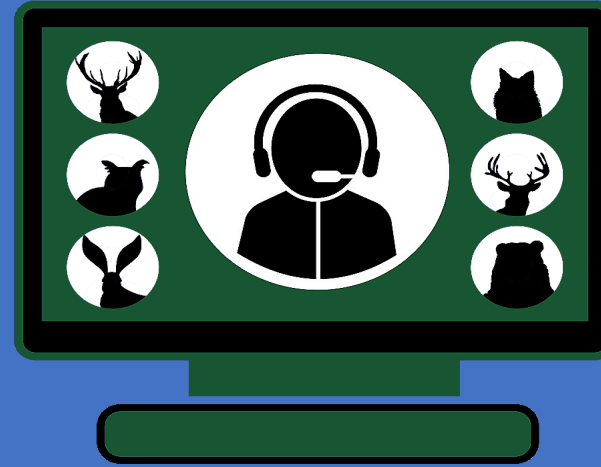




# Montana Environmental Information Center



## The Quarantine Series

Jim Jensen, Executive Director

**MEIC: Getting here and Getting  
beyond**



EARTHRISE, Apollo 8, Dec. 24, 1968

The photo  
that  
changed  
everything





# EARTH DAY

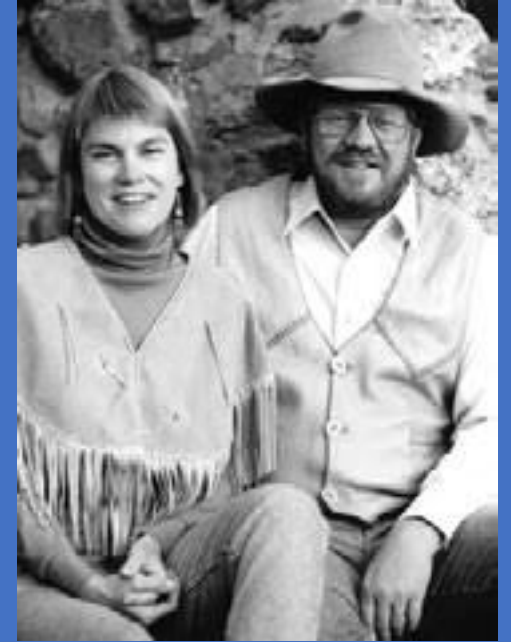
April 22, 1970



\* 20 million people (10% of the U.S.)  
rallied, marched and held teach-ins



# MEIC's Genesis



- Founded by Phil and Robin Tawney in 1973 with one staff and lots of volunteers
- Today MEIC has 7 staff and nearly 50 years of successful advocacy – because of your persistent support





Major mine proposed for the Blackfoot River's headwaters is defeated in 1998 with passage of I-137. Bonnie Raitt toured the mine site in 1997 and the company gave her arsenic-containing water to drink. She busted them as only she could.

▼ **Bonnie Raitt hike**



**Jim Volberding, manager** of the proposed McDonald gold mine, is reflected in the sunglasses of singer Bonnie Raitt Saturday while he assures her that the mine would protect the water quality of the nearby Blackfoot River. Raitt is performing tonight in Missoula to help raise money for mine opponents.

**No singing mine's praises**

*Blues-rock artist still has 'serious questions' about proposed Lincoln mine after tour*

By **SHERY DEVLIN**  
of the Missoulian

**L**INCOLN – The spokesman for a proposed Blackfoot River gold mine proclaimed himself a fan of mine opponent and blues-rock singer Bonnie Raitt on Saturday, and asked that she autograph his compact disc: "To my favorite gold miner."

Raitt provided the autograph, albeit without declaring Bill Snoddy her favorite gold miner. She even drank a bottle of water – albeit without

realizing its source – extracted from the mine site just north of Lincoln.

But after hearing Snoddy's description of the McDonald Gold Project and visiting the site, Raitt said she had even more questions about "the scope and specific technology" of the mine and its cyanide heap-leach processing of gold and silver ore.

"It is still a tremendous thing to risk the health of the ecosystem of Montana, and a lot to believe that these people can do what no one else has ever been able to do," Raitt said at the site along Highway 200 where miners would stack the

mountain of waste rock created by their excavation. "I have serious questions about the need for these huge mines," she said. "I worry about the risk to the communities and to this state."

