

1 ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

2 October 19, 2011

3 7:00 p.m.

4 IN RE:

5 PUBLIC HEARING - CONSTRUCTION PERMIT
6 PROPOSED PORTLAND CEMENT MANUFACTURING PLANT
7 117th STREET NEAR SOUTH TORRENCE AVENUE

8 REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS at the hearing of the
9 above-entitled cause, taken before David Demski,
10 Certified Shorthand Reporter within and for the County
11 of Cook and State of Illinois, at Olive-Harvey College,
12 10001 South Woodlawn Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

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1 APPEARANCES:

2 ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
3 BY: MR. DEAN STUDER
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1 people who are in favor of the project, I would ask
2 that -- and you don't have a strong conviction to say
3 something this evening and you're not from the
4 neighborhood here, I'd ask that you leave. That
5 you -- I encourage you to leave and give up your seat
6 for people in the hall.

7 We want to be sure that everybody has an
8 opportunity to speak tonight who needs to speak and
9 there's a lot of people in the hall who really feel like
10 they need to speak yet. So I'm asking especially Ozinga
11 employees, and I really appreciate that you're here and
12 I appreciate your commitment to our organization, the
13 future of our organization, but I'm asking you now as
14 supporters of this who -- again people who don't feel
15 strongly convicted that they need to make a comment,
16 that you -- that you go. All right?

17 Then during that time we're going to have a
18 transition where we're going to reconnect in what seats
19 are open yet and then allow more people to come in and,
20 hopefully, we can get everybody in. So, it's going to
21 be a little bit of a process right now, but again we ask
22 you to give up your seat for those who are in favor of
23 the project.

24 PATRICIA SHARKEY: I want to announce that

1 anybody who's leaving, there is a list outside that you
2 can sign that says I support the project so that your
3 coming out tonight will be noted, that you were here and
4 that you've offered your support. Thank you.

5 DEAN STUDER: Also, I will also accept any
6 written comments that anyone does have prepared and I
7 will enter those into the exhibit -- or into the record
8 as exhibits. They are given the same weight as any oral
9 comments.

10 For those departing, I appreciate your
11 flexibility in this matter and I thank you for being
12 here this evening and I apologize on behalf of the
13 director for the inconvenience this may have caused.

14 While we're changing the guard here, I'll go
15 out and touch base with those at the registration desk.

16 (Recess.)

17 DEAN STUDER: If you'll make your way to
18 your seats, please. I would like to begin as soon as
19 possible. For those that are coming in the auditorium,
20 there are a few seats in the center, there's a few empty
21 seats over here.

22 We're going to begin in 30 seconds.

23 Good evening. We'll go ahead and go on the
24 record. My name is Dean Studer and I'm the hearing

1 officer for the Illinois Environmental Protection
2 Agency. On behalf of interim director Lisa Bonnett,
3 I welcome you to tonight's hearing.

4 My purpose tonight is to ensure that these
5 proceedings run properly, according to rules, and are
6 conducted in a fair and efficient manner. Personally,
7 I will not be responding to specific technical issues
8 related to the permit, but will defer such issues to
9 technical staff here with me this evening.

10 This is an informational hearing before
11 the Illinois EPA in the matter of an application for an
12 air pollution control construction permit and prevention
13 of significant deterioration, PSD, approval for a
14 proposed Portland cement manufacturing plant to be
15 located in Chicago on East 117th Street near Torrence
16 Avenue.

17 The proposed plant is in an area designated
18 as non-attainment for ozone and fine particulate matter.
19 The plant would be considered a major new source for
20 emissions of nitrogen oxides, as a precursor for ozone,
21 and sulfur dioxide, as a precursor to fine particulate
22 matter, under the state rules for Major Stationary
23 Sources Construction and Modification, otherwise
24 referred to as MSACAM, and those regulations are found

1 at 35 Illinois Code Part 203.

2 The plant would also be a major source for
3 emissions of nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, carbon
4 monoxide, particulate matter, and greenhouse gases under
5 the federal rules for the Prevention of Significance
6 Deterioration. Those rules are found in 40 CFR Section
7 52.21. The Illinois EPA has made a preliminary
8 determination that the applicant -- excuse me, that the
9 application meets the requirements for obtaining a
10 permit for the project and has prepared a draft permit
11 for review. The Illinois EPA is holding this hearing
12 for the purpose of accepting comments from the public on
13 the proposed issuance of a permit for this project prior
14 to actually making a final decision on the application.
15 This public hearing is being held under the provisions
16 of the Illinois EPA procedures for permit and closure
17 plan hearings, which can be found at 35 Illinois
18 Administrative Code, Part 166, Subpart A. Copies of
19 these procedures can be accessed on the website for
20 the Illinois Pollution Control Board at
21 www.ipcb.state.il.us, or can be obtained from me upon
22 request.

23 An informational public hearing means
24 exactly that. It is an opportunity for you to provide

1 information to the Illinois EPA concerning this permit.
2 This is not a contested case hearing.

3 I would like to explain how tonight's
4 hearing is going to proceed. First, I will have the
5 Illinois EPA staff introduce themselves and identify
6 their responsibility in the agency in regards to this
7 permitting action. Mr. Smet will then make a brief
8 statement, then Mr. Marty Ozinga, IV, representing
9 Universal Cement, will make a short presentation. This
10 will be followed by additional instructions on how I
11 will take oral comments this evening and then I will
12 allow the public to begin providing comments.

13 You are not required to provide your
14 comments orally. Written comments are given the same
15 consideration and may be submitted to the Illinois EPA
16 at any time during the comment period which ends at
17 midnight November 18th, 2011. All comments submitted by
18 mail must be postmarked no later than November 18, 2011.
19 Although we will continue to accept comments through
20 that date, tonight is the only time that we will accept
21 oral comments.

22 The Illinois EPA would like to have a final
23 decision in this matter by the end of this year.
24 However, the actual decision date will depend upon the

1 number and nature of comments received, as well as other
2 factors.

3 Any persons who want to make oral comments
4 may do so, as long as the statements are relevant to
5 the issues at hand. If you have not completed a
6 registration card at this point, please see Brad Frost
7 in the registration area and he will provide you with
8 a registration card. Please be sure to check the
9 appropriate box on the card if you desire to make
10 comments at the hearing this evening. If you have
11 lengthy comments, it may be helpful to provide a summary
12 of your comments this evening and submit the comments
13 in their entirety to me before the close of the comment
14 period and I will ensure that they are included in the
15 record as an exhibit. Please keep your comments and
16 questions relevant to the issue at hand. If your
17 comments fall outside the scope of this hearing, I may
18 ask you to proceed to another issue. Universal Cement
19 is also free to respond to issues that are raised if
20 willing to do so, but I am not in a position to require
21 them to do so. However, I will not allow the speakers
22 to argue or engage in prolonged dialogue with members of
23 our panel. For the propose of allowing everyone to have
24 a chance to comment, I ask that everyone keep their

1 comments to 3 minutes. This should give everyone who
2 desires to speak the opportunity to do so. In addition,
3 I'd like to stress that we want to avoid unnecessary
4 repetition. If anyone before you has already presented
5 what is contained in your comments, please skip over
6 those issues when you speak. If someone speaking before
7 you has already said what you desire to say, you may
8 pass when I call your name to come forward. Again, we
9 are also accepting written comments which will become
10 part of the official record in this matter and they will
11 be considered by the Illinois EPA in making a final
12 decision.

13 After everyone has had an opportunity to
14 speak and provided that time allows, I will allow those
15 who either ran out of time during the initial comments
16 or have additional comments to speak, and that is
17 provided time allows. All who legibly complete a
18 registration card or submit written comments in this
19 matter will be notified of the final decision and of the
20 availability of the responsiveness summary. In the
21 responsiveness summary, the Illinois EPA will respond to
22 all significant issues that were raised at this hearing
23 or submitted to me prior to the close of the comment
24 period. The written record in this matter will close

1 November 18th, 2011. I will accept written comments as
2 long as they are postmarked no later than November 18th,
3 2011. While the record is open, all relevant comments
4 and documents or data will be placed into the hearing
5 record as exhibits. Please send all written documents
6 to my attention. They should be mailed to Dean Studer,
7 Hearing Officer, Office of Community Relations regarding
8 Universal Cement new air permit, and that's at Illinois
9 EPA, 1021 North Grand Avenue East, Post Office Box
10 19276, and that's Springfield, Illinois 62794 --

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: You're going too fast.
12 I couldn't copy it.

13 DEAN STUDER: I'm sorry?

14 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Could you
15 state it slower so we can copy?

16 DEAN STUDER: Yes. It's also available in
17 the hearing notice for tonight, the address is.

18 Thank you. I will slow down.

19 The finishing part of that address is
20 Post Office Box 19276 and that's Springfield, Illinois,
21 62794-9276. And as I just indicated, that address is
22 given on the public notice for this hearing.

23 I also want to call your attention to a
24 couple of documents that are available in the

1 registration area. The Environmental Justice Analysis
2 prepared by Universal Cement and the Illinois EPA's
3 review of the said analysis are available in the back,
4 in the registration area. Copies of these documents are
5 limited to one copy of each document per household.
6 These documents are also available on the EPA web page
7 and can be found in the document repositories as well.
8 Illinois EPA will review public comments on the
9 Environmental Justice Analysis in conjunction with the
10 other comments in this proceeding before making a final
11 determination on the application in this matter.

12 Universal Cement has offered to pay for
13 an expedited copy of the transcript for this proceeding.
14 Therefore, it should be available on the Illinois EPA's
15 website by the middle of next week. Our typical
16 turnaround is normally two to two and a half weeks.
17 So, this is a -- this is an offer that they made to me
18 this evening and we are going to get that posted on our
19 web page as soon as that transcript is available so that
20 you'll have a transcript of this hearing when preparing
21 written post-hearing comments.

22 Also regarding Spanish language, we have
23 someone who has volunteered to be a translator and to
24 assist anyone that would like to make comments this

1 evening, but cannot do so in English, but can do so in
2 Spanish.

3 Is there anyone here this evening in the
4 room that does not feel that they can make comments this
5 evening in English?

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Did you say in Spanish?

7 DEAN STUDER: In Spanish, yes.

8 PATRICIA SHARKEY: Ms. Garcia?

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Untranslated Spanish
10 testimony.)

11 DEAN STUDER: Thank you.

12 At this time I'm going to ask everyone in
13 the room, if you haven't done so, please silence all
14 cell phones and pagers, and I'm going to turn things
15 over to Bob Smet for him to do his opening remarks on
16 the permit.

17 BOB SMET: Good evening. My name is
18 Bob Smet and I'm a current engineer in the Illinois
19 EPA's Bureau of Air. I'll be giving you a brief
20 description of the project.

21 Universal Cement has applied for a permit to
22 construct a Portland cement plant on the south side of
23 Chicago. Portland cement is manufactured by processing
24 limestone and other secondary raw material in a

1 high-temperature kiln. This kiln would be the principal
2 emission unit at the plant.

3 Because the plant would be a major source of
4 emissions for various pollutants, including greenhouse
5 gases, emissions of these pollutants must be controlled
6 with best available control technology and in some cases
7 to meet the lowest achievable emission rate.

8 For the kiln, the emission controls would
9 include the use of a baghouse or filter for control of
10 particulate matter, selected non-catalytic reduction on
11 the kiln for control of nitrogen oxides, and a fluidized
12 bed absorption system for sulfur dioxide. Greenhouse
13 gases will be reduced by the design of the kiln,
14 including preheater/precalciner technology.

15 The air quality analysis for the project
16 submitted by Universal Cement and reviewed by the
17 Illinois EPA shows that the proposed project, as would
18 be addressed by the permit, should not cause or
19 contribute to violations of the ambient air quality
20 standards for CO, SO₂, PM₁₀, and NO_x; carbon monoxide,
21 sulfur dioxide, particulate matter, and nitrogen oxides.

22 In addition, because the proposed plant
23 would be near communities characterized by minority and
24 low-income populations, Universal Cement prepared an

1 Environmental Justice Assessment document regarding the
2 possibility of significant adverse air quality impacts
3 on the nearby communities. Using data from the air
4 quality analysis, it was determined that there would be
5 no significant adverse impacts on these communities from
6 these pollutants. In addition, the Illinois EPA
7 conducted its own assessment for emissions of hazardous
8 air pollutants from the proposed plant, which showed
9 that emissions should not have a significant impact on
10 the air quality.

11 As a major project for emissions of nitrogen
12 oxides and sulfur dioxide, Universal Cement must obtain
13 emission offsets for its permitted emissions of these
14 pollutants. In addition, an analysis of alternatives to
15 the project submitted by Universal Cement shows that the
16 benefits of the proposed plant outweigh its impacts, as
17 required by Illinois' rules for major projects in
18 non-attainment areas.

19 The permit for the plant would require
20 testing, monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting
21 to address compliance with applicable limits and
22 requirements. For the kiln, this would include
23 continuous emission monitoring for emissions of sulfur
24 dioxide, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, carbon

1 dioxide, and mercury, and monitoring of opacity.

2 In closing, the Illinois EPA is proposing
3 to issue a construction permit for Universal Cement's
4 proposed plant. We welcome your comments or questions
5 on our proposed action.

6 Thank you.

7 DEAN STUDER: Thank you, Mr. Smet.

8 I believe that there's a brief presentation
9 that Marty Ozinga, IV would like to make this evening.

10 Following this brief presentation, while
11 he's coming forward, I was reminded that I didn't note
12 for the record that there was no one that raised their
13 hand to have assistance this evening in speaking
14 Spanish.

15 MARTY OZINGA, IV: Thank you Mr. Hearing
16 Officer Studer, and thank you Mr. Bob Smet for allowing
17 me to speak.

18 My name is Marty Ozinga, IV. As he said, I
19 am here representing my family and my family's business.
20 Many of my family members are here and many of who we
21 consider our extended family members are here. We have
22 approximately 800 employees with the Ozinga organization
23 and we consider them extended family members and we're
24 happy many of you are here this evening. We're also

1 very encouraged that many people from the community are
2 here. We're very excited and encouraged about this
3 project. It's a very exciting day for us to be here,
4 it's a long time coming and we are excited that you are
5 all a part of it.

6 I just want to tell you briefly about our
7 company. Ozinga Ready Mix Concrete is a family-owned
8 and operated business. We now are in our 83rd year in
9 business. Our main business is ready-mix concrete
10 manufacture. You may know us by our red-and-white
11 striped concrete trucks. Many of them deliver to job
12 sites in this neighborhood and all throughout
13 Chicagoland.

14 Tonight we're talking about trying to
15 build a cement plant. We've never been in the cement
16 business, but we buy a lot of cement. Our cement is
17 bought by large foreign-owned multinational corporations
18 who have now become our competitors and we feel like in
19 order to stay a family-owned business, we need to get
20 into the cement business in order to compete
21 head-to-head and stay locally owned, stay family-owned,
22 so that's why we're pursuing this project.

23 It's an exciting project also because this
24 project brings many jobs to a community that -- not only

1 this community, but all over this country at a time when
2 there's desperate need for jobs. The construction of
3 this plant would last 30 months and would provide
4 hundreds of construction jobs. When we operate the
5 plant there would be 90 full-time jobs that would be
6 right here on the southeast side. In addition, for
7 every full-time job there's three additional jobs
8 estimated that will be created because of the
9 full-time jobs.

10 Much of the discussion tonight is going to
11 be about environmental concerns, environmental issues.
12 We feel like we have done our level best to work very
13 hard to make sure that we are putting forth a plan and
14 a proposal that not only meets the standards, but goes
15 above and beyond the standards that are in place. If
16 you look at the picture here, you will see a rendering
17 of the proposed plants. Many of the things of this
18 plant are state-of-the-art, they're the best control
19 technologies available, and we are saying that this is
20 going to be the greenest, cleanest cement plant in the
21 country. It's going to raise the bar on the industry,
22 our cement industry, and then raise the bar on the
23 southeast side, frankly. One of the reasons I say that
24 is because you see that all of the stockpiles of

1 material are covered. You will not see any open
2 stockpiles of material anywhere. I know that's been a
3 big concern that's come out of this community. I drove
4 over the Skyway today and you see big stockpiles of
5 material all over the place. None of that will be
6 outside, it will all be inside. There will be
7 continuous monitors of emissions that will be available.
8 As I said, there's innovative control technology.
9 There's no waste from this plant, no solid waste, and no
10 waste into the river, no river discharges, and we don't
11 use any water from the river. Finally, as I said, we
12 are feeling like this is an innovative plant in many,
13 many ways.

