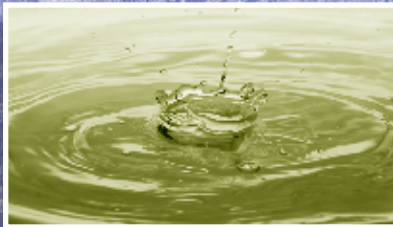





CITIZENS FOR SAFE WATER AROUND BADGER



CSWAB

THE FIRST 20 YEARS



THE HISTORY OF CSWAB IS AN INSPIRATIONAL STORY OF HOW ORDINARY PEOPLE CAN CREATE EXTRAORDINARY GOOD. OUR CHALLENGE – TO ASSURE THAT THE PENTAGON FULFILLS ITS COMMITMENT TO THE COMPLETE CLEANUP OF TOXINS THAT HAVE PLACED ECOLOGICAL AND HUMAN HEALTH AT RISK – HAS BEEN NO SMALL TASK. ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP OF THE 7,400-ACRE BADGER ARMY AMMUNITION PLANT WILL BE THE LARGEST SUCH PROJECT IN THE HISTORY OF THE STATE OF WISCONSIN; EXPECTED REMEDIATION COSTS HAVE BEEN ESTIMATED TO BE AS HIGH AS \$250 MILLION.

1990

CITIZENS FOR SAFE WATER AROUND BADGER (CSWAB) FIRST BEGAN AS A SMALL GROUP OF RURAL NEIGHBORS WORRIED ABOUT THE GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION LEAVING THE

Badger Army Ammunition Plant. Located at the base of the Baraboo Hills and adjacent to Devils Lake State Park, the closing Army base lies primarily on the terrain of the former Sauk Prairie – sixteen remnants of natural communities including prairie, oak savanna, dry forest, southern hardwood swamp and sandy meadow have been identified. Today, fewer than 5,000 acres of prairie remain in the entire State of Wisconsin, less than 0.2% of the 2.1 million acres early European settlers found here.

Badger was built in 1942 to produce single- and double-based propellant for cannon, rocket and small arms ammunition. Extensive contamination of the environment was caused by open burning of hazardous wastes and disposal and spills of solvents, acids, oils, and production chemicals.

Off-site contamination was publicly confirmed in May 1990 when high concentrations of carcinogenic solvents were detected in the drinking water wells of three nearby homes. Army officials estimated that these families had been exposed to contaminated water for at least 15 years. Contaminants from a munitions burning site at Badger had migrated to groundwater and moved beyond the plant boundary, reaching the Wisconsin River three miles away. The plume of contamina-

tion was within a quarter mile of Prairie du Sac's municipal well. This was the catalyst for the formation of CSWAB.

On July 20, CSWAB organized community members for a meeting at Badger with Army officials and environmental regulators. Their first success came a month later when Army officials agreed to regularly test 17 private wells near the northeast corner of the plant.

In response to community concerns about these exposures, the Wisconsin Division of Health conducted a health survey which found that communities near the Badger plant had a significantly higher incidence of cancer deaths; the incidence of female non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and male ureter/kidney cancer deaths were found to be 50% higher than the balance of the State.



IN THE FOLLOWING MONTHS, MEMBERS SPENT HOURS POURING THROUGH VOLUMES OF ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS DATING BACK TO 1977. THEIR RESEARCH REVEALED THAT THE ARMY HAD WITHHELD YEARS OF TEST RESULTS

1991

for the well water of a neighboring farm family. CSWAB discovered that every test result showing groundwater contamination above health standards had been erased from reports sent to this family. The Army admitted negligence and CSWAB campaigned for new reporting procedures.

Following months of work by its members, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) officials acknowledged the validity of CSWAB's concerns about the quality of environmental testing by the Army and made a commitment to assure that drinking water was properly sampled, tested and reported. The U.S. Environmental Protection

Agency (EPA) agreed to new policies to help protect the integrity of laboratory data. With pressure from CSWAB and the community, federal regulators required the Army to provide local residents with an unedited copy of the test results, rather than a summary.

Some initiatives were not as successful. When CSWAB learned that some Badger contaminants were not included in private well testing, the group urged the EPA to require private well testing for the carcinogenic explosive DNT but the agency refused.

CSWAB took steps to strengthen their grassroots group by incorporating, appointing officers, adopting by-laws and making plans for fundraising. Soon afterward CSWAB received its first grant of \$1,500 from Wisconsin Community Fund. Then-State Senator Russ Feingold commended the group for its efforts in a letter saying “Your invaluable work benefits not only your neighbors but the state as a whole...as we continue our struggles to protect our increasingly threatened natural resources.”

The newly formed group would now face another challenge. In October 1991, the U.S. Army applied for a permit to increase open burning of munitions and other hazardous waste from 1,500 pounds per year to 2,500 pounds per day. If approved, the permit would allow Badger to import and open burn hazardous wastes from military sites across the country. With no emissions controls, the proposed open burning would cause the uncontrolled release of lead and other toxins into the air and surrounding environment. CSWAB prepared to oppose the proposal and filed a formal petition for a public hearing.

1992 WITH THE THREAT OF OPEN BURNING, CONTINUED MAJOR CHEMICAL SPILLS AND ANNUAL MAINTENANCE COSTS IN EXCESS OF \$17 MILLION, CSWAB DECIDED TO PUSH FOR BADGER'S

permanent closure. The minutes from the group's January 22 public meeting said “The decision was based on reports of continuing contamination of the plant, the potential health risks to the many homes and families surrounding the plant, and the amount of money being spent on the contract to keep the plant in a standby status.” Months later, in June 1992, local newspapers reported that a poisonous cloud of nitric oxide gas was released into the air from an acid spill at Badger.

This same year, Badger was selected as one of five sites in the nation for possible construction of a Superconductive Magnetic Energy Storage (SMES) engineering test model – a \$425 million project that would produce a magnetic field effect extending 3,300 feet into the air. CSWAB members testified at public meetings held by the Defense Nuclear Agency, the Department of Energy, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Public concerns included uncertainty about human health effects associated with the magnetic field, potential biological effects on bird navigation and threatened or endangered species (eagles), potential cultural effects on American Indians and historical or archaeological resources, and potential effects on aircraft navigation and electronics instrumentation. CSWAB joined other activist and peace organizations in actively opposing the construction of a SMES facility.

On July 15, State Senator Russ Feingold wrote to Army officials pushing for an alternative to open burning waste propellants. The letter also denounced incineration as an acceptable alternative because it would still release toxic emissions into

the environment and would increase the likelihood of additional waste being shipped to Badger from other military installations. Feingold was the only state or federal legislator who publicly supported CSWAB's campaign to stop open burning and incineration at Badger.

The continued detection of low levels of chloroform in private drinking water wells on property that was once part of Badger prompted the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to begin an investigation in 1991. The WDNR reviewed the study and described the first round of groundwater and soil testing as “suspect and sloppy”, necessitating a second round of testing in 1992. These results failed to meet quality assurance standards, and a third round was conducted but still failed to provide reliable data. No scientifically sound data was ever produced and questions remain unanswered.

A new billboard on U.S. Highway 12 promoted CSWAB's mission to “Restore the Prairie not the Ammo Plant.”

CSWAB partnered with the Shopper Stopper and published five full front-page articles on contaminated sites at Badger, open burning of hazardous waste, SMES, the history and goals of CSWAB, and a call for base closure and restoration of the native prairie landscape.

In November, CSWAB hosted its first annual statewide Environment and Peace conference in Madison.



1993

O LIN CORPORATION, THE PRIMARY CONTRACTOR AT BADGER, HAD BEEN TESTING DRINKING WATER AND GROUNDWATER AT THE PLANT AFTER THE PREVIOUS CONTRACTOR, METATRACE, PLED GUILTY TO FORGING WATER TESTING RESULTS IN 1990.

CSWAB examined state files and discovered that the WDNR suspected Olin Corporation had bungled water testing as far back as November of 1991. An audit chemist with the WDNR said “analyses performed before February 1992, are indefensible.”

Soon after, Olin Corporation proposed and sought federal funding to dewater and incinerate 1,000,000 pounds of nitrocellulose fines – a propellant by-product that was stockpiled under water in tanks at Badger.

