



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 5

AIR AND RADIATION DIVISION
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

Megan Cunningham
Managing Deputy Commissioner
Chicago Department of Public Health
DePaul Center
333 South State Street, Suite 200
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Dear Ms. Cunningham:

I am writing to express the support of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for the City of Chicago's proposed rules regarding reprocessable construction/demolition material facilities (rock crushers). The proposed rules significantly expand upon the existing regulatory requirements for Chicago rock crushers, every one of which is located in a neighborhood whose residents experience disproportionate health disparities and environmental burdens as the result of heavy industry. Once again, the City of Chicago is demonstrating its deep commitment to addressing sources of pollution that disproportionately affect communities with environmental justice concerns, a commitment which EPA shares.

Rock crushing dust is known to contain numerous hazardous materials, including silica, lead, and particulate matter (PM). Silica dust, a common byproduct from reprocessing or handling construction and demolition materials, is a known human carcinogen. PM exposure has been linked to aggravated asthma, decreased lung function, and even heart attack or premature death. Children, the elderly, and persons with preexisting heart or lung disease are most susceptible to PM exposure.

EPA appreciates that the Chicago Department of Public Health solicited EPA's input on the proposed rule and that our collaboration has resulted in the inclusion of several significant provisions in a new version of the proposed rule, which we understand will go out again for public comment. These provisions include requirements for third-party evaluations of best management practices to address fugitive PM and additional transparency requirements, including more opportunities for public input. Importantly, EPA also supports fence-line monitoring and sampling to minimize potential community exposure. We recognize and appreciate that all of these proposed requirements support EPA's environmental justice priority.

Again, thank you for your continued efforts to improve air quality and achieve environmental justice in the City of Chicago. If you have additional questions, please contact Rae Trine at (312) 353-9228.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Siegel
Manager
Air Toxics and Assessment Branch