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Dishonorable Discharge

Toxic Pollution of Nebraska Waters

Executive Summary

Most Nebraska citizens would be surprised to learn that scores of businesses and facilities across the state *legally* dump tons of toxic chemicals into the state's rivers, streams, lakes, and bays. Many of these same polluters flush millions more pounds of toxic substances down the drain to sewage treatment plants that taxpayers pay to operate and maintain. None of the toxic chemicals sent to publicly financed sewage treatment systems are reported as pollution by the EPA, even though a great deal of the toxic load eventually finds its way to Nebraska streams and rivers.

The citizens of Nebraska have a right to know about any pollution of their water, air or land that may pose a risk to human health or the environment. The goal of *Disbonor-able Discharge* is to inform the public about the massive level of toxic pollution of the waters in their state, and point out the need for more comprehensive reporting of toxic chemical use, transport, and pollution, in Nebraska and nationwide.

Factories and other industrial facilities dumped more than 2.1 million pounds of toxic substances directly into Nebraska's waters between 1990 and 1994, according to a new analysis of the federal Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) (Table 1). Nebraska ranked 34th among the states in toxic water pollution reported over those five years. Because of weaknesses and loopholes in federal pollution laws, most, if not all of these toxic discharges are perfectly legal.

As large as they are, these figures substantially underestimate toxic releases to waters and the environment because the TRI requires reporting of only about 340 of the 73,000 chemicals in commerce. The TRI also exempts certain industries from reporting, including utilities, sewage treatment plants, municipal incinerators, and manufacturing facilities with fewer than ten employees.

In addition, over six (6.2) million pounds of toxic materials were flushed to sewage treatment plants in Nebraska from 1990 through 1994, 29th in the nation (Table 1.) EPA estimates that twenty-five percent of all discharges nationwide flow through sewage treatment plants untreated (EPA 1995). Applying this 25 percent estimate to Nebraska raises the total amount of toxics dumped to the state's waters to an estimated 3.7 million pounds (Table 1).

The Big Blue River received the greatest amount of toxic water pollution in Nebraska from 1990-1994, a total of 1,110,000 pounds, followed by the Elkhorn River, the Shonka Ditch, and the Missouri River (Table 2). The ten most polluted waterways in Nebraska received 2,130,000 pounds of toxic pollution between 1990 and 1994, 99.7% percent of the total in the State.

The top three facilities reporting the most toxic pollution of Nebraska's waters over this period were Cominco Fertilizers U.S., Inc. in Beatrice, which dumped 715,000 pounds of toxic chemicals, followed by IBP Inc., and Excel Corporation in the towns of West Point, and Schuyler, respectively (Table 3). The toxic chemicals dumped in the greatest amounts were ammonia, a total of 1,220,000 pounds, followed by ammonium nitrate solution, and sulfuric acid (Table 4).

Asarco Inc. dumped the most carcinogens into Nebraska's waters, a total of 30,900 pounds, followed by Monroe Auto Equipment Company and Valmont Industries Inc. (Table 8). The Missouri River received the greatest amount of cancer-causing toxic chemicals in Nebraska, a total of 31,000 pounds, followed by the Platte River and a waterway reported only as the Dawson County Drainage Ditch #4 (Table 7).

Asarco Inc. dumped the greatest amount of persistent toxic metals in Nebraska's waters, a total of 56,000 pounds, followed by Monroe Auto Equipment Company and Nucor Steel (Table 8). The Missouri River received the greatest amount of persistent toxic metals, a total of 56,000 pounds, followed by Dawson County Drainage Ditch #4 and the Platte River (Table 7).

Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company dumped the greatest amount of toxic chemicals that cause reproductive damage or birth defects into Nebraska's waters, a total of 10,000 pounds, followed by Valmont Ind. Inc. and Monroe Auto Equipment Company (Table 8). Salt Creek received the greatest amount of toxic chemicals that cause reproductive damage or birth defects, a total of 10,000 pounds, followed by the Platte River and Steven's Creek (Table 7).

These discharges to Nebraska's waters include only those wastes released by companies physically located in Nebraska. Many waterways receive additional pollution from sources outside of the state. Information on toxic water pollution in other states can be found in EWG's state reports series, and in the national report, *Disbonorable Discharge*.

Recommendations

Americans have a right to know about any use, transport, or release of toxic substance in their communities that might pose a risk to human health or the environment. Required reporting under the TRI provides only a small portion of this information. Much more complete reporting is needed. Americans also have a right to know about toxic chemicals in the products they buy that may pose a risk to them and their children.

Full accounting of the use of toxic materials reveals many low cost opportunities for pollution prevention. In New Jersey, state officials estimate that every dollar spent on such materials accounting practices generates five to eight dollars in increased efficiency (GAO 1994). Without materials accounting industry will miss many opportunities for substantial low cost reductions in pollution, and the public and policy makers will be unable formulate strategies that most effectively reduce exposure to toxic substances in the environment and consumer products.

We recommend:

- Timely implementation of the EPA's proposed expansion of industries and facilities required to report toxic releases under the TRI.
- Expansion of TRI reporting requirements to include full materials accounting for any facility or industry that uses or releases a toxic substance that may pose a risk to human health and the environment.

Dishonorable Discharge

Toxic pollution of rivers, lakes, streams, and bays is a serious problem in all 50 states. Twenty five years after the passage of the Clean Water Act, nearly forty (40) percent of America's rivers, lakes, and coastal waters remain unsafe for fishing, swimming or basic recreation (EPA 1996b). In Nebraska, over 53,000 acres of lakes (97% of those surveyed) had elevated levels of toxic chemicals (EPA 1995b). The pollution that fouls these waterways costs the state's economy millions of dollars in tourism, fishing, and development revenues that otherwise could be earned on or near these waters were they not so polluted (EPA 1996b).

