



NAWO NEWS

NORTHERN METAL RECYCLING



L. Foushee

Terry Hokenson

2800 North Pacific Street Minneapolis, MN

George Crocker

CMEJ Intervention May 18, 2021



CMEJ photos

North American Water Office (NAWO) Environmental Justice staff has been following Northern Metals' nasty business practices for nine years and counting. Tracking the permitting of their activities and providing public testimony before the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and Community Organizing are our primary actions. NAWO joined up with the North Minneapolis Community (Community Members for Environmental Justice) to demand clean air and water for all Minnesotans.

Northern Metals has a habit of lying to Regulators and the Public about how the air quality emissions from their facility are monitored and reported.

A whistleblower employee noticed changes to the monitoring records that had documented air quality violations that were subsequently eliminated from those same records.

The North Minneapolis Community and their supporters created enough pressure on the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and forced Northern Metals to relocate their primary operation to Becker County, Minnesota out of the North Minneapolis Community. But, the real problem, the ASR or auto shredder residue, AKA: FLUFF is still piled twenty feet high and higher on their North Minneapolis site.

“What is FLUFF” you ask?

We looked up the science of what FLUFF contains and it's sorta ghastly. Each automobile yields 350 pounds of ASR after the metals are stripped out. Of that 350 pounds, twenty pounds are poly-vinyl chloride (PVC) 50% chlorine by weight. Why should you care?? Burning PVC gives us DIOXIN in all its forms, furans, and polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB). These are all fancy words for carcinogens.

Wait, there's more. Heavy metals like mercury are emitted at the rate of three pounds a year. Just for comparison one gram of mercury can contaminate a 20 acre lake.

Other heavy metals are emitted, but testing for arsenic, beryllium, cadmium, hexavalent chromium, lead, manganese and nickel was eliminated from routine monitoring every 60 months. Northern Metals argues that its annual monitoring plan is adequate for the amount of these emissions released by their operations. Northern Metals, however did ask for increased allowances for these emissions in their 2012 permit renewal.

FLUFF contains all these previously listed listed toxic heavy metals and carcinogens. Here's the kicker... FLUFF spontaneously combusts if the stacks of FLUFF materials are above 20 feet. On April 21, 2021 such a blaze occurred at the North Minneapolis site 2800 North Pacific Street.

The piles of FLUFF were twice as high as they should have been, again.

Northern Metals' business function is to perform a service modern society *really* needs. However the profitability of such a service decreases with collection, transportation, record keeping, monitoring, required pollution control equipment, and reporting to government agencies. Northern Metals has multiple falsifying documents infractions, and multiple fires from FLUFF piles not in compliance exceeding 20 feet at both Becker County and North Minneapolis sites.

Northern Metals is not the only corporate polluter in North Minneapolis. Cemstone, Aggregate Industries, GAF, Precision Associates, Coremark Metals, and Estes Cremation to name a few corporations that are located in the Interstate-94 corridor along the Mississippi River in North Minneapolis. While each industry may be permitted to emit a cocktail of substances into the air at a level Regulators have licensed as acceptable, adding up the cumulative levels and the air quality plummets Northside asthmatics gasp and cancer patients rise.

Two additional contributing sources include transportation particulate emissions from a major Interstate 94 Highway, and ionization of those respirable particles by the high voltage transmission lines in the corridor that discharge corona creating charged particles making the particles stick to mucous linings of the throat and lungs. No wonder Community Members for Environmental Justice are fed up and getting organized!



NAWO brought our *Respect and Protect our Mighty River* banner to the Headwaters of the Mississippi River. Over two thousand Water

Protectors showed up. We walked for the water. We sang for the water. We prayed for the water. We risked arrest for the water.



L. Foushee

Treaty People Gatherings moved to the Minnesota State Capitol on July 14, 2021 calling on the Governor and Lieutenant Governor to Stop Line 3. NAWO photo

SACRED WATER WATER FOR LIFE Reprint 2nd Edition update. NAWO is collaborating with Dawn Goodwin of the Rise Coalition to write an article about the ecocide from Enbridge Line 3 including art and photographs. This article would be added to the Environmental Contamination chapter as a current major threat to wild rice and clean water.

https://www.facebook.com/RISEandEngage/photos/a.100730241309093/548809429834503/?__tn__=%3C





Berry Project

Red Lake, White Earth,
Leech Lake
Nations



"This is the best project ever, making people happy with trees in their yards. It doesn't get any better than that. Miigwech for the love you put out into the universe." Shirley Nordrum



Andreas Nordrum

Binayshee Johnson



"These trees will be part of the Food Farm. Anyone in need of fresh vegetables or fruit can come and pick what they can use. I have been paying for all this out of my own pocket so adding just a little each year to the farm. The new honey berry bushes and the cherry trees are a welcome addition, not just for my family but for all of White Earth."

Darwin Seeger

"I can tell you I can't thank you enough. I have wanted apple trees for a few years but have not been able to afford them. Thank you!"

Pat Miller



"My trees mean that as an old lady I can tap my maple trees in my yard, I can pick and can my apples from my own apple trees and teach my younger ones how to take care of them so they will provide food and shade. Shade means visiting and resting. I'm happy and I'm grateful for my trees, Miiigwich."

Wallis Humphrey

NAWO's LANDSCAPES OF CONFLICT EXHIBITION has been digitized due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We were invited to present the Exhibition and engage in small group discussion with those who selected our panel.



Landscapes of Conflict
Lea Foushee and Craig Hassel

Landscapes of Conflict is a photographic montage gallery depicting pre-contact, colonization, present and future viewpoints. Its purpose is to evoke visceral awareness and connection. Both brutal and beautiful, it challenges us to awaken our full humanity and to rise up and learn what this difficult history might teach us as we move toward the possibilities of a more promising future. It invites us to reflect upon the legacy of colonization still echoing through our educational, food and health institutions and to bring the best of ourselves to the work of transforming reality.



Family Development Conference

June 2-4, 2021

“HEALING MN”

North American Water Office

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