FLORIDA BEACON

From the President's Desk
Tim Perry

Dear FAEP Members,

I hope that your 2019 is going great! We had a great 2019 Annual Conference and Symposium hosted by the Tampa Bay Chapter! I was so glad to see so many of you there in-person. Special thanks to Conference Sponsor Clark Environmental and Conference Reception Sponsor Mechanik, Nuccio, Hearne and Wester, as well as to all of the other sponsors, exhibitors and speakers that helped make the conference a success.

In 2020, the FAEP and SFAEP will be hosting the 2020 NAEP Conference and Training Symposium at the Westin Ft. Lauderdale Beach the week of May 18th - 22nd. The block of rooms for the conference is already available! The Conference Schedule and the Sponsor and Exhibitor Prospectus will be out shortly. The FAEP hopes to see you there! For more information on the 2020 NAEP Conference visit www.naep.org.

Finally, elections to the FAEP Board will be coming up soon. Please keep an eye out for our call for nominations. I hope that you will consider taking the opportunity to serve as a Board Member on the FAEP Board!

Until next time!
Tim Perry
FAEP President

Next FAEP Board Meeting!!

The next FAEP Board of Directors Meeting is October 21, 2019 at 12:00

dial: 605-475-4000 (code 607028#)

Florida Association of Environmental Professionals

Fall 2019

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National Association of Environmental Professionals
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SAVE THE DATE

NAEP Annual Conference and Training Symposium

May 18-22, 2020
Westin Fort Lauderdale Beach Resort
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Three Mile Island Nuclear Power Plan Shuts Down

Three Mile Island nuclear power plant in Pennsylvania stopped producing electricity at noon on Friday, part of Exelon Corp.'s plan to close and decommission the plant over the next 60 years. The closure comes 40 years after the partial meltdown of the plant's reactor No. 2 — the nation's worst commercial nuclear accident — left the plant with only one working reactor.

Tens of thousands evacuated amid uncertainty about the accident. Some radiation was released, but officials said it was within acceptable levels. Yet many who live in the area are convinced that their health problems in later years were related to the accident. The event ushered in a new era of nuclear regulations, while also ending an era of growth in the U.S. commercial nuclear sector.

Exelon officials said some of the plant's approximately 675 employees will keep working at the plant to move the nuclear fuel as it cools. Most will stay around until the end of the month, enough time to move fuel out of the reactor and into a massive vat of water called a spent fuel pool. After that, staffing will be reduced to 300 employees, who will move the fuel to concrete and stainless steel "dry casks." By 2022, about 50 employees will remain, tasked with the long, slow process of winding down the plant and ensuring that the nuclear waste is kept away from people for tens of thousands of years.

In 2017, Exelon said it would close if it couldn't get a key subsidy from the state that would help it compete with an energy market flooded with cheaper natural gas. State lawmakers proposed two bills to save the plant, pointing to the valuable long-term assets nuclear power brings to the table, such as carbon-free emissions, fuel supply diversity and reliability. Critics argued that the bailouts distorted the competitive wholesale electricity marketplace and said that nuclear power should not be lumped in with clean, renewable energy — noting the emissions from mining uranium and the fact that the U.S. lacks a plan for disposing of its radioactive nuclear waste.

For those who live nearby, the possibility of the plant's closure has loomed for years. Kendra Nissley has spent the past 12 years running a dairy farm across the river from the plant in Londonderry Township, Pa.

From her farm, high-voltage power lines stretch down to a substation that collects electricity from the plant. It's a reminder that Three Mile Island produced 3% of the state's total power, with nuclear plants making up 40% of a pie that also includes natural gas, coal, hydroelectric and wind. Nissley said the steam rising from two cooling towers — as well as the two inert cooling towers, tied to the crippled reactor — have been a reminder of both what nuclear power has provided to the community, and its risks.

Nissley said the farm won't be affected much by the closure, but some of her neighbors are losing their jobs. Exelon said it has offered them jobs elsewhere, but that's not an option for some people who have bought homes, raised families and built lives for themselves around Three Mile Island.

