



*West Virginia Environmental Council's*

# **GREEN Legislative Update**

*Published Weekly During West Virginia's Legislative Session*

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## **Under the Dome**

*By Donald S. Garvin, Jr.  
WVEC Legislative Coordinator*

### **Week 2 – Unwanted House Guests**

Back in my days in the oil patch I was a member of West Virginia's Independent Oil and Gas Association. But comments reported in a *Charleston Gazette* article made by a couple of out-of-state corporate CEO figureheads this week at IOGA's annual legislative gala at the Marriott have me seeing red.

The statements made by Chesapeake Energy CEO Aubrey McClendon were simply outrageous.

"There was a day I loved West Virginia," he said, "before I had an encounter with your court system."

He's referring, of course, to a 2007 multimillion-dollar jury verdict against Chesapeake in a Roane County royalty owners' case that required the company to pay \$405 million in royalties and punitive damages to landowners who were cheated by the company.

Then in May 2008, the West Virginia Supreme Court upheld the jury verdict and voted 5-0 to deny a request from Chesapeake for an appeal.

So in response to the rulings in that case, Chesapeake worked itself up into a snit and closed its Eastern regional headquarters in Charleston and eliminated 215 jobs, as they had threatened to do if the ruling did not go their way.

McClendon told IOGA that the Roane County verdict cost the company "for something I didn't do."

Oh, balderdash, Mr. McClendon! Of course you "did it." Chesapeake bought the properties and wells in question from Columbia Natural Resources and continued the improper practice of deducting expenses from royalty owners' checks in spite of the provisions of the lease agreements.

If Chesapeake didn't know that, then they were also "guilty" to their stockholders of not doing the "due diligence" necessary when they bought the properties.

They are guilty of some other things as well. This is the same Chesapeake Energy who was recently fined by the EPA for illegally re-routing stream channels and filling in streambeds at their drilling operations.

It's the same Chesapeake Energy whose trucks have been pictured wreaking havoc to the roads in northern West Virginia counties.

But now McClendon says Chesapeake "likes" West Virginia.

Of course they like West Virginia. They are the largest player in the Marcellus Shale drilling play in the state and stand to make hundreds of millions of dollars in profits off it.

But they don't "like" West Virginia too much.

When asked about hiring West Virginia workers, McClendon replied, "You don't know if you have a literacy issue or what?"

And McClendon dismissed critics of hydraulic fracturing, saying, "the low level of intelligence some people have about the issue is disturbing."

In Mr. McClendon's eyes West Virginians are just a bunch of ignorant hillbillies.

Another corporate honcho – John Mork ("Nanoo, Nanoo"), president and CEO of Energy Corporation of America – told the IOGA crowd, "The Marcellus is so prolific that national companies can afford to come here. They will be here forever."

Obviously, Mr. Mork, the Marcellus Shale is so prolific that national companies can't afford NOT to be here.

With corporate heads like Aubrey McClendon running things, the thought of being "here forever" is a frightening prospect.

Mr. McClendon should just go back home to Texas or Oklahoma or whatever corporate rock he crawled out from under. West Virginia will do quite well without him.

You can read the full *Gazette* article about the IOGA meeting at <http://www.wvgazette.com/News/201101201606>

You may be beginning to think that winter is "for the birds." That might not be the birds' opinion, though, so please keep your feeders full.

## **WV Citizen Action Group Wins at the Supreme Court! State Must Hold an Election for Governor by Nov. 15**

[BREAKING NEWS: Acting Governor Earl Ray Tomblin said that he would issue a proclamation Friday morning setting the date for the special election for governor for Oct. 4, and that he would submit a bill to hold a special primary election for the office on June 20 (West Virginia Day, a state holiday.)]

Congratulations to all of our friends at WV Citizen Action Group!

West Virginia will hold a special election for governor by Nov. 15, or within one year of when state Senate President Earl Ray Tomblin began acting as chief executive, according to a ruling Tuesday by the state Supreme Court in the resulting legal dispute.

