

## **3M Haz Waste Incinerator -- Some Thought-Provoking Facts Not Covered in the Media**

by Alan Muller, Incinerator Consultant, March 16, 2010.

The permit for this facility is readily available online:  
<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/air/permits/issued/16300025-001-aqpermit.pdf> .

It's been expired since February 14, 2010.

A very quick look at it indicates that the incinerator is allowed to emit at least--probably considerably more but the permit is very inadequate--1,036,600 pounds per year of health-damaging air pollutants. (These numbers don't include, for instance, the Lead, Arsenic, Mercury, Cadmium, Chromium, Dioxins, hydrochloric acid, ammonia, and so on emitted by this burner.)

The actual emissions are, or were, claimed to be around 177,000 pounds per year. Yes, that is roughly one-sixth of the permit limit.

But according to the 2007 emissions inventory data online, the emissions for that year were 229,204.9 pounds, and this is more like one-fifth. 2007 lead emissions 60 pounds. 2002 nickel emissions 321 pounds. 2002 ammonia emissions 512 pounds. 1999 lead emissions 639 pounds. And so on. These numbers should be regarded as rough estimates, but they are concerning.

Simplisticly: About 31 thousand people live in Cottage Grove. So the allowed incinerator emissions are about 35 pounds per year per resident. The actual emissions, if you believe the numbers, are about 7.6 pounds per resident.

The community is right to be concerned about this incinerator. The Pioneer Press should not just regurgitate 3M's point of view.

Alan Muller  
Energy & Environmental Consulting  
Red Wing, MN  
Port Penn, DE  
302.299.6783  
[alan@greendel.org](mailto:alan@greendel.org)