Week 4 – Here Come da Judge

This week the Senate Natural Resources Committee took up SB 353, the EQB water quality rule.

And an amazing committee meeting it was. For starters, it was discovered that all of the amendments that had been offered by industry to weaken the bill had erroneously been amended into the bill as it emerged from the legislative Interim rulemaking committee.

What the rulemaking committee had actually done was pass the original EQB rule “without recommendation”, with the weakening amendments listed as “pending.” Well, procedurally, amendments can be either accepted or rejected, but they can’t be sent on as “pending.”

Confused? So were the senators.

But staff knew what they were doing, and it was made clear that the bill being considered by Natural Resources was the original EQB water quality rule, with no amendments.

Now here’s when things got really amazing.

Staff legal counsel next told the committee that making amendments to the water quality rule by the legislature could result in legal challenges to the bill that could not be defended in court.

As a citation, the legal counsel used the recent OVEC (etal) v. EPA lawsuit decision that threw out several provisions of the legislature’s antidegradation implementation plan on the grounds that there was... continued on page 3

Half Way Through the Session

At mid-point in the 2004 WV Legislative Session not one piece of important environmental legislation has been enacted into law. In addition to the major bills we are working, there are numerous other bills we are working or keeping our eyes on.

Here’s a brief look at a few of the other bills:

The DEP has proposed an “Environmental Excellence” program (SB 155 and HB 4027) that contains some questionable incentive provisions to encourage industry to go further than simply meeting required air and water pollution standards. It’s not a bad idea, but the devil is always in the details.

DEP also has a proposal to require utilities to measure and report the amounts of greenhouse gases produced at their facilities. This is an important bill (HB 4029) which WVEC supports.

There is still a lot of talk that the Farm Bureau and others in the “regulated community” will push another attempt to gut the Environmental Quality Board and replace it with some type of water quality board they can control (SB 60). If this gets pushed, we will have a big fight on our hands.

DNR still wants permission to sell trees that are cut down in state parks or forests incidental to other construction activities (SB 498 and HB 4450). Again, the devil is in the details.

There is a bill that would allow the “beneficial” use of water treatment plant sludge (SB 89), that we need to take a closer look at.

The Senate has passed SB 231, an interesting bill that would allow counties to limit activities in flood plains that might impact neighboring lands. The bill has now moved to the House.

And the list goes on and on. The WVEC lobby team tracks and “works” as many of these bills as it can. You can track them on the WV legislature’s web page.
E-Day! At The Capitol

Tuesday, February 17, 2004
Lower Rotunda area
10:00 am ~ 3:00 pm

Groups, Organizations & Green Business Displays
Honoring our 2004 Award Recipients
Citizen Lobbying ~ Deposit Day

WV Environmental Council
Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition
WV Highlands Conservancy
Peoples Election Reform Coalition
WV Citizen Action Group
WV Environmental Institute
Sustainable West Virginia
Citizens For Clean Elections
Spring Creek Natural Foods
Coal River Mountain Watch
Mountaineer Chapter ~ Trout Unlimited
Environmental Advocate Office / DEP
Interfaith Global Climate Change Campaign
WV Eco-Tourism Association
Stanley Heirs Foundation
Tyler Mountain Community Association
Tire Re-use Services, LLC
Medicine Song Crafts
WV Wilderness Campaign
National Republicans for Environmental Protection
Friends of Blackwater Canyon
Wholistic Wellness Network
Natural Health & Environmental Services
WV Chapter, Sierra Club
Sierra Club Cent. Appalachian Enviro Justice
Sierra Club EPEC
Friends of the Mountains
WV Collegiate Network

Reception & Benefit to follow:

Perfater Law Office Lobby
1311 Virginia Street East, Charleston WV
5:30 pm ~ 10:00 pm
♦ Music! ♦ 2004 Award Presentations ♦ Fun Silent Auction
♦ Dinner Buffet & Refreshments Served ♦ $5.00 donation

Music: Steve Himes & The Blue Notes, Unplugged
Blues guitarist & vocalist Debbie Grimm

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Blues guitarist & vocalist Debbie Grimm

West Virginia
Environmental Council
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Legislative Update is published by the West Virginia Environmental Council (WVEC), a statewide organization dedicated to facilitating communication and cooperation among citizens in promoting environmental protection in West Virginia. Legislative Update, is published weekly during the Legislative Session.

