



ALLEGHENY COUNTY

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Health Department Issues Enforcement Order Against U.S. Steel *All Three Facilities in Violation of Article XXI permits for Daily SO₂ Emissions*

PITTSBURGH – The Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) has issued an enforcement order (<http://bit.ly/2TrsHtk>) against U.S. Steel’s Mon Valley Works facilities (Edgar Thompson Plant, Irvin Plant and Clairton Coke Works) for continued Article XXI permit violations for daily sulfur dioxide (SO₂) emissions after a December 24 fire occurred at the Clairton Coke Works.

Per the order, U.S. Steel must reduce its use of coke oven gas and its daily SO₂ emissions across all Mon Valley facilities, including the Peachtree flare at the Irvin Plant, through one or more of the following ways until the repairs at the Clairton Coke Works are complete, or June 30, 2019, whichever comes later:

- Reducing the volume of coal in each coke oven;
- Further extending coking times from 22 hours to 30-36 hours;
- Putting as many coke oven batteries as necessary under “hot idle” to achieve compliance with the hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) emission standard; and/or
- Proposing its own plan to reduce SO₂ emissions with demonstrated ability to comply with the daily permitted limit for its facilities.

U.S. Steel must notify the Health Department of its decision within five (5) days and will also be required to provide weekly data demonstrating compliance.

“After extensive analysis of data provided by U.S. Steel, the Health Department has determined that the most recent SO₂ exceedance in the Mon Valley on February 4 was directly related to the lack of desulfurization at the Clairton Coke Works,” said Deputy Director of Environmental Health Jim Kelly. “Data provided to us since the exceedance at the North Braddock monitor showed that the amount of SO₂ being emitted daily from these three facilities far exceeds what is allotted in the individual Title V operating permits. It also provided further evidence of elevated SO₂ beyond what is being identified at our monitors. To get the plant back into compliance, and to protect the health of the public, it was essential to prepare and issue this evidence-based order. We are also requiring the implementation of further mitigation strategies necessary to comply with permitted emission limits that were set for the protection of public health.”

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.

This enforcement order 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.

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