CSWAB continued to work with other communities that were facing many of the same challenges. The group was invited by the Military Toxics Project to participate in a national grassroots conference in San Francisco. CSWAB received national recognition at the Citizens Clearinghouse for Hazardous Waste Conference in Washington DC. In June, CSWAB was invited to testify at the Federal Facility Environmental Restoration Dialogue Committee briefings in Chicago, Illinois.

In late 1993, CSWAB petitioned the Department of Defense for the establishment of a citizen advisory board. Of the nation’s nearly 1,855 contaminated military sites, Badger was one of the five pilot sites. The intent of the Restoration Advisory Board program was to assure that those people who were directly affected by cleanup activities – the stakeholders – had a greater role in the cleanup decision-making process. Stakeholders were to include nearby residents, environmental and public interest groups, workers, and Native American and indigenous peoples.

CSWAB celebrated success when the Army abandoned its plans for open burning of hazardous waste at Badger. On November 30, the U.S. Army said that it would “discontinue open burning and drop the application process.” This hard-won decision stopped decades of burning that would have resulted in the uncontrolled release of lead and other toxins into the environment.

“CSWAB has been on the forefront of the struggle to decontaminate our communities from the legacy of military toxics and engage in a collective effort for clean, healthy communities globally.”
— Jill Johnston,
Program Coordinator,
Southwest Workers Union

I N MARCH, ARMY OFFICIALS ANNOUNCED THAT NEGOTIATIONS WERE UNDERWAY WITH OLIN CORPORATION TO ALLOW THE COMPANY TO SUBLEASE PORTIONS OF THE PLANT TO PRIVATE MANUFACTURERS TO PRODUCE BABY BOTTLES, FERTILIZERS,

1994

and other industry. The federally funded initiative was intended to offset the annual \$20 million cost of maintaining the idle facility.

With support from federal legislators, CSWAB pressed the EPA to comply with federal Superfund

law and evaluate and rank Badger, a step that was necessary to make the site a national cleanup priority. The EPA was required to evaluate sites within 18 months of being placed on the Federal Hazardous Waste Compliance Docket. Badger was placed on the docket in February of 1988.

In addition to its local work, the organization continued to work collaboratively with other communities, veterans, peace, environmental, and grassroots organizations. CSWAB's board president was elected to the Military Toxics Project national board. This eight member board represented over 100 activist organizations from 32 states seeking to remedy and prevent pollution caused by the U.S. military.

"The military is the nation's number one polluter. The folks at CSWAB have taken on a formidable foe and shown how communities can play an important role in protecting human health and the environment from military waste problems."

— Al Gedicks,
Executive Secretary,
Wisconsin Resources
Protection Council

At the September meeting of the Badger Restoration Advisory Board (RAB), the WDNR announced that soil incineration was no longer an option at Badger in light of the resistance from CSWAB and other board members.

In October, CSWAB held one of a series of public meetings to discuss influencing the reuse and development of Badger, obtaining a safe secure water supply, and the protection and restoration of indigenous wildlife and plant life.

As a member organization of the national Military Toxics Project, CSWAB joined a federal suit against the EPA and helped lead a national campaign to improve the management of munitions wastes. The Department of Defense argued that training activities such as the open burning and detonation of propellant bags – a practice that releases toxic contamination into the environment – should be exempt from hazardous waste regulation.

CSWAB joined national efforts challenging the use of depleted uranium weapons. Upon impact with a tank or other hard object, depleted uranium munitions burn and produce uranium oxide dust which is chemically toxic and radioactive. The armor-piercing incendiary ammunition was used extensively in Gulf War I and was made by Olin Corporation, the same company serving as the operating contractor at Badger.

1995

BEGINNING IN EARLY 1995, CSWAB HOSTED A SERIES OF PUBLIC MEETINGS TO ADDRESS PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES IN THE COMMUNITY. MADISON PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY JOINED CSWAB IN INVITING THE

Wisconsin Division of Health and the residents near Badger to help design and conduct a new survey of the community.

CSWAB invited the Army to help form a reuse and development committee, allowing the various interests in the community to work closely with Badger in land use decisions.

In April, CSWAB joined the Sauk Prairie Peace Council in hosting speakers from the Sokaogon Chippewa Community Mole Lake Band and the Wolf River Educational Project in response to Exxon's proposed metallic sulfide mine. Tribal members described the devastating impacts that the mine and toxic wastewater would have on the land and the waters, and their traditional way of life.



Soon after, the Army announced a plan to discharge treated sanitary and industrial wastewater from Badger and surrounding communities directly into the Wisconsin River utilizing a 30-inch diameter pipeline that was installed as part of a groundwater cleanup project. CSWAB filed a formal objection with the State based on concerns that sanitary and industrial discharges could have a substantial negative effect on the Lake Wisconsin waters and habitat. CSWAB was successful and only the discharge of effluent from the plant's groundwater treatment facility was permitted.

CSWAB also discovered that Badger's Wisconsin Pollution Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permit had expired in 1985. The permit regulated discharge from Badger to groundwater and the

Wisconsin River drainage basin. Badger operated without a valid permit for nearly 10 years.

In October, CSWAB released a report identifying Badger as the 22nd most expensive cleanup in the entire nation. Measured by the number and the area of contaminated sites, the U.S. military is by far the nation's largest polluter.

CSWAB hosted its third annual Wisconsin Environment and Peace Forum. Over 60 people from all over Wisconsin attended the forum; the keynote speaker for the day-long event was Representative Spencer Black.

1996

CSWAB CONTINUED TO MONITOR SMES. WHILE PUBLICLY TOUTED AS A DOMESTIC ENERGY STORAGE FACILITY, DEFENSE DEPARTMENT CONTRACTORS PROPOSED A \$5.4 MILLION STUDY TO PROMOTE DUAL-USE OF THE SYSTEM FOR PULSED POWER WEAPON APPLICATIONS. THE WISCONSIN DIVISION OF HEALTH AGREED TO CSWAB'S

petition to expand the scope of a previous health study conducted in 1990 to include lung and breast cancers.

CSWAB and other members of the Military Toxics Project released a report titled, "Radioactive Battlefields of the 1990's: The U.S. Army's Use of Depleted Uranium and Its Consequences for Human Health and the Environment". CSWAB testified before the Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses on the environmental and human health risks associated with this indiscriminate weapon.

In September, the Army held a public meeting to announce its Strategic Plan for reindustrialization of Badger under the Armament Retooling and Support Act initiative. Olin Corporation revealed that it was initiating an aggressive marketing scheme to bring pulp and paper industry, varnish, paint and lacquer manufacturers, perfume, ethanol, and nitrogenous fertilizer plants to Badger.

The targeted industries were identified in a planning process which excluded town, village and county boards, local planning and zoning authorities, and other community stakeholders. During the entire nine-month planning process - costing \$275,000 taxpayer dollars - there were no public meetings.

Badger officials said that the Army's vision for the future of the plant entailed three distinct uses for the land. The Army proposed 1,500 acres for an industrial park, 4,000 acres for agriculture, and 1,200

acres for prairie restoration. The restored prairie areas, Army officials said, would serve an important role as buffer zones for industry. As part of this effort, the Army organized the Sauk Prairie Restoration Council - a team of advisors including university faculty, scientists with the UW Arboretum in Madison, and technical personnel from federal and state agencies.

CSWAB hosted community meetings in September and October, bringing together over 75 concerned area residents. By the end of the year, the townships of Merrimac, Sumpter, and Spring Green passed resolutions opposing the proposed reindustrialization of Badger. Resolutions introduced by CSWAB were on the agenda for over a dozen local boards.

The group was invited to lead a workshop at the Third Annual Global Green USA National Forum on Military Toxic Contamination & Base Conversion in San Francisco. The forum, titled "Moving Toward Sustainable Base Conversion," featured a keynote address by Mikhail Gorbachev.

At the suggestion of the Wisconsin Division of Health, CSWAB began working with Madison Physicians for Social Responsibility to provide health histories for former and current workers of Badger. The new program was the result of a forum bringing together labor, community, and health

"The strength and continued success of CSWAB are found in its commitment to empower stakeholders and tribal members in decisions that affect their community, their quality of life, and their environmental health."

— Crystel Anders,
Executive Director,
Community Shares
of Wisconsin

professionals to discuss occupational exposures at Badger. In September, CSWAB mailed a health survey to over 200 Sauk County residences in response to concerns about cancer rates in the area and to address shortcomings in the previous health study by the Wisconsin Division of Health.