Legislative Update welcomes letters, articles, and art work from readers and reserves the right to edit or reject submissions. Please send materials to the editor (preferably on disk or e-mail) to:

Perfater Law Office
1311 Virginia Street East, Charleston WV
(304) 346-5905
www.wvecouncil.org
insufficient administrative record of fact or science, as required by the federal Clean Water Act.

Holy moley! That’s what we’ve been saying all along, that none of the industry amendments had been given a full public notice and hearing as required by the law.

Natural Resources chairman John Pat Fanning told the committee, “You can’t adopt these things unless you have some background information.”

When other committee members mentioned that the weakening amendments could be considered next by the Senate Judiciary Committee, chairman Fanning responded, “That’s a gamble they will have to take. I will not take that gamble.”

Some senators on the committee seemed dumbfounded by the discussion.

Senator Karen Facemyer was angry. “Every member should be offended by being told we can’t amend a bill,” she said. “We’ve got the court system telling the Legislature what’s law and what’s not.”

Oh, come now, Senator, you know that’s how our democratic system of checks and balances has worked for more than 200 years! It’s the judiciary’s job to rule on the constitutionality of legislative actions.

And it would seem only prudent that the legislature might want to consider the legality of its own actions – before passing legislation that is likely to be thrown out in a court of law.

Well, when the uproar died down, the committee passed the original EQB water quality rule without any amendments, and also passed a resolution recommending that the industry-proposed amendments be sent to a study committee for 16 months. The bill now moves to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Lesson learned: some impacts of environmental lawsuits are not realized until later down the road!

Ah, if winter comes can spring be far behind? But it’s still winter out there, so please remember to feed the birds this week.

### 2004 E-Day Award Recipients

For their outstanding activism, leadership, courage and dedication to West Virginia’s environment and future:

**Mother Jones Award: Janet Fout**, an environmental activist for more than 25 years and well known bird lover, Janet began her activism as a member of the Audubon Society. She has since been active on a variety of issues, including: Ashland Oil Refinery, preserving wetlands, air quality, campaign finance reform, mountaintop removal (to name a few.) Janet is a strong and courageous activist and leader. She is currently Co-Director (along with Dianne Bady) of the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition (OVEC), an organization based in Huntington, WV that she also helped found in the 1980's.

**Chuck Chambers Public Service: Jack Spadaro**, has worked in several capacities for U.S. Dept. of Labor, Mine Safety & Health and the Office of Surface Mining for the U.S. Dept. of Interior beginning in the 1970's. Jack is currently on "administrative leave" from his position with Mine Safety & Health Administration's national training academy in Beckley, WV. He is termed a "whistleblower" citing Massey Energy and others while taking his job seriously to safeguard miners and coalfield residents (as he has always done throughout his career).

**Laura Forman Grassroots Activist, Freda Williams**, a native of Boone County, she has lived most her life in the coal fields of West Virginia. Her family roots helped form her early on, learning of coalfield injustices from her father, a coal miner and Union organizer who fought in the mine war at Blair Mountain. Freda started speaking out against strip mining in 1968, and hasn't stopped. She currently works with Coal River Mountain Watch.

**Linda Schnautz Environmental Courage: Patty Sebok**, a native of Boone county and a self described "coal miners daughter". Her grandfather fought to Unionize the coalfields and never returned from the battle of Blair Mountain. Patty's courage has taken her to stand on UMWA picket lines, fighting against overweight coal trucks, and now working with Coal River Mountain Watch against Mountaintop Removal.

**Green Entrepreneur: Spring Creek Natural Foods, Inc.** a sustainable business in Spencer, WV that produces natural, high quality, soy-based foods. Spring Creek has been producing nutritious food for over a decade. The dedication of Bob Hamburg and the staff to this endeavor is remarkable - and rare. They are spearheading an effort to increase awareness about the dangers of genetically engineered food, chemical additives and other nutritional health hazards. They make the best tofu in the world!

