



# ALLEGHENY COUNTY

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## U.S. Steel Fined Over \$700,000 for Violations in Third, Fourth Quarter of 2018

**PITTSBURGH** – The Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) has levied a fine of \$707,568 against U.S. Steel for the third and fourth quarters of 2018 due to continued emissions problems at the Clairton Coke Works facility. This marks the third civil penalty levied against U.S. Steel since June of 2018, totaling more than \$2 million.

This latest civil penalty is separate from all other enforcement actions and legal matters that the Health Department and U.S. Steel are actively involved in since the beginning of 2017. Following is a summary of those matters:

- On November 9, 2017, ACHD and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a joint [notice of violation](#) against U.S. Steel's Edgar Thomson facility for repeated exceedances of visible emissions and violations of its Title V permit. The U.S. Department of Justice is involved, and fines will eventually be split between ACHD and the EPA.
- On June 28, 2018, ACHD issued an [enforcement order](#) against U.S. Steel which also included a civil penalty of more than \$1 million due to a decrease in compliance over time at its Clairton Coke Works. Terms of the order included that if U.S. Steel's Clairton Coke Works does not improve violations in two sequential quarters of 2019 (Jan 1<sup>st</sup>-June 30<sup>th</sup>), two of the worst performing batteries will be put on hot idle. U.S. Steel appealed this order and it is currently in the appeals process with the hearing officer. A written decision will be issued in the future.
- On October 18, 2018, the Health Department issued an additional civil penalty, a [fine of \\$620,316](#), against U.S. Steel for continued emissions problems for the second quarter of 2018 at the Clairton Coke Works facility, as there was an increase in the number of violations over the previous quarter. U.S. Steel has appealed this civil penalty. A hearing to determine the merits of the appeal will be held on June 17, 2019 (date subject to change).
- On February 28, 2019, ACHD issued an enforcement order against U.S. Steel's Mon Valley Works (Edgar Thomson Plant, Irvin Plant and Clairton Coke Works) for continued Article XXI permit violations for daily sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) emissions after the December 24, 2018, fire occurred at the Clairton Coke Works. On March 12, 2019, ACHD [revised its enforcement order](#). The action was taken in response to information submitted by U.S. Steel on March 7, 2019, demonstrating that portions of the February 28<sup>th</sup> order could result in greater short-term emissions. Per the revised order, U.S. Steel is required to extend coking times to 27 hours, have specific equipment operational by April 1, 2019, and have 100% desulfurization back online by April 15, 2019. Additional enforcement actions will follow if these deadlines are not met.

Once repairs to the Clairton Coke Works made necessary by the December 24, 2018 fire are completed, ACHD will conduct a comprehensive assessment of violations and will evaluate and review all information to determine the amount of the resulting civil penalties. The fines will be in addition to any additional measures that will be required by ACHD of U.S. Steel.

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