

## Williamsburg/Greenpoint Environmental Burdens

**22 Toxic Release Inventories** (EPA Registered in Greenpoint/Williamsburg) and **211 Right to Know Facilities** (DEP Registered in Greenpoint/Williamsburg)—these 2 types of facilities are registered because they use, store, or emit enough chemicals annually to require them to register with the City, State, or Federal Government.

RADIAC is a low level **nuclear waste** storage facility and **hazardous chemical waste** storage facility, both of which are housed in adjoining buildings and pose a great danger to the community in the event of a fire.

Newtown Creek Sewage Treatment Plant treats one third of New York City's sewage, is the largest plant on the East Coast, and releases **25,000 tons of VOCs** (volatile organic compounds) annually.

The Mobile Oil Spill—**17 million gallons of oil** are in Greenpoint's aquifers.

**23 local Transfer Stations and their related truck traffic** are in Community Board One (Williamsburg/Greenpoint)—these Transfer Stations handle one third of New York City's garbage.

Half of New York City's **dewatered sewage grit** is handled and then transferred from a local transfer station through Williamsburg to the South Bronx. Associated bacteria may be dangerous.

The Greenpoint Marine Transfer Station and the planned Marine Transfer Station at Scotts Avenue will handle much of Brooklyn's **commercial waste**.

There are **3 BK Sanitation (DOS) Garages** (2 Brooklyn Districts and 1 Queens).

Community Board One (Williamsburg/Greenpoint) has **high cancer rates** (DOH Study 1991 and 1993 shows CB1 has 3 times the national cancer average, and is highest in 2 kinds of childhood leukemia in 2 census tracts in NYC).

The district has high **lead poisoning** rates from 2 lead paint spills during the Williamsburg Bridge lead paint removal and from the Brooklyn Navy Yard ships' sandblasting, which has resulted in high of lead poisoning rates of children in the nearby Hispanic community.

The district has **high asthma rates**—the third highest in New York City—South Williamsburg and Bushwick have the most New York City deaths from asthma caused by power plant emissions (American Lung Association).

There are Hazardous Waste Remediation Sites of **PCBs in the Brooklyn Navy Yard** (DEC).

Ship sandblasting (**lead and epoxy resins**) has occurred in the Brooklyn Navy Yard for decades.

The **Redhook Sewage Treatment Plant** is in the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

There are Combined Sewer Outfalls along the East River which **overflow sewage directly into the river** during rain overflows. This also occurs in Newtown Creek, even in dry weather.

The Brooklyn Navy Yard's Lehigh Cement Plant blows **silica** into the surrounding community, and according to the Department of Health, is the worst source of asthma in Community Board One

(Williamsburg/Greenpoint).

18 buildings contaminated with **lead and asbestos** (the old Schaeffer Brewery at 440 Kent Ave) were demolished with little containment. New apartment buildings will be built on this State Superfund site (coal tar contamination) beginning in 2002.

There are **State Superfund Sites** along the East River in South Williamsburg (People's Gas Works).

The EPA is presently cleaning up a **Superfund Site** on English Kills (BCF OIL).

The reconstruction of Newtown Creek Sewage Treatment Plant is disturbing **2 oil spills**.

The removal of the NAPTHA Tanks on the Keyspan Property (lead painted) spilled **lead dust** over East Williamsburg in the summer of 2001, uncontained.

DOS will demolish the Greenpoint Incinerator, which tested for **heavy dioxin contamination**, in 2002 without meeting with the community about safeguards for workers and community residents.

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