

WEHN achievements in 2013 included:

- Susan Davidson, MD, spoke to the Wisconsin Women's Network on Environmental Health and Women's Health (April 17).
- Beth Neary, MD, participated in two press conferences sponsored by one of our partner organizations, Wisconsin Environment. Dr. Neary provided evidence of human health issues related to climate change in support of President Obama's administrative action to combat climate change (June 26). Later in the fall, she presented data on asthma and other respiratory illnesses as evidence to support EPA's new carbon standard for cleaner air (September 18). The second conference highlighted the release of a report, identifying the Columbia Plant in Portage as one of the 100 "dirtiest" coal-fired plants in the US.
- Beth Neary and Rachel Tybor, CPM, hosted a luncheon table at the Breast Cancer and the Environment Program, sharing information about the need for environmental exposure screenings and the Reproductive Environmental Exposure Assessment (November 7).
- Ingrid Andersson, MSN, CNM, spoke to a class at the University of Wisconsin - Madison, Race, Gender, Sexuality, Environment: The Science and Politics of Reproductive Health (December 9) and to midwifery students at the Midwest Maternal Child Institute on the topic of Environment is Us (April 13).
- Beth Neary provided Deb Blum, PhD, professor of journalism at the UW-Madison with medical information about phthalates resulting in the article Is Nail Polish Safe? published in the January 7, 2014, New York Times science section.
- Wisconsin Environmental Health Network steering committee members also provide education for medical residency programs, department seminars, and professional associations:
- Monica Vohmann, MD, and Ann Behrmann, MD, provided one hour of environmental health continuing medical education to practitioners of Group Health Cooperative of South Central Wisconsin (January 11).
- Claire Gervais, MD, spoke on pediatric environmental health at University of Wisconsin Department of Pediatrics conference, Seminars in Pediatrics (September 19).

- Monica Vohmann organized a half day residency seminar on environmental health for the University of Wisconsin Family Medicine residents. Monica presented along with Claire Gervais, Jennifer Dreager, RN, Beth Neary, and Ann Behrmann.
- Opposition to the Penokee Hills Iron Ore Mine- The Wisconsin State Legislature passed 2013 Wisconsin Act 1, the Ferrous Mining Law, in March 2013 despite widespread public opposition. The legislation paves the way for mines in Wisconsin by removing many current environmental safeguards and decreases the liability of mining companies for environmental damage. The bill was written to enable Gogebic Taconite to use mountaintop removal for a huge open-pit taconite mine that would pollute the Lake Superior watershed as well as the lands ceded to Bad River Tribe of the Ojibwe by treaty rights.

WEHN members worked with Physicians for Social Responsibility Wisconsin, Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters (WLCV), and the Wisconsin Network for Peace & Justice to oppose the bill, by

- Submitting testimony at a public hearing held at the State Capitol on January 23.
- Sending a state-wide action PSR Wisconsin alert: “Join Physicians State-Wide in Opposing Mining Bill.”
- Publishing a letter to the Wisconsin State Journal by Steering Committee members Ann Behrmann, MD, and Bob Block, MD.
- Gathering over 160 health professional signatures to letters opposing the mine with WLCV.

Since the bill was passed in March, we have worked to provide a health voice opposing the Penokee Hills Mine.

- Dr. Monica Vohmann Awarded REACH Fellowship- Monica Vohmann was accepted into the 2013 REACH the Decision Makers Fellowship offered by University of California San Francisco’s Program on Reproductive Health and the Environment. The primary goal of REACH is to enhance the capacity of participants to understand and utilize the best environmental reproductive health science to promote science-based health standards and policy in the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Monica is working on a team that will educate the EPA about endocrine-disrupting substances and the testing needed in order to determine whether a new chemical should be considered an endocrine- disrupting substance.