Tomblin had concluded that the West Virginia Constitution and state law did not set the next vote for the governor's office until 2012. Tuesday's ruling sides with the West Virginia Citizen Action Group and lawyer Thornton Cooper, who challenged Tomblin's stance.

Each cited how then-Gov. Joe Manchin had more than two years left in his term when he joined the U.S. Senate in November. Manchin had won a special election prompted by the death last year of Sen. Robert C. Byrd.

The constitution has the Senate president act as governor when that office becomes vacant. It calls for a "new" election for governor when at least a year remains in the vacated four-year term.

But state law on the subject led Tomblin to contend that "new" meant the next general election, which isn't until next year. The office is already on the ballot then, for a full four-year term.

The Supreme Court said a new statewide election "shall be held as soon as practicable" whenever a vacancy in the governor's office occurs before the first three years of the term have expired.

So the race for Governor 2011 is now on – well, actually, all the potential candidates have been positioning themselves for this since Byrd's death last August.

(Mostly excerpted from an AP article this Tuesday).

## **Water Quality Standard Rule Introduced**

Many, but not all, of the DEP rules bills were introduced in both chambers this week.

The rule we are most concerned with is the Water Quality Standards Rule, 47CSR2.

The House version is HB 2581 and it has been single referenced only to the House Judiciary Committee. The Senate version is SB 122 and it has been double referenced first to Senate Natural Resources Committee, and then to Senate Judiciary.

I've been told by committee staff that the DEP rules will be considered first on the Senate side. Once they have been passed or amended they will be put in a "bundle" of all the DEP rules, assigned a different bill number, and sent to the House for its consideration.

It's a very cumbersome process.

Look for an action alert from us on this soon.

## **Intrastate Coal and Use Act Introduced in the House**

*By Leslee McCarty, WVEC Lobbyist*

This novel approach to keeping the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) hands off coal permits was introduced in the House by freshman Delegates Howell and Rupert Phillips, joined by veteran legislators Finance Chair Harry Keith White, and Delegates Canterbury, C. Miller, Sobonya, Ellem, Carmichael, Sumner, Duke and Kominar.

The legislation cites the US Constitution, particularly the Ninth and Tenth amendments, reserving powers to the states and cites the West Virginia Constitution (WV DEP) of 1863 as the authority for having the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection issue permits to mine coal in West Virginia that will be used solely within the state. They declare in the bill that the USEPA lacks jurisdiction because the coal will not travel across state lines.

They fail to mention that water from almost any site could cause pollution on rivers that cross state lines. And, they don't mention that improperly regulated mines and industrial sites have the potential of robbing us of our lives, not to mention liberty and the pursuit of happiness! We hope that this bill - HB 2554 - will go nowhere.

## **Chemical Safety Board Unanimously Approves MIC Investigators Recommendations**

*By John Christensen, WVEC Lobbyist*

After three hours of testimony from the federal Chemical Safety Board (CSB) and its five-member investigating team and statements from a very experienced panel of stakeholders, the board members of the CSB agreed unanimously Thursday night to accept the investigating team's twelve comprehensive recommendations.

The investigation, which took almost two and a half years to complete, was characterized as one of "the most complex ever performed" by chairperson Rafael Moure-Eraso in his opening statement. The public meeting was held at West Virginia State University's Sullivan Hall before a packed house. The general public was invited to speak to the incident just before the CSB made its historic vote on the recommendations.

The investigation concluded that the Bayer CropSciences plant workers were operating in a very unsafe manner on the night of Aug 28, 2008, which resulted in the chemical explosion that took two lives and resulted in damages said to be in the millions of dollars. The blast was felt up to ten miles away and the emergency response was found to be slow, poorly orchestrated and deeply inadequate, which put the lives of thousands of nearby residents in danger.

