



Pee Dee Paddler

PEE DEE GROUP
SC CHAPTER, SIERRA CLUB



From the Chair

I attended the recent “South Carolina Water and Energy Issues” meeting organized by the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. The meeting’s purpose was as a forum for citizens to voice their concerns and make comments about water and energy resources to the panel of senators from around the state in an effort to encourage positive legislation. Presentations on the state of water and energy resources in South Carolina were followed by two minute statements from citizens. The senators listened attentively to the statements but did not make many comments. Many of the citizens’ statements focused on concerns about saving our natural resources and in favor of energy conservation.

Some statistics: In the nation, South Carolina ranks 15th in total energy use (transportation and non-transportation), 5th in electricity consumption, and 13th in motor fuel consumption per capita. We have no conventional energy resources but some of the lowest electricity costs in the country and have the 2nd highest percentage of electricity produced from nuclear.

If you are interested in more information see the South Carolina Energy Office website at: www.energy.sc.gov.

If you have concerns or wish to make a statement about our energy consumption and production or about our water resources please email the Senate committee at sag@scsenate.org and use the subject line “SCWE.”

Notice: The Ex Comm will not be meeting at 6:00 on the first Thursday of the month for the next few months. We will announce meeting times and

locations on the website:
www.willbike.com/sierracub.

—Ann Stoeckmann
Pee Dee Group Chair

September Meeting Program

The Pee Dee Sierra group is proud to host program speaker Ann Timberlake of the Conservation Voters of South Carolina. The program begins at 7 PM at St. Luke Church, 1201 Cherokee Road in Florence, and is open to the public. Ann’s talk will summarize the positions of local candidates in upcoming elections, with special emphasis on important environmental issues including the Kingsburg power plant and water quality. Ann has served as Executive Director of Conservation Voters since its founding in 2003. Educated in Columbia public schools, Ann graduated from Tulane University with a BA in History. As an early member of the Sierra Club, she served as state Chapter Chair in 1976 and worked on campaigns to protect Congaree Swamp, the Chattooga River and the Joyce Kilmer/Slickrock Wilderness. Ann and her sister opened and managed the Purple Cow Grocery before selling it in 1993. She serves as a Board member of Thomas & Howard Company. She enjoys riding dressage and gardening at her mountain cabin at Caesar’s Head. Ann is married to Ben Gregg (Executive Director of SC Wildlife Federation) and they have two grown children, Teddy and Elizabeth.

—Kirk Dineley
Program Chair

Creek Sweep 2008

Our group coordinated the annual Creek Sweep of Jeffries Creek on Saturday, September 20th again this year. As in past years we concentrated our efforts on the Jeffries Creek Park area. This part of the creek receives a lot of human impact from park and fishing activities and from material washed in with stormwater. Due to the recent rains, the level of the creek was up this year and much of the surrounding floodplain was inaccessible.

Inaccessible areas coupled with low participation this year meant we couldn't find nor collect as much trash as in past years. The five folks that came out Saturday collected 8 bags of trash compared to 20 - 25 bags last year. Two of the eight bags were aluminum cans and plastic bottles that we separated to be recycled. We also found a tire, some men's clothing, and a weed wacker. The trash included lots of glass bottles and items left by fishermen such as plastic bait containers.

Many thanks to Tom and Teresa Herzog, Jacob Nicely, and Stuart Grainger for coming out on their Saturday morning to help with this year's clean-up and swat the hordes of mosquitoes!

—Ann Stoeckmann



Legislative Update

Probably the most important and unfortunately most contentious bill introduced in Congress this year was The Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act of 2008 (HR 6049). This legislation would have extended the 30% investment tax credit for installing solar energy for another eight years. This same legislation would have extended for one year the production tax credit for producing wind power and the credits for geothermal, wave energy and other renewables for three years. Back in December of 2007, Big Oil crushed such a provision of federal energy bill that would have extended these tax credits by convincing

lawmakers that by repealing their tax breaks to fund those for renewables it would drive prices up at the pump. Surprisingly, the House still passed HR 6049 in March of 08 by a vote of 263 to 150. Both of our house members, Representative Spratt and Clyburn voted in favor of the bill.

Unfortunately, the various Senate versions have failed to pass on eight separate votes since then.

Concerning energy, US government policy has always played a key role in supporting oil, coal, natural gas and nuclear power with extensive subsidies and tax incentives. Even as Big Oil wallows in record profits, they are still receiving billions in tax subsidies annually. Meanwhile, established and upstart non-greenhouse gas producing renewable energy companies, who really need these incentives to grow, must put clean energy projects on hold and hope that Congress doesn't let their incentives expire as is scheduled to happen at the end of this fiscal year. It doesn't look good with Congress set for adjournment for the year on September 26th. The so-called "Gang of 20", a bipartisan group of 10 Democrats and 10 Republicans, were making one last attempt to rush an energy package through when the "economic crisis" hit. Since crisis management appears to be the game in Washington these days, it looks like the "energy crisis" gets put on hold while the economic crisis is being delt with. Any meaningful energy policy will be left up to the next administration to address. By the way, John McCain deliberately avoided voting on all eight attempts to pass the Senate version of this bill. Both S.C. Senators Graham and Demint voted against this bill that is so vital to the expansion of the wind and solar industries. Barack Obama voted for it. In a recent study commissioned by the US solar and wind industry, it was determined that as many as 116,000 jobs and \$19 billion in US clean energy investments could be lost in just one year with the expiration of the tax credits alone.

