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Landfill issue at heart of film project

by Matt Johnson

A 30-minute documentary film about Vernon County residents fighting against a proposed landfill will be featured at this week's 10th annual Wisconsin Film Festival.

The film, entitled, "Keeping The Lights On," is by Gretta Wing Miller and Aarick Beher of Madison and documents the resistance of Harmony Township residents to the Dairyland Power Cooperative's proposed coal ash landfill project.

Surrounding the personal stories of the farmer-landowners who are directly affected, the film explores the reasons this electric utility wants to construct a waste dump and why Wisconsin continues to be dependent on burning coal to produce electricity.

The film is to be shown at the Memorial Union Play Circle, Friday at 5:30 p.m. It was chosen by writers at the Wisconsin State Journal as one of the top films to see in the 200-film festival.

Founded in 1999, the Wisconsin Film Festival is the state's biggest film festival, and is hosted annually in Madison.

It is a four-day event, April 3-6, and plays in 10 downtown Madison theatres. According to the UW Arts Institute, which is the organizer of the event, about 30,000 people attend the films in the four-day period.

The entire schedule and info about tickets can be found online at: www.wifilm.fest.org. More information about "Keeping The Lights On" can be seen at the filmmakers' website: www.downtowndailies.com.

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