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**OHIO STUDENT
ENVIRONMENTAL
COALITION**

**Ohio EJ Short Video Contest
Video Summaries, Quotes, and Media Contacts**

DAYTON

FIRST PLACE: Behr Dayton Thermal Systems VOC Plume

Created by: University of Dayton students Paul Azzi, Jennifer Biette, Jessica Hanley, McLean Johnson, Kiersten Manifold.

Faculty/Staff Advisor - Leslie King, Coordinator, Rivers Institute, University of Dayton

Summary:

The US EPA calls the McCook Field neighborhood “one of the worst contamination sites in the country.” In 1989 or 1990, Trichloroethene or TCE - used by the former Chrysler plant (now the Behr Corporation) to clean automotive parts - was spilled or leaked into the ground. The TCE plume has traveled underground beneath an entire neighborhood, causing exposure through soil vapor intrusion to 400 homes, many businesses, and two schools. A study by the Ohio Department of Health in 2008 found higher than expected number of cancer cases in McCook Field associated with TCE exposure. TCE is a known carcinogen, and is also linked to permanent nerve liver and kidney damage.

In 2009, the Behr VOC plume area was designated Ohio’s 48th Superfund Site by the US EPA, and a work plan for the investigation of the clean-up has been approved. Currently, the community is trying to get as many homes tested or re-tested, and ventilation systems inspected and repaired if needed. BVOCAL – Behr VOC Area Leaders – is the local community group in the McCook Field neighborhood that has worked for resident safety, information, and involvement as relates to the Behr plume.

Statement for Media:

Contacts: Jerry Bowling III, President, McCook Field Neighborhood Assoc., and President, Behr Area VOC Leaders (BVOCAL), bo68chev@att.net 937-224-5058

McLean I. Johnson
University of Dayton 2012 Human Rights Studies & Political Science
johnsomi@notes.udayton.edu | 815-509-0491

McLean I. Johnson : “We want viewers to know what can happen to communities when responsible parties are not held accountable. We want people to recognize the injustices that occur across our country and that something needs to be done by our government and legislatures to better protect people from all communities. We want the people of McCook-Field to receive what they rightfully deserve. Their homes should be frequently tested, their systems frequently checked for efficiency, and they should be compensated for the hardships they have had to endure, be it depreciating property values or medical bills.”

Quotes from Video:

Phyllis Weber: “Within 3 months of buying our house we found out about this... the EPA and various agencies had said that we had pamphlets and mailers put in our mailboxes, but we never received one... I still have yet to get any (notice) from the government.”

Phyllis Weber: “This has been going on for 20 years or more...it could have been stopped before it got that bad” “I’d like it cleaned up, of course...what I would really like to see is some legislation to stop it. These companies are getting away with it, they know they’re doing something wrong, and then they’re able to walk away from it with no accountability, and that’s not just here, it’s everywhere.”

Narrator: “It is vital that we put an end to reckless business practices, so that people have an opportunity to live, not in fear but in comfort... It is imperative that we crackdown on careless environmental abuse. Let us set the example, Ohio, so that we might have a safer, and cleaner world.”

COLUMBUS

SECOND PLACE: Surrounded: A Story of South Columbus

Created by: OSU graduate students in the Landscape Architecture and Architecture programs in the Knowlton School of Architecture - Nicholas Gotthardt, Jesse Hartman, Andrew Lehman, Eileen Ostermeier.

Edited by Justin Smith, additional camera Toby Waggoner, with original music by Jacob Adler and Ilona Kubiacyk-Adler.

Sarah Cowles, Faculty Advisor (Environmental Justice Design Seminar)

Summary: Neighborhoods in Southside Columbus have been hard hit for decades by the presence of multiple industries clustered in a relatively small geographic area. This is a classic example of what environmental justice advocates and the US EPA term “disproportionate burden” of environmental threats to health and safety one community.

South Columbus has been particularly threatened by Georgia Pacific, which currently maintains an unlined, uncovered, 2 million gallon, bubbling wastewater reservoir that the company calls a “bio-

pond,” but which neighbors refer to as the “toxic waste pit.” There are concerns in the community about health and safety impacts from the pit as a source of air pollution and groundwater contamination. Despite recommendations from independent investigators 10 years ago to upgrade the pit, it remains in operation.

These neighborhoods rank among the worst 5 percent nationally for health risk from industrial air pollution.

Statement for Media:

Contact: Jesse Hartman, jnoelhart@gmail.com 513-652-1349
Ohio State Landscape Architecture Graduate Student

“South Columbus has had a long history of struggles with the many industries that surround them. The residents have repeatedly defended their neighborhood, however some problems still plague the area. We hope our film show lawmakers the importance of industrial accountability.”

Quotes from Video:

“Initially we thought [all the industries in South Columbus] might be good for the community because there might be opportunities for jobs...but it didn’t work out that way,” Barbara Wood, Southfield resident, Board of Directors, Ohio Citizen Action.

Leontien Kennedy of Ohio Citizen Action: “The pit is obsolete, it’s 100 years old!”

“We’re raising families, we’re raising children... so many people have been impacted by cancer and other respiratory diseases...we have to value human life.” Barbara Wood, Southfield resident, Board of Directors, Ohio Citizen Action.

CLYDE

THIRD PLACE: Clyde, Ohio - The Cancer Cluster

Created by: Mrs. Melanie Overmyer’s Broadcast Journalism Class, Clyde High School, Clyde, OH.

Summary: Cancer is affecting concerning numbers of children in the small, tight-knit community of Clyde, Ohio.