14 The last thing I want to point out is just
15 our commitment to you, for those of you who are from
16 this community, to do our best to continue to be
17 innovative with the technologies that come available, to
18 make sure that this plant is not only innovative today,
19 but it's innovative in the future. That's what we're
20 all about as an organization and we are committed to
21 making sure that as new technologies become available,
22 that we will be constantly monitoring that. Not only
23 that, our commitment to you in the meantime is to be
24 regularly available and out there, presenting to you

1 job opportunities as well as updates on how the plant is
2 going.

3 Finally, I want to just state to you my name
4 is on the door of the company, as is many of my family
5 members who are in this room. We have 83 years worth of
6 business and I hope you hear from many people tonight
7 who do know us, who understand that this is a business
8 of honesty and integrity and we go above and beyond to
9 make sure that we do things right. And so we're putting
10 our name on this and we don't do that lightly, because
11 our good name is much more important than any kind of
12 money that we could ever make. Thank you very much for
13 giving me time.

14 One of the things -- I want to do two things
15 yet. I want to -- Mr. Hearing Officer, I want to submit
16 letters of support.

17 I have letters here from Mayor Rahm Emanuel,
18 City of Chicago.

19 Thomas Villanova, Chicago and Cook County
20 Building Construction Trades Council.

21 President Jorge Ramirez, Chicago Federation
22 of Labor.

23 Alderman John A. Pope, Tenth Ward.

24 President and CEO Doug Whitley at Illinois

1 Chamber of Commerce.

2 Michael Yauger, Teamster Local 786.

3 President Frank Libby, Chicago Regional
4 Council of Carpenters.

5 President Patrick La Cassa, Cement Mason's
6 Union Local 502.

7 President Ted Stalnos, Calumet Area
8 Industrial Commission.

9 State Representative Marlow Colvin, 33rd
10 District.

11 President Craig Satalic, Bridge, Structural
12 and Reinforcing Iron Workers Local One.

13 William Kelly, Local 269.

14 Executive Director Neil Bosanko, South
15 Chicago Chamber of Commerce.

16 All these letters of support for the project
17 that I want to submit as part of the record. And, also,
18 I have a submittal of the Environmental Adjustment
19 Assessment that's been -- copies are made available to
20 everybody here tonight and I'm submitting this for the
21 record. Thank you.

22 DEAN STUDER: Thank you, Mr. Ozinga.

23 I'll go through instructions, just as a
24 reminder to everyone. We've got a full house, we've got

1 a lot of people that want to speak, so we're going to
2 have to move things along this evening. For that
3 reason, I'm going to ask that we do not applaud from
4 this point forward during this hearing.

5 While the issues raised tonight may indeed
6 be heartfelt concerns to many of said attendants,
7 applause is not appropriate during the course of this
8 hearing. On a similar note, hissing and jeering are
9 also not appropriate and will not be permitted this
10 evening. Secondly, I am going to -- excuse me. I am
11 not going to allow statements to be made tonight that
12 do not relate to the issues involved with this air
13 construction permit. Specifically, statements and
14 comments that are of a personal nature or reflect on the
15 character of a person or a group of people are not
16 appropriate at this hearing. As statements or comments
17 begin to drift into this area, I may interrupt the
18 person speaking and ask they proceed to the next
19 relevant issue. As hearing officer, I intend to treat
20 everyone here tonight in a courteous, respectful, and
21 professional manner. I ask that the public do the same.
22 If the conduct of persons attending this hearing should
23 become unruly, I am authorized to adjourn this hearing
24 should the actions warrant. In such a case, the

1 Illinois EPA would still accept written comments through
2 the close of the comment period which is November 18th.

3 Since we have a limited time in which to
4 conduct this hearing, Illinois EPA staff members will
5 be responding to issues primarily for clarification
6 purposes. We are here tonight to listen to
7 environmental issues. You may disagree with or object
8 to some of the statements and comments made tonight, but
9 this is a public hearing and everyone has a right to
10 express their comments on this matter. Again, written
11 comments are given the same consideration as oral
12 comments received during this hearing and may be
13 submitted to Illinois EPA at any time within the public
14 comment period, which ends at midnight on November 18,
15 2011. Although we will continue to accept comments
16 through that date, tonight is the only time that we
17 will accept oral comments. Any person who wishes to
18 make an oral comment may do so as long as statements are
19 relevant to the issues at hand and time allows. If you
20 have lengthy comments, please consider giving only a
21 summary of those comments during this hearing and, then,
22 submitting the comments in their entirety to me in
23 writing before the close of the comment period. I will
24 ensure that they are included in the hearing record as

1 an exhibit. Please keep your comments relevant to the
2 issue at hand. If your comments fall outside the scope
3 of this hearing, I may ask you to proceed to your next
4 issue. For the purpose of allowing everyone to have a
5 chance to comment and to ensure that we conduct this
6 hearing in a timely fashion, I will impose a time limit
7 of 3 minutes per speaker. This should allow everyone
8 that desires to speak to have the opportunity to do so.
9 After everybody has had an opportunity to speak and
10 provided that time permits, I may allow those who
11 initially did not speak or desire to speak to do so. If
12 time still permits, I may then allow those who initially
13 ran out of time to speak again. In the event that we
14 cannot accommodate everyone who wishes to make comments
15 this evening, you are asked to submit your comments to
16 us in writing. Again, written comments are given the
17 same weight as comments made orally at this hearing.
18 Again, I stress that we want to avoid unnecessary
19 repetition. Once a point is made, it makes no
20 difference if the point is made once or whether it's
21 made 99 times. It will be considered and will be
22 reflected only once in our responsiveness summary. The
23 final decision of the Illinois EPA will not be based
24 upon how many people support or oppose this project, but

1 rather upon the application and its supporting documents
2 indicating how the facility will comply with applicable
3 laws and regulations. We have a court reporter here who
4 is taking a record of these proceedings for the purpose
5 of us putting together our administrative record.
6 Therefore, for his benefit, please keep the general
7 background noise in the room to a minimum so that he can
8 hear everything that is said. Illinois EPA will post a
9 transcript for this hearing on our web page in the same
10 general place as the hearing notice, the project
11 summary, and the draft permit have been placed, we're
12 also placing the EJ documents in that same area. We
13 anticipate the transcript will be available by the
14 middle of next week.

15 When it is your turn to speak, I will call
16 your name to come forward. For the record, you should
17 state your name and, if applicable, any governmental
18 body, organization, or association that you represent.
19 If you are not representing a governmental body or an
20 organization or an association, you may simply indicate
21 that you are a concerned citizen or a member of the
22 public. For the benefit of the court reporter, I ask
23 that you spell your last name. If there are alternate
24 spellings for the first name, you may also spell your

1 first name. Once you spell your name, I will start
2 timing and you will have 3 minutes to complete your
3 comments. I ask that while you are speaking, that you
4 direct your attention to the hearing panel and to the
5 court reporter and this will ensure that an accurate
6 record of your comments are made. Prolonged dialogue
7 with members of the hearing panel or with others here in
8 attendance will not be permitted. Comments directed to
9 the audience are also not allowed. Again, I remind
10 everyone that the focus of this hearing is the
11 environmental issues associated with the air
12 construction permit. People who have requested to speak
13 will be called upon in the order they have registered.

14 Are there any questions regarding the
15 procedures that I'll use this evening in conducting this
16 hearing? Let the record indicate there were no hands
17 raised --

18 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: You said
19 about the written will equal in weight the oral. You
20 didn't say if there's any limits on the written
21 comments.

22 DEAN STUDER: That's correct. Written
23 comments supplied in writing are given the same weight
24 as oral ones and we have not had a policy where we have

1 limited the number of the pages that may be submitted.
2 What I will say is that repetition, just as repetition
3 at this hearing, doesn't add anything to the record.
4 Sending form letters doesn't necessarily add anything to
5 the record either. If you are so inclined to do that,
6 I would propose that rather than doing that, you send in
7 a letter that's associated and attached to a petition of
8 those that would support it and that goes a lot faster
9 and administratively is much easier to handle and
10 accomplishes the same goal. Because, again, our
11 decision is not based on the number of people that make
12 the same comment.

13 Are there any questions on procedures this
14 evening? Okay, if not, the first person is Alderman
15 John Pope. If Alderman Pope would like to make his way
16 down to the microphone.

17 To speed things up, I'm also going to say
18 who will be following the person that is speaking.
19 Jamie Salazar will be after Alderman Pope.

20 Go ahead.

21 JOHN POPE: Good evening, Hearing Officer
22 Studer, Mr. Smet, and all in attendance this evening.

23 I am John Pope, P-o-p-e, a lifelong resident
24 of the southeast side here and a 10th Ward alderman. As

1 a matter of fact, I grew up about 1.5 miles from the
2 proposed site and my family and I still live within a
3 stone's throw of the site today. I am proud and pleased
4 as an alderman and a resident of this community, a
5 lifelong resident, to support this project. And very
6 simply, I support this project for a number of reasons.
7 One, it creates jobs. It keeps a longtime Chicago
8 business in the community, in the city. It's a \$250
9 million investment in our southeast side, something we
10 have not seen for decades. It's accompanied with a
11 proven track record, a track record of doing good
12 business and working with the community hand-in-hand.

13 This is a state-of-the-art facility, not
14 like the steel mills that most of us are used to or
15 were used to decades and decades ago. It is not the
16 steel mills of our grandfathers. It will be a most
17 aggressive -- environmentally aggressive and progressive
18 cement plant in the entire country, not to mention in
19 comparison with some European and Asian factories, and
20 it's ideally situated here in the southeast side in the
21 Lake Calumet industrial corridor. And speaking of jobs,
22 it creates 90 permanent jobs and 2- to 400 much needed
23 construction jobs.

24 It's a project that's been vetted well with

1 the community. We've had community meetings back in
2 April with leaders, we've had some in September, as a
3 matter of fact, just last week and this evening. Also
4 should the IEPA go forward with issuing this permit,
5 have countless other meetings as it goes through the
6 city process. So, the process here has just begun.

7 As alderman, I try to represent the entire
8 community and as a result I'm presented with countless
9 projects, projects that a lot of people are in favor of,
10 a lot of people are opposed to. A lot of projects that
11 I do not even present to the community because I know
12 they're not something that the community wants,
13 something like incinerators, which I've had multiple
14 proposals, 24-hour business, pawnshops, things of that
15 nature, and some that we have spoken about and addressed
16 in the past, like a landfill, the CIE landfill just
17 down the street. We as a community fought to limit
18 additional garbage in our community. So I do take these
19 issues to heart. I do have to weigh the benefits of
20 costs and try and support those that I think will
21 benefit the entire community, including my family.

22 I'm proud here again to support this
23 project. It's a good project, it's a project that's
24 been well thought out, much analysis. You heard a brief

1 summary by Mr. Ozinga. The Ozinga name goes a long way
2 in Chicago, throughout the country, and I'm proud to
3 support it. I hope that the IEPA supports it. I hope
4 the entire community becomes more informed and that we
5 clarify some of the misinformation on it and get this
6 project into the ground here on the southeast side.

7 Mr. Hearing Officer, I'm proud to present
8 some 100 signatures of individuals who are also in
9 support of this project.

10 Thank you.

11 DEAN STUDER: Thank you and I will enter
12 them into the record. Thank you again, Alderman Pope,
13 for your comments this evening.

14 Jamie Salazar. Following him will be
15 Karen, is it Roothaan? You'll be after Mr. Salazar.

16 Go ahead.

17 JAIME SALAZAR: The first name is J-a-i-m-e,
18 the last name is Salazar, S-a-l-a-z-a-r.

19 It's incredible the amazing clarity that
20 comes with cancer. Things that I saw only when I looked
21 are just painfully clear. I was always someone who
22 played by the rules. Growing up in South Chicago I
23 always heard the key to a good life was education. I
24 studied hard, I got good grades. I was the class

1 speaker at my graduation where I earned my degree in
2 electrical engineering and now I'm nearly done with my
3 master's degree.

4 Like many kids from the area, I ate what was
5 close, what was fast, and what I could afford. That
6 meant a lot of Burger King and McDonald's. Once I was
7 married and had kids, I went to the doctor and he told
8 me I was a ticking time bomb, a heart attack waiting to
9 happening. I was morbidly obese at the age of 26. I
10 value my life. I love my kids. My wife and I studied
11 nutrition and fitness. I exercise at least five days
12 a week. I cut out animal parts from my diet and lost
13 100 pounds. I've kept it off for over seven years.
14 I've done everything they told me to. I've tried to
15 help others get healthy by spreading what I know about
16 healthy lifestyles. I played by the rules.

17 About six months ago I was diagnosed with
18 stage three adenocarcinoma of the appendix. I didn't
19 understand. I take really good care of myself. I
20 talked to experts, doctors, professors of biology. If
21 it were colon cancer, it would be what I was eating.
22 But the appendix, it was the environment. I was on two
23 concurrent chemo schedules. Crazy poisons that was
24 damage done by toxins in the air I breathe.

1 It looks like I'll beat this. The last scan
2 showed my intestine and liver now clear, but my lungs
3 with masses caused by asthma and granuloma, also caused
4 by the environment. I battled cancer for six months,
5 but I have battled with asthma for 32 years. But asthma
6 does not go into remission, this is the battle I will
7 fight to the end.

8 I've played by the rules, but it's the
9 businesses and politicians who have made the game and
10 ruled the rules. I'm doing all I can. What am I
11 supposed to do? Stop breathing? Stop drinking the
12 water? It's like the residents of Crestwood were
13 knowingly poisoned by the water they were drinking.
14 Why? To save a buck? To make a buck? They put a price
15 tag on our lives.

16 Well, I'm here tonight to say my health, my
17 life, is not for sale. My kids' health, their life is
18 not for sale. Let's make a statement here and now that
19 the lives of people of South Chicago -- please say it
20 with me -- are not for sale.

21 Thank you.

22 DEAN STUDER: Thank you, Mr. Salazar.

23 The next person will be Karen Roothaan, and
24 on deck will be Robert it looks like is it Garcia?

1 KAREN ROOTHAAN: Hi. My name is Karen
2 Roothaan, R-o-o-t-h-a-a-n. I'm actually going to read
3 article one from the Illinois constitution which
4 guarantees citizens of the State of Illinois a right to
5 a clean environment, so it's quite short.

6 Section 1, Public Policy, Legislative
7 Responsibilities. The public policy of the state and
8 the duty of each person is to provide and maintain a
9 healthful environment for the benefit of this and future
10 generations. The General Assembly shall provide by law
11 for the implementation and enforcement of this public
12 policy.

13 Section 2 is the rights of individuals.
14 Each person has the right to a healthful environment.
15 Each person may enforce this right against any party,
16 governmental or private, through an appropriate legal
17 proceeding, subject to reasonable limitation and
18 regulation of the general assembly may provide by law.

19 Thank you.

20 DEAN STUDER: Thank you.

21 On deck will be Rayanna Evans. Rayanna
22 Evans, if you're here, please make your way down to the
23 chair next to the podium.

