Donna wrote, "I am honored to have been chosen by my fellow Directors to serve as Club Secretary. I look forward to working with President Robin Mann and the other members of the Club's Executive Committee."

Donna was elected to the Board of Directors in April of 2010, and received the second highest number of votes from Sierra Club members across the nation in that election. She was one of eight candidates for five seats on the board

and became the first Iowan ever to serve on the national board.

Donna has served in various capacities with the Sierra Club at the local, state and national level. In 2006, she organized the Prairie Lake Group that encompasses Buena Vista, Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto and Pocahontas counties and served as its chair. Elected to the chapter executive committee, Donna has served as the chapter treasurer since 2008. As chapter treasurer, she updated our financial reporting process, moving it online and integrating it with the national record-keeping systems. Nationally, she has served as Budget Officer of the Council of Club Leaders Executive Committee and on the National Finance and Risk Management Advisory Committee.

A volunteer for the environment for the past 20 years, Donna also served as a member of the Iowa Environmental Protection Commission from 2003 to 2007 as an appointee of then-Gov. Tom Vilsack.



DONNA BUELL

Congratulations to Jane Clark

By Virginia Soelberg

The Iowa Chapter received notification in July that Jane Clark has been selected to receive the Sierra Club's 2011 Special Service Award. This national award honors a Sierra Club member for strong and consistent commitment to conservation or the Club over an extended period of time. Jane has been invited to receive this award at a celebration to be held in San Francisco in September.

Jane joined the Sierra Club in 1987 and has been a very active and effective member for the past 24 years. She has established connections with activists from across the state and nation that facilitate her work to protect the natural environment, to participate in our efforts to protect water quality, to advocate for rivers and streams and to work toward protection and preservation of our wildlife and our natural resources. She currently serves as the Iowa Chapter Chair in addition to being Chair of the Central Iowa Group.

One of Jane's greatest contributions to conservation efforts are these connections she has established. She keeps her finger on the pulse of environmental efforts and issues throughout the community, the state, and beyond. If a conservation issue arises, she not only takes action herself, but from her broad network she taps into resources and people who share this particular concern and may want to join in the effort. She knows names, particular interests, and

especially e-mails of many, many people. She also for many years has served as editor of the Iowa Sierran newsletter, another avenue for keeping people informed.

Within the Sierra Club Iowa Chapter, Jane is frequently the "go-to person" when questions arise, whether about compliance, past events, positions on issues, or proper procedures for doing our environmental work effectively. Jane can tap into her vast history of environmental activities, projects and newsletters either from memory or retrieved from her computer.

She keeps informed herself by being on a number of list-serves that follow a broad range of issues as well as attending meetings where information is shared. Jane understands the workings of our state and county governments and knows the key people there.

Jane is the person at our local meetings who greets the newcomers, remembers names and faces, asks about their environmental interests, and urges them to become involved. Jane is a backyard environmentalist as well as she follows her love of birding at her home along the Clive Walnut Creek Greenbelt where she lives with her husband, Jim Clark. Again, Congratulations to Jane for this well-deserved honor.

Air Pollution and Energy-related Materials on the Website

Pam Mackey Taylor, Chapter Energy Chair, has prepared several documents for our website about various issues related to air pollution, energy issues, transportation issues and the Hyperion Refinery proposed for southeast South Dakota. Please visit our website and learn about the following issues. The documents will be posted in the right navigation bar on the appropriate issues page. You can find the issues pages in the drop-down menu on the home page.

- **Understanding Air Pollution and Regulated Pollutants** at <http://iowa.sierraclub.org/AirQuality/AirPollution.pdf>
- **Open Burning** at <http://iowa.sierraclub.org/AirQuality/BurnBan.pdf>
- **Iowa Chapter Transportation Initiatives** at <http://iowa.sierraclub.org/LandUse-Transp/TransportationPolicy.pdf>
- **Energy and Capacity – Rethinking Baseload** at <http://iowa.sierraclub.org/Energy/RethinkingBaseload.pdf>
- **Coal Status in Iowa** at <http://iowa.sierraclub.org/Energy/CoalStatus.pdf>
- **21st Century Energy Policy for Iowa: Moving Beyond Coal** at <http://www.iowa.sierraclub.org/Energy/EnergyPolicy.pdf>
- **Expanding Rail in Iowa for Passengers and Freight** at <http://iowa.sierraclub.org/LandUse-Transp/Passenger-FreightRail.pdf>

And, more to come...

