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January 5, 2015

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

Re: Comments on KCBX Terminals Company's Petition for Variance from the Deadline for Enclosure of Piles

To Whom It May Concern:

For as long as I have lived in the Slag Valley Neighborhood (25 years), I have been assaulted by the dust generated by KCBX's operations. Black, oily sooty dust covered my property, was tracked and filtered into my house, sprinkled beverages/food outdoors, and even soiled my dogs as they ran through the weedy, open railroad easement for exercise.

For months after moving into my house, I was perplexed as to where all the black dust I saw collecting on my house was originating, never realizing that the KCBX facility three blocks away could be responsible. It wasn't until I spoke with some of the residents nearby that I found out that it was indeed the piles of coal and pet coke blocks away causing the problem. And after joining the Veteran's Park Improvement Association, the community's organization, I learned that not a meeting went by that the poor residents living adjacent to the facility didn't have a complaint.

We became hopeful however, when the Southeast Environmental Task Force engaged them in their "Good Neighbor" dialogues, a program designed to address issues with local industries through agreed upon resolutions. The Dialogues with the company went on for years, and so did the dust issues. Street sweepers were deployed, residents' homes were washed, and a truck wash and a sprinkler system were installed. Yet none of those tactics were effective. Residents continued to complain along with a new business, Crowley's Yacht Storage, located five blocks down the river. The Dialogues broke down, and hope was lost.

Now the problem has expanded, not only is the Slag Valley neighborhood impacted by the operations of KCBX, but the Wolf Park neighborhood is as well.

KCBX has claimed to be a "Good Neighbor" when all evidence points to the opposite. When KCBX decided to expand to the Southern location, they could have built an enclosure to protect the community and ambient air from the hazards of dust as they had already done in California. They were after all, quite aware that the measures employed to control the dust at their North site had proven fruitless.

As director of the Southeast Environmental Task Force, I continue to hear complaints and concerns about black dust from our residents. Just the other day, a resident brought us a Q-tip covered in black dust that he swabbed from his home's air purifier. He explained that he lives just 20 feet

away from the rail that carries hundreds of pet coke filled rail cars daily. We know of homeowners who want to move but can't sell their homes because of the pet coke piles looming nearby.

The Southeast side community is once again hopeful that the City will protect its residents from years more of assault from the hazardous dust and deny KCBX's request for variance.

Peggy Salazar

Resident

Director, Southeast Environmental Task Force

Peggy Salazar
Director

In partnership with the



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