

RICHARD J. DURBIN

ILLINOIS

ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-1304

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
COMMITTEE ON RULES  
AND ADMINISTRATION

November 12, 2013

Mr. Ron Campbell  
President, Washington Mills Hennepin Inc.  
13230 Prairie Industrial Parkway  
Hennepin, IL 61327

Dear Mr. Campbell:

I write to inquire about Washington Mills Hennepin's policy and practices in the handling of petroleum coke in Illinois. The Chicago Tribune and other news outlets have published articles highlighting the negative environmental effects caused by the large mounds of petroleum coke that are stored at shipping facilities near the Calumet River. The articles report that residents in Southeast Chicago have seen clouds of black dust swirling above the piles and invading their neighborhoods. During these dust events, many in the area are forced to keep their children inside with the windows closed.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, Washington Mills Hennepin has a permit to handle petroleum coke. I am concerned that Illinoisans living near your facility are regularly being exposed to pollution that contains heavy metals and carcinogenic materials. Therefore, I am writing to ask what steps Washington Mills Hennepin currently takes to mitigate any potential health and safety issues caused by the processing, transportation, or storage of petroleum coke and how these efforts can be strengthened to better protect the public.

Air quality monitors in the areas surrounding petroleum coke facilities often register record high levels of particulate matter—which is known to aggravate asthma, lead to premature deaths in people with heart or lung disease, and cause nonfatal heart attacks.

It is clear that public exposure to petroleum coke dust particles leads to serious health and environmental problems. Therefore, I urge Washington Mills Hennepin to use every available method to limit Illinoisans' exposure to petroleum coke and look forward to hearing your plans to protect the surrounding areas from its harmful effects.

Sincerely,



Richard Durbin  
U.S. Senator

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-1304

November 12, 2013

Mr. Martin Ozinga III  
Chairman, Ozinga Brothers Inc.  
18825 South Old LaGrange Road  
Mokena, IL 60448

Dear Mr. Ozinga:

I write to inquire about Ozinga Brothers' policy and practices in the handling of petroleum coke in Illinois. The Chicago Tribune and other news outlets have published articles highlighting the negative environmental effects caused by the large mounds of petroleum coke that are stored at shipping facilities near the Calumet River. The articles report that residents in Southeast Chicago have seen clouds of black dust swirling above the piles and invading their neighborhoods. During these dust events, many in the area are forced to keep their children inside with the windows closed.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, Ozinga Brothers' Universal Cement plant has a permit to handle petroleum coke. I am concerned that Illinoisans living near your facility are regularly being exposed to pollution that contains heavy metals and carcinogenic materials. Therefore, I am writing to ask what steps Ozinga Brothers currently takes to mitigate any potential health and safety issues caused by the processing, transportation, or storage of petroleum coke and how these efforts can be strengthened to better protect the public.

Air quality monitors in the areas surrounding petroleum coke facilities often register record high levels of particulate matter—which is known to aggravate asthma, lead to premature deaths in people with heart or lung disease, and cause nonfatal heart attacks.

It is clear that public exposure to petroleum coke dust particles leads to serious health and environmental problems. Therefore, I urge Ozinga Brothers to use every available method to limit Illinoisans' exposure to petroleum coke and look forward to hearing your plans to protect the surrounding areas from its harmful effects.

Sincerely,



Richard Durbin  
U.S. Senator

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-1304

November 12, 2013

Mr. Erik Madsen  
CEO, St. Marys Cement, Inc.  
55 Industrial Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, Ontario M4G 3W9

Dear Mr. Madsen:

I write to inquire about St. Marys Cement's policy and practices in the handling of petroleum coke in Illinois. The Chicago Tribune and other news outlets have published articles highlighting the negative environmental effects caused by the large mounds of petroleum coke that are stored at shipping facilities near the Calumet River. The articles report that residents in Southeast Chicago have seen clouds of black dust swirling above the piles and invading their neighborhoods. During these dust events, many in the area are forced to keep their children inside with the windows closed.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, St. Marys Cement facility in Dixon has a permit to handle petroleum coke. I am concerned that Illinoisans living near your facility are regularly being exposed to pollution that contains heavy metals and carcinogenic materials. Therefore, I am writing to ask what steps St. Marys Cement currently takes to mitigate any potential health and safety issues caused by the processing, transportation, or storage of petroleum coke and how these efforts can be strengthened to better protect the public.

Air quality monitors in the areas surrounding petroleum coke facilities often register record high levels of particulate matter—which is known to aggravate asthma, lead to premature deaths in people with heart or lung disease, and cause nonfatal heart attacks.

