

## **Ask all Allegheny Council Members to VOTE YES** **on increasing fees for Air Pollution Permits**

### **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.** Below is a list of facts about why the increased permitting fees are essential. And how to contact members of the Allegheny County Council are included at the end of this Action Alert.

### **Why the increased permitting fees are essential:**

- A properly funded Air Program could mean more effective health protections from dangerous air pollution. Without the increased permitting fees, the Air Program could be weakened, further harming Allegheny County residents who already suffer from asthma and other health problems.
- **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*.**
  - Approving the fee increase **shifts the burden of covering these costs to, in most cases, million - and billion dollar industries that can easily afford to pay it.**
  - **The fee increase essentially makes these companies cover the costs of obeying the law.**
- **An adequately funded ACHD is critical to protecting the health of Allegheny County residents. Currently, the staff working to protect our air quality is under-resourced and overworked.** <https://www.post-gazette.com/news/health/2025/01/26/iulia-vann-allegheny-county-health-department/stories/202501190046>
- **The Clean Air Act requires ACHD to charge Title V facilities fees that are sufficient to cover the cost of administering the program.**
  - This critical fee upgrade is long overdue and is something the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) recommended in their [2018 audit of the ACHD Title V Air Program](#)
- **The large companies that profit from polluting Allegheny County's air increase the burden on ACHD and make ACHD's work more vital.** Increased fees would help ACHD hold them accountable.

## Who is against the fee increases?

- **U.S. Steel is lobbying hard against the increased fees, a company that can easily afford to pay these increased permit fees:**
  - U.S. Steel disingenuously claims that the fee increases would have a detrimental impact.
    - **Under ACHD's proposed fee increases, U.S. Steel's annual total Title V fees for its Allegheny County facilities would be just 0.009% (\$165,000) of U.S. Steel reported earnings of \$2.14 billion in 2023.**
    - Compared to such monumental earnings, any claim that the significantly smaller Title V renewal permit fee, required only once every five years, would impact U.S. Steel's coffers further strains credulity.
  - The Clairton facility alone released [1.1 million pounds of toxic emissions into the air](#) in 2021.
  - Despite all evidence to the contrary, U.S. Steel also argues that its "steelmaking process is done in the safest and most environmentally responsible manner." **Yet in just the first quarter of 2023, ACHD found more than [1,500 instances of non-compliance](#) at U.S. Steel's Clairton Plant alone.**
    - U.S. Steel's egregious level of noncompliance required significant ACHD resources to identify and rein in, including for inspections and enforcement actions.
    - Yet U.S. Steel's three Mon Valley facilities each currently pay an annual fee of \$8,000 for the facility's Title V permit - an inadequate amount.
    - This imbalance between ACHD's time and effort necessary to ensure compliance and the current fee structure exemplifies that raising the fees is needed and warranted.
  - Additionally, for **smaller facilities that emit less than 50 tons per year, the current fee of \$8,000 will increase to only \$15,000.**
  - **The fee schedule thereby ensures that the largest facilities that most burden the community and ACHD are the focal point of these fee increases.**

**Please use the list below to reach out to all members of the Allegheny County Council and urge them to support** ACHD's proposal and to vote YES on this reasonable permit fee rate increase that requires industries that are responsible for the pollution to cover the cost of ACHD protecting our communities.

### **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:**

- [Bethany.Hallam@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:Bethany.Hallam@alleghenycounty.us) @bethanyhallam

- [Jack.Betkowski@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:Jack.Betkowski@alleghenycounty.us) @jack\_betkowski
- [Suzanne.Filiaggi@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:Suzanne.Filiaggi@alleghenycounty.us) @suzannefiliaggi
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- [Patrick.Catena@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:Patrick.Catena@alleghenycounty.us)
- [Dan.Grzybek@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:Dan.Grzybek@alleghenycounty.us) @Dan\_Grzybek
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- [Mike.Embrescia@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:Mike.Embrescia@alleghenycounty.us)
- [DeWitt.Walton@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:DeWitt.Walton@alleghenycounty.us) @idahonupe
- [Paul.Klein@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:Paul.Klein@alleghenycounty.us)
- [Robert.Palmosina@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:Robert.Palmosina@alleghenycounty.us)
- [David.Bonaroti@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:David.Bonaroti@alleghenycounty.us)

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

**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 meetings 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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