In addition, find the following Hyperion Refinery materials on the website:

- **HAP Monitor Needed in Sioux City** at <http://iowa.sierraclub.org/Hyperion%20Refinery/HAPMonitorNeededInSiouxCity.pdf>
- **Missouri River Flyway** at <http://iowa.sierraclub.org/Hyperion%20Refinery/MissouriRiverFlyway.pdf>
- **Exposing the Truth about Refinery Jobs** at <http://iowa.sierraclub.org/Hyperion%20Refinery/ExposingTheTruthAboutRefineryJobs.pdf>
- **Transportation Pollution** at <http://iowa.sierraclub.org/Hyperion%20Refinery/TransportationPollution.pdf>
- **Hyperion Resources Proposes "Enormous" Refinery** at <http://iowa.sierraclub.org/Hyperion%20Refinery/HyperionHandout.pdf>
- **Mercury in Iowa's Lakes and Streams** at <http://iowa.sierraclub.org/Hyperion%20Refinery/Mercury.pdf>

Iowa Interfaith Power and Light Announces Faith Conference on Climate Change

A "Faith in a Changing Climate" conference will be held on Thursday, September 1, 2011 from 10:00 AM - 3:30 PM at the West Des Moines Christian Church, 4501 Mills Civic Parkway in West Des Moines, Iowa. Doors will open at 9:15 AM.

Registration is \$35 and includes continental breakfast, lunch, and an Environmental Toolkit. For more information please contact Susan Guy, Executive Director of Iowa IPL at director@iowaip.org or 515-689-1112 or visit <http://iowaip.org/calendar.html>.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

We need you to serve! The Executive Committee (ExCom) of the Iowa Chapter of Sierra Club is looking for members to accept nomination for election to the Sierra Club, Iowa Chapter ExCom. The Executive Committee is made up of eleven members and is elected by the chapter membership in December. Members elected begin their term at the first meeting in January and serve a three-year term. The ExCom meets about six times a year for a half day at locations throughout the state. Offices of chair, vice-chair, secretary, and treasurer, and committee chairs are selected from the ExCom. Committee work such as political activity, legislative, fundraising, conservation and personnel help to carry out the functions of the ExCom and the chapter. Candidates for the ExCom are individuals dedicated to protecting our state's natural resources, who are willing to meet as needed to serve on an organizational committee. If you are interested in helping make decisions about the priorities, activities and political endorsements of the Sierra Club in Iowa, or know of someone who is, please nominate yourself or another person. Candidate statements will be published in the December newsletter on the ballot and should consist of a statement of 100-150 words or less. Please send nominations to iowa.chapter@sierraclub.org or mail to Sierra Club, Iowa Chapter, 3839 Merle Hay Road, Suite 280, Des Moines, IA 50310.

IOWA SIERRAN

Editor: Jane R. Clark Associate Editor: Jo Hudson

The Iowa Sierran is dedicated to informing members and other friends about environmental issues that affect Iowa. It is a forum for the expression of ideas on topics of environmental concern, as well as the voice of the Iowa Chapter of the Sierra Club. Articles with a by-line represent the research and opinions of the authors and not necessarily that of the Sierra Club.

We invite submissions of letters, articles, photographs and illustrations. Letters and articles must be complete, accurate and identified with your name, address and phone number(s).

Please submit by email to jrclark@radiks.net. The editor reserves the right to edit for clarity, space and libel reasons.

Deadlines are March 5 for the Spring/Summer issue; July 5 for the Autumn issue; and November 5 for the Winter issue. Preference will be given to articles 400-1,000 words in length that relate to Iowa. Longer articles will be considered. A subscription to the Iowa Sierran is included in the cost of Sierra Club membership. For non-members, a subscription is \$5 per year.

IOWA CITY AREA GROUP GOES ELECTRONIC

The Iowa City Area Group newsletter is moving to an electronic format. This will save paper and postage and allow you to receive more timely news about our activities. To read the latest edition of the Iowa City Sierran, which is available now, please visit our website: <http://iowa.sierraclub.org/icag>. When each new edition of our group newsletter goes up on our website, we will send you a notification with a link, if you give us your email address. To sign up for this email notification, please send your internet address to: [carsner\(AT\)mchsi.com](mailto:carsner(AT)mchsi.com). If you have questions or comments contact Tom Carsner, Iowa City Area Group Chair at the same address.

