



Tonawanda New York Community Air Quality Study and Evaluation of the Tonawanda Coke Facility

Community Update

September 2009

TIMELINE

- DEC/EPA Tonawanda Community Air Quality Study results released to public in June 2009
- EPA conducts inspection/Evaluation at the Tonawanda Coke facility April 13-21, 2009
- Tonawanda Coke representatives meet with EPA to review future inspection criteria.
- Future testing to be conducted at Tonawanda Coke later this year and in 2010.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Public participation is essential to the success of EPA's community involvement program. If you have any questions regarding EPA's activities in Tonawanda, NY, please contact Mike Basile, EPA Public Affairs Specialist, Western New York Public Information office, 716-551-4410 or via e-mail to basile.michael@epa.gov

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is very active in your community and we wanted to take a moment to let you know what we are doing. First, EPA paid for a study of air quality in your area and second the Agency is engaged in an assessment of Tonawanda Coke's compliance with federal environmental laws and regulations.

Tonawanda Community Air Quality Study

EPA provided almost \$300,00 in funding to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to conduct an air quality study around the Tonawanda, New York industrial zone.

Tonawanda Coke Inspection/Evaluation

As a result of the air quality study and because of concerns expressed by the community, EPA conducted a full no-notice compliance inspection/evaluation at the facility April 13-21, 2009. The multifaceted evaluation was conducted to determine the compliance with federal laws and regulations. As part of this evaluation, some tests were conducted to confirm that pollutants emitted from the facility, such as benzene, are crossing the fence line. EPA is also assessing benzene in wastewater and general compliance at the facility.

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Continuing Inspection/Evaluation

The investigation is still an active ongoing evaluation and it involves elements of EPA's air, water, toxics, emergency planning and hazardous waste programs. We have required the company to conduct a series of tests at the facility that will tell us the exact amounts of pollutants they emit not only from the smoke stacks, but from every part of the facility. EPA is requiring the company to not only perform some common tests and submit further information, but to also perform a very cutting edge test never before used at a Coke facility in the U.S. This testing will give us a very accurate and detailed picture of what is being emitted at the facility and will ensure that we know for absolute certain whether the facility is violating any EPA regulations. EPA is using the authority of the Clean air Act to require the company to submit detailed testing protocols and that the testing is done properly. Considerations such as weather may also play into the timing of the testing, some of which may need to be conducted in the spring. EPA will oversee all future testing that will occur at the facility, as an independent contractor utilizing approved protocols will conduct future emission tests later this year or in 2010. Company officials recently met with our air programs and compliance representatives at our regional office in New York City to discuss future facility testing.

EPA continues to work with both the DEC and the New York State Department of Health (DOH) to identify and reduce emissions of hazardous air pollutants that may be in excess of allowable standards. DOH held a community meeting following the release of results obtained from the air quality study and recently held public availability sessions to hear the health concerns of the surrounding community.

The collection, analysis, and verification process is comprehensive and needs to be completed carefully to ensure sound scientific review an evaluation. When EPA completes their evaluation/inspection of the Tonawanda Coke facility, the test results will be made available to the state, the company, and the community.

We will continue to provide you with future updates as our evaluation continues. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mike Basile, EPA's Public Affairs Specialist at our Western New York Public Information Office at (716) 551-4410.