Continued on the next page...

"They express a lot of sadness at losing their longtime job, and we share in some of that sorrow with them," Nissley said. Down the road from Nissley's farm, Londonderry Township Manager Steve Letavic said he has been planning for this day for at least two years. He has let five township jobs sit vacant, knowing he would lose tax money needed to fund those positions.

Letavic is planning for a loss of about $50,000 a year for the municipal fire company — money that Exelon used to help raise through an annual charity golf tournament. He's expecting to lose another $120,000 in tax revenue this year. "We're a small town with a $2 million budget. Every little bit matters, right?"

The township of 5,200 people also recently voted to open up some undeveloped land to commercial construction in an effort to make up some of the lost tax dollars. Letavic said he's in talks with a developer that wants to build a logistics center, and another that wants to put in a planned community. The closure comes on the same day as a global climate strike calling for "immediate steps to stabilize the environment," noted Matt Wald at the pro-nuclear Nuclear Energy Institute. The closure is a setback for U.S. efforts to cut its reliance on fossil fuels, Wald said in a news release.

"The essential problem is that our electricity system is intensively managed to a goal, but the goal isn't clean air or protecting our climate," Wald said. "The goal is least-cost electricity, as if electricity were a commodity regardless of its source."

DEP's Florida State Parks Celebrate International Coastal Cleanup Day and National Public Lands Day

~Nearly 3,700 volunteers attended statewide cleanup events~

In celebration of International Coastal Cleanup Day, Sept. 21, and National Public Lands Day, Sept. 28, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Florida Park Service hosted 88 statewide volunteer events.

Volunteers participated in events including beach and trail cleanups, invasive plant removals, native plantings, and informational sessions, which were offered throughout the week to promote volunteerism and encourage the preservation of Florida's natural resources. Volunteers donated a total of 11,442 hours, valued at $276,209.88.

"We're so grateful for volunteer support. Their hard work helps keep beaches clean for nesting shorebirds and sea turtles, fight noxious invasive plants and improve trails so people have a place to be active," said Florida State Parks Director Eric Draper. "The great turnout at this year's events show how much Floridians value their state parks and the natural and cultural resources they protect."

Started by the Ocean Conservancy more than 30 years ago, International Coastal Cleanup Day pulls together more than 100 countries to participate each year. The National Environmental Education Foundation has coordinated National Public Lands Day for 25 years, encouraging outdoor enthusiasts to participate in festivities, provide assistance with trail maintenance and native plantings, collect litter from coastal areas, and give back to their favorite natural places.

Volunteers are critical to the mission of DEP's Florida Park Service, often working side-by-side with staff to engage with the community, conduct stewardship projects and help maintain natural areas. More than 20,00 state park volunteers and 82 Friends groups, or citizen support organizations contribute over 1,196,748 million hours of service annually.

From: FDEP Press Release

Unfurling the Waste Problem Caused by Wind Energy

While most of a turbine can be recycled or find a second life on another wind farm, researchers estimate the U.S. will have more than 720,000 tons of blade material to dispose of over the next 20 years, a figure that doesn't include newer, taller higher-capacity versions.

There aren't many options to recycle or trash turbine blades, and what options do exist are expensive, partly because the U.S. wind industry is so young. It's a waste problem that runs counter to what the industry is held up to be: a perfect solution for environmentalists looking to combat climate change, an attractive investment for companies such as Budweiser and Hormel Foods, and a job creator across the Midwest and Great Plains.

At the end of a long gravel road on the southwest Nebraska prairie, the state's first wind farm, Kimball Wind Project, is caught in the breeze. But the turbine scrap area looks more like a sci-fi drama set. Rob Van Vleet climbed atop a 127-foot-long turbine blade and walked the length like a plank.

"These towers may be supporting as much as 150,000 pounds, 250 feet in the air," Van Vleet said. "The stands are an inch and a half thick steel ... so they're very strong."

Ninety percent of a turbine's parts can be recycled or sold, according to Van Vleet, but the blades, made of a tough but pliable mix of resin and fiberglass — similar to what spaceship parts are made from — are a different story. "The blades are kind of a dud because they have no value," he said.

