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December 18, 2023

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Breathe Project Statement About US Steel's Sale to Nippon Steel

Pittsburgh, Pa. – US Steel's sale to Nippon Steel does little to change the strategic concerns about the US Steel Mon Valley Works plants for Southwestern PA residents and its local workforce. If anything, the sale displays a move by US Steel management to pass off problems of old, leaking, outdated plants onto a new owner while US Steel shareholders cash out for a premium. US Steel's shared traded at $6.31/share on March 1, 2020. The Nippon offer is for $55/share, about nine times the price, which is near beginning of the period when US Steel decided to no longer invest in its Mon Valley facilities and instead engage in $1.3 Billion in stock buybacks.

Cashing out means that ongoing pollution problems at the Mon Valley works will continue to be an issue:

- The facilities have been fined over $10.1 million since January of 2020 for emissions violations through the 3rd quarter of 2022 (2023 violations have not been assessed).
- 2023 has seen the largest number of Hydrogen Sulfide exceedances of the state standard since 2017, nearing a violation of nearly 1/3 of the days in 2023. Hydrogen Sulfide has been documented to originate at the Mon Valley Works, especially the Clairton Coke Works
- These facilities are documented to have unhealthy concentrations of benzene within communities neighboring Clairton Coke Works and Irvin Works by Allegheny County Health Department and the Environmental Integrity Project (see attachment)
- There is still a major federal lawsuit pending concerning the Clairton Coke Works based on the fire on December 24, 2018, and subsequent 101-day operations of the facility without pollution controls as well as a separate class action lawsuit.

"No matter who owns these plants the issues remain the same," stated Matthew Mehalik, Executive Director of the Breathe Project, "the ongoing threats to the health of Mon Valley residents and all residents of Allegheny county need to be addressed. The ongoing prospects for these plants look bad no matter who owns them – they are old, outdated, and in need of significant capital investments. They are based on an old business model given the need for the steel industry to decarbonize. We will see whether the new owners choose to clean up and upgrade these plants or if they decide to run the plant into the ground at the expense of the health of our community and eventual discarding of the assets and workers."