

## Mon Valley U.S. Steel Pollution Timeline

*A history of #brokenpromises*

The interconnected 3 U.S. Steel facilities in the Monongahela Valley, the Clairton Coke Works, Edgar Thomson Steel Plant and Irvin Works have a long-standing history of more than 100 years of emitting severe levels of SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>S pollution that harm people's health.

The following is a timeline of #brokenpromises from U.S. Steel (USS) and repeated failures to comply with air quality regulations.

**#1**

**[August 1972](#)** – U.S. Steel signs a consent decree to immediately begin a major program to eliminate massive pollution at the Clairton Coke Works. The agreement calls for the complete installation of the best antipollution technology by 1977. The consent decree was never honored.

**#2**

**[1979 - 1995](#)** U.S. Steel repeatedly issues statements hinting at the possibility of re-investing in their former plants at Homestead Steel Works, Duquesne Works, McKeesport Tube Works and the Carrie Furnaces at Rankin. Each time, workers and communities are led to believe that those plants would be saved. They were not.

**#3**

**[1979-1995](#)** – Ultimately, the plants were closed in similar fashion to the U.S. Steel announcement on the Mon Valley Works in 2020. Each time a plant was closed, USS invested their capital elsewhere rather than upgrading old, outdated facilities. ([New York Times July 27, 1986](#))

**#4**

**[June 2008](#)** – U.S. Steel promises to replace 3 of 12 of the oldest coke batteries at the Clairton Coke Works, a \$1.2 billion upgrade it says will improve region's air quality. It does not.

**#5**

**[November 2014](#)** – U.S. Steel promises to build a new world headquarters in the Lower Hill District, signs an 18-year lease but later pulls out.

**#6**

**[September 2014](#)** – Ongoing emission problems continue after promised upgrades to the plant that never happened. A nontransparent settlement agreement leaves many promised projects uncompleted.

**#7**

**[November 2015](#)** – U.S. Steel breaks its promise to build a new headquarters at the former Civic Arena site, blaming the uncertainty of the pending sale of the Penguins.

**#8**

**[May 2019](#)** – U.S. Steel promises to invest \$1-\$1.5 Billion to upgrade the Mon Valley Works. On **[May 3, 2021](#)**, U.S. Steel cancels its promise to build a \$1 Billion Mon Valley Project. Instead, the company engaged in over \$1.3 Billion in stock buybacks rather than improving facilities.

**#9**

**[January 30, 2024](#)** – U.S. Steel Settles a lawsuit, agreeing to pay \$37 million in facility corrections and \$5 million to mitigate community harms from hundreds of violations of the Clean Air Act stemming from operating the Clairton Coke Works without proper pollution controls for over 100 days from December 2018 – April 2019.

**#10**

**[February 13, 2024](#)** – Workers at U.S. Steel express anger and skepticism about the sale of the company because sale provisions in their partnership agreement with USS leadership were not being honored.