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CLEAN OCEAN ADVOCATE
March 2020



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Clean Ocean Action
49 Avenue Blvd.
Long Branch, NJ 07740
www.CleanOceanAction.org



Ryan Struck Photography

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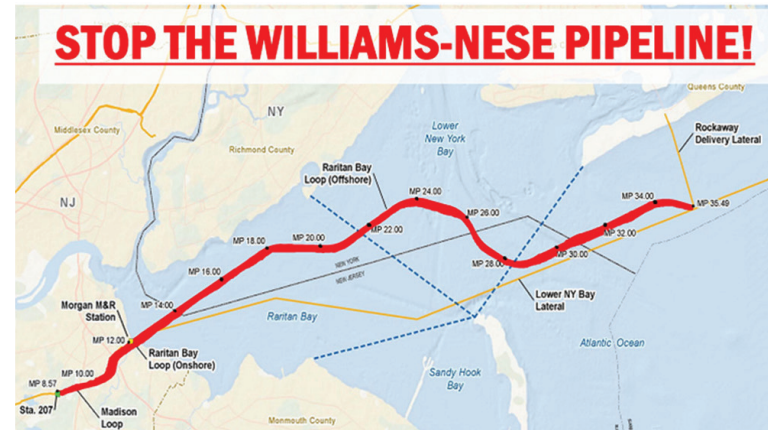
Defending the Sea Since 1984

March 2020

POLICY

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Kari Martin, Advocacy Campaign Manager; Citizens@CleanOceanAction.org



Williams/NESE Pipeline project indicated in RED

Nasty NESE is Back! Stay Strong!

NESE is back, they're trying to wear us down! For the fourth time, Williams-Transco is seeking to build "NESE," or the Northeast Supply Enhancement Project, which is a massive \$1 billion fossil fuel project to send New York fracked methane gas. The proposed project consists of a 23.4-mile offshore pipeline and an air-polluting compressor station in Franklin Township, NJ. The pipeline cuts through the heart of Middlesex County, NJ, and rips Raritan Bay/Lower New York Bay in half, terminating in the ocean off the Rockaways.

The ecological and public health consequences will be devastating and continue for 50 years — or more. Over a million tons of toxin laden muck will pollute the water and the health of the marine ecosystem. In addition, NESE proposes to dump the muck in the ocean.

The project will also:

- destroy our water quality and harm marine life;
- increase air pollution;
- is not needed, even according to its beneficiaries;
- may lead to an offshore Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) export facility; and
- is a threat to public safety.

For more information about NESE's severe impacts to land, air, and water, visit CleanOceanAction.org. See the box on the right to take action.

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) is accepting comments on the NESE project until April 3, 2020. The NJDEP previously denied the applications due to the significant environmental harm and lack of need.

Speak Up NY! National Grid's Public Meetings on NESE Pipeline

In accordance with a settlement agreement with the New York Public Service Commission, National Grid will conduct public hearings on future methane gas supply options, including the proposed NESE Pipeline. National Grid is the largest natural gas provider in the Northeast. COA urges people to attend these hearings as another way to show opposition to NESE. Learn more at ngridlongtermsolutions.com.



COA Joins Fishermen for Discussion on Offshore Wind

There are currently no wind turbines off the Jersey Shore, but this decade will change that. Governor Murphy has pledged to develop 7,500 MW of offshore wind energy by 2030. COA is committed to ensuring that all offshore wind development in the NY/NJ Bight is done in the most environmentally responsible way. To do this, COA will work with all interested stakeholders to learn and understand specific concerns related to offshore wind development. In February, COA attended a meeting held by Anglers for Offshore Wind, to better understand the thoughts and concerns of recreational fishermen in New Jersey.

Stop NESE! Three Actions YOU Can Take NOW!

- 1. Submit Comments** - Go to www.nj.gov/dep/nese and tell NJDEP to: (1) extend the public comment period, (2) hold public hearings on the proposed project in the Monmouth County Bayshore Area, and (3) deny this unnecessary and environmentally destructive project once and for all.
- 2. Call NJ Governor Murphy** at (609) 292-6000 to urge him to say "NO" to NESE.
- 3. Collect petition signatures** and join the movement to defeat NESE by contacting COA's Kari Martin (732-872-0111; citizens@cleanoceanaction.org).

Mark Your Calendars

Beach Sweeps

April 25
9am -12:30pm,
Over 70 NJ Locations

Student Summit

May 13 & 14

Sandy Hook, NJ

Run the Hook

May 10

10am, Sandy Hook, NJ

Rally for the Rivers

Eco-Fest

May 30

Victory Park, Rumson, NJ

Rally for the Navesink

Public Meetings

May 28, July 30,

September 24

7pm, Bingham Hall, Rumson, NJ



COA is seeking sponsors to support the 35th Annual Beach Sweeps, the largest environmental grassroots event in the state! If your business is looking to support an impactful environmental initiative, reach-out to SMunson@CleanOceanAction.org for more information.

