

zephyr®

Currents

a quarterly publication of zephyr environmental corporation

Nuclear, The New Green?

Through the cloud of predictions of catastrophic global climate change, a controversial energy alternative source is emerging as “The New Green”. In a 1954 speech to the National Association of Science Writers, Lewis Strauss, the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, claimed that the nuclear power industry, which then was in its infancy, would usher in a new age of progress where “electricity would be too cheap to meter”. However, reality has proven to be much different. Two significant accidents involving nuclear plants within a seven-year time frame spread gloom throughout the U.S. nuclear power community, resulting in the current 30-year nuclear plant construction gap. If it is true, as some nuclear plant opponents claim, that a nuclear accident can result in widespread injury and death, contaminating large areas of land, and costing billions of dollars, how can the nuclear industry possibly make a comeback?

According to a recent Department of Energy (DOE) report, total domestic power demand could increase as much as 41 percent by 2030, and new electrical generating capacity will be needed to meet this demand. Coal is currently responsible for half of all domestic electrical generation, and DOE reports that 90 gigawatts of new coal plants are under consideration or have recently come on line. However, strong opposition to coal plant expansion has developed over recent years. Its opponents condemn conventional coal fired power plants because of their emissions of greenhouse gases, their potential contributions to formation of ozone, and their mercury emissions.

Natural gas provides about 20 percent of our power, and interest in new natural gas fired plants has resurged in the last year, due in part to the reduced popularity of coal plants. However, many of the environmental barbs fired at coal are also directed at natural gas; it, too, is a fossil fuel that results in emissions of greenhouse



gases and ozone precursors. In addition, increased natural gas consumption by the public, utilities, and industry is straining domestic natural gas supplies, spurring the increased importation of liquefied natural gas and the construction of new LNG terminals to receive shipments from overseas. Burning fuel oil to generate electricity is on the decline, and reliance on uncertain foreign oil sources discourages expanded oil fired power generation. The use of renewable and alternative energy sources such as wind, water, solar, and bio-fuels is on the rise; however, it will be decades before these energy sources could make a significant dent in our dependence of fossil fuels.

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FROM THE TRENCHES

Looking Outside the Box to Get Approvals for the Cove Point LNG Expansion Project

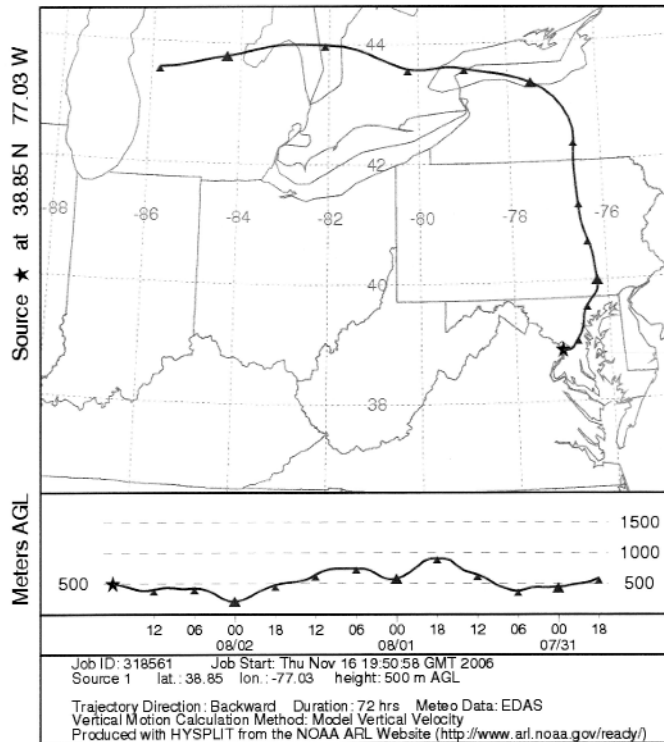
Zephyr recently helped Dominion Resources Services (Dominion) obtain Prevention of Significant Deterioration and Nonattainment New Source Review (NSR) air quality permits for a major expansion to their onshore liquefied natural gas (LNG) import facility near Cove Point, Maryland. As one of only four operating onshore LNG import facilities in the contiguous U.S., Cove Point is strategically important to Dominion as well as the nation. In addition to the facility expansion, Dominion also plans to install a new pipeline to deliver the much needed natural gas to markets in surrounding states.

