

Conservation Committee Report

Volume 9 Issue 3

By Jack Walters, ACSL Conservation Chair

March 2007



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!

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GOVERNOR RENDELL ANNOUNCES \$1 MILLION GRANT TO SPUR DEVELOPMENT, CREATE 1,600 JOBS ON PITTSBURGH'S EAST SIDE

Governor Edward G. Rendell today announced a \$1 million Growing Greener II investment that will help finance a major brownfield redevelopment project on Pittsburgh's East Side.

The money will pay for cleanup of the former Nabisco plant in Pittsburgh's East Liberty section and it will help prepare the land for the development of retail and office space, as well as a 120-room hotel. The development, to be called Bakery Square, is expected to create 1,600 new jobs.

"We can grow our economy, create new job opportunities for our working men and women, and improve the environment by cleaning up these abandoned industrial sites," Governor Rendell said. "Making these sites 'shovel ready' helps

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GOVERNOR RENDELL ANNOUNCES 4TH ANNUAL GREAT PENNSYLVANIA CLEANUP

Governor Edward G. Rendell today invited schools and community groups to join the 4th Annual Great Pennsylvania Cleanup, a statewide effort to remove litter and trash from roadways, parks, riverbanks and open spaces.

The entire cleanup campaign – with a special emphasis on creating Litter-Free School Zones – will run from March 1 to May 31. A featured one-day, state-wide cleanup event will take place on April 21, in conjunction with Earth Day.

"The volunteers of the Great Pennsylvania Cleanup do an outstanding job helping to make Pennsylvania a clean and beautiful place in which to live, work and play," Governor Rendell said. "Each year, a growing number of Pennsylvanians join together for this important effort. I encourage all citizens to volunteer for or organize a cleanup event in their community."

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CREATE 1,600 JOBS ON PITTSBURGH'S EAST SIDE**(continued)**

Pennsylvania attract investors and stimulates development, which is great news for our communities and our residents.”

The Regional Industrial Development Corporation of Southwestern Pennsylvania, or RIDC, will use the grant, along with \$335,000 of its own money, to clean contamination from the former Nabisco plant. The state funding will be used to remove asbestos, PCBs, lead-based paint and other hazardous materials from the site.

Development plans for the 6.5-acre area call for the creation of 223,000 square feet of office space, 165,000 square feet of retail space, and the hotel. Located near several of Pittsburgh's major employers – including UPMC Hospitals, the University of Pittsburgh, and Carnegie Mellon University – Bakery Square is expected to continue the resurgence of Pittsburgh's East Liberty area. Several other major retailers have located in the vicinity in recent years.

“Governor Rendell is making good on his promise to turn environmental challenges into economic opportunities using innovative programs that transform today's abandoned industrial sites into tomorrow's job sites, and clean our environment and revitalize our urban neighborhoods,” said Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty as she delivered the funding to local officials. “Governor Rendell is committed to being a partner in the continued redevelopment of Pittsburgh's East Side.”

Growing Greener II provides up to \$5 million annually for brownfield remediation through DEP funds that are transferred to the Department of Community and Economic Development's industrial sites reuse program. Funding for today's project came from the Industrial Sites Reuse Program, which is designed to foster environmental contamination cleanup at industrial sites to make blighted land productive.

“Over the past four years, we have developed the tools and provided the resources that are injecting new life into our communities, especially our older urban neighborhoods,” McGinty said. “Brownfield remediation provides job-creating firms with locations that offer access to roads, power, telecommunications and other vital infrastructure right out of the gate.

“A location like Bakery Square also offers access to a large market because more than 350,000 people live within five miles of this site. This strategy is paying dividends, as more and more businesses are relocating or expanding in the state and are helping to create a record number of jobs.”

The Brownfield Action Team, administered by DEP, helps to accelerate redevelopment deals and gives investors the incentive they need to clean up contaminated industrial sites. BAT projects typically get permitted in half the usual time. Since its launch in 2004, BAT has helped redevelop more than 4,500 acres of brownfields included in 32 projects in 22 counties.

Under the state's land recycling program, the state has cleaned up 2,267 contaminated and abandoned industrial sites, creating or retaining as many as 77,700 jobs since 1995. About 40 percent of those 11-year totals have come in just the last three years under the Governor's leadership. The state's strategic invest

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CREATE 1,600 JOBS ON PITTSBURGH'S EAST SIDE**(continued)**

ment of more than \$230 million over the last three years has helped to clean up and redevelop 1,023 abandoned industrial sites, creating or retaining some 28,700 jobs.

