

Andy Dinniman one of our State Senators (whose constituents in Chester And Delaware County are being subjected to the Construction of the Mariner East 2 pipeline) describes the havoc being perpetrated along the route. Also an update, in case you missed it: On January 3, 2018 the PA DEP suspended the permits for this pipeline. Sunoco has been told that they may not proceed without written permission from DEP. It was a 24 page order which was so large due to the many pages of violations and omissions from the required law.

<http://www.dailylocal.com/article/DL/20171231/NEWS/171239974>

As sequel to this Andy Dinniman has organized a group of stakeholders, myself included, to work toward paying for and publishing a Risk Assessment of the Mariner East 2 Pipeline.

Lindsay Leisenring gave me this GCA conservation link:

<https://www.gcamerica.org/members/committees-conservation#resourceid=3630>

She also added this:

TAKE A NEW YEARS PLASTIC RESOLUTION

News from [Conservation](#) on December 14, 2017

10 THINGS YOU CAN DO

- 1 Recycle** - Less than 14% of plastic packaging is recycled.
- 2 Go on a Plastics Diet** - 90% of the plastic items in our daily lives are used once and then thrown away.
- 3 Ban the Bags** - Urge elected officials to follow the lead of the State of California. San Francisco, Chicago and 150 other cities and counties by introducing and passing legislation that will ban the use of plastic bags or impose a use-fee per bag.
- 4 Stop Buying Water in Plastic Bottles** - Each year, close to 20 billion plastic bottles of water are tossed into the trash.
- 5 Boycott Micro-Beads** - Found in many beauty products and household cleaners, their tiny size allows them to slip through water treatment plants and into our oceans to be eaten by fish and shellfish.

- 6 **Buy in Bulk** - Consider the product-to-packaging ratio of items you buy. Single serving containers, travel size toiletries and other small packages.
- 7 **Cook More** - It's healthier and making cooking eliminates plastic & styrofoam takeout containers, plastic bags, plastic cutlery and small plastic condiment containers.
- 8 **Bring your own Garment Bag to the cleaners** - Invest in a zippered fabric bag and request that your cleaned items be returned in it instead of plastic.
- 9 **Consumer Rights** - Contact corporations and ask them to use less plastic packaging and more recyclable containers.
- 10 **Get the word out** - Tell your friends and community about ways to cut back on the growing use of plastics. It can make a BIG difference for our oceans.

While we work to reduce our use of plastics:

<http://www.truth-out.org/news/item/43113-plastic-production-could-increase-by-40-percent-over-the-next-decade>

— —“Renewable energy is not an alternative technology, it is now the dominant source of new generation capacity,” said Scott Jacobs, chief executive and co-founder of clean-energy investment firm Generate Capital. ‘The single thing that will continue to drive renewable energy forward as well as other clean technologies is the compelling value proposition that they offer customers.’.....

“The nuclear and coal-fired generation facilities are legacies of an extinct age,” California Public Utilities Commission officials wrote in comments filed in November with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. “Many of them are being retired because they are too expensive to compete with emerging technologies and do not offer the reliability and resiliency as their proponents claim.’..

The nuclear and coal-fired generation facilities are legacies of an extinct age. U.S. nuclear power plants rely on foreign sources for 89 percent of the uranium they need for fuel, and the plants can easily be disabled during a disaster, such as the 2011 Japan earthquake and tsunami that caused a disaster at the Fukushima Daichi nuclear plant, the CPUC officials added.

<https://www.greenbiz.com/article/why-2018-will-be-make-or-break-year-renewables>

This subject is not new, but is intensifying. In one post on January 8, 2018 there were three stories about various examples of plastics killing different species in the sea. Here is just one:

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/heartbreaking-video-seal-struggling-free-11816003>

You probably remember, that this past summer there was a hurricane that strayed of its normal path toward the Caribbean and went across the British Isles. The headlines, which were just about all I could read without subscribing to "The Telegraph" was an indication that plastic pollution is no longer just an Pacific event. The Brits are clearly alarmed and taking action, judging by the headlines that keep coming across my desk.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/01/09/truly-alarms-scale-global-ocean-plastic-crisis-laid-bare-storm/>

Cuba is moving forward on plans to protect the island from rising sea waters due to climate change. Hurricane Irma and the trend of increasingly strong storms give them impetus to speed up their plans:

http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2018/01/cuba-embarks-100-year-plan-protect-itself-climate-change?utm_source=Daily+Climate&utm_campaign=f2a4ffdeae-

[RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_9c8bdf-d977-f2a4ffdeae-99363309](https://www.yale.edu/features/after-an-uncertain-start-u-s-offshore-wind-is-powering-up?utm_source=Daily+Climate&utm_campaign=f2a4ffdeae-RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_9c8bdf-d977-f2a4ffdeae-99363309)

Wind Energy is building more and more sites:

[http://e360.yale.edu/features/after-an-uncertain-start-u-s-offshore-wind-is-powering-up?
utm_source=Daily+Climate&utm_campaign=f2a4ffdeae-RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_9c8bdf-d977-f2a4ffdeae-99363309](https://www.yale.edu/features/after-an-uncertain-start-u-s-offshore-wind-is-powering-up?utm_source=Daily+Climate&utm_campaign=f2a4ffdeae-RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_9c8bdf-d977-f2a4ffdeae-99363309)

I received this e-mail from Lindsay Leisenring on January 12, 2018:

News from [National Affairs & Legislation](#) on January 11, 2018

The National Affairs and Legislation and Conservation Committees recently sent a letter to the Department of the Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. The letter voices strong opposition to the President's executive action to reduce the boundaries of Bears Ears National Monument in southeastern Utah and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in southwestern Utah by approximately two million acres. The committees called on the Executive Branch to take no action on these lands while the President's decision is being adjudicated in the courts. In forwarding the letter to the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the U.S. House of Representatives' Resource Committee and the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, the committees hopes to highlight their concern about the potential reduction of other monuments, including marine monuments, under review in the Department of the Interior. The committees pointed out that the GCA was one of the earliest private non-profit groups to support the protection of designated national conservation lands and that have continued to be actively engaged in that support every since.

This now is posted under the "Latest News" on the Conservation/NAL landing page, on the "What's New" on the homepage and under "Letters to Policy Makers."

Conservation in the News January 2018

This is not a GCA Call to Action, please share with your clubs if you would like.

Lindsay Leisenring
Zone V Rep, GCA

Letter from GCA is on next page.

Conservation in the News January 2018



THE GARDEN CLUB of AMERICA

14 EAST 60TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10022-1006

212.753.8287/FAX 212.753.0134/GCAMERICA.ORG

January 11, 2018

Secretary Ryan Zinke
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke,

We are writing to voice our strong opposition to President Trump's executive action to reduce the boundaries of Bears Ears National Monument in southeastern Utah and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in southwestern Utah by approximately two million acres. We are also quite concerned about the potential reduction of other monuments, including marine monuments, under review in your department. These national monuments contain invaluable natural, historic, and cultural resources that should and indeed must be permanently protected for the good of the American people. That is what Congress envisioned when it passed the Antiquities Act of 1906 and that spirit has been upheld by every Administration in both the Republican and Democratic parties ever since.

Founded in 1913, The Garden Club of America (GCA) is a volunteer, nonprofit 501(c)3 organization comprised of 200-member clubs and approximately 18,000 club members throughout the country. The GCA members passionately devote their energies and expertise to a wide array of conservation projects in their communities and across the nation. We are one of the earliest private non-profit groups to support the protection of designated national conservation lands and have continued to be actively engaged in that support.

The Garden Club of America believes that monument designations protect lands with irreplaceable treasures whose value is incalculable. These public lands deserve the highest possible level of protection. Drastically minimizing the monuments' size and opening once-protected lands to development, agriculture, mining, and other uses is an attack on treasured historic and natural wonders.

We urge the President to reconsider his decision. At a minimum, we call on the Executive Branch to take no action on these lands while the President's decision is being adjudicated in the courts. We also encourage Congress to take steps necessary to protect the cultural, ecological, and tribal treasures on America's public lands.