The Iowa City Area Group serves Cedar, Iowa, Johnson, Keokuk and Washington Counties in East Central Iowa.

HYPERION REFINERY UPDATE

By Neila Seaman, Chapter Director

The Chapter recently wrapped up its grant to oppose the Hyperion Refinery that is proposed for Union County, South Dakota. The refinery planned a 600 MW on-site integrated gasification combined cycle (IGCC) power plant. The proposed site is 26 miles northwest of Sioux City and ten miles west of the Big Sioux River, which defines Iowa's western border north of Sioux City. The Chapter is concerned that the refinery will negatively impact Iowa's air quality and the fragile ecosystem in the Loess Hills.

History

The Iowa Chapter first became interested in the project after Hyperion submitted its Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD), also known as the draft air permit or preconstruction, permit application in December 2007. The South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) then made the draft PSD permit available for public comment until November 2008. Of the 3,000 comments received, 200 of them were opposed to the project. South Dakota DENR made no changes to the draft air permit based on public comment. In August 2009, the South Dakota Board of Minerals and Environment (BME) approved Hyperion's application and South Dakota DENR's proposed permit decision for the Hyperion Refinery.¹ The first step of an appeal process—a contested case proceeding—was scheduled by the South Dakota BME for July 2010.

Before the contested case hearing, Hyperion asked to extend its application for a PSD permit. South Dakota provided 30 days for public comment until early 2011 on the revised draft permit application. The comment period was then extended until April 2011. The Iowa Department of Natural Resource (IDNR) staff did not submit comments on the revised draft air permit as they had for the original permit application. South Dakota DENR released its response to the public comments in May 2011. The South Dakota DENR also released Hyperion's revised draft air permit that same day without any revisions. To date, there have been no permits issued to withdraw water or discharge wastewater.

South Dakota Sierra Club appealed the revised permit. Based on the appeal process and the permit applications reviewed, there are several issues with the Hyperion Refinery proposal that have not been addressed. For example, the greenhouse gas emissions that will be produced by the refinery have been ignored. Specifically, carbon capture is no longer a central aspect of the Hyperion air pollution plan even though Hyperion supporters promoted its use for three years. Furthermore, the State of South Dakota is not requiring an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Hyperion project. As a result, residents of South Dakota, as well as residents in the region around the proposed Hyperion refinery, are not adequately informed about the impacts of this major proposal.

Construction was scheduled to begin in summer 2011. In June 2010, Hyperion requested an 18-month construction delay from the deadline that expired in February 2011 to extend that deadline to August 2012. The energy company cited "...the unpredictable timeline associated with the amended permit."² Construction must begin by August 2012 or Hyperion must request a new extension forcing a new comment period or walk away from the project. Iowa Sierra Club leaders have met with IDNR administrators on several occasions to discuss the state's intervention for the original permit. We encouraged IDNR staff to design a request that would help initiate an Environmental Assessment through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). During a June 2011 meeting with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 officials in Kansas City, Kansas, the Chapter concluded that the federal law did not apply because Hyperion has not yet requested federal funding. An Environmental Impact Statement would be allowed based on South Dakota law if South Dakota DENR requested it.

Official Iowa Involvement

In 2011, newly inaugurated Governor Terry Branstad appointed Roger Lande as the new director of the IDNR. At a meeting in February, Lande informed a group of Sierra Club Iowa Chapter representatives that he was not opposed to the refinery. In contrast to their predecessors, Iowa's current administration appears to oppose environmental protection, including environmental regulation.

The IDNR did not provide comments about the PSD permit to South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources by April 1, 2011. As a result, Iowa's interests were not represented in the official record and were not part of the consideration for issuing the PSD permit. The issues and concerns highlighted by previous IDNR Director Richard Leopold have not been addressed and resolved by the South Dakota DENR and Hyperion Energy Center. It is highly likely that Iowa officials, at the direction of the Governor, will not proceed with any further dialogue between Iowa's DNR and South Dakota's DENR.