CSWAB's campaign to stop industrial development at Badger prompted a letter from the WDNR affirming community concerns that the Army's proposal could have far-reaching adverse affects on the Baraboo Bluffs and Devils Lake State Park.

In response to a request from CSWAB, the EPA issued a letter on December 3rd to the U.S. Army

recommending an environmental study to assess the potential impacts of proposed reindustrialization on the rare and unique resources surrounding the plant including the biological resources of the nearby Baraboo Hills.

In August, CSWAB mourned the passing of Deborah Stratton. She had been an important part of CSWAB since its beginning in 1990 and served on the board of directors and as the organization's treasurer. Deb's greatest gift to us was her marvelous, witty sense of humor. When things got a bit too serious, she always had a zinger to pick us up.



IN 1997, THE ORGANIZATION SAW CONTINUED GROWTH – MORE THAN 1,500 COMMUNITY MEMBERS SIGNED PETITIONS OR PARTICIPATED IN PUBLIC MEETINGS SUPPORTING THE SUSTAINABLE REUSE OF BADGER. CSWAB HOSTED 11 PUBLIC

“CSWAB has the longevity and the tenacity to have been and to remain a critical force in protecting the public and the general environment from the harmful effects of the government’s polluting practices.”

– Craig Williams,
Director,
Chemical Weapons
Working Group

meetings, issued 23 press releases, and testified at 18 public hearings. Newsletter readership increased from 1,200 to 1,800.

In response to the proposed reindustrialization of Badger, CSWAB hosted a series of public meetings. Speakers included representatives of the National Park Service, the Nature Conservancy's Baraboo Hills Project, the Office of the Governor, and representatives from the offices of Congressman Scott Klug and U.S. Senators Russ Feingold and Herb Kohl.

Volunteers compiled community health survey results. Their report was submitted to the Wisconsin Division of Health for consideration in a health assessment and epidemiological study of communities near Badger. Funds were raised to support the printing and distribution of

information about potential occupational exposures to 500 current and former plant employees.

CSWAB, together with Congressional leaders, submitted a request for a Government Accountability Office assessment of the human health and environmental impacts of reduced funding for Department of Defense cleanups.

In August, CSWAB hosted a public meeting with Community Conservation Consultants to discuss community based conservation. CSWAB worked with the group to organize community members and a vision for the future use of Badger was put to paper. The proposal promoted an economy built on the conservation, educational, and eco-tourism opportunities on the Badger lands. CSWAB organized a committee of community members who collectively authored “Community Comments on the Strategic Plan for Reindustrialization of the Badger Plant.”

In the following months CSWAB, together with members of the John Muir Chapter of the Society for Conservation Biologists, organized a statewide coalition of community members and conservation professionals to expand the base of support for sustainable reuse of Badger. Major media coverage of CSWAB's work, including the front page of the Wisconsin State Journal and a lead story in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, elevated awareness of both the potential for a sustainable future for Badger and the risks associated with reindustrialization.

In an ongoing effort to translate local work into national policy change, CSWAB accepted an invitation to participate in the National Policy Dialogue on Military Munitions. The first meeting was held in Washington, DC on August 26 and 27. The 31 member group was composed of representatives of the Department of Defense, the Military Services, the EPA, the U.S. Department of Interior, representatives of state governments, and 13 members who represented environment, environmental justice, and Native American communities.

On November 6, 1997 the U.S. Army announced that Badger was no longer needed for military pur-

poses. The Army began preparing preliminary reports for submission to the Department of Defense, taking the Badger plant one step closer to actual closure. Of the 14 inactive ammunition plants across the country, Badger continued to be the most expensive to maintain, costing in excess of \$5 million in 1996 alone. By comparison, the majority of the Army's ammunition plants cost less than \$1 million per year for operations and maintenance costs.

Two federal agencies, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of the Interior on behalf of the Ho-Chunk Nation, expressed interest in gaining ownership of the Badger property. The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA), the federal agency responsible for the final disposition of the Badger lands, indicated their intent to market significant portions of the remaining lands for industrial operations.

"CSWAB plays a key role as a member group in the Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice, as we work collaboratively to fulfill our mission – working towards a sustainable world, free from violence and injustice."

—Judy Miner,
Executive Director,
Wisconsin Network for
Peace and Justice

IN 1998, MORE THAN 2,000 COMMUNITY MEMBERS SIGNED PETITIONS, PARTICIPATED IN COMMUNITY MEETINGS, AND TESTIFIED AT PUBLIC HEARINGS SUPPORTING THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION OF BADGER.

1998

Beginning in January, CSWAB organized a series of community meetings to promote the sustainable reuse of Badger. Discussions included the successful conversion of Illinois' Joliet Arsenal to a nationally-recognized tallgrass prairie, sustainable agriculture, the history of Wisconsin's prairies and savannas, grassland birds of Wisconsin, and the human and natural history of Badger. The meetings were co-hosted by a number of area conservation organizations.

In a March 2 letter, the Ho-Chunk Nation formally requested that the Department of Interior and the Bureau of Indian Affairs formally intervene in the federal land transfer process in order to protect any interest and right the Ho-Chunk Nation may have to assert a claim of aboriginal title.

An advisory Task Force was assembled by Congressman Scott Klug in March of 1998. Invited participants included local government, the U.S. Army, U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center, the Nature Conservancy, and CSWAB. Despite pressure from CSWAB and others, the Congressman would not offer the Ho-Chunk Nation a seat on the Task Force.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) supporting ecological restoration of a 1,200-acre parcel designated in the Army's Strategic Plan for reindustrialization of Badger was signed on May 4, 1998. Signers included the U.S. Department of Defense, WDNR, U.S. Department of Interior, U.S. Department of Agriculture, the University of Wisconsin and seven major conservation organizations. Army officials applauded the MOU saying it fit the military's vision for reindustrialization of Badger. CSWAB actively opposed language in the MOU limiting potential restoration to 1,200 acres but the effort failed for lack of support from the conservation community.

In May, CSWAB sponsored a new billboard on Highway 12 directly across from Badger Army Ammunition Plant encouraging passers-by to call the Governor with their support for prairie restoration at Badger.

On May 15, representatives of the Ho-Chunk Nation accepted CSWAB's invitation to speak at a community meeting about their interest in the land now occupied by Badger.

Wisconsin Community Fund selected Laura Olah, Executive Director and co-founder of CSWAB, as the year's Outstanding Activist. Olah was recognized for her leadership in working to empower her community and her contributions to social and environmental justice.

CSWAB began organizing national support for the Ho-Chunk Nation's sustainable land use proposal to protect the cultural and natural resources located on the property and the restoration of the human and the natural ecological environment. More than 130 individuals and organizations co-signed CSWAB's letter of support which was sent to the U.S. Department of Interior, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Wisconsin's U.S. Senators.

Intolerant legislators, however, took a public stance and deliberate steps to block the Nation's interest in acquiring these lands for the benefit of the tribe. On September 10, 1998, then-Congressman Scott Klug proposed federal legislation that would have given ownership of all of the Badger property (save for a 554-acre industrial core) to the

State of Wisconsin with land use at the Governor's sole discretion. The new legislation, which would set a dangerous national precedent by undermining the legal rights of tribes applying for ownership of surplus federal property, quickly became so controversial that Klug was unable to find a willing sponsor for committee consideration. Klug's legislation was introduced 7 months subsequent to the Nation's claim which was initially filed prior on March 2, 1998.

CSWAB hosted public meetings to discuss strategies to strengthen the role of the community in developing future use, environmental cleanup, and land use planning at Badger. CSWAB invited Principal Chief Jimmie D. Oyler of the United Tribe of Shawnee Indians as an honored guest speaker at a community meeting in October. Chief Oyler discussed his tribe's interest in the closing Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant located near De Soto, Kansas. The following month, representatives of the U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center discussed accomplishments and future research initiatives at its farm.

1999

CSWAB'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS,
WHICH INCLUDED FARMERS,
EDUCATORS, HEALTHCARE
PROFESSIONALS, RETIRED COMMUNITY

members, and naturalists, formally welcomed a member of the Ho-Chunk Nation to the board.

As part of its campaign to promote sustainable reuse, CSWAB continued to organize monthly community meetings. Invited speakers included the U.S. General Services Administration, the Aldo Leopold Society for Conservation Biology, wildlife biologist Mike Mossman, and conservation biologist Charlie Luthin.