You all may have caught Sierra's executive director Carl Pope's remark that "Back in June, the Republican Party had a round-up and one of the unbranded cattle - a wizened, old maverick named John McCain - finally got roped. Then they branded him with a big "Lazy-O - George Bush's brand, where the O stands for oil. No more maverick." I would suspect that in the very near future that the only independent conservation policy stance that differentiates John McCain from

George W., his opposition to drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, will also fall by the wayside. I'm sure we all understand the importance of getting out and voting and encouraging others too, in one of the most important elections ever for the conservation community. The National Climatic Data Center recently reported that for the 30th consecutive year the Earth's summer temperature was above average and that if this trend continues, there will be no summer Arctic ice within 5 to 10 years. The sense of urgency is certainly rising along with the world's oceans.

—David Andrews

Clean Energy Forum

Are you interested in creating a clean energy future in South Carolina? Want to learn what "efficiency" really means? Then join the Sierra Club and Research Director John Wilson of Southern Alliance for Clean Energy next Saturday, at 2 p.m. on October 4 in Florence, South Carolina. John Wilson has worked on energy issues in the Southeast for over a decade and can explain not only what a clean energy future might look like, but how we get there. This event is free and open to the public. An open discussion will follow his presentation.

Event details:

- What: Clean Energy Forum with Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
- Where: Florence-Darlington Technical College, Fred C. Fore Auditorium, Building 400, 2715 West Lucas Street, Florence, South Carolina
- When: Saturday, October 4, 2 p.m.

—John Ramsburgh, Chapter Director



Coal Plant Public Hearing

Please be advised that the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), Bureau of Air Quality, has drafted a Notice of Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT) Approval (NOMA) for the proposed Santee Cooper Pee Dee power plant near Kingsburg, South Carolina. These documents have not yet been approved and are open to public comment.

DHEC will hold a public hearing to allow interested persons the opportunity to provide comments regarding the proposed plant and the air quality documents that have been drafted. A copy of Public Notice #08-085-N-H announcing the public hearing and 45-day public comment period is enclosed. This notice has been published in the *Florence Morning News*, *The Sun News*, and *The State* newspapers on Tuesday, September 23, 2008, and may also be viewed on DHEC's website at any time during the public comment period.

The 45-day public comment period begins today, September 23, 2008, and will officially close on Thursday, November 6, 2008. In an effort to provide the public with convenient access to the draft documents, the permit application, and other relevant correspondence, this information has been posted on DHEC's website and can be viewed at:

<http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/baq/SanteeCooper.aspx>

The attached public notice provides instructions for reviewing and/or obtaining hard copies of these documents and how to submit written comments.

The public hearing will begin at **6:00 p.m.** on **Thursday, October 23, 2008**, in the gymnasium of **Hannah-Pamplico High School**, 2055 South Pamplico Highway, in Pamplico, South Carolina.

We would like to thank you for your comments and interest in this proposed project thus far. Please bring this notice and public hearing to the attention of others you know who may be interested in Santee Cooper's proposed Pee Dee Generating Station.

—South Carolina DHEC

DHEC proposes new limits for coal-fired power plant mercury emissions

Under a recent proposal by SC DHEC, Santee Cooper's proposed coal-fired power plant on the Pee Dee River would be allowed to release around 93 pounds of mercury annually. Santee Cooper officials are reportedly reviewing the decision to determine whether the proposed limit is technically feasible. The new proposed limit is lower than what Santee Cooper officials have previously said is technically feasible.

For more information, see the following article in the online *Charleston Post and Courier*:

<http://tinyurl.com/42j4cw>



A local green paper company

Thanks, Anita, for telling us about Sapona in Wilmington for all our green building needs. Here is another Green retailer in our midst: Hyman Paper Company. Hyman Paper is found in Darlington SC and sells industrial and personal service paper products (basically 1 or 2-ply toilet paper, paper towels and facial tissue as well as the soaps, and public restroom style containers for holding roll paper towels or TP).

How to get there? Travel west on Rt. 20 and take the first exit after I95 (#137). Turn Left at Hwy 340 (Timmonsville Hwy) then take a Right onto Corporation Way. The phone number is (803) 938-8419.

Hyman sells paper products from Wausau Paper in Harrodsburg KY (www.wpbaywest.com) including EcoSoft, Dubl-Nature and Dubl-Soft brands. Some of the products in the EcoSoft and Dubl-Nature lines have the Green Seal certification, meaning they are made from 100% recycled waste paper with a minimum 40% post-consumer content. The Green Seal certified products do not contain inks, dyes, fragrances, and are not whitened with bleach. You can even choose white or brown colors. Even the products that aren't Green Seal certified are 100% recycled, with about 20% post-consumer content (depending on the type of paper).

Hey, I shop at Harris Teeter and Piggly Wiggly predominately and I have a hard time finding any paper products there that are made from 100% recycled waste paper—I don't know about Wal-mart since I don't shop there. This means that I order a huge box (48 rolls) of 100 % recycled content (with about 80% post consumer waste content) toilet paper from Real Goods in California once a year or so. But here is a local small company (about 22 employees) that can supply me with the green paper products and I can reduce my carbon footprint at the same time. I'm switching!

—Lisa Pike



Sierra Club-Pee Dee Group-Leadership 2008

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* Indicates Pee Dee Group Ex-Com member

Membership

Yes, I want to help safeguard our nation's precious natural heritage. My check is enclosed.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

email _____

Check enclosed, made payable to Sierra Club

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MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

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Sierra Club
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Statement of Purpose: To explore, enjoy, and protect wild places of the earth; to practice and promote responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and use lawful means to carry out these objectives. Visit our web site: <http://www.willbike.com/sierraclub> We are no longer mailing the *Paddler*. Please sign up on our web site to receive an electronic copy.



October Meeting
When: Thursday, September 2, 2008, 6:00 p.m.

Program speaker: Ann Timberlake, Conservation Voters of South Carolina
Topic: Environmental Issues and the Political Candidates
St Luke Lutheran Church, 1201 Cherokee Rd, Florence