In spite of the clear need for this project, the regulatory hurdles to its approval were daunting, and obtaining the air approvals promised to be a regulatory nightmare. In particular, getting the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to approve the facility expansion and the interstate gas pipeline threatened to significantly draw out the approval process, particularly because the FERC rules provided no clear path forward. Under the specter of significant project delays, Zephyr met this challenge by looking outside the box.

The Challenge: The Cove Point LNG facility is located in the Washington D.C. ozone nonattainment area (a severe nonattainment area under the old 1-hour ozone air quality standard). Because Dominion needed FERC approval for the expansion, the General Conformity Rule (GCR) under 40 CFR Part 51, Subpart W, required the Company to determine if project emissions conformed with the existing State Implementation Plan (SIP) for achieving the ozone standard. Basically, the GCR stipulates that, where any federal agency approval is required for an activity, the responsible agency cannot permit or license such activity if it fails to conform to, or if conflicts with, an approved SIP under the CAA. Because the NO_x emissions from constructing the project exceeded the GCR threshold of 100 tons per year, the proposed emissions would have to be mitigated before FERC could approve the project.

Dominion's approach to meeting this requirement was to obtain NO_x emission offset credits (offsets) to demonstrate a net increase of less than 100 tons per year. Although similar to the emissions offsets acquisition mechanism established by EPA for permitting major projects in nonattainment areas, a subtle quirk in the GCR offset rule made the process significantly more difficult. Specifically, EPA's NSR rule allows a source to look within the nonattainment area in which the source is located and within adjacent nonattainment area(s) for sources of offsets, but the GCR explicitly requires that offsets for mitigation come only from within the same nonattainment area. Given the lack of available NO_x offsets in the Washington D.C. nonattainment area, we

NOAA HYSPLIT MODEL
Backward trajectory ending at 18 UTC 02 Aug 02
EDAS Meteorological Data



could see no way of obtaining the necessary amount of offsets in time for construction to start on schedule.

The Outside-the-Box Solution: Before going further, we asked ourselves the question: “Should we be limited to offsets in the Washington D.C. area if the science shows we can look farther afield?” And if the answer to this question was *no*, “Could petitioning EPA on the basis of sound scientific evidence provide the agency the technical back-up it needs to allow the use of offsets from outside the Washington D.C. nonattainment area?” Starting with our understanding of the air quality meteorology of the Northeast U.S., we conducted air parcel back-trajectory analyses for high ozone days since 2000 to demonstrate that ozone and ozone precursor emissions traveled from the adjacent Baltimore (Maryland) nonattainment area to the Washington D.C. nonattainment area during many such periods. Also, we uncovered evidence of such transport in existing modeling studies conducted by government agencies, including EPA.

Wrapping up the study results in a concise, well-documented report, we presented our findings to EPA, and upon considering

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Under Pressure: New Drivers and New Risks for Corporate Environmental Disclosure

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission's ("SEC's") requirements under Regulation S-K have long required publicly-traded companies to disclose material environmental costs, liabilities, and trends. In recent years, though, the securities laws, securities regulators, environmental groups, investment firms, the investing public and, most recently, state legal authorities have put increasing pressure on companies to provide broader reporting on corporate environmental, sustainability, and social responsibility issues. This trend raises the legal and financial stakes for companies, their employees, officers, and directors, and their outside advisers.

The SEC's rules require publicly-traded companies to describe the material costs and consequences of compliance with the environmental laws, to disclose any material pending legal proceedings including environmental penalty actions and cleanup actions, and to report on known trends, contingencies, and uncertainties reasonably anticipated to be material. Failure to provide accurate and complete financial information is subject to enforcement, as reflected in SEC's November 29, 2006 cease-and-desist order complaining that Ashland, Inc. reduced its environmental remediation reserves without a reasonable, documented basis for such reductions. Such enforcement actions, along with a number of recent, damaging corporate restatements of results due to environmental factors, underscore the need for vigorous due diligence into the facts underlying corporate disclosures and remind the corporate community that SEC remains interested in environmental disclosure and in companies' internal controls.