The crowd attending Thursday night's meeting was shown a four-minute "incident animation" which choreographed the events surrounding the disaster for the record. There was not one member of the WV legislature in attendance at this historic hearing.

The stakeholder panel was comprised of five locals from Kanawha valley and two officials who came all the way from California where they have a similar chemical plant in which their county enacted restrictive ordinances back in 1999 and they haven't had an incident since that time.

Maya Nye, spokeswoman for the People Concerned About MIC, made a very eloquent statement asking for improved regulations even stronger than the ones passed in California 12 years ago.

She characterized the stockpile of toxic chemicals in the Kanawha valley as a national security threat and documented the activities of her citizens group over the past 26 years to improve citizens' right to know and third party verification which were largely being ignored by state and local regulating agencies and government officials.

When given an opportunity to join in the panel discussion the Bayer company officials declined, but a company executive was the first to comment during the public statement phase and was seen exiting the hearing soon thereafter, missing the opportunity to hear the citizens voice their concerns.

WV DEP Environmental Advocate Pam Nixon said that in years prior to the explosion many process safety audit requests resulting from reports of "unexplainable odors" were denied by Bayer. She paraphrased her grandmother as saying, "What is done in the dark will eventually come to the light," and explained that DEP had fined Bayer over \$300,000 after performing

routine inspections just last year with no admittance of guilt by the company after they paid the fines.

I attended and participated in the CSB public meeting Thursday night. I asked some tough questions regarding the proximity of the land grant university to the plant, accountability for the person in charge, criminal negligence, the tragedy of errors, and lack of training of the soon to be laid off employees.

It is obvious to me that the company will have to hire more employees in order to comply to the recommendations of the board and that the workers who will be laid off are actually fortunate since they can find a new job in a safer working environment and be spared the fate of their deceased co-workers.

**Think Renewable ...**

## **New Session – New Vocabulary**

*By Leslee McCarty, WVEC Lobbyist*

This week I have been working on my “carbon-friendly” strategy and it is not going very well. Since my car is a hybrid and makes its own electricity, I am not using as much carbon in gasoline, so I have been trying to leave lights on at my house and turn up the thermostat. I mean it’s good for West Virginia, according to the Acting Governor.

Sadly, though, I keep getting one-upped by the folks at the Capitol. On Martin Luther King’s birthday, most workers weren’t even at the Capitol, but I swear it was about 75 degrees in the building - maybe even 80!! Glad we installed new energy efficient windows over there!

So trying to work on a new vocabulary, which includes the term “carbon-friendly”, is a stretch and just when I am settling into the swing of it I hear another term I don’t recognize - “Soft Tyranny.” This is in an article discussing the new Tea Party (or is it Republican?) member of the House of Delegates, Gary Howell, from Mineral County.

Delegate Howell has it on the authority of the Cato Institute that we can just forget the EPA issuing coal permits - we can leave it to the WV DEP. Something about the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Amendments to the Constitution. Apparently soft tyranny refers to regulations that are not passed by Congress or the Legislature - just made up by a bunch of bureaucrats - like well, I don’t know, regulations about Clean Air and Water.

Tuesday, while in presentations in the Senate, I learned that “trans-tech” means doing things to get carbon credits, like carbon capture and storage or coal gasification. Last year, “alternative energy” meant coal and “renewable energy” meant recycled energy, so I can’t wait to hear what other new terms I am going to learn this Session.

But I can tell you one thing I am learning. There is a market out, there for word-smithing. Or is it propaganda?

And to that end, I will give Delegate Howell the anti-environmentalist award for the Session so far for this quote: “Environmentalists, are not bad people, but an extreme and often vocal contingent of the group seem to have seized control of the EPA and the Obama administration.

“There’s a lot of good people who care about the environment, but there are some out there on the extreme fringe that don’t want us to have electricity; they don’t want us to use cars,” Howell said. “Basically, they want us to live in the caveman days.”