In April, the community was invited to a public reception at the Sauk City Library celebrating CSWAB's 9th anniversary. This special event featured artist Victor Bakhtin and a public showing of Sauk Prairie Remembered: A Vision for the Future, an inspirational painting commissioned by Virginia Metcalf and Mary Yeakel.



The following month, CSWAB's motion to allow the Ho-Chunk Nation to become a voting member of the Badger Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) was blocked by a majority vote. This prompted CSWAB to suspend its membership from the board. The Ho-Chunk Nation and CSWAB issued a joint press release, garnering national media coverage and a Pentagon-level response reprimanding the board and threatening the dissolution of the advisory board altogether. On August 2, the RAB approved adding the Ho-Chunk Nation as a standing member and CSWAB resumed its participation on the board.

In May, CSWAB called for testing of private wells at Gruber's Grove Bay when studies revealed that surface water from the bay moved through

contaminated sediments and was recharging the aquifer – a drinking water resource for nearby residents.

Despite Klug's failed 1998 legislation, interest in state ownership persisted. Momentum within a coalition of conservationists, academia, and local officials was building and in May a "Draft Plan for Disposition of BAAP" was circulated resolving that ownership of the entire Badger property be transferred to the state with management delegated to local, federal, and tribal government. Four days later, the CSWAB Board of Directors held an emergency meeting and by unanimous vote decided to issue a letter formally objecting to the draft. The document was never publicly released and CSWAB moved forward.

The Sauk County Board of Supervisors asked the U.S. General Services Administration to delay any final decisions about Badger's future for one year and the agency agreed. The County appointed a 21-person reuse committee which included delegates of state, local, federal, and tribal government, and representatives of historic, cultural, conservation, and environmental interests, including CSWAB.

In August, the Army released 5 pages and withheld the remaining 117 pages of Badger's Environmental Baseline Survey (EBS), first published in August 1998. The document identified thousands of known and potential contaminant sources at Badger based on historical records retained by the Army and its contractors. The military claimed the missing pages were not releasable despite CSWAB's year-long battle to gain public access to this information.

CSWAB MADE PRESENTATIONS TO 20 TOWNSHIP, VILLAGE, CITY, AND COUNTY BOARDS PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE LAND USE. CSWAB

2000

distributed more than 5,000 Action Alerts and postcards urging federal legislators to support sustainable agriculture, wildlife habitat, and ecological restoration at Badger. More than 4,000 signatures on the Petition for Prairie were gathered. Thirteen press releases were issued, bringing both local and statewide media attention to the potential for sustainable reuse of Badger.

At the same time, the Army announced that it was considering a lease with Continental Nitrogen & Resources Corporation (CNRC) to use Badger as a chemical transfer site. Initial operations would involve hauling, storage, and transport of prilled (granular) ammonium nitrate used in the manufacture of explosives. The proposal further requested a 25-year lease and involved the reopening of three old acid plants and the construction of an ammonium nitrate plant.

CSWAB submitted resolutions opposing the Army's plan to 30 local government boards including the Town of Merrimac, Town of Sumpter, Town of Prairie du Sac, Village of Prairie du Sac, Sauk County, Village of Merrimac, Town of Honey Creek, and Town of Spring Green.

With support from the Sauk County Land Conservation Department and several other local organizations, CSWAB hosted the first Sauk County Earth Day on April 30, 2000 at the Rock Springs Community Center. More than 1,500 residents

joined in this event celebrating the beautiful area in which we live.

CSWAB successfully campaigned for new land use zoning as a strategy to achieve the highest level of environmental cleanup. Local government – including the townships of Sumpter, Merrimac, Westfield, and Greenfield, the City of Baraboo, Village of Prairie du Sac, and Sauk County – all passed resolutions supporting exclusive agricultural and conservation zoning at Badger.

The group challenged pending leases which threatened the local reuse planning process and undermined the community's goals for sustainable agriculture, conservation, and environmental cleanup. More than a dozen organizations from across the State co-signed CSWAB's letter calling for a moratorium on non-agricultural leases at Badger.

The campaign resulted in a Congressional hold on all reindustrialization activities and proposals at Badger despite an aggressive marketing scheme by Olin Corporation to turn Badger into a monstrous industrial complex including varnish, paint and lacquer manufacturers, ethanol and cosmetics industries, and nitrogenous fertilizer plants.

"As former Executive Director of the Military Toxics Project, I came to respect and appreciate CSWAB for work that was not only important to their own local issues, but to the advancement of preventative solutions to military toxics issues all over the country."

– Cathy Lemar,
former Executive Director,
Military Toxics Project

2001

CSWAB FORMALLY CHALLENGED AN ARMY PROPOSAL TO BURY 87,000 CUBIC YARDS OF MERCURY-CONTAMINATED SEDIMENT FROM GRUBER'S GROVE BAY IN AN UNLINED, UNREGULATED LANDFILL AT BADGER AND THE SPRAY-IRRIGATION OF CONTAMINATED WATER ON NEARBY AGRICULTURAL AND FOREST LANDS. THE

contamination was caused by the historical discharge of sanitary and industrial wastewater from Badger directly to Gruber's Grove Bay on Lake Wisconsin, an impoundment of the Wisconsin River.

Despite public opposition, including more than 300 postcards and letters and standing-room-only attendance at the WDNR's public meeting, the WDNR granted the Army's requested exemption and approved construction of the landfill and spray irrigation of wastewater. While CSWAB was unable to stop the landfill, a number of conditions, including additional monitoring and reporting requirements, were added to the Army's permit in response to public comments.

In June, CSWAB joined communities across the U.S. in demanding that the military be subject to the same environmental, worker, and public safety laws that govern other industrial and commercial operations. A report to Congress, published by the Environmental Health Network and the Military Toxics Project, signaled the kickoff of a national Healthy Communities Campaign – a collaborative effort by hundreds of communities affected by military pollution.

The following month, CSWAB discovered that the Army, its contractors, the EPA, and the WDNR failed to disclose the discovery of high levels of groundwater contamination found months before. Levels of the carcinogenic explosive dinitrotoluene (DNT) were detected at 200 times the safe standard in groundwater and threatened nearby residential

“Apparently, not only does it take a village to raise a child but it also takes one to force the Pentagon to do the right thing about its toxic legacy. The Norman Foundation has supported CSWAB's efforts for many years because they are some of the most effective and relentless community activists we've ever come across. CSWAB's tenacious grassroots battle to ensure a thorough cleanup of one decommissioned military facility stands as a model for other impacted communities across this country and the globe.”

— June Makela,
Program Director,
Norman Foundation

wells. Within hours of the discovery, CSWAB issued a press release to local and national media. EPA officials said that the public was never notified because they forgot.

While the U.S. Army responded favorably to CSWAB's petition and offered to test nearby private drinking water wells for DNT, CSWAB learned that the original WDNR report was incomplete – six additional contaminants had been detected in boundary monitoring wells. This time the Army would not agree to the comprehensive testing requested by CSWAB and the local township board.

At a subsequent public meeting, CSWAB admonished the agencies and the military for not disclosing this important environmental health information and called for forthright and truthful communication with nearby farm families.

Only a few months later, history repeated itself. This time contamination was detected in offsite monitoring wells and again CSWAB was the only organization that informed the public. CSWAB immediately issued newsletters, press releases, and media alerts. Months later, Army contractors claimed that the original reports were laboratory errors.

Failure to disclose important information, however, was not limited to the Army and environmental regulators. Following months of research, CSWAB discovered that a military contractor had been

hired to identify excess military properties having high conservation value, including Badger. CSWAB learned that the WDNR, an alliance of conservation organizations, and the National Park Service had organized a series of teleconference calls and local meetings. While state and federal agencies (including the Wisconsin Department of Administration and the U.S. General Services Administration) were

briefed, the six-month dialogue excluded local government, the Ho-Chunk Nation, and community-based organizations including CSWAB. As a result, final recommendations were submitted to the Department of Defense, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and National Park Service with no input from community and tribal members.



“CSWAB’s leading role of protecting the community and the land is more important than ever as the BAAP lands become used more and more for recreation by the community.”