Significantly, numerous other actors now exert influence both on SEC and on publicly-traded companies to improve disclosure. Environmental advocacy and green watchdog groups have prepared studies about perceived weaknesses in disclosure practices, encouraged SEC to tighten rules on environmental disclosure, and petitioned SEC to pursue enforcement against companies that in their view failed to make required disclosures. Most recently, in September 2007, a coalition of twenty-two environmental groups and institutional investors petitioned SEC to begin closely scrutinizing the adequacy of corporate disclosures about climate change. Environmentalist investors also present shareholder resolutions demanding that companies change their environmental approach or disclose environmental information more fully. And with the advent of "green" investment funds, investment dollars deliberately chase the stock of companies that reduce their environmental footprint and transparently report their environmental impacts and efforts. All of these factors have the potential to influence corporate behavior and to pressure SEC to maintain its focus on these issues. Corporate America is clearly paying attention: a review of corporate SEC filings over

time demonstrates that environmental disclosures have grown dramatically in both size and detail.

Evolving knowledge of environmental issues also ratchets up disclosure obligations, raising new issues that may be relevant to the investing public. Climate change may be the best recent example of such evolution: scientists and the media have proclaimed with increasing certainty and frequency that climate change is real; policymakers have begun to undertake carbon regulation; and a number of lawsuits have been filed relating to global warming. These developments create new pressures on carbon-emitting companies to evaluate and disclose the likely impacts of climate change regulation or liabilities on their business even though profound uncertainties remain about carbon regulation and liability.

Companies are obviously heeding these influences. Although climate disclosures are increasing in number and detail (49 percent of companies in carbon-intensive industry sectors discussed climate change in their 2005 10K reports, compared with 26 percent in 2000), environmental groups have questioned the adequacy of these disclosures. This concern is reflected in the Attorney General of New York's investigation of five companies with coal-related energy portfolios launched in September 2007. Statements issued in connection with the investigation express concern that those companies violated state fraud laws by not adequately describing the likely costs and consequences of climate change regulation and liabilities given their existing and proposed carbon-emitting activities. Importantly, all five companies had described climate change as a material risk factor in their recent SEC filings.

Notably, in recent years many companies have gone beyond required SEC reporting, pursuing broader reporting on their environmental, sustainability, and/or corporate social responsibility records. This reporting introduces additional levels of risk for the reporting company based both on the language and the information they use in such reports. Voluntary reporting that understates risks or that is otherwise potentially misleading can arise from well-meaning efforts to make positive claims about environmental efforts. Although such risks can arise from mandatory SEC filings, the risk would seem to be even greater in reports focusing on companies' "good news" (or explaining or mitigating "bad news"). If such voluntary reports are intended to influence the views of consumers, markets, and investors and if they contain material statements judged to be fraudulent or misleading, they are arguably subject to securities and consumer protection laws.

News Briefs

national news

EPA Proposes Flexible Air Permitting Rule

On August 29, EPA proposed revisions to its Title V and new source review (NSR) air permitting programs to enhance flexibility. The proposal clarifies Title V requirements for alternative operating scenarios and adds an approved replicable methodology (ARM), which facilitates compliance with applicable requirements in situations that could otherwise require permit revision. The proposal also introduces the concept of "Green Groups", which are combinations of emissions sources ducted through a common control device meeting BACT or LAER. Under the proposal, changes in emissions from Green Groups would be preauthorized over the 10-year period following their initial NSR approval. Requirements to reevaluate BACT for phased construction and to commence continuous construction within 18 months would not apply to Green Groups. For more information, contact Roger Brower at 410.312.7907 or rbrower@zephyrenv.com.

Bald Eagle Officially Leaves the Endangered Species List

On August 8, the Bald Eagle officially soared off the threatened and endangered species list under the Endangered Species Act. The species was down to nearly 400 pairs in the lower 48 states in 1963, but has rebounded to more than 10,000 pairs today. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will work with state agencies to monitor bald eagles for at least five years and propose to re-list the species if protection is again warranted. The birds will continue to be protected by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. For more information, contact Brad Watson at 512.879.6624 or bwatson@zephyrenv.com.