The OEPA has set up air monitors; sampled water in creeks, streams and drainages that go into the water system in Clyde; also looked at rural water in the area; sampled soil and investigated dump sites; and has looked at possibility of radiation in schools.

None of these tests shed light on why there is a cluster of children with cancer in Clyde.

Dina Pierce, media contact, OEPA: “That’s about all we can do absent a suspected cause,” which has not been identified.

Statement for Media:

Contacts: Warren and Wendy Brown, community leaders,
wbrown71439@woh.rr.com (Warren), wendy.sarvis.brown@gmail.com (Wendy)
419-547-3007

Melanie Overmyer, Clyde High School, stmovermyer@clyde.k12.oh.us
419-547-9511

"We represent the Clyde High School Broadcast Journalism class. Our video project aimed to explore the unusually high number of cancer cases in our area, and what has been done thus far to find an environmental connection. We hope that this video will inspire continued investigation into the 'cancer cluster.'"

Quotes from Video:

"It bugs me to see me and my sister go through cancer, because we're not our normal selves, and we can't do anything we've done before." Tanner Hisey, young cancer patient.

"There is something in the environment that's affecting our kids; I don't know what it is. I don't know that they (officials) are doing enough until we do know what it is. Until they (officials) find out the reason that our kids are being affected (by cancer), they need to continue to try to find answers for us. It's causing a lot of fear in our community." Jenny Long, Nurse, North Coast Cancer Care.

NE OHIO (EAST PALESTINE/NEGLEY)

HONORABLE MENTION: Create a Safer World

Created by: East Palestine High School students, with support from their teacher Ms. Bonnie Sansenbaugher, East Palestine, OH.

Summary: Rural Negley, Ohio, in Columbiana Co., is host to a landfill run by Total Waste Logistics. TWI proposes to expand the Negley dump, which has neighbors concerned about increased toxic leachate entering the local waterways via an abandoned, water-filled coal mine in the landfill's vicinity.

Statement for Media:

Contact: Bonnie Sansenbagher, East Palestine High School (teacher)
Bonnie.Sansenbaugher@EPSchools.k12.oh.us (330) 426-9401

"Shawn Neff and DJ Rose are juniors from East Palestine High School in East Palestine, Ohio. Their video exposes the risks to the local area around their hometown, which includes the watershed that drains into Beaver Creek State Park, if the local dump owned by Total Waste Logistics llc, is allowed to expand its construction debris landfill. The Ohio EPA has overlooked this area because they say it has little environmental value. We would like someone to help stop this tragedy from happening to our water resources."

OTHER VIDEOS SUBMITTED:

NORTHWEST OHIO - RURAL COUNTIES

Video Title: Legalized Harm

Created by: Sherry Fleming, Bryan, OH, Chair - Williams Co. Alliance, and Steering Committee member, Ohio Environmental Stewardship Alliance (OESA)

Summary: The Ohio Dept. of Agriculture (ODA) regulatory process approved by the Ohio state legislature does not protect the health and welfare of the communities where industrial livestock and poultry facilities locate. Elected reps should create legislation that allows residents to protect their health and welfare in their communities.

Statement for Media:

Contacts: Sherry Fleming, Bryan, OH, Chair - Williams Co. Alliance, and Steering Committee member, Ohio Environmental Stewardship Alliance (OESA), (community leader, created the video) nwoej@yahoo.com 419-636-1864

Vickie Askins, Wood County Citizens Opposed to Factory Farms, (community leader profiled in video) vaaskins@wcnet.org 419-655-2057

Vickie Askins: “I have lived in Wood County all my life: Since 2001, our County has seen an influx of dairy factory farms. I would like to ask our legislators to investigate why the ODA is so willing to systematically revise their regulations which should have prohibited many of these operations in environmentally-sensitive areas.”

CLEVELAND

Video Title: Survival of St. Clair Superior Neighborhood – First Energy Power Plant

Created by: Mark McClain, Cleveland, OH, Director of Health and Environmental Initiatives, Neighborhood Leadership Institute

Summary: First Energy has requested a variance from OEPA to dump even more mercury into Lake Erie and the air from its Cleveland, E. 72nd St. Lake Shore wastewater treatment plant. Mercury, a dangerous neuro-toxin, settles in the lake waters and in the fish that live there. Subsistence anglers from the neighborhood fish in the Lake Shore plant area, relying on the natural bounty of Lake Erie to help put food on their tables.

This is all taking place in the St. Clair Superior neighborhood, a US EPA-recognized environmental justice community. 90% of residents within a 3-mile radius of the plant are minority. Almost 50% have incomes below \$15,000/year, which means most have little or no choice to move elsewhere. The area is in the 95th percentile for cancer and neurological risks.

The plant has been non-compliant with environmental standards for twelve consecutive quarters, and has been issued a formal notice of violation at least twice in the last five years.

Statement for Media:

Contacts: Mark McLain, Director of Health and Environmental Initiatives, Neighborhood Leadership Institute, Cleveland, OH, mark@neighborhoodleadership.org 216-812-8700.

Quotes:

St. Clair Superior neighbor who testified at the Jan. 21 OEPA public hearing on the mercury variance: “My son just caught us a whole bucket of fish from the lake....People in the community where I live don’t fish for recreation...when they catch fish, they don’t throw them back in the water, those [fish] are consumed. And this is making our communities sicker than we already are; we’re already sick from the contamination in the polluted areas that we have to reside in.”

Mark McClain, video creator, “At the hearing, it was clear that there exists two universes: one regulatory, and the other, reality.”