24 ROBERT GARCIA: Robert Garcia. As a former

1 Teamster, I sympathize with my union brothers and
2 sisters desire for more --

3 DEAN STUDER: Can I ask you to spell your
4 last name, for the record?

5 ROBERT GARCIA: G-a-r-c-i-a.

6 DEAN STUDER: Thank you. Go ahead.

7 ROBERT GARCIA: As a former Teamster, I
8 sympathize with my union brothers and sisters desire for
9 more employment. On various occasions I've urged the
10 alderman and other suits to build more union factories
11 on the old polluted USX site instead of condo
12 developments for Dave Matthews Bands. However, the more
13 I've been involved with the community, the more I see a
14 recurring theme. Area pollution is killing our people.
15 I have already lost several relatives to battles with
16 diseases such as cancer, respiratory infections. It's
17 a real sad sight to see brave men who helped win wars
18 for this country not surviving the battles to breathe.
19 I like many of the pollution supporters could easily
20 shrug it off as just something everyone goes through.
21 I could shrug it off, but when I see otherwise healthy
22 friends and their family members afflicted with the same
23 diseases that killed members of my own family, that
24 fought hard to build unions and equal rights for people

1 here, it's hard to say it's just preventative. When I
2 see a heartbreak of my young friend going to chemo
3 constantly, explaining to his young daughter why daddy
4 can't carry her no more, it's devastating. It's
5 devastating because I wondered how long before I was
6 next. I wonder who the next person I know will be that
7 will end up in the same struggle. I can easily shrug it
8 off because I want to see jobs in the area. I can
9 easily say that everyone experiences this, except that
10 friends that live in other areas don't seem to go
11 through the same thing. Friends I know from the suburbs
12 can have asthma, but not suffer like relatives I've seen
13 suffer. When the shit smelled that my cousin called the
14 "east side funk" was in the air, I could shrug it off,
15 but I won't. I won't because the jobs these polluters
16 are claiming to bring aren't worth the suffering of any
17 more people. I won't because I know there are clean
18 alternatives like renewable energy shops that were
19 proposed by our area and could have provided my union
20 brothers and sisters jobs, but not kill their kids in
21 the process. I won't because I know these proposals
22 were rejected on the whim of some political suit, the
23 same suits that could easily move the factories south,
24 but instead are paying people to come and support their

1 agendas. I won't because I know that a company's bottom
2 line is profit and if it costs a few fines or a few
3 union brothers their lives, then for them it's just the
4 cost of doing business. I know. I've seen it enough
5 already. Our people are vulnerable and lack the medical
6 resources that would turn otherwise -- pollution, induce
7 respiratory conditions into death notes.

8 I came here today to ask you to help us. I
9 came here today to tell my union brothers and sisters to
10 stop being misled by money. I came here today because
11 until there is concrete evidence that the health
12 afflictions our people are suffering from here and are
13 not -- are suffering from here are not caused by these
14 polluters, there should be a moratorium on their
15 development.

16 Health over finance. The workers over
17 profit. All power to the people.

18 I thank you for your time.

19 DEAN STUDER: Thank your for you comments.

20 Rayanna Evans.

21 Again I remind everyone that applause is not
22 appropriate during this hearing.

23 On deck we'll have it looks like Isis Zaki.
24 If you'd make your way down to the chair in front.

1 RAYANNA EVANS: Hi. My name is Rayanna and
2 I'm here because too much of my family and friends are
3 sick. It's true, I'm only a teen --

4 DEAN STUDER: One moment. For the record
5 it's Rayanna, R-a-y-a-n-n-a, last name Evans, E-v-a-n-s.
6 Thank you.

7 I'm sorry. Go ahead.

8 RAYANNA EVANS: It's true, I'm only a teen
9 and I don't fully understand pollution ratings, EPA
10 reports, and all the different charts and graphs I've
11 looked at recently. But it doesn't mean what I have to
12 say means nothing. What I do know is that I have a
13 small town circle of my family and friends who have
14 lived in the southeast side all their lives and many of
15 them are sick. I always heard the words asthma, asthma
16 attacks, or your uncle is in the hospital because he had
17 an asthma attack. I heard this so much that it was
18 normal to me. Well, I'm older now and I know it's not
19 normal. It's scary not being able to breathe or like my
20 cousin said, it's like a -- person sitting on your
21 lungs. I only have two uncles, they both have asthma
22 and so do most of their children.

23 For my family, it didn't just stop with just
24 asthma. Earlier in the year, my uncle was diagnosed

1 with cancer. Now every day I'm scared that my other
2 uncle will also. I asked my mom why her brothers and
3 their families were so sick and my brothers and I didn't
4 have any of those problems. She said she did when she
5 was younger, but for a short while after she moved out
6 of the area everything seemed to disappear. Because my
7 mom grew you up in this area, she has friends and their
8 kids are my good friends and some are here today to tell
9 you their stories. You'll see it's very much like mine.
10 I don't believe this is all coincidence and I don't
11 think it's natural to inhale pollution every day. If it
12 was, we wouldn't be here today. That is why I don't
13 approve of this plant. I'm a community resident.

14 DEAN STUDER: Thank you. We appreciate your
15 comments.

16 Isis, if you'll make your way to the podium.

17 Rev. Zaki Zaki, if you'd like to make your
18 way down to the chair. And, Isis, if you would spell
19 your last name and give your name for court reporter.

20 ISIS ZAKI: First or last? Last name?

21 DEAN STUDER: Yes.

22 ISIS ZAKI: Zaki, Z-a-k-i.

23 Good evening. My name is Isis Zaki. I'm
24 a resident of the southeast side of Chicago. I'm a

1 seventh grade student at George Washington Elementary
2 School. I want to start by saying thank you to the
3 Illinois EPA for holding a public hearing.

4 Many might believe that my age should stop
5 me from speaking at what I believe in. I may only be
6 12 years old, but I feel that I'm old enough to know
7 what is good and what is bad. I'm old enough to know
8 that more pollution will do nothing but harm the
9 environment and the people who live in it.

10 I am sure that almost everyone in this room
11 knows someone who has asthma or they have asthma. The
12 asthma levels in our community are very high. Surely
13 bringing this factory to the community will not help
14 that. If anything, this plant will make it worse.

15 Why is it that my generation has to pay for
16 the mistakes of those who are abusing the law and accept
17 that there are new clean options available to us?

18 Thank you.

19 DEAN STUDER: Thank you.

20 On deck is Bishop Edward Peecher. If you
21 would make your way down to the chair.

22 Rev. Zaki, if you would give your name for
23 the record and please spell your last name. Thank you.

24 REV. ZAKI L. ZAKI: Zaki L. Zaki. Z-a-k-i.

1 Good evening. My name is Rev. Zaki L. Zaki.
2 I'm a father of five children. I'm also a resident of
3 the southeast side of Chicago. I'm the pastor of the
4 first church to be established on the southeast side of
5 Chicago, the East Side United Methodist Church. I'm
6 also the founder and director of the Zone Youth
7 Community that serves hundreds of children and youth in
8 daily programs.

9 I have tremendous respect for the Ozingas,
10 but I will not speak today about the Ozinga family.
11 This is about my community.

12 The air quality monitor at George Washington
13 High School located at 114th and Avenue O shows that the
14 southeast side of Chicago has the highest level of air
15 pollution in the entire City of Chicago. Research by
16 the City of Chicago Department of Health shows that the
17 east side has one of the highest mortality rates from
18 respiratory disease. That record also shows one of the
19 highest rates of asthma. No wonder the southeast side
20 of Chicago is assailed by the increasing levels of
21 pollution from within and from without. Increasing
22 levels of pollution from numerous sources locally, in
23 addition to increasing levels of pollution from across
24 the state line, in Whiting and Hammond, Indiana.

1 20 years. I did not come to speak to the merits of the
2 project. I came to speak to the character of the
3 family. I know them to be hardworking, involved people.
4 I serve on the board of the Washington Park Consortium
5 with Marty Ozinga. I had dealings with Ken Ozinga 20
6 years ago when our church could not get a loan from any
7 bank. Even though we had over \$300,000 in the bank,
8 no bank would loan us money. We went to First National
9 of Evergreen and Ken Ozinga said when he granted us
10 a \$2.5 million loan, he said this loan may not make
11 fiduciary sense, but it makes good community sense.
12 Strong churches make strong communities.

13 I have known the Ozinga family to be
14 committed to community, to building strong communities,
15 and I believe that they have taken the extraordinary
16 efforts and measures to make sure this plant does not
17 only not add to the pollution, but it becomes a model
18 for what plants should be as they proliferate in this
19 nation.

20 I think the South Chicago community could
21 set the tone for raising the bar of what a plant should
22 look like when it is very conscientious about the impact
23 of the community. Not only will it bring jobs, not only
24 will it bring progress to this community, but it will

1 set a standard of cleanliness that can be modeled all of
2 this nation, and I think the South Chicago community has
3 a sterling opportunity to raise the bar for the rest of
4 the nation.

5 Thank you very much.

6 DEAN STUDER: Thank you, Bishop Peecher.

7 Anthony Navarro.

8 And on deck is Tom Shepherd. Tom Shepherd,
9 if you're in the auditorium, if you'd make your way down
10 to the chair please.

11 Go ahead.

12 ANTHONY NAVARRO: Good evening. My name's
13 Anthony Navarro. N-a-v-a-r-r-o, Navarro.

14 I'm a lifelong resident of the South Chicago
15 community. I've lived and worked in this community for
16 60 years. This community has suffered with
17 environmental problems, health problems. Our people in
18 our community have suffered from environmental diseases,
19 cancer, asthma, throat cancer, stomach cancer, for many
20 years due to the steel mills and all the toxic waste,
21 the landfills in this community.

22 We don't need another toxic environmentally
23 bad company come to this community. We have been a
24 dumping ground for too long. All I can say is that I

1 want to go on the record to say that I oppose it, our
2 community opposes it, and I also want to go on the
3 record and say that we will hold the IEPA accountable
4 and we will hold our local politicians accountable, and
5 that's what I have to say this evening.

6 Thank you.

7 DEAN STUDER: Thank you. I appreciate your
8 comments.

9 Mr. Shepherd, if you'd make your way to the
10 podium.

11 Following Mr. Shepherd is Daniel Estrada.
12 Daniel Estrada, if you're here, if you'd make your way
13 down to the chair, please.

14 Mr. Shepherd.

15 TOM SHEPHERD: My name is Tom Shepherd,
16 S-h-e-p-h-e-r-d. I'm a board member with the Southeast
17 Environmental Task Force and the task force is preparing
18 comments that will be submitted in writing to the IEPA.
19 While I'm here, though, I wanted to make a few personal
20 comments.

21 I live about a mile south of where we are
22 right here and was born about a mile north of this place
23 right here, and I live about a mile and a half from
24 where this plant is proposed to be built.

1 The southeast side is already the site of
2 many polluting industries, including landfills and other
3 coal-using industries. We also have Petco, crushed
4 limestone, salt piles, scrap iron piles. I think I
5 mentioned landfills, but I'll mention them again for
6 good measure. We have our share of them, we've had them
7 for years. We have it all here and we breathe it every
8 day.

9 The EPA -- according to the EPA's own
10 summary, this plant will be considered a major source
11 for emissions of nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide,
12 carbon monoxide and particulate matter. All can lead to
13 damaging affects to human health, including reduced lung
14 function, triggering extensive asthma attacks, inflamed
15 respiratory cells, and causing permanent lung damage in
16 both children and adults.

17 The Southeast Environmental Task Force is
18 a 20 year old -- a 21-year-old organization and we've
19 been fielding a number of calls, numerous calls about
20 pollution problems and over the years a lot of coal dust
21 problems, particulate matter in the air, people who have
22 health concerns, people who have filthy houses, filthy
23 cars, even their pets get dirty. They can't hang their
24 laundry outside. Kids walk around and go to school

1 with respirators here, much higher than anywhere else
2 that -- anywhere in the city certainly and probably most
3 places in the country.

4 So, the Southeast Environmental Task Force
5 is joining with other community health and environmental
6 groups to say no to the proposed Ozinga Universal Cement
7 plant for the southeast side and we hope that you will
8 deny this permit.

9 Thank you.

10 DEAN STUDER: Thank you for your comments,
11 Mr. Shepherd.

12 Mr. Estrada, if you'd make your way to the
13 podium.

14 And on deck, if you would make your way down
15 to the chair, it looks like Aurora Insurriaga.

16 Go ahead, Mr. Estrada.

17 DANIEL ESTRADA: Hello. My name is
18 Daniel Estrada. Estrada is spelled E-s-t-r-a-d-a. I
19 live on 8450 South Burley. I am a part of a group
20 called Tree Keepers, because they're beautiful, and most
21 of all our Bush Community Garden of Hope.

22 One of the things that I'm noticing is we
23 can't get rid of the toxins that are in our soil where
24 we are trying to plant our garden. We get soil from as

1 many places as we can, but it seems to come up
2 contaminated. I want to know is there anybody here that
3 can tell me where I can get clean soil? That's my first
4 question.

5 Another question. My son has asthma. He
6 started having his attacks recently when they started
7 digging up Part 503. I didn't connect the two together,
8 but I know when I asked them questions when he was
9 getting them, it was about the same time they started
10 digging up the soil. Okay, that tells me there's
11 something there that's not supposed to be there. So,
12 now, my son has to go around, ride his bike around to go
13 to work in Blue Island. He can't be going to work, he's
14 missing three and four days out of the week because of
15 his asthma.

16 Could anybody tell me is there a guarantee
17 that maybe -- you know, something could be done so that
18 this doesn't happen to somebody else's family? It is
19 very hard for me to see a lot of my friends and a lot
20 of their kids walking around with respirators, walking
21 around with masks, but they want to come to the garden
22 and they want to plant. They want to come and help us
23 plant trees as well. They can't do it. I have to tell
24 them no because I can't take the risk. I've see my son

1 go through an asthma attack. Okay, I can't take that
2 chance. And now I understand that there are
3 technologies and they're different, but there's no
4 guarantees. Let's clean up the place. Let's get
5 everything organized. Let's come out with all the
6 information. I got information -- all this information
7 I got today. The alderman could have come out and put
8 that information out on the Internet. He could have
9 come out and put it out to the churches. He could have
10 informed us, but he hasn't done it. Why, for whatever
11 reasons. He brought a hundred signed petitions. I
12 would double -- I will triple that.

13 I want to be able to see my grandkids grow
14 up in an environment like everybody else's grandkids up
15 on the north side, up in Aurora, and anywhere else.
16 We gotta do this. I understand he wants to proceed.
17 I understand he wants to continue for a hundred more
18 years. But, so do I and so do my family and so does
19 everybody else's family.

20 Please, think about what you're doing. Make
21 sure that the decision you make is the one that you can
22 live with because I'm going to have to live with it.

23 Thank you.

24 DEAN STUDER: Thank you, Mr. Estrada.

1 The person -- if they're here, it looks like
2 Yolanda I can't make out the last name, it looks like
3 Detrivia(phonetic). If she would make her way to the
4 chair down here if she is here.

5 AURORA INSURRIAGA: My name is Aurora
6 Insurriaga. I-n-s-u-r-r-i-a-g-a. I am a resident of
7 the southeast side. I moved here not too long ago,
8 a few years ago, and since I've been here --

9 DEAN STUDER: Can everyone in back hear?

10 AURORA INSURRIAGA: I'm a resident of the
11 southeast side. I moved here a few years ago and since
12 I moved to this area I've noticed my health declining
13 and I can only attribute that to the pollution that's
14 already in the area, and bringing in another industry or
15 more that are going to pollute the area even further
16 really has me concerned for my health and the health
17 of everyone around me.

18 I would ask you to please deny this permit.

19 DEAN STUDER: Thank you.

20 Richard McGraw. Richard McGraw, if you're
21 here, please make you way down to the podium. And that
22 will be followed by Margaret Baker.

23 RICHARD MCGRAW: Good evening. My name is
24 Richard McGraw. I am a long-term resident of the

1 southeast side.

2 My major concern with these types of
3 projects that are coming into the community now is
4 within the past year we've received an asphalt plant,
5 we have a proposed gasification plant coming, we have
6 a composting plant that is coming, and now we have the
7 Ozinga Universal Cement company plant coming.

8 With all of these plants coming together,
9 each one may be able to pass a test of the environmental
10 soundness, but when the accumulative effect of all
11 these plants together interacting goes unobserved or
12 unmonitored, that's where the problem begins. And each
13 one of these plants requires us to have large numbers
14 of trucks which are burning diesel fuel, large numbers
15 of trains which are delivering petroleum coke and which
16 are bringing in coal from southern Illinois, possibly on
17 barges, all of this stuff. There are no regulations
18 determining how this stuff is delivered and there are no
19 regulations determining whether the items are covered
20 and whether the dust from these items is allowed to be
21 airborne as they are arriving.