Dishonorable Discharge Underestimates Toxic Pollution

The Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) provides a rough estimate of a small portion of the toxic chemicals that flow into America's waters. The toxic discharges reported in this study are based on TRI reported toxic releases to waterways and so-called "transfers" of toxics to publicly owned treatment works (POTWs) — the term of art that industry and the EPA use when an industrial facility dumps toxic chemicals into the local sewer.

The figures reported in *Disbonorable Discharge* dramatically underestimate the total amounts of toxic compounds that have been discharged, dumped, or made their way into rivers and lakes across the country over the past five years.

About 90¹ percent of all toxic discharges coming out of pipes into water (so-called point source discharges) are not reported to the TRI. This is because the TRI requires reporting on only about 343² of some 73,000 chemicals used in commerce, and because the TRI exempts many polluters (utilities, certain industries, and those with fewer than ten employees) from reporting requirements (EPA 1996).

About half of all toxics that pollute rivers come from surface runoff and air deposition, as opposed to pipes. Comprehensive accounting of this "nonpoint source" pollution is not available for all rivers on a national basis.

Taking all of the limitations of the existing information into account, Environmental Working Group believes that an accurate estimate of the total load of toxic pollution in many rivers and lakes over the past five years might be 20 times greater than the amounts reported here.

Hiding Toxics in the Sewer

The EPA does not include so-called "transfers" of toxic chemicals to sewer systems as an official "release" of a toxic chemical into the environment (EPA 1996). At the same time, the EPA estimates that 25 percent of all toxic chemicals transferred to sewers from industrial facilities pass through treatment and into the waterways that receive wastewater (EPA 1995).

Transfers of toxic chemicals to publicly owned treatment works (POTWs) — otherwise known as sewage treatment plants — were four times greater in 1994 than the amount of toxic chemicals released directly to water that are reported in the entire TRI that year. To estimate the total amounts of toxic substances dumped into Nebraska's waters, we used EPA's assumption that 25 percent of all toxic chemicals transferred to POTWs pass-through untreated³. Table 1 presents the EWG estimate of toxic chemicals assumed to be discharged by the POTWs in Nebraska. Estimates of toxic discharges from POTWs to specific rivers and bodies of water could not be accurately estimated because the sewage treatment plants are not required to report to the TRI.

Assuming a 25 percent flow-through also does not permit discharge estimates for individual toxic chemicals that flow through the sewer system into waterways. In reality some chemicals flow through POTW's untouched, while others are removed and held in the sludge, broken down in treatment, or allowed to evaporate into the ambient air as toxic pollutants.

How Toxic is Toxic?

Some 340 substances were required to be reported to the EPA for the years analyzed in this report. According to the EPA:

"For a chemical or chemical category to remain on or be added to the TRI list, it must be known to cause or reasonably be anticipated to cause one of the following:

- Significant adverse acute health effects at concentration levels that are reasonably likely to exist beyond facility boundaries as a result of continuous, or frequently recurring releases;
- In humans cancer; teratogenic effects; or serious irreversible reproductive dysfunction, neurologic disorders, heritable genetic mutations, or other chronic health effects;
- A significant adverse effect on the environment because of its toxicity, its toxicity and persistence in the environment, or its toxicity and tendency to bioaccumulate in the environment of sufficient seriousness to warrant reporting under EPCRA section 313" (EPA 1996).

For most of the TRI chemicals, federal regulators and scientists have a disturbingly incomplete understanding of the long term toxic effects on the environment or human health. The vast majority of compounds reported in the TRI are not fully studied, even though they have triggered one of the above criteria.

Toxic discharges and runoff to water are a serious and largely unaddressed environmental and human health problem. Most, if not all of the pollution reported in Dishonorable Discharge is legal. Current pollution control laws like the Clean Water Act (CWA), the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), and the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) do little to move the nation towards reducing the toxic pollution cited in this report. In effect, these laws issue pollution licenses or exemptions from regulations. One of the more glaring exemptions may be the so-called "domestic sewage exclusion" under RCRA, whereby toxic contaminants sent to sewage treatment plants escape otherwise applicable federal hazardous waste regulations. This accounts for the huge amounts of toxic chemicals that were dumped down the drain by American industry and end up in the nation's rivers and streams. Another major source of toxic pollution of waters is agricultural pesticides. The runoff of pesticides from agricultural fields is not regulated under any federal law, and is not tabulated by the TRI nor included in this report. About 1.1 billion pounds⁴ of pesticides were used in the United States in 1993 alone (Aspelin 1994).

Disbonorable Discharge is based on data collected by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) for the reporting years 1990 through 1994, which includes the most recent data available. It includes the releases of only 343 chemicals from about 27,000 manufacturing facilities. The limitations of these data have been described above.

Analyzing Discharges by Body of Water

Discharges from TRI facilities were assigned to a given waterway based on the "receiving stream" reported to the EPA. Most waterways reported as "tributary" streams were included with their respective rivers in this report when it was possible to link them. For purposes of this analysis, toxic release data for major rivers themselves are tabulated separately, not summed as part of larger watersheds. For example, a "Tributary to the Mississippi River" was counted as Mississippi River, while the Missouri River was not, even though it eventually joins the Mississippi just above St. Louis. Small streams receiving large quantity discharges (such as Gravelly Run in Virginia and Clear Creek in Colorado) were reported individually, just as they are recorded in the TRI. State-level reports only include discharges to a given river from facilities that are physically located in this state, not discharges from facilities located in other states upstream.

Reporting Toxics Dumped Down the Drain

Enormous quantities of toxic chemicals are discharged to waterways via sewer systems. These so-called "transfers" of toxic chemicals to publicly owned treatment works (POTWs) totaled more than 250 million pounds in 1994, compared to 66 million pounds of direct discharges to waters reported in that same year. While the EPA does not count these transfers as environmental releases in the TRI, the Agency estimates that an average of 25 percent of these transfers flow through sewer systems into receiving waters (EPA 1995).

