



West Berkeley Alliance for Clean Air and Safe Jobs

Health Risk Facts

The West Berkeley Alliance for Clean Air and Safe Jobs is focused on getting Pacific Steel Casting Company (PSC) to clean up. PSC says its operations are safe, and that the Health Risk Assessment (HRA) they are producing will say so too. But the consultants that designed the HRA were paid by PSC, and PSC was allowed weeks to remove “trade secrets” before turning over only partial HRA data to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD). PSC and BAAQMD also signed a backroom, no-public-input-allowed settlement agreement allowing PSC to add “odor neutralizers” to emissions, masking PSC’s odor but not removing toxics.

What is Pacific Steel Doing to Our Air?

PSC Second Worst Cancer Risk

A Pacific Institute analysis shows that, of all Bay Area TRI (Toxic Release Inventory) facilities ranked for carcinogen risk-related impacts in 1997, Pacific Steel Casting Company ranked 2nd highest for carcinogen risk out of 30 industries.¹ In 1997, Pacific Steel was far from peak production. According to Pacific Steel, their production levels have been dramatically increasing since 2000.

EPA Shows PSC in Worst 1% of Health Risks

Dr. Michael Wilson of the University of California Berkeley’s School of Public Health states in a 2006 report that from 2002 - 2003 Pacific Steel Casting showed a 38% increase of criteria air pollutants and an **84% increase of toxic air pollutants**, and that the U.S. EPA stationary source risk ratings for 2,171 industrial sites in six Bay Area counties ranked Pacific Steel Casting as the 12th highest risk.²

Got Asthma?

A 2004 report by the Oakland/Berkeley Asthma Coalition states that Berkeley has an asthma hospitalization rate 250% the national Healthy People 2000 objective, disproportionately among people of color. The study also states that West Berkeley has the **highest rate of asthma emergency room visits** in all of Berkeley, in part because, “These areas are more heavily impacted by industry that releases a multitude of pollutants into the air....”³

PSC Must Come Clean and Clean Up

PSC’s carbon adsorption device will filter out odors if used properly, but not all toxic pollution. It’s time for PSC to be a good neighbor by implementing comprehensive Toxic Use Reduction (re-engineering to use few toxic chemicals to begin with), Continuous Emissions Monitoring with easy public access (to prove PSC reduced toxics and to continuously check that PSC is still clean), and full disclosure of all pollution data.

¹ Pacific Institute for Studies in Development, Environment, and Security. “Air Pollution Health Risks to Neighborhood Residents.” <http://www.neip.org/downloads/aphr.pdf>

² Michael Wilson, Ph.D. March 30, 2006 document about Pacific Steel Casting and Toxic Use Reduction. Document redistributed on request by Alliance (see contact information below).

³ Oakland Berkeley Asthma Coalition. “Oakland/Berkeley Asthma Hospitalization Report,” Vol.1, 2004. <http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/council1/images/asthma%202004.PDF>

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WANT CLEAN AIR?
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every time (24/7) that you smell the odor!