



Gabriel Gazette

Providing high quality services and data for more than 35 years.

July/August 2009

Dry Cleaners Pollution a "Sinking" Problem

Dry cleaners are one of the biggest culprits of spilling pollutants which contaminate soil and groundwater. Most dry cleaning facilities use a chemical called perchloroethylene, or PERC, in their cleaning processes.

PERC is a volatile, highly stable, and nonflammable chemical, which make it an ideal for substitute for highly flammable chemicals like petroleum and kerosene used initially in cleaning processes, to disastrous results.

However, this chemical has been classified as a type 2A

carcinogen by the International Agency for Research on Cancer, meaning its association to causing cancer is highly probable.

PERC can be absorbed through both the skin and the respiratory system. When spilled into soil, its density allows it to sink below the water table, or "surface" of groundwater levels, often creating a much more egregious problem than mere soil contamination.

There are many ways to remediate soil contaminated

by PERC and similar chemicals which may have been spilled by dry cleaners. Gabriel has more than 35 years of working with the IEPA, UESPA and MWRD, and has worked with dozens of dry cleaners to bring their sites into compliance.

If you have any questions about how dry cleaner contamination might affect you, contact John Polich at (773) 486-2123.



Gabriel Wins Bike to Work Week Award!

Gabriel is delighted to announce that during Bike to Work Week, **Gabriel finished 1st** in the 2009 Bike Commuter Challenge for businesses with 25-99 employees!



Find Some Time

The League of American Bicyclists estimates that each U.S. rush-hour auto commuter spends an average of **50 hours a year** stuck in traffic.

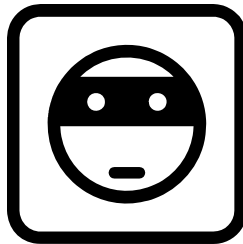
Contemplate regaining some of that time by riding your bike at least part of the way to work. Many long-distance bike commuters begin by driving halfway to work and then biking the rest of the way.

EPA Fugitives: CAUGHT!

Since launching their Most Wanted Criminals list last December, the EPA's list of fugitives is now five fewer.

Five environmental fugitives have been arrested, either after being captured or surrendering themselves to authorities: Robert Smith, Robert Wainwright, Larkin Baggett, Bhavesh H. Kamdar, and David Allen Phillips.

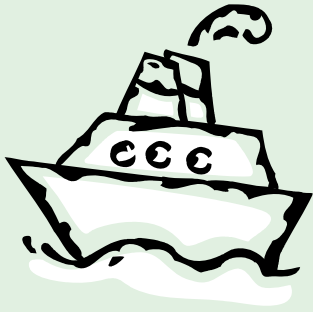
According to the USEPA, since releasing their Most Wanted List, the organization has received more than 100 tips, one of which led to the capture of fugitive Larkin Baggett. When EPA Special Agent officers followed up on this tip, they found Mr. Baggett, who was seriously injured by officers after attempting to flee arrest.



With stronger environmental regulations in place, the temptation to cut corners or illegally dispose of waste becomes stronger. As Doug Parker, deputy director of the EPA's criminal investigation division, says, "All these crimes are driven by money. When a regulatory scheme is developed, it invariably puts a cost on people. People will use criminal means to avoid compliance."

As seen by the arrests of these five fugitives, **failing** to comply with environmental regulations can be just as costly - and land convicted offenders with some serious jail time. With over 35 years of experience, Gabriel can help you with your environmental compliance. Contact Brigid McHale with any questions at (773)486-2123.

Thank you to everyone who joined us on our Summer Cruise!



You may have noticed our shutterbugs snapping pictures around the boat.

Did we get a shot of you? Check it out:

Pictures from the outing can be seen on our website!

You're Invited!

You are cordially invited to join Gabriel as we break out the grill for our Last Bash of Summer! This year's Open House will feature live entertainment, mouth-watering food and delectable drinks.



Thursday, September 10th, 2009

4:00 pm-8:30 pm

Gabriel's Headquarters - 1421 N. Elston Ave

Guests are welcome!



Highlights include:

- Tours of our award-winning gardens, rain collection system, and our NEW geothermal and solar power systems
- Demonstrations of our newest and largest Geoprobe® soil boring machine
- Laboratory tours
- Raffles, giveaways, and more!

Do you love summer? Do you enjoy barbeques and live entertainment? Then RSVP to Sara Scardina by either calling (773) 486-2123 or emailing her at gabriel@gabrielenvironmental.com by September 4th. See you at our annual Open House!

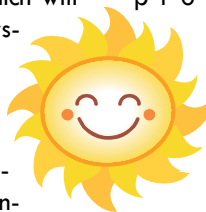
Gabriel's Photovoltaic Third Largest in IL

Gabriel is proud to announce that our newly installed solar photovoltaic panels, are the third largest commercial array of PV energy in Illinois. Installed throughout the course of 2009 and operational since earlier this summer, Gabriel's new solar panel array includes both photovoltaic and solar thermal energy.

While often confused, these two functions of solar panels are actually quite different. Photovoltaic (PV) technology takes energy from sunlight and converts it directly to electricity. Solar thermal energy (STE), on the other hand, takes sunlight and converts the energy into heat.

Currently, Gabriel's full PV output ability is 7200 watts, while our STE output is as high as 160,000 btus. Gabriel is ecstatic to have such success with our solar panels, and we are currently in the process of installing our geothermal system which will provide even more efficiency in our building's heating and cooling system.

Many industrial buildings are located in TIF districts which offer generous grants for the installation of renewable energy systems. If you or your company are interested in installing a geothermal system, or if you have any questions about other renewable energy sources such as solar power, contact John Polich at (773)486-2123.



Did you know?



Gabriel also offers an email version of the Gabriel Gazette. Stay on top of developments in the industrial field by signing up today!

To sign up to receive the Gabriel Gazette via email, you can visit our website at www.gabrielenvironmental.com

or email Sarah Polich at spolich@gabrielenvironmental.com

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To remove your name from our mailing list, please call 800-341-7431