EPA Analyzes Benefits and Costs of Proposed Revisions to Ozone Standards

On August 2, EPA issued an analysis of the benefits and costs of meeting the revised air quality standard NAAQS proposed for ozone in June - a standard in the range of 0.070 to 0.075 ppm. EPA found that the annual net benefit for meeting, in 2020, the proposed standard (including particulate matter co-benefits) would be in the range of \$20 to \$22 billion. However, because of the high uncertainty in its calculations, EPA cannot estimate whether costs would outweigh bene-

fits. This regulatory benefit/cost analysis has no effect on the proposed ozone standard since EPA is prohibited by the Clean Air Act from considering costs in setting ambient air quality standards. For more information, contact Roger Brower at 410.312.7907 or rbrower@zephyrenv.com.

Changes to Petroleum Refinery NESHAP Proposed

On September 4, EPA proposed three changes to the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants from Petroleum Refineries. Two changes are a result of the residual risk provisions of the NESHAP program and are proposed to further reduce emissions from currently regulated wastewater treatment systems and storage vessels. The third change would add control requirements for cooling towers. Comments must be received by EPA by November 5, 2007 in order to be considered. For more information, contact Bob Henderson at 281.668.7345 or rhenderson@zephyrenv.com.

Senators Propose Greenhouse Gas Cap and Trade Program

Senators Joseph Lieberman and John Warner unveiled in August the framework for a climate bill that they intend to introduce this fall, called America's Climate Security Act. The senators propose a mandatory, market-based cap-and-trade program that would cover 80 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. Under this program emissions would be reduced to current levels by 2012, to 10 percent below current levels by 2020, and to 70 percent below current levels by 2050. The senators are receiving comments on the as yet undrafted bill. For more information, contact Brett Davis at 512.879.6628 or bdavis@zephyrenv.com.

Court Rules on 1-Hour Ozone Standard

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit has denied EPA and industry petitions to review its December, 2006 decision that EPA cannot eliminate the 1-hour ozone standard for areas of the country that have not yet attained it. EPA had proposed to eliminate on-going controls put in place for compliance with the 1-hour ozone standard and, instead, to require compliance only with the new 8-hour ozone standard. The Court held that the anti-backsliding provisions of the Clean Air Act apply and that traditional ozone non-attainment programs (such as new source review, rate of progress milestones, transportation conformity and contingency plans) are controls that must remain in place. For more information, contact Brett Davis at 512.879.6628 or bdavis@zephyrenv.com.

EPA Proposes PSD Increments for Fine Particles

In September, EPA proposed Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) increments for particles with diameters equal to or less than 2.5 microns (PM_{2.5}). For PSD Class II areas, EPA proposed a 24-hour average PM_{2.5} increment of 9 µg/m³ and an annual average increment of either 4 or 5 µg/m³. In addition, EPA proposed candidate Significant Impact Level and Significant Monitoring Concentration values. EPA also proposed to revoke the annual PM₁₀ increment, following its recent revisions to the 24-hour PM₁₀ NAAQS and the elimination of the annual PM₁₀ standard. A state implementing a New Source Review program under an EPA-approved State Implementation Plan (SIP) can continue to use the PM₁₀ program as a surrogate for PM_{2.5} until a revised SIP is approved. For more information, contact Lou Corio at 410.312.7912 or lcorio@zephyrenv.com.

Judges Rule on Regulation of Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Autos

On September 12, a federal judge ruled that Vermont has the authority to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from automobiles under a program that could require auto makers to increase fuel efficiency by nearly 60 percent by 2016. The ruling also has implications on greenhouse gas emission standards passed in twelve other states. Auto manufacturers, who oppose the ruling, maintaining that only the federal government has the power to regulate vehicle emissions, have until November 13 to appeal the decision. In a related action, on September 17 a federal judge rejected a lawsuit filed by the State of California that was seeking to hold the world's six largest auto manufacturers accountable for their contribution to global warming, ruling that it was impossible to determine to what extent auto manufacturers are responsible for global warming-related damages in California. For more information, contact Bill Jones 410.312.7910 or bjones@zephyrenv.com.

state news

TCEQ Provides for Combined Amendment and Renewal of Air Permits

In the past, an air quality permit in Texas could not be renewed early even if it was in the process of being amended. However, in response to the passage of Senate Bill 1673 during the 2007 Texas legislative session, the TCEQ, on August 9, provided a mechanism to facilitate a permit scheduled to expire within three years to be amended and renewed at the same time. Along with a Form PI-1 and the necessary attachments for an amendment application, all components of a complete renewal application must be submitted, including a Form PI-1R, Table 30R, and a renewal application fee. For more information, contact Louisa Preston at 512.879.6646 or lpreston@zephyrenv.com.

