

# LANSING CAN DO BETTER

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## Lansing's Proposed Coal Plant On Hold

Lansing, MI — Peter Lark, CEO and General Manager of the Lansing Board of Water and Light, hinted in a March 4 Lansing State Journal article that a change of direction in BWL's plan to build a coal-fired power plant is being considered.

This is a significant change from last May, when the BWL released a plan that recommended that "permitting and pre-construction work begin immediately."

According to the Lansing State Journal, the BWL is now "talking like it might just abandon coal all together." That's good news to those of us who have been concerned that alternatives to coal had not been seriously considered.

Cautiously optimistic, we also know that there is a lot of work ahead for us and for the Board of Water and Light.

As LCDB's "Plan B"

(cont'd on p. 2, On Hold)

## Scenes from Washington D.C., March 2, 2009 Thousands Lobby to Stop Coal



Robert F. Kennedy, Jr speaks at Rally

WASHINGTON — Several thousand demonstrators on Monday urged Congress to pass legislation to reduce greenhouse gases, and they targeted the government's own Capitol power plant as a symbol of the problem.

An enthusiastic crowd of mostly young people marched from a park near the Capitol to the small power plant several blocks away, chanting "We don't want the world to boil, no coal, no oil!" (from AP story) ♪

### **Burning the Future: Coal in America**

A feature length documentary about the conflict between the coal industry and the residents of West Virginia. Confronted by emerging "clean coal" energy policies, local activists face an improbable fight to arouse the nation's help in stopping the devastation from coal's extraction.

Earth Day  
Wed., April 22, 6:00 p.m  
Foster Community Center  
200 N. Foster St.  
Refreshments

Ahjani Yepa-Sprague, an American Indian who lives in Michigan, said coal is destroying her community's way of life.

"Every inland lake in Michigan is contaminated with mercury," she said. "This is the first generation in the history of our people that our children cannot eat fish given to us by the Creator." ♪

**Public Comment Period Begins  
on Bay City Plant. See page 2.**

**On Hold** (from page 1)

indicates, the BWL needs to begin an energy efficiency program immediately.

It is also important that the Eckart plant be taken offline within the next 10 to 20 years. It is old and a major polluter. But it also generates a significant portion of our electricity.

Within 10 to 20 years, BWL can make up the major portion of the Eckart plant's electricity generation through an aggressive energy efficiency program, reduced electricity need, conservation and additional generation through renewable energy. An aggressive energy efficiency program is a key component of LCDB's "Plan B." We affirm the BWL's strong energy efficiency program presented to the Citizens Advisory Panel recently and hope it will include the Michigan SAVES program to fund it.

These efforts may not completely replace the electricity now generated by the Eckart plant, but reduced energy needs already are casting doubts on the need for a new coal-fired plant. ↻

Discovery Channel Special:  
*Earth: The Sequel*  
Wed., Mar. 11, 2000 - 10 p.m.

*A documentary based on best-selling book about how our energy future is being reinvented.*

## Take Action on Bay City Coal Plant

April 14th is the first of two days of hearings on a permit to install a new 930 MW coal-fired Advanced Supercritical Pulverized Coal plant at the existing Consumers Energy Karn Weadock site located in Essexville, Michigan.

The hearings will be held in Bay City starting the evening of April 14 and continuing until the evening of April 15 (see below for times and place).

In conjunction with the public hearings, the DEQ has announced a public comment

period that will end on May 6, 2009. Your input is needed.

Written comments are to be mailed to Ms. Mary Ann Dolehanty, Acting Permit Section Supervisor, MDEQ, Air Quality Division, P.O. Box 30260, Lansing, MI 48909-7760.

Comments can also be submitted from the webpage <http://www.deq.state.mi.us/aps/cwerp.shtml>. Scroll down to "submit comment" under the Consumers Energy - Karn-Weadock Generating Station heading. ↻

### Bay City Coal Plant Hearings: Times and Locations

- Apr. 14, 7 p.m., Bay Valley Resort and Conference Center, Royal Troon Room, 2470 Old Bridge Road, Bay City, Michigan.
- Apr. 15, 12-2 p.m., and again at 7 p.m., Bay Valley Resort and Conference Center, Royal Troon Room, 2470 Old Bridge Road, Bay City, Michigan.



James Hansen, NASA climate scientist, speaks at D.C. rally. His testimony before congressional committees in the 1980's began to raise awareness of global climate change. He has called for a moratorium on new coal plants.