

## TALKING POINTS ON SUPERFUND, REGULATORY AGENCIES AND CORPORATIONS



- Superfund is a 1980 federal program, which monitors and assesses industrial pollution at sites throughout the U.S. It compels responsible parties to cleanup and pay for the pollution. Where responsible parties are not found or are unable to cleanup pollution, the federal government assume the responsibility and costs.
- Superfund amounts to an enormous public subsidy to corporate polluters as responsibility and costs for polluted sites are often transferred from the private to the public sector -- away from corporations and toward public taxpayers.
- Superfund often shifts public attention and anger away from the original responsible parties to the pollution (corporations) and onto EPA or other federal regulatory agencies.
- The creation of regulatory agencies coincides with the rise of large corporations. Regulatory agencies establish scientific and administrative mechanisms to determine acceptable amounts of corporate poisons, corporate clear cuts and compensation for corporate harms.
- Regulatory laws are a stacked deck, granting corporations legal clout at the expense of people, communities and nature.
- Most popular struggles (labor, civil rights, environment) have been shifted away from the public's hands and into the hands of lawyers or regulators -- which have achieved much less that what people had organized and died for throughout the history of this country.
- Regulatory agencies have insulated corporate abuses beyond the public's reach.
- Elected legislators have delegated enormous powers to regulatory agencies, which have become dominated by corporations and corporate values and run by lawyers answerable not to elected legislators but to the courts.
- Many staff persons at regulatory agencies either used to work for corporations they are now regulating or will in the future -- creating a "revolving door" effect.
- Corporations assume governing roles as they tax; control capital movement; direct jobs, production, trade and technology; threaten communities; poison and destroy; control elections; write and pass laws; educate judges; and influence public policy debates.
- The goal of citizens should be to define, not regulate, the behavior of corporations, which are nothing more than artificial legal fictions which have mistakenly been given first amendment rights by the courts. Corporations exist to serve sovereign people, not the reverse.
- Thomas Jefferson: I hope we shall crush in its birth the aristocracy of our monied corporations which dare already to challenge our government to a trial of strength, and bid defiance to the laws of our country.
- Henry Demarest Lloyd: We are calling upon the owners of industrial power and property, as mankind called upon kings in their day, to be good and kind, wise and sweet, and we are calling upon them in vain...We have put power in their hands and ask them not to use it as power.