22 So, I am requesting that the Illinois EPA
23 please deny this permit and I thank you for listening.

24 DEAN STUDER: Thank you, Mr. McGraw.

1 Ms. Baker, if you would come forward.

2 The next person to make their way out to the
3 seat is Rich Martinez, Jr. Rich Martinez, Jr., if you
4 could make your way down to the seat up front.

5 Go ahead, Ms. Baker.

6 MARGARET BAKER: Margaret Baker. B-a-k-e-r.
7 I am a lifelong resident of the east side community of
8 the 10th Ward.

9 In any project like this where there's a
10 tension between private and public rights, Universal
11 Cement will own the land, the facility, the materials
12 in the facility, but it does not own the air, none of us
13 does. And when the emissions leave this plant, they
14 will leave the private sector and enter into the public
15 sector and, as such, we would have a right to know what
16 that is and how much.

17 I add my voice to my fellow community
18 members asking the denial of this permit. But, if it is
19 passed, I would ask that in addition to the monitoring
20 which is mandated in the permit, that it also be
21 mandated that the results of that monitoring be made
22 public and not just as, like, an annual summary for --
23 emissions, but actual raw data in a timely manner.

24 Thank you very much.

1 DEAN STUDER: Thank you, Ms. Baker.

2 Mr. Martinez.

3 The next person is Becky Clayborn. If
4 you're here, if you'd make your way down to the seat.

5 Go ahead.

6 RICHARD MARTINEZ, JR: Good evening. Thank
7 you for allowing us the come before you and speak this
8 evening. My name is Richard L. Martinez, Jr., Martinez,
9 M-a-r-t-i-n-e-z. I reside at 10950 South Avenue C, in
10 the eastside neighborhood which is one neighborhood to
11 the east of this proposed facility. In addition to
12 being a member of East Side United Methodist Church, GG
13 Church, and co-chair of the new 10th Ward community
14 service organization, I am a citizen, homeowner,
15 taxpayer, husband, and father of five children.

16 My maternal great grandfather worked at
17 Wisconsin Steel and died as a result of lung cancer.
18 My paternal grandfather, who worked at US Steel South
19 Works, also died as a result of lung cancer. As a
20 father, my wife and I had the unfortunate experience of
21 seeing all five of our children suffer with respiratory
22 issues almost from birth.

23 Since 1999, our family has had to contend to
24 numerous visits to our pediatrician, hospital stays,

1 nebulizers, albuterol, and steroids to help our children
2 with their breathing.

3 The 10th Ward southeast side is widely known
4 for having the greatest numbers of heart disease,
5 cancer, and asthma.

6 The lone operating air monitor on the
7 southeast side is located at Washington High School and
8 this monitor has recently indicated extremely dangerous
9 and hazardous levels of pollution and that's just one
10 monitor.

11 As a community, the 10th Ward of the
12 southeast side is a predominant community of color.
13 According to the 2010 census, the 10th Ward consists of
14 about 52,000 people, of which 32,000 are Latino or 63
15 percent, 9500 African American, for a combined total of
16 80 percent of the ward. So, when there is a cumulative
17 impact and a preponderance of hazardous toxic polluting
18 industry in our past, in our present, and scheduled for
19 our future, this speaks to egregious and serious acts of
20 environmental injustice and smacks of environmental
21 racism.

22 As you already know, the southeast side has
23 been designated a non-attainment area. It must be noted
24 that while this project meets IEPA's individual

1 environmental standards, the panel must also take into
2 consideration the cumulative effects and impact upon our
3 community. In addition, this panel must also strongly
4 weigh and consider the liquid asphalt plant already down
5 the street, the proposed coal gasification plant, and
6 the many other projects and plants that our community
7 is not even aware of. These projects are not being
8 proposed in Jefferson Park, Sauganash, and Lincoln Park,
9 but they are being proposed to be built near Rowan Park,
10 Washington High School, Bright School, and Trumbull
11 Park.

12 Therefore, we have no choice but to view
13 these types of projects as an all out affront and an
14 assault on our families, our homes, our children, and
15 community. Therefore, this community is urging you, the
16 IEPA, to help us send a strong message to all companies
17 and industries and current proposals, yes, we do want
18 economic development, we do want jobs, and we do want
19 investment. But, they must not -- I reiterate, they
20 must not contribute to the already exacerbated and
21 negative impact on our health, safety, and environment.
22 This means that proposed projects for our community must
23 confirm to higher standards and to a higher level of
24 expectations, even if it is at a greater cost to those

1 would enter that as an exhibit into the record.

2 On deck is Rosa Pierriea. If you are here,
3 please make your way down to the chair.

4 Ms. Clayborn, go ahead.

5 BECKY CLAYBORN: My name is Becky Clayborn.
6 C-l-a-y-b-o-r-n. I'm here as a representative for the
7 Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign.

8 The Sierra Club is the oldest and largest
9 grassroots environmental organization in the United
10 States. We have over three million members and
11 supporters in the US and over 9000 members here in
12 Chicago.

13 First, I'd like to thank the IEPA for
14 holding a public hearing. This is a crucial-crucial
15 part of protecting our air, our water, and our
16 community. So, thank you.

17 The Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign has
18 a long history engaging in coal-fired power plant
19 permitting in Illinois. This permit and our concerns
20 with this coal-fired cement plant falls into three
21 areas. We're concerned about increased air pollution,
22 we're concerned about increased global warming pollution
23 or carbon dioxide, and we're especially concerned about
24 the community impact.

1 I have in front of me some questions about
2 the non-attainment area and I'm hoping that you can shed
3 some light on it. So, Universal Cement's own computer
4 monitoring -- own computer modeling analysis shows that
5 particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter will
6 exceed the national ambient air quality standard.

7 Can you please explain how in their own
8 modeling shows that it's going to exceed a standard, how
9 they still have a permit?

10 BOB SMET: You're catching me off guard here
11 a little bit because I don't know the specifics of the
12 modeling. Let me think about that for a second.

13 BECKY CLAYBORN: Sure.

14 BOB SMET: You've got me thrown off here.

15 BECKY CLAYBORN: Sorry, Bob.

16 BOB SMET: You have to understand, I write
17 the permit. We have a whole different group that does
18 the modeling. So --

19 BECKY CLAYBORN: If this is something that
20 you need to respond, I mean we are going to have written
21 comments. But I think this is something that I would
22 like to flag for you, that their modeling shows that
23 they are going to exceed that standard.

24 BOB SMET: We go into some level of detail

1 in the project summary in regard to that.

2 BECKY CLAYBORN: So I'll see this in the
3 responsiveness summary, your response?

4 BOB SMET: On the project summary we do talk
5 about that. But certainly as to the comment you're
6 making to us, we will go into detail on that issue in
7 the responsiveness comments.

8 BECKY CLAYBORN: Great. Thank you.

9 PATRICIA SHARKEY: Mr. Hearing Officer, I
10 think that Ozinga's air modeler might be able to give a
11 short statement, just to clarify the record on that.

12 DEAN STUDER: As long as it's short, yes.

13 BECKY CLAYBORN: And it doesn't take away
14 from my 3 minutes.

15 DEAN STUDER: Yes. Do you think your --

16 JOHN IWANSKI: John Iwanski, I-w-a-n-s-k-i.

17 I was employed and have been retained by
18 Ozinga as the air quality consultant that assisted with
19 the air dispersion model.

20 The modeling analysis that has been
21 submitted does not show a violation of the standard.
22 The modeling analysis had to do an additional analysis
23 because there were receptors near the facility, but on
24 another source's property. The permit has been written

1 such that that property has to be fenced-in so the
2 general public does not have access to that property.
3 That has been documented within US EPA guidance
4 documents as an acceptable practice to prevent the
5 general public the ambient -- from getting into ambient
6 air by having a barrier. So, with those receptors,
7 there has been a provided protection to the public from
8 entering that airspace by having that barrier installed.

9 BECKY CLAYBORN: I'm glad you brought that
10 up. Because I just want to point out that the type of
11 air pollution we're talking about causing the asthma
12 attacks, heart attacks, and premature death, and this
13 property that he was just talking of is Cargill Salt and
14 there are workers that are going to be working in that
15 ambient air quality, whether it's fenced off from the
16 general public or not. So, I feel that's a concern. I
17 also feel that there's a concern, what if Cargill sells
18 their property? Who's going to make sure that their
19 next property owners either keep the fence up or their
20 property -- it's an appropriate use of the property?
21 What if they want to put a day care center there? I
22 don't think that can happen, but what if? We need to
23 make sure that the air quality is not going to in the
24 future affect people as well.

1 I also have a concern that the ambient air
2 quality in the Cargill space next door, it's hard for me
3 to imagine that it really only stays in that property.
4 Three blocks away there are indian rich wetlands on
5 Torrence Avenue which are part of the Chicago Park
6 District. Those are being used by the public, if not
7 now, they will be in the very near future. That's only
8 three blocks away. So, I'd like to make sure that IPA
9 is checking that that area is not going to have a high
10 ambient air quality.

11 I also am curious to know if other locations
12 were considered for this proposal?

13 BOB SMET: Universal Cement did look at
14 other alteratives away from the Chicago area and took a
15 look at costs, et cetera, and we go into the discussion
16 in the project summary on that alteratives analysis.
17 So, that's provided in some of detail in both the
18 application and our discussion of the project. So, yes,
19 they did --

20 BECKY CLAYBORN: In addition to that, were
21 other fuel stocks considered -- feed stacks? Sorry.

22 BOB SMET: In regard to this project for
23 this site?

24 BECKY CLAYBORN: Yes.

1 BOB SMET: They looked -- it was required as
2 part of the analysis to take a look at different fuels,
3 and the cost analysis indicated it would be cost
4 prohibitive.

5 BECKY CLAYBORN: So it's cheap to use coal,
6 it's the cheapest option. However, using natural gas
7 might actually reduce the emissions coming out of this
8 plant.

9 BOB SMET: Well, there's also some technical
10 issues in regard to the use of natural gas as well. It
11 would be -- not only would it be cost ineffective -- or
12 I'm sorry, cost prohibitive, but you'd have to redesign
13 the kiln. It would incur greater costs to do so. It
14 just isn't the way a typical kiln is designed. It would
15 lose its effectiveness in terms of its efficiency, if
16 you had to go redesign the kiln to burn natural gas.

17 PATRICIA SHARKEY: Mr. Hearing Officer, our
18 air pollution people can add to that response on the air
19 quality question.

20 REX JAMESON: My name is Rex Jameson,
21 J-a-m-e-s-o-n. I'm with Universal Cement.

22 In terms of a natural gas use in a cement
23 kiln, it's important to note that changing to natural
24 gas in a cement kiln does not achieve the same thing it

1 does when you change to natural gas in a power plant.
2 Particulate emissions don't change, sulfur emissions
3 don't change. Most metals emissions don't change, some
4 of the volatiles do. CO2 emission, yes, do change.
5 But, it's important to note that in the middle process
6 that occurs in a cement kiln, you don't get the same
7 effect from natural gas that you do in a power plant.
8 In addition to all that, the overall system efficiency
9 goes down, so you end up using more BTUs to accomplish
10 the same purpose.

11 BECKY CLAYBORN: Thank you.

12 I'm glad you brought up CO2. One of the
13 main concerns that the Sierra Club has is global warming
14 issues, carbon dioxide. Obviously, any time you use
15 coal to produce anything you are going to have a carbon
16 dioxide emission.

17 Is there an emission limit for CO2 in this
18 permit?

19 BOB SMET: Yes, there is.

20 BECKY CLAYBORN: What's the limit, because
21 I looked and I couldn't find it.

22 BOB SMET: For the kiln we have 1860 pounds
23 per ton of clean air produced. That's the back limit,
24 that's thermal controls --

1 BECKY CLAYBORN: What does that mean in
2 terms of annual emissions?

3 BOB SMET: I think we have the limit of that
4 as well. In 2.1.6, we have emissions of carbon dioxide
5 equivalence shall not exceed 1.1 million tons per unit.

6 BECKY CLAYBORN: Thank you. And I'm
7 assuming, since I don't see anything in the permit about
8 this either, that there's no intention of Universal
9 Cement Ozinga to actually shut down another source of
10 CO2 somewhere. This is just additional CO2 into our
11 atmosphere?

12 BOB SMET: That is correct.

13 BECKY CLAYBORN: So, I just want to point
14 out that Sierra Club doesn't take CO2 emissions lightly.
15 We are definitely looking at these large sources of CO2
16 and we're committed to stopping such sources of CO2.
17 So, we will be having -- a significant portion of our
18 comments will be addressing the CO2 limits.

19 And, then, finally, I just want to talk
20 about the community. This community -- I've been
21 working in this community, on and off, for the last year
22 and a half or so and I've heard the stories, the stories
23 that make me cry when I listen. And it bothers me to no
24 end that I can drive around in this community and see

1 stack after stack after stack and smells that I've never
2 smelled before and there's this onslaught of new
3 pollution sources coming their way. And I know that
4 Universal Cement's trying to do the best job they can.
5 I've never seen an enclosed coal pile proposed so far,
6 but this is the third in a very recent onslaught of new
7 pollution sources that are high in air pollutants for
8 asthma, high in carbon dioxide pollutants, and there
9 is a serious concern in this community that we're not
10 really looking at the cumulative impact, that we're not
11 really paying attention to not only how do all the
12 permits add up in this area, but over the border in
13 Indiana, how do we take that into consideration when
14 it's a stone's throw away.

15 So, I'm wondering if you could give us kind
16 of an overview of what it is the IEPA does to take into
17 consideration the cumulative impact, and if there's
18 anything that's done, especially if you take into
19 consideration right across the border when we've got all
20 those industries in Indiana as well.

21 DEAN STUDER: That's something that's going
22 to require -- in the interest of keeping things moving
23 tonight, we'll provide a written --

24 BOB SMET: It is a complicated question to

1 try to answer. I'm not trying to dodge it. But, in
2 general, we look at are individual contributions to the
3 air quality and can on top of what is already is a
4 background amount -- background pollution as a baseline.
5 But to -- I apologize. I am stammering here, because
6 this notion of looking at something cumulative is -- in
7 terms of a per-project type thing is much more
8 difficult.

9 BECKY CLAYBORN: And I understand that, Bob,
10 your job is to do the permit and not necessarily to look
11 at the policies of EPA as a whole. But, I think that we
12 need to address in situations like the southeast side of
13 Chicago and probably other major industrial areas, there
14 needs to be a way to access this before we start adding
15 more sources of pollution into the area.

16 These people don't want this anymore.
17 They're tired of having all this pollution and they're
18 not going to stop fighting, I don't think, and so we
19 need to figure out a way to address that problem. IEPA,
20 City of Chicago, the community, the Sierra Club will
21 help, but we need to figure this out so that maybe we
22 can get solar farms or wind farms or some other industry
23 in the area that will give us jobs without polluting
24 people and having young men with cancer and a family of

1 five kids with asthma. It's ridiculous. So, I'm just
2 telling you that we're requesting IEPA look at
3 cumulative impacts to this area.

4 We also think it would be good to have more
5 air monitors in the area. The air monitors that are
6 there right now are either too far apart or they're not
7 placed in the right places and we're happy to give you
8 information on what we think needs to happen. And the
9 community doesn't understand what the air monitors mean,
10 I don't understand what the air monitors mean. We need
11 explanation on the ground on a quarterly basis what's
12 going on, when is there problems in the air and when
13 aren't there problems in the air.

14 One last thing -- two last things. We don't
15 have a good system for community members to let EPA know
16 when something is going wrong. There's already existing
17 sources of pollution there. People see things, they
18 smell things, they know that there's something wrong.
19 They know they can call the EPA, but they don't get a
20 lot of support and they're frustrated.

21 BOB SMET: Is that a consequence of calling
22 our field office and not getting much response in regard
23 to that?

24 BECKY CLAYBORN: Yes.

1 BOB SMET: Do you mind me asking what type
2 of typical responses --

3 BECKY CLAYBORN: What's the address of the
4 smokestack? Which direction is the wind blowing right
5 now? Just questions that the person doesn't know,
6 they're just looking at a smokestack and saying, look,
7 there's something wrong --

8 DEAN STUDER: If comments are made from the
9 audience, they're not going to be recorded on the
10 record. So, we're going to have to find a different way
11 to address this other than this.