—Dr. Robert H. Horwich,
Executive Director,
Community Conservation

2002

CSWAB CONTINUED TO SEND FREE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTERS TO PLANT WORKERS, COMMUNITY AND TRIBAL MEMBERS, CIVIC LEADERS, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ORGANIZATIONS, FAMILIES, AND ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT. THE NEWSLETTER PROVIDED PEOPLE WITH IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND

human health risks of military toxins, revealed the military’s non-compliance with federal law, celebrated grassroots victories, and offered opportunities for action. Other ongoing activities included media campaigns, special mailings, and community meetings.

In January, CSWAB released a report describing persistent violations of discharge limits for Badger’s sanitary wastewater facility. Between April 5, 2000 and August 30, 2001, the Army violated permit limitations for nitrogen discharge to groundwater 133 times.

CSWAB’s search through public WDNR files uncovered a 4-year plan of action to convince the public to accept a less-than-complete cleanup at a major hazardous waste disposal site at Badger. The

closed-door meetings included state and federal environmental regulators, the U.S. Army, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and consultants working for the Department of Defense. Army contractors acknowledged that the Army would be getting a break by not being required to implement the approved cleanup at the Deterrent Burning Grounds, WDNR records stated.

CSWAB distributed more than 7,000 Action Alerts and postcards asking federal legislators to secure adequate federal authority and resources to ensure that cleanup at Badger would protect natural systems, including air, water, soil, and biodiversity.

CSWAB gathered more than 270 new signatures on its Petition for Prairie.

For the first time in Wisconsin, groundwater testing for perchlorate – a toxic contaminant found in rockets, missiles, and military pyrotechnics – was conducted at a WDNR-regulated site. The Department's precedent-setting decision to conduct testing at Badger was the direct result of CSWAB's May 2002 investigative report and postcard campaign.

CSWAB organized a coalition of 31 environmental, health, peace, conservation, and social justice organizations in opposition to a proposal by the U.S. Army to open burn hundreds of explosives-contaminated buildings at Badger. Open burning would place human health and the environment at risk by causing the uncontrolled release of particulates, dioxins, lead, and other toxic emissions to the air, soil, and surrounding surface water.

CSWAB received a Wisconsin Clean Water Achievement Award from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

2003 **I**N ADDITION TO ITS LOCAL WORK, CSWAB CONTINUED ITS EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE NATIONAL POLICY CHANGE. THE GROUP JOINED A NATIONAL NETWORK OF COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY

military pollution in opposing the Pentagon's demand for sweeping new exemptions from public health and environmental laws. Seventy neighborhood, tribal, and conservation organizations signed an open letter to Congress delivered on the eve of an important Senate hearing on military exemptions proposed in the 2004 Defense Authorization bill.

later, state regulators asked the Army to begin testing for the rocket fuel ingredient in drinking water it supplied to plant workers and nearby municipalities.

CSWAB successfully introduced a resolution calling for safeguards to ensure that future cleanup efforts at Badger meet intended goals. Members of the Badger Restoration Advisory Board unanimously agreed that the WDNR should include numerical cleanup goals in all current and future cleanup plans and approvals and that the WDNR should conduct independent follow-up testing to ensure that these goals are fully achieved.

In response to research provided by CSWAB, the WDNR added new requirements for testing for PCB's and dioxins at Badger's contaminated waste processor – a facility that thermally treats explosives-contaminated nonflammable wastes.

In response to community concerns, U.S. Senator Russ Feingold formally requested that the U.S. Army consider alternatives to open burning at Badger and encouraged the military to research and develop environmentally-friendly alternatives.

CSWAB succeeded in engaging the EPA in evaluating the potential health risks associated with dioxin emissions from open burning and the Army's compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act. On October 28, EPA staff from Chicago met with the WDNR, U.S. Army, and CSWAB.

In April, CSWAB investigated and published a report revealing that contracts awarded to Olin Corporation – an international chemical and weapons production corporation – had not been competitive, resulting in maintenance costs for Badger that were among the highest in the nation.

As part of its campaign to stop open burning of contaminated buildings, CSWAB gathered more than 425 signatures on its petition and sent action alerts to more than 1,300 homes near Badger. As a result of the mailing, which was written in both English and Spanish, hundreds of nearby residents signed up to receive written notification of upcoming burn events.

In June, CSWAB welcomed a new board member from the Latino community – a growing population in the rural communities near Badger.

Based on information provided by CSWAB, the Roanoke Times initiated an investigation into the potential for perchlorate contamination at Virginia's Radford Army Ammunition Plant. Three months

"In addition to the vital work of CSWAB in protecting the health of people affected by the Badger Ammunition Plant, the organization serves as a leader in the national environmental health and justice movement to hold the military accountable."

– Pamela Miller,
Director,
Alaska Community
Action on Toxics

2004



CSWAB WAS NOMINATED FOR RECOGNITION AS A “GREAT COMMUNITY FOR PEOPLE AND NATURE,” A PROGRAM OF THE BIODIVERSITY PROJECT. THE GREAT COMMUNITIES PROGRAM RECOGNIZES THAT EACH DAY, COMMUNITIES MAKE

decisions that have a direct bearing on biodiversity and local environmental quality. The nomination acknowledges the efforts of community members to create a place where biodiversity is valued and protected.

In the Spring, CSWAB organized a national coalition of 68 organizations from all over the country, including groups from Alaska, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Puerto Rico, California, and Wisconsin, formally opposing open burning of PCB-contaminated buildings at Badger - a proposal that would set a national precedent and open the door for similar exemptions at other military and civilian facilities.

CSWAB and the Ho-Chunk Nation Division of Natural Resources issued a joint letter formally requesting that the Wisconsin Division of Health evaluate potential human health risks associated with open burning of the contaminated buildings. Together with graduate students from the University of Wisconsin’s Molecular and Environmental Toxicology Center, CSWAB released a report examining the decrease in small mammal populations in contaminated grassland areas within Badger.

CSWAB asked the Wisconsin Division of Health to investigate a preliminary report that levels of mercury were elevated in the air near Gruber’ Grove Bay on

Lake Wisconsin. CSWAB formally requested that the WDNR include surface water in and near Badger on its list of Impaired Waters pursuant to the Clean Water Act - an important first step in getting these waterways cleaned up.

In July, the Town of Prairie du Sac board unanimously supported a resolution introduced by CSWAB stating that “the U.S. Army should provide a permanent solution to guarantee groundwater and private water wells are clean and free from any contamination from Badger.”

In response to changes in groundwater quality, CSWAB successfully introduced a resolution urging the Army to begin private well testing in an area extending east to Eagle Point and south to Weigand’s Bay. The resolution was passed by unanimous vote by the Town of Merrimac board. The August 2 resolution also asked that the Army provide free quarterly testing for explosives and other groundwater contaminants found at the closing military base.

In November, CSWAB researched and published fact sheets and other organizing materials supporting comprehensive testing for all six isomers of the explosive dinitrotoluene (DNT) in groundwater and drinking water. As a result, the WDNR required reporting of all isomers to the public and nearby residents.

“CSWAB is one of the most effective and tenacious grassroots citizen environmental organizations in the State of Wisconsin, protecting the water and property values of countless people in the area by holding accountable those who contaminated the water near Badger and the regulators charged by law to protect it.”

— Tom Dawson,
Former Wisconsin
Public Intervenor

CSWAB successfully introduced a resolution to the Badger RAB appealing a no further action decision by the WDNR which released the Army from any further obligation to investigate or remediate residual contamination at the former River Pump Station. Army testing found levels of lead and PCBs in soils that exceeded state and federal residential

health-based thresholds. The suspected source of the contamination was paint and dust chips that were deposited on nearby soils when old paint was sandblasted off buildings by the Army. Despite a formal appeal by CSWAB, the group was unable to overturn the decision.

2005

CSWAB CONTINUED ITS CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT AIR QUALITY, EMPHASIZING THE HEALTH RISKS TO CHILDREN, THE ELDERLY, AND OTHER SENSITIVE POPULATIONS. AS PART OF THIS



initiative, CSWAB organized a national coalition of more than 140 organizations determined to stop open burning of hundreds of unwanted buildings at Badger.

This dangerous practice causes the uncontrolled release of PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls), dioxins, lead, asbestos, and other toxins into the environment – polluting the land and exposing nearby residents to serious health risks.

More than 1,200 individuals and families responded to CSWAB's campaign and sent postcards to the U.S. EPA Administrator in Chicago opposing an exemption to federal air emissions laws and the open burning of contaminated buildings by the military.

