



POLLUTION PREVENTION IS AN EXCELLENT INVESTMENT

At one time an ounce of prevention may have been worth a pound of cure. Now it is worth hundreds of pounds of cure and the price is rising. According to the latest archaeological findings, ancient cultures were basically free from cancers. Scientists now theorize that pollutants that have entered our air and water over the past two centuries are the most probable causes of cancers now affecting us on such a large scale. With this in mind wouldn't it make more sense to prevent pollution rather than focusing such large resources on cures after the fact? There is a steady stream of chemicals, mercury, heavy metals and other toxins entering the environment worldwide every day. We are also storing toxic waste in nuclear power plants, power company, mining company and industrial waste pits that will eventually be released. Our heirs will not appreciate this legacy that they will neither be able to endure nor afford to clean up. We can do better. Preventing air and water pollution is arguably our most valuable investment. SLSA continues to focus on preventing pollution in the lake and its watershed. Visit our website; pick a topic; educate yourself; contribute to the cause.

LeRoger Lind

STRYKER BAY WORK CONTINUES

The U.S. Steel Superfund Site will need more work according to the MPCA's current review completed in September 2008, as required every five years. The report found quite widespread contamination which will require additional cleanup after further sampling to determine the source and scope of the contamination. It appears that the initial cleanup efforts have not been as effective as first thought.

Steel and coke were produced at the site from 1915 to 1979. Designation of the site as a Superfund Site came in 1983. Contaminates found on the site includes coal tars and heavy metals in the soil, sediment, surface water and shallow groundwater. A record of decision was developed in 1989, a remediation strategy was created and most of the land contaminates were removed.

Now since a number of new tar seeps and oil sheens have been discovered, the MPA staff is developing a schedule for data collection and response action plans. This information was presented by project manager Susan Johnson at the June meeting of Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council's Harbor Technical Advisory Committee.



©2007 MN DNR

IT HAS BEEN A WONDERFUL FALL BUT.....

The September of 2010 in our segment of Lake Superior passed without a single snowflake report. Welcome as it was, it left us with a classic case of mixed emotions—wonderfully warm weather but a lingering feeling this was one more indicator of creeping global warming. Yes, a search of weather records would likely show there have been snowless Septembers in the past and most of us have experienced winters that left Lake Superior virtually ice free.

If, however, we accept the validity of numerous scientific studies, such as one titled Great Lakes Restoration & the Threats of Global Warming by Dempsey, Elder and Scavia, the forecast is for a trend is toward even warmer times ahead. They project temperature increases from 5.4 to 10.8 degrees!

Such a rise translates into odds for year-long open water, greater loss of volume due to evaporation, an increase in being inundated with lake-effect snow and flooding when it melts.

If the researchers are correct we will face a greater intensity of storms which then will add more pollutants to our waterways from the runoff. Biological dead zones would increase and become a threat to fish and other aquatic life

In the past we have all witnessed scientific predications that didn't come true but there's a plethora of evidence that, in this case, we must be prepared to deal with the inevitable.

YET ANOTHER DELAY IN REMOVING THOSE NASTY BARRELS

John LaForge on the staff of Nukewatch, a nuclear watchdog group in Wisconsin, and edits its Quarterly Newsletter, has closely followed developments in the Red Cliff Band's efforts to get funding to remove the troublesome containers. John gave us permission to reprint his recent editorial piece on this subject. We are grateful for his tenacity in pursuing this issue.

In the late '50s and early '60s, the Army Corps of Engineers dumped over 1,457 barrels of hazardous military waste from Honeywell Corporation along the North Shore of Lake Superior near Duluth. Some of the wastes were said by U.S. Representatives James Oberstar and David Obey to be

"perilously close" to drinking water intake pipes that supply Duluth.

As part of its own barrel investigation, the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa intended this summer to retrieve about 70 of the barrels. In 2008, engineers hired by the band -- EMR, of Duluth, --- located 591 "targets" likely to be drums.

However, because of technical problems and funding delays the 70-barrel recovery project is "not going on this year," according to Red Cliff's Environmental Programs Director Tracey Ledder.

Ledder told Nukewatch Sept. 9 that another reason for the delay is that a federal review of the Red Cliff Work Plan for removing some of the barrels demanded extra precautions. "We had to add to several sections of the work plan" including expanded precautions "for dealing with potentially explosive materials, like fuses for munitions that may be inside the barrels."

In a Sept. 14, 2010 press advisory, the Red Cliff Tribal committee studying the scandal announced its plan to do the barrel retrieval in the summer of 2011.