Decommissioned blades are also notoriously difficult and expensive to transport. They can be anywhere from 100 to 300 feet long and need to be cut up onsite before getting trucked away on specialized equipment — which costs money — to the landfill. Once there, Van Vleet said, the size of the blades can put landfills in a tough spot.

"If you're a small utility or municipality and all of a sudden hundreds of blades start coming to your landfill, you don't want to use up your capacity for your local municipal trash for wind turbine blades," he said, adding that permits for more landfill space add another layer of expenses.

Cindy Langstrom manages the turbine blade disposal project for the municipal landfill in Casper, Wyo. Though her landfill is one of the only ones in the state — not to mention the entire U.S. — with enough space to take wind farm waste, she said the blades' durability initially posed a financial hurdle. "Our crushing equipment is not big enough to crush them," she said.

Langstrom's team eventually settled on cutting up the blades into three pieces and stuffing the two smaller sections into the third, which was cheaper than renting stronger crushing machines that are usually made for mining.

Continued on the next page

Karl Englund, a researcher and chief technology officer of Global Fiberglass Solutions, said recycling turbine blades is more regulated in countries that have had wind power for decades. The European Union has waste management rules, so some European companies sell older parts to customers in Asia and Latin America. "[In Europe], land is at a premium, and you're not allowed to throw things away," he said. "So you have to do it."

Englund believes he's found a way to recycle blades by grinding them up to make chocolate chip-sized

pellets. They can be used for decking materials, pallets and piping. His startup opened its first processing facility in central Texas this year, and it's leasing a second space near Des Moines, Iowa.

Van Vleet said finding better ways to decommission wind farms will be an uphill battle, but when it comes to confronting the looming waste issue, "it's something that's happening, whether we like it or not, so we just as well get in on it."

He's exploring his own way to decrease the industry's landfill footprint, in hopes that blade recycling can blossom into a local industry. And for rural areas looking for an economic boost, Van Vleet thinks his risk of recycling just might pay off.

"Out on the prairie, there's not very much scrap," he said. "The idea is to develop the next technology, otherwise, I wouldn't be doing this.

"We lose money on every blade we haul."

From NPR

FAEP & TBAEP would like to send out a **BIG** thanks to all of our Sponors for the 2019 FAEP Conference!

YOU made it a **BIG** success!

85 Environmental Rules Being Rolled Back Under Trump

President trump has made eliminating federal regulations a priority. His administration, with help from Republicans in Congress, has often targeted environmental rules it sees as burdensome to the fossil fuel industry and other big businesses. A New York Times analysis, based on research from Harvard Law School, Columbia Law School and other sources, counts more than 80 environmental rules and regulations on the way out under Mr. Trump.

This list represents two types of policy changes: rules that were officially reversed and rollbacks still in progress. The Trump administration has released an aggressive schedule to try to finalize many of these rollbacks this year.

	53 **Rollbacks Completed**	**32** **Rollbacks in Progress**	**85** **Total Rollbacks**
Air pollution emissions	10	14	24
Drilling and extraction	9	9	18
Infrastructure and planning	12	1	13
Animals	9	1	10
Toxic substances and safety	4	1	5
Water pollution	5	2	7
Other	4	4	8

The Trump administration has often used a "one-two punch" when rolling back environmental rules, said Caitlin McCoy, a fellow in the Environmental and Energy Law Program at Harvard Law School who tracks regulatory rollbacks. "First a delay to buy some time, and then a final substantive rule."

But the process of rolling back regulations has not always been smooth. In some cases, the administration has failed to provide a strong legal argument in favor of proposed changes or agencies have skipped key steps in the rulemaking process, like notifying the public and asking for comment. In several cases, courts have ordered agencies to enforce their own rules. Several environmental rules – summarized on the next page – were rolled back and then later reinstated, often following legal challenges. Other rollbacks remain mired in court.