In honor of the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day, volunteer for COA at one of the many events COA will be attending by contacting Zack, Advocate@CleanOceanAction.org.

Tributes

Photo courtesy of Joe Reynolds

In Memory of:

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Ronald W. Alexander | William Michael Kestly |
| Peter Cauterucci | Zachary Misch |
| Jody DiStasio | Carol Anne Ross |
| Frank Fisher | Karen Shatto |
| Addie and Harold Gabel | Andrew Thompson |
| Enid Gottesman | Ursula, Bell and Ted |
| Carol and Martin Huggins | Gregory Weber |
| Theodore Josberger | |

In Honor of:

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| All the Alessio's | Congratulations to Leigh Anne |
| Anna | Magnatta |
| Anisha's 16th Birthday | Amy McDonagh |
| Nuri Cho-wang | Olivia and Chase |
| COA's persistence and success on | Kim Taehyung |
| improving water quality | Evy Vatcher |
| Congratulations to Amanda Cusack | Addie Walsh and Brad Beddow |
| Donna's love of Ocean City Beaches | Echo Yager |
| PJ Hyduke | Cindy Zipf |

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Spencer Munson, Resource and Event Coordinator; Programs@CleanOceanAction.org

COA Contributes 195lbs to TerraCycle's Beach Plastic Cleanup Program

Throughout summer 2019, over 850 volunteers from 29 corporations collected 195lbs of rigid plastic during COA's Corporate Beach Sweeps for a special recycling partnership with TerraCycle. They will clean and recycle the rigid plastic collected and turn it into pellets that will be re-used to make products such as shampoo, soap and skincare bottles. Rigid plastic includes items such as plastic bottle caps and lids, plastic pieces, toys, cigar tips, and single-use utensils, which are not typically recyclable without TerraCycle's unique Beach Plastic Cleanup Program.



To view data from COA's 2019 Corporate Beach Sweeps, or details about COA's 2020 program, visit our website for the application. Applications for 2020 Corporate Beach Sweeps are accepted on a rolling basis until all available dates are filled. The program runs from May through September.

Waves of Thanks Mary-Beth Thompson for 25 True-Blue Years!

"Mary-Beth sustains Clean Ocean Action with her wisdom, creativity, and many talents, while her grace and thoughtfulness make it a warm and happy place to work." – Cindy Zipf



As Mary-Beth tells the story, it is thanks to her husband Scott Thompson (a local surfing legend known as, "The General") that Mary-Beth's journey began with Clean Ocean Action. She started volunteering in 1987 helping to organize events, fundraisers, and rallies, as well as helping to launch the COA Concerned Businesses. In 1994 she accepted a post on the Board of Trustees and, with experience in financial affairs and office management, officially joined the staff in 1995 as part-time office manager.

Mary-Beth keeps the "lean green ocean pollution fighting machine" running smoothly with her impeccable attention

to detail. From office management to book-keeping to legal corporate filings, COA is in the best of hands. Mary-Beth also has a seemingly endless reserve of patience and is a steady hand at all times.

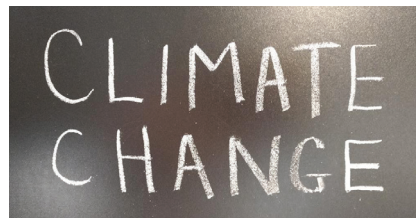
All the while she raised, nurtured, and sustained her remarkable family. Her three sons, Tyler, Mark and Brett, all grew-up with COA as Mary-Beth engaged them in stewardship and community service. Now her family continues to bloom. She now has two fantastic daughters-in-law, Allison, and Kelly, and is "Nana" to three amazing and charming grand-children, Nathan, his sister Ada Jane, and Wallie. COA is truly blessed and grateful for Mary-Beth's true blue dedication and friendship as she continues to make a splash.

OUTREACH & EDUCATION

Climate Change Education Coming to NJ Schools

Thanks to efforts led by NJ First Lady Tammy Murphy, climate change education has been proposed in new drafts of New Jersey's K-12 academic standards for public schools in all nine content areas. This is critically important to increase citizen awareness and engagement to reduce causes and implement sustainable responses.

The NJ Department of Education is accepting public comments until March 30, 2020, on the draft standards. To learn more, go to www.nj.gov/education/cccs/2020/. Comments can be emailed to NJSLReview@doe.nj.gov.



POLICY (continued)

Single-Use Plastics Bill Stalls in NJ Legislature

Last year, New Jersey failed to pass statewide plastic reduction legislation. NJ's legislation would: 1. Ban all single-use plastic film bags; 2. Ban single-use paper bags (only at grocery stores); 3. Ban all Polystyrene foam food service products; and 4) Allow plastic straws by request. A Senate Committee passed the bill and is planning an important floor vote.