Maryland Proposes Revisions to Nonattainment Permitting Regulations

In July, the Maryland Department of the Environment proposed amendments to its air quality permitting regulations for major new sources and major modifications to be located in nonattainment areas. The MDE's proposed amendments adopt all of the definitions under federal New Source Review reform and include procedures that are identical to the EPA's, except for the period used to calculate a source's emissions increase following a modification. Under the EPA's rule, the source could use a 24-month period to calculate emissions within the past 10 years, while MDE's regulations would allow the source to select the 24-month baseline period from the previous five years (absent a demonstration that another period was more representative of normal operations). For more information, contact Lou Corio at 410.312.7912 or lcorio@zephyrenv.com.

TCEQ Moves Forward with Revised Houston Area Ozone Plan

On August 21, the TCEQ submitted to EPA a timeline for submitting a revised ozone attainment demonstration plan as a component of its request to reclassify the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria nonattainment area from moderate to severe. The proposed plan adoption date is March 2010. The timeline takes into consideration the complexities of updating emissions inventory data, revising the existing models and developing a more representative photochemical modeling episode, and the stakeholder process for effective control strategy development. EPA is expected to propose rulemaking for the requested reclassification by the end of the year. For more information, contact Shahjabeen Hashim at 281.668.7359 or shashim@zephyrenv.com.

TCEQ Proposes TPDES Construction Storm Water Permit

On August 31, the TCEQ proposed changes to its Texas Pollution Discharge Elimination System General Permit for storm water discharges from construction sites into surface waters. Significant changes under the proposal are elimination of the annual fee, incentives for electronic submittal of Notices of Intent and fees, and a change in the definition of "construction site operator". The permit will be in effect for the five-year period beginning March 5, 2008. For more information, contact Robin Cosgrove at 512.879.6623 or rcosgrove@zephyrenv.com.

Inventory Shows Inequities in Harris County HRVOC Cap & Trade Allocations

In June, the TCEQ requested that each Harris County facility subject to the highly reactive volatile organic compound (HRVOC) Emission Cap and Trade Program provide an inventory of its HRVOC emissions for the period from February 1, 2006 through January 31, 2007. A compilation of the inventory results reveals

large inequities in the emissions allowances allocated among the refining, chemicals, and polymers sectors. In particular, numerous facilities were discovered to have large allowance surpluses and others to have large deficits. Stakeholder groups are currently working with the TCEQ to come up with a more equitable method for setting HRVOC allowances. For more information contact Ed Fiesinger at 281.668.7353 or efiesinger@zephyrenv.com.

Governor Perry Appoints Buddy Garcia as TCEQ Chairman

Filling the vacancy left by the departure of Chairman Kathleen Hartnett White, Governor Rick Perry has appointed Commissioner H. S. "Buddy" Garcia as the new Chairman of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. However Governor Perry has not yet selected the third Commissioner to fill Garcia's former spot. It is expected that the consideration of many major issues by the Commission will be tabled until a third, tie-breaking Commissioner is named. For more information contact Ed Fiesinger at 281.668.7353 or efiesinger@zephyrenv.com.

TCEQ Issues General Permit for Small MS4s

On August 13, the TCEQ issued the TPDES General Permit authorizing the discharge of storm water from small municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s), which include systems for cities with populations of less than 100,000, military bases, large hospitals, prison complexes, highways, and other thoroughfares. Small MS4s seeking authorization under this permit must submit a Storm Water Management Program (SWMP) plan and a Notice of Intent to the TCEQ by February 11, 2008. The plan must be fully implemented by August 13, 2012. For more information, contact Robin Cosgrove at 512.879.6623 or rcosgrove@zephyrenv.com.

