

CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS

# MPCA action regarding Northern Metals Air Quality Permit

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# Brief summary of recent actions

June 2009:

Northern Metals begins operations at 2800 Pacific St N under 1998 air quality permit

December 2009:

Stack testing indicates emissions out of compliance

August 2010:

Northern Metals pays \$15,000 in civil penalties to MPCA and submits revised permit application

November 2011:

MPCA releases EAW for revised air quality permit

December 2011:

City submits comments

February 2012:

MPCA revises EAW

October 2012:

City submits comments requesting MPCA deny revised permit

October 2012:

MPCA approves EAW and issues revised permit

# Brief summary continued

January 2013:

MPCA begins operations of monitoring site on Lowry Ave

October 2014:

Air toxics and TSP (total suspended particles) monitoring added to Lowry Ave site

Exceedances of TSP standard observed within first month of operation

TSP standards are exceeded at Lowry Ave site multiple times in 2014, 2015 and 2016

June 2015:

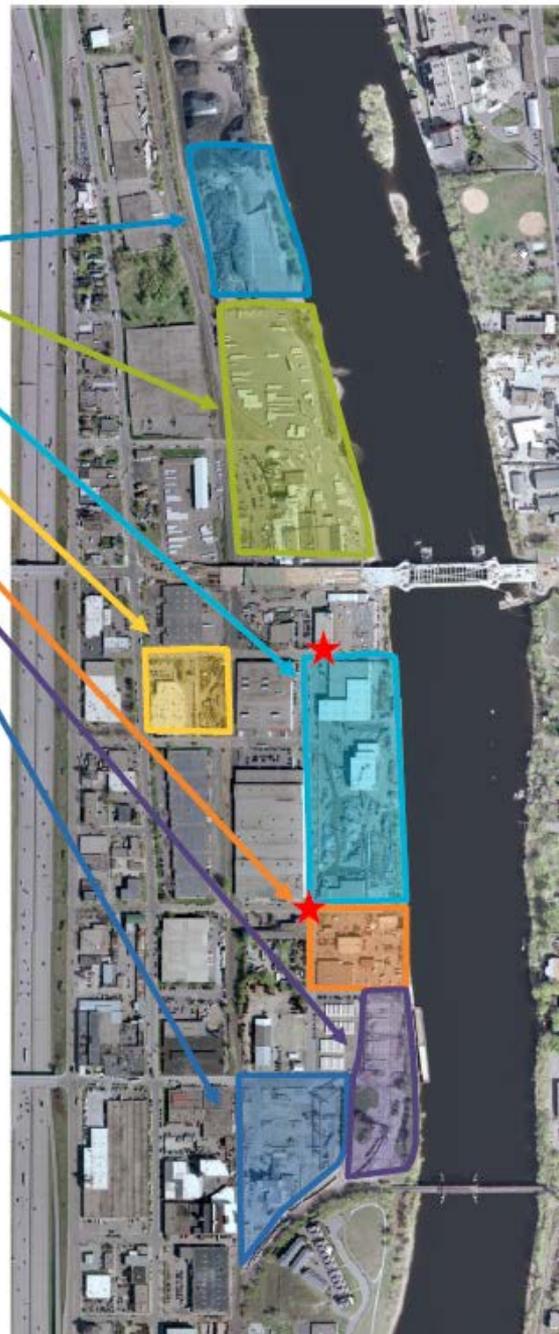
MPCA begins operations of monitoring site on Pacific St

Exceedances of TSP standard within first two months of operation

TSP standards are exceeded at Pacific St. site multiple times in 2015 and 2016

# Industrial Corridor North Minneapolis

- CPED property  
City of Minneapolis
- GAF
- Northern Metals
- Alliance Steel
- Solid Waste & Recycling  
City of Minneapolis
- Aggregate Cement
- Cemstone
- MPCA monitoring locations



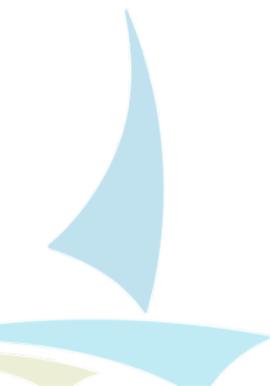
# Brief summary continued

March 2016:

MPCA releases analysis that shows heavy metals are at levels of concern  
Chromium, Cobalt, and Nickel were measured above health-based standards.  
Lead was measured at highest levels in Minnesota

May 2016:

MPCA gives notice of intent to revoke air quality permit without reissuance



## MPCA states Northern Metals:

- Causes or contributes to exceedances of air quality standard
- Failed to disclose or calculate emissions for all operations and equipment
- Made substantial changes in 2014 but did not obtain an amendment to its permit
- Failed to provide complete information about emissions

# Environmental Health Data

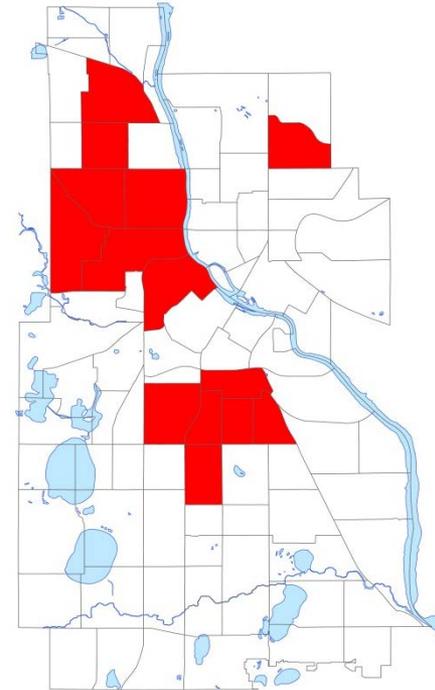
Elevated blood lead levels in Hawthorne are the highest in the city at 519 per 10,000 children

Childhood lead poisoning is a preventable health problem, but once a child has ingested the neurotoxin, the damage is profound and has been linked to:

- Nervous system and kidney problems
- Lower academic achievement
- Delinquency
- Hyperactivity
- Aggression
- Language and behavioral problems
- Decreased muscle and bone growth
- Hearing damage

Inhibition of impulsive behavior links lead exposure to criminal activity and unintended pregnancies

High lead levels in children can cause seizures, unconsciousness, and death



Red areas are neighborhoods with EBL rates above 200 per 10,000 children in 2013

EBLL rates are likely higher than reported because these calculations depend on getting the correct test in a timely manner, which occurs inconsistently

Blood lead testing is targeted and not random, therefore this measure is not generalizable and cannot be used to interpret the prevalence for the overall population of children

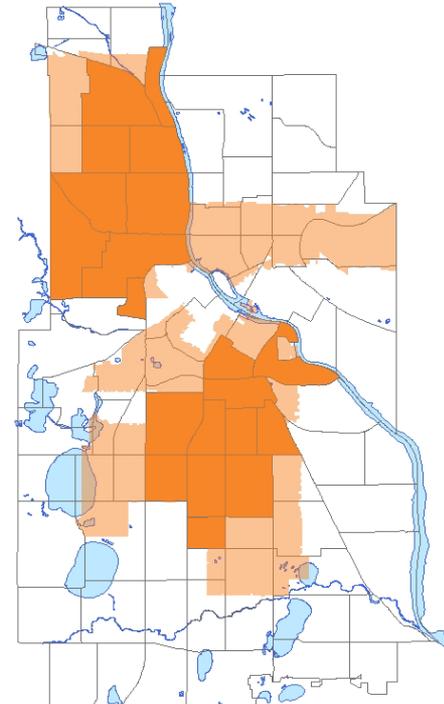
# Environmental Health Data

The highest rate of asthma hospitalizations in Minnesota occurs in 55411 (which includes Hawthorne) at 37 per 10,000 residents\*

Asthma is a disease of inflammation and irritation

Irritants can damage anyone's respiratory tissue; inflammatory triggers are related to immune responses

Because people who are sensitive to inflammatory triggers have a more sensitive system because of this inflammation, they are likely to be more sensitive to irritant triggers as well



Light orange shading indicates Minneapolis neighborhoods with highest age-adjusted rates of Asthma-related hospitalizations

Dark orange shading indicates Minneapolis neighborhoods with the highest age-adjusted rates of Asthma-related hospitalizations and areas of concentrated poverty and racial inequality

Because asthma is not a reportable disease, these numbers only represent rates by which people were hospitalized for asthma and cannot be used to interpret asthma prevalence for the overall population

*2009 -2013 Minnesota Hospital Association data accessed through MDH Public Health Data Portal*

# Thank you

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