Ok, so I admit to some nostalgia for caveman days. No regulations, not much vocabulary to learn, no civilization to speak of . . . hey, wait a minute, is it **us** - or **him** who wants to return to caveman days?

## **Gas Drilling Poses Threat to People, Environment**

**Marcellus Shale - OP Ed, *The Charleston Gazette*, January 11**

*By Carol Warren, OVEC*

“We built it ourselves. It was our dream home, and we’ve had to abandon it,” Lisa Parr began. “We got so sick we couldn’t live there anymore.” Her story is by no means unique. The People’s Oil and Gas Summit in Pittsburgh in November featured numerous heart-wrenching stories from real people whose health, livelihoods, and lives were ruined by the effects of gas drilling.

Although Ms. Parr lives in Texas, where the Barnett shale is being exploited, the same companies are operating in West Virginia, drilling in the Marcellus shale. Increased regulation and accountability are essential.

“First there were the nosebleeds,” Ms. Parr continued. “My husband, our eight-year-old daughter, all of us had them.” Then she became weak and had memory lapses. They all had rashes. They began to suspect the problems were related to emissions from the gas wells down the road, not even on their property. “Finally, my husband had an aneurysm. Fortunately, he survived, but we knew we couldn’t live there any more, so we moved. We are now slowly getting better.”

Studies by MacArthur Genius Award winner Dr. Wilma Subra have shown that people in communities where there is gas drilling and production often have a dozen or more of the chemicals used in the process in their blood. Dr. Dan Volz of the Center for Healthy Environment and Communities at University of Pittsburgh stated that even if levels of individual chemicals or volatile organics in the air or water are each within a range considered safe, “No one, and I repeat, no one, knows the cumulative effect on human health of drinking or breathing a number of those chemicals at the same time. The data is not there. But absence of data does not indicate absence of risk.”

The gas companies like to paint the Marcellus shale boom as a wonderful opportunity for our state. Perhaps it is for some. If we are to believe Nick Casey’s January 3 op-ed, a law permitting forced pooling, which the gas companies want, is the only regulation currently needed. But the industry studiously neglects to mention what is happening to people in other areas of the country where natural gas drilling and production have been taking place. Health and neurological problems, loss of water supplies, an industrialized landscape, damage to soil and water, air quality issues, and country roads ruined by heavy truck traffic are only a few. Some people have lost the insurance on their homes because the insurance company considered their property toxic and too risky to insure.

There are two bills to improve regulation that could be considered by the Legislature during the 2011 session - one offered by the DEP and the other developed by a Judiciary subcommittee. Pushback from the industry has been fierce. It is perhaps only a coincidence that

during last month's interim session, the committee considering these measures could not field a quorum, even though the room was packed with concerned citizens. It isn't yet too late for West Virginia to prevent the tragedies that have occurred in other areas of our country, and that are beginning to occur in the northern part of our own state. But our Legislature must act now to ensure that gas drilling is done responsibly.

## **SB 224 Repealing Article Banning Nuclear Power Plants Introduced**

This week Senator Brooks McCabe (D-Kanawha) re-introduced his bill to repeal the partial ban on building nuclear power plants in West Virginia – SB 224. This is the fourth year in a row he has attempted to pass this legislation.

SB 224 has been referenced to Energy, Industry & Mining (EIM) then Judiciary.

WVEC continues to support the partial ban, legislation we successfully lobbied for during the 1996 legislative session.

We'll keep you posted as to the status of this bill, so stay tuned .....

## **MTR Opponents Face “Rally For Coal” At The Capitol**

On Thursday, over 80 opponents of Mountaintop Removal mining (MTR) gathered at the capitol in opposition of the “Rally For Coal” and to show support for the recent Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) decision to repeal the Spruce No. 1 Mine permit.

Maria Gunnoe and Larry Gibson were among those attending to send a clear message: Protect our water, mountains, homes, children's future and health. And of course, “uphold the EPA decision.”