To better illustrate the amount of toxic chemicals that actually make it into the nation's waters each year, we assumed that on average 25 percent of the toxic chemicals transferred to POTWs (a.k.a. sewers) by a reporting facility, ultimately pass through the sewage treatment plant untreated and in most cases are discharged to receiving waters.

Toxic chemical releases through POTWs were estimated statewide, but were not attributed to specific rivers at the state level due to the difficulty of verifying the receiving waters. Environmental Working Group will attempt to identify receiving waters more precisely future reports. All other analyses including facility discharges and top chemicals reflect direct discharges only, and not POTW release estimations.

Total discharges of persistent toxic metals, known or possible carcinogens, and chemicals known to cause reproductive effects, were calculated for specific rivers

based on information characterizing the toxic properties of these substances previously published by the EPA, the State of California, and the State of New Jersey, as well as other toxicological literature (Environmental Protection Agency, 1996; California Code of Regulations; New Jersey Department of Health; and Dixon, 1986). EPA's inclusion of known, probable, and possible carcinogens is based on determinations made by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the National Toxicology Program (NTP), and the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) (EPA 1996). Lists of chemicals included are found in the Appendix.

Notes

¹Estimate based on EPA report (National Sediment Contaminant Point Source Inventory: Analysis of Release Data for 1992. Final Draft.) (EPA, 1995) where data from TRI were compared to the Permit Compliance System (PCS) Database and found to represent only about 9%, at most, of discharges reported in PCS. Estimates from the GAO indicate that PCS regulates only 23% of all toxic water pollution (GAO, 1994).

²The exact number of chemicals required varies with the year. In 1994, 343 chemicals were reported. EPA has recently expanded the inventory to include about 650. These data, to be reported for 1995, will be available in 1997.

³EPA uses this factor since it is unlikely to greatly overestimate or underestimate the exact treatment efficiency (EPA 1995). This number will vary for any specific chemical; however it estimates pass through for chemicals as a whole, and is not applied to specific chemicals in this report.

⁴This value refers to pesticide active ingredients. The total volume of pesticide products, including so-called inert ingredients is far higher.

Carcinogens

1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane 1,1-Dimethylhydrazine (UDMH) (alar trans. prod.) 1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane (DBCP) 1 3-Butadiene 1,3-Dichloropropylene 1,3-Propane sultone 1,4-Dioxane 1-Amino-2-methylanthraquinone 1-Naphthylamine 2,4,6-Trichlorophenol 2 4-Diaminoanisole 2,4-Diaminoanisole sulfate 2.4-Diaminotoluene 2,4-Dinitrotoluene 2-Acetylaminofluorene 2-Aminoanthraquinone 2-Methylaziridine (Propyleneimine) 2-Naphthylamine 2-Nitropropane 3,3'-Dichlorobenzidine 3,3'-Dimethoxybenzidine (ortho-Dianisidine) 3.3'-Dimethylbenzidine 4,4'-Diaminodiphenyl ether (4,4'-Oxydianiline) 4,4'-Methylene bis(2-chloroaniline) 4,4'-Methylene bis(N,N-dimethyl) benzenamine 4,4'-Methylenedianiline 4,4'-Thiodianiline 4-Aminobiphenyl (4-aminodiphenyl) 4-Dimethylaminoazobenzene 4-Nitrobiphenyl 5-Nitro-o-anisidine Acetaldehyde Acetamide Acrylamide Acrylonitrile Allyl chloride Aniline Arsenic Arsenic compounds Asbestos Auramine Benzene Benzidine [and its salts] Benzotrichloride Benzyl chloride Beryllium and beryllium compounds Beryllium compounds

Persistent Toxic Metals

Antimony & Antimony Compounds Arsenic & Arsenic Compounds Barium & Barium Compounds Beryllium & Beryllium Compounds Cadmium & Cadmium Compounds Chromium & Chromium Compounds Cobalt & Cobalt Compounds Copper & Copper Compounds Lead & Lead Compounds Manganese & Manganese Compounds Mercury & Mercury Compounds Nickel & Nickel Compounds Selenium & Selenium Compound Silver & Silver Compounds Thallium & Thallium Compounds Zinc & Zinc Compounds

beta-Propiolactone Bis (2-chloroethyl) ether Bis(chloromethyl) ether Bromodichloromethane Bromoform Cadmium Cadmium compounds Captan Carbon tetrachloride Chlordane Chloroethane (Ethyl chloride) Chloroform Chloromethyl methyl ether Chlorophenols Chlorothalonil Chromium Cupferron D&C Red No. 19 DDVP (Dichlorvos) Di -(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate Dichloromethane (Methylene chloride) Diepoxybutane Diethyl sulfate Dimethyl sulfate Dimethylcarbamoyl chloride Direct Black 38 Direct Blue 6 Direct Brown 95 Epichlorohydrin Ethyl acrylate Ethylene dibromide Ethylene dichloride (1,2-Dichloroethane) Ethylene oxide Ethylene thiourea (EBDC trans prod.) Ethyleneimine Formaldehyde Hexachlorobenzene Hexachloroethane Hexamethylphosphoramide Hydrazine Hydrazine sulfate Hydrazobenzene (1,2-Diphenylhydrazine) Isosafrole Lead Lead compounds Lindane Methyl iodide