12 Becky, you've gone beyond the 3 minutes.
13 So, you need to do a very brief summary of your initial
14 comments and it's time for someone else to go on, and
15 once your done Bob will address a couple issues.

16 BECKY CLAYBORN: Okay. So, I think we need
17 a good way for the community to get a response from
18 IEPA. If that means someone stationed in the area and
19 not far away, maybe that would work.

20 And, then, finally, my final question is, is
21 there anything that would move the Illinois EPA to deny
22 this permit?

23 BOB SMET: Well, I want to answer both of
24 those, so I'm going to answer the last question first

1 and then try to get back to the responding.

2 DEAN STUDER: I'll let Bob do that and I'm
3 going to call the next people forward and he can respond
4 while they're coming down.

5 I called Rosa Piearrea(phonetic) and there
6 was no response.

7 The next person would be Omeshia Perez.
8 Okay, and following her will be David Holmberg.

9 BOB SMET: Okay. In regard to denying the
10 permit, we're obligated to issue a permit. If Universal
11 Cement will comply with all applicable rules and
12 regulations, we must issue. So I -- I'm sorry.

13 In regard to the issue that you say about
14 lack of response from IEPA. A fallback certainly is
15 call us down in Springfield, if you're not getting what
16 you want from our field office here in the Chicago area.
17 And I would also add that in your comments to us,
18 provide those typical responses that you get -- you
19 know, that you have from the IEPA and we'll note them
20 and act upon what we can.

21 BECKY CLAYBORN: Thank you very much for
22 your time.

23 DEAN STUDER: Thank you, Ms. Clayborn.

24 David Holmberg, are you here? If you could

1 crying because they can't breathe. Windows can't be
2 opened while they're sleeping because they can't
3 breathe. And then I have one question for you that I
4 can't answer and I'm wondering if you have an answer
5 for it. When you have a three-year-old asking you, mom,
6 am I going to die?

7 We tried looking outside a few more times
8 after that, but every time the same things were -- the
9 things were happening. When the company waters coal
10 down and you stand in my backyard, you can feel the coal
11 with the water hitting over you. Then smells, different
12 bad smells. The air you can't breathe.

13 I can literally dust coal off my windowsill
14 every day. We can't open the windows because the coal
15 dust covers everything from the kitchen to the bathroom
16 and to the bedroom. So what many I supposed to do, run?
17 If you were me, what you run?

18 I am here because this has to stop, because
19 if you were in my shoes, you wouldn't put your children
20 in this situation. I will not let my children go
21 outside and play because their hair gets full of dust.
22 It becomes hard to get out of their hair, and you can
23 see the dust on their clothing and I am afraid of what
24 it is going to do to my children's health.

1 I am asking you please, do not allow Ozinga
2 to come into my community. I don't want anymore of the
3 same worse and nasty effects to affect my family's
4 health.

5 Thank you.

6 BOB SMET: Can I ask you a question?

7 OMESHIA PEREZ: Yes.

8 BOB SMET: Do you know the company name?

9 OMESHIA PEREZ: Ozinga?

10 BOB SMET: No --

11 OMESHIA PEREZ: Oh, I'm sorry. Yes, I have
12 it here. I believe it's called Coal Fields.

13 BOB SMET: C-o-a-l?

14 OMESHIA PEREZ: Yes.

15 BOB SMET: Coal Fields?

16 OMESHIA PEREZ: Yes. It's located right
17 behind my house.

18 BOB SMET: Do you happen to have an address
19 of their --

20 OMESHIA PEREZ: No, I don't have the address
21 with me at the moment -- well, it's located behind my
22 house. But, my address is 10201 South Commercial
23 Avenue.

24 DEAN STUDER: Thank you.

1 David Holmberg is coming to the microphone.
2 And Michael Solanos, if you are here, please make your
3 way down to the chair in front.

4 Go ahead, Mr. Holmberg.

5 DAVID HOLMBERG: I'm David Holmberg, that's
6 H-o-l-m-b-e-r-g. I've lived and worked in the Calumet
7 area for more than 30 years.

8 I began my work career on the kill floor of
9 a large unionized meat production facility in Iowa at
10 age 18. I moved to Detroit for several years and into
11 the Calumet area, where I've worked at an integrated
12 steel mill operation for more than 25 years before
13 joining the staff at the Calumet Area Industrial
14 Commission about seven years ago.

15 I'm a certified industrial hygienist, a
16 certified safety professional, a certified hazardous
17 materials manager, and a QEP, a qualified environmental
18 professional. I would like to make three quick remarks.

19 I moved to the Calumet area for one reason,
20 a better job. Because of that job I have stayed in the
21 Calumet area, spent my money in the Calumet area, and
22 enjoyed life in the Calumet area. I believe that jobs
23 such as those generated by the proposed Universal Cement
24 plant are critical to the future of the Calumet area.

1 I believe I understand the proposed -- my
2 second comment is I believe I understand the proposed
3 Universal Cement plant project and I believe it will
4 be built and operated by the Ozinga family in an
5 environmentally acceptable manner, meeting or exceeding
6 all environmental regulatory requirements.

7 My third comment is I am also an avid runner
8 and being in my sixties, my health and specifically the
9 health of my lungs is critical to my pastime. When I
10 am at the starting line of the Boston, Chicago, New York
11 City, Berlin, London, and other marathons, I look around
12 at the competition, mostly 20- and 30-year-olds, and I
13 want to feel confident that my health is not being
14 negatively impacted by where I live. I do have that
15 confidence, I do have that confidence and will continue
16 to have it after the new Universal Cement plant is
17 operational.

18 Thank you, and I'd like to submit my
19 comments for the record.

20 DEAN STUDER: Go ahead and bring them
21 forward.

22 Michael Stalnos -- okay, Kevin Kuhn.

23 I'll enter those as an exhibit. Thank you.

24 While Kevin Kuhn is coming down, Ted

1 Stalnos, if you would make your way down to the chair.

2 Go ahead, Mr. Kuhn.

3 KEVIN KUHN: Kevin Kuhn. The last name is
4 spelled K-u-h-n. I thank the IEPA for this public
5 hearing.

6 My name is Kevin Kuhn. I'm a resident of
7 Forestville and 113th. I'm a regular volunteer with
8 Green Course Chicago, which is a wonderful crew of
9 workers who are currently working to restore national
10 green areas of our south side.

11 We need more clean renewable energy jobs
12 like this in Chicago. The small amount of jobs that
13 will be produced by the proposed Ozinga Universal Cement
14 plant are not the clean renewable jobs that we need in
15 our community. The cumulative effect of these
16 industries must be noted. Our community has more than
17 it's fair share of polluting industries.

18 I ask that the Illinois EPA do not grant
19 an air quality permit to Ozinga Universal. This is our
20 time in our human history to move beyond coal, and EPA
21 please deny this permit.

22 Thank you.

23 DEAN STUDER: Thank you, Mr. Kuhn.

24 Ted Stalnos. And the next person will be

1 Charlene Tejeda.

2 TED STALNOS: Hi. My name is Ted Stalnos,
3 that's S-t-a-l-n-o-s. I am president of the Calumet
4 Area Industrial Commission. I have already submitted
5 a comment already to you, so I'll just -- I'll save
6 everybody a long lengthy thing and will do it verbally.

7 But something I'd like to point out as one
8 of my coworkers just announced that he lives in the
9 area. I also am living in the area, my children live in
10 the area, my grandchildren live in the area, and I hire
11 all local people. So, I would like that entered into
12 the comments also that were formally put in.

13 Thank you.

14 DEAN STUDER: Thank you.

15 Charlene, you may step up to the microphone.

16 CHARLENE TEJEDA: Good evening. My name is
17 Charlene Tejeda, T-e-j-e-d-a. Charlene with a "C".

18 I am a 67-year-old lifelong resident of
19 South Chicago, Slag Valley, east side, in South Deering.
20 South Deering is the area where Ozinga wants to put the
21 plant. I live on Torrence Avenue. This is my home.

22 My grandparents came from Mexico in 1920.
23 My grandfather was one of the first Mexicans to
24 establish a business in South Chicago and raise a family

1 of six. As a child, due to asthma and hayfever, my
2 mother would have me wear a respiratory mask similar to
3 this, like the ones the steelworkers used. I needed it
4 to go to the local movie theatre when my allergies were
5 bad. The theatre was the only air-conditioned place I
6 could find relief. When my asthmatic attacks were
7 combined with hayfever, our family doctor would meet us
8 at his office to give me a shot of insulin -- of
9 adrenalin. The shot would be given to me in 15-minute
10 intervals because the medication was so strong. It left
11 me limp, but I could breathe again.

12 Please help our neighborhood, the 10th Ward.
13 I do not want us to go backwards. I have seen too many
14 kids today with respiratory problems. We do not need
15 more pollution. It's not getting any better. Yes, we
16 want jobs, but at what costs? Our children's health?

17 I have worked with kids of all ages, three
18 years of daycare, 36-1/2 years in the Chicago Board of
19 Education, nine years at St. Kevin's day camp, 14 years
20 with Girl Scouts of America, along with many
21 organizations including the Zone, totalling over 60
22 years serving the community, and I have seen many of my
23 kids with respiratory problems over the years, having to
24 carry inhalers or sitting out from playing sports, both

1 indoors and out, due to medical problems. Many of my
2 friends were unable to carry a fetus full term. Most of
3 my friends, after moving out of the area, were able to
4 give birth to healthy children, after having many
5 miscarriages while living here. Some friends never were
6 able to have children. I, myself, never could have
7 children.

8 No one can answer why our families have had
9 these medical problems. Now autism is showing up in our
10 area. The Ozinga company said they will bring barges
11 to move their supplies on our river, which means the
12 bridges going up stops traffic. The east side is cut
13 off by bridges and trains now, so in an emergency
14 ambulances have to stop for bridges and trains.

15 And will any of these companies help with
16 our family medical bills? The old U.S. Steelworks had a
17 small hospital for both workers and the public. What do
18 these companies have for us? We all want jobs in the
19 10th Ward that will last more than three years. We have
20 enough soot and dust in our homes, whether the windows
21 are opened or closed. We are told by the media let your
22 kids play outside. But here, in the 10th Ward, we do
23 not always have that privilege.

24 Please stop the southeast side from being

1 a dumping ground. We want clean renewable energy jobs
2 now. Our people want to work and keep their families
3 healthy.

4 IEPA please deny this permit. Thank you.

5 DEAN STUDER: Thank you.

6 Christine is it Sowa? Christine is not
7 here.

8 Luce Forez.

9 Ari Rubenstein, if you'd state your name.

10 The next one is Daniel McMahon.

11 ARI RUBENSTEIN: Hi, thank you. My name is
12 Ari Rubenstein, A-r-i, R-u-b-e-n-s-t-e-i-n. I'm with
13 the Sierra Club and the Environmental Justice Alliance
14 of Greater Southeast Chicago. Thank you very much for
15 holding this hearing tonight.

16 As many people here have been quick to point
17 out, I am quite new to the community. The first time I
18 came to the southeast side I was surprised by what I saw
19 and what I was showed and told by the effective members
20 of this community, many of the things we've already
21 heard about tonight. Coal piles in peoples backyards,
22 coal dust in the streets. Coal trains rolling over the
23 bridges, all adjacent to residential neighborhoods.
24 Seeing this, I was not surprised to learn that the

1 southeast side is among the highest rate of air
2 pollution and asthma in all of Chicago.

3 It is no coincidence that the community in
4 which the plant is proposed is predominantly minority
5 and predominantly working class. This is a clear case
6 of environmental injustice.

7 Since I arrived, I've spoken with many of
8 the members of the community, and what I and they are
9 here to say respectfully, the southeast side has had
10 enough of dirty coal. This community needs jobs, but it
11 needs clean healthy jobs that do not make people sick
12 and with all due respect, it needs more than 90
13 permanent jobs. We are here to say the southeast side
14 wants clean jobs in the renewable energy sector and no
15 more coal.

16 EPA, please remember that you are charged
17 with protecting our health and the environment. Please
18 stand up for the southeast side, EPA, and deny this
19 permit. Thank you.

20 DEAN STUDER: Thank you.

21 Go ahead. The next one is Margarete
22 Jacobs. If you're here, please make your way to the
23 chair.

24 DANIEL MCMAHON: My name is Daniel McMahon,

1 that's M-c-M-a-h-o-n. I live on the east side, 106th
2 and F. My first house, my only house, is here on the
3 east side. My wife and I raised two children here,
4 grew up here. I, personally, spent my whole life
5 enjoying recreation in the 10th Ward, playing on the
6 ball fields, swimming in Wolf Lake all my life.

7 I don't need prepared remarks. I'm going
8 to talk to you from the heart. I am a career union
9 carpenter, make a good living. That's my past, that's
10 this community's past. I am here to talk about the
11 future and the future that's needed with this type and
12 future developments that are on the cutting edge and
13 well within the guidelines of the Illinois Environmental
14 Protection Agency. I'm here to talk about we need to
15 change from what we have on the east side is a jobs
16 desert. What we have on the east side is an opportunity
17 desert. And projects like this will lead to much more
18 than just 90 jobs. There will be other concerns that
19 will come into the community. They will give us
20 opportunities. Opportunities my children don't have to
21 get a good job here in their community where they've
22 grown up.

23 I urge and my community urges the Illinois
24 Environmental Protection Agency to move forward with

1 this project, approve the permit, and let's get to work.

2 Thank you.

3 DEAN STUDER: Thank you for your comments.

4 We need to move along. I've been informed
5 by security that we are supposed to be out of this
6 building by 10:00 o'clock this evening. We have a lot
7 of ground to cover tonight. Therefore, I'm asking if
8 there are people here that have written prepared
9 remarks, if they have written prepared remarks and would
10 like to submit them into the record, if they would do so
11 this evening, in lieu of making them orally, it would
12 really accelerate the process this evening.

13 Go ahead.

14 MARGUERITE JACOBS: My name is Marguerite
15 Jacobs. Marguerite, M-a-r-g-u-e-r-i-t-e, Jacobs,
16 J-a-c-o-b-s.

17 I have been affected by secondhand smoke,
18 so I have one lung, a hole in one lung the size of a
19 quarter. My kids have now developed asthma. Since
20 Ozinga has a good name and they say they have a good
21 name, why would you pick our area?

22 As we look at this picture, I wondered
23 whether they stated that they would use the water. How
24 would you not get any in the water? Where would these

1 trucks be driving through and coming through on the
2 expressway or anything else? Now, you show us how it's
3 covered, but I would like to know how the cars and
4 trucks will be covered and where they will be sitting.
5 Because as they go into there and come out, it would be
6 on wheels, it would be getting into the air.

7 So, as we think of bringing this to this
8 area, other things are to be looked at. How can you
9 cover that? How can you stop this? We see a beautiful
10 picture right there, but we don't see the other stuff
11 that goes on deep inside.

12 Now, if you say you're of integrity and you
13 have a great name, with everybody telling you the things
14 that's going on, how could you bring this here in this
15 community? We're already in the red.

16 So, I beg and I plead. Let's look at this
17 twice and let's look at the families that's already
18 hurt. And I know it could be a better answer, a better
19 place you could take it, a better deal, whatever that
20 you think, Ozinga, that this a good place for you.
21 We don't think the same.

22 We would like to plead on your behalf that
23 you would take consideration of the things that's
24 already happening in these neighborhoods. Thank you.

1 DEAN STUDER: Thank you.

2 Roger DeGroot.

3 ROGER DEGROOT: I'll submit my comments in
4 writing.

5 DEAN STUDER: Thank you.

6 Linda Ruxton. Following Linda, Maya
7 Martinez.

8 Again I'm being informed that we do have
9 to be out of here by 10:00 o'clock tonight. So, if we
10 can keep our comments brief I would appreciate it, but
11 I do want to give everyone that absolutely has a
12 comment to make to do so.

