



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ACCAN asks the Allegheny County Health Department to demand a reduction in unlawful pollution from Metalico/Neville Recycling

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania – Allegheny County Clean Air Now (ACCAN) is calling on the Allegheny Health Department (ACHD) to take a tougher stance on the consent decree being negotiated with Metalico/Neville Recycling to adequately reduce unlawful pollution from this Neville Island industry.

ACCAN and Emsworth residents have been submitting complaints to ACHD for more than four years and ACHD has yet to take effective action to force Metalico to comply with regulations. ACCAN has documented over 400 pollution events (most of which have also been submitted to ACHD as complaints) since 2018.

ACCAN plans to attend the July 13th Board of Health meeting to address these concerns and to request a response to our letter.

One Emsworth resident, Sonia Kowal, noted that “Metalico directly impacts my neighborhood’s daily activities in an extreme and negative way. Too many times I’ve been forced to stop working in my own yard due to the overwhelming odor of hot plastic, rubber and metal. It’s an odor that, when breathed in for too long, causes headaches, burning throat, and leaves an acrid

metallic taste on the lips. I've literally had to cancel or reschedule visits from friends/family on bad odor days because I didn't want them to get sick."

Based on this past experience, ACCAN is concerned that the consent decree being negotiated will also not effectively address the air pollution coming from Metalico. Because of this, ACCAN sent ACHD and EPA a letter on May 24th (see link below) listing things that they wanted to have addressed in the consent decree being negotiated. To date, ACCAN has not received a response from either agency.

According to Karen Grzywinski, President of ACCAN, "The Health Department has failed to effectively regulate Metalico while allowing the facility to operate with an air quality permit that hasn't been renewed since 2012. A strong consent decree and the requirement for Metalico to have a Title V permit are extremely important actions the Health Department can take to protect residents harmed by continuous pollution from the facility."

Some of the requests for inclusion in the consent decree that ACCAN included in the letter are that:

1. As indicated in a Notice of Violation that EPA issued to Metalico on 10/4/21, Metalico is a Title V or Major Source facility and their new permit should be a Title V permit. Metalico is currently operating under an expired Minor Source permit.
2. Metalico should house their metal shredder in its own building to control emissions, odors and sound levels.
3. The consent decree should be made public as soon as it is signed.
4. In addition to the consent decree, the full text of any enforcement orders & actions, fines and notices that will be covered and settled through the Metalico consent order should be made public. These should be made available as part of the public comment process for the consent order.
5. A requirement should be included that ACCAN be fully briefed by ACHD on the consent decree after it is signed and that ACHD Air Quality monitoring and enforcement staff meet monthly with ACCAN concerning Metalico and the consent decree. This includes transparency on all air pollution violations and reports, etc.
6. ACHD and EPA conduct an air toxics study to evaluate Metalico's emissions.

ACCAN is a non-profit that works with residents in Pittsburgh's North Borough's and other communities in the Neville Island area to advocate for cleaner air by holding polluting industries accountable. Learn more at <https://accancamera.com/>.

[See letter sent to ACHD and EPA on May 24, 2022](#)