

Meghan Conway

Hello, I am a life-long resident of Minneapolis/St Paul, and I have had the great fortune to travel extensively outside of our state. It is absolutely the case that our wild areas and environment are precious and protected compared to other places I have been. We have an incredible web of life in our corner of the planet, and we need to do everything to foster and maintain its wellness.

After reading about the cleanup project near the old Ford Plant in St Paul, I understand that Ford elected "Alternative 3: Clean Buffer and Site Stabilization" as their preferred cleanup plan. This plan would remove only the top layer of hazardous waste and construction debris, targeting only the first 4 feet of waste in the 70-foot-tall pile. This option is estimated to cost \$2.4 million. This is Ford attempting to cheap out on their responsibility to people and other living things. They are trying to weasel out of their responsibility as an operator of a hazardous business, and to avoid taking care of people and other living things as they are ethically required to do. We all owe each other a duty of care in this world and Ford has done its best to avoid doing that duty. This is utterly unacceptable as a solution to the mess they made. Their right to make money does not supersede our right to live healthy lives!

The MPCA selected "Alternative 4" as its preferred alternative. This is a slightly more extensive cleanup option that would require Ford to clean up all of the "accessible waste" but would still leave most of the pile in place. This plan is estimated to cost \$8.8 million. This is ALSO a cheap-out, cop-out option for Ford Company and it's not only embarrassing, but also an ethical failure that MPCA, whose job it literally is to protect the environment and things living in it, are willing to let Ford get away with polluting the environment and failing to clean it up afterward. This option is ALSO totally unacceptable. Get real!

Neither of these alternatives would require Ford to fully remove the toxic waste at the core of the pile left by Ford Motor Company, nor would they require the removal of all the construction debris. What are we even doing? This is madness. It's a moral failure of both the company that made a profit off poisoning our environment, and an ethical debacle on the part of MPCA.

We cannot leave this waste for future generations to clean up.

There is NO ACCEPTABLE OPTION besides "Alternative 6: Removal of all Wastes and Site Restoration." This is the only just and viable option to maximize environmental and human health at the site and protect future generations from the consequences of this contamination. This is the most expensive cleanup option, estimated at \$71 million. However, it is the ONLY OPTION that respects the environment, the people and other living things who share it, and makes Ford live up to their responsibilities. They're going to argue that \$71 million is just too much money for them to cough up to fix their bad behavior, but this is MINUSCULE compared to the money they made polluting the land and water in the first place. Don't let them get away with this dereliction of duty!

HOLD FORD ACCOUNTABLE! This situation is a defining problem of my lifetime: enormous multinational corporations causing rampant harm and destruction for personal gain while the toll is passed on to the land, water, air, people, and other living things. **NOW IS THE TIME** to make this sort of tradeoff unacceptable and **MAKE FORD PAY**. We deserve better than to have our lands raped by these companies. **DO NOT BE THEIR ACCOMPLICE!**