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**To Contact your Representatives on Issues:**
Legislative Reference & Information Center
MB-27, Building 1 - State Capitol Complex - Charleston, WV 25305
304 347-4836 toll free: 1 877 565-3447 On Line:
www.legis.state.wv.us
Dear Governor Wise …

“We’re The E-Council . . . And We’re Here to Help”

The State is looking for solutions to the growing fiscal dilemma . . . how to balance the budget on reduced revenues without cutting needed services. We have a plan: a convergence of ideas and available technical resources that, we believe, will assist the State leadership in cutting costs, energy and emissions. The West Virginia Environmental Council, as representatives of the Citizens of West Virginia “who want to breathe clean air and drink clean water”, vote and pay taxes, respectfully deliver the following offer and plan to help.

February 13, 2004

Governor Robert Wise
State of West Virginia
State Capitol
Charleston, West Virginia

Dear Governor Wise,

We are pleased to recognize your announced environmental concerns, your dedicated focus on the financial challenges of the State, and your leadership in both of these important areas. We, the West Virginia Environmental Council, wish to propose a realistic Energy Conservation Plan that will save the State money and reduce energy consumption as well as Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

We believe that there are market resources available that can achieve these critical goals without the need for any capital investment by the State. In addition, advanced technology is currently being introduced that will, in fact, create an opportunity for West Virginia to be a leader in environmental advances, particularly in the field of education.

Consistent with your long-standing commitment to encouraging logical advances in environmental improvement, we seek the opportunity to work with your staff to facilitate this policy for the benefit of all WV citizens.

We look forward to exploring this further with you.

Allan S. Tweddle
On behalf of the
West Virginia Environmental Council
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The State of West Virginia must seek every possible way to save taxpayer dollars in this tight economy. In addition, scientific consensus has identified global warming as a serious threat to our planet, it is prudent and appropriate that the State should set an example for the citizens by embracing and putting into practice Energy Conservation in all its activities.

As responsible policy makers, we in the administration and the legislature must seek solutions and practices that will strengthen the economy of our State, improve the services and benefits to our citizens, while seeking to reduce the financial burden on our citizens whenever possible. To that end, this Energy Conservation Plan of 2004 seeks to reduce our energy consumption and costs while improving the environment for all its citizens.

This Plan seeks to reduce such costs and energy consumption in both the stationary and mobile resources of all State assets.

By Executive order, The Agencies of the State of West Virginia will develop Energy Conservation Plans for all facilities and vehicles held as operating assets.

A. BUILDINGS

I. Existing State owned buildings will be examined and opportunities identified for reducing energy consumption.
II. New buildings planned or now in design will be built to the highest L.E.E.D.S. Standards, whether owned or leased by the State.
III. Currently leased facilities will be examined for possible energy reduction opportunities to the mutual benefit of the State and the landlord.

B. VEHICLES

I. All existing vehicles currently owned and operated by the State must be reviewed before replacement to determine if a more efficient vehicle is available. Wherever possible, a more efficient and economical vehicle must be selected.
II. The state will seek, wherever available, a hybrid powered vehicle.
E-Day at the Capitol!
Go Ye Out and Lobby Tips
Offered by Veteran Lobbyist
Conni Gratop Lewis

Here are some tips to make an E-Day visit with your legislator a success:

If you’re in a group, select who will speak on each issue.

Practice what you will say. Keep it short and sweet. Legislators have way too much information to process and a clear message is the one that will cut through the clutter.

Be a few minutes early, and be prepared to wait. All legislative schedules are subject to change. Senators have more committee meetings than Delegates. Legislators who are committee chairs are busier than the others.

Legislators’ assistants can be as knowledgeable about an issue as the legislator. Perhaps you will also want to talk to her. (Assistants are almost exclusively women.)

Be respectful and polite, since you do want to be welcomed when you return another time for another visit. Threats backfire. So does being disruptive.

Do explain how the issue affects you and your community.

Don’t do all the talking, let the legislator express his/her concerns. You may be able to answer them. Listening is a critically important skill in the legislative process.

If you are not sure of something, say so, and promise to get an answer back. Then do so.