The Governor's Business in Our Sites Fund, which also is administered by DCED, provides \$300 million to help local redevelopment authorities and economic development corporations acquire, remediate and prepare shovel-ready sites for businesses that are seeking to build or expand immediately. PennWorks, a \$250 million voter-approved bond initiative, finances improvements to aging water and wastewater systems that can serve as a disincentive to development.

Under Governor Rendell's leadership, DEP and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency entered into a historic memorandum of agreement making Pennsylvania's land recycling program the first and only in the nation to serve as a "one-stop shop" for state and federal standards guiding the cleanup of brownfield sites.

"Brownfield Bundling," launched jointly by DCED, DEP and the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority, identified 12 brownfield sites in secondary markets that were ready for redevelopment. The initiative marketed these properties to developers who previously had not been active in those markets. Now, less than 12 months later, redevelopment activity is under way at half of the sites.

Successful brownfield revitalization programs also encourage "smart growth." Estimates show for every one acre of brownfield property redeveloped, four acres of green space are preserved. In September, the Governor issued a new report, "Revitalizing Pennsylvania: A Report on Brownfield Investments 2003-2006," that notes every public dollar invested in brownfield revitalization projects can leverage as much as four times that amount.

The complete report, along with an appendix listing all sites receiving state funding during that time period, is available at www.growinggreener2.com/files/BrownfieldRpt_092006.pdf.

For more information on the Industrial Sites and Reuse Program, visit www.newPA.com or call 1-866-GO-NEWPA (1-866-466-3972). For details about brownfield cleanup and redevelopment, visit DEP's Web site at www.depweb.state.pa.us, Keyword: "Land Recycling."

Governor Rendell recently unveiled his Energy Independence Strategy, an initiative that will invest \$850 million to significantly expand Pennsylvania's alternative-fuel and clean-energy industries, stabilize electricity rates for businesses, reduce dependence on foreign oil and cut consumer energy costs by \$10 billion over the next 10 years. The Governor's proposal will substantially increase the production of homegrown renewable fuel sources such as ethanol and biofuels to match the amount of liquid-fuels currently imported from the Persian Gulf, and offers incentives for electricity generators to invest in conservation measures. For more information on the Energy Independence Strategy, visit DEP's Web site at www.depweb.state.pa.us, Keyword: "Energy."

Source: DEP

GOVERNOR RENDELL ANNOUNCES 4TH ANNUAL GREAT PENNSYLVANIA CLEANUP**(continued)**

Last year, more than 132,000 volunteers from all 67 counties removed 6.7 million pounds of trash from roads, parks, schools, waterways, wildlife areas and communities.

This year's initiative includes a focus on Litter-Free School Zones, a new program launched by Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, cosponsor of the Great Pennsylvania Cleanup. Participating schools agree to check the campus grounds weekly and remove litter, and also to promote and implement all campus events as litter-free events.

Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty visited the Wilson Middle School in Carlisle, Cumberland County, and echoed the Governor's message before 200 enthusiastic sixth-graders who signed personal pledges not to litter.

"Thank you for volunteering to be among the very first students to create a Litter-Free School Zone," Secretary McGinty said. "Litter and illegal dumping affect everyone's quality of life and I want you to ask all your friends, teachers, coaches and every adult you know to get involved in this year's Great Pennsylvania Cleanup and to keep Pennsylvania litter-free every day."

In December 2006, Secretary McGinty received Keep America Beautiful's Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson Award, the organization's highest award given to women volunteers. This national achievement award is presented annually to an outstanding woman for exceptional leadership in litter prevention and beautification activities.

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Inc. is again playing a major role in the Great Pennsylvania Cleanup. Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful is supported and sponsored by a wide range of businesses, trade organizations, civic and environmental groups, and state and local government agencies. It is the state affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, which was founded in 1953 to promote litter prevention, community beautification and improvement, and waste reduction.

The state departments of Conservation and Natural Resources, Education, Environmental Protection and Transportation are members of the Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful alliance.

PennDOT supports the cleanup by providing participants with free gloves, safety vests and trash bags. In 2005, Keep America Beautiful presented PennDOT with one of six partner awards for its role in making the Great Pennsylvania Cleanup a success.

