



ALLEGHENY COUNTY

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Health Department Issues Enforcement Order Against U.S. Steel *Order Issued Due to Decrease in Compliance at Clairton Coke Works*

PITTSBURGH – The Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) announced today that it has issued an enforcement order against U.S. Steel due to a decrease in compliance over time at its Clairton Coke Works facility.

While the 2016 consent decree with U.S. Steel showed early progress, recent data from areas unaffected by the decree have shown a downward trend in compliance. Both the third and fourth quarters of 2017, and the first quarter of 2018, demonstrated continued emissions problems.

“This lack of compliance at the Clairton facility has had a direct impact on the nearby Liberty Monitor, which has begun to measure increasing levels of fine particulate matter, thus reversing a long-term trend of improvement,” said Health Department Director Dr. Karen Hacker. “The Liberty Monitor is the only monitor in the county that is out of compliance with federal EPA air quality standards. The decrease in compliance has to be remedied to protect the health of our residents.”

In addition to a fine of over \$1-million dollars, U.S. Steel is required to submit a comprehensive assessment of its coke batteries to the Health Department within 60 days of receipt of the order. The assessment must include details of all the current emissions at the Clairton Coke Works, and a proposal on how the plant will reduce future SO₂ (sulfur dioxides), PM 2.5 (particulate matter) and visible emissions. Reductions of visible emissions shall be quantified by an increase in the rate of compliance with both inspection and continuous opacity monitors.

Implementation of any proposed measures must begin within 30 days of the Health Department’s approval. If compliance rates do not improve over two-consecutive calendar quarters, the two worst-performing batteries at the Clairton facility will be ordered to cease operation until the Health Department has determined that U.S. Steel has complied with terms of the order.

For more information on the Health Department’s efforts to improve air quality and decrease air pollution in Allegheny County, visit: <http://bit.ly/2LJ6xv9>.

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