After the visit, thank them for their time and their interest. A written note of thanks, recapping the discussion and any promises made is a good idea.

Who’d a Thunk It?

This is a minor correction to last week’s article by Allan regarding DEP’s decision to purchase a hybrid vehicle. Dave Bassage has pointed out to us that the decision was made by John Benedict, head of DEP’s air quality division.

Credit should be given where credit is due. So we now stand corrected.

Send Us Your Love!

Tomorrow is Valentine’s Day and you are all our “sweethearts” and we just know that we are your sweethearts, too.

So why not send us your love “offerings” to help warm us up? We really do rely on your contributions to keep the WVEC lobby team working on your behalf at the capitol. And we need your support now more than ever.

So send us a Valentine gift today, and you’ll see how much it will warm your heart as well.

Happy Valentine’s Day to all our Sweeties,

Don Garvin
WVEC Legislative Coordinator

Special Valentine Thanks

We want to send special valentine thanks to all our supporting organizations. These organizations are the E-Council, most of whom have not only donated during this session, but have been consistantly supportive of the lobby team effort over the years.

We have now been lobbying as WVEC for fifteen years. Quite remarkable. And quite impossible without the support of these organizations:

West Virginia Highlands Conservancy
Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition
Trout Unlimited - Mountaineer Chapter
WV Rivers Coalition
Plateau Action Network
Coal River Mountain Watch
WV Sierra Club
Friends of the Cheat
WV Citizen Action Group

Who’d a Thunk It?
Folks, in the middle of the legislative session and in the rush to put out the Legislative Update on Fridays, slip-ups can occasionally happen. On Friday, for example, we included the wrong "Clean Elections" article in the Update. Here is the correct and current article. -- Don Garvin, WVEC Legislative Coordinator

Clean Elections:
Keep Calls Coming!

by Julie Archer, WV Citizen Action

Keep those calls coming in support of the WV Clean Elections Act (SB 270 and HB 4260)! Senate Judiciary did not take up the bill this week, which gives us more time to make sure we have the votes. Committee members who really need to hear from folks are Senators Fanning, Harrison, McKenzie, Minard, Oliverio, Smith and Snyder. Sponsors should also get calls that their support for Clean Elections is appreciated. Sponsors on the committee are Senators Caldwell, Hunter, Jenkins, Kessler, Rowe and White.

The House sub-committee met this week and is scheduled to meet again on Monday. It is a good committee and it is giving the bill serious consideration. For the latest attend E-Day, Tuesday, February 17, and stop by the Citizens for Clean Elections table. Please come and lobby for clean elections and a clean environment!

All Terrain Vehicles - Still Moving
Conni Gratop Lewis, WVEC Lobbyist

The ATV bill (4022) has gone to conference committee to iron out differences between the houses. The committee will meet next week, which gives citizens time to contact their legislators and express their concerns about allowing the machines where they don’t belong. If we can keep them off paved roads, it will reduce significantly the opportunity to operate them on public lands, such as the Monongahela National Forest, wildlife refuges and other special places. The bill as passed by the senate doesn’t affect DNR’s ability to regulate ATVs on their property.

The conferees from the House are: Dels. Beane, Talbott, Ennis, Manuel and Caruth. The Senate conferees are: Kessler, White, Oliverio, Ross and Deem. Informal polls indicate at least 90% of West Virginians don’t want ATVs on paved roads. I can’t think of any other public policy issue that garners 90+% support.

Mining Committee Rubber Stamps
Weakening of Coal Truck Enforcement Rules
Julie Archer, WV-CAG

This week the Senate Energy, Industry and Mining Committee (EIM) rubber stamped proposed changes to the rules the Public Service Commission (PSC) uses to enforce the new “overweight coal truck law” that was passed last year. The rule change weakens a provision that requires shoppers and receivers of coal to report weight and other transport information to the PSC by limiting it to those trucks operating in the 15 southern counties that make up the Coal Resource Transportation System (CRTS). This change is in conflict with the intent of the law.

Senator Jon Blair Hunter was the lone vote against the bill (SB 392), which be considered next by the Senate Judiciary Committee. Hunter told the Associated Press, “Hopefully, judiciary will get some legal opinions. Either way, I believe this will end up in court.”