CSWAB hired Dr. Peter deFur to review health risk assessments for open burning of contaminated buildings at Badger and other U.S. military bases. Dr. deFur's report and other important studies were translated into Spanish.

The group's campaign reached other communities at risk. CSWAB worked with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources to test buildings at Cornhusker Army Ammunition Plant for PCB contamination and urged the agency to require follow-up testing for PCBs, dioxins, and furans in areas where burning had already occurred.

When the Army announced that it would also seek an exemption to open burn PCB-contaminated buildings at the Ravenna Arsenal, CSWAB helped organize and activate local communities in Ohio. CSWAB contacted local media and statewide newspapers published a front page story on the Army's proposal. Prior to CSWAB's involvement, residents living near the arsenal were not aware of the military's plan.

Members of the CSWAB board participated in an international conference on military toxins. The meeting brought together community-based leaders from domestic and foreign U.S. military bases including Utah, Wisconsin, Texas, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Korea, Japan, and the Philippines. Following the conference, CSWAB participated in a national press conference on proposals to exempt the military from federal environmental laws. The following day, CSWAB was featured in a Washington Post article.

The carcinogenic explosive dinitrotoluene (DNT) continued to be found in a number of private wells near Badger. Following a series of neighborhood meetings, residents in the Windings and Gruber's Grove Bay area voted to be a part of CSWAB. Co-chairs for the project were elected and a representative was invited to participate on the CSWAB Board of Directors.

When testing revealed that some families had been exposed to unsafe levels of DNT and nitrates in their drinking water, the Wisconsin Division of

"In a complicated world of specialized science, big bureaucracies and changing agency representatives, CSWAB provides a critically-needed role of dedicated independent watchdog and accessible local advocacy that both current residents and future generations deserve."

—Mike Slavney,
Madison, WI

Health initiated a study to evaluate the human health risks posed by groundwater contamination that had moved outside Badger. When state officials would not allow public comment on the study, CSWAB successfully petitioned the U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry and a formal public comment period was held to provide affected residents with the opportunity to comment on the public health study. The final report found that these exposures were not likely to cause adverse health affects but recommended continued and regular testing to avoid any additional exposures.

Groundwater quality was also a concern in other areas near Badger. In response to increasing levels of the carcinogenic solvent trichloroethylene (TCE) in groundwater at the plant boundary, CSWAB successfully introduced a resolution to the RAB asking the Army to test private and community wells southwest of Badger. Soon after, the WDNR required the Army to conduct the requested testing.

In May, the Town of Merrimac passed a resolution introduced by CSWAB supporting full cleanup of toxic sediments at Gruber's Grove Bay. More than 50,000 cubic yards of mercury-contaminated sediments remained in the bay, threatening aquatic ecosystems and drinking water quality. When low levels of mercury were first reported in groundwater in the adjacent Water's Edge neighborhood, CSWAB successfully lobbied for comprehensive testing of nearby wells. The following month the Sauk County Board of Supervisors unanimously passed CSWAB's resolution supporting additional cleanup of the bay.

CSWAB learned that in addition to open burning, the Army was using thermal treatment (indirect heat) to decontaminate PCB-contaminated equipment and other non-flammable items – a practice that would cause PCBs to volatilize and be released into the environment. Unable to get the Army to voluntarily stop thermal treatment of these wastes, CSWAB contacted the WDNR and EPA and convinced regulators to mandate such a requirement.

Cooperative efforts with other groups continued to strengthen the organization's work. CSWAB organized a series of meetings with senior staff with the Governor's office, the Ho-Chunk Nation, and Sauk County to discuss environmental justice concerns related to Badger. CSWAB joined Midwest Environmental Advocates, the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, Concerned Citizens of Newport, and other partners in a forum on the issues of tribal sovereignty and clean water.

"We applaud CSWAB for holding the military and the federal government accountable to ameliorate the pollution caused to local water systems by military and industrial toxins – and for continually ensuring that the community engagement process respects the viewpoints of all cultures and stakeholders."

– Catherine Joseph,
RESIST Foundation

CSWAB TRAVELED TO WASHINGTON DC AND MET WITH OFFICIALS AT EPA HEADQUARTERS TO DISCUSS ALTERNATIVES TO OPEN BURNING AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF BETTER SOLUTIONS

2006

to military toxins in the environment. The group also met with congressional leaders to strengthen support for military compliance with environmental and public health law.

CSWAB participated in a series of national teleconference meetings with the EPA in response to the Pentagon's push for sweeping exemptions to federal hazardous waste law. International efforts included CSWAB's participation in the 5th Global Day of Action against Waste and Incineration, joining organizations from around the world including Kenya, Tanzania, India, the Philippines, France, Hungary, Italy, Brazil, Colombia, and the United States.

On August 22, more than 5 years after CSWAB first started its campaign, EPA Headquarters announced its landmark decision to prohibit the military from open burning regulated levels (above 50 parts per million) of PCBs. Our success garnered national media coverage including the publication Defense Environment Alert.

Soon after, the Ravenna Arsenal in Ohio formally withdrew a proposal to burn more than 100 contaminated structures in favor of non-thermal solutions. At the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant, plans to set controlled burns of buildings were abandoned in favor of chemical neutralization.

Together with local tribal and community leaders, CSWAB challenged proposed burning of contaminated buildings at Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant in Kansas. CSWAB sent press releases to local and statewide media, mailed dozens of informational packets to nearby residents, published and distributed fact sheets, and submitted formal comments opposing the burning of 100 remaining buildings. From 1995 to 2005, the Army at Sunflower burned approximately 1,490 explosives-contaminated buildings and structures during 142 events. State health officials reported that debris –

including asbestos from shingles – was carried up to three miles off-site and affected nearby residential areas.

CSWAB submitted a petition to the WDNR supporting the protection of air quality during dredging of mercury-contaminated sediments at Gruber's Grove Bay on Lake Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Division of Health subsequently agreed to conduct air monitoring and recommended that more sensitive air monitoring equipment be used for workers.

2007

WITH GROWING NATIONAL OPPOSITION TO OPEN BURNING OF BUILDINGS BY THE ARMY, OFFICIALS WITH EPA HEADQUARTERS IN WASHINGTON, DC AGREED TO ORGANIZE A WORK GROUP COMPOSED OF HEADQUARTER AND REGIONAL STAFF.

CSWAB alerted communities near the Savanna Army Depot in Illinois to a proposal to use hot air to desensitize explosive residue in old buildings – a plan that would cause a release into the environment and place human health and the environment at risk. CSWAB contacted state and local government and the media when open burning was proposed at the Kansas Army Ammunition Plant.

with local town officials to discuss concerns about proposed changes in handling asbestos at the Badger landfill and kicked off an effective campaign that garnered both local and national media coverage. On April 24, the WDNR withdrew the proposal to compact uncovered asbestos at Badger's demolition landfill – protecting the health of on-site workers and rural neighbors.

On April 2, CSWAB board and staff met with representatives of the U.S. Department of Agriculture at the Dairy Forage Research Center farm to discuss progress in bringing the facility into compliance with rules to safeguard surface water and groundwater. CSWAB hired Byron Shaw, Emeritus Professor of Water Resources, to critique and publish comments on USDA activities and management of natural resources at its 1,800-acre facility. After more than 17 months of pressure from CSWAB, the U.S. Department of Agriculture set a May 1 deadline for getting the farm into compliance with state and federal laws that protect water quality.

Following years of work and formal appeals by CSWAB, a national precedent was set when the Wisconsin Division of Health established Health Advisory Levels for drinking water for the four unregulated isomers of DNT – a highly toxic chemical mixture that is used in the manufacture of munitions. Wisconsin was the first state in the nation to

establish health-based guidelines for the pervasive military toxin that has contaminated groundwater and dozens of private wells near Badger.

CSWAB supported the Army in challenging a precedent-setting proposal by the WDNR to compact uncovered asbestos-containing wastes at Badger's active landfill. CSWAB members met

CSWAB completed a national survey of military and civilian sites where DNT is a contaminant of concern. Email lists of community and tribal representatives, as well as state and federal regulators, were organized for all 10 EPA regions. The initiative included a national media and public outreach campaign to raise

“For two decades CSWAB has not only been an effective guardian of the environment around the Badger Army Ammunition Plant, but it has been in the forefront of national issues such as the burning of buildings and the establishment of standards for explosive compounds.”

