



ACTION ALERT! Weigh in and Demand Better Protection from Coke Oven Emissions

The Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) has proposed revisions to the air pollution control regulations related to coke oven emissions. This is an important opportunity for residents in our region to tell ACHD that the existing coke oven regulations are not strong enough to improve air quality in Allegheny County.

The deadline to submit comments on the proposed coke oven regulations is Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 4PM. Email or mail your comments as soon as possible!

[GASP](#), [Clean Water Action](#) and [PennFuture](#) have excellent, detailed information on their websites with information on how to submit comments to ACHD. Please check these pages out.

It's important that as many residents BOTH write in AND sign up to testify as possible to ensure the voices of residents are heard.

Background:

Coke for steelmaking is produced at the one coke plant in our region, the U.S. Steel Clairton Coke Works. Coke is made by baking coal in tightly sealed ovens at very high temperatures over a very long period of time. This coke oven gas contains toxic chemicals (benzene and hydrogen sulfide-H₂S) and fine particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}).

ACHD's proposed revisions to the coke oven regulations will bring coke oven regs into compliance with existing federal and state standards, but the revisions will not adequately improve air quality in the region. Write an email/ letter to ACHD and demand the following or sign up to submit testimony at the virtual public hearing on Jan. 20, 2021. (directions for both at the bottom):

1. The proposed ACHD changes to the regulations must be stronger to IMPROVE and PROTECT the health of residents of the Mon Valley from poor air quality.
2. Tell your personal air quality story. Increased incidence of asthma and respiratory problems. Family history of illnesses and cancers.
3. Ask ACHD to issue revisions that will protect our health from dangerous air pollution.
4. The Clairton Coke Works is the LARGEST emitter of hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) in Allegheny County. The Clairton plant emitted about 156 tons of H₂S in 2019 (PA DEP). All the other sources in Pa. combined only emitted 59 tons.

If you are interested in learning more about the proposed coke oven regulations, please see the [information presented by the Health Department to the Board of Health](#) (PDF) at its November 4, 2020 meeting, or [watch the presentation](#) linked here.

How to Submit Your Comments

The deadline to submit comments on the proposed coke oven regulations is Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 4PM.

Allegheny County Health Department

Air Quality Program

Re: Regulation Comment

301 39th Street, Bldg. 7

Pittsburgh, PA 15201-1811

Or, comments can be submitted by email to: aqcomments@alleghenycounty.us.

Sign up for the virtual public hearing on Jan. 20, 2021 [HERE](#). Comments are limited to 3 minutes.

We encourage people to deliver their testimony at the virtual public hearing in addition to submitting comments so that your voice can be heard.