It is clear that public exposure to petroleum coke dust particles leads to serious health and environmental problems. Therefore, I urge St. Marys Cement to use every available method to limit Illinoisans' exposure to petroleum coke and look forward to hearing your plans to protect the surrounding areas from its harmful effects.

Sincerely,



Richard Durbin  
U.S. Senator

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-1304

November 12, 2013

Mr. Gary Sweeney  
CEO, Rain CII Carbon LLC  
2657 Chestnut Ridge Rd. Suite 200  
Kingwood, TX 77339

Dear Mr. Sweeney:

I write to inquire about Rain CII Carbon's policy and practices in the handling of petroleum coke in Illinois. The Chicago Tribune and other news outlets have published articles highlighting the negative environmental effects caused by the large mounds of petroleum coke that are stored at shipping facilities near the Calumet River. The articles report that residents in Southeast Chicago have seen clouds of black dust swirling above the piles and invading their neighborhoods. During these dust events, many in the area are forced to keep their children inside with the windows closed.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, Rain CII Carbon's calciner in Robinson has a permit to handle petroleum coke. I am concerned that Illinoisans living near your facility are regularly being exposed to pollution that contains heavy metals and carcinogenic materials. Therefore, I am writing to ask what steps the Rain CII Carbon currently takes to mitigate any potential health and safety issues caused by the processing, transportation, or storage of petroleum coke and how these efforts can be strengthened to better protect the public.

Air quality monitors in the areas surrounding petroleum coke facilities often register record high levels of particulate matter—which is known to aggravate asthma, lead to premature deaths in people with heart or lung disease, and cause nonfatal heart attacks.

It is clear that public exposure to petroleum coke dust particles leads to serious health and environmental problems. Therefore, I urge the Rain CII Carbon to use every available method to limit Illinoisans' exposure to petroleum coke and look forward to hearing your plans to protect the surrounding areas from its harmful effects.

Sincerely,

Richard Durbin  
U.S. Senator

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-1304

November 12, 2013

Mr. Willson Ropp  
Chairman, Prince Minerals, Inc.  
21 West 46<sup>th</sup> Street, Fourteenth Floor  
New York, NY 10036

Dear Mr. Ropp:

I write to inquire about Prince Mineral's policy and practices in the handling of petroleum coke in Illinois. The Chicago Tribune and other news outlets have published articles highlighting the negative environmental effects caused by the large mounds of petroleum coke that are stored at shipping facilities near the Calumet River. The articles report that residents in Southeast Chicago have seen clouds of black dust swirling above the piles and invading their neighborhoods. During these dust events, many in the area are forced to keep their children inside with the windows closed.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, Prince Minerals' facility in Quincy has a permit to handle petroleum coke. I am concerned that Illinoisans living near your facility are regularly being exposed to pollution that contains heavy metals and carcinogenic materials. Therefore, I am writing to ask what steps Prince Minerals currently takes to mitigate any potential health and safety issues caused by the processing, transportation, or storage of petroleum coke and how these efforts can be strengthened to better protect the public.

Air quality monitors in the areas surrounding petroleum coke facilities often register record high levels of particulate matter—which is known to aggravate asthma, lead to premature deaths in people with heart or lung disease, and cause nonfatal heart attacks.

It is clear that public exposure to petroleum coke dust particles leads to serious health and environmental problems. Therefore, I urge Prince Minerals to use every available method to limit Illinoisans' exposure to petroleum coke and look forward to hearing your plans to protect the surrounding areas from its harmful effects.

Sincerely,



Richard Durbin  
U.S. Senator

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-1304

November 12, 2013

Mr. Ryan Lance  
CEO, ConocoPhillips  
600 North Dairy Ashford Street  
Houston, TX 77079-1100

Dear Mr. Lance:

I write to inquire about ConocoPhillips' policy and practices in the handling of petroleum coke in Illinois. The Chicago Tribune and other news outlets have published articles highlighting the negative environmental effects caused by the large mounds of petroleum coke that are stored at shipping facilities near the Calumet River. The articles report that residents in Southeast Chicago have seen clouds of black dust swirling above the piles and invading their neighborhoods. During these dust events, many in the area are forced to keep their children inside with the windows closed.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, ConocoPhillips' Wood River Refinery has a permit to handle petroleum coke. I am concerned that Illinoisans living near your facility are regularly being exposed to pollution that contains heavy metals and carcinogenic materials. Therefore, I am writing to ask what steps ConocoPhillips' currently takes to mitigate any potential health and safety issues caused by the processing, transportation, or storage of petroleum coke and how these efforts can be strengthened to better protect the public.