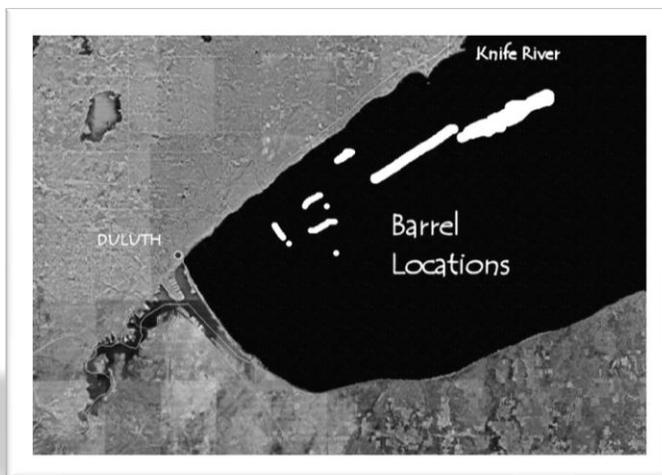
The Band was awarded \$1.3 million last year to implement its 1,500-page Work Plan and study the risks to drinking water and to fish that are posed by the corporate/military wastes. The grant came from a military clean-up agency within the Pentagon.

The MPCA named 17 heavy metals and other pollutants that it found inside all nine of the barrels it recovered in the early '90s. The toxicants, many of them known carcinogens, include a mix of benzene, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), lead, cadmium, barium, arsenic, toluene and chromium. PCBs were found in concentrations 14,000 times greater than the Minnesota State Recommended Allowable Limit for drinking water.

In the 1990s, the MPCA, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and others also found radiation being emitted from some of the barrels. (Documentation of these findings can be reviewed in a special Nukewatch report, "Drinking Water at Risk: Toxic Military Wastes Haunt Lake Superior," at <http://www.nukewatch.com/barrels/index.htm> Questions have been raised by Red Cliff's plan to recover a sample of the barrels. In the Sept. 14 press release, the Band's Environment Program says barrels will be retrieved from only three of the seven known dump areas -- Lester River, Talmadge River and Sucker River..

Well-documented dump sites at Knife River, Knife Island, Shoreview Road and French River are not currently being considered for sampling. The reason for excluding these areas, according to EMR and Ledder, is that their 2008 underwater search failed to positively identify barrels there.

The record indicates otherwise: * Army Corps tug boat logs of the dumping note that on May 25, 1962, the tug /Lake Superior /"loaded with Army Ordinance scrap to dump off Knife Island & return to Duluth," left the vessel yard "at 6:00AM" and "dumped Army Ordnance material off Knife Island at 8:30 AM." A 1976 MPCA Office Memorandum from Lauri Lipponen to John Pegors*, then Director of the agency's Region 1 in Duluth, specifically states that (again) on Sept. 25 and 26, 1962 the Corps' tug boat /Marquette/ "had done the towing and the barrels had been disposed of in 300 feet of water at a point approximately 18 miles distant in the vicinity of Knife River."



In addition, researcher Shoshana Cruz reported in an unpublished 2007 article that she'd spoken city

commissioner Marilyn Burton, of Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan, who studied the dumping, and that Ms. Burton said of one area, "the site was off Knife River and French River on the North Shore."

A June 23, 1985 MPCA report even includes the detail that one of the 1962 disposals involved dumping exactly 206 barrels weighing a total of 200,000 pounds "off Knife Island."

EMR researchers say only a "debris field" appears in its data on the Knife Island, Knife River, Shoreview Rd., and French River. Tracy Ledder explained to Nukewatch that "We have issues with the tug boat logs. They don't seem accurate. It's possible that tug boat records were incorrect." After more than 50 years, some barrels may have corroded into debris.

* The late John Pegors was a long time member of the board of SLSA.

PROTECTING THE LAKE REQUIRES PROTECTING THE RIVERS!

Did you know that the majority of Minnesota's North Shore Rivers and streams contain copper deposits? Did you know that mining operations, years ago, were actually begun in a number of these rivers? For years I had known a little bit about these deposits but had no idea how extensive they were until the recent expansion of mining in northeastern Minnesota prompted me to learn a whole lot more.

There appears to be no immediate threat of mining in any of these streams due to the fact no commercially valuable amounts of ore have been found, despite more than two centuries of prospecting by white men and for hundreds or thousands of years by aboriginal inhabitants.

We believe a study should be made to determine whether some sort of legislation should be sought to protect the North Shore waterways from development by mining, hydroelectric dams or other commercial endeavors. This would be preventive action to be accomplished before a commercial entity seeks permission to mine or otherwise develop these unique waterways and their environs.

