



NOTES AND NEWS

January 2011

ITEMS OF LOCAL AND STATE INTEREST

Viskase Expansion Permit Update from Mike Crosby, BCAAT President

At the request of BCAAT, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) held a November public hearing on the proposed permit to allow expansion of the Viskase plant in Loudon. At that meeting and in subsequent written comments, BCAAT and several of our members strongly objected to permit, as proposed.

We have several reasons to oppose the proposed permit.

The proposed plant expansion permit would allow carbon disulfide pollution to increase by 220 tons per year from current actual emissions. This is a 25% increase of this toxic chemical into the air we breathe.

The extremely unpleasant “rotten egg odor” chemical, hydrogen disulfide, would be permitted to increase 144 tons per year from current actual emissions. This is an increase of 84% of this foul smelling pollutant into our air.

Our air does not presently meet federal standards for ozone or small particle pollution. The carbon disulfide and additional increases in nitrous oxides and small particle pollutants from increased coal burning will further aggravate our ozone and small particle levels.

In our view, Loudon County air should not be further compromised by toxic, odor causing, and ozone producing pollution from an expanded Viskase plant. Our health, quality of life, and property values should not be sacrificed for the benefit of Viskase.

We would support this expansion, only if additional pollution controls are used to eliminate increased air pollution from the expanded plant. Otherwise we will continue to oppose this permit by appropriate lawful means.

Your continued support in this effort will be appreciated.

TVA Reducing Emissions Faster Than National Average

From the Tennessee Daily, Thursday 6th January, 2011 (Source: [News Channel 9](#))

A federal study shows Tennessee Valley Authority power plants have reduced emissions of two key acid rain components to a fraction of what was being released 30 years ago, and at a rate faster than the national average for the industry.

The study released Dec. 20 by the Environmental Protection Agency touted the success of the Acid Rain Program, designed to reduce emissions from the country's fossil-fueled power plants. The figures showed nationwide sulfur dioxide emissions have been reduced 64 percent since 1990 and 67 percent since 1980. Sulfur dioxide is a compound released from the burning of coal, and a key component of acid rain. TVA's data from 2009 shows the utility reduced its sulfur dioxide emissions by 82 percent since 1990 and 87 percent since 1980.

ITEMS OF NATIONAL INTEREST

The following press release was issued in Washington DC January 3, 2011:

Federal Agencies Join Efforts to Reduce Radon Exposure

Radon exposure is the leading cause of non-smoking lung cancer

WASHINGTON - January is National Radon Action Month and the U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and eight other federal agencies are announcing a new effort to strengthen the fight against radon exposure. Radon exposure is the leading cause of non-smoking lung cancer. Senior leaders from the federal agencies are pledging to work together to create a national risk reduction plan for radon that will help save lives and create safer, healthier homes for all Americans.

"Radon is a serious public health threat that leads to more than 21,000 deaths each year," said Gina McCarthy, assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Air and Radiation. "This new federal partnership will help Americans reduce their risk of radon exposure."

Radon is a naturally occurring, invisible and odorless radioactive gas. One in 15 American homes contain high levels of radon. Millions of Americans are unknowingly exposed to this dangerous gas. By taking simple steps to test your home for radon and fix if necessary, this health hazard can be avoided. If your home hasn't been tested for radon in the past two years, EPA and the Surgeon General urge you to take action. Contact your state radon office for information on locating qualified test kits or qualified radon testers.

The federal commitment made by EPA, the General Services Administration, and the departments of Agriculture, Defense, Energy, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, and Veterans Affairs will focus efforts on radon reduction and mitigation in homes, especially those of low-income families, many of whom do not have the resources to make the simple fixes necessary to protect their homes and loved ones.

At the end of January, the federal consortium will meet with key leaders in the public health, environmental and private sectors to begin shaping a national action plan that includes both immediate and long-term steps to reduce radon exposure.

More information on the joint federal initiative to reduce radon exposure:

http://www.epa.gov/radon/federal_summit.html

More information on radon and testing your home: <http://www.epa.gov/radon/index.html>

To find your state radon office: <http://www.epa.gov/radon/wherelive.html>

OTHER

2011 Dues Due!

It's time to renew your BCAAT membership. Please use the form below and return it along with your check. Thanks so much for your interest and support.



BCAAT Membership Application/Renewal
Name _____

Street Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone number _____ E-Mail _____

Membership levels/Annual Dues
___ Individual \$10 ___ Family \$20 ___ Sustaining \$50 ___ Silver \$100 ___ Gold \$500 or more

() Check here if you wish your membership to remain anonymous

DUES AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE TO THE EXTENT ALLOWABLE BY LAW

Please indicate areas of interest

Please mail application and check payable to BCAAT INC. to:

- () Distribute flyers
- () Participate on committee
- () Attend public meetings
- () Research and fact-finding
- () Write letters, articles

BCAAT
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Thank you!

() Other _____