Please contact Judiciary Committee members. Tell them NOT to weaken the provision for coal trucks. Tell them that trucks driving in EVERY county should be accounted for.

If this bill passes the Senate, count on a fight in the House lead by Delegate Mike Caputo.
### Bills We Are Tracking

#### Senate Bills

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Bill Number</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Committee</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SB 39</td>
<td>Allowing landowners to remove debris to prevent flooding (“Flood Thy Neighbor”)</td>
<td>JUD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 60</td>
<td>Transferring water quality standard rule-making authority to water quality board (eliminate EQB)</td>
<td>JUD</td>
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<tr>
<td>SB 63</td>
<td>Requiring verification of notice to adjoining landowners of timbering operations</td>
<td>NR</td>
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<tr>
<td>SB 89</td>
<td>Relating to beneficial use of water treatment plant sludge</td>
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<tr>
<td>SB 155</td>
<td>Establishing environmental base program</td>
<td>EIM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 156</td>
<td>Establishing Public-Private Transportation Act (Governor’s version) (“Regional Airport”?)</td>
<td>ECD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 163</td>
<td>Creating Water Resources Management Act (Governor’s Water Quantity Bill)</td>
<td>Passed Senate — to H Jud</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 221</td>
<td>Establishing Public-Private Transportation Act of 2004 (“Regional Airport”?)</td>
<td>ECD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 231</td>
<td>Authorizing county commission to establish flood plain enforcement agency</td>
<td>Passed Senate — to H PS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 270</td>
<td>Creating Public Campaign Financing Act (“Clean Elections”)</td>
<td>JUD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 293</td>
<td>Creating Beverage Container Deposit Act (“Bottle Bill”)</td>
<td>JUD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 323</td>
<td>Continuing office of explosives and blasting</td>
<td>Passed Senate — to H Gov Org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 340</td>
<td>DEP legislative rule relating to nitrogen oxide budget trading program as means of control and reduction of nitrogen oxides from nonelectric generating units</td>
<td>JUD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 341</td>
<td>DEP legislative rule relating to emission standards for hazardous air pollutants</td>
<td>JUD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 342</td>
<td>DEP legislative rule relating to standards for new stationary sources</td>
<td>JUD</td>
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<tr>
<td>SB 343</td>
<td>DEP legislative rule relating to air pollution from hazardous waste treatment, storage or disposal facilities</td>
<td>JUD</td>
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<tr>
<td>SB 344</td>
<td>DEP legislative rule relating to emission standards for hazardous air pollutants for source categories</td>
<td>JUD</td>
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<tr>
<td>SB 345</td>
<td>DEP legislative rule relating to requirements for determining conformity of transportation plans, program and projects developed, funded or approved under Title 23 U.S.C. or federal transit</td>
<td>JUD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 346</td>
<td>Authorizing DEP legislative rule relating to surface mining reclamation</td>
<td>JUD</td>
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<tr>
<td>SB 347</td>
<td>DEP legislative rule relating to solid waste management</td>
<td>JUD</td>
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<tr>
<td>SB 348</td>
<td>DEP legislative rule relating to hazardous waste management</td>
<td>JUD</td>
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<tr>
<td>SB 349</td>
<td>DEP legislative rule relating to NPDES rule for coal mining facilities</td>
<td>JUD</td>
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<tr>
<td>SB 353</td>
<td>EQB water quality standards rule</td>
<td>Passed NR — to Jud</td>
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<tr>
<td>SB 367</td>
<td>DOH rule relating to transportation of hazardous wastes</td>
<td>Jud</td>
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<tr>
<td>SB 386</td>
<td>DNR leg. rule relating to public land corporation rule controlling sale, lease, exchange or transfer of land and minerals</td>
<td>FIN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 444</td>
<td>Requiring county litter control officers to enforce litter laws</td>
<td>NR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 446</td>
<td>Relating to posting of unenclosed land</td>
<td>NR</td>
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<tr>
<td>SB 454</td>
<td>Relating to land-use planning</td>
<td>GOV</td>
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<td>SB 475</td>
<td>Establishing State Trail Authority</td>
<td>GOV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 498</td>
<td>Permitting sale of timber severed in state parks in certain cases</td>
<td>NR</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### House Bills