Alternately, a reported 400 people attended the “Rally For Coal” gathering in the lower rotunda in protest to the recent EPA decision.

An article in today's Gazette (Friday, January 21) by Paul Nyden quotes Acting Governor Earl Ray Tomblin, who chaired the rally, as stating, “This is a rally to let Washington know that, by blocking that permit, they crippled a community of living human beings.”

Senate Minority Leader Mike Hall (R-Putnam), said in part, “Don't let this radical environmental philosophy destroy West Virginia.”

Even Senator Joe Manchin was in attendance, and support from all of our national leadership in Washington was sent to the crowd.

The WV Senate has unanimously passed a resolution asking the EPA to reconsider its decision revoking the permit.

## **Wheeling Wastewater Penalty Unresolved**

*Associated Press, January 11*

A \$414,000 pollution fine owed by Wheeling for wastewater discharges remains unresolved. The state Department of Environmental Protection issued the fine last year. The agency says discharges from Wheeling's treatment plant exceeded chloride limitations 50 times from January 2009 through February 2010.

DEP spokeswoman Kathy Cosco told *The Intelligencer* that the DEP is still working with the city to resolve the fine. The DEP's complaint says the violations started when Wheeling started treating wastewater from a privately owned company, including hydraulic fracturing wastewater from natural gas drilling.

Wheeling Public Works Director Russell Jebbia says the city will no longer accept the "fracking" wastewater.

## **Honoring Judy Bonds**

On Saturday, January 15<sup>th</sup> over 300 friends and relatives attended the public memorial service for Judy Bonds to honor her life and extraordinary work.

Below is a section from the January 16<sup>th</sup> article in *The Register-Herald*, Beckley:

In celebration of the life and work of Appalachian activist Julia "Judy" Bonds, mountain music, stories and even the chants of a Native American blessing echoed throughout the room at a memorial service Saturday at Tamarack.

Bonds, a key leader in building resistance against mountaintop removal coal extraction from a local issue to a national movement, passed away Jan. 3 from cancer. She was laid to rest Jan. 5 at a private funeral in Rock Creek.

At Saturday's public memorial service, more than 300 friends and relatives paid tribute to Bonds, including singers Kathy Mattea, Shirley Stewart Burns, T. Paige Dalporto, Andy Mahler, and Jen Osha. Speakers included Bonds' daughter Lisa Henderson, authors Denise Giardina ("Storming Heaven," "The Unquiet Earth") and Jeff Biggers ("The United States of Appalachia," "Reckoning at Eagle Creek"), 2007 Goldman Environmental Prize winner Maria Gunnoe, and other prominent activists in the movement to end mountaintop removal.

Many speakers pointed out that, while Bonds' influence spread across the country and even the globe, she was truly an "everywoman" who dug deep into her inner resources to endure physical and verbal assaults and death threats from those who opposed her activism.

"This women educated herself," said Lisa Henderson, Bond's daughter. "She became a volunteer at Coal River Mountain Watch while she worked several minimum-wage jobs. She was made fun of in her community, shunned by many neighbors. She armed herself with a protest sign, the truth and the purest of intentions."

Bonds was thrust into activism when she saw her grandson standing in the creek by their house, surrounded by black water from a slurry spill, his fists full of dead fish, Henderson said.

"We knew that somehow, somewhere, we were being poisoned also," she said.

Bonds joined Coal River Mountain Watch to fight the mountaintop removal and sludge dams threatening her family and community, participating in demonstrations such as the 1999 re-

enactment of the march on Blair Mountain. Bonds would eventually become executive director of the group.

To read the full article, filled with wonderful quotes and details from the service, go to: [www.theregisterherald.com](http://www.theregisterherald.com)

## **WVEC Legislative Kick Off Blast Successful**

Thanks to everyone who turned out for our annual Legislative “Kick Off Blast” Wednesday night! It was a great way to launch into the new regular legislative session – and, we raised much-needed funds in support of our 2011 lobby team.