Black-Capped Vireo May Be Removed from Endangered List

Results from a 5-year study show a significant increase in the population and range of the Black-capped Vireo. At the time the species was listed as endangered, the estimated population was less than 600 pairs, occurring in four counties in Oklahoma, 21 counties in Texas, and one Mexican state. However, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the known population has increased in recent years to more than 6,200 vireos inhabiting three counties in Oklahoma, 38 counties in Texas, and three states in Mexico. As a result, the USFWS is recommending that the vireo be reclassified from endangered to threatened. This downlisting has the potential to significantly reduce work restrictions in and near Black-capped Vireo habitat. For more information, contact Clay Fischer at 512.879.6629 or cfischer@zephyrenv.com. 🌸

Which brings us back to nuclear. Currently, about 20 percent of our nation's energy is generated by nuclear power plants. These facilities provide large quantities of base-loaded power and have an online availability of about 90 percent. The largest hurdle facing the expansion of domestic nuclear power generation is the general public's perception of nuclear plants and the risks they pose. Even though the Three Mile Island incident in 1979 resulted in little damage (according to the EPA, the plant's containment system and other safety features limited radiation exposure for local residents to 1/100th of the natural radioactive background dose for the area), public attitudes toward nuclear power suffered. Approximately seven years later a true nuclear disaster occurred at Chernobyl, killing 57, spreading radiation over large portions of Europe, and sending the entire nuclear industry into a decline. Nuclear power opponents continue to argue that aquatic impacts from once-through cooling, risk of groundwater contamination with tritium, radiation hazards associated with disposal of radioactive waste, and risks of radioactive releases triggered by natural disasters or sabotage have not been addressed.

In spite of the arguments against nuclear power, the tide may be turning in the U.S. in favor of this energy alternative, especially considering the challenges of global warming and increasing fossil fuel prices. Nuclear plants produce minimal emissions of air contaminants and have far smaller carbon footprints than coal, oil, and gas-fired units. Experience in Europe has shown that simpler, standardized designs cut maintenance and repair costs, minimize shutdowns, and reduce the risk and consequences of accidents. The nuclear generating industry in the U.S. has demonstrated an exemplary safety record, with no documented deaths due to radiation exposure associated with the operation of U.S. nuclear power plants, and twenty years of smooth sailing in the industry has begun to rebuild trust.

Environmental activists such as the cofounder of Greenpeace — Patrick Moore, founder of the *Whole Earth Catalog* — Stewart Brand, and British atmospheric scientist and creator of the Gaia Theory — James Lovelock are now supporting nuclear generation. A study by researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology found that 35 percent of the public supports the increased use of nuclear power as compared to 28 percent just five years ago. The study also reported that 80 percent of Americans living within ten miles of a nuclear plant approve of them.

Reflecting the more favorable attitudes toward nuclear power, new generating units are on the drawing boards. Three groups of power companies have started the process expected to lead to formal applications for plants some time in 2008. If everything proceeds as planned, the first new reactors in decades could be online by 2015. In August, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission received

The Buzz about Environmental Issues

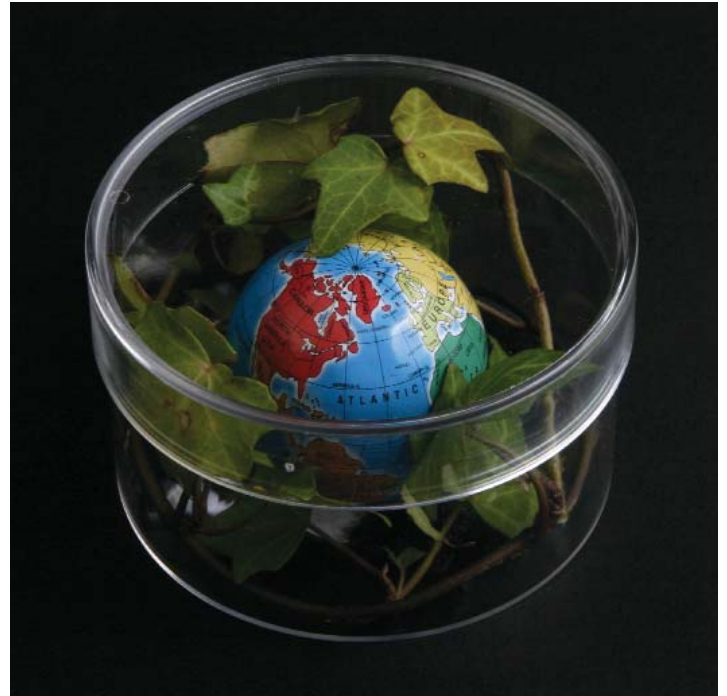
Many of us who have worked in the environmental arena for some time are somewhat startled to notice that our area of expertise has come squarely into the spotlight for the public at large, both in the United States and worldwide. Many of our friends, relatives, and even new acquaintances are asking us for our perspectives on global warming, sustainability, alternate energy, and pollution prevention.