Todd Lindahl of Two Harbors, a self-described amateur geologist, explores these waterways as an avocation and told us he has hiked and explored scores of them, mostly in Lake County. He explained that he occasionally sees bits and pieces of copper in the river banks and in the stream beds but never in rich veins. The largest nugget he's aware of is a fifteen pounder picked up by a friend in the Little Knife River.

According to Lindahl, wherever the European prospectors looked for copper they found the native people had already been there as evidenced by the shallow pits they had dug.

Willis Raff, a highly respected historian and able researcher from Grand Marais, wrote extensively in the book *Pioneers in the Wilderness*, cites records pinpointing locations where serious attempts were made (and well financed by investors) to establish large scale copper mining operations less than two miles from Grand Marais on the Fall River in 1876.. Other large copper mine developments, says Raff, included a functioning copper extraction on Spruce Creek east of Lutsen "on the edge of the water on the lakeshore" in 1868-'69.

Lindahl says he doubts any of rivers he's examined would yield sufficient copper even if technology made mining, processing and smelting feasible. The copper in these rivers, he explained, is classified as elemental, meaning that in this form it would be impractical to mine even though one can easily identify the ore by its appearance. By contrast, the copper ore PolyMet and other mining companies hope to extract at inland sites is composed of tiny granules and virtually unidentifiable when held in one's hand.

To the layperson like myself, it seems to be counter intuitive that ore in little specks is better for mining than would be visible chunks. But this is the situation as it is today. But tomorrow?

By Glenn Maxham, SLSA board member and newsletter editor.

SEA KAYAKERS TAKE NOTE

The attraction of exploring "sea" caves among the Apostle Islands has led to near disasters for those caught in the path of unexpected high waves that role into and bounce off the walls under certain conditions. The electronic age is being employed to try to warn the boating public, even experienced kayakers, of the potential danger of entering the caves when certain conditions exist that could capsize their watercraft..



Please see the address label for your membership expiration date.

The University of Wisconsin Aquatic Science Center has been working with UW-Madison environmental engineer Chen Wu to install remote sensors at cave sites to measure wave heights and record the water temperature. The success of the effort depends on the system's ability to "transfer the real-time wave information to kayakers, outfitters and park service staff." Support for this safety effort is a project of the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program and Friends of the Apostle Islands.

TWO SLSA MEMBERS RECEIVED SPECIAL RECOGNITION AT OUR SEPTEMBER MEETING

In honor of his birthday, Glenn Maxham, 80 years young, was presented with a beautiful carved map of Lake Superior showing the underwater contour lines. The map was created by artisan/board member, Todd Ronning.

Nancy Paisley, recently resigned board member, was thanked for her many years of dedicated service to SLSA. Nancy has graciously agreed to continue representing SLSA at quarterly meetings of the Harbor Technical Advisory Committee which is part of the Duluth Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council. Our best wishes to both these fine people.

Save Lake Superior Ass'n
P.O. Box 101
Two Harbors, MN 55616

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Duluth, MN
Permit No. 171

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DNR ISSUES WARNING ON BAIT FISH TO CURB VHS

Anglers and trappers can no longer use smelt and ciscoes that have not been commercially processed to be sure they are free of Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia, better known as VHS. Though not wide spread, the virus has been found in Lake Superior and officials are determined to keep it under control to the greatest degree possible.

Those who harvested and froze ciscoes and smelt should take their fish to bait dealers, fish hatcheries and others authorized to preserve and label the two species.

There is no danger to humans in eating smelt and ciscoes from inland lakes or from Lake Superior but they are not to be used as bait in either waterway unless processed at authorized locations. Because Lake Superior was classified last June as a VHS infested lake, ciscoes and smelt from its waters cannot be used as processed bait. If you have questions on these restrictions you may call the DNR at (651)259-5213.

Your SLSA Board Members

LeRoger Lind (Pres.),
Glenn Maxham (VP),
Will Munger Jr., (Sec.),
Alice Pierce (Treasurer),
Nancy Paisley,
Arnold Overby,
Todd Ronning,
Sally Munger,
Alison Contos –
Member Emeritus

Your renewal date appears on the mailing label. Please send us your change of address when applicable.

New Membership Dues

Please check your Newsletter mailing label for expiration date. If the date is 2009 or lower, it needs to be updated. Membership dues increased January 1, 2010.

Repeat of new dues structure:

ALL EXCEPT LIFETIME ARE PER PERSON PER YEAR.

\$10 Fixed income	\$50 Sustaining	\$200 Lifetime
\$20 General	\$100 Benefactor	(per person)

The Lifetime option is only available to new members or members whose label is 2010 or later.

Please designate your choice when you renew.

We appreciate your interest as well as your support.