



TALKING POINTS: U.S. Steel's Exemption Application

U.S. Steel's application for exemptions from Coke Oven, Integrated Iron and Steel and Taconite Hazardous Emissions Standards that were finalized by the Biden administration

- Allegheny County residents need protection against coke plant and steel plant toxic emissions of hazardous air pollutants that shorten our lifespans and increase rates of cancer and diseases in our communities.
- Much of this pollution consists of lead, arsenic and other metals, which are not only highly toxic but persistent in the environment so that each year's emissions add to the buildup of toxic pollution from previous years. It also consists of carcinogens, such as benzene.
- Thousands of impacted residents spoke out in favor of these rules, with overwhelming evidence for needing them.
- Regional steel companies had annual revenues exceeding \$15 billion last year and have frequently engaged in stock buyback programs worth hundreds of millions, far exceeding the very small cost of compliance with these rules.
- Fenceline benzene monitoring would cost only about \$220,000 a year for 10 years, which is **a fraction of U.S. Steel's \$15 billion in revenue in 2024.** ([See this Link](#))
- **U.S. Steel Lobbying Activity from Q1 2025 totaled \$990,000 (4x the cost of putting into place the benzene monitoring system) and [includes](#) efforts to circumvent these EPA NESHAP rules and regulations affecting integrated steelmaking and air emissions, water quality, and jurisdiction of navigable waters. [See this link.](#)**
- Studies cited by Environmental Integrity Project (EIP) show fenceline monitoring in other industries reduces benzene emissions by 30% due to a greater awareness of the emitters, who are alerted to it and respond to the leak.
- EIP's two-year benzene monitoring project has gathered a lot of data from its eight sites near the plant.
- Benzene was detected at each of the houses and three, including the Meckel family's home, had higher levels than the others.

- Two of the sampling locations over an 18-month span showed average equivalent levels of more than 1 part per billion.
- This is a case of companies – and an administration – engaged in facilitating greed at the expense of all of our health in Allegheny County and our country.