In the meantime, you can help support the state bill by making sure your town has passed an ordinance. There

are 57 municipalities that have adopted plastic reduction ordinances. Ordinances are the first step to reducing the plastic pollution that plagues our state and waterways and causes harm and death to wildlife. Here's how you can advocate for such ordinances:

1. Check the list on COA's website to see if your municipality has passed a plastic reduction ordinance. If yes, hooray and help others! If no, read on!
2. Bring COA's model ordinances (visit CleanOceanAction.org) for banning single-use plastic straws, bags, and polystyrene (Styrofoam) foam food containers to your next town council meeting and urge them to adopt it.
3. Let COA know your success and continue to advocate for a plastic-free ocean by participating in our statewide Beach Sweeps on April 25.

NY Bans Plastic Bags, Effective March 1

Starting March 1, 2020, a bag waste reduction law will take effect in New York State where over 23 billion plastic bags are typically used each year. Unfortunately, the final regulations allow for thicker 10 mil plastic bags as options. Enforcement begins April 1st. For more information about NYDEC's plastic bag rules, go to www.dec.ny.gov.

National Plastic Reduction Act Introduced

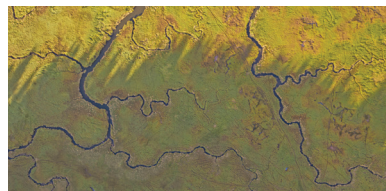
US Senator Tom Udall (NM) and US Representative Alan Lowenthal (CA) introduced the "Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act" on February 11, 2020. It is the first comprehensive bill introduced in Congress to address the plastic pollution crisis. Senator Booker (NJ) is a co-sponsor. The Legislation would phase out unnecessary single-use plastic products, hold corporations accountable for wasteful products, reduce wasteful packaging, and reform our broken waste and recycling collection system.



According to the Congressional members, "the bill will reduce the amount of unnecessary and wasteful plastic that is created and reform the broken waste and recycling collection system that has led to this catastrophe." The bill awaits review and action in various Congressional Committees.

Trump Continues Rollback of Environmental Protections

In the latest attack on the environment, the Trump Administration has finalized the Navigable Waters Protection Rule. The rule significantly limits the scope of waterways protected under the Clean Water Act, the nation's strongest protection for water quality. The rule strips away needed protections for streams, wetlands, and groundwater. The rule will take effect on March 30, 2020. Several environmental groups have already threatened to challenge the rule in court.



SCIENCE

Swarna Muthukrishnan, PhD, Staff Scientist; Science@CleanOceanAction.org
Alison Jones, Watershed Protection Coordinator; Outreach@CleanOceanAction.org

Citizen Scientists for the Navesink

On February 18, COA hosted a training session for volunteers interested in weekly water quality sampling of the Navesink River. Eighteen new volunteers met at Monmouth Boat Club, which offered an ideal riverfront location to demonstrate proper sample collection protocols. Many of the newly trained citizen scientists have already participated in their first week of water quality sampling and COA is very grateful for their commitment to the program.



New volunteers attending the Water Quality Monitoring training

The next Rally for the Navesink meeting will be on Thursday, March 26th at 7pm at Bingham Hall in Rumson. Kristin Hock, Habitat Outreach Coordinator for NJ Audubon, will be presenting on the Certified Wildlife Habitat program. Attend the meeting to learn how to transform your property into an attractive habitat for local wildlife.

COA's Rally for the Bay Underway in Ocean County!

COA has been serving on the Barnegat Bay Partnership's Advisory Committee (AC) and Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) for many years. The many threats and changing ecosystem of the Bay include impacts from sea level rise and climate change. COA's Staff Scientist Dr. Swarna Muthukrishnan attended the meetings.



US Army Corps of Engineers shared updates on Barnegat Bay's participation in the nationwide pilot program for the beneficial use of dredged material. The Partnership also provided an update on the ongoing real-time and continuous water quality monitoring in three stations in the Bay – Beach Haven, Mantoloking and Seaside Heights. The study is being conducted in collaboration with NJDEP and the data is available at <http://njdep.rutgers.edu/continuous/>.

COA's active participation in the Partnership will be immensely useful in understanding local pollution issues as we gear-up the "Rally for the Bay" program to track down and eliminate pollution from human sanitary sources in the Toms River watershed under the NJDEP 2018 Water Quality Restoration Grant.

Staff Updates

As of February 2020, Kari Martin returns to her Policy & Outreach roots as COA's Advocacy Campaign Manager. She will be leading citizen action campaigns related to reducing plastic pollution, fighting the NESE project, promoting the Municipal Blue Star program, and other ocean pollution issues.

Additionally, Zack Karvelas is now Outreach Associate and responsible for assisting in outreach and campaign initiatives, as well as coordinating volunteers.