All told, the Trump administration's environmental rollbacks could significantly increase greenhouse gas emissions and lead to thousands of extra deaths from poor air quality every year, according to a recent report prepared by New York University Law School's State Energy and Environment Impact Center. Here are the details for each of the policies targeted by the administration so far.

Air pollution and emissions - Completed
1. Cancel a requirement for oil and gas companies to report methane emissions
2. Revised and partially repealed an Obama-era rule limiting methane emissions on public lands, including intentional venting and flaring from drilling operations.
3. Loosened a Clinton-era rule designed to limit toxic emissions from major industrial polluters.
4. Stopped enforcing a 2015 rule that prohibited the use of hydrofluorocarbons, powerful greenhouse gases, in air-conditioners and refrigerators
5. Repealed a requirement that state and regional authorities track tailpipe emissions from vehicles traveling on federal highways.
6. Reverted to a weaker 2009 pollution permitting program for new powerplants and expansions.
7. Amended rules that govern how refineries monitor pollution in surrounding communities.
8. Directed agencies to stop using an Obama-era calculation of the "social cost of carbon" that rulemakers used to estimate the long-term economic benefits of reducing carbon dioxide emissions.
9. Withdrew guidance that federal agencies include greenhouse gas emissions in environmental reviews. But several district courts have ruled that emissions must be included in such reviews.
10. Lifted a summertime ban on the use of E15, a gasoline blend made of 15% ethanol. (Burning gasoline with a higher concentration of ethanol in hot conditions increases smog.)
Read more about these completed and in process rollbacks **here** and scan to the issues that concern or affect you most.

Continued on the next page…

10 rules were reinstated, often following lawsuits and other challenges
1. Reinstated a rule aimed at improving safety at facilities that use hazardous chemicals following a federal court order.
2. Reversed course repealing emission standards for "glider" trucks -vehicles retrofitted with older, often dirtier engines – after Andrew Wheeler took over as head of the EPA.
3. Delayed a compliance deadline for new national ozone pollution standards by one year, but later reversed course.
4. Suspended an effort to lift restrictions on mining in Bristol Bay, Alaska. But the Corps si performing an environmental review of an application for mining in the area.
5. Delayed implementation of a rule regulating the certification and training of pesticide applicators, but a judge ruled that the EPA had done so illegally and declared the rule in effect.
6. initially delayed publishing efficiency standards for household appliances, but later published them after multiple states and environmental groups sued.
7. Delayed federal building efficiency standards until Sept. 30, 2017, at which time the rules went into effect.
8. Reissued a rule limiting the discharge of mercury by dental offices into municipal sewers after a lawsuit by the Natural Resources Defense Council, an advocacy group.
9. Re-posted a proposed rule limiting greenhouse gas emissions from aircraft, after initially changing its status to "inactive" on the EPA website. In May 2019, the agency confirmed it would issue the rule.
10. Removed the Yellowstone grizzly bear from the Endangered Species List, but protections were later reinstated by a federal judge.

From the Climate Team at the New York Times

Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

Event	Date	Place
METRA E2 Day	October 17, 2019	Orlando, FL
Florida Redevelopment Association 2018 Conference	October 16 – 18, 2019	Tampa, FL
American Water Works Association Water Infrastructure Conference	October 20 – 23, 2019	St. Louis, MO
Florida Section A&WMA 55th Annual Conference	Oct. 29 – 30, 2019	Tallahassee, FL
2019 Southeast Brownfields Conference	Oct. 27 – 30, 2019	Orlando, FL
CLEAN GULF 2019 Conference	Oct. 29 – 30, 2019	New Orleans, LA
25th Annual Florida Remediation Conference	Nov. 7 – 8, 2019	Orlando, FL
2019 National Disaster Resilience Conference	Nov. 19 – 22, 2019	Clearwater, FL
NGWA 2018 Groundwater Week	Dec. 2 – 5, 2019	Las Vegas, NV
44th Annual A&WMA Information Exchange	Dec. 3 – 4, 2019	Durham, NC
2019 Groundwater Week	Dec. 3 – 5, 2019	Las Vegas, NV
11th Annual Southeast Florida Regional Climate Leadership Summit	Dec. 3 – 5, 2019	Casa Marina, Key West
National Association of Environmental Professionals	May 18 – 22, 2020	Ft. Lauderdale, FL

FAEP shares information about conferences pertaining to the environmental professions. FAEP does not endorse any of the referenced conferences.