Michler's ketone Mustard Gas N-Nitroso-N-ethylurea N-Nitroso-N-methylurea N-Nitrosodi-n-butylamine N-Nitrosodi-n-propylamine N-Nitrosodiethylamine N-Nitrosodimethylamine N-Nitrosodiphenylamine N-Nitrosomethylvinylamine N-Nitrosomorpholine N-Nitrosonornicotine N-Nitrosopiperidine Nickel Nickel compounds Nitrilotriacetic acid Nitrofen Nitrogen mustard (Mechlorethamine) ortho-Anisidine ortho-Anisidine hydrochloride ortho-Toluidine ortho-Toluidine hydrochloride p-Aminoazobenzene p-Cresidine p-Dichlorobenzene p-Nitrosodiphenylamine Pentachlorophenol Polybrominated biphenyls Polychlorinated biphenyls Propylene oxide Saccharin Safrole Styrene Styrene oxide Tetrachloroethylene (Perchloroethylene) Thioacetamide Thiourea Toluene-2,4-diisocyanate Toluene-2.6-diisocyanate Toxaphene (Polychorinated camphenes) Trichloroethylene Tris(2,3-dibromopropyl)phosphate Urethane (Ethyl carbamate) Vinyl bromide Vinvl chloride Vinyl trichloride (1,1,2-Trichloroethane)

Chemicals that Affect Reproduction

1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane Cadmium Carbon disulfide Diethylhexyl phthalate o-Dinitrobenzene m-Dinitrobenzene P-Dinitrobenzene Ethylene glycol monoethyl ether Ethylene glycol monomethyl ether Ethylene glycol monomethyl ether Ethylene soxide Hexamethylphosphoramide Lead Styrene Toulene Trichloroethylene

Xylene(mixed isomers) o-xylene p-xylene Di-n-butyl phthalate Glycol ethers Mercury Compounds Mercury Benzene Aluminum Arsenic Nickel Lindane Vinyl Chloride

Source: Environmental Working Group. Compiled from California Proposition 65, EPA's TRI Public Data Release, New Jersey Department of Health, Hazardous Substances Fact Sheets, and Toxic Responses of the Reproductive System (Dixon 1986).

Dishonorable Discharge

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Nebraska Toxic pollution of Nebraska waters (1990-1994)

Table 1. Total reported toxic pollution of Nebraska waters (1990-1994).

Total Discharges to Waters	3,690,048 Pounds
Estimated Sewer Discharges‡	1,553,605 Pounds
Direct Water Discharges	2,136,443 Pounds

Table 2. Nebraska waters receiving the greatest amounts of toxic pollution (1990-1994).

River or Water Body	Toxic chemical release to waterbody (pounds)
Big Blue River	1,108,646
Elkhorn River	489,931
Shonka Ditch	236,342
Missouri River	114,865
Platte River	106,602
Loup Power Canal	50,565
Salt Creek	10,786
Dawson County Drainage Ditch #4	7,110
Spring Branch Creek	4,861
Hell Creek	1,303

Table 4. Toxic chemicals discharged in the greatest amounts to
Nebraska waters (1990-1994).

Chemical	Toxic chemical release to waters (pounds)
Ammonia	1,223,743
Ammonium nitrate (solution)	758,903
Sulfuric acid	38,805
Lead compounds	26,279
Zinc compounds	18,428
Antimony compounds	12,770
Nitric acid	10,500
Toluene	10,461
Methanol	7,410
Chlorine	6,866

Table 3. Polluters reporting the greatest amounts of toxic chemicals discharged to Nebraska waters (1990-1994).

Facility	City	Toxic chemical release to waters (pounds)
Cominco Fertilizers U.S. Inc.	Beatrice	715,123
IBP Inc.	West Point	260,045
Excel Corp.	Schuyler	236,342
Darling Intl. Inc.*	Norfolk	229,886
Farmland Ind. Inc.	Beatrice	202,305
Farmland Foods Inc.	Crete	184,804
Western Sugar Co.	Bayard	65,150
Arcadian Fertilizer L.P.	Laplatte	58 <i>,</i> 510
Asarco Inc.	Omaha	56,340
Behlen Mfg. Co.	Columbus	50,565

Table 5. Polluters reporting the greatest amounts of toxic chemicals discharged to Nebraska sewage treatment facilities (1990-1994).

Facility	City	Toxic chemical release to sewers (pounds)
Lackawanna Leather Co.	Omaha	1,815,720
Monfort Inc.	Grand Island	1,737,891
M. G. Waldbaum Co.	Wakefield	947,240
National By-products Inc.	Omaha	587,750
Hormel Foods Corp.	Fremont	266,000
Borden Inc.	Lincoln	100,359
Gibbon Packing Co. Inc.	Gibbon	92,000
Roberts Dairy Co.	Omaha	79,903
Northern States Beef	Omaha	78,000
Aaron Omaha	Omaha	77,000

+ Total discharges of toxic chemicals to sewer systems in Nebraska was 6,214,422 in 1990-94. EPA estimates that 25% of all toxic discharges to sewers pass through sewage treatment plants to receiving waters (EPA 1995).

* This polluter did not report any discharges to water in 1994. See Table 9 for year to year pollution figures.





Nebraska

Toxic pollution of Nebraska waters (1990-1994). Carcinogens, persistent toxic metals, and reproductive toxins

Table 6. Total carcinogens**, persistent toxic metals, and reproductive toxins** discharged into Nebraska waters (1990-1994).

Total (see note)	89,431 Pounds
Reproductive Toxins	14,715 Pounds
Persistent Toxic Metals	78,898 Pounds
Carcinogens	37,102 Pounds
, ,	

Table 7. Nebraska waters receiving the greatest amounts of carcinogens**, persistent toxic metals, and reproductive toxins** (1990-1994).

Waters receiving the greatest amounts of carcinogenic chemicals** in Nebraska (1990-1994).

River or Water Body	Carcinogens** released to waters (lbs.)
Missouri River	30,910
Platte River	2,314
Dawson County Drainage Ditch #4	2,000
Steven's Creek	750
Big Blue River	577

Waters receiving the greatest amounts of persistent toxic metals in Nebraska (1990-1994).

River or Water Body	Persistent toxic metals released to waters (lbs.)
Missouri River	56,340
Dawson County Drainage Ditch #4	7,015
Platte River	5,259
Spring Branch Creek	4,361
Hell Creek	1,303

Waters receiving the greatest amounts of reproductive toxins** in Nebraska (1990-1994).

