

While [writing yesterday](#) about Charles Haar's work as a special master on the Boston Harbor cleanup, it occurred to me that in [our list of great environmental songs](#), we (although not our commenters) missed an obvious one: The Standells' *Dirty Water*, which of course is all about that:

[youtube <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5apEctKwiD8>]

It might not be the best dirty water song ever, though: that honor goes to Randy Newman's classic *Burn On*, about the Cuyahoga River. Not a great performance of it, but here it is.

[youtube <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t8OgLB5fuFQ>]

Get the original version [on the record](#).

*The Lord can make you tumble/*

*The Lord can make you turn/*

*The Lord can make you overflow/*

*But the Lord can't make you burn.*