Raitt and country singer Jimmie Dale Gilmore are in Montana this weekend to raise money for environmental groups fighting large-scale mines proposed in the Cabinet and Little Rocky mountains and on the upper Blackfoot.

Their first appearance: a sold-out concert in

See **RAITT**, Page A4



From Montana's Capital City

Mostly sunny  
68° High 30° Low  
Details 2A

## Dole drops out

Abandons race against front runner Bush

Nation ▼ 12B



## Helena City Commission

Candidates talk about service-user fees for out-of-city residents

election  
2000  
Helena ▼ 5A

## Thursday

October 21, 1999

Inside:  
Lottery numbers

# HELENA INDEPENDENT RECORD

Helena, Montana • Phone 447-4000 • [irstaff@helenair.com](mailto:irstaff@helenair.com) • Vol. 55, No. 323



## 'Clean environment' a right

Montana Supreme  
Court says state  
can't allow even  
potential pollution

By ERIN P. BILLINGS  
IR State Bureau

In a landmark ruling, the state Supreme Court unanimously decided Wednesday that Montanans have an inalienable right to a clean and healthful environment, and therefore the state cannot allow activities to continue that have the potential to pollute.

The decision, the first ever to deal with Montana's primary constitutional environmental protection, was quickly declared a victory by environmentalists because of its potential far-reaching effect on protec-

tions for the state's air, land and water.

"It's a huge win for all Montanans," said Tom France, a Missoula attorney representing the environmental groups who appealed the case to the Supreme Court.

Justice Terry N. Trieweller, writing for the court, concluded the Montana Constitution protects not only real damages to the environment, but also anticipated pollution. Trieweller, in the 40-page judgment, referred to the goals of 1972 Constitutional Convention delegates in

*'Our constitution does not require that dead fish float on the surface of our state's rivers and streams before its farsighted environmental protections can be invoked.'*

Justice Terry N. Trieweller

drafting the constitutional provision that guarantees a right to a "clean and healthful environment."

(More COURT, page 7A)

MATERIALS PROVIDED BY  
MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL  
INFORMATION CENTER  
P O BOX 1184  
HELENA, MONTANA 59624





2001 -- Metal Mine Reclamation Act amended to include a “Bad Actor” prohibition





MEIC has fought relentlessly to prevent copper and silver mines in the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness. We are still at it along with our many friends.





# Climate: Imperative Number 1

*"There are a few crucial choke points on this planet where we have some chance of stanching the endless flow of carbon into the atmosphere ... On that list, none may be more important than Montana."*

*—Bill McKibben, Activist and Founder of [350.org](https://350.org)*



## Colstrip, Montana







## **Carbon by the numbers**

- MEIC's success in preventing and shuttering Montana coal plants has kept 464 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> out of the atmosphere.
- That's equivalent to the emissions of 100,244,216 passenger cars driven for one year.



# **Money, money, money-- ask for it by name**

**Roger M. Hackley, MD**

- MEIC's advocacy, including litigation, before the Montana Public Service Commission has saved NorthWestern Energy customers \$8,200,000.



IT'S YOUR  
WORLD—  
CHANGE IT!

Some things we know about MEIC's future

- There will be a change in MEIC's Executive Director within a couple of years
- MEIC will meet the concerns and growing influence of a younger, more progressive, and more diverse environmental movement
- We must double down on holding elected officials accountable
- We must continue to be fearless advocates for the earth
- We must laugh -- never lose our sense of humor
- And remember....



“Industry always lies,  
governments rarely tell the  
truth.”

...Paul Brodeur, author, *Outrageous Misconduct*



# The Best Things in Life are Worth Suing For

Abigail Van Buren, "Dear Abby" 1991





# Questions & Answers

Using the “Chat” function, please type in your question

**For More Information or to join MEIC go to:**  
**[meic.org](http://meic.org)**

**Join us**

**Thursday, April 30th, 4 pm**

**for**

**Montana Renewable Energy 101**

**“How Renewable Energy Can Power Our Future”**

