LIBERATE OUR COMMUNITY ₹ TOXIC WASTE



This call to action comes to you from Clean Air's American Axle Team. . Residents and our loved ones in Buffalo's Delavan-Grider community deserve health and justice! Our community has dealt with health impacts such as cancers & autoimmune disease and the fear of drinking our own water and planting food in our backyards for decades. We need YOU to join us in our ongoing work to bring health, justice and action at this toxic waste site in our **backyards.** Join our life saving work for our children, neighbors, friends and family today!

HISTORY OF AMERICAN AXLE

1922

The GM plant opens (1922)

2008-17

With the new ownership cleanup stopped. The DEC began negotiations with EDP, American Axle, and General Motors to attempt restarting cleanup

1979

PCB's (a group of harmful chemicals) were banned by the Federal Govt. for causing harm to human health and the environment

2009

GM files for bankrupcy

1991

In 1991, GM reported a spill to the DEC that led to the discovery of PCBs in oil beneath one of its manufacturing buildings

2012

NYS negotiated a settlement of 2.8M for clean-up and absolved GM of liability. The estimate for site clean-up was 10M

1994

1994, GM found PCB's leaked into a brick sewer line that feeds into the Scajaguada Creek during heavy rain GM sells plant to American Axle.

2015

Clean Air joined with residents to organize in neighborhood

Axle Steering committee had numerous meetings with NYSDEC Staff and site owner Jon Williams. East Delavan properties hired former DEC Division Director Desnoyers.

2006

GM agreed to remediate the property through a legal order with the state through a consent order but never did.

2018

NYSDEC commits

to begin clean up

on Superfund

portion of the site.

Jon Williams & East **Delavan Properties** purchases the contaminated site

2008

2019

New York State begins the enforced clean up of the Superfund portion (acres out of a 40 acre site) through a pump ar treat system. Residents continue to organize for remediation of the rest the property.

2020-TODAY

In 2020 the American Axle Steering Committee organized for and were denied a Community Advisory Group on Cleanup of the site by the DEC. in April 2021, we won a CAG to fight for transparency and a community centered approach to cleanup

Where are we now?

The former American Axle site continues to be a threat for the health and wellbeing of our community.

In 2021, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and Erie County announced the formation of a Community Advisory Group on Cleanup at the American Axle site. The CAG is set to begin meeting in June of this year.

We need all members of the community to come together to share their questions, concerns, hopes and invaluable knowledge of the site and surrounding community. Our community deserves health and justice and we need you to join us in our fight!

What are PCBs?

Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) are a group of manmade chemicals. They are oily liquids or solids, clear to yellow in color, with no smell or taste.

PCBs do not readily break down once in the environment.

PCBs are known carcinogens and can cause other health issues such as autoimmune diseases. These toxic chemicals were leaking into the sewer that flows under community members' homes. Approximately 110 thousand gallons of PCBs are located underneath this site.

The cost of American Axle's legacy and Jon Williams and the NYDEC's lack of action to make our communities whole is immense. **No** number can truly capture the toll that this site has had on our community, our families and our health.

- The average cost of medical bills for a person living with cancers related to PCB exposure is \$7,150 per year.
- The average cost of funeral and burial expenses for a person living in Buffalo, NY is \$6,805
- Many people living in the community choose not to drink tap water out of fear of contamination from the American Axle plant. For an individual, the average cost of bottled water for drinking alone is \$1,460.

The cost of inaction The people in charge

The majority of the former American Axle site is in the NYS Brownfield cleanup program. **This means** that NY tax payers are funding the cleanup. Only 5 acres out of the 38 acre site of the site are being paid for by the primary polluter for cleanup

- Jon Williams owns the former American Axle site and is responsible for cleanup of a large portion of the site through the NYS Brownfield program. His company, OSC, operates on the site.
- The NYS Department of Environmental **Conservation** has the power and authority to compel polluters to clean up their messes, monitor and investigate current and future toxic cleanup sites and authority to determine the future use. They have downplayed the hazards coming from the site for years. The Commissioner is Basil Seggos

Call Clean Air Coalition at 716-852-3813 and leave a message for Emily, or email Emily@cacwny.org. Find us on Facebook at CleanAirWNY