Even though we were pitted against the WVU vs MU basketball game, the turn out was excellent. A few of our legislators stopped by, including Delegate Bonni Brown (D-Kanawha), Delegate Mike Manypenny (D-Taylor), and newly elected Senator Ronald Miller (D-Greenbrier). We saw many other friendly faces, and the evening was filled with stimulating conversations, live music, and just plain fun.

A special thank you goes out to Andy Park who played music throughout the night, and Sara Fields who performed for the first time with us! We are so fortunate to have these musicians support our efforts with their talents. The evening just wouldn’t be the same without you.

We appreciate the generous donations from everyone – as you are well aware, that’s what keeps us here, working. We can’t thank you enough.

## **Shameless Plea, Week Two**

Seems as if the session has only just begun, but here we are already 10 days in! However, we have 50 more days to go (what is it – and miles and miles before we sleep?)

Please do what you can to support our 2011 lobby team – your voice at the capitol. The donations have been steadily coming in, and we need this trend to continue for the duration of the session if we are to meet our legislative budget. We really do appreciate any amount you are able to give.

Here’s a reminder of other ways you can support WVEC:

Our next event is less than 3 weeks away – E-Day at the Capitol, and E-Day Benefit Dinner & Award Ceremony. We hope you can join us Wednesday, February 9 – be a citizen lobbyist during the day, then relax and celebrate with us in the evening. (*Please see details on “Lobby Wednesdays” and “E-Day” in this Legislative Update.*)

Our wish list just got a little shorter! Thank you WV-CAG for the toaster oven! We still can use any of the following items for the office: A couch (or two); A Television; DVD player; Nice items for upcoming auctions; Desk & Table lamps; Power strips & cords.

If you happen to have any of these items to spare, give us a call at (304) 414-0143 or e-mail Denise, [deniseap@earthlink.net](mailto:deniseap@earthlink.net)

*Contributions to the WV Environmental Council are not tax-deductible.*

# WVEC's Annual E-Day!

## Wednesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>

### At the Capitol

9 a.m. till 3 p.m. – Senate Side Hall & Upper Rotunda Alcoves  
Environmental Citizen Lobby Day & Exhibits

### E-Day Benefit Dinner & Award Ceremony

Charleston Women's Club, 1600 Virginia Street East

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Soup & Salad Buffet, Cash Bar

Award presentations: 7:15 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Cost: \$15 donation or \$25 couple

## Join Us for Citizen Lobby Days – Each Wednesday!

**Who?** WV Chapter of the Sierra Club, WV Environmental Council, WV-SORO and others working to protect our land and water resources from destructive drilling practices

**What?** Citizen Lobby Days

**When? Where?** Each Wednesday (or any day\*) during the 2011 Legislative Session (Starting January 19, 2011) at the State Capitol in Charleston

**Why?** To urge lawmakers to strengthen West Virginia's oil and gas drilling laws

Please call Chuck, Julie or Denise in advance so we can be sure to meet with you and maximize our time. Chuck Wyrostok, WV Sierra Club Outreach Coordinator, at (877)-252-0257 or [wyro@appalight.com](mailto:wyro@appalight.com); Julie Archer at (304) 610-9094 or [julie@wvsoro.org](mailto:julie@wvsoro.org); Denise Poole, WV Environmental Council at (304) 414-0143 or [deniseap@earthlink.net](mailto:deniseap@earthlink.net)

\*A group of organizations working on these issues have picked Wednesdays as Citizen Lobby Days, however, with a little advance notice we'll be happy to meet you anytime you are available to come to Charleston. Please contact Chuck or Julie in advance to arrange a time and location to meet. We also recommend calling ahead to schedule an appointment with your legislators.