River or Water Body	Reproductive toxins** released to waters (lbs.)
Salt Creek	10,426
Platte River	2,049
Steven's Creek	750
Dawson County Drainage Ditch #4	635
Big Blue River	560

* This polluter did not report any discharges to water in 1994. See Table 9 for year to year pollution figures.

** Carcinogens and reproductive toxins defined by the State of California Proposition 65, EPA's TRI Public Data Release and other literature. See full report for references.

Source: Environmental Working Group. Compiled from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Toxics Release Inventory 1990-1994.

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Note: The sum of carcinogens, persistent toxic metals, and reproductive toxins listed in Table 6 may be larger than the total because a chemical may be in one or more categories, i.e. a chemical may be both a carcinogen and a reproductive toxin. Chemicals were counted only once for the total in Table 6.

Table 8. Polluters reporting the greatest amounts of carcinogens**, persistent toxic metals, and reproductive toxins** discharged to Nebraska waters (1990-1994).

Top dischargers of carcinogenic chemicals** to Nebraska waters (1990-1994).

Facility	City	Carcinogens** released to waters (lbs.)
Asarco Inc.	Omaha	30,910
Monroe Auto Equipment Co.	Cozad	2,500
Valmont Ind. Inc.	Valley	1,814
ADM	Lincoln	750
Petersen Mfg. Co. Inc.	De Witt	560

Top dischargers of persistent toxic metals to Nebraska waters (1990-1994).

Facility	City	Persistent toxic metals released to waters (lbs.)
Asarco Inc.	Omaha	56,340
Monroe Auto Equipment Co.	Cozad	8,520
Nucor Steel	Norfolk	4,361
Valmont Ind. Inc.	Valley	3,754
AT&T	Omaha	1,448
	1	1

Top dischargers of reproductive toxins** to Nebraska waters (1990-1994).

Facility	City	Reproductive toxins** released to waters (lbs.)
Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.	Lincoln	10,426
Valmont Ind. Inc.	Valley	1,794
Monroe Auto Equipment Co.	Cozad	890
ADM	Lincoln	750
Petersen Mfg. Co. Inc.	De Witt	560





The Big Blue River in Nebraska Total toxic pollution reported (1990-1994): 1,108,646 Pounds

Table 1. Polluters discharging the greatest amounts of toxic
chemicals to the Big Blue River in Nebraska
(1990-1994).

Facility	City	Toxic chemical release to water (pounds)
Cominco Fertilizers U.S. Inc.	Beatrice	715,123
Farmland Ind. Inc.	Beatrice	202,305
Farmland Foods Inc.	Crete	184,804
Alpo Petfoods Inc.*	Crete	5,810
Petersen Mfg. Co. Inc.	De Witt	587

Table 2. Toxic chemicals discharged in the greatest amounts to the Big Blue River in Nebraska (1990-1994).

Chemical	Toxic chemical release to waterbody (pounds)
Ammonium nitrate (solution)	755,953
Ammonia	340,473
Chlorine	6,361
Methanol	5,250
Nickel	560

‡ The sum of carcinogens, persistent toxic metals, and reproductive toxins listed in Table 3 may be larger than the total because a chemical may be in one or more categories. Chemicals were counted only once for the total in Table 3.

* This polluter did not report any discharges to water in 1994. See Table 9 for year to year pollution figures.

** Carcinogens and reproductive toxins defined by the State of California Proposition 65, EPA's TRI Public Data Release and other literature. See full report for references.

Table 3. Total carcinogens**, persistent toxic metals, and reproductive toxins** discharged to the Big Blue River in Nebraska (1990-1994).

Total‡	604 Pounds
Reproductive Toxins	560 Pounds
Persistent Toxic Metals	587 Pounds
Carcinogens	577 Pounds

 Table 4. Polluters reporting the greatest amounts of carcinogens**, persistent toxic metals, and reproductive toxins** discharged to the Big Blue River in Nebraska (1990-1994).

Top dischargers of carcinogens** to the Big Blue River in Nebraska (1990-1994).

Facility	City	Carcinogens** released to water (lbs)
Petersen Mfg. Co. Inc.	De Witt	560

Top dischargers of persistent toxic metals to the Big Blue River in Nebraska (1990-1994).

Facility	City	Persistent toxic metals released to water (lbs)
Petersen Mfg. Co. Inc.	De Witt	587

Top dischargers of reproductive toxins** to the Big Blue River in Nebraska (1990-1994).

Facility	City	Reproductive toxins** released to water (lbs)
Petersen Mfg. Co. Inc.	De Witt	560





The Elkhorn River in Nebraska

Total toxic pollution reported (1990-1994): 489,931 Pounds

Table 1. Polluters discharging the greatest amounts of toxic chemicals to the Elkhorn River in Nebraska (1990-1994).

Facility	City	Toxic chemical release to water (pounds)
IBP Inc.	West Point	260,045
Darling Intl. Inc.*	Norfolk	229,886

Table 2. Toxic chemicals discharged in the greatest amounts to the Elkhorn River in Nebraska (1990-1994).

Chemical	Toxic chemical release to waterbody (pounds)
Ammonia	489,931

[‡] The sum of carcinogens, persistent toxic metals, and reproductive toxins listed in Table 3 may be larger than the total because a chemical may be in one or more categories. Chemicals were counted only once for the total in Table 3.

* This polluter did not report any discharges to water in 1994. See Table 9 for year to year pollution figures.

** Carcinogens and reproductive toxins defined by the State of California Proposition 65, EPA's TRI Public Data Release and other literature. See full report for references.

Table 3. Total carcinogens**, persistent toxic metals, and reproductive toxins** discharged to the Elkhorn River in Nebraska (1990-1994).

Total‡	0 Pounds
Reproductive Toxins	0 Pounds
Persistent Toxic Metals	0 Pounds
Carcinogens	0 Pounds

Table 4. Polluters reporting the greatest amounts of
carcinogens**, persistent toxic metals, and reproductive
toxins** discharged to the Elkhorn River in Nebraska
(1990-1994).