– Lenny Siegel, Director,
Center for Public
Environmental Oversight

awareness of the importance of testing for all six forms of DNT.

In response to a multi-year campaign by CSWAB, the Army announced a precedent-setting decision that 42 groundwater monitoring wells would be tested for high explosives (including RDX, HMX, and TNT) and degradation products of DNT. The EPA has determined that RDX and TNT are possible human carcinogens. Animal studies indicate that HMX may be harmful to the liver and central nervous system if it is swallowed or gets on the skin.

CSWAB and the Fort Ord Environmental Justice Network organized a national coalition opposing EPA's precedent-setting proposal to privatize the cleanup of a federal facility on Superfund's National Priorities List. The federal initiative excluded affected communities and breached environmental justice and public participation policies.

CSWAB joined the International Marine Mammal Project and Earth Island Institute in opposing a move by the U.S. Navy to exempt itself for two years from complying with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) during training exercises which involved the use of explosives, warships, and dangerous mid-frequency sonar.

The Military Environmental Responsibility Act – a law which would hold the Department of Defense to the same environmental and public health standards as all other agencies and private industry – was re-introduced by Congressman Bob Filner of California. Wisconsin Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin was among the co-sponsors.

“Sharing your families’ resources to support CSWAB is one way you know this investment will work for a cleaner, healthier future for your family and generations to come.”

—Dr. Ann Behrmann,
Madison, Wisconsin



INTERVENTION AND A SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN BY CSWAB AND CONCERNED RESIDENTS PROMPTED EPA REGION 9 TO PROHIBIT OPEN DETONATION OF ABANDONED CHEMICAL, RADIOLOGICAL, AND BIOLOGICAL MUNITIONS THAT MIGHT

be found on the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) in the western Pacific Ocean. The final hazardous waste permit still allowed the CNMI Department of Public Safety to collect and detonate millions of pounds of WWII munitions that threaten the environment and the safety of its residents. The grassroots victory was reported in several regional media outlets including the Pacific Magazine, the Marianas Variety, and the Saipan Tribune.

CSWAB organized a series of national conference calls on environmental health issues facing communities at risk from military and nuclear waste sites. CSWAB coordinated a national letter of support co-signed by 30 organizational and tribal

representatives for sustaining the community Restoration Advisory Board for the Lake Ontario Ordnance Works, a 7,500-acre site with explosives, chemical, and radiological contamination located in New York State.

CSWAB joined 30 public health, labor, environmental health, and justice organizations in supporting a request by the Alaska Community Action on Toxics (ACAT) for Congressional action to improve protection of worker health. The letter was prompted by concerns that the cleanup workers for the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill are suffering from long-term health problems resulting from chemical exposures.

CSWAB succeeded in securing limited term testing for nitrates in rural neighborhoods near Badger where DNT contamination was also found. Testing well water for both nitrates and DNT is critical as both contaminants may cause methemoglobinemia or blue baby syndrome – a potentially fatal condition that affects primarily infants and the unborn. The Army would not agree to ongoing testing for both contaminants.

The WDNR supported CSWAB's call for clean closure of wastewater lines by requiring the Army to document the potential for discharges of contaminants to surrounding soils. Army officials said that the investigation and remediation of over 60 miles of sanitary, stormwater, and industrial wastewater lines was the direct result of pressure from CSWAB.

As part of its campaign to protect water quality, CSWAB organized a diverse coalition of 35 organizations to help persuade the U.S. Department of

Agriculture and University of Wisconsin to invest anticipated federal funding (\$2.5 million) in managed pasturing, rather than perpetuate confined animal operations at the Dairy Forage Research Center farm. Participating groups represented family farming, healthy food initiatives, social and environmental justice, conservation, and community-supportive agriculture.

In October, U.S. Senator Russ Feingold asked for a federal investigation into potential exposures and health risks to tens of thousands of workers, their families, and other onsite personnel that may have resulted from past exposures to contaminated drinking water at Badger. Feingold took up the issue by forwarding a September 30 letter from CSWAB to the National Center for Environmental Health and the U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

In response to pressure from CSWAB and regulators, the U.S. Army at Badger agreed to temporarily discontinue thermal treatment of contaminated wastes in the decontamination oven – stopping the uncontrolled release of PCBs, dioxins, lead, and other toxins into the environment and surrounding rural neighborhoods.

"We are proud to tout the community organizing of CSWAB as one of the earliest successes of our statewide grant making program. CSWAB blew the whistle on an environmentally unjust situation and continues the fight till this day. Thank you for protecting the land and people of Wisconsin."

— Cindy Fesemyer,
Executive Director,
Wisconsin
Community Fund

2009



CSWAB ORGANIZED A NATIONAL COALITION OF 90 AFFECTED COMMUNITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH RISKS POSED BY MILITARY TOXINS AND TO PUSH AGAIN FOR FEDERAL LEGISLATION

that would require the Department of Defense and the Department of Energy to comply with laws designed to protect human health and the environment. As part of this campaign, CSWAB organized a joint letter to the White House.

CSWAB submitted public comments on a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the U.S. Military Services' Mariana Islands Range Complex. Portions of the study area include the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument. The draft EIS identified ongoing and proposed activities that will result in the release of hazardous materials from expended training materials and deposition of unexploded ordnance.

CSWAB was contacted by and provided organizing support for community members in Bishopton, Scotland who are concerned about open burning and health risks associated with the remediation of a former government propellant manufacturing facility.

Throughout the year, EPA and CSWAB met by teleconference to discuss progress in developing national policies to address thermal treatment of PCB wastes by the U.S. Department of Defense and National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Protection of water resources in and around Badger continued to be an important part of the organization's work. In response to a request from CSWAB

and the Town of Merrimac, the Army and WDNR hosted an open house on groundwater quality in the northeast area of the plant. In preparation for the public meeting, CSWAB mailed information packets to over 300 Merrimac residents.

CSWAB sent another formal appeal to the WDNR calling for improved testing of drinking water wells near Badger including targeted testing for all known degradation products of the explosive DNT. Carcinogenic compounds such as 2-, 3- and 4-nitrotoluene are still not included in private wells testing by the Army.

Despite CSWAB's successful petition for state Health Advisory Levels for all six isomers of DNT in groundwater, the WDNR only required the Army to test soils for two isomers of the carcinogenic explosive. Lacking support from state regulators, CSWAB submitted a formal letter to the U.S. Army urging the military to develop and implement a soil test method which would detect all forms of DNT. To date, both the military and regulators refuse to conduct the necessary testing.

In response to renewed pressure from the U.S. Army to weaken required soil cleanup goals at Badger, CSWAB hired an independent consultant to review a deer tissue study which the military said supported their position. The independent technical review determined that the oft-cited Army study was not able to confirm or deny whether it is safe to eat the deer from Badger. The Badger study has been cited in risk assessments for military facilities across the U.S. including Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant in Kansas, Weldon Spring Ordnance Works in Missouri, Fort McClellan in Alabama, and the Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland.

CSWAB continued to work for the regulation of military toxins such as perchlorate. CSWAB co-signed a letter to EPA's Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water urging the agency to establish a reference dose for perchlorate that protects the most vulnerable subpopulations, particularly pregnant women, infants, and small children. The action supported a maximum contaminant level no higher than one part per billion. Perchlorate has been found in over 400 drinking water sources in 26 states, potentially affecting tens of millions of people.

On June 5 - World Environment Day - CSWAB organized a national call-in day to support the Military Environmental Responsibility Act, a bill that would require the Department of Defense and all other defense-related agencies of the United States to fully comply with federal and state environmental laws, including laws relating to public health and worker safety.

The Progressive published Fighting Militarism's Toxic Legacy as a lead story in its June online magazine highlighting a national coalition of communities organized by CSWAB and working for environmental accountability from both the Department of Defense and Department of Energy.

Following 6 years of dedicated work by CSWAB, the EPA issued a July 7 letter to the U.S. Army asking for a detailed response to questions about the status of demolition of buildings, management and storage of PCB wastes, research on destruction or removal of paint, and operation of decontamination ovens. Activities at as many as 28 closing Army ammunition production facilities with more than 16,000 buildings and structures could be affected. The action was a critical first step in protecting communities and workers from exposure to PCBs and other toxins that are being handled and disposed of as part of base closure and realignment.