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***Environmental Practice*,** the peer-reviewed journal of the National Association of Environmental Professionals (NAEP) and published by Taylor & Francis, is soliciting original manuscripts from the professional and academic communities on a continuous basis. The journal provides the opportunity to submit applied articles that guide other environmental practitioners and offer recommendations to improve the work we do. Publishing in *Environmental Practice* is also a great venue to showcase your expertise and continue your professional development. Articles are sought that address solving environmental problems from a multidisciplinary perspective and provide data and findings in science and technology to address environmental issues. Article Categories include, Research, Environmental Reviews, and Case Studies (these are peer- reviewed), Reviews of books or films, Perspectives from the Field, and Dialogue. More information can be found here. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ruth Gaulke, Managing Editor, at rebelwriter@mindspring.com or Betty Dehoney at betty.dehoney@hdrinc.com.

New Study Shows Florida Panther Breeding Program Helped Rescue Endangered Florida Panther

A new study shows that a breeding program that paired endangered Florida panthers with Texas pumas likely has helped save the official state animal from extinction.

The study shows that genetic diversity in offspring from the Florida panthers and Texas pumas has tripled, alleviating the threat of physical defects related to genetic inbreeding.

Bob Fitak of the University of Central Florida is a co-author of the study. He says the 1990s breeding program was among the first of its kind.

“So not only does this help Florida panthers, but we now have a better understanding for the future for genetic rescue in other endangered species. And this now is happening throughout the world with these protected animals.”

The Florida panther is the most endangered of the state symbols with a population of between 120 and 230 animals, up from 20 or 30 before the breeding program. *The study appeared in the journal, G3: Genes, Genomes, Genetics.*

New Permitting Guidelines for Florida Burrowing Owls

Admired by the public for their small size, long legs, and bright-yellow eyes, Florida burrowing owls (*Athene cunicularia floridana)* are one of the only owl species that nest exclusively underground. Burrowing owls occur throughout peninsular Florida. These owls are selective in their habitat and prefer well-drained sandy areas with limited understory vegetation for good visibility around the burrows so they can see approaching predators. Burrowing owls inhabit open prairies, golf courses, parks, pastures, airports, agriculture fields, vacant lots, and some urban areas.

Burrowing owls are a protected species under Rule 68A-27, F.A.C. and the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act. It is illegal to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect a burrowing owl, or its eggs. In addition to physically damaging the burrows, this includes land development near burrows (even if the development won't impact the actual burrows) because nearby habitat destruction can impair essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding, or sheltering. There are serious penalties for harming burrowing owls, and violations sometimes end up on the news and result in very damaging media coverage.

Protocols for surveying, permitting, and relocation have become more stringent in recent years. In 2010, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) conducted a biological status review of the Florida burrowing owl population. In 2013, the FWC developed a species action plan to improve conservation management of the species, and in 2017 the Florida burrowing owl was officially reclassified from a species of special concern to a state designated threatened species. In 2018, FWC issued the Species Conservation Measures and Permitting Guidelines.

The new FWC Burrowing Owl Species Conservation Measures and Permitting Guidelines specify survey methodologies, minimum buffer zones around burrows, the different types of permits, mitigation options, and recommended conservation practices such as establishing preserve areas with starter burrows. A significant change to the guidelines is the new addition of minimum qualifications for the biologist conducting video scoping and relocating burrows. In the past, this work could be done by most biologists. Under the new guidelines, the biologist must meet experience thresholds for surveying, using a burrow video-scope, and excavating burrows.

If you think you may have burrowing owls on your land, it is important to have a qualified biologist on your team. A qualified biologist can develop innovative solutions that allow your project to "take flight" while avoiding violations and protecting the owls in accordance with the new guidelines. For more information, contact Amanda Montgomery at Amanda.Montgomery@wginc.com.