The Chapter remains very concerned that the overall air quality in northwest Iowa will be negatively impacted and the data needed to fully gauge the impact of prevailing winds blowing the pollution into Iowa have not been collected and analyzed. In June, the Chapter distributed an action alert requesting IDNR officials to include a hazardous air pollutant (HAP) monitor in its 2011 Ambient Air Monitoring Plan. More than 190 responses were sent to the IDNR in addition to almost 20 postcards collected at the Loess Hills Prairie Seminar. Respondents received a message from IDNR that "...The department will consider evaluating the potential ambient impacts of Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs) in the Sioux City area if construction is initiated at the site. The department does not intend to revise its 2011 Network Plan to include a HAP monitor in Sioux City."

Other major issues, including water supply, water quality, soil loss and transportation infrastructure, will not be sufficiently studied unless a formal Environmental Assessment and EIS are prepared. All efforts to persuade the South Dakota DENR to require an Environmental Impact Statement have failed.

You can read more about Hyperion and the materials the Chapter developed related to the project on our website at <http://iowa.sierraclub.org/Hyperion%20Refinery/refinery.htm>

¹ Hyperion Energy Center Union County DENR's Response to Comments Received on the Draft Prevention of Significant Deterioration Preconstruction Air Quality Permit. <http://denr.sd.gov/Hyperion/Air/20081215%20Response%20to%20Comments.pdf>

² "Hyperion asks for change in state timeline," by Cody Winchester, *The Sioux Falls Argus Leader*, April 6, 2011

Sierra Club Campaign to Fight Tar Sands Pipeline Threat

By Molly Scherrman

For most Americans summertime stirs up memories of fireworks on the Fourth of July, hot summer days, and time with family and friends. Unfortunately summertime has also come to mean high gasoline prices and bad air quality alerts as pollution from cars and trucks clogs the air. This summer, the Sierra Club is launching a new campaign in Iowa to combat a dangerous new form of oil called tar sands.

Tar sands oil is one of the most toxic fossil fuels on the planet that leaves in its wake scarred landscapes and a web of pipelines and polluting refineries and further delays our transition to a clean energy economy. Tar sands are found under the Canadian Boreal Forest, the largest remaining intact ecosystem in the world. If we do not stop the spread of tar sands, an area the size of Michigan will be destroyed in the hunt for more oil.¹ Famed climate scientist James Hansen recently calculated the climate harm of tar sands writing, "if the tar sands are thrown into the mix, it is essentially game over."²

The most recent tar sands threat comes from a company called TransCanada which is working to gain the permits necessary to build the massive Keystone XL pipeline which would bring up to 900,000 barrels per day of toxic tar sands oil from Canada through the heartland of the United States.³ Keystone XL would go through the ecologically fragile Nebraska Sandhills and the irreplaceable Ogallala aquifer which provides one third of U.S. agricultural water and drinking water for millions.⁴ The Keystone XL pipeline is part of an oil industry effort to increase profits. TransCanada's analysis has found that the Keystone XL pipeline will increase oil prices in Iowa. Their report states, "the Keystone XL Pipeline is expected to strengthen Canadian crude oil pricing in PADD II [the Midwestern market] ... The resultant increase in the price of heavy crude is estimated to provide an increase in annual revenue to the Canadian producing industry in 2013 of US \$2 billion to US \$3.9 billion."⁵

The Sierra Club is launching a new campaign in Iowa which aims to educate citizens about Keystone XL and explain why this project is not in our interest. We hope to build local alliances that will help us fight back against this pipeline. We are looking for volunteers to help with this campaign. For more information or to get involved, please contact Molly Scherrman at molly@linkstrategies.com or (515) 243-0445. You can also learn more about tar sands and the Keystone XL pipeline at www.sierraclub.org/tarsands.

¹ Energy Resources Conservation Board. "Frequently Asked Questions on the Development of Alberta's Energy Resources – Oil Sands." 2009. <http://www.ercb.ca/docs/public/EnerFAQs/PDF/EnerFAQs12-OilSands.pdf>.

² Bill McKibben. "If Brazil Has to Guard Its Rainforest, Why Does Canada/U.S. Get to Burn Its Tar Sands?" June 27 2011 http://www.huffingtonpost.com/bill-mckibben/tar-sands_b_885604.html

³ "TransCanada Keystone L.P. Application for Presidential Permit" September 19, 2008. Web. 26 Oct 2010. <<http://bit.ly/a40aBL>> p. 5.

