

Detroit Workers' Voice



Detroit Marxist-Leninist Study Group PO Box 28536, Detroit, MI 48228 detroitworkersvoice@yahoo.com April 11, 2016 #120

Stop the ten-fold expansion of the "US Ecology" waste plant! Keep radioactive waste out of our drinking water! Demonstrate Saturday 10 am at Eastern Market

The struggle is continuing against the expansion of the hazardous waste facility in Detroit misleadingly called "US Ecology". Opposition to US Ecology is increasing, and the disaster in Flint has helped spur the struggle to protect the water supply in Detroit. More people and organizations have become involved. Detroit and Hamtramck residents from around the waste plant have become more active in opposition. A long-time organization of residents, the Georgia Street Community Collective, supports the coalition to stop the expansion of US Ecology, as does a new organization of residents, the Eastside Coalition for Environmental Justice. The struggle is also connected to the struggle against fracking, which includes a struggle to stop the drilling of new wells

inside the Detroit urban region. There is no working class or minority community that the polluters and frackers hold sacred; no water supply that they will hesitate to dump waste into; no natural area that they won't pollute.

The Coalition to Oppose the Expansion of US Ecology has people and organizations with varying political views. The *Detroit Workers' Voice* is just one of many organizations involved, and our views are our own. We also took part in the demonstration against the expansion on October 3rd last year, and we call on everyone to take part in the coming demonstration on Saturday morning, 10 am, April 16, at Eastern Market. See the reverse side of this leaflet for the Coalition flyer with the exact location. ■

Earth Day, 2016

This year Earth Day, April 22, takes place as we face one environmental disaster after another, from global warming to the contamination of our drinking water. The big corporations are still making tons of money over destroying our environment. What is the path forward for defending our environment?

Below are several works of interest which are worthy of attention:

•***This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. The Climate*** (2014) by the well-known social activist, Naomi Klein. She writes that climate change isn't just another issue, but will affect everything: "The challenge is not simply that we need to spend a lot of money...Right now, the triumph of market logic, with its ethos of domination and fierce competition, is paralyzing almost all serious efforts to respond to climate change." (p. 23) And she is right! Her book provides a lot of information that can't be found elsewhere. But unfortunately she still defends the carbon tax.

•***Cooling It! No Hair Shirt Solutions to Global Warming*** (2004) by Gar Lipow. This is an oldie, but goodie. It shows that, with only presently-existing technology, it is possible to drastically cut the use of carbon fuels, protect the environment, and still maintain the standard of living. The obstacle is conservative and reactionary politics and economics, not technology.

•***Our Choice*** (2009) by Al Gore. In this book, as in his earlier book, *An Inconvenient Truth*, Gore sounds an alarm about global warming. He is quite right about the dangers, but wrong about the solutions. He advocates working hand-in-hand with the capitalist corporations through market measures; but this has led to one ecological disaster after another in recent years.

•***Green Gone Wrong: Dispatches from the Front Lines of Eco-Capitalism*** (2010) by Heather Rogers. She documents the failure of market measures to live up to the claims made for them. She visited Paraguay and Borneo and found out what really

happens to small peasants and the environment when carbon offsets, fair trade programs, and biofuels are promoted.

•***Under the Dome*** (2015) by Chai Jing is a documentary film by a brave journalist, not a book. She documents the incredible smog disaster that is harming the health of workers all over China.

•***Durban's Climate Gamble: Trading Carbon, Betting the Earth*** (2011), edited by the prominent activist Patrick Bond, and ***Politics of Climate Justice: Paralysis Above, Movement Below*** (2012), written by Bond. He says the UN climate conferences, like the one in Durban, are just "deckchair shifting on the climate Titanic". And he describes the militant environmental movement in South Africa, which is opposed by the ANC government.

•Articles about "the free market vs the environment" at www.comunistvoice.org/00GlobalWarming.html. □

For more about the subjects above, subscribe to the *Detroit Workers' Voice* email list!

To subscribe, for free, send a request, along with your email address, to detroitworkersvoice@yahoo.com. For info about the list, see http://www.comunistvoice.org/DWV_email_list.html.

Read Communist Voice magazine

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More Hazardous Waste coming into Detroit?

-- Stop DEQ's rubber stamp of approval! --

Demonstrate & march! OPPOSE the EXPANSION OF US ECOLOGY!

SATURDAY

APRIL 16, 2016

10 AM

**St John and St. Luke United Church of Christ and proceed to EASTERN MARKET
Address: 2120 Russell St., Detroit, MI 48207 (located just South of Gratiot)**

A hazardous waste plant is located on Georgia Street in Detroit, up the road from Eastern Market and across the railroad tracks from Hamtramck. It is called "US Ecology" or USE, to trick the public into thinking it's a green business. Several months ago, USE **applied to the Department of Environmental Quality for a permit to expand the processing and the storage of hazardous waste to ten times its size. It's waiting DEQ's approval.**

Currently the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department allows USE to dump a stew of chemicals, toxins and metals such as arsenic, cadmium, cyanide and lead into the sewerage system - 20 batches a day. A batch is 15,000 gallons. If USE is allowed to expand, the liquid waste dumped into the water system will multiply.

Fracking for gas and oil has soared in recent years. The energy industry needs someplace to dump their mess of toxic and radioactive waste that Pennsylvania, Ohio and W. Virginia won't accept. USE has come up with an answer - Detroit. Dump it in Detroit and Wayne County. Let residents in Southeast Michigan be sacrificed for the needs of the oil and gas industry.



DEQ has stated:

- **Nothing is standing in the way of the approval.**
- **If it's legal, DEQ will approve it.**

Demonstration against US Ecology 10-3-15 Photo: Jim West

So there you have it - residents of Southeast Michigan and the safety of our water supply means "nothing" to the DEQ. They've OK'd the poisoning of Flint residents and Flint water and they can do it in Detroit. Of course it's legal. There is nothing in the law that requires consideration of the health of Michigan residents. **We must apply the lessons that Flint residents have tragically learned - Don't rely on DEQ or government officials to protect our families or our water supply!**

Keep up the fight! Clean Water is a Human Right!

SPONSORS: Coalition to Oppose the Expansion of US Ecology, Hamtramck Community Initiative, Eastside Coalition for Environmental Justice, Ban Michigan Fracking, City Airport Renaissance Association, Georgia Street Community Collective, Ecology Center, Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation, Detroit Worker's Voice, Beyond Nuclear, Don't Waste Michigan, Coalition for a Nuclear Free Great Lakes, State Representative, Rose Mary C. Robinson; Wayne County Commissioners Tim Killeen and Martha G. Scott and Detroit City Council President, Brenda Jones.

FB: Coalition to Oppose the Expansion of US Ecology **Website:** <http://coalitionstopuse.weebly.com>