CSWAB began its challenge of the U.S. Army's announced decision to not prepare environmental documentation for what could prove to be the biggest cleanup ever undertaken at Badger. Altogether, more than 60 miles of sanitary, process, stormwater, and sewer lines would be inspected, excavated, and treated for explosives and other contaminants. A formal environmental assessment would disclose why the selected remedy was the best alternative based on potential ecological, cultural, economic and environmental considerations. It would also afford affected community and tribal members with an opportunity to review and comment on the selected remedy.

Collaboration with other groups helped strengthen the organization and its work. CSWAB joined 25 organizations from across Wisconsin in sending an open letter to the state's congressional delegation supporting the Clean Water Restoration Act and stronger federal safeguards to protect wetlands and small streams.

Members of CSWAB joined Freedom Inc. - a grassroots organization that advocates and provides services to low and no-income communities of



"I am involved with CSWAB in support of their super efforts to hold government agencies responsible for keeping our water, air, and lands safe and keeping those who have contaminated these resources from just walking away. True national and homeland security is only achieved when the health of the citizens and soldiers of this country is not placed at risk and our government and military leaders acknowledge the true extent of damage that has been done to the earth."

—J. Gilbert Sanchez,
Director,
Tribal Environmental Watch

color - in leading a workshop at the Future Cities 2009 conference in Madison. The workshop focused on how race, class, gender, and age impact the lives of less powerful communities.

CSWAB led a session on Military and the Environment at the 19th annual conference of the Society of Environmental Journalists held in Madison, Wisconsin. During the fall session, CSWAB instructed students at the UW-Madison Institute of Environmental Studies about environmental justice challenges faced by communities and workers who are at risk from exposure to military toxins. CSWAB worked with students from the University of Wisconsin in compiling research on agricultural fertilizer runoff and the environmental justice implications to the residents and waters of Wisconsin.

CSWAB helped secure federal funding to hire an independent technical consultant to work with the Badger RAB. Members of the community-led board include representatives of the Ho-Chunk Nation, U.S. Department of Agriculture, local town, village and county government, area residents, former workers, and CSWAB.

CSWAB mourned the passing of Vivian Hogie. Vivian was a long time volunteer for CSWAB, serving on its board of directors, writing letters to the editor, testifying at countless public meetings, and helping wherever she was needed. She always spoke her mind and emphasized the importance of protecting the environment for future generations.

2010

WITH SUPPORT FROM LOCAL TOWN OFFICIALS, CSWAB MADE PROGRESS IN ADDRESSING GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION THAT THREATENED DRINKING WATER WELLS IN THE RURAL TOWN OF MERRIMAC. A MILE-LONG GROUNDWATER CONTAMINANT PLUME HAD MOVED BEYOND THE PLANT BOUNDARY,

discharging into the wetlands and surface water of Lake Wisconsin at Weigand's Bay.

In response to a petition from CSWAB, the Town of Merrimac board unanimously passed a resolution calling on the U.S. Army to clean up explosives, solvents and other groundwater contaminants coming from an old hazardous waste dump inside the plant.

With pressure from CSWAB and the community, the Army promised an evaluation of the cleanup remedy at the source area and offsite groundwater monitoring wells were finally installed. CSWAB was later invited to work with the Town of Merrimac and a new committee to improve environmental safeguards for a new landfill at Badger for



demolition waste and contaminated soils generated from cleanup activities.

The following month, members of the Badger RAB adopted CSWAB's recommendations for deeper groundwater monitoring wells in certain areas, more frequent and thorough testing of private drinking water wells, and other recommendations to protect public health and prevent exposure to groundwater contaminants.

CSWAB submitted more than 600 pages of testimony to the WDNR and Wisconsin Division of Health supporting the establishment of groundwater standards for dozens of currently unregulated contaminants. CSWAB's comments included support for the regulation of perchlorate - the main ingredient



of rocket and missile fuel. Perchlorate inhibits the uptake of iodide into the thyroid gland, an essential part of the process of making thyroid hormone. Even small changes in maternal thyroid hormone are associated with significant decreases in IQ.

Both the Ho-Chunk Nation and CSWAB offered public testimony supporting the proposed regulation of all forms of the carcinogenic explosive DNT. Hundreds of community members sent postcards to the WDNR supporting the new standards. The Army submitted comments challenging recommendations from state health officials to regulate the suspected carcinogen. The military argued that the potential health risks are not completely understood.

In May, CSWAB disclosed an Army report showing that dangerous levels of DNT had been detected in groundwater in the rural township of Sumpter. Detected concentrations were more than 6,800 times the Wisconsin Health Advisory Level for drinking water. Despite CSWAB's best efforts, the WDNR, Army, and health officials would not agree to conduct bi-weekly testing of nearby drinking water wells or to provide families with free bottled water.

A technical advisor for the Badger RAB submitted formal comments on proposed changes in cleanup goals for Final Creek, Settling Ponds and Spoils Disposal Areas - a 60-acre site that spans the width of Badger from U.S. Highway 12 to the Wisconsin River. The advisor found that the soil cleanup goals proposed by the Army would not be protective and would leave the land unsuitable for use as a public park, wildlife area, or agricultural land.

When officials confirmed that the Army will not be required to test soils for friable asbestos, CSWAB began organizing a campaign to secure adequate testing and cleanup at Badger. If successful, the campaign will set a national precedent for federal facilities across the U.S.

CSWAB began networking with former workers at the Cornhusker Army Ammunition Plant who were exposed to emissions from open burning of waste explosives, solvents, oils, and other debris. A federal health study found that particulates and vapors associated with the burning represent a completed pathway to workers and nearby residents by way of inhalation. The study reported that former employees, current tenants, and remedial

workers could have been or are being exposed to toxic metals and carcinogenic explosives by way of ingestion, inhalation, or skin contact with contaminated surface soils.

Residents living near Virginia's Radford Army Ammunition Plant asked CSWAB for help in developing a strategic plan in response to environmental discharges of lead and an announcement that the facility will be manufacturing depleted uranium ordnance. When fired, this indiscriminate weapon releases toxic and radioactive emissions.

CSWAB worked with students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Life Science Communication in preparation for a report on the Ho-Chunk Nation's interests in the Badger lands. Students at the Global Leadership Center at Ohio University asked CSWAB for information and a position statement on the postwar public health threats and environmental damage from the use of depleted uranium weaponry and potential remediation options in Iraq.

Friends of Chernobyl Centers, United States (FOCCUS) invited representatives of CSWAB and the Ho-Chunk Nation to meet with a delegation of community leaders from the Ukraine to discuss activism and environmental justice. FOCCUS supports five centers in the Ukraine which play a vital role in the recovery efforts of communities that were severely affected by the Chernobyl disaster.

In late summer, CSWAB encouraged federal, tribal, state and local government to pursue a \$1.2 million Brownfields grant to conduct ecological and environmental surveys at Badger. The proposal emphasized that the air, water and wildlife are not inhibited by property boundaries, and that there is great benefit to having independent and current data.

"We are located in Philadelphia near one of the largest oil refineries in the country and near a now-closed government facility where many toxic chemicals were left in the community. CSWAB and RKTC have a lot in common - water contamination due to the government, pollution (3,000,000 gallons underground), and workers have died and many are still sick. We filed a Class Action suit to hold the government accountable that was not successful but we continue as I hope you and your organization will continue."

*— Mable Mallard,
Executive Director,
The Right to Know
Committee,
South Philadelphia*

Today... ■ ■ ■

SUCCESSFUL RESTORATION OF THE BADGER LANDS RELIES ON OUR ABILITY TO RESTORE ONCE HEALTHY SOILS AND WATERS. TOO OFTEN DECISIONS DISREGARD THE IMPACT OF TIME AND OF ACCUMULATING IMPACT TO FUTURE GENERATIONS.

This shortsighted approach provides no accountability or commitment to steward lands and resources for the future. The focus tends to be on defining how much pollution or how little cleanup is acceptable, rather than striving for what is truly desirable and achievable.

Many of the people who have powered this work for environmental justice cannot be found in the newspapers or in academic journals or among the dignitaries invited to speak at ceremonies and document signings. The real heroes are everyday people who stepped forward to do this work even when it was not popular or well-received. CSWAB is a collective name for all the people who have contributed to this decades-long journey for the earth and for justice. Together, each voice has made a difference. Together, we have succeeded. Thank you.

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