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<tr>
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<th>Title</th>
<th>Committee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HB 4022</td>
<td>Creating “The All-Terrain Vehicle Safety Regulation Act”</td>
<td>Passed House and Senate — In Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 4026</td>
<td>Establishing the water resources management act (Governor’s water quantity bill)</td>
<td>JUD</td>
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<tr>
<td>HB 4027</td>
<td>Establishing a voluntary environmental excellence program</td>
<td>FIN</td>
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<tr>
<td>HB 4029</td>
<td>Establishing a program to report emissions of greenhouse gases</td>
<td>JUD</td>
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<tr>
<td>HB 4047</td>
<td>Creating a high growth business investment tax credit to encourage investment by state citizens and businesses in certain companies started by fellow West Virginians</td>
<td>FIN</td>
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<tr>
<td>HB 4068</td>
<td>Allowing the hunting of coyotes by use of amber colored artificial light with certain restrictions</td>
<td>Passed House — to Senate NR</td>
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<tr>
<td>HB 4147</td>
<td>Providing for the use of returnable containers for various drinking containers (“Bottle Bill”)</td>
<td>JUD</td>
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<tr>
<td>HB 4166</td>
<td>Removing the description requirements in deeds for easements and rights-of-way for mineral leases</td>
<td>JUD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 4167</td>
<td>Creating the Exotic Animal Control Board to protect the health and safety of humans and the state’s agricultural and forestry industries, its wildlife and other natural resource interests from the introduction or spread of disease</td>
<td>Gov Org</td>
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<tr>
<td>HB 4185</td>
<td>DEP—Air Quality, NOx budget trading program</td>
<td>JUD</td>
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<tr>
<td>HB 4186</td>
<td>DEP—Air Quality, emission standards for hazardous air pollutants</td>
<td>JUD</td>
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<tr>
<td>HB 4187</td>
<td>DEP—Air Quality, standards for performance for new stationary sources</td>
<td>JUD</td>
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<tr>
<td>HB 4188</td>
<td>DEP—Air Quality, prevent and control air pollution from hazardous waste treatment, storage or disposal facilities</td>
<td>JUD</td>
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<tr>
<td>HB 4189</td>
<td>DEP—Air Quality, emission standards for hazardous air pollutants for source categories</td>
<td>JUD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 4190</td>
<td>DEP—Air Quality, requirements for determining conformity of transportation plans, etc., under Title 23</td>
<td>JUD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 4191</td>
<td>DEP—Mining and Reclamation, surface mining reclamation rule</td>
<td>JUD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 4192</td>
<td>DEP—Waste Management, solid waste management rule</td>
<td>JUD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 4193</td>
<td>DEP—Waste Management, hazardous waste management rule</td>
<td>JUD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 4194</td>
<td>DEP—Water Resources, WV/NPDES rule for coal mining facilities</td>
<td>JUD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 4198</td>
<td>EQB water quality standards</td>
<td>JUD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 4212</td>
<td>DOH transportation of hazardous wastes upon roads and highways</td>
<td>R&amp;T</td>
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<tr>
<td>HB 4231</td>
<td>DNR public land corporation rule</td>
<td>JUD</td>
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<tr>
<td>HB 4248</td>
<td>Continuing the office of environmental advocate</td>
<td>Passed House — to Sen Gov</td>
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<tr>
<td>HB 4250</td>
<td>Creating a system for public funding of election campaigns (“Clean Elections”)</td>
<td>JUD</td>
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<tr>
<td>HB 4262</td>
<td>Creating the environmental excellence program</td>
<td>JUD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 4266</td>
<td>Requiring regulatory agencies of government, with exceptions, to study ways to expedite the issuance of licenses, permits and certificates</td>
<td>On First Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 4270</td>
<td>Creating the north central West Virginia regional trails and recreation authority</td>
<td>Gov Org</td>
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<tr>
<td>HB 4312</td>
<td>Verifiable Science Act</td>
<td>ED</td>
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<tr>
<td>HB 4322</td>
<td>Establishing a state trail authority</td>
<td>Gov Org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 4351</td>
<td>Continuing the waste tire remediation program</td>
<td>Gov Org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 4364</td>
<td>Including division of forestry employees in the assault and battery statute</td>
<td>Jud</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 4382</td>
<td>Adding a representative of labor to surface mining board</td>
<td>Gov Org</td>
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<tr>
<td>HB 4428</td>
<td>West Virginia Protection of Air Quality Related Values Act</td>
<td>Jud</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 4450</td>
<td>Permitting sale of timber severed in state parks in certain cases</td>
<td>AG &amp; NR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 4454</td>
<td>Establishing the performance based permitting act</td>
<td>JUD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(List of non-active ATV bills: SB 90, SB 153, SB 215, SB 252, SB 253, SB 264, HB 4120, HB 4121, HB 4310, HB 4272)
February 17: WVEC 15th Annual E-Day! at the Capitol. 10:00 - 3:00 p.m. Lower Rotunda area. Environmental Displays, 2004 Award announcements and best opportunity to join citizens from around the state to lobby your legislative representatives!

