

The Birth of MN Superfund

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Minnesota Pollution
Control Agency

MN's Own Mini-Love Canals

- John Wilson and Steve Lee lead in.
- Oakdale- Gerry Stahnke...me and Mike Ayers...and Governor Quie.
- Ironwood Landfill.

Plus

- Media attention: Scoop Hendricks and Armageddon Mitchell.
- Strike Force.

Legislative Hearings

- Andover/ State Senator Gene Merriam- Cecil Heidelberger Site and Waste Disposal Engineering Landfill.
- Duluth/State Representative Willard Munger- Arrowhead Refining, US Steel, Interlake Coke.

Legislature

- I and other members of the Strike Force led the site visits, did presentations and answered questions.
- Issues at Legislature were liabilities. 3M President and Governor got into it...3M to Austin, TX?
- 1983 passage of MN SuperFund

Credit Where Due

- Senator Gene Merriam.
- Rep. Willard Munger.
- Alan Williams, attorney for House.
- Mike Robertson, Asst. Commissioner at MPCA for Legislative Affairs.
- Strike Force

Implementation

- Commissioner Sandra Gardebring wanted bull dozers moving tomorrow.
- I and Gary Pulford wanted Responsible Persons doing the work and spending the money!
- 3M and FMC ready to go!
- Sandy agreed.

Logistics

- 24 staff: Responsible Party (RP) and Fund Financed units, and grew rapidly in #'s of sites and staff.
- Great relationship with Epa Region 5, Rich Bartelt supporter.
- 10 MN sites rapidly to National Priorities List. FMC the #1 scorer in U.S for a while.

Responsible Party Cooperation?

- Great cooperation from some RP's.
- But, not all cooperative immediately, and some real characters, including attorneys, in-house and out-house.

Early Successes

- Many early successes- Oakdale, Ironwood, and FMC.
- Boise/Onan/Medtronic court case a big+. Rick Ferguson, MPCA geologist and Dennis Coyne, Assistant Attorney general did a great job.

Things to Come Later

- Predecessors of brownfields- Koppers Coke in St. Paul and Midway Redevelopment on University Ave.
- Many major Superfund sites would later be redeveloped.
- Predecessor of PetroFund, but a new framework.

How did it feel?

It was stressful, but...

Boy was it exciting!



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