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Health Department Revises Enforcement Order Issued Against Mon Valley Works

PITTSBURGH – The Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) announced today that it has revised its enforcement order issued February 28th against U.S. Steel's Mon Valley Works (Edgar Thompson Plant, Irvin Plant and Clairton Coke Works). The action was taken in response to the plan submitted by U.S. Steel on March 7.

Per the revised order (http://bit.ly/2F7uqft), U.S. Steel is required to implement the following at its Clairton Coke Works facility:

- Extend coking times to 27 hours at all batteries by March 23, 2019.
- By April 1, 2019, install six axial compressors and start testing compressors.
- Have 100% desulfurization back online by April 15, 2019.

The revised order also requires U.S. Steel to provide additional weekly emissions data to ACHD.

"When U.S. Steel provided its response and alternative plan, it was determined that the revised order would best reduce emissions at the Mon Valley Works facilities in the given timeline. Included in the plan was an accelerated schedule for repairs to be completed at the Clairton Coke Works by April 15, which made the terms of our original order no longer applicable," said Health Department Deputy Director of Environmental Health Jim Kelly. "Our number-one priority is to protect public health. Given the contracted time frame for implementing full repairs, this modified plan provides the best options available to decrease SO₂ emissions. This revised order holds U.S. Steel accountable for meeting the new, shortened deadlines, and emissions reductions. Should any progress be impeded, we are prepared to issue additional orders."

This enforcement order replaces the one issued on February 28, and is separate from all previous enforcement orders, including both the 2016 consent order and the 2018 enforcement order issued against the Clairton Coke Works. The 2016 consent order remains in effect until March 24, 2019. The 2018 enforcement order remains in the appeals process.

All civil penalties for permit and Article XXI Air Pollution Control violations related to the fire and its aftermath will be levied against U.S. Steel once repair work is completed at the Clairton Coke Works.

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