



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

PUBLIC INTEREST CENTER

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News Release

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Middletown Coke Air Permit Subject of Ohio EPA Hearing

Ohio EPA will hold a public information session and hearing at 6:30 p.m. on August 21, 2008, to accept comments regarding a draft air permit for a proposed new heat recovery coke-making facility to be located adjacent to AK Steel Corporation's Middletown Works in Middletown. The permit application was submitted by Middletown Coke Company.

The hearing will be at the Dave Finkelman Auditorium of the Middletown Campus, Miami University, 4200 E. University Blvd.

The proposed coke-making facility would consist of 100 heat recovery coke ovens in three batteries. Coke is used as a raw material to produce iron, which is then used to produce steel. The operations at the new coke-making facility would include coal handling, coal charging, heat recovery coking, coke pushing, coke quenching and coke handling and storage. Heat recovery generators would recover waste heat from the ovens to produce steam and electricity. The proposed facility would be designed to coke up to 910,000 tons per year of coal.

Ohio EPA air permits establish limits on emissions and the operation, and require the use of best available technology to control emissions. Emissions limits are established to ensure compliance with federal clean air standards and protect public health. The draft permit sets limits on the following pollutants:

<u>Pollutant</u>	<u>Tons Per Year</u>
Particulate matter (stack)	344.55
Particulate matter 10 microns or less	217.4
Particulate matter 2.5 microns or less	114.05
SO ₂ (sulfur dioxide)	1584.75
Nitrogen oxide (NOx)	483.67
Carbon monoxide (CO)	129.49
Volatile organic compounds (VOC)	31.35
Hydrochloric acid (HCl)	121
Sulfuric acid mist	36.29
Hazardous air pollutants	3.6

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<u>Pollutant</u>	<u>Pounds per year</u>
Mercury	12.4*
Lead	560

***from waste gas bypass stacks**

The draft permit requires the company to install and operate a state-of-the-art carbon injection system on the main emissions stack to control mercury emissions. This control system is expected to capture 90 percent of the mercury emissions produced by the coking process and emitted from the main stack. Overall mercury emissions from this facility are expected to be less than 50 pounds per year. No mercury emission limit has been established yet for the main stack because of the uncertainties associated with the expected emissions generated and the control efficiency of the new system. After installation, the company would be required to conduct a study in order to optimize the efficiency of the control system, and then apply for a permit revision to establish a mercury-specific emission limitation from the main stack. The draft permit does, however, include a mercury emissions limit for the facility's waste gas bypass stacks. These stacks are used only a few days during the year and have a limit of no more than 12.4 total pounds of mercury per year.

As part of the information session, Agency representatives will answer questions before the full audience about the proposed project. The public hearing will immediately follow the information session. During the hearing, the public can submit comments for the record regarding the draft air permit.

Ohio EPA will accept written comments about the draft air permit through August 28, 2008. Anyone may submit written comments to Mike Ploetz of the Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services, 250 William Howard Taft Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219. Comments may also be faxed to 513-946-7778. Requests to be placed on a mailing list for information should be put in writing and sent to: Erika Wiggins, PIC, Ohio EPA, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049. The draft permit is available on the Web at: <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/pic/middletowncoke.html>