



## Uneasy Alchemy: Citizens and Experts in Louisiana's Chemical Corridor Disputes (Urban and Industrial Environments)

By Barbara L. Allen

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Louisiana annually reports over eight tons of toxic waste for each citizen. *Uneasy Alchemy* examines the role of experts -- lawyers, economists, health professionals, and scientists -- in the struggles for environmental justice in the state's infamous Chemical Corridor or "Cancer Alley." This legendary toxic zone between New Orleans and Baton Rouge is home to about 125 oil and chemical plants; cancer and respiratory illness rates there are among the highest in the nation. The efforts of residents to ensure a healthy environment is one of the most important social justice movements of the post-civil rights era. Louisiana is an especially appropriate venue for the examination of race, class, and politics within an environmental justice framework because of the critical role the chemical industry has played in the economic development of the state, and the weak record of state agencies in controlling toxic chemicals and enforcing environmental regulations. But while Louisiana suffers from some of the worst chemical pollution in the nation, it has also been the site of important environmental victories. Using ethnographic analysis of interviews with citizens, activists, and experts, media accounts, policy reports, government documents, minutes of hearings, and company statements, Barbara Allen identifies the factors that contribute to successful environmental justice efforts. She finds that the most successful strategies involved temporary alliances between local citizens and expert-activists, across lines of race and class, and between local and national organizations. These alliances were not easy to achieve -- local citizens tend to mistrust outside experts and want fast action in response to health threats -- but once formed, these powerful combinations of local and expert knowledge were an important force for action and change.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"A compelling analysis of one of this nation's legendary toxic zones. This book does a splendid job of examining the many voices, the myths, the science and its uncertainty, and does so within a theoretical framework that brings out much more than the original interview data reveal."--Sheldon Krinsky, Professor, Tufts University, and author of *\*Science in the Private Interest\**

"Presents a wonderfully complex portrait of the environmental justice movement that helps the reader to understand the tensions within the environmental movement, as well as the conflicts between environmental activists and industry."

(Gerald Markowitz, Professor of History, John Jay College and Graduate Center, City University of New York)

"Perceptive and empirically grounded, *Uneasy Alchemy* unites the academic insights of science and technology studies with the strong ethical principles of the environmental justice movement. Essential reading for those engaged in sustainability, environmental management, or scientific governance."

(Alan Irwin, Professor of Sociology, Brunel University)

"With the authentic voice of a true Southern writer, Barbara Allen has written an important and insightful volume which should be read by all. By applying and advancing narrative analysis, and by looking at chemicals, risk, and corridors in Louisiana, she has given us a rich and powerful lens through which to view the interaction between citizens and experts, as well as the future of democracy. I regard this book highly."

(John de la Mothe, Canada Research Chair in Innovation Strategy, University of Ottawa)

#### About the Author

Barbara L. Allen is Director of the Graduate Program in Science and Technology Studies at Virginia Tech's Northern Virginia Center.

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#### Maureen Jones:

As people who live in typically the modest era should be update about what going on or data even knowledge to make these individuals keep up with the era which is always change and move forward. Some of you maybe will update themselves by reading through books. It is a good choice for you but the problems coming to a person is you don't know what type you should start with. This *Uneasy Alchemy: Citizens and Experts in Louisiana's Chemical Corridor Disputes (Urban and Industrial Environments)* is our

recommendation to make you keep up with the world. Why, because this book serves what you want and need in this era.

**Carissa Taylor:**

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**Kathleen Jones:**

Precisely why? Because this *Uneasy Alchemy: Citizens and Experts in Louisiana's Chemical Corridor Disputes (Urban and Industrial Environments)* is an extraordinary book that the inside of the publication waiting for you to snap the idea but later it will distress you with the secret the idea inside. Reading this book beside it was a fantastic author who wrote the book in such a remarkable way makes the content on the inside easier to understand, an entertaining method but still conveys the meaning completely. So, it is good for you for not hesitating having this nowadays or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of advantages than the other books have such as help improving your skill and your critical thinking method. So, still want to delay having that book? If I were you I will go to the reserve store hurriedly.

**Kevin Vickers:**

Playing with family within a park, coming to see the coastal world or hanging out with friends is a thing that usually you might have done when you have spare time, subsequently why you don't try a thing that really opposite from that. One activity that makes you not feel tired but still relaxing, thrilling like on a roller coaster you are riding on and with additional info. Even you love *Uneasy Alchemy: Citizens and Experts in Louisiana's Chemical Corridor Disputes (Urban and Industrial Environments)*, you may enjoy both. It is a great combination right, you still desire to miss it? What kind of hangout is it? Oh occur its mind hangout people. What? Still don't understand it, oh come on its known as reading friends.

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