

Ask all Allegheny Council Members to VOTE YES and PASS the ordinance change to increase fees on Air Pollution Permits

BACKGROUND:

- The Allegheny County Board of Health approved the resolution “Penalties, Fines and Interest (2109.7)” in September 2024 after it received a request from the ACHD administration for the resolution and with overwhelming support from residents, nonprofits and the Allegheny County Controller.
- For nearly a year, ACHD has cautioned it anticipates a \$1.8 million budget shortfall.
- **The Clean Air Act requires ACHD to charge Title V facilities fees that are sufficient to cover the cost of administering the program.** Approving the fee increase places the burden of covering these costs on, in most cases, million-dollar industries that can well afford to pay the fee increase.

CALL TO ACTION:

Email and call all members of the Allegheny County Council and **urge them to PASS the resolution and increase the fees on air pollution permits. Supporting this measure will protect the health of Allegheny County residents.**

Additional messaging points in support of the increased permitting fees:

- Increased permitting fees would be paid by plant operators and applicants – NOT taxpayers.
- This is especially important as the County is facing a large budget deficit. **The fee increases are monies that would supplement the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) Air Program budget at no cost to taxpayers.**
- **A properly funded Air Program could mean more health protections from dangerous air pollution.**
 - Without the increased permitting fees, the Air Program could be weakened, putting more Allegheny County residents in harm’s way.
- **U.S. Steel is lobbying hard against the increased fees, but it is not about the money – but they can easily afford to pay these increased permit fees:**
 - US Steel has three Title V facilities meaning they would pay \$53,000 for each of their renewed operating permits – typically, every five years.
 - US Steel compensates their board members an average base pay of \$175,000, annually – and they currently have 13 board members.
 - **The combined fee for all three of the U.S. Steel Title V permits is LESS than the cost of the annual, average base pay for just one of its 13 board members.**

Contact Allegheny County Council Members:

Council Members Allegheny County, PA 412-350-6490. One call goes to all 15 members.

Email Addresses, Twitter handles for Allegheny County Council Members:

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Be sure to provide your name and contact information when you reach out to Council.

And please share this important action alert with other Allegheny County residents!

There will be opportunities to provide public comments to Allegheny County Council in the coming weeks.

We will provide updates on when those meeting will occur. We would love to have you join us in a show of support for this critical issue.

Thank you.

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