Don't Buy Bottled Water:
This App Tells You the Closest Place You Can Fill Up for Free

The Tap app can help you make sure you're always hydrated,
by providing walking directions to the nearest fountain or restaurant with a fill-up station

Millions of plastic bottles are sold around the world each minute. Many of those are water bottles that end up in the trash a few minutes later, despite the fact that the people who buy them are not far from a drinking fountain or a restaurant willing to refill a bottle.

A new app called Tap maps out those refill locations and gives walking directions to the closest place that you can get water without extra plastic. "So long as you carry your own bottle, you never have to buy a bottle of water ever again," says Samuel Ian Rosen, founder and CEO of Tap.

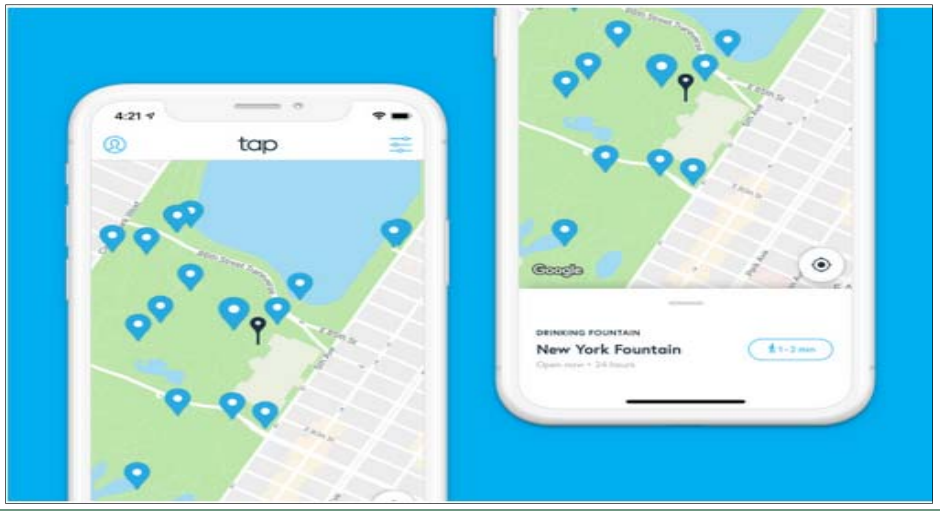
Rosen, the cofounder and previous CEO of the storage company MakeSpace, started thinking about the problem of bottled water while traveling. The usual explanation of why people choose bottled water is convenience; Rosen believed that a large part of the problem is really that people just don't know where they can refill a bottle of their own. He searched Google Maps for water fountains in New York City, and found nothing. "I think people drink bottled water because they can't find water," he says.

As of launch last October, the app lists more than 34,000 refill stations in 30 countries. Some of the locations are traditional water fountains, while others are restaurants or stores, like Sweetgreen, Lululemon, or Adidas, that either have refill stations or are willing to refill a bottle over the counter as a way to draw in customers. "I just realized that all these places were already giving out free water and none of them had a map that connects all of it," he says.

In the U.K., a similar app called Refill also lists restaurants and cafes that can refill water bottles; like Tap, the project also gives stickers to cafes to put in their windows to encourage people to come inside and ask for water. But Tap, with a global presence, plans to expand more quickly. The app will soon add a feature to let users add new refill stations to the list, and later plans to let users rate locations, so it can refer someone to the best-tasting water nearby. "By connecting water to the internet, we can now start reporting on the quality of water and use Tap as a search engine for thirst," says Rosen.

The app also includes locations that offer refills of sparkling and flavored water–Penn State University, for example, has a free Aquafina station with flavored water, and others offer refills for a small fee. It could later expand to other drinks, Rosen says, like soda, kombucha, or beer taps where users can refill growlers. "The future is happening now," he says. "PepsiCo bought SodaStream for $3.2 billion. That's the number two player essentially saying our way to become number one is to go bottle-less, right? That's what I see happening."

From www.FastCompany.com



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