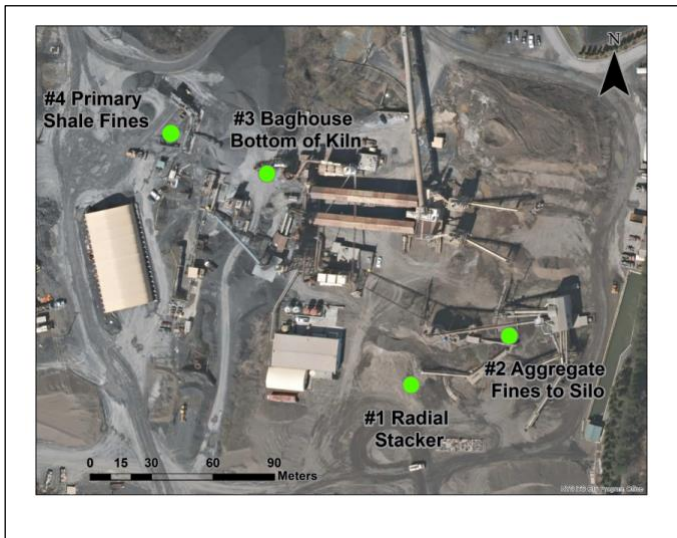


Lights Out Norlite

In Albany County, upstate New York, residents organized under the moniker *Lights Out Norlite*, have been fighting to protect themselves from polluting air emissions released by Norlite. Norlite is an industrial facility that burns hazardous waste, including waste fuels and used heating oils. Releases from Norlite include crystalline silica and dangerous levels of particulate matter. Inhalation of crystalline



silica can cause irreversible lung damage, and can lead to lung disease, COPD, kidney disease, autoimmune disorders, cardiovascular impairment, and lung cancer. Exposure to small particulate matter of the kind released from Norlite can cause severe adverse health consequences, including cardiac disorders, exacerbating asthma, causing bronchitis, cerebrovascular incidents, increased risk of diabetes, and increased rate of mortality for those exposed. In addition, Norlite is responsible for noxious odors, fumes, smoke, noise and vibrations that have harmed neighboring residents and communities.

Norlite is known by the state to repeatedly violate air emission limits that apply to their facility and operations. Despite these known and repeated violations, the state has allowed the facility to continue to operate, and failed to take meaningful legal or enforcement action to protect the environment and the environmental rights of impacted neighbors. Several of the impacted neighborhoods around the plant have been identified as potential environmental justice areas and include a high proportion of minority and/or low income residents. In response, with their Green Amendment rights now in hand, residents have brought legal action against the facility, but also against the state for its failure to protect the constitutional rights of impacted community members to clean water and air and a healthful environment.

The [Intercept news outlet has published a great article](#) outlining the story.

To learn more about, & support, the community's efforts, their website has a wealth of information and can be found at: <https://lightsoutnorlite.org>

Photo: Figure 6. Onsite Bulk Dust Collection Locations from NY DEC February 2022 Fugitive Dust Monitoring Report.