

From: Tomasz Kalkowski [tkalkows@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2009 2:34 PM
To: Thu Bui
Subject: Cupertino cement plant's permit process

To Ms. Thu Bui, BAAQMD

I would like to express my concern regarding renewing the permit for the further operation of the Lehigh Southwest Cement Plant. My main concerns:

- as one of the major mercury pollution source in the country I am very concerned about the short and long term health effect of this factory, some of them may not even be recognized at this time. I can't understand why having so much empty space in the state of California one of the worst polluting factory has to continue operate in the middle of the multi-million population area. Apparently not only city of Cupertino is affected by this operation but also air and waters in the bay and in the ocean (for example elevated mercury level in fish)
- I heard about monitoring of the level of pollution emitted by the facility is not adequate. There is no a single stack in the factory and measuring of the pollution is only done in some selected places. Based on this data we can only assume what the other sources are emitting but this is just a guess. I don't understand how we can even start the renewal process without proper complete monitoring of the emissions created by the factory (it should be monitored 24/7)
- the quality of life in the direct neighborhood of the plant is greatly reduced by the truck traffic. Every day hundreds of diesel trucks are driving on the Stevens Creek and Foothill Blvd adding to the pollution and creating noise. The traffic starts about 1-2 am every morning and quite often I can observe that many track does not respect the speed limits. Having such a high traffic of big trucks in the residential area should be prohibited especially during night hours.
- being aware of the public response (against the permit renewal) at the last public hearing which took place in Cupertino last month the fact is that the majority of the Cupertino residents just do not want this factory to operate any longer. This is our community. Why not listen to what the overwhelming majority of the residents want ?

Regards

Tomasz Kalkowski, Cuperino resident