

Hesse, Jennifer

From: Kate Koval [kateirenekoval@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 26, 2014 9:40 PM
To: PetCokeComments
Subject: Comments from a community member

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in response to the storage of petcoke, metcoke, coal, and other toxic products stored along the Calumet River. Please include this email on a public record.

I live at 9718 S Exchange Avenue Chicago, IL. I am a life long resident of Northwest Indiana and the Southeast Side of Chicago. I have been inundated with both water and air pollution my entire life. The more I learn about how much petcoke will be produced at the Whiting BP Refinery, I am shocked at how the City of Chicago, the Illinois EPA, and the US EPA have mis/handled this.

Products, such as petcoke, whether they are contained or not, should not be stored in residential areas. This is a health risk. These products SPONTANEOUSLY COMBUST. The product will seep into the ground. The transportation of the product creates pollution. The run off water into the sewers will contain this product. The Calumet River will never be returned to a healthy state if this product is stored here.

IF CHICAGO BOASTS ITSELF AS A "GREEN" CITY, THEN HOW CAN THIS CITY ALLOW THESE PRODUCTS BE STORED SO CLOSE TO WHERE PEOPLE LIVE??? It is embarrassing.

The proposed ordinance is being pushed too quickly. As a resident, I am requesting a 90 day extension period, so we can do more research and react appropriately.

There has not been enough public health research done. This EPA Zone has not been adequately monitored. STOP. Think about the effects on the quality of life of those of us who live in the 10th Ward. It is absolutely ridiculous that working people have had to make this an issue. THE CITY OF CHICAGO, THE IL EPA, and THE FEDERAL EPA SHOULD HAVE MADE THIS AN ISSUE. Every time I drive over the 106th Street Bridge over the Calumet River- I see trucks in violation. I see barges uncovered. I see plumes of petcoke dust. I visit friends where they show me the collections of petcoke dust INSIDE their homes. Among all of this, I see people waiting for the bus, walking to work, children playing at Wolfe Park. Whenever I see violations, I try to call 311 to report it, but this is not always feasible. If the very public institutions that we are supposed to depend on to protect our health are not adequately staffed or functioning, then how are we supposed to trust that our tax dollars are being appropriately funneled into the right places?

I hope the City of Chicago will recognize the toxicity of this situation. I hope the City of Chicago will value the quality of life of it's citizens over the profits of corporations. I hope the City of Chicago will be part of a process that begins to embrace and research green industry and technology- CITY WIDE.

Thank you,

Kate Koval
Chicago Resident