Air quality monitors in the areas surrounding petroleum coke facilities often register record high levels of particulate matter—which is known to aggravate asthma, lead to premature deaths in people with heart or lung disease, and cause nonfatal heart attacks.

It is clear that public exposure to petroleum coke dust particles leads to serious health and environmental problems. Therefore, I urge ConocoPhillips' to use every available method to limit Illinoisans' exposure to petroleum coke and look forward to hearing your plans to protect the surrounding areas from its harmful effects.

Sincerely,

Richard Durbin  
U.S. Senator

RICHARD J. DURBIN

ILLINOIS

ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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COMMITTEE ON RULES  
AND ADMINISTRATION

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-1304

November 12, 2013

Mr. Michael A. DeCola  
CEO, Mississippi Lime Company  
3870 South Lindbergh Boulevard Suite 200  
St. Louis, MO , 63127-1308

Dear Mr. DeCola:

I write to inquire about Mississippi Lime Company's policy and practices in the handling of petroleum coke in Illinois. The Chicago Tribune and other news outlets have published articles highlighting the negative environmental effects caused by the large mounds of petroleum coke that are stored at shipping facilities near the Calumet River. The articles report that residents in Southeast Chicago have seen clouds of black dust swirling above the piles and invading their neighborhoods. During these dust events, many in the area are forced to keep their children inside with the windows closed.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, Mississippi Lime Company's facility in Prairie du Rocher has a permit to handle petroleum coke. I am concerned that Illinoisans living near your facility are regularly being exposed to pollution that contains heavy metals and carcinogenic materials. Therefore, I am writing to ask what steps Mississippi Lime Company currently takes to mitigate any potential health and safety issues caused by the processing, transportation, or storage of petroleum coke and how these efforts can be strengthened to better protect the public.

Air quality monitors in the areas surrounding petroleum coke facilities often register record high levels of particulate matter—which is known to aggravate asthma, lead to premature deaths in people with heart or lung disease, and cause nonfatal heart attacks.

It is clear that public exposure to petroleum coke dust particles leads to serious health and environmental problems. Therefore, I urge Mississippi Lime Company to use every available method to limit Illinoisans' exposure to petroleum coke and look forward to hearing your plans to protect the surrounding areas from its harmful effects.

Sincerely,



Richard Durbin  
U.S. Senator

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-1304

November 12, 2013

Mr. Ruben S. Martin III  
CEO, Martin Midstream Partners L.P.  
4200 B Stone Road  
Kilgore, TX 75662

Dear Mr. Martin:

I write to inquire about Martin Midstream's policy and practices in the handling of petroleum coke in Illinois. The Chicago Tribune and other news outlets have published articles highlighting the negative environmental effects caused by the large mounds of petroleum coke that are stored at shipping facilities near the Calumet River. The articles report that residents in Southeast Chicago have seen clouds of black dust swirling above the piles and invading their neighborhoods. During these dust events, many in the area are forced to keep their children inside with the windows closed.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, Martin Midstream's facility in Seneca has a permit to handle petroleum coke. I am concerned that Illinoisans living near your facility are regularly being exposed to pollution that contains heavy metals and carcinogenic materials. Therefore, I am writing to ask what steps Martin Midstream currently takes to mitigate any potential health and safety issues caused by the processing, transportation, or storage of petroleum coke and how these efforts can be strengthened to better protect the public.

Air quality monitors in the areas surrounding petroleum coke facilities often register record high levels of particulate matter—which is known to aggravate asthma, lead to premature deaths in people with heart or lung disease, and cause nonfatal heart attacks.

It is clear that public exposure to petroleum coke dust particles leads to serious health and environmental problems. Therefore, I urge Martin Midstream to use every available method to limit Illinoisans' exposure to petroleum coke and look forward to hearing your plans to protect the surrounding areas from its harmful effects.

