

# Group will sue for waste data

By Wayne Peal  
staff writer

A consumer advocacy group has initiated legal action against the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, alleging the department illegally prevented it from obtaining information on the amount of toxic waste being discharged into the system.

The Public Interest Research Group in Michigan (PIRIGIM) filed notice of its intent to sue Feb. 25. PIRIGIM alleges the city illegally prevented it from obtaining industry records necessary to conduct a survey on the amount of toxins being discharged.

"It's vitally important for the public to know what's going in and what the Detroit Sewerage system is doing about it," PIRIGIM spokesman Andy Buchsbaum said.

The Detroit system serves the vast majority of communities in Wayne and Oakland counties.

The Rouge River, where sewage is being discharged after it is treated, Buchsbaum said, is believed to be Michigan's most heavily polluted river.

Late last year, PIRIGIM sought information on the amount of toxic waste being issued by the system's industrial users.

denied access to the master files of selected companies, saying they were exempt from public scrutiny because they were part of active investigations or enforcement proceedings being conducted by the city.

The department blocked release of sewage discharge levels from other selected companies for similar reasons, according to documents released by PIRIGIM.

PIRIGIM will sue the department in U.S. District Court if matters aren't resolved within the 60-day waiting period, Buchsbaum said.

Notice of PIRIGIM's intent was filed with the department, Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Federal Environmental Protection Agency, as required under the clean water act.

Filing notice is the first step of a 60-day process mandated under the federal Clean Water Act, Buchsbaum said.

PIRIGIM seeks to compile a report on toxic waste discharges into the sewer system to determine if the city is properly regulating the flow. Although the department is required by law to treat industrial sewage, Buchsbaum said, it isn't required to treat the sewage for toxic chemicals.

The report on toxic sewage will be a companion to a list of toxic dump sites compiled by PIRIGIM last year, he added.

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# 2-day 'teach-in' analyzes crime

Thirty speakers will participate in a two-day "teach-in" on the criminal justice system, Friday and Saturday at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

State and national experts will discuss juvenile justice, women prisoners, prisoner's human rights, state crime trends, sentencing, community outreach programs and lesbian and gay issues, among other topics.

Highlights include:

- Friday, March 11 - The Black Community, Crime and the Criminal Justice System in Michigan, 7:30-9 p.m., Angell Hall, Auditorium 2.

Speakers include Clementine Barfield, founder of Save Our Sons and Daughters (SOSAD), Detroit and radio talk show host Joe Madison.

- Saturday, March 12 - State Policy: Where Have We Been? Where Are We Going?, 9:30-11 a.m., University of Michigan Law School, Room 100. Speakers include Carol Howes, warden, Florence Crane Facility, Colwater and Bill Burghardt of the state Senate Fiscal Agency.

Workshops, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., featuring discussion on community crime prevention, homosexual issues

and human rights of prisoners.

The Price of Justice: What Can We Do About Crime?, 1:30-3 p.m. Speakers include Ira Schwartz and Rosemary Garry, professors of social work, University of Michigan and state Rep. Teola Hunter, D-Detroit, chairwoman of the House Ad Hoc Committee on Early Intervention and Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency.

Workshops, 2:30-4 p.m., featuring discussion on women in prison, juveniles in the criminal justice system and community outreach activities.

Teach-in sponsors include the Michigan Student Assembly, University of Michigan Law School, National Lawyers Guild, Project Community, Rackham Student Government, Concerned Faculty, American Friends Service Committee, Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, Guild House, Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency, Mary Payne, Bishop Coleman McGehee Jr., Alfred Meyer, Interfaith Council for Peace, New Jewish Agenda, Democratic Socialists of America, Office of Peace and Justice (Catholic Charities), Flint Newman Center, Michigan Agenda (National Impact), Latin American Solidarity Committee, Michigan Association for Criminal Correctional Advancement, Student Advisory Center, Michigan Council for Human Rights, Michigan Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Groundwork for a Just World and the Pontiac Area Urban League.

# Optics, laser workshop at OCC campus

The Business and Professional Institute of Oakland Community College has scheduled a three-day workshop for instruction and use of fiber optics and laser applications.

The workshop will run from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 21 and 22 and 8:30 a.m. to noon on March 23 on OCC's Auburn Hills Campus, 2000 Featherstone, east of the Pontiac Silverdome.

Walter E. Chapelle, P.E., instructor in optics and lasers at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, is the seminar coordinator.

For registration information, call the BPI at 540-1551.

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