MNI WICONI, WATER IS LIFE

FROM FRACKVILLE TO FLINT TO STANDING ROCK
We are deeply inspired by all of those who honor and protect the water, the earth and our future. This poster of Sitting Bull, a spiritual leader of the Hunkpapa Lakota, was inspired by the Water Protectors at the Standing Rock Reservation. The Protectors are women and men from over 300 tribes and their allies, who are praying together to stop the poisoning of their water and desecration of their sacred land by the Dakota Access Pipeline.

Our correspondents, across this country, are exposing rampant water contamination inside prisons and in their communities. Sunoco Logistics spilled 55,000 gallons of gas into a tributary of the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania. They poisoned the drinking water of thousands of families. The same company is behind the Dakota Access Pipeline.

This poster was designed by Craig Martin and it is a gift in honor of all the Water Protectors here on Turtle Island.

“Water is a liquid that is a major constituent of all living matter. Clean water is vitally essential to everyday life, i.e. cleaning, cooking, hygiene, and keeping hydrated, etc.”  

— Bryant Arroyo SCI Frackville, PA

“The courts are the tools of industrial plague, granting big business privilege to poison our earth...taking our water, familiar and clean, and turning it into a potion that’s poison.”

— Janine Africa of MOVE quoting John Africa

“We know this water is not safe to drink (it is a dark reddish brown color) because prison employees do not drink this water, but instead have bottled water issued to them by the prison. Meanwhile, we are forced to drink it.”

— Uhuru Rowe, Sussex Two State Prison Virginia

“Let us put our minds together and see what life we can make for our children.”

— Sitting Bull

### SCI-Frackville’s Flint Michigan—Rampant Water Contamination  
[By Bryant Arroyo, @ 2016-Prison Radio]

The captive-audience, at SCI-Frackville erupted with inquiries about the visible, and odoriferous changes experienced with the running water supply during the week of 6/13/16 through 6/23/16.

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The frequency with which this problem occurs, would lead any person of reasonable firmness to the inevitable conclusion that either this problem isn’t given the proper and serious attention it warrants or that the Maintenance Dept., Spvr., C. Slodysko, lacks the adequate knowledge to tackle the problem. These are two of the reasons I would like to think about as a possible answer as to why this problem has eluded a permanent resolution because the third is even to perverse for me to fathom—Flint Michigan has struck right in our back yard.

Staff-members, Healthcare providers, Administrators, and the Maintenance Dept., are conscious about the constant pre-flushing, filthy water being infiltrated into our water supply; coupled with that, this has not escaped the notice of those in charge about those inmates that reside here who have severely deficient immune systems due to diseases such as: Hepatitis A, B, or C, Kidney problems, HIV, etc. To those inmates having to drink this contaminated water could be lethal because of an already pre-existing weakened immune deficiency which in turn prevents their bodies from disposing of toxins which leads to complications, compounding the problems in existence with the current infectious diseases that they medicate daily in order to maintain a balanced immune system. This translates to higher costs in treatment of those individuals—( citizens) ultimately have to pay for.

Finally, I submit, that in times when the water is visibly dirty, as it was for the entire week; inmates should not be forced to drink the contaminated water while the staff, at SCI-Frackville, is provided bottled spring-water because this practice alone only adds insult to injury, creating resentment and animosity, in light, of the clear regard for the staff’s health and blatant disregard for the inmate population’s health and well-being. As a human solution, inmates should have the benefit of bottled-water, as the staff enjoys to prevent being infected with some unknown bacteria like, Polycythemia Vera which may cause some serious and irreparable damage-harm in the long-run. Therefore, as a practical matter this problem should and must be addressed without any further delay.

I’d like to pose two questions for you to consider: “If you offer a thirsty man/woman a glass filled with clean water and a glass filled with dirty water, there is absolutely no question which one you’ll drink? But if you offer the inmate population a glass of dirty water and an empty glass. You can already surmise which one we (Inmates) are forced to drink—bacteria infested, DIRTY WATER?” ... Flint Michigan and the residents, at SCI-Frackville are drinking the same contaminated water... Flint is right in our backyard and the DOC, DEP, and EPA doesn’t care about us—they are one and of the same!!!

Bryant Arroyo