Sincerely,



Richard Durbin  
U.S. Senator



United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-1304

November 12, 2013

Mr. Gary R. Heminger  
CEO, Marathon Petroleum Company LLC  
539 South Main Street  
Findlay, OH 45840

Dear Mr. Heminger:

I write to inquire about Marathon Petroleum's policy and practices in the handling of petroleum coke in Illinois. The Chicago Tribune and other news outlets have published articles highlighting the negative environmental effects caused by the large mounds of petroleum coke that are stored at shipping facilities near the Calumet River. The articles report that residents in Southeast Chicago have seen clouds of black dust swirling above the piles and invading their neighborhoods. During these dust events, many in the area are forced to keep their children inside with the windows closed.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, Marathon Petroleum's Refinery in Robinson has a permit to handle petroleum coke. I am concerned that Illinoisans living near your facility are regularly being exposed to pollution that contains heavy metals and carcinogenic materials. Therefore, I am writing to ask what steps the Marathon Petroleum currently takes to mitigate any potential health and safety issues caused by the processing, transportation, or storage of petroleum coke and how these efforts can be strengthened to better protect the public.

Air quality monitors in the areas surrounding petroleum coke facilities often register record high levels of particulate matter—which is known to aggravate asthma, lead to premature deaths in people with heart or lung disease, and cause nonfatal heart attacks.

It is clear that public exposure to petroleum coke dust particles leads to serious health and environmental problems. Therefore, I urge the Marathon Petroleum to use every available method to limit Illinoisans' exposure to petroleum coke and look forward to hearing your plans to protect the surrounding areas from its harmful effects.

Sincerely,

Richard Durbin  
U.S. Senator

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-1304

November 12, 2013

Mr. John Stull  
CEO, Lafarge North America Inc.  
8700 W Bryn Mawr Ave., Suite 300  
Chicago, IL 60631

Dear John Stull:

I write to inquire about Lafarge's policy and practices in the handling of petroleum coke in Illinois. The Chicago Tribune and other news outlets have published articles highlighting the negative environmental effects caused by the large mounds of petroleum coke that are stored at shipping facilities near the Calumet River. The articles report that residents in Southeast Chicago have seen clouds of black dust swirling above the piles and invading their neighborhoods. During these dust events, many in the area are forced to keep their children inside with the windows closed.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, Lafarge's Joppa Cement Plant has a permit to handle petroleum coke. I am concerned that Illinoisans living near your facility are regularly being exposed to pollution that contains heavy metals and carcinogenic materials. Therefore, I am writing to ask what steps Lafarge currently takes to mitigate any potential health and safety issues caused by the processing, transportation, or storage of petroleum coke and how these efforts can be strengthened to better protect the public.

Air quality monitors in the areas surrounding petroleum coke facilities often register record high levels of particulate matter—which is known to aggravate asthma, lead to premature deaths in people with heart or lung disease, and cause nonfatal heart attacks.

It is clear that public exposure to petroleum coke dust particles leads to serious health and environmental problems. Therefore, I urge Lafarge to use every available method to limit Illinoisans' exposure to petroleum coke and look forward to hearing your plans to protect the surrounding areas from its harmful effects.

Sincerely,



Richard Durbin  
U.S. Senator

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-1304

November 12, 2013

Mr. Charles G. Koch  
CEO, Koch Industries Inc.  
4111 East 37<sup>th</sup> Street North  
Wichita, KS 67220

Dear Mr. Koch:

I write to inquire about Koch Industries' policy and practices in the handling of petroleum coke in Illinois. The Chicago Tribune and other news outlets have published articles highlighting the negative environmental effects caused by the large mounds of petroleum coke that are stored at shipping facilities near the Calumet River. The articles report that residents in Southeast Chicago have seen clouds of black dust swirling above the piles and invading their neighborhoods. During these dust events, many in the area are forced to keep their children inside with the windows closed.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, Koch Industries' KCBX North and South facilities each have permits to handle petroleum coke. I am concerned that Illinoisans living near your facilities are regularly being exposed to pollution that contains heavy metals and carcinogenic materials. Therefore, I am writing to ask what steps Koch Industries currently are taking to mitigate any potential health and safety issues caused by the processing, transportation, or storage of petroleum coke and how these efforts can be strengthened to better protect the public.

Air quality monitors in the areas surrounding petroleum coke facilities often register record high levels of particulate matter—which is known to aggravate asthma, lead to premature deaths in people with heart or lung disease, and cause nonfatal heart attacks.

It is clear that public exposure to petroleum coke dust particles leads to serious health and environmental problems. Therefore, I urge Koch Industries to use every available method to limit Illinoisans' exposure to petroleum coke and look forward to hearing your plans to protect the surrounding areas from its harmful effects.