13 Go ahead.

14 LINDA RUXTON: My name is Linda Ruxton, it's
15 R-u-x-t-o-n, and I'm a resident of the southeast side.

16 I do suffer from asthma. I don't know how
17 much it has been made worse by the pollution in the
18 area, but I can't think that it hasn't been. I almost
19 died of an asthma attack three years ago. I had an
20 asthma attack and called the ambulance at 6:30 in the
21 morning, they came. Within about 3 minutes of them
22 coming I became unconscious and I woke up the next
23 afternoon at 2:00 o'clock and I had a heart attack and I
24 had been intubated, and I was intubated in the hospital

1 because fortunately -- I guess the bridges were down.

2 Okay?

3 I just have a question about this plant
4 was touted as having maybe just one-tenth of the
5 pollution of say, state line coal plant, energy plants,
6 and Fisk, and I'm just wondering how one-tenth of all
7 that pollution and those are plants that really should
8 really not be operating in the state that they are now,
9 because of the great pollution that they cause and
10 because of the health benefits they cause to people in
11 the area, how 10 percent of that pollution cannot be
12 affecting our health. It's just hard to believe.

13 Also, you say you look at background
14 pollution when you make the decision as to whether to
15 grant the permit, but you don't really have adequate
16 monitors on the southeast side to say just how much
17 pollution there is. There's a monitor at Washington,
18 but further north where a lot of that particulate matter
19 comes from all the coal piles, that may not be
20 registering down there. And the thing is there's just
21 so much cancer, so much asthma, and so much lung
22 problems in this area, and to add to that is I think
23 unconscionable and I think that should be a cost
24 that's prohibited. Thank you.

1 DEAN STUDER: Thank you. Go ahead.

2 Jacqueline Lopez, if you're here, please
3 make your way down to the front.

4 MYRA ORTEZ: Good evening, my name is Myra
5 Ortez and I'm in the seventh grade and I am a concerned
6 resident and a member of generations and generations of
7 Teamsters here on the southeast side. Thank you for
8 allowing me to speak to you today.

9 I'm remember when I was younger I was
10 constantly getting sick. Every day before school I had
11 to use an inhaler and every night my parents had to give
12 me a nebulizer breathing treatment. My pediatrician
13 always asked my parents if I had asthma and what
14 neighborhood we lived in. She would say that our
15 illnesses had to do with where we lived.

16 We already have enough pollution here on the
17 southeast side and we don't need any more. If you allow
18 this proposed cement plant to be built in our community,
19 you will be contributing to the increased rates of
20 asthma, heart disease, and cancer that already exist.
21 I am very concerned about my health and the health of
22 my brothers and sisters and the health and future of my
23 community. Therefore, I respectfully urge this panel to
24 force the Universal Cement plant to use a cleaner fuel

1 stock or deny their air permit.

2 Thank you very much and God bless.

3 DEAN STUDER: Thank you for your comments.

4 David Dillon, if you're here, please make
5 your way down to the front.

6 JACQUELINE LOPEZ: Hello. My name is
7 Jacqueline Lopez, L-o-p-e-z, and I am 14 years old and
8 currently attend George Washington High School. I
9 suffer from asthma and I constantly get asthma attacks
10 when I'm in school or walking to and from school, and my
11 brothers they are five years old, both of them, they
12 have bronchiolitis and they constantly suffer from that
13 because of all the pollution. And one time when we
14 were just driving around the neighborhood one of them
15 suffered a really horrible and drastic attack from
16 bronchiolitis and had to be hospitalized for two or
17 three days, and that was horrible to realize that it was
18 because our community in here and how it was, like, all
19 the pollution that's already here. And for you to want
20 to put more pollution in this environment is really
21 saddening, that you don't see what it's doing to the
22 rest of us here. Because like other people in different
23 neighborhoods, they could clearly -- they don't have as
24 drastic because they don't have as many factories here

1 as we do. They don't see as much pollution as we do,
2 and because of that we suffer from great amounts of
3 asthma already in here in this neighborhood.

4 I strongly urge you not to put this
5 cement -- Universal Cement plant in here because of
6 everything that's already in this community.

7 Thank you for your time.

8 DEAN STUDER: Thank you for your comments.

9 Mr. Dillon.

10 Sam Gomez, if you're here, please make your
11 way down to the front. Please try and keep your
12 comments as brief as possible this evening. Thank you.

13 DAVID DILLON: Good evening. My name is
14 David Dillon, D-i-l-l-o-n.

15 I am a practicing attorney and I also am
16 the current chairman of the Calumet Area Industrial
17 Commission, which is a 40-year-old organization focused
18 on the development of economic activity and jobs in this
19 region.

20 I have been involved in this area since
21 I was a teenage locomotive fireman on the company
22 presently known as the CSX Railroad in 1964. At that
23 time, I was able to observe the environmental damage
24 then being done. There was no state EPA, there was no

1 federal EPA, there was virtually no regulation, and much
2 of that damage remains in effect today and I'm sure it's
3 going to continue to take an extended period of time to
4 clean that up. I might also add that I worked with a
5 large group of locomotive engineers, five of whom,
6 including my own father died of lung cancer and
7 emphysema in their fifties. So, I am a very strong
8 proponent of clean air and a clean environment.

9 That being said, what we're focusing on here
10 tonight is a specific project and specific parameters
11 which attach to it. Does it or does it not meet the
12 applicable standards imposed by the laws of Illinois and
13 the regulations of the state EPA? We have heard nothing
14 or seen nothing that said it does not. Not only that,
15 we have the well-established Ozinga's family word that
16 this plant will be managed in a manner that as the
17 state-of-the-art improves, the plant will be improved to
18 comply with that standard and it is committed to provide
19 a state-of-the-art, a raise-the-bar operation, which
20 will provide a basis for other plants to comply.

21 There's another dimension to this. My law
22 practice is concentrated in the area of real property
23 taxation. As such, I am familiar with the City of
24 Chicago's budget and Cook County's budget. Due to the

1 fact that Chicago and Cook County are one of the few
2 large cities and counties which have lost population
3 in the last census, the city and county are in dire
4 financial straits. We are losing population all the
5 more, we are losing companies. We are 900 Chicago
6 police officers short on any given day because there is
7 no money to hire them as they retired. This shortage
8 will only grow. We are short school teachers due to the
9 fact that they're being laid off, there's no money to
10 pay them, and as teachers retire, they are not being
11 replaced.

12 I submit to you that it is important to
13 encourage and foster the development of business and
14 industry in this area which complies with all applicable
15 economics -- environmental standards and wants to
16 provide good jobs and pay the kind of taxes we need to
17 provide the kind of environment we want for ourselves
18 and our children. Thank you.

19 DEAN STUDER: Thank you.

20 SAM GOMEZ: Good evening. My name is
21 Sam Gomez, G-o-m-e-z. I'm a lifelong resident and the
22 cofounder and general manager of Our Neighborhood Times,
23 a local community publication.

24 One thing I want to say, first of all, if

1 I go on public record, which I am, in support of this
2 business, Universal Cement, that it does not mean that
3 I am anti-environmental. Also, there's a lot of talk
4 in the community about other options, renewable energy,
5 things of this nature which I'm all for. But we have to
6 remember that just because a business is a renewable
7 energy business does not mean that it's going to be
8 successful.

9 I enter into the record the example of
10 Solyndra, a solar panel company that lost \$535 million
11 in taxpayer money. This is a real thing, this business,
12 although it was a great idea, was not fully thought out,
13 and it ended up costing the community a lot of money.
14 I also want to say that I am proud that we have young
15 individuals in this community who have the guts to get
16 up here and stand up, but I also want to say that the
17 majority of my friends that I grew up with, that I went
18 to school with are also no longer here. But, it isn't
19 because of disease, it's because there was no
20 opportunity for them here to stay for.

21 I feel like this business and this company
22 is definitely going above and beyond in every measure
23 that there is available today. As a matter of fact,
24 even today I know it seems that there aren't too many

1 people in this community that are in support of this
2 business, I stand before you to say that I am, but the
3 reason for that is because Mr. Ozinga went above and
4 beyond once again to ask his own supporters to leave the
5 room so that these people can be heard, and I appreciate
6 that and I feel like throughout the process they will
7 also continue to do that. I think if everybody does
8 their job here, that everything should be fine.

9 And, lastly, I want to say why should we
10 make this plant -- actually I have another point to
11 make. Why should we make this plant pay the price of
12 the environmental infractions of the past? I did speak
13 to the medical director of Mobil Care Foundation, her
14 name is Dr. Stephanie White, and I asked her the
15 question, she actually -- if you seen the -- vans that
16 go to the community and local schools, I actually asked
17 her, expecting to hear that percentages of asthma in the
18 community were going to be higher than she had seen
19 across ethnic boards. But, she said, to my surprise,
20 that there actually isn't any larger percentage. It's
21 that the parents, the concerned parents in communities
22 are so concerned about the air quality, that when those
23 documents are presented to the parents they fill them
24 out. And, so, actually what's happening is children are

1 being identified early, prior to having major attacks,
2 and they are being treated. And a perfect example of
3 that is my friend and cofounder, Dan Leara, his children
4 also have asthma. So, we definitely are concerned about
5 that, but again I say, I plead that you allow this
6 business to be here because we definitely need the
7 jobs and the prosperity here in the community again.

8 Thank you.

9 DEAN STUDER: Thank you, Mr. Gomez.

10 If there are people in the room that are
11 going to speak this evening, I'm going to ask that you
12 stand where you are now. I need to get a solid count,
13 if I could, please.

14 Okay. We've got approximately 20 people and
15 I do remind you that we have to be out of the room.

16 Is Albert Raffin here, please?

17 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Excuse me.

18 I asked you earlier couldn't you ask for extended time
19 from the management of this --

20 DEAN STUDER: That is being worked on at
21 this moment, but I haven't gotten an answer and until
22 I get an answer I have to go by --

23 AL RAFFIN: My name is Al Raffin, R-a double
24 F, as in Frank, i-n. I'm the vice president of Raffin

1 Construction Company. We're a fourth-generation
2 construction company that's been located in the Pullman
3 area since 1916. We are a general contractor that
4 involves an industrial concrete contractor. It
5 is -- concrete contractor that has gotten to know the
6 Ozinga company and the Ozinga business family.

7 We have been doing business with Ozinga for
8 over 50 years. Ozinga provides the majority of
9 ready-mix concrete for their firm purchases. We have
10 found them to be honest, fair to deal with, service
11 oriented, and competitively priced in Chicago markets.
12 I have found that the Ozinga employees we have dealt
13 with over the years to be of high moral character which
14 reflects the company's business policies. I have also
15 found them to be good corporate citizens, supporting
16 programs in the local communities in which they do
17 business.

18 That being said, I have great support of
19 Ozinga's initiative to construct a new facility on the
20 southeast side. As has been stated, the project will
21 create a significant number of construction jobs and
22 more than 90 permanent high-paying jobs. This will have
23 a ripple effect throughout the local economy. Also,
24 significant taxes will be paid into the local economy

1 from sales tax generated on the sales of their product,
2 real estate taxes, and business taxes. All of this will
3 stay here in the Chicago area, rather than being sent to
4 foreign countries.

5 While 90-plus jobs may not seem like a lot,
6 I think that the rebirth of manufacturing in Chicago
7 will occur through small local facilities like Ozinga
8 and Peoples Steel, to name a few. In my 27 years in the
9 business, I have seen many large companies leave
10 Chicago, never to return, and taking high-paying jobs
11 with them.

12 The plant will exceed the Illinois EPA
13 standards for emissions for plants operating in this
14 area. The proposed plant will be built in a responsible
15 environmental way.

16 Many people do not know this, but foreign
17 companies have purchased many of the businesses that
18 supply raw materials needed to produce concrete. Also,
19 many of the local regular suppliers throughout the
20 county have been brought out by large conglomerates.
21 Ozinga is one of the largest independent ready-mix
22 suppliers in the country. This plant is needed to give
23 Ozinga access to cement at a competitive price. This
24 allows the businesses in the Chicago area to get their

1 concrete at prices that allows building in Chicago to be
2 able to compete with other areas of the country. If
3 Ozinga does not have access to their own raw material
4 supplies and has to sell it to a large conglomerate, a
5 local company that is a good community citizen will be
6 gone and our area will see higher concrete prices across
7 the board. Their main competitor of -- materials is
8 owned by a Brazilian company.

9 Anyway, I'm here to ask for your support
10 and allowing Ozinga to construct this facility here.

11 Thank you.

12 CHRISTOPHER ROMAINE: Thank you for your
13 comments.

14 Next, I'd like to ask Luther Howard to come
15 down. The next person on board is Eve -- is Luther
16 here?

17 Eve, go ahead.

18 EVE TSELETATIOTIS: Hi. My name is Eve,
19 last name T-s-e-l-e-t-a-t-i-o-t-i-s. I'm also a
20 lifelong resident of the southeast side since 1967,
21 a long time. I went to Washington High School which was
22 right across the street from Republic Steel where my
23 father worked as a steelworker, a union steelworker.
24 I'm a child of union labor, proud -- proud of that very

1 much. I appreciate the jobs that are being proposed to
2 come into our neighborhood. But, I do want to say that
3 speaking of a kid of union labor, our parents worked
4 really hard at that mill and many of them got sick, many
5 of them died, and I think they worked so hard not for
6 just the idea of a job, but to give their children a
7 better life and I think that's really important to
8 remember. For everyone who's in labor and working hard
9 at their unions and other places, I think you all do it
10 because you want a better life for your children, for
11 your communities, and I think we can't dismiss that.
12 It's not simply about bringing jobs to our neighborhood,
13 it's about bringing good jobs and a good future to our
14 families as well. I wish that our civic leaders and
15 business leaders would champion this neighborhood and
16 stand up for it more so.

17 Surely there are businesses that come
18 into this neighborhood that don't require hearings
19 on breathing and cancer and asthma. Certainly
20 supermarkets, clothing stores, malls, anything like that
21 would not require us to have to discuss the death rates
22 and children with cancer and children with asthma.

23 I appreciate the Ozinga family's efforts to
24 create a better type of plant, I really do. I

1 researched cement plants. It's not a glamorous thing to
2 do, but I have done that and my understanding is that
3 even the EPA has said that cement plants are some of
4 the largest producers of mercury and other types of
5 contaminants for local areas. There have been not only
6 asthma and cancer rates and so forth, but there have
7 been miscarriages, birth defects, and other things that
8 have been documented connected to cement plants
9 themselves. Also, my understanding is that it's not
10 about the concrete is bad, it's not about that, it's the
11 way concrete is produced. That there are other places
12 in other countries, Australia for instance I read about,
13 have plants that aren't as toxic, they don't release
14 that many dioxins and other contaminates and
15 particulates into the environment.

16 And I also want to say that regarding that
17 drawing behind us or in front us there, there's more to
18 green energy than having a still of green coloring along
19 a plant. Green energy should also not be about money.
20 It really should be about something clean, something
21 durable, and something viable for a community. Although
22 I really want more jobs in our area, I do have to say
23 that I think we could do more research and I wish that
24 our alderman and other people would champion other

1 projects as well, and I firmly ask that you deny this
2 permit.

3 DEAN STUDER: Thank you.

4 PATRICIA SHARKEY: I'd like to request
5 that we actually maintain time for -- that allows us to
6 complete this hearing by 10:00 o'clock, if we need to be
7 out of the building.

8 DEAN STUDER: Okay. If we've got to be out
9 of the building, there are approximately 20 people that
10 spoke -- so I'm going to ask if you got -- if you've got
11 something in writing that you were going to read, I'm
12 asking that you submit it as a written comment. It is
13 given the same weight as if it's read at the hearing,
14 but that way it'll also help us to stay within the time
15 frames of this evening. Otherwise, there are going to
16 be people that don't have comments that are prepared
17 that were not going to be able to get into the record
18 this evening in oral comments and I would like to
19 accommodate as many people as we can.

20 PATRICIA SHARKEY: And I think we're getting
21 into the area of cumulative comments that you indicated
22 you would not be allowing.

23 DEAN STUDER: Yes, that's correct. There's
24 been a lot of repetition this evening. If your comments

1 are repetition, I am going to tell you that I'm going to
2 say you're going to have to move on to your next issue.