PA CleanWays, a nonprofit group dedicated to fighting illegal dumping and litter, is coordinating all cleanup event registrations and collections reporting.

Member companies of the Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association are again offering free landfill space to dispose of nonrecyclable waste collected during the cleanup. Groups must register their events by April 16 to be eligible for this offer.

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GOVERNOR RENDELL ANNOUNCES 4TH ANNUAL GREAT PENNSYLVANIA CLEANUP**(continued)**

This year's Great Pennsylvania Cleanup also features exciting incentives for groups that register their events and report the results of the efforts through a Web site, www.greatpacleanup.org. Random drawings will be held to award gift cards from a growing number of Pennsylvania businesses sponsoring the Great Pennsylvania Cleanup. The Web site offers information on how to take advantage of the national Keep America Beautiful incentive programs.

For information on the Great Pennsylvania Cleanup, and to find or register a cleanup event, visit www.greatpacleanup.org. The site contains safety information, links to other cleanup organizations, a logo that can be downloaded, T-shirt iron-on transfers and posters, and lesson plans for teachers.

For additional information, call the toll-free Pennsylvania Recycling and Litterbug Hotline at 1-888-548-8372.

Source: DEP

DEP SECRETARY VISITS ERIE BIODIESEL PLANT TO HIGHLIGHT GOVERNOR RENDELL'S ENERGY INDEPENDENCE STRATEGY**(continued)**

The Energy Independence Strategy offers incentives for electricity generators to invest in conservation measures, and offers rebates to small businesses and homeowners who trade in inefficient home cooling appliances or purchase new solar energy systems.

The Energy Independence Fund will offer \$106 million in venture capital, loans and grants to be matched at least dollar for dollar by private sector capital and \$500 million to initiate new clean energy economic development projects.

For more information on Governor Rendell's Energy Independence Strategy, visit DEP's Web site at www.depweb.state.pa.us, Keyword: "Energy."

Source: DEP

DEP SECRETARY VISITS ERIE BIODIESEL PLANT TO HIGHLIGHT GOVERNOR RENDELL'S ENERGY INDEPENDENCE STRATEGY

Lake Erie Biofuels is First Large-Scale Biodiesel Plant in Pennsylvania

Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty today toured the site where Lake Erie Biofuels is constructing a state-of-the-art facility that will produce 45 million gallons of biodiesel each year, and spoke with company and local officials about the economic opportunities created by Governor Rendell's Energy Independence Strategy.

"Last week, Gov. Rendell set a new course for Pennsylvania's energy future by announcing that he will invest \$850 million to significantly expand Pennsylvania's alternative fuel and clean energy industries, stabilize electricity rates for businesses, reduce dependence on foreign oil and cut consumer energy costs by \$10 billion over the next 10 years," McGinty said. "Lake Erie Biofuels is poised to take full advantage of Pennsylvania's new energy economy, which will increase the production of homegrown renewable fuel sources such as ethanol and biofuels to match the amount of liquid-fuels currently imported from the Persian Gulf."

Lake Erie Biofuels will employ 40 workers once the plant is fully operational in August, and it will create biofuels from diverse sources.

Biodiesel is becoming an increasingly important piece of the home heating oil market in Pennsylvania because it can be used in a blend with petroleum diesel fuel and home heating oil.

Lake Erie Biofuels received \$625,000 from Pennsylvania's Alternative Fuels Incentives Grant program (AFIG) last December to help the company produce 12.5 million gallons of biodiesel by this summer.

The AFIG program offers incentives of 5-cents-per-gallon to Pennsylvania producers of biodiesel and ethanol. The grants, awarded in December, leveraged more than \$40 million in private funds for the production of almost 64 million gallons of clean-burning biodiesel annually, as well as for the installation of storage tanks that are needed to distribute and sell biofuels.

AFIG grants also cover 100 percent of the added costs to eligible applicants who purchase high-percentage biofuels blends for use in their fleets.

"With Governor Rendell's leadership and the initiative of private industry, we are growing our own energy and growing our economy, while ensuring Pennsylvania's energy independence," McGinty said.

Governor Rendell's proposed Energy Independence Strategy mandates the use of biofuels and ethanol in all transportation fuels in Pennsylvania, with a goal of one billion gallons of production by 2017, or the equivalent to all oil currently imported to Pennsylvania from the Persian Gulf.

