

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF CHICAGO
Council Chamber • Second Floor - City Hall
121 North LaSalle Street, Chicago IL 60602
Phone: (312) 744 - 6800

SUSAN SADLOWSKI GARZA
ALDERWOMAN, 10TH WARD

10500 S. Ewing Ave, Floor 1
Chicago, Illinois 60617
Phone : (773) 768-8138
Fax : (773) 768-8176



COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

Committees, Rules, and Ethics
Education and Child Development
Housing and Real Estate
Human Relations
Special Events, Cultural Affairs, and Recreation
Transportation and Public Way

June 13th, 2018

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

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased that the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) has proposed changes to the Rules and Regulations for Control of Emissions from the Handling and Storage of Bulk Material Piles. As recent air monitoring and soil testing have found dangerously elevated levels of manganese in soil surrounding S.H. Bell, one of several bulk material handlers on the southeast side, the need to review and strengthen regulations preventing fugitive dust emissions and manganese emissions is urgent. Chicago's southeast side was historically home to heavy industry, notably numerous steel mills, which have left an environmental burden on the community decades after the last mills have closed. Moreover, for much of the industrial history in Chicago, inadequately monitored and controlled industrial operations left a toxic legacy that still burdens our community. Indeed, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has found that the southeast side is an environmentally burdened community.¹

In addition, as industrial sites are being pushed out of rapidly gentrifying areas on the north and northwest sides of the city, new potentially polluting firms are looking to expand to the south and west side industrial corridors. As additional industrial users move into already environmentally burdened communities, CDPH must ensure that new facilities do not bring with them threats to air and water quality that came from industry in the 20th century and burdened our community. While attention to manganese is appreciated, there are many other pollutants, and the broader issues of fine particulate matter in general, that pose a substantial health risk to our community and the CDPH needs to take a comprehensive approach to evaluating the overall health burden of bulk material handlers and other industrial facilities pose. For this reason I urge the CDPH to partner with the Chicago Department of Planning and

¹ EPA, Environmental Issues in Southeast Chicago, available at <https://www.epa.gov/il/environmental-issues-southeast-chicago>

SUSAN SADLOWSKI GARZA
ALDERWOMAN, 10TH WARD

10500 S. Ewing Ave, Floor 1
Chicago, Illinois 60617
Phone : (773) 768-8138
Fax : (773) 768-8176



COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

Committees, Rules, and Ethics
Education and Child Development
Housing and Real Estate
Human Relations
Special Events, Cultural Affairs, and Recreation
Transportation and Public Way

Development (DPD) to take an active role in DPD's ongoing Industrial Corridor Modernization Initiative.

Comments on Proposed Changes to Bulk Material Rules

FEM PM10 Exemption

I am concerned that the proposed modifications to the bulk material rules provide the option of firms *either* completely enclosing their manganese storage facilities or installing metals monitors "in lieu of enclosure." As we have learned on the southeast side over the last decade, metal monitors have been critical to determining compliance with existing local, state and federal fugitive dust emissions rules, as well as a critical data point in alerting the community to previously unknown issues. Moreover, I strongly urge the CDPH to require all bulk material handlers to maintain a requirement that bulk material handlers of all kinds maintain federal equivalent method (FEM) PM10 monitors. I urge this step because it is, in all reality, impossible for any facility to completely enclose bulk material handling operations. Even if storage and separation of bulk materials is done in an enclosed space, transport and into and out of the facility would require such materials to be transported outside. Furthermore, to date, there is no facility in the city or region that allows barge transfer to be done in an enclosed space.

Filter-Based Metals Monitoring

Pollution from heavy metals such as manganese is a particular concern on the southeast side. For this reason I am very happy to see the CDPH include metal monitoring filters as a requirement for bulk material facilities. However, I do not believe that the proposed rules should grant the Commissioner discretion in deciding when metals monitors are needed since the proposed rules still allow operators to request a variance to the rules. Rather than giving industrial bulk materials handlers essentially two ways to avoid metals monitoring, by requesting leniency through the commissioner AND by requesting a variance if leniency is denied by the Commissioner, operators should be required to install metals monitoring and seek a variance if they believe they do not pose a health risk of heavy metal pollution. I would also urge the CDPH to ensure that some mechanism exists for the public to provide input in all cases where a variance is sought by any bulk materials facility.

SUSAN SADLOWSKI GARZA
ALDERWOMAN, 10TH WARD

10500 S. Ewing Ave, Floor 1
Chicago, Illinois 60617
Phone : (773) 768-8138
Fax : (773) 768-8176



COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

Committees, Rules, and Ethics
Education and Child Development
Housing and Real Estate
Human Relations
Special Events, Cultural Affairs, and Recreation
Transportation and Public Way

Metals Monitoring AND Full Enclosure

I strongly believe that those facilities handling non-packaged manganese materials should be required to enclose their facilities AND install filter based metals monitors. Again, as previously mentioned, it is for all intents and purposes impossible to *completely* enclose any bulk materials handlers since these materials enter facilities by truck, rail and barge. Due to the dense urban environment that is Chicago, we need to apply the toughest measures to ensure that dangerous heavy metal particulates from manganese and other heavy metals are not contaminating the neighborhood. Due to the high levels of manganese already found on the southeast side, I strongly urge that CDPH amend the proposed rules to require both metals monitoring and full enclosure of manganese handling operations.

Conclusion

On behalf of the residents of the 10th Ward, I commend the Chicago Department of Public Health for reviewing the City's bulk materials regulations and showing a concern for the health and well-being of the residents near these facilities. Strong monitoring and enforcement of the proposed rules will be critical to ensuring that we are not negatively impacted by current and future industrial operators. Given that the Chicago Department of Planning and Development is engaged in a rapid re-evaluation of the current Planned Manufacturing Districts, I urge the Department of Public Health to engage with Planning and Development to ensure that as other industrial operators of all kinds migrate from the north and northwest sides of the city to the south and west sides, current health and safety requirements are reviewed concurrently with these already underway changes.

Sincerely,