⁴ "USGS- Ogallala Aquifer Water Quality Currently Acceptable" http://journalstar.com/news/state-and-regional/govt-and-politics/article_f9a83f7a-5f6b-5ede-b666-d83b9ea593e7.html

⁵ Keystone XL Pipeline Section 52 Application to The Canadian National Energy Board. Section 3: Supply and Markets. p.1-8. [https://www.neb-one.gc.ca/ll-eng/Livelink.exe/fetch/2000/90464/90552/418396/550305/556487/549220/B-1f - Supply_and_Markets_\(Tab_3\)_incl_Appendix_3.1_-_A119R7?nodeid=549324&vernum=0&redirect=3&redirect=4](https://www.neb-one.gc.ca/ll-eng/Livelink.exe/fetch/2000/90464/90552/418396/550305/556487/549220/B-1f - Supply_and_Markets_(Tab_3)_incl_Appendix_3.1_-_A119R7?nodeid=549324&vernum=0&redirect=3&redirect=4)

Federal AQ Rule Still Applies Even After Branstad Rescinds Iowa Rule

By Neila Seaman, Chapter Director

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) completed standards for hazardous air pollutants (HAP) from existing stationary diesel engines, also known as the Reciprocating Internal Combustion Engine (RICE) rules, in March 2010. Affected facilities have until May 2013 to comply with the rule. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) presented a Notice of Intended Action to the Environmental Protection Commission (EPC) to begin rulemaking at its May 2010 meeting. The measure passed. After a public comment period, the EPC passed the final rule in September 2010 and it became effective in February 2011.

On March 9, 2011, Senators Bartz, Johnson, Kettering, Hahn, Soddors, Behn, Ragan, Hamerlinck, Bacon, Kibbie, Gronstal, Schoenjahn, Rielly, Kapucian, Boettger, Feenstra, Beall, Chelgren, Hancock, Wilhelm, Seymour, Dandekar, McKinley, Ernst, Fraise and Sorenson introduced Senate Resolution 7 urging EPA to nullify the RICE rules. The resolution passed the Senate by a voice vote on April 7, 2011.

House Resolution 29 was introduced March 17, 2011, by Representatives Pettengill, Kaufmann, Sands, Smith, J., Alons, Iverson, Watts, Shaw, Heaton, Baudler, Tjepkes, Drake, Schultz, Baltimore, Byrnes, Horbach, Rasmussen, Soderberg, Grassley, Paustian, Dolecheck, Chambers, Vander Linden, Muhlbauer, Hein, Wittneben, Rayhons, Windschitl, Wenthe, Moore, Thomas, De Boef, Deyoe, Fry, Massie and Quirk. House Resolution 29 replicated Senate Resolution 7. The House had not acted on the Resolution as of June 29, 2011.

Gov. Terry Branstad issued Executive Order 72 on April 4, 2011, rescinding the Iowa rule Implementing RICE. Branstad cited, among other things, that the standard "imposes unnecessary and crippling costs on small Iowa municipal utilities," that "some Iowa municipal utilities have found that the unnecessary, increased regulatory burden could cost their consumers" and that the "standards may make it cost prohibitive for some utilities to maintain and operate emergency engines, jeopardizing the security of the national power grid." Gov. Branstad then sent a letter to Lisa Jackson, U.S. EPA Director on April 5, 2011, indicating his concerns.

On June 13, 2011, EPA Director Jackson responded to Gov. Branstad indicating that the EPA would review Gov. Branstad's letter, and comments submitted by Pat Stief, General Manager of the municipal utility in Traer, Iowa, and would inform the governor of the EPA's decision. EPA will also post its decision on its website. <<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/rice/ricepg.html>>

As a result of the Governor's action, Iowa DNR no longer has full delegated authority for the RICE rule. The federal RICE rule remains in effect and EPA is still implementing the standard. The federal compliance date for most existing stationary diesel engines of May 3, 2013, remains in effect under federal regulation.[1] <http://www.iowa.sierraclub.org/#_ftn1>

UPPER IOWA RIVER PADDLING AUGUST 13-14

From the Wisconsin Sierra Club's Newsletter
<http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/rts/>

This spring-fed river is one of the most scenic rivers in the Midwest—beautiful limestone cliffs break up this stretch of greenbelt. Learn about the unique geology and ecology of the driftless (unglaciated) region. Dogs are allowed on this trip. For details, contact Doug Robinson, 608-334-8026 or dougnku@gmail.com.

