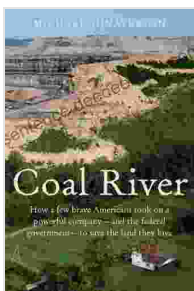


How a Few Brave Americans Took On a Powerful Company and the Federal Government to Protect Their Drinking Water

In a small town in West Virginia, a group of ordinary citizens took on a powerful company and the federal government to protect their drinking water. Their story is an inspiring example of how a few brave people can make a difference.

The town of Charleston, West Virginia, is home to about 50,000 people. In 2014, the city's water supply was contaminated with a chemical called MCHM. The chemical was used by a local chemical plant, Freedom Industries, in a process to clean coal. When a storage tank at the plant leaked, MCHM spilled into the Elk River, which supplies drinking water to Charleston and several other communities.



Coal River: How a Few Brave Americans Took On a Powerful Company - and the Federal Government - to Save The Land They Love by Michael Shnayerson

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 507 KB
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Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 341 pages
Screen Reader : Supported



The leak caused a water crisis that lasted for several weeks. Residents were told not to drink, bathe, or wash their clothes in the water. Schools and businesses were closed. The crisis had a major impact on the community, both economically and emotionally.

In the aftermath of the crisis, a group of Charleston residents formed a group called the Citizens for Coalfield Justice. The group's goal was to hold Freedom Industries and the federal government accountable for the water contamination.

The citizens group faced an uphill battle. Freedom Industries was a powerful company with deep ties to the coal industry. The federal government was also reluctant to take action against the company. But the citizens group refused to give up.

The citizens group hired a lawyer and filed a lawsuit against Freedom Industries. The lawsuit alleged that the company was negligent in its handling of MCHM and that the federal government failed to adequately regulate the company.

The lawsuit was a long and difficult process. But in 2017, the citizens group won a major victory. A federal judge ruled that Freedom Industries was liable for the water contamination. The company was ordered to pay \$176 million in damages.

The citizens group's victory was a major accomplishment. It showed that ordinary citizens can make a difference, even when they are up against powerful opponents. The case also helped to raise awareness of the dangers of chemical contamination and the importance of protecting our drinking water.

The Story of the Citizens for Coalfield Justice

The Citizens for Coalfield Justice was founded in 2014 by a group of Charleston residents who were affected by the MCHM water contamination. The group's mission is to hold Freedom Industries and the federal government accountable for the water contamination and to protect the health and safety of the people of West Virginia.

The citizens group is made up of a diverse group of people, including teachers, nurses, coal miners, and stay-at-home moms. The group is led by a core group of dedicated volunteers who have worked tirelessly to achieve the group's goals.

The citizens group has used a variety of tactics to achieve its goals, including legal action, lobbying, and public education. The group has also worked to build a network of supporters across the country.

The citizens group's work has had a major impact on the community. The group's lawsuit helped to hold Freedom Industries accountable for the water contamination and to raise awareness of the dangers of chemical contamination. The group's lobbying efforts have helped to pass new laws to protect drinking water. And the group's public education efforts have helped to inform the public about the importance of drinking water protection.

The Impact of the Citizens for Coalfield Justice

The Citizens for Coalfield Justice has had a major impact on the community, both locally and nationally. The group's work has helped to hold Freedom Industries accountable for the water contamination, to raise awareness of the dangers of chemical contamination, to pass new laws to

protect drinking water, and to inform the public about the importance of drinking water protection.

The citizens group's victory in the lawsuit against Freedom Industries was a major milestone in the fight to protect drinking water. The victory showed that ordinary citizens can make a difference, even when they are up against powerful opponents.

The citizens group's lobbying efforts have also been successful. In 2016, the group helped to pass a new law in West Virginia that requires chemical companies to disclose the chemicals they use and to take steps to protect the environment. The law also gives citizens the right to sue chemical companies for damages if they are harmed by chemical contamination.

The citizens group's public education efforts have also been successful. The group has worked to raise awareness of the dangers of chemical contamination and the importance of drinking water protection. The group has also developed educational materials for schools and community groups.

The Citizens for Coalfield Justice is a model for citizen action. The group's work has shown that ordinary citizens can make a difference in their communities and in the world.

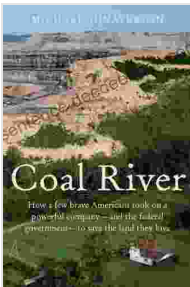
How You Can Help

There are many ways that you can help the Citizens for Coalfield Justice and other organizations that are working to protect drinking water. You can donate to the group, volunteer your time, or spread the word about the group's work.

You can also take steps to protect your own drinking water. Here are a few tips:

- Use a water filter to remove contaminants from your water.
- Avoid drinking water from sources that are known to be contaminated.
- Conserve water to help protect water resources.
- Get involved in your community to protect drinking water.

By taking these steps, you can help to protect your drinking water and the health of your family and community.



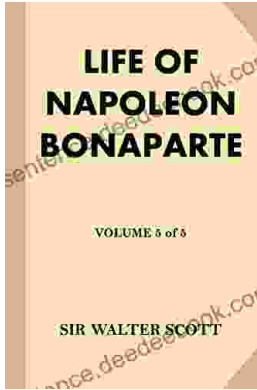
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