This perception of increasing interest in environmental issues is not just anecdotal. The Nielsen Company recently quantified this interest in Nielsen BuzzMetrics, a global measurement practice in consumer-generated media.

According to Nielsen, buzz about the term “sustainability,” which refers to measures that allow a natural resource to perpetuate itself, peaked on blogs, boards and discussion groups after the February 25 telecast of the Oscars, in which Al Gore’s “Inconvenient Truth” took home the Oscar for Best Documentary Feature. Said Greg Thornhill, VP and Practice Lead, CPG for Nielsen BuzzMetrics, “. . . these higher, lasting buzz levels suggest sustainability is further becoming a deep-rooted priority in consumers’ lives.”

In a related environmental issue, online buzz about bottled water spiked 520 percent on July 27 following recent bottled-water bans in San Francisco and Ann Arbor and disclosures that two major bottled water brands included only tap water. This heightened scrutiny around bottled water impelled consumers to explore safety and environmental hazards and to consider alternatives. For example, chemicals in water containers were discussed frequently, as were recommendations for using greener Brita filters and filling Nalgene bottles with tap water. Importantly, consumer buzz suggests the public holds manufacturers responsible for warning them about public dangers in the manufacturing and packaging process of their products.

So what does this mean to us as environmental professionals? It’s clear that we should expect a more interested and engaged public to ask us pointed questions about environmental issues, whether we are regulators, consultants, or manufacturers. In this internet



age, it’s possible for people who aren’t formally educated in environmental subjects to quickly become engaged and even “savvy” about many of the environmental issues that are generating so much interest. Of course, the down side of the internet is that it is also possible to quickly disseminate half-baked conclusions and misinformation to a large number of people as well. As environmental professionals, it is incumbent on us to effectively explain the science behind the environmental issues of the day, including the uncertainties and competing hypotheses. If we do it well, our profession will continue to garner a lot of interest and respect from the public at large. If we do it poorly . . . well, let’s just commit to doing it well. ✨

For more information, visit www.nielsenbuzzmetrics.com.

Joe Zupan
President

Zephyr is a professional services firm providing worldwide consulting, training and data systems to the industrial, commercial and public sectors. The firm’s major areas of practice are air and water quality, waste issues, worker and community safety, and incident management.

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the weight of this compelling evidence, they agreed to allow Dominion to secure offsets from the Baltimore area to help satisfy the NO_x emissions mitigation requirements. In addition, the State of Maryland and EPA agreed with our proposal to substitute VOC offsets for a portion of the required NO_x offsets. These additional sources of offsets dramatically increased Dominion's flexibility and shortened the timeframe for meeting the GCR mitigation requirement. With the GCR requirements met, FERC approved Dominion's mitigation plan, allowing construction to begin on-schedule.

Once again, bringing together technical knowledge, expertise, and creativity, we were able to find an unconventional solution to a seemingly impassable regulatory obstacle . . . all in a day's work in the trenches at Zephyr. ✨

Lou Corio
Senior Air Quality Scientist

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the first new reactor license application in 30 years and expects up to 12 more by the end of 2008.

With the current and projected increases in electricity demand and the focus on greenhouse gas reductions, nuclear generation could well become the "New Green". Many challenges must be met before new reactors are operational, but it looks like they will become an increasingly important component of our national energy portfolio, at least until cleaner coal-to-energy technologies and renewable and alternative energy sources are developed on a larger scale. I'm just wondering if electricity will ever be too cheap to meter? ✨

Paul Little
Project Manager

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For all of these reasons, careful diligence, strong documented support for corporate claims, and close involvement of experienced counsel throughout the process of preparing both required and voluntary environmental reporting have become more important than ever. ✨

Timothy A. Wilkins¹
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