

Kettleman City: Big Victory Won as Toxic Dumping at Chem Waste Landfill Reduced by About 95%; Battle Continues Over Proposed Dump Expansion as More Kids Get Cancer & Birth Defects

Greenaction and Kettleman City community groups continue to hold up permits by Chemical Waste Management to expand their hazardous waste landfill in this farmworker town whose residents continue to suffer from childhood cancer, birth defects and miscarriages. This has resulted in Chem Waste being forced to reduce the amount of toxic waste it dumps at the existing landfill by approximately 95%. Greenaction, El Pueblo/People for Clean Air and Water of Kettleman City and allies continue to press state and federal officials to deny Chem Waste's application for a permit to expand the waste dump, due to the ongoing health concerns, civil rights violations and the environmental racism of state and county agencies. Greenaction and residents also challenged a new report released May 19 by the Cal. Dept. of Public Health which relied on incomplete information and faulty methodology (such as failing to interview residents), and did not include information on new birth defects, as well as increasing miscarriages, infant and child cancer, and sterility. **Email Dept. of Toxics Director Debbie Raphael and demand she deny permits to expand the Kettleman Hills landfill: draphael@dtsc.ca.gov**

TAKE ACTION!

GET INVOLVED:

- Donate to support our work! Contact us, mail a check or donate safely online at our website: www.greenaction.org
- LIKE our Facebook Page and follow us on Twitter! Search for: Greenaction4EJ
- Join our activist network to receive email updates and action alerts! Email: Greenaction@greenaction.org
- Donate Frequent Flyer Miles
- Host a House Party



Top: Kettleman City protest on June 19 showing crosses of children lost to birth defects there, in response to incomplete and faulty study by Cal. Dept. of Public Health that minimized the rate of birth defects.

Bottom: Greenaction and Mojave and Chemehuevi activists in an action against proposed nuclear power reactors in Green River, Utah.

Two Hundred People Join Utah Protest in May to Save the Green and Colorado Rivers from Proposed Nuclear Power Plant!

Greenaction is mobilizing opposition to a new and enormous nuclear threat from Blue Castle Holdings LLC's plan to build two nuclear reactors and store highly radioactive fuel rods for thousands of years at Green River, Utah. Located just 4 miles from the beautiful Green River, which flows directly into the Colorado River, the proposed plant would likely contaminate drinking and agricultural water sources for tens of millions of people in California, Arizona and Nevada. We helped organize a public meeting on May 18th in Moab and a successful protest May 19th in Green River, Utah. Greenaction brought an official delegation from the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe along with Chemehuevi people who all traveled 600 miles from the lower Colorado River to Utah to participate in defense of these rivers. Mojave Bird Singers inspired the crowd with traditional songs and spoke of the historic victory that stopped a nuclear waste dump from being built in Ward Valley.

Please call and/or email Utah Governor Gary Herbert (800-702-2464 gherbert@utah.gov) and tell him to STOP THE GREEN RIVER NUCLEAR

**Update from the Front Lines of
Environmental Justice! - Summer 2012**

**Victory for Renewable Energy and Defeat For Incinerators
in Disguise!**

Greenaction & our allies won a victory in May when the state agency CalRecycle responded to our threat of legal action by reversing their prior illegal decision to give Plasco an initial determination that would help them be considered renewable energy by treating garbage in their proposed plasma arc facility in the farmworker town of Gonzales, CA.

We got 32 environmental, EJ, community and recycling groups to write a letter to Governor Jerry Brown in support of this decision, but money talks and the Governor is supporting building this incinerator in disguise in Gonzales—so the fight is on!

Renewable energy is solar and wind, not polluting technologies like plasma arc which heats the garbage and then burns the gas.

**Pressuring US EPA to Finally Cleanup AMCO Superfund
Site in West Oakland**

It has been 15 years and US EPA has still failed to clean up toxic contamination at the AMCO Chemical Superfund site next to homes and a kids' playground. Greenaction is increasing our pressure on US EPA to move the cleanup forward and to support our demand to move the kids playground to a safer spot.

**Greenaction Brings Top Government Officials to
Bayview Hunters Point for Toxic Tours of Environmental
Racism**

Debbie Raphael, the new State Department of Toxic Substances Control Director accepted Greenaction's invitation to tour BVHP and see the pollution problems first hand. Also taking Greenaction's toxic tours this spring were top staff and Board members of the Bay Air Quality Management District, and Cal EPA's Assistant Secretary for Environmental Justice Arsenio Mataka. As a result, we have held these government agencies more accountable than ever and pressured them to increase their oversight of pollution problems at the Hunters Point Shipyard, the former PG&E power plant site and at Huntersview Public Housing.

Greenaction organizers and volunteers are out knocking on doors every day and educating the residents about the ongoing pollution problems at the Hunters Point Shipyard site, where we are fighting for a safe and thorough cleanup of the toxic mess before thousands of homes are built there. We continue to pressure PG&E to carry out a safe cleanup at the former power plant site. We also conducted trainings for residents including Tongan youth and young men from Huntersview Public Housing so they can be informed, active community leaders.

Our **Second Annual Walkathon for Health and Environmental Justice** was a resounding success! With over 125 participants, the Walkathon raised over \$6500 for environmental justice! It is through events like these that we can renew commitment and solidarity and keep Greenaction going. Thank you to all wonderful participants and donors, the Walkathon Team (Ami, Angela, Audrey, Bradley, Caitlin, Flora, Judy, Larry, Laura, Lee, Lisa, Hani'a, Marie, Mia, Naomi, Rose, Tracy, Vickie), musicians Tuitui'a Tamale, and sponsors including Whole Foods Noe Valley, Sports Basement, SF Wholesale Produce Market.



Photos: Tracy Perkins