Top dischargers of carcinogens** to the Elkhorn River in Nebraska (1990-1994).

Facility	City	Carcinogens** released to water (lbs)

Top dischargers of persistent toxic metals to the Elkhorn River in Nebraska (1990-1994).

Facility	City	Persistent toxic metals released to water (lbs)

Top dischargers of reproductive toxins** to the Elkhorn River in Nebraska (1990-1994).

Facility	City	Reproductive toxins** released to water (lbs)





The Shonka Ditch in Nebraska

Total toxic pollution reported (1990-1994): 236,342 Pounds

Table 1. Polluters discharging the greatest amounts of toxic chemicals to the Shonka Ditch in Nebraska (1990-1994).

Facility	City	Toxic chemical release to water (pounds)
Excel Corp.	Schuyler	236,342

Table 2. Toxic chemicals discharged in the greatest amounts to the Shonka Ditch in Nebraska (1990-1994).

Chemical	Toxic chemical release to waterbody (pounds)
Ammonia	236,342

[‡] The sum of carcinogens, persistent toxic metals, and reproductive toxins listed in Table 3 may be larger than the total because a chemical may be in one or more categories. Chemicals were counted only once for the total in Table 3.

* This polluter did not report any discharges to water in 1994. See Table 9 for year to year pollution figures.

** Carcinogens and reproductive toxins defined by the State of California Proposition 65, EPA's TRI Public Data Release and other literature. See full report for references.

Table 3. Total carcinogens**, persistent toxic metals, and reproductive toxins** discharged to the Shonka Ditch in Nebraska (1990-1994).

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Table 4. Polluters reporting the greatest amounts of
carcinogens**, persistent toxic metals, and reproductive
toxins** discharged to the Shonka Ditch in Nebraska
(1990-1994).

Top dischargers of carcinogens** to the Shonka Ditch in Nebraska (1990-1994).

Facility	City	Carcinogens** released to water (lbs)

Top dischargers of persistent toxic metals to the Shonka Ditch in Nebraska (1990-1994).

Facility	City	Persistent toxic metals released to water (lbs)

Top dischargers of reproductive toxins** to the Shonka Ditch in Nebraska (1990-1994).





The Missouri River in Nebraska Total toxic pollution reported (1990-1994): 114,865 Pounds

Table 1. Polluters discharging the greatest amounts of toxic chemicals to the Missouri River in Nebraska (1990-1994).

Facility	City	Toxic chemical release to water (pounds)
Arcadian Fertilizer L.P.	Laplatte	58,510
Asarco Inc.	Omaha	56,340

Table 2. Toxic chemicals discharged in the greatest amounts to the Missouri River in Nebraska (1990-1994).

Chemical	Toxic chemical release to waterbody (pounds)
Ammonia	53,405
Lead compounds	24,360
Antimony compounds	12,770
Zinc compounds	12,020
Arsenic compounds	6,550
Ammonium nitrate (solution)	2,950
Methanol	2,160
Silver compounds	350
Copper compounds	290

‡ The sum of carcinogens, persistent toxic metals, and reproductive toxins listed in Table 3 may be larger than the total because a chemical may be in one or more categories. Chemicals were counted only once for the total in Table 3.

* This polluter did not report any discharges to water in 1994. See Table 9 for year to year pollution figures.

** Carcinogens and reproductive toxins defined by the State of California Proposition 65, EPA's TRI Public Data Release and other literature. See full report for references.

Table 3. Total carcinogens**, persistent toxic metals, and reproductive toxins** discharged to the Missouri River in Nebraska (1990-1994).

56,340 Pounds
0 Pounds
56,340 Pounds
30,910 Pounds

Table 4. Polluters reporting the greatest amounts of
carcinogens**, persistent toxic metals, and reproductive
toxins** discharged to the Missouri River in Nebraska
(1990-1994).

Top dischargers of carcinogens** to the Missouri River in Nebraska (1990-1994).

Facility	City	Carcinogens** released to water (lbs)
Asarco Inc.	Omaha	30,910

Top dischargers of persistent toxic metals to the Missouri River in Nebraska (1990-1994).

Facility	City	Persistent toxic metals released to water (lbs)
Asarco Inc.	Omaha	56,340

Top dischargers of reproductive	toxins**	to	the	Missouri	River	in
Nebraska (1990-1994).						

Facility	City	Reproductive toxins** released to water (lbs)

Source: Environmental Working Group. Compiled from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Toxics Release Inventory 1990-1994.

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The Platte River in Nebraska Total toxic pollution reported (1990-1994): 106,602 Pounds

Table 1. Polluters discharging the greatest amounts of toxic chemicals to the Platte River in Nebraska (1990-1994).

Facility	City	Toxic chemical release to water (pounds)
Western Sugar Co.	Bayard	65,150
Western Sugar Co.	Scottsbluff	35,928
Valmont Ind. Inc.	Valley	3,754
Monroe Auto Equipment Co.	Cozad	1,515
IBP Inc.*	Lexington	255

Table 2. Toxic chemicals discharged in the greatest amounts to the Platte River in Nebraska (1990-1994).

Chemical	Toxic chemical release to waterbody (pounds)
Ammonia	101,333
Zinc compounds	1,430
Nickel	1,250
Manganese	1,010
Lead	794
Chromium compounds	250
Copper	250
Lead compounds	250

‡ The sum of carcinogens, persistent toxic metals, and reproductive toxins listed in Table 3 may be larger than the total because a chemical may be in one or more categories. Chemicals were counted only once for the total in Table 3.

* This polluter did not report any discharges to water in 1994. See Table 9 for year to year pollution figures.

** Carcinogens and reproductive toxins defined by the State of California Proposition 65, EPA's TRI Public Data Release and other literature. See full report for references.