The Governor's proposal will push Pennsylvania into the top tier of states taking steps to cut consumer energy costs and significantly expand the alternative fuel, clean energy and conservation sectors. The enactment of new laws, regulatory policies and the creation of the \$850 million Energy Independence Fund will save consumers \$10 billion in energy costs over the next 10 years, reduce reliance on foreign fuels by increasing Pennsylvania's clean energy production capacity; and expand energy production and energy technology sectors to create more jobs.

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Alaskan North Slope Well to Sample and Test Gas Hydrate

DOE-Led Interagency R&D Effort Key Step to Unlocking Vast Energy Resource

Drilling is complete on an Alaskan North Slope well, co funded by the Department of Energy, that could prove to be an important milestone in assessing America's largest potential fossil energy resource: gas hydrate.

Gas hydrate is an ice-like solid that results from the trapping of methane molecules - the main component of natural gas - within a lattice-like cage of water molecules. Dubbed the "ice that burns," this substance releases gaseous methane when it melts.

The size of the global gas hydrate resource is staggering, holding more ultimate energy potential than all other fossil fuels combined, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). In the United States, where gas hydrate occurs beneath the permafrost of Alaska's arctic north and below the seabed offshore, the volume of this resource is massive. USGS estimates that the Nation's gas hydrate deposits contain 200,000 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) of natural gas. Compare this with a known recoverable natural gas resource of approximately 1,500 Tcf. If just one percent of the gas hydrate resource could be rendered producible, our Nation's natural gas resource base would more than double.

The "Mt. Elbert Prospect" well was drilled from an ice pad, constructed to protect the sensitive arctic tundra. The well is designed to verify the nature of one of 12 gas hydrate accumulations previously identified by the project within the Milne Point unit of the greater Prudhoe Bay region of Alaska's North Slope.

The project is a joint effort of the Office of Fossil Energy's National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL), the USGS, BP Exploration Alaska, the Alaska native-owned Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, the Universities of Arizona and Alaska (Fairbanks), and others.

A team of scientists from these and other organizations will be on the well site to collect and evaluate core samples, geophysical well logs, and other data designed to help determine the potential natural gas production from hydrate zones and possibly lead to more extensive production tests on the North Slope.

The project is being conducted through the National Methane Hydrate R&D Program, a DOE-led collaboration of seven federal agencies with a broad mandate to improve our understanding of gas hydrate's role in the natural environment and potential as a future source of natural gas.

Source: DOE

Fishing in Canada in July, you'll need a valid passport.

Fishing in Canada in July, you'll need a valid passport. If you don't have one or need to renew yours, do so right away as changes in U.S. State Department travel rules are bringing in tens of thousands of new passport applications.

The rules, which went into effect in January, require all air travelers 15 and older to have passports for travel between the United States and Canada. For more information about passports, see the State Department webpage: http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html.

New Application for a U.S. Passport

To obtain a passport for the first time, you need to go in person to one of over 8,000 passport acceptance facilities located throughout the United States with two photographs of yourself, proof of U.S. citizenship, and a valid form of photo identification such as a driver's license.

Acceptance facilities include many Federal, state and probate courts, post offices, some public libraries and a number of county and municipal offices. There are also 13 regional passport agencies, and 1 Gateway City Agency, which serve customers who are traveling within 2 weeks (14 days), or who need foreign visas for travel. Appointments are required in such cases.

You'll need to apply in person if you are applying for a U.S. passport for the first time: if your expired U.S. passport is not in your possession; if your previous U.S. passport has expired and was issued more than 15 years ago; if your previous U.S. passport was issued when you were under age 16; or if your currently valid U.S. passport has been lost or stolen.

Renewal of a U.S. Passport

You can renew by mail if: Your most recent passport is available to submit and it is not damaged; you received the passport within the past 15 years; you were over age 16 when it was issued; you still have the same name, or can legally document your name change.

If your passport has been, altered or damaged, you cannot apply by mail. You must apply in person.

Passport Fees

Routine Services (Form DS-11)

Non-Refundable

Age 16 and older: The passport application fee is \$67. The execution fee is \$30. The total is **\$97** .

Under Age 16: The passport application fee is \$52. The execution fee is \$30. The total is **\$82** .

The passport application fee includes the \$12.00 Security Surcharge, which became effective March 8, 2005.