



A Putrid Potion

– Pollution in Minnesota's waterways –

1. Half of Southern Minnesota's lakes and streams are too polluted for fishing and swimming.¹
2. Polluters discharged 16.9 million pounds of toxic chemicals into the Upper Mississippi River Watershed in 2012.²
3. Flint Hills Resources Pine Bend (a wholly-owned subsidiary of Koch Industries) alone dumped 651,931 pounds of toxic pollutants into a tributary of the Upper Mississippi River in 2014.³
4. 1,604 of Minnesota's waterways suffer from toxic mercury build-up in fish⁴
5. Even the most remote lakes in Minnesota are infused with synthetic chemicals such as antibiotics, cosmetic products, and insect repellants.⁵
6. Sediment is filling in Lake Pepin at 10 times its natural rate, a consequence of widespread loss of wetlands, intensified agricultural activity, farmland ditch-building, and increased urban development.⁶

¹ Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. *Swimmable, Fishable, Fixable?* Rep. MPCA, 2 June 2015. Web.

² Inglis, Jeff, Tony Dutzik, and John Rumpler. *Wasting Our Waterways: Toxic Industrial Pollution and Restoring the Promise of the Clean Water Act*. Publication. N.p.: Environment America, 2014. Print. 7.

³ United States Environmental Protection Agency. (2015). TRI Explorer (2014 Dataset (released September 2015)) [Internet database]. Retrieved from <http://www.epa.gov/triexplorer>.

⁴ *Proposed 2014 Impaired Waters List*. Rep. N.p.: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, 2014. Print.

⁵ Russell, Trevor, and Lark Weller. "State of the River Report: Water Quality and River Health in the Metro Mississippi River". Saint Paul: Friends of the Mississippi River & National Park Service – Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, 2013. Print. 42-43.

⁶ *Ibid.* 6

7. E. Coli and/or fecal coliform contaminate 533 of Minnesota's waterways.⁷
8. Asian carp have already entered Minnesota.⁸
9. At the Hastings Dam south of Minneapolis, Mississippi River nitrate concentrations increased 46% from 1976 to 2005 and have remained high ever since.⁹
10. 73% of the nitrogen pollution in Minnesota waterways comes from cropland, a pollution source exempt from federal Clean Water Act protections.¹⁰
11. Minnesota ranks 7th in the nation in number of animals being raised on factory farms.¹¹
12. Polluted water from Minnesota's first proposed copper-nickel mine will last hundreds of years.¹²
13. Now 51% of Minnesota streams once again lack clear protection under the Clean Water Act after a federal court imposed a nationwide stay on the EPA's Clean Water Rule earlier in October.¹³

⁷ Ibid., 14

⁸ "Invasive Carp: Leaping Silver Carp Found Dead in Winona - Farthest Upstream Fish yet" TwinCities.com. N.p., n.d. Web. 8 Oct. 2015.

⁹ Russell, Trevor, and Lark Weller. "State of the River Report: Water Quality and River Health in the Metro Mississippi River". Saint Paul: Friends of the Mississippi River & National Park Service – Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, 2013. Print. 30.

¹⁰ Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, University of Minnesota, and United States Geological Survey. *Nitrogen in Minnesota Surface Waters*. Rep. N.p.: MPCA, 2013. Print.

¹¹ "Factory Farm Map -" Factory Farm Map. N.p., n.d. Web. 9 Oct. 2015.

¹² "Sulfide Mining." *Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness*. N.p., n.d. Web. 28 Oct. 2015.

¹³ Cama, Timothy. "Court Blocks Obama's Water Rule Nationwide." *The Hill* 9 Oct. 2015: n. pag. Print.