Sincerely,

Richard Durbin  
U.S. Senator

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-1304

November 12, 2013

Mr. Steven R. Rowley  
CEO, Eagle Materials Inc.  
3811 Turtle Creek Boulevard, Suite 1100  
Dallas, TX 75219

Dear Mr. Rowley:

I write to inquire about Eagle Materials' policy and practices in the handling of petroleum coke in Illinois. The Chicago Tribune and other news outlets have published articles highlighting the negative environmental effects caused by the large mounds of petroleum coke that are stored at shipping facilities near the Calumet River. The articles report that residents in Southeast Chicago have seen clouds of black dust swirling above the piles and invading their neighborhoods. During these dust events, many in the area are forced to keep their children inside with the windows closed.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, Eagle Materials' Illinois Cement plant has a permit to handle petroleum coke. I am concerned that Illinoisans living near your facility are regularly being exposed to pollution that contains heavy metals and carcinogenic materials. Therefore, I am writing to ask what steps Eagle Materials currently takes to mitigate any potential health and safety issues caused by the processing, transportation, or storage of petroleum coke and how these efforts can be strengthened to better protect the public.

Air quality monitors in the areas surrounding petroleum coke facilities often register record high levels of particulate matter—which is known to aggravate asthma, lead to premature deaths in people with heart or lung disease, and cause nonfatal heart attacks.

It is clear that public exposure to petroleum coke dust particles leads to serious health and environmental problems. Therefore, I urge Eagle Materials to use every available method to limit Illinoisans' exposure to petroleum coke and look forward to hearing your plans to protect the surrounding areas from its harmful effects.

Sincerely,



Richard Durbin  
U.S. Senator

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-1304

November 12, 2013

Mr. David Carroll  
CEO, Gas Technology Institute  
1700 S Mount Prospect Road  
Des Plaines, IL 60018

Dear Mr. Carroll:

I write to inquire about Gas Technology Institute's policy and practices in the handling of petroleum coke in Illinois. The Chicago Tribune and other news outlets have published articles highlighting the negative environmental effects caused by the large mounds of petroleum coke that are stored at shipping facilities near the Calumet River. The articles report that residents in Southeast Chicago have seen clouds of black dust swirling above the piles and invading their neighborhoods. During these dust events, many in the area are forced to keep their children inside with the windows closed.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, Gas Technology Institute has a permit to handle petroleum coke. I am concerned that Illinoisans living near your facility are regularly being exposed to pollution that contains heavy metals and carcinogenic materials. Therefore, I am writing to ask what steps Gas Technology Institute currently takes to mitigate any potential health and safety issues caused by the processing, transportation, or storage of petroleum coke and how these efforts can be strengthened to better protect the public.

Air quality monitors in the areas surrounding petroleum coke facilities often register record high levels of particulate matter—which is known to aggravate asthma, lead to premature deaths in people with heart or lung disease, and cause nonfatal heart attacks.

It is clear that public exposure to petroleum coke dust particles leads to serious health and environmental problems. Therefore, I urge Gas Technology Institute to use every available method to limit Illinoisans' exposure to petroleum coke and look forward to hearing your plans to protect the surrounding areas from its harmful effects.

Sincerely,

Richard Durbin  
U.S. Senator

RICHARD J. DURBIN

ILLINOIS

ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

COMMITTEE ON RULES  
AND ADMINISTRATION

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-1304

November 12, 2013

Mr. Rex W. Tillerson  
CEO, Exxon Mobil Corporation  
5959 Las Colinas Boulevard  
Irving, TX 75039-2298

Dear Mr. Tillerson:

I write to inquire about Exxon Mobil's policy and practices in the handling of petroleum coke in Illinois. The Chicago Tribune and other news outlets have published articles highlighting the negative environmental effects caused by the large mounds of petroleum coke that are stored at shipping facilities near the Calumet River. The articles report that residents in Southeast Chicago have seen clouds of black dust swirling above the piles and invading their neighborhoods. During these dust events, many in the area are forced to keep their children inside with the windows closed.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, Exxon Mobil's Joliet Refinery has a permit to handle petroleum coke. I am concerned that Illinoisans living near your facility are regularly being exposed to pollution that contains heavy metals and carcinogenic materials. Therefore, I am writing to ask what steps Exxon Mobil currently takes to mitigate any potential health and safety issues caused by the processing, transportation, or storage of petroleum coke and how these efforts can be strengthened to better protect the public.

Air quality monitors in the areas surrounding petroleum coke facilities often register record high levels of particulate matter—which is known to aggravate asthma, lead to premature deaths in people with heart or lung disease, and cause nonfatal heart attacks.