***We hope to see you can join us!***



## Calendar of Events



**January 30:** "This is Your Land" – White Grass Ski Touring Center, Davis WV - 1 PM. With Dave Saville, Outreach coordinator at the WV Water Research Institute, WV University. Dave discusses the Monongahela National Forest, Blackwater & Canaan State Parks, Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge, and Canaan Valley Institute lands and how they all add to the unique mix of recreational opportunities of the area.

For more information, visit [www.whitegrass.com](http://www.whitegrass.com) or call (304) 866-4114.

**February 9:** E-Day at the Capitol. Senate side hallway and upper rotunda alcoves. From 9 AM – 3 PM. Focus will be on citizen lobbying and exhibits (environmental groups, small green businesses).

For more information and to participate: [deniseap@earthlink.net](mailto:deniseap@earthlink.net) or [a\\_clean\\_wv@yahoo.com](mailto:a_clean_wv@yahoo.com)

**February 9:** WVEC E-Day Benefit Dinner & Award Presentations. Woman's Club of Charleston – 1600 Virginia Street (corner of Elizabeth Street). 6 PM – 9 PM. Featuring a Deluxe Soup & Salad bar, cash bar. Award presentations begin at 7:15 PM.

Cost: \$15 per person or \$25 per couple.

For more information: [deniseap@earthlink.net](mailto:deniseap@earthlink.net) or (304) 414-0143.

**February 20:** White Grass Winter Outing - A winter-themed snow shoe tour, White Grass Ski Touring Center, Davis WV - 1 PM. Learn about all the unique wildlife habitats in Canaan Valley and much more.

For more information, visit [www.whitegrass.com](http://www.whitegrass.com) or call (304) 866-4114.

**March 12:** Last day of legislative session.

**April 16:** "A Sustainable Affair" – Celebration! Davis & Elkins College campus, Elkins WV. Sustainable Living for WV and the Center for Sustainability Studies of D&E celebrate over 10 years of sustainability initiatives and fairs. Beginning at 4:00 PM at the beautiful Hallihurst Mansion: Wine Tasting, live string music and a select group of 12 of our original vendors highlighting green energy, agriculture, local artisans; Continuing at Hallihurst 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM with our signature "Sustainable Feast" dinner – local chefs featuring signature and seasonal dishes; Then, join us at the Ice House on campus from 9:00 PM till Midnight with live music by Fox Hunt!

For more information: [deniseap@earthlink.net](mailto:deniseap@earthlink.net)

**May 19-21:** The New River Symposium, "Bridging the Gaps: Collaborations for Sustainability" – Concord University, Athens WV.

For more information contact: Dr. Roy Ramthun – [rramthun@concord.edu](mailto:rramthun@concord.edu)

## Legislative Session 2011 Information Sources:

### Legislative Reference & Information Center:

MB-27, Bld. 1 - State Capitol Complex, Charleston WV 25305

**WV Legislative web-site:** [www.legis.state.wv.us](http://www.legis.state.wv.us)

(For bill tracking, bulletin board (journals), legislators' e-mails.)

**To Call Toll Free:** 1-877-565-3447 or local Charleston area: (304) 347-4836

**Listen Live:** West Virginia Legislature page <http://www.legis.state.wv.us/> and click on "listen live."

**WV Environmental Council Web-site:** [www.wvecouncil.org](http://www.wvecouncil.org)

WVEC Office: (304) 414-0143

### Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition:

[www.ohvec.org/ovec\\_news.html](http://www.ohvec.org/ovec_news.html) and [www.ohvec.org/news\\_gen.html](http://www.ohvec.org/news_gen.html) daily.

Every morning, OVEC checks scores of news sources and posts links.

**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 regular Legislative Session.

We welcome letters, articles, and artwork from readers and reserve the right to edit or reject submissions. Please send materials to Denise Poole, *editor* at [deniseap@earthlink.net](mailto:deniseap@earthlink.net)

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