For more information: Denise Poole at the WVEC office, (304) 346-5905 or deniseap@earthlink.net

February 17: Annual E-Day! Benefit Party & Award Presentations! Perfater Law office lobby, 1311 Virginia Street East, Charleston - 5:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Music by Steve Himes; Debbie Grimm. Dinner Buffet, refreshments! Join us half way through the session to honor our 2004 award recipients and support WVEC lobbying efforts! Don't miss - lots of fun!!!

Suggested donation: $5.00

Public meetings for Management of the Monongahela National Forest:

February 21: Elkins, WV:  
Davis and Elkins College Gym. 10 am - 2 pm

February 23: Morgantown, WV:  
Holiday Inn. 4 - 7 pm

February 25: Petersburg, WV:  
Public Library. 4 - 7 pm

February 26: Pocahontas County:  
WV High School. 4 pm - 7 pm

February 27: Richwood, WV:  
City Hall. 4 - 7 pm


For details: Mike Juskelis (410) 439-4964 or mjuskelis@cablespeed.com


For details, contact: Mike Juskelis (410) 439-4964 or mjuskelis@cablespeed.com

March 14: Last Day of Legislative Session.

April 17: Planning Your Herb Garden: What to Grow, Where and How. 10 am - 4 pm. La Paix Herb Farm, Alum Bridge. Preregistration required. $55 includes complimentary lunch.

To register & more information: (304) 269-7681, lapaix@iolinc.net, www.lapaixherbfarm.com


For more information and to participate: Contact Denise Poole, deniseap@earthlink.net or call her at the WVEC office: (304) 346-5905.

June 19 & 20: Lavender & More Fair! La Paix Herb Farm, Alum Bridge, WV. Workshops, demonstrations, garden tours, lunch, music and slide shows. Admission $5.

For more information: (304) 269-7681, lapaix@iolinc.net, www.lapaixherbfarm.com

July 17: Hydrosols, Essential Oils and Distillation Workshop. La Paix Herb Farm, Alum Bridge, WV. Complimentary Lunch. Cost is $55, pre-registration required.

For more information and to register: (304) 269-7681 or lapaix@iolinc.net, www.lapaixherbfarm.com

Support the West Virginia Environmental Council  
1324 Virginia Street East, Charleston WV 25301  
Phone: (304) 346-5905 www.wvecouncil.org

_____ Renewed Membership  _____ New Membership  _____ Change of Address  _____ Donation

Name: ____________________________________________________________

Address: _________________________________________________________________________________________

City, State, Zip: ________________________________________________________________

Phone: __________________  e-mail___________________

Membership Levels

_____ $  10 Student / Senior

_____ $  25 Regular

_____ $  50 Seedling

_____ $  100 Sustaining

_____ $  250 Enviro Steward

_____ $  500 Canopy

_____ $  1,000 Old Growth

_____ $  Other
E~Day!
February 17, 2004

At the Capitol: 10:00 – 3:00

Reception & Benefit
Perfater Law Office Lobby
5:30 – 10:00 pm

See you there!

Time sensitive material - please deliver promptly. Thank you.