Table 3. Total carcinogens**, persistent toxic metals, and reproductive toxins** discharged to the Platte River in Nebraska (1990-1994).

Total‡	5,264 Pounds
Reproductive Toxins	2,049 Pounds
Persistent Toxic Metals	5,259 Pounds
Carcinogens	2,314 Pounds

Table 4. Polluters reporting the greatest amounts of
carcinogens**, persistent toxic metals, and reproductive
toxins** discharged to the Platte River in Nebraska
(1990-1994).

Top dischargers of carcinogens** to the Platte River in Nebraska (1990-1994).

Facility	City	Carcinogens** released to water (lbs)
Valmont Ind. Inc.	Valley	1,814
Monroe Auto Equipment Co.	Cozad	500

Top dischargers of persistent toxic metals to the Platte River in Nebraska (1990-1994).

Facility	City	Persistent toxic metals released to water (lbs)
Valmont Ind. Inc.	Valley	3,754
Monroe Auto Equipment Co.	Cozad	1,505

Top dischargers of reproductive toxins** to the Platte River in Nebraska (1990-1994).

Facility	City	Reproductive toxins** released to water (lbs)
Valmont Ind. Inc.	Valley	1,794
Monroe Auto Equipment Co.	Cozad	255

Source: Environmental Working Group. Compiled from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Toxics Release Inventory 1990-1994.

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The Loup Power Canal in Nebraska Total toxic pollution reported (1990-1994): 50,565 Pounds

Table 1. Polluters discharging the greatest amounts of toxic
chemicals to the Loup Power Canal in Nebraska
(1990-1994).

Facility	City	Toxic chemical release to water (pounds)
Behlen Mfg. Co.	Columbus	50,565

Table 2. Toxic chemicals discharged in the greatest amounts to the Loup Power Canal in Nebraska (1990-1994).

Chemical	Toxic chemical release to waterbody (pounds)
Sulfuric acid	38,800
Nitric acid	10,500
Zinc compounds	1,000
Zinc (fume or dust)	250

‡ The sum of carcinogens, persistent toxic metals, and reproductive toxins listed in Table 3 may be larger than the total because a chemical may be in one or more categories. Chemicals were counted only once for the total in Table 3.

* This polluter did not report any discharges to water in 1994. See Table 9 for year to year pollution figures.

** Carcinogens and reproductive toxins defined by the State of California Proposition 65, EPA's TRI Public Data Release and other literature. See full report for references.

Table 3. Total carcinogens**, persistent toxic metals, and reproductive toxins** discharged to the Loup Power Canal in Nebraska (1990-1994).

Total‡	1,260	Pounds
Reproductive Toxins	10	Pounds
Persistent Toxic Metals	1,255	Pounds
Carcinogens	5	Pounds
Carcinogens	5	Pound

Table 4. Polluters reporting the greatest amounts of
carcinogens**, persistent toxic metals, and reproductive
toxins** discharged to the Loup Power Canal in Nebraska
(1990-1994).

Top dischargers of carcinogens** to the Loup Power Canal in Nebraska (1990-1994).

Facility	City	Carcinogens** released to water (lbs)

Top dischargers of persistent toxic metals to the Loup Power Canal in Nebraska (1990-1994).

Facility	City	Persistent toxic metals released to water (lbs)
Behlen Mfg. Co.	Columbus	1,255

Top dischargers of reproductive toxins** to the Loup Power Canal in Nebraska (1990-1994).

Facility	City	Reproductive toxins** released to water (lbs)





Salt Creek in Nebraska Total toxic pollution reported (1990-1994): 10,786 Pounds

Table 1. Polluters discharging the greatest amounts of toxic chemicals to Salt Creek in Nebraska (1990-1994).

Facility	City	Toxic chemical release to water (pounds)
Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.	Lincoln	10,786

Table 2. Toxic chemicals discharged in the greatest amounts to
Salt Creek in Nebraska (1990-1994).

Chemical	Toxic chemical release to waterbody (pounds)
Toluene	10,426
Zinc compounds	360

[‡] The sum of carcinogens, persistent toxic metals, and reproductive toxins listed in Table 3 may be larger than the total because a chemical may be in one or more categories. Chemicals were counted only once for the total in Table 3.

* This polluter did not report any discharges to water in 1994. See Table 9 for year to year pollution figures.

** Carcinogens and reproductive toxins defined by the State of California Proposition 65, EPA's TRI Public Data Release and other literature. See full report for references.

Table 3. Total carcinogens**, persistent toxic metals, and reproductive toxins** discharged to Salt Creek in Nebraska (1990-1994).

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Table 4. Polluters reporting the greatest amounts of
carcinogens**, persistent toxic metals, and reproductive
toxins** discharged to Salt Creek in Nebraska
(1990-1994).

Top dischargers of carcinogens** to Salt Creek in Nebraska (1990-1994).

Facility	City	Carcinogens** released to water (lbs)

Top dischargers of persistent toxic metals to Salt Creek in Nebraska (1990-1994).

Facility	City	Persistent toxic metals released to water (lbs)
Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.	Lincoln	360

Top dischargers of reproduc	tive toxins**	to Salt	Creek i	n Nebraska
(1990-1994).				

Facility	City	Reproductive toxins** released to water (lbs)
Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.	Lincoln	10,426





Dawson County Drainage Ditch #4 in Nebraska

Total toxic pollution reported (1990-1994): 7,110 Pounds

Table 1. Polluters discharging the greatest amounts of toxic chemicals to Dawson County Drainage Ditch #4 in Nebraska (1990-1994).

Facility	City	Toxic chemical release to water (pounds)
Monroe Auto Equipment Co.	Cozad	7,110

Table 2. Toxic chemicals discharged in the greatest amounts to
Dawson County Drainage Ditch #4 in Nebraska
(1990-1994).

