

Toxic Community:

Exploring corporate constructions of manganese pollution in Marietta

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Traditional approaches within criminology have failed to address the harms linked to extreme environmental degradation committed by corporations. Cultural criminology and green criminology each make the case that a focus on how crime gets constructed, specifically through image and representation, can broaden criminology's horizons and illuminate harms that have been neglected in the past. This paper uses both cultural and green criminology as the theoretical foundation for studying the case of manganese pollution in the air by Eramet Marietta, Inc. in Marietta, Ohio. I employ a critical discourse analysis of Eramet press releases to reveal strategies whereby the company does ideological work of normalizing pollution and delegitimizing complaints against it. Uncovering how Eramet positively constructs its actions through press releases allows for a broader understanding of how the harms inflicted upon community members in Marietta via manganese pollution are allowed to continue without meaningful sanction.