Pre-registration Required: You must contact the leader prior to the trip to register and to get the logistics of the trip (when and where it departs.) Gear: You are responsible for providing all of your gear—boat, paddles, life jacket, bail bucket, and so on—and weather-appropriate clothing. Class 1; Car Camp. "Car Camp" means you'll return to a camping site for the evening. International Scale of River Rating Difficulty--Class 1: moving water with few riffles and small waves. Few or no obstructions.

Liability waiver: All participants are required to sign a liability waiver prior to the trip and abide by decisions made by the trip leader.

ROOT RIVER PADDLING AND BIKING TRIP FRIDAY-SUNDAY, AUGUST 26-28

From the newsletter of the Central Iowa Group

Join us for a weekend along the scenic limestone cliffs of the Root River Valley near historic Lanesboro, Minnesota (just 4 hours from Des Moines). We will camp Friday and Saturday night on the shady riverbank in the modern Eagle Cliff Campground (showers and flush toilets, \$11/person each night). Saturday you will enjoy a half-day float along the Root River.

You may bring your own canoe or kayak, or rent one from the campground outfitters (\$39/2-person canoe, \$30/1-person kayak, shuttle included). Saturday evening, enjoy a gourmet dinner at the Old Village Hall Restaurant in Lanesboro, and then relax around the campfire back at our group campsite.

On Sunday morning, enjoy a 2-hour bike ride on the paved riverside bike trail, topped off with a trailside lunch and homemade pie at the Aroma Pie Shop in Whalan. Bike rentals are also available (\$12).

You may want to check out the local apple farms, wineries, art galleries, or antique shops before heading home at your leisure Sunday afternoon.

Make your paid reservation by August 19 (checks made out to Eagle Cliff). Group size limited to 12. Difficulty level: Moderate. Contact Doug at [dra427\(@\)mchsi.com](mailto:dra427(@)mchsi.com) or 515-277-1263 for information and reservations.

Liability waiver: All participants are required to sign a liability waiver prior to the trip and abide by decisions made by the trip leader.

Sierrans Join Moving Planet Event on September 24

Sierrans across the state are joining with other climate activists to participate in Moving Planet on Saturday, September 24. Plans are being made for Moving Planet events in Ames, Cedar Rapids, Des Moines, Dubuque, Iowa City, and numerous other communities in the state.

Moving Planet is a worldwide rally to demand solutions to the climate crisis - a single day to move beyond fossil fuels. It is sponsored by 350.org, the organization founded by Bill McKibben and a few college students, to set a goal for reducing carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere to prevent potentially catastrophic global warming. Thousands of events will be happening in hundreds of countries around the world.

In Ames, a 5k run and walk around the campus of Iowa State University is being planned; in Des Moines, a bike ride starting at the State Capitol and touring energy solutions near downtown; and in Cedar Rapids, a bike ride from the site of a coal-burning power plant to the region's largest photovoltaic array at Prairiewoods.

Please save this date now and plan to participate. To find out what event is planned in your community, or to register an event, visit www.moving-planet.org.

In addition to Moving Planet, many Sierrans are participating in a larger ad hoc climate education and advocacy effort called Iowa Climate Advocates. Iowa Climate Advocates is an ad hoc group of Iowans working to educate the public about the dangers of climate change, advocating for action at all levels to slow, stop, and reverse the buildup of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, and advocating for action that will safeguard people and their property from the effects of climate change in our community and around the world. To join that effort, contact Sierra Club member Rob Hogg at robhogg@earthlink.net or visit www.iowacclimateadvocates.org. See a related article in the Cedar-Wapsie section of this newsletter.

We need to show political leaders in our state and country that Iowans and Americans are more than ready for climate action at a personal level and at a policy level. As America's scientific leaders said in October, 2009, "The severity of climate change impacts is expected to increase substantially in the coming decades. If we are to avoid the most severe impacts of climate change, emissions of greenhouse gases must be dramatically reduced. In addition, adaptation will be necessary to address those impacts that are already unavoidable." To read the full statement signed by leaders of 18 professional scientific organizations in the United States, visit www.aaas.org/spp/cstc/climateletterfinal.pdf

Create An Environmental Legacy

Bequests have played a key role in the Sierra Club's environmental successes over the years. Planning now may make your gift more meaningful and reduce taxes on your estate. We have many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter. For more information and confidential assistance contact:

