



Clean Water Action News

January—February 2001

North Dakota Newsletter

ND SEED—The Winds of Change

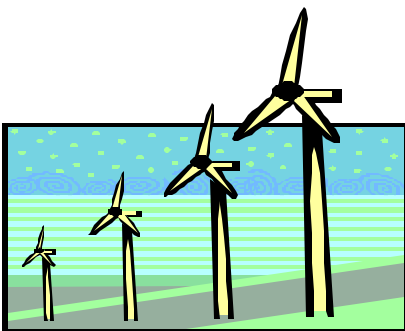
In 1999, Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund, along with Dakota Resource Council (DRC) formed the ND SEED (Sustainable Energy for Economic Development) Coalition. The goal of SEED is to promote large scale wind development in North Dakota. With North Dakota having the largest wind energy potential in the US—we've been called the Saudi Arabia of wind power—the opportunity for the state is tremendous.

Wind energy not only provides a clean, renewable source of energy, but also opens opportunities for economic development in our rural communities. The struggling farm economy and the recent energy crisis in parts of this country bode well for development of wind energy.

First on the SEED agenda was educating the public and building support for wind power. To do this, SEED organized a series of town meetings. Clean Water Fund's Energy Coordinator Scot Kelsh along with SEED Board Member Jay Haley and others, hit the road in early February 2000. They visited Kindred, Edgeley, Jamestown, Cooperstown and Stanley. Each meeting was larger and more successful than the previous one, ending up with nearly 200 participants in Stanley!!

The meetings produced a groundswell of support, especially in the rural communities, for wind energy development. The result was that wind energy became a leading issue for the state. North Dakota leaders started to take notice, and the issue of wind energy development took off!

The next step for the SEED coalition was to bring people together from across the state to talk about ways to promote wind development. In June 2000, ND SEED held a wind energy conference in Fargo. The response was great, with over 200 people attending. In January 2001, ND SEED co-sponsored another wind conference with Senator Byron Dorgan and others. This conference confirmed that wind power was an issue whose time had come. The standing room only crowd of 500 listened to over 6 hours of information on wind energy!



Also in 2000, the SEED Coalition began to craft legislation to promote wind development in North Dakota, including tax incentives to level the playing field for wind energy in the state. The result was three bills: HB 1221, HB 1222 and HB 1223.

After a crowded and successful public hearing, **all three bills passed the House in February 2001.** The Senate will hold a hearing March 14 and vote later that month. If these bills pass the Senate and are signed into law, we'll start to see the growth of a clean, renewable energy that can be exported and help spur economic development in our state.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Call committee members (see phone list on page 2). Urge them to vote for the wind power bills, HB 1221, 1222 and 1223. Remind them that wind power is good for our environment, economy and rural communities!





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Senate Finance & Tax Committee

Sen. Herb Urlacher –Chair– 974-3682

Sen. Rich Wardner—225-6918
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Sen. Randel Christmann—748-5420
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Sen. Bob Stenehjem— 258-5227
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Sen. Kenneth Kroeplin—945-2428
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Sen. Ronald Nichols— 628-2941
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Clean Water Action is a national citizen's organization working for clean, safe and affordable water, prevention of health threatening pollution, creation of environmentally safe jobs and businesses, and empowerment of people to make democracy work. Clean Water Action organizes strong grassroots groups, coalitions and campaigns to protect our environment, health, economic well being and community quality of life. This update was prepared for our Pennsylvania members who contribute at the sustaining member level of \$60 or more.

ND Sustaining Newsletter

West Fargo Perc Contamination

More than two years ago, the ND Health Department discovered that the soil and groundwater below a former West Fargo dry cleaner contained a dangerous chemical known as Perc. This is a chemical used in dry cleaning that can cause cancer in humans.

A representative from the Department of Health called it the worst contamination he has seen in the state. The concentrations in the ground were far above EPA drinking water regulations and had migrated to within 70 feet of the aquifer that is the source of West Fargo's drinking water.

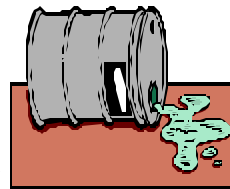
When CWA was alerted to the situation, we contacted the state and they told us that the dry cleaning company, Dry Clean USA, and the property owner, John Woodhams, were insisting that there was no danger. Instead of cleaning up now, they wanted only to monitor the situation on a quarterly basis.

CWA contacted West Fargo public officials and the news media to alert them to the situation. The West

Fargo City Commission passed a resolution encouraging the owners to begin clean up procedures.

In February, the Department of Health held an informational meeting in West Fargo. At that time it was revealed that the owner of the property recently came forward and promised a cleanup plan by a March 16th deadline. Dry Clean

USA still continues, through their lawyers, to be unresponsive to the cleanup issue. CWA will be monitoring the situation and actively pursue a comprehensive cleanup of this contamination.



WHAT YOU CAN DO: Write to the ND Department of Health and tell them that the contamination needs to be cleaned up.

Their address is: ND Dept. of Health, 600 E. Blvd. Ave., Bismarck, ND 58505-0200—phone 701-328-2372.

