



January 15, 2014

Department of Public Health
Attn: Environmental Permitting and Inspections
333 South State Street, Room 200
Chicago, IL 60604

Re: City of Chicago Department of Health – Rules and Regulations for Bulk Material Storage Piles Proposed December 19, 2013

Dear Sir or Madam,

Holcim (US) Inc. respectfully submits this letter to request an extension of time in which to comment on the above-referenced proposed rule. In general, we support the City of Chicago's efforts for controlling fugitive dust, but are concerned that a reactionary regulatory response to the petroleum coke (petcoke) dust issue has contributed to an overly broad proposed rule which does not appear to include an appropriate evaluation of the breadth of the impact and appropriate balancing of economic vitality and healthy communities.

Holcim (US) Inc. has owned and operated a cement grinding plant at 3020 East 103rd Street in Chicago, Illinois since 1996. Holcim operates the plant under Federally Enforceable State Operating Permit 031600FLD, most recently renewed on May 2, 2013. Our facility has many air pollution controls and practices in place to minimize point source and fugitive dust emissions. In addition, our air permit contains many stringent requirements to protect the environment and ambient air quality.

We see the promulgation of additional rules and regulations on our operation as unnecessary and in some cases would be counterproductive. For example, the moisture content in our raw material stockpile is generally sufficient to prevent fugitive dust emissions. A requirement to water the stockpile 24 hours a day would result in little difference to fugitive dust emissions, but would increase the amount of fuel needed for drying, increase the cost of operation, increase combustion emissions (NO_x, SO₂, etc.), and likely result in a water discharge that currently does not currently exist.

An extension of the public comment period would allow for sufficient time to evaluate the technical and economic impacts on our operation by the proposed rules. The capital requirements of the proposed rule are significant. In addition, some of the requirements imposed by the proposed rules may even be impossible to meet for our facility at its current location, for example set-back distances.

The proposed rule specifically targets "airborne particulate matter from the storage, blending, handling, processing and transportation of bulk solid materials as defined herein, including but not limited to, ores, coal and coke, including petroleum coke and metallurgical coke." The proposed rule goes on to define bulk solid material to mean "any solid substance and material which can be used as fuel or as an *ingredient in a manufacturing process* that may become airborne or scattered by the wind." There are many industrial facilities, including our cement grinding plant, which do not handle ores, coal and coke including petcoke and metcoke, but may be immediately and significantly impacted by the new rules and regulations.

In the case of our facility, granulated (quenched with water) slag from a steel mill is trucked to our facility and stored in a small stockpile for use generally within a few days from the time put into storage. The proposed rules mistakenly treat all materials the same regardless of the potential for fugitive dust generation. The generation of fugitive dust depends on particle size, particle geometry, moisture content, etc. which are material specific. Any additional regulations should be well-thought out to address the problem without creating collateral damage that hurts the economy with little or no benefit to the environment or public health.

There are many other classes of facilities covered by this overly broad proposed rule which support many vital Chicago communities with their direct and indirect jobs and taxes; support which in many instances may well evaporate due to the hasty promulgation of the proposed rule. Such harsh impact is likely to be the direct result of the City's failure to provide adequate notice and opportunity for the entire class of facilities covered by the proposed rule to work with the City to craft a healthy and economically balanced rule to further address fugitive dust issues in the city of Chicago.

In light of the emergency pet coke rules announced by Illinois Governor Quinn on January 13, 2014, it would be prudent in our estimation to extend the public comment period on the proposed city rules. In all likelihood, the proposed City of Chicago rules will be made unnecessary by the proposed state rules.

Accordingly, Holcim (US) Inc. respectfully requests a 60-day extension of time in which to evaluate the manner, nature, structure and economic impact of this proposed rule in an effort to work with the City to craft a balanced approach.

Respectfully submitted,



Andy Hixson
Plant Manager
Holcim (US) Inc.

Cc: Alderman John A. Pope / 10th Ward