Most Sincerely,

Hollidae Morrison
Chairman
National Affairs and Legislation Committee

SaSa Panarese
Chairman
Conservation Committee

cc:

Lisa Murkowski, Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Maria Cantwell, Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Rob Bishop, Chairman, U.S. House of Representatives Resource Committee
Raul Grijalva, Ranking Member, U.S. House of Representatives Resource Committee

Fun report about the new fuel efficient as well as driverless cars and the range of new electric cars. I have selected the article that says electric cars are now cheaper to drive than fossil fuel powered cars. As you read down page an arrow appears that will take you forward or back in the report.

https://www.greencarreports.com/news/1114742_electric-cars-are-cheapest-to-drive-against-gas-cars-in-these-states-new-report

Within these stories :

[READ MORE: 2017's most important green car story: internal-combustion engine ban in China](#)

This is an excerpt of an e-mail I received from the Sierra Club on January 14, 2018:

This document is a long-term vision for a Philadelphia that achieves Mayor Kenney's goal of reducing carbon emissions 80 percent from 2006 levels by 2050 while emphasizing equity and health for all Philadelphians.

Powering Our Future is a step toward meeting Philadelphia's recent pledge to uphold the commitments of the Paris Climate Agreement and work toward a 100% clean energy future.

This document has a wealth of information about how Philadelphia, or any community in the Delaware Valley, can take concrete steps towards transitioning to 100% renewable energy. Volunteers working on Ready For 100 projects in the greater Philadelphia region can reference the commitments and planning that Philadelphia has made when talking to smaller municipalities in our area. I urge you all to join this opportunity to listen to and ask questions to Richard in this forum being held just for Sierra Club volunteers. [there is also a public presentation at the Innovation Lab in the Municipal Services Building

on **Monday, January 22, 2018, from 4:00 – 5:00 PM**. I believe there will be a facebook stream as well]

More info and a link to the comment survey can be found here - <https://beta.phila.gov/posts/office-of-sustainability/2017-11-14-draft-clean-energy-vision-open-for-public-comment/>

FYI – Beyond Coal wins in PA.

From: rlwinters@comcast.net [<mailto:rlwinters@comcast.net>]
Sent: Saturday, January 13, 2018 3:44 PM
To: fac-coalition@googlegroups.com; Owen Owens <owendowens1@gmail.com>; rb@RobertBruckman.com; Joann Williams <jwsewn@gmail.com>; Jim Wylie <jim.wylie@verizon.net>
Subject: Fwd: ~ Sierra's Big win in Court builds on State Supreme Court Decision

Sierra's Big Win in Court builds on State Supreme Court Decision

The landmark Article I § 27 win by PEDF's John Childe is being felt in again in a new court decision.

Settlement Forces Coal-Fired Plants to Reduce Toxic Pollutants in Waterways

73

Three Pennsylvania conservation groups used Article I § 27 of our State Constitution and the Federal Clean Streams Act to win a settlement which will insure that coal-fired power plants operate under current water permits.

Those power plants are some of the largest sources of toxic water pollution in the state, discharging toxic arsenic, boron, cadmium, chromium, lead, mercury and selenium.

Arsenic causes cancer; mercury is highly toxic; and selenium can have short and long-term health impacts.

Sierra Club and the Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper, represented by PennFuture and the Law Office of Howard Crystal, [have filed a settlement](#) with the Pennsylvania DEP that will reduce toxic pollution in waterways from 10 coal-fired power plants that had been operating in the state with expired water permits.

Building on the Pennsylvania Environmental Defense Foundation's landmark win in the State Supreme Court, groups alleged that the ongoing discharge of pollutants into waters of the Commonwealth violated the Article 1 Section 27 (the Environmental Rights Amendment) of the Pennsylvania Constitution.

The settlement is a big step in the right direction for Pennsylvania streams and public health. The PA DEP agreed to a schedule to update and draft new water permits over the course of the year for all of the coal plant.

Patrick Genter, Senior Campaign Representative for the Chesapeake Bay at the Sierra Club said. "Not only does this mean cleaner and safer drinking water for communities, but also a healthier environment, which can lead to increased recreational opportunities for fishermen and all those who enjoy our waterways."

Dick Martin

Mission: Good Stewardship of our Public Lands

Marcellus gas pipelines move closer to Philadelphia:

Article includes map of pipeline route.

Within text: “ Adelpia in November conducted an “open season” to solicit bids from potential new customers who would use the pipeline, and said it received more than twice as many bids as the pipeline’s 250,000-cubic foot capacity. The robust interest prompted the Sierra Club of New Jersey to warn that Adelpia wants to double the pipeline’s capacity, though the company’s filing does not include any expansion plans.”

<http://www.philly.com/philly/business/energy/adelpia-gateway-files-ferc-application-20180116.html?mobi=true>