3 MR. GARRITANO: Garritano.
4 G-a-r-r-i-t-a-n-o. A lifelong resident, 32 years here
5 in the -- park area, right by Sacred Heart which I went
6 to grammar school and after a year of convincing got my
7 wife to move here from the Beverly area, which took some
8 work. But now that you're here, I do see a lot of
9 stuff, like people that go through and have been here
10 for a short amount of time and we're driving through and
11 they're seeing clouds of dust. What I see is a bunch of
12 nothing. I see storefront after storefront and business
13 after business close down, boarded up. I see my friends
14 come and go. I see property values somewhere near about
15 30,000 to \$50,000 for homes that people bought a few
16 years ago for probably about 150,000.

17 Simply put, jobs equal excitement, equal
18 interest, equals new opportunities. This area, like
19 the gentleman said earlier, is a desert. It needs
20 opportunities, it needs to begin somewhere. People like
21 the Ozinga family are people that we can put our trust
22 in, people like the Alderman John Pope, we put our trust
23 in his leadership, as well as the Calumet Area
24 Industrial Commission. So, I definitely support the

1 Ozingas having this property to work with.

2 DEAN STUDER: Thank you.

3 John Stero.

4 John Molloy, M-o-l-l-o-y. Go right to the
5 microphone. This is to be followed by Steve -- oh, my,
6 T-s-e-l-e.

7 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Point of
8 information. Are you English, that you don't know any
9 of these names?

10 DEAN STUDER: Go ahead, John.

11 JOHN MALLOY: John Molloy with the City of
12 Chicago, Urban Policy -- I'm here today to voice the
13 city's support for this staggering \$250 million project.
14 It's 90 new permanent jobs and over 300 construction
15 jobs. For each construction job created, it's been
16 proven that two or three ancillary jobs are created also
17 and that could only help improvement this area and area
18 businesses and we stand to support the Ozinga family in
19 any way we can. Thank you.

20 DEAN STUDER: Thank you.

21 Steve is it -- he passes, okay.

22 Thomas Wolf, please. And after that is
23 Marion Zaki.

24 THOMAS WOLF: Good evening. My name is

1 Tom Wolf, W-o-l-f, like the animal. I submitted a
2 letter, so I will keep this to 30 seconds or less.

3 I apologize for not knowing all the EPA
4 rules and regulations on how you look at a company's
5 history when you look at the air permit. My guess is
6 you don't. The chamber does when you get asked to come
7 up and publically speak on behalf of companies, and I
8 want to tell you right now we get a request from Ozinga,
9 we jump at the chance. You will find they're a good
10 neighbor and when they make a promise they keep it.
11 Promises made, promises kept, in the community and with
12 the environment. Thank you very much.

13 DEAN STUDER: Thank you.

14 Marion Zaki. Please keep your comments as
15 brief as possible.

16 Frank Corona will be next.

17 MARION ZAKI: Hello. My name is Marian Zaki
18 and I'm 14 years old and I'm a senior at George
19 Washington Elementary School. I grew up in this
20 neighborhood all my life and the only bad thing is -- by
21 our beaches and by our homes. I fortunately don't have
22 asthma, but a lot of people at my school and all my
23 friends do. And this technology is very advanced and it
24 goes into our lives and there's better ways to build

1 more plants that cause no pollution or less pollution.
2 And this is going to affect our generation, so do this
3 for us and stop this plant from being moved into our
4 community. Thank you.

5 DEAN STUDER: Thank you.

6 Julie Matthews will be next.

7 FRANK CORONA: Frank Corona, C-o-r-o-n-a.
8 Born and raised on the south side of Chicago and
9 activist. I've had the monitor put on the corner of my
10 house, 1046 Avenue G. I still haven't had a response,
11 that was 10 years ago. Fifty years ago I went to a
12 meeting when John Buchanan was the mayor -- I mean the
13 alderman and they were talking the same stuff.

14 But, I want to ask you if you're familiar
15 with the bill that was just denied in Springfield,
16 that's HR 2681 that was voted on for the EPA, regulatory
17 relief, Relief Act of 2011? Are you familiar with that?
18 That was voted on in Springfield and it has to do with
19 the concrete building industry seek -- upcoming EPA
20 ruling.

21 My question to the EPA is don't let them
22 fool you with the talk here. You don't have to be a
23 Harvard graduate or a political scientist. My question
24 to the EPA is do you have the rules and regulations

1 right now of what's going to happen here? Because that
2 doesn't count -- matter to us. But do you have right
3 here what they went to Springfield for and voted on?
4 There's no regulations. Am I right or wrong?

5 CHRISTOPHER ROMAINE: You're incorrect.
6 There are federal regulations that apply, there are
7 state regulations that apply, there is the federal
8 permitting programs that apply that we implement. There
9 are ample regulations that address new Portland cement
10 plants.

11 FRANK CORONA: Okay. Well, I just want you
12 to bring up that make sure you know who your lobby is
13 down in Springfield and congress are because they're
14 making decisions without us because they have plans to
15 gentrify our area and this is part of the
16 gentrification.

17 I want to say thank you very much for giving
18 me some time to speak. Thank you.

19 DEAN STUDER: Thank you.

20 Julius Matthews is not here. Mike Comquest
21 please and Steve Surup.

22 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm going to
23 relinquish my time to Bill who lives right in the
24 neighborhood.

1 WILLIAM KELLY: My name's William Kelly,
2 K-e-l-l-y. I'm the labor business manager of Local 269.

3 I was born and raised on the east side when
4 all the steel mills were up and running full force. I
5 worked in all the steel mills, now they're all gone.
6 We've lost thousands of jobs.

7 I just want to thank the Ozinga family for
8 investing in the community and bringing this project
9 here and hope that you pass this permit and that this
10 work can continue and we want to thank them very much.

11 DEAN STUDER: Thank you.

12 Mark -- I can't pronounce it, it looks
13 D-a-u-v-e-r-n. I apologize for that. Go ahead. And
14 following that is Ivan Solis. Is Ivan Solis here?

15 Just keep your comments as brief as
16 possible.

17 MARK DAVERN: I'll be very brief. Mark
18 Davern, D-a-v-e-r-n. I do not live in the ward.
19 However, I am a carpenter and would benefit from the
20 work in the ward. And just listening to all the tales
21 of asthma and disease in the area tonight, as an
22 outsider it seems that Ozinga has done everything in
23 their power with this plant so the emission isn't that
24 bad and I would like to say that I support the plant and

1 I applaud Ozinga. Thank you.

2 DEAN STUDER: Ivan Solis, if you'd keep your
3 comments as brief as possible, I'd appreciate it.

4 Junior Cabralus, if you'd sit in the chair.

5 IVAN SOLIS: Good evening. My name is
6 Ivan Solis. I'm president of Solis Construction,
7 S-o-l-i-s. I also serve on the board of Hispanic
8 American Association and, as such, would like to express
9 our support for this project. I think that it would be
10 a good job creator. We also support the economic
11 development and I think that we can -- we should step
12 back a little and take this project as an example of
13 building greener and operating in a greener fashion. If
14 people say that you cannot cover coal, and you can so
15 point back to the Ozinga plant and say there you have
16 it, you can cover it up, you can operate in a cleaner
17 way. I think that instead of looking at this as a
18 challenge, we should also approach it from an
19 opportunity point of view and raise the bar and clean up
20 the rest of the businesses. If there is going to be
21 additional air monitors placed around the area, that
22 would bring everybody else into compliance and I applaud
23 Ozinga for engaging this conversation. I think that
24 this is an example of what can be done and in a way to

1 clean up some of this business. So, we support the
2 issuance of a permit for the Ozinga development.

3 Thank you.

4 DEAN STUDER: Thank you.

5 Michael Schmanski, if you're here just make
6 your way to the chair.

7 Go ahead.

8 J.R. CABRALUS: J.R. Cabralus,

9 C-a-b-r-a-l-u-s.

10 I was born and raised on 87th in South
11 Chicago in the exchange area, moving up to the -- area,
12 Local Carpenter 272. Just having the Ozinga company
13 come here is just a stepping stone. If we get this
14 company in here, showing that they can prove that they
15 can do the EPA what they asked for and for the community
16 it's a start, and these are the other opportunities for
17 other companies to come in and bring more -- it doesn't
18 seem much, but hey, 90, zero. Which is better? Ninety,
19 I agree. So I will -- I ask please, let the Ozinga
20 company put their company here.

21 Thank you.

22 DEAN STUDER: Thank.

23 Olga Bautista.

24 OLGA BAUTISTA: I'm going to pass and submit

1 it in writing.

2 DEAN STUDER: Okay, thank you.

3 Katie Bautista. And while she's coming
4 down, Miranda Soldanda. If you would make your way to
5 the chair, Miranda. And again, Katie, if you'd keep
6 your comments brief, I would appreciate it.

7 KATIE BAUTISTA: Good evening. My name is
8 Katie Bautista, B-a-u-t-i-s-t-a.

9 DEAN STUDER: If you're going to read a
10 comment, I would ask that you just provide a summary and
11 we'll add the written into the record. Go ahead.

12 KATIE BAUTISTA: I have been born and raised
13 in South Chicago and my whole life what has always stood
14 out most about my community is the overabundant and mass
15 amount of industry in the area. The constant flow of
16 semi trucks coming in and out of my neighborhood and the
17 awful odors produced by various companies surrounding
18 the area, and this has been my whole life.

19 I know the neighborhood has a potential to
20 be so much more, to thrive, to be beautiful, but what's
21 standing in our way is the influx of companies wanting
22 to continue to pollute the neighborhood. Ozinga and
23 Universal Cement's proposal promises to emit literally
24 billions of pounds of pollution a year. They have made

1 it clear in their proposal that they will be a
2 contributor to the neighborhood's already high pollution
3 rate. And what really troubles me is that they know
4 that this area has been plagued with numerous industries
5 that has and continues to pollute the neighborhood.
6 They know that this neighborhood has so much industry
7 that it is the most polluted area in the city.

8 Enough is enough. My community deserves
9 better. We deserve to breathe clean air. We deserve to
10 be healthy. We deserve a community free of dirty
11 industry. Thank you.

12 DEAN STUDER: Thank you.

13 Miranda, if you'd make your way to the
14 microphone. Nanekia Jones, the chair if you're going to
15 speak. Keep your comments brief.

16 Go ahead.

17 MIRANDA SALDANA: Hello. My name is Miranda
18 Saldana. Last name S-a-l-d-a-n-a. I'm 16 years old,
19 I go to -- academy and I am a concerned resident of the
20 southeast side of Chicago. I am disgusted by the amount
21 of pollution and environmental injustice that I have
22 grown to become familiar with in my community. As a
23 child, I was not able to prevent the toxic and disease
24 causing pollutants that have been brought into my

1 backyard. However, my awareness of these injustices
2 have obnoxiously hit me in the face the second I stepped
3 out of my house and inhale toxic fumes. I knew from
4 that moment on that I as a student, a community
5 activist, and as a human being was responsible for
6 stopping this dirty industry from cheating, deceiving,
7 and harming the people of my community and protect the
8 health and wellbeing of our future.

9 I have suffered with asthma for seven years
10 and refuse to sit back and allow the wants for more jobs
11 to predict whether or not my asthma will progress. I
12 ask you Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to
13 protect my environment and its people and prevent
14 Universal Cement from polluting my neighborhood.

15 Thank you.

16 DEAN STUDER: Thank you. If you'd spell
17 your last name for court reporter, please.

18 Martin Ozinga, were you going to speak?
19 Again, I ask you to keep your comments brief.

20 Go ahead.

21 MANIKIA JONES: Hello. My name is Manikia
22 Jones, M-a-n-i-k-i-a, J-o-n-e-s.

23 I come here on behalf of the people to say
24 that if you bring this company to the south side of

1 Chicago, how many lives are you damaging? They say that
2 gang violence is the leading killer, but no one speaks
3 of the silent and deadly killer of toxin waste that
4 comes in these neighborhoods. I have suffered with
5 asthma for 27 years. I have a nephew that is five years
6 old and asthma that is very serious because of the air.
7 No one speaks of -- everything that goes on, they keeps
8 it under wraps. I hear a lot of piggybacking. I don't
9 hear nobody supporting the fact that these people saying
10 that we will adhere to everything that's going on. But
11 I hear a lot of let's go on with it, let's progress with
12 the jobs that are coming. Yeah, if you can get the
13 jobs, yeah, the jobs will come in. But how many people
14 in these neighborhoods are going to receive the jobs?
15 Living in these parched communities that we reside in.
16 Where are we going to get in the next few years, that
17 they say we will evolve in five to ten years, where they
18 see they selves at. I hear a lot of people standing
19 behind them, but I really don't hear the truth. I'm
20 here to speak the truth, get the truth, and nothing but
21 the truth.

22 So, how far are we going to go with this?
23 If we gonna breathe, confess, and talk the truth, that
24 the truth be spoken of and not covered up. You can say

1 what you want to say on paper, but in the hearts, we
2 really know the truth already, and if anybody wanna know
3 the truth, there's a lot of coverup that I hear and it's
4 a lot about money and not about one's health, not about
5 one's community, and not about one's everything that
6 they stand for in life, of other children and adults,
7 ones that have healthy homes. I don't hear that. I
8 hear we gonna reside and do this and help the community
9 to breathe this and breathe that, but no one speaks the
10 truth. All I hear is no progression, I hear setbacks,
11 and that's my comment.

12 DEAN STUDER: Thank you.

13 I'm going to ask if there are people here
14 that are not planning to speak, if they would leave the
15 building. We need to vacate the building as much as
16 possible by 10:00 o'clock and it is just a couple
17 minutes until and I do want to accommodate as many
18 people that want to speak this evening as absolutely
19 possible. So, if you're not planning to speak, I would
20 ask that you would leave the hearing room. We will have
21 the transcript posted on our website. Thank you.

22 Go ahead.

23 MARTY OZINGA: Good evening. I'm Marty
24 Ozinga. I'm Marty Ozinga's father, in case there's any

1 confusion about that.

2 I'm the president of Ozinga Brothers. I was
3 born and raised in Evergreen Park where my father was
4 born and raised, where all six of my sons were born and
5 raised. This business was started by my grandfather in
6 1928. It's a family business, a private company. We're
7 not a big public corporation. We're not a company that
8 lives someplace else, far away, someplace that just
9 looks at the numbers and calculates the economics of the
10 whole thing. We're very proud to be part of this
11 community.

12 I'm very humbled and honored to be here
13 tonight, that so many of you folks from the community
14 came out, that came out to express concerns, to came
15 out to express support. These are all things that come
16 together to create an opportunity in a community to
17 live, to work, to progress.

18 It's kind of ironic, but I spent about
19 a third of my time traveling around this country and
20 around the world and, ironically, working on community
21 health projects. It's my observation all around the
22 world that environmental issues and the quality of the
23 environment that people live in is directly tied to the
24 ability of those places and those countries to generate

1 good jobs and have solid economies and have an
2 opportunity to progress. What this economy needs
3 today obviously is jobs.

4 We're hoping that this state-of-the-art
5 cement mill does in fact relate to the rest of the
6 cement industries in the United States and around the
7 world as a model for how to produce cement at the best
8 quality standards that any money can buy. It's a
9 product that is a basic necessity. There is no building
10 construction being built that does not include concrete.
11 It's not a product that goes away, it's a product that
12 is here, it has been for 2000 years and will continue to
13 be the foundation, literally and figuratively, of our
14 growing economy. And I just encourage and thank you
15 that we continue this kind of dialogue, that we continue
16 to seek ways to improve the environment, to produce
17 concrete, to produce cement in a better and more
18 friendly environmental way, at the same time progress
19 economically, provide jobs, and to work together to see
20 to it that all of those things happen together.

21 DEAN STUDER: Let's keep the applause down.

22 Antonio Artenao? No.

23 Frank Ebleski? No.

24 Tom Tertskra, T-e-r-t-s-k-r-a? No.

1 It's Oscar Salazar. Again, if you'd keep
2 your comments brief. We have to be out of the building
3 here just as soon as we absolutely can, and after you're
4 done speaking I would ask that you also vacate the
5 building this evening. Thank you. Go ahead.

6 OSCAR SALAZAR: Good evening, gentlemen.
7 Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak today.
8 My name is Oscar Salazar, S-a-l-a-z-a-r.

9 I am a lifelong resident of the 10th Ward,
10 father of two, a union member of Carpenters Local 272.
11 I am not a biologist nor an engineer. I am not an
12 activist. I am a father foremost, a father of two
13 children.

14 What we have here is a plant that will be
15 used for construction material to build our next school,
16 to build our roads, to build the future. I cannot keep
17 on holding onto my past because it will keep me from
18 knowing what my future holds for me.

19 I know this, this area has been polluted for
20 many years. I remember swimming back in those bodies of
21 water, fishing, catching three-eyed fish, fishing, and
22 then swimming and eating them. And then I remember
23 swimming on drums, drums, thinking what a great
24 flotation device. We cannot put that on this company

1 that's coming here and planning on building this
2 facility, a topnotch, state-of-the-art, high-tech.

3 America is in need of that, we need
4 companies to stay in America. What better place than
5 here on the southeast side of Chicago. I do know that
6 our economy is suffering and I do know that I do not
7 want to be paying somebody, another foreign country's
8 profit margin.

9 I hope that the EPA does their
10 due -- performs their due diligence in making sure that
11 this will be an environmentally stable operation. And I
12 know that Ozinga, when names don't meaning nothing and
13 they falter, I know Ozinga's name won't and I know
14 they'll lead this all the way through. Thank you.

15 DEAN STUDER: Thank you.

16 Carolyn Martinez. And that will be followed
17 by Carolyn Ziegler.

18 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Do you have a
19 Cheryl Johnson down there?

20 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Do you have a
21 Perez, Jorg Perez?

22 DEAN STUDER: I do not have a Cheryl Johnson
23 -- oh, yes, I do. She's at the very end. She must have
24 been the last one to register.

1 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: No, I was
2 not.

3 DEAN STUDER: Okay.

4 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: What about
5 Jorg Perez?

6 DEAN STUDER: What was the name?

7 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Perez, Jorge
8 Perez.

9 PATRICIA SHARKEY: Can we have people who
10 are going to testify line up so we can get to them?

11 DEAN STUDER: Yes, yes. Let's do that.

12 Those that are speaking -- you can go ahead,
13 Cheryl, spell your last name for the record and we'll
14 move forward.

15 CAROLYN MARTINEZ: My name is Carolyn
16 Martinez. C-a-r-o-l-y-n, M-a-r-t-i-n-e-z.

17 DEAN STUDER: Go ahead.

18 CAROLYN MARTINEZ: I'm going to read from
19 Scriptures.

20 "Do you not know that your body's a temple
21 of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have
22 received from God? You are not your own. You were
23 bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your
24 body." First Corinthians 6:19-20.

1 We need to honor our bodies because they are
2 temples. We do not need anyone else telling us what we
3 need to do in our community, health-wise or any other
4 wise.

5 I'm representing here in standing up for the
6 community based on God's laws, not on your laws.

7 Thank you.

8 DEAN STUDER: Spell your last name, for the
9 record.

10 WILLIAM BALSA: It is William Balsa. The
11 last name is B-a-l-s-a. I just got off work so I was
12 a little bit late so I missed a few things. I work at
13 Mount Sinai on the west side which is your next closest
14 trauma center and today on this side of the city all
15 your hospitals were on bypass. So you gotta go to
16 Northwestern, Mercy, other hospitals. The problem
17 with -- when I spoke to Mr. Ozinga --

18 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Speak in the
19 mic. We can't hear you out here.

20 WILLIAM BALSA: A lot of the things
21 that -- the problems with this plant is the CO2. This
22 plant can have zero CO2 emitted if they did a little bit
23 more research which I'm sure they will do. When they
24 had their truck out there, there's some things with

1 their truck that they had zero emissions.

2 My thing is, is we all need the jobs, but
3 with Walmart and a new school and all of this, we're
4 taking up all of our real estate and putting it in the
5 wrong places. There's also the potential of the Ozinga
6 plant in Gary. Now, that's a little bit later in time.
7 Why don't we give it to Gary? Still create the jobs.

8 Why don't we look at our health first,
9 because if you go down right here, you're out of luck,
10 you're going to die right here. Because the closet
11 ambulance is already at a hospital more than likely,
12 because we won't have enough here. So my thing is if
13 you're actually really into the community, open that
14 medical center and open a hospital. You can do it for
15 under \$50 million and I'm more than willing to help
16 anybody that wants to help this community, and not just
17 in a business sense, but in a health sense. Because if
18 anybody goes down here, Ambulance 25 is never at
19 quarters, and if they are it's a miracle. You have to
20 wait for one to come from South Chicago and one to come
21 from over in south Englewood. So my thing is we need to
22 start taking care of the community health-wise. The
23 second-largest cancer in the city. So my thing is if
24 you want to help, start bringing more money into the

1 healthcare industry out here because Trinity ain't
2 cutting it.

3 DEAN STUDER: Thank you. Last name, please
4 spell it for the record.

5 JORG PEREZ: The last name is Perez,
6 P-e-r-e-z, the first name is J-o-r-g. I'm from South
7 Chicago, I'm a lifelong resident of 83rd and Houston,
8 grew up there, currently live there with my family.

9 On a personal perspective, we strongly urge
10 the IEPA to allow this air permit for the construction
11 of this project. We think it's a formidable project.
12 It is one of many years waiting, and we believe the
13 Ozinga family should be commended for their leadership.

14 I'm also here as the executive director of
15 the Hispanic American Construction Industry Association,
16 where we represent over 300 construction related
17 companies in the Chicagoland area. We strongly support
18 this project because it is good for the economy at a
19 very pivotable time where jobs are ever so critical.
20 This is the type of project that we support fully and
21 we've been working with Ozinga to look at sourcing
22 additional Hispanic contractors to design and build this
23 facility. Thank you.

24 DEAN STUDER: Thank you.

1 JIM KLEKOWSKI: Hi. I'm Jim Klekowski,
2 K-l-e-k-o-w-s-k-i, also a lifelong resident of the
3 neighborhood. Thanks for the opportunity of speaking.

4 Our alderman John Pope mentioned Neil
5 Bosanko's name. It should be mentioned here that Neil
6 is dying of cancer right now and never smoked a day in
7 his life, but he lived here every day of his life. And
8 everything's that come before this is not on your
9 shoulders. You have a great family name, Ozinga's
10 fantastic. But, from this point on what came before
11 isn't going to be allowed again, not by these people.
12 These people, no offense, shuffle papers. You're going
13 to answer to this community of what's going to be going
14 on. What's going to come on the barges, what's not
15 covered, and you have everybody watching now. That's
16 what's in this community now. So please be prepared for
17 that. Thank you.

18 DEAN STUDER: Thank you.

19 If you'd step forward to the microphone and
20 please state your last name and then you can state your
21 name. Thank you.

22 RAY BANKS: Hello. My name is Ray Banks,
23 the last name is spelled B-a-n-k-s.

24 I've known the Ozinga's for several years

1 and I've known them to be people of integrity, and I
2 believe that -- I agree with most of you folks, what
3 you're saying about health and about people being
4 healthy and the environment being bad in this area.
5 I believe that the Ozinga Universal Cement project is
6 aware of that too, and they too are trying to make
7 sure that their company is not adding to the pollution
8 and that -- not adding to the pollution of the
9 environment. So, I strongly support the Universal
10 Cement project. Thank you.

11 DEAN STUDER: Thank you.

12 Please step forward to the microphone.
13 State your name, if you would please.

14 CHERYL JOHNSON: My name is Cheryl Johnson.
15 J-o-h-n-s-o-n. I'm also a member of the IEPA Rightful
16 Justice Working Group. I'm also a member of the
17 Southeast Environment Alliance. And I want to put on
18 the record I was here at 7:00 o'clock and I put in a
19 card. I should have been called 40 cards before you
20 called that call, so not to be at the bottom of the
21 list. But as -- I'm here to represent -- I am the
22 president and the CEO of People for Community Recovery,
23 the oldest environmental justice group in the midwest,
24 under the auspice of my mother, the late Hazel Johnson,

1 who put environmental justice on the map. And if you
2 read the first page of the executive summary, to read
3 the first page, you talk about it, environmental
4 executive order 12898, where if you were to look at
5 environmental -- the executive order, it will look at
6 the first statement we talked about because my mother
7 was there to witness the signing of the executive order,
8 that you would look at class and race, and this is one
9 of the factors of why this type of facility is being
10 located in our area. You know, and it behoves me to
11 look and see that you as IEPA, that knows, adheres to
12 the new guidance that came out that says that you have
13 to look at the precautionary principle of the effect of
14 any industry coming into the area. That's what they
15 told you already, about this -- this area should not be
16 a site for any type of pollutant industry in this area.

17 I've had 30 years working for environmental
18 justice from a personal level. I have seen facilities
19 say that has the best available technology and I have
20 not seen that today. Robbins, Illinois, here with a
21 chemical incinerator, the City of Chicago and everything
22 they promote is jobs for us. The jobs do not come to a
23 community that's immediately around these facilities.
24 For example, supposed to be the environment, supposed to

1 be the economic interest for this area. For an
2 agency -- first come from Valparaiso, Indiana. So don't
3 sit up here and just tell us about jobs, because people
4 in my community, Altgeld Gardens need to be inclusive of
5 this. Because the wind pattern of where these emissions
6 come comes out of the southwest corner of the southeast
7 side of Chicago, which smacks us dead in Altgeld
8 Gardens, and I don't see nothing inclusive of Altgeld
9 Gardens being in this report. And you talk about a
10 two-mile radius, if you do a real two-mile radius, our
11 neighborhood would have been inclusive in this study and
12 it has not been in it. Because at the end of the day,
13 when we just had that explosion a week ago from those
14 truckers, those -- that smoke rolled over and settled in
15 Altgeld Gardens. The same thing, because man makes
16 mistakes. They did it with the incinerator, I can see
17 if you're using sulfur, carbon dioxide, and all these
18 chemicals right on our border which is a border that
19 we -- to emit hazardous stuff.

20 So, I'm just saying that go back to the
21 drawing board, dismiss this process, and start all over
22 and make sure that my community is inclusive, because we
23 are the oldest environmental justice community that has
24 been fighting this for 30 years and if it wasn't for my

1 mother, bless her soul, environmental justice wouldn't
2 even be on the map. Thank you.

3 DEAN STUDER: Thank you.

4 Please come to the mic and state your last
5 name.

6 BRIAN URBASZEWSKI: My name is Brian
7 Urbaszewski, U-r-b-a-s-z-e-w-s-k-i. I'm the director of
8 environmental health programs for Respiratory Health
9 Association of Metropolitan Chicago. We're a
10 100-year-old lung health charity based here in Chicago
11 that focuses on lung health, research advocacy, and
12 education. I wanted to highlight a few issues and find
13 out how they're being addressed. Don't respond tonight,
14 but in the record.

15 You know, first our concern over this
16 project is mainly that it's going to increase ozone,
17 precursors, things that are formerly known as toxic
18 emissions. The short story here is we have a
19 longstanding air pollution problem with ozone which is a
20 caustic acid that essentially burns lung tissue and the
21 last thing we need is more emissions that are going to
22 make a bad air quality situation already worse. On this
23 front it appears that NOX emissions will be the largest
24 wedge of the emissions pie from this project, over 800

1 tons a year allowed, and SCNS -- SNCR is identified as
2 a control strategy for the plant, selected non-catalytic
3 reduction. From what I've been able to gather, such a
4 technology to reduce ozone producing NOX by about 35 to
5 65 percent. But at the same time there's SCR
6 technology, selected catalytic reduction technology,
7 which was used in cement plants about a decade ago and
8 it can typically get 80 percent reduction in NOX and
9 that's what US EPA is saying. And it's very important
10 that one plant in Europe using SCRs has even achieved a
11 NOX reduction rate as high as 95 percent. SCR works in
12 coal plants, it's an industry standard for NOX control,
13 proven technologies have demonstrated that SCR works
14 even in high-dust environments like cement ones. So why
15 isn't SCR technology being required in this situation
16 when it's proven technology in cement plants and can
17 bring significant health benefits in reducing harmful
18 air pollution?

19 At the same time, the limit for NOX in the
20 draft permit is 1.5 pounds per ton clinker. SCR used
21 on a coal plant has achieved levels about half that,
22 .8 pound per ton per clinker at a plant in Europe.
23 Surely we should be using and requiring the use of much
24 more effective pollution control that was first used on

1 cement plants about a decade ago. We're talking about
2 lowest achievable emission rates here and that's not
3 what this permit is doing. Even a coal-fired plant in
4 Arizona that came online this year has much more
5 effective pollution control technology, they're meeting
6 a limit that -- of NOX limit that is lower than what's
7 being proposed for this plant yet to be built. They've
8 achieved 1.2 pounds per ton of clinker. They even use
9 gas for startup. Has that even been considered here?
10 Is coal burning -- of gas to lower emissions of toxic
11 chemicals being considered as part of this project?

12 Lead is another issue. We're talking about
13 toxic air pollution too. Lead emissions in the permit
14 are a concern. The plant would be allowed to emit 800
15 pounds of lead a year, but the Wholesome plant south of
16 St. Louis which is four times the size of this plant I
17 believe is only allowed to emit 260 pounds a year.

18 Something is seriously wrong here, and I
19 don't need to ask why the disparity appears to be so
20 great and what the agency would do to propose lowering
21 these lead emission rates, particularly since a monitor
22 in the City of Chicago near a similar sized source,
23 almost 800 pounds, apparently reported violations of the
24 lead ambient air quality standards. This would be the

1 monitor in the Pilsen neighborhood near the Fisk power
2 plant and near the Kramer foundry.

3 These are just some of the points I wanted
4 to bring out. I think there's some serious problems
5 with the permit here. We're reserving the right to
6 amend and extend these comments in writing.

7 Thank you.

8 DEAN STUDER: Thank you.

9 If you'd spell your last name and state your
10 name for the record, please.

11 KENNETH LADIEN: Kenneth, k-e double N,
12 e-t-h, Ladien, L-a-d-i-e-n, not to be confused with
13 Bin Laden.

14 We talked about international, we talked
15 about national. We talked about standards elsewhere and
16 as I spoke with Mr. Ozinga the third the last time, in
17 Germany along the Rhine River you can swim within two
18 blocks of the steel mill back in 1967. We're a part
19 river basin here, we're part of -- basin and we're sort
20 of like Salacia. Well, we haven't taken advantage of
21 the science and we don't have to be a so-called minority
22 to live here. And we have Polish here, we got Italian,
23 we got Serbian, we got Croatian, and it's never
24 been replanted by a speaker who has trouble pronouncing

1 the names that he -- to say how much English he has.

2 In an industrialization to coal, getting rid
3 of coal is going to de-industrialize the United States.
4 If we're going to get rid of coal, then we might as well
5 go back to the occupation of Aurora, we might as well go
6 back to the starvation of Germany proposed by the
7 secretary treasurer of -- Roosevelt, Franklin, Henry
8 Worthingthal who had turned Germany into Tokyo. We can
9 have all that greed, but we can't eat it.

10 So I suggest as a former member of the
11 Illinois Compensation of Ethnicity and Education of the
12 house of delegates of the Chicago Teacher's Union,
13 American Federation of Teachers Local One, house of
14 delegates, that again we impasse the other material
15 that's been excluded here and for those that -- EPA is
16 going to be the final answer, they allow pollution on
17 the beautiful north side, point to me, if you want to
18 know, I'll tell you where.

19 DEAN STUDER: Is there anyone here this
20 evening that would like to make comments? Thank you.

21 Okay. I'll remind everyone that the hearing
22 record is open until November 18th. We'll accept
23 written comments through that date.

24 I thank you for your attendance and your

1 patience this evening.

2 (Hearing concluded at 10:25 o'clock p.m.)

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1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2

3 DAVID J. DEMSKI, being first duly sworn on oath
4 says that he is a court reporter doing business in the
5 City of Chicago; that he reported in shorthand the
6 proceedings given at the taking of said hearing on the
7 19th day of October, 2007, and that the foregoing is a
8 true and correct transcript of his shorthand notes so
9 taken as aforesaid, and contains all the proceedings
10 given at said hearing.

11

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14 DAVID J. DEMSKI - CSR# 084-004386

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