

October 29, 2019

Alison Arwady
Interim Commissioner
Chicago Department of Public Health

Dear Commissioner Arwady,

We thank you for the response from the Department of Public Health dated September 26, 2019. I am following up today in regards to the responses and information provided by the agency. Please note that our community members continue to want to ensure that the state site remediation process includes active participation by community members, a full and complete characterization of site contamination, as well as full and complete characterization of any potential contamination that extends further into the community or the Sanitary and Ship Canal outside of the site boundary, and a remediation that is protective of human health and the environment, now and in the future.

The public health of the Little Village community continues to be severely and adversely affected by persistent, cumulative impacts from environmental exposure for decades, including from the operations at the former Crawford Coal Power Plant site and ongoing exposure to a multitude of toxins from transportation and industrial facilities overburdening the neighborhood.

1. As of this letter, Hilco has posted vague information regarding construction schedule, including all associated activities, on its website (CrawfordStation.com) with weekly updates. Since our letter was sent they have made updates to their (english) website on 10/16/19 and again 10/25/19 with very little changes.
2. The spanish version of the website contains even fewer updates and the information provided is generalized not translated. The last update was made 08/16/18.
3. The Hilco outreach request has only happened within the scope of a letter since the demolition has started. Hilco has incorrectly listed LVEJO's Community Meeting on August 6, 2019 as an outreach meeting. Although Hilco representatives were in the room they did not participate in the planning or meeting in general. The last update was made on 09/13/19.
4. CDPH has conducted air monitoring within their jurisdiction on the southeast side within the Industrial Corridor. We are requesting CDPH install and monitor air monitors around the Crawford site.
5. What is the timeline to receive and share the Fugitive Dust Control plan from Hilco?
6. What is the schedule for the street sweepers? Community members have yet to see them.
7. Within the information provided there are different work hours. What are the current hours of operation permitted and are there any changes being considered or approved?

8. The provided timeline has demolition ending May 1, 2019. Is there an updated timeline CDPH can share, given the lack of information online at www.crawfordstation.com. Their timeline is based on quarterly blocks.
9. Based on IEPA's response that they do **not** receive 311 complaints, can CDPH forward any complaints related to air / dust mitigation complaints to IEPA?

We remind CDPH that this is the first time that a Coal Power Plant in a dense, urban area such as the City of Chicago is being demolished, and the city and state have a unique opportunity to collaborate with the community to ensure well-being and mitigate additional pollution burdens on neighbors who cannot shoulder more. From Wood River, Illinois to Philadelphia, PA. Communities dealing with Hilco and other contractors working on Crawford are reaching out to understand what our experiences have and continue to be.

We share with them that our City's response is to close our doors and lock our windows. This continues to be an unreasonable ask of community residents who are made to take measures to protect themselves as a result of this project, and it puts the onus of protection on the community residents, instead of compelling protective action from the company doing the work. This approach is not adequate solution for community members, hence our stated requests above. We look forward to your response.

Thank you for your time. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,
Kim Wasserman
Little Village Environmental Justice Organization

CC:

Roberto Perez, CEO, Hilco Redevelopment Partners
Michael Rodriguez, Alderman, 22nd Ward
George Cardenas, Alderman, 12th Ward; Chair, Committee on Environmental Protection and Energy
48 Aldermen of Chicago's City Council
Mayor Lori Lightfoot, City of Chicago
Candace Moore, Chief Equity Officer, City of Chicago
Dave Graham, Associate Commissioner, Chicago Department of Public Health
President Toni Preckwinkle, Cook County Board of Commissioners
Alma Anaya, Cook County Commissioner, 7th District
Celina Villanueva, State Representative, 21st District
Martin Sandoval, State Senator, 11th District
John Kim, Director, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Chris Pressnall, Environmental Justice Officer, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Jay Robert Pritzker, Governor, State of Illinois
Cathy Stepp, Regional Administrator, Region 5, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



Nathan Frank, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Alan Walts, Director, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Tammy Duckworth, U.S. Senator
Dick Durbin, U.S. Senator
Jesus Garcia, U.S. Representative, Illinois 4th District