Chemical	Toxic chemical release to waterbody (pounds)
Chromium compounds	3,130
Lead compounds	1,400
Nickel	600
Zinc compounds	550
Manganese	505
Cobalt	505
Copper	325

‡ The sum of carcinogens, persistent toxic metals, and reproductive toxins listed in Table 3 may be larger than the total because a chemical may be in one or more categories. Chemicals were counted only once for the total in Table 3.

* This polluter did not report any discharges to water in 1994. See Table 9 for year to year pollution figures.

** Carcinogens and reproductive toxins defined by the State of California Proposition 65, EPA's TRI Public Data Release and other literature. See full report for references.

Table 3. Total carcinogens**, persistent toxic metals, and reproductive toxins** discharged to Dawson County Drainage Ditch #4 in Nebraska (1990-1994).

Total‡	7,050	Pounds
Reproductive Toxins	635	Pounds
Persistent Toxic Metals	7,015	Pounds
Carcinogens	2,000	Pounds

Table 4. Polluters reporting the greatest amounts of
carcinogens**, persistent toxic metals, and reproductive
toxins** discharged to Dawson County Drainage Ditch
#4 in Nebraska (1990-1994).

Top dischargers of carcinogens** to Dawson County Drainage Ditch #4 in Nebraska (1990-1994).

Facility	City	Carcinogens** released to water (lbs)
Monroe Auto Equipment Co.	Cozad	2,000

Top dischargers of persistent toxic metals to Dawson County Drainage Ditch #4 in Nebraska (1990-1994).

toxic metals released to water (lbs)
d 7,015
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Top dischargers of reproductive toxins** to Dawson County Drainage Ditch #4 in Nebraska (1990-1994).

Facility	City	Reproductive toxins** released to water (lbs)
Monroe Auto Equipment Co.	Cozad	635





Spring Branch Creek in Nebraska Total toxic pollution reported (1990-1994): 4,861 Pounds

Table 1. Polluters discharging the greatest amounts of toxic chemicals to Spring Branch Creek in Nebraska (1990-1994).

Facility	City	Toxic chemical release to water (pounds)
Nucor Steel	Norfolk	4,861

Table 2. Toxic chemicals discharged in the greatest amounts to Spring Branch Creek in Nebraska (1990-1994).

Chemical	Toxic chemical release to waterbody (pounds)
Zinc compounds	1,557
Chromium compounds	750
Copper compounds	750
Manganese compounds	750
Ethylene glycol	500
Lead	250
Zinc (fume or dust)	250

‡ The sum of carcinogens, persistent toxic metals, and reproductive toxins listed in Table 3 may be larger than the total because a chemical may be in one or more categories. Chemicals were counted only once for the total in Table 3.

* This polluter did not report any discharges to water in 1994. See Table 9 for year to year pollution figures.

** Carcinogens and reproductive toxins defined by the State of California Proposition 65, EPA's TRI Public Data Release and other literature. See full report for references.

Table 3. Total carcinogens**, persistent toxic metals, and reproductive toxins** discharged to Spring Branch Creek in Nebraska (1990-1994).

4 26 1	Pounds
250	Pounds
4,361	Pounds
304	Pounds
	4,361 250

Table 4. Polluters reporting the greatest amounts of
carcinogens**, persistent toxic metals, and reproductive
toxins** discharged to Spring Branch Creek in Nebraska
(1990-1994).

Top dischargers of carcinogens** to Spring Branch Creek in Nebraska (1990-1994).

Facility	City	Carcinogens** released to water (lbs)
Nucor Steel	Norfolk	304

Top dischargers of persistent toxic metals to Spring Branch Creek in Nebraska (1990-1994).

Facility	City	Persistent toxic metals released to water (lbs)
Nucor Steel	Norfolk	4,361

Top dischargers of reproductive	toxins**	to	Spring	Branch	Creek in
Nebraska (1990-1994).					

Facility	City	Reproductive toxins** released to water (lbs)
Nucor Steel	Norfolk	250





Hell Creek in Nebraska Total toxic pollution reported (1990-1994): 1,303 Pounds

Table 1. Polluters discharging the greatest amounts of toxic chemicals to Hell Creek in Nebraska (1990-1994).

Facility	City	Toxic chemical release to water (pounds)
AT&T	Omaha	1,303

Table 2. Toxic chemicals discharged in the greatest amounts to Hell Creek in Nebraska (1990-1994).

Chemical	Toxic chemical release to waterbody (pounds)
Copper compounds	730
Chromium compounds	343
Lead compounds	230
t The sum of coroing core persistent toxic metals, and so	

‡ The sum of carcinogens, persistent toxic metals, and reproductive toxins listed in Table 3 may be larger than the total because a chemical may be in one or more categories. Chemicals were counted only once for the total in Table 3.

* This polluter did not report any discharges to water in 1994. See Table 9 for year to year pollution figures.

** Carcinogens and reproductive toxins defined by the State of California Proposition 65, EPA's TRI Public Data Release and other literature. See full report for references.

Table 3. Total carcinogens**, persistent toxic metals, and reproductive toxins** discharged to Hell Creek in Nebraska (1990-1994).

1 202	Pounds
0	Pounds
1,303	Pounds
230	Pounds
	1,303 0

Table 4. Polluters reporting the greatest amounts of
carcinogens**, persistent toxic metals, and reproductive
toxins** discharged to Hell Creek in Nebraska
(1990-1994).

Top dischargers of carcinogens** to Hell Creek in Nebraska (1990-1994).

Facility	City	Carcinogens** released to water (lbs)
AT&T	Omaha	230

Top dischargers of persistent toxic metals to Hell Creek in Nebraska (1990-1994).

Facility	City	Persistent toxic metals released to water (lbs)
AT&T	Omaha	1,303

Top dischargers of reproductive	e toxins**	to Hell	Creek	in Nebraska
(1990-1994).				

Facility	City	Reproductive toxins** released to water (lbs)

Source: Environmental Working Group. Compiled from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Toxics Release Inventory 1990-1994.

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