Sierra Club Planned Giving Program

85 Second Street, 2nd Floor

San Francisco, CA 94105

(415) 977-5639 • email: planned.giving@sierraclub.org

Sierra Club

IOWA CHAPTER DIRECTORY

Iowa Chapter Office

3839 Merle Hay Road
Suite 280

Des Moines, IA 50310

515-277-8868

iowa.chapter@sierraclub.org

Chapter Director

Neila Seaman

515-277-8868

neila.seaman@sierraclub.org

IOWA CHAPTER OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair

Jane Clark

515-223-5047 (12/13)

Treasurer

Donna Buell

712-336-2103

Secretary

Legal Chair

Wally Taylor

319-377-2842 (H) (12/11)

319-366-2428 (W)

Fundraising Chair

Pam Mackey-Taylor

319-377-2842 (12/11)

Conservation Co-Chairs

Steve Veysey

515-232-4635

Jane R. Clark

515-223-5047 (12/13)

Political Chair

Charles Winterwood

563-588-2783 (12/13)

Legislative Chair

Debbie Neustadt

515-263-0297 (12/11)

Virginia Soelberg

515-253-0232 (12/12)

Karen Tigges

515-274-0545 (12/12)

Gerald Neff

563-332-5373

Shirley Danskin-White

515-965-1072 (12/13)

Michelle Heater

515-255-9529 (12/13)

Francis Thicke

641-919-8554

Margaret Whiting

319-291-6994

Membership Chair

Jo Hudson

515-276-6359

Newsletter Editor

Jane R. Clark

515-223-5047

GROUP DELEGATES TO IOWA CHAPTER EXCOM

Cedar Prairie

Margaret Whiting

319-291-6994

Cedar-Wapsie

Pam Mackey-Taylor

319-377-2842

Central Iowa

Sandra Simmons

515-288-1811

Eagle View

Gerald Neff

563-332-5373

Iowa City Area

Michael Carberry

319-338-8820

Leopold

Cindy Ballou

641-472-6646

Northwest Iowa

Jim Redmond

712-258-8303

Prairie Lakes

Donna Buell

712-336-2103

White Pine

Charlie Winterwood

563-588-2783

GROUP CHAIRS

Cedar Prairie

JoAnn Finkenbinder

Margaret Whiting

319-291-6994

Cedar-Wapsie

Mike Wyrick

319-393-8948

Central Iowa

Jane R. Clark

515-223-5047

Eagle View

Kristen Bergren

309-797-4416

Iowa City Area

Tom Carsner

319-338-9335

Leopold

Francis Thicke

641-919-8554

Northwest Iowa

Madonna Nitzke

712-274-2466

Prairie Lakes

Diane Rohan

712-265-9195

White Pine

Charlie Winterwood

563-588-2783

CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

Sen. Charles Grassley

135 Hart Senate

Office Bldg.

Washington, D.C. 20510-

1501

202-224-3744 (D.C.)

515-284-4890

(Des Moines office)

Sen. Tom Harkin

531 Hart Senate

Office Bldg.

Washington, D.C. 20510-

1502

202-224-3254 (D.C.)

515-284-4574

(Des Moines office)

Rep. Bruce Braley

(District 1)

1408 Longworth House

Office Bldg.

Washington, D.C. 20515

202-225-2911

Rep. Dave Loebsack

(District 2)

1513 Longworth House

Office Bldg.

Washington, D.C. 20515

202-225-6576

Rep. Leonard Boswell

(District 3)

1427 Longworth House

Office Bldg.

Washington, D.C. 20515

(202) 225-3806

(202) 225-5608 (fax)

Rep. Tom Latham

(District 4)

516 Cannon House

Office Bldg.

Washington, D.C. 20515-

1505

202-225-5476

Rep. Steven King

(District 5)

1432 Longworth House

Office Bldg.

Washington, D.C. 20515

202-225-4426

PRESIDENT

Barack Obama

The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Ave.,

NW

Washington, DC 20500

202-456-1111

GOVERNOR

Terry Branstad

State Capitol

1015 E. Grand Ave.

Des Moines, IA 50319-0002

515-281-5211

IOWA LEGISLATURE

To get Iowa legislators' names, addresses, and phone numbers at any time of the year, call 515-281-5129.

NATIONAL WEBSITE:

www.sierraclub.org

IOWA CHAPTER WEBSITE:

www.iowa.sierraclub.org

CHAPTER WEBMASTER:

neila.seaman@sierraclub.org

For our Families . . . For our Future.

PROTECT AMERICA'S ENVIRONMENT