It is clear that public exposure to petroleum coke dust particles leads to serious health and environmental problems. Therefore, I urge Exxon Mobil to use every available method to limit Illinoisans' exposure to petroleum coke and look forward to hearing your plans to protect the surrounding areas from its harmful effects.

Sincerely,



Richard Durbin  
U.S. Senator

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-1304

November 12, 2013

Mr. Nelson Martínez  
CEO, Citgo Petroleum Corporation  
1293 Eldridge Parkway  
Houston, TX 77077

Dear Mr. Martínez:

I write to inquire about Citgo's policy and practices in the handling of petroleum coke in Illinois. The Chicago Tribune and other news outlets have published articles highlighting the negative environmental effects caused by the large mounds of petroleum coke that are stored at shipping facilities near the Calumet River. The articles report that residents in Southeast Chicago have seen clouds of black dust swirling above the piles and invading their neighborhoods. During these dust events, many in the area are forced to keep their children inside with the windows closed.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, Citgo's Refinery in Lemont has a permit to handle petroleum coke. I am concerned that Illinoisans living near your facility are regularly being exposed to pollution that contains heavy metals and carcinogenic materials. Therefore, I am writing to ask what steps the Citgo currently takes to mitigate any potential health and safety issues caused by the processing, transportation, or storage of petroleum coke and how these efforts can be strengthened to better protect the public.

Air quality monitors in the areas surrounding petroleum coke facilities often register record high levels of particulate matter—which is known to aggravate asthma, lead to premature deaths in people with heart or lung disease, and cause nonfatal heart attacks.

It is clear that public exposure to petroleum coke dust particles leads to serious health and environmental problems. Therefore, I urge the Citgo to use every available method to limit Illinoisans' exposure to petroleum coke and look forward to hearing your plans to protect the surrounding areas from its harmful effects.

Sincerely,



Richard Durbin  
U.S. Senator

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-1504

November 12, 2013

Mr. David Nepereny  
CEO, Buzzi Unicem USA, Inc.  
100 Broadhead Rd.  
Bethlehem, PA 18017

Dear Mr. Nepereny:

I write to inquire about Buzzi Unicem's policy and practices in the handling of petroleum coke in Illinois. The Chicago Tribune and other news outlets have published articles highlighting the negative environmental effects caused by the large mounds of petroleum coke that are stored at shipping facilities near the Calumet River. The articles report that residents in Southeast Chicago have seen clouds of black dust swirling above the piles and invading their neighborhoods. During these dust events, many in the area are forced to keep their children inside with the windows closed.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, Buzzi Unicem's facility in Oglesby has a permit to handle petroleum coke. I am concerned that Illinoisans living near your facility are regularly being exposed to pollution that contains heavy metals and carcinogenic materials. Therefore, I am writing to ask what steps Buzzi Unicem currently takes to mitigate any potential health and safety issues caused by the processing, transportation, or storage of petroleum coke and how these efforts can be strengthened to better protect the public.

Air quality monitors in the areas surrounding petroleum coke facilities often register record high levels of particulate matter—which is known to aggravate asthma, lead to premature deaths in people with heart or lung disease, and cause nonfatal heart attacks.

It is clear that public exposure to petroleum coke dust particles leads to serious health and environmental problems. Therefore, I urge Buzzi Unicem to use every available method to limit Illinoisans' exposure to petroleum coke and look forward to hearing your plans to protect the surrounding areas from its harmful effects.

Sincerely,



Richard Durbin  
U.S. Senator



United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-1304

November 12, 2013

Mr. Todd A. Bastean  
CEO, Bunge North America  
11720 Borman Drive  
St. Louis, MO 63146

Dear Mr. Bastean:

I write to inquire about Bunge Milling's policy and practices in the handling of petroleum coke in Illinois. The Chicago Tribune and other news outlets have published articles highlighting the negative environmental effects caused by the large mounds of petroleum coke that are stored at shipping facilities near the Calumet River. The articles report that residents in Southeast Chicago have seen clouds of black dust swirling above the piles and invading their neighborhoods. During these dust events, many in the area are forced to keep their children inside with the windows closed.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, the Bunge's facility in Danville has a permit to handle petroleum coke. I am concerned that Illinoisans living near your facility are regularly being exposed to pollution that contains heavy metals and carcinogenic materials. Therefore, I am writing to ask what steps Bunge Milling currently takes to mitigate any potential health and safety issues caused by the processing, transportation, or storage of petroleum coke and how these efforts can be strengthened to better protect the public.

Air quality monitors in the areas