



UJAE **Unions for Jobs And the Environment**

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Newsletter

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Member Unions

- Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers
- International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers and Helpers
- International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
- International Brotherhood of Teamsters
- Marine Engineers Beneficial Association
- Transportation • Communications International Union
- United Food and Commercial Workers International Union
- United Mine Workers of America
- United Transportation Union
- Utility Workers Union of America

President

Bill Cunningham

Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)

The first meeting of the RGGI stakeholder group was held in New York City in early April. The group was directed to examine how a carbon dioxide cap-and-trade program for power plants should be introduced in the Northeastern states. The six New England states plus New York, New Jersey and Delaware are participating in the process, with Maryland and Pennsylvania acting as observers. The participating states agreed on a cap-and-trade approach before initiating a stakeholder process, thereby limiting the choices to be considered.

The stakeholder group, which was nominated by participating states, includes environmentalists and business interests among the 25-member stakeholder panel. A few NY local unions were included in one NY stakeholder group but RGGI states refused to give national or regional labor interests a direct seat at the table. The rebuff occurred despite written protests from UJAE. UJAE again protested this decision at the first RGGI stakeholder meeting in New York.

UJAE is concerned that plant closures and job displacement issues will not be adequately considered by the stakeholders. A number of power plants in the Northeast could be put in jeopardy by the cap-and-trade program. Jobs are also threatened in other sectors of the economy including rail lines that depend on coal traffic, and industry that is sensitive to energy costs. UJAE will continue to observe RGGI stakeholder meetings, and will work with state and regional labor groups to ensure that our interests in job preservation are recognized by the participating states.

Connecticut Climate Bill

The Connecticut State Assembly recently passed legislation that sets a goal to reduce emissions to the 1990 level by 2010, and ten percent below 1990 by 2020. The long-term goal is to reduce emissions by seventy-five to eighty-five per cent below 2001. The goals are adopted from a 2001 agreement by the New England Governors and the Eastern Canadian Premiers. The governor is expected to sign the bill into law.

A Governor's Steering Committee, set up by the act, will develop a program by January 2005 to achieve the goals. Presumably, the Steering Committee program will be put before the next session of the Connecticut Assembly. UJAE will monitor the development of the Connecticut Plan, which is likely to contain a cap-and-trade program for power plants now being developed by the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

UJAE files Comments on EPA's Proposed Interstate Air Quality Rule

UJAE filed comments on the EPA proposal designed to reduce power plant emissions of sulfur dioxide (SO₂), and nitrogen oxides (NO_x). UJAE will also file comments on the proposed mercury rule for power plants.

EPA's Interstate Air Quality Proposed Rule would require Midwestern, Eastern and Southern coal-fired electric generators to make deep cuts SO₂ and NO_x emissions.

Although UJAE expressed support for the overall thrust of EPA's Air Quality proposed rule, UJAE offered recommendations to improve the rule in ways that would preserve and create jobs by:

- Enhancing regulatory certainty;
- Crediting early emissions reductions;
- Encouraging early reduction of SO₂ emissions through technologies;
- Balancing NO_x allowance allocations; and
- Setting achievable compliance deadlines for Phase I.

The UJAE comments on the Air Quality Rule and recent Mine Worker comments on EPA's proposed Mercury Rule can be found on the UJAE website.

The Day After Tomorrow

A movie about abrupt climate change, triggered by manmade greenhouse gas emissions, is coming to theaters May 28. German director Roland Emmerich has glaciers rolling over Manhattan following an abrupt cessation in the Gulf Stream caused by manmade global warming.

Emmerich's production company destroys New York for the third time in recent years. They wrecked it in *Independence Day*, and had *Godzilla* eat it in a remake of that movie. Now they are flooding and freezing it.

Environment activists will be handing out leaflets outside movie theaters to call attention to global warming. Although conceding that the movie is more fiction than science, they see this as an opportunity get their point of view across.

Some observers are concerned that movie goers might take the movie seriously rather than as an action adventure.

What do scientists say about the premise of the movie? Wallace Broecker, who first drew attention to the link between North Atlantic circulation and abrupt climate change, dismisses talk of a new Ice Age as not only unsound but counterproductive.

MIT's Carl Wunsch, a leading expert in ocean-circulation systems, said recently in a letter to *Nature* magazine that "The only way to produce an ocean circulation without a Gulf Stream is either to turn off the wind system, or to stop the Earth's rotation, or both.... The occurrence of a climate state without the Gulf Stream any time soon — within tens of millions of years — has a probability of little more than zero."

Canadian experts Andrew Weaver and Claude Hillaire-Marcel said in the April 26 issue of *Science* magazine, referring directly to the movie, "It is safe to say that global warming will not lead to the onset of a new ice age."

Scientists do understand that Hollywood's needs are different than those of science. Dr. Geoff Jenkins, head of climate prediction, Hadley Centre for Climate Prediction and Research (U.K.), says, "It's a movie, and we shouldn't get too po-faced about it. Hollywood's not going to make money out of a bunch of scientists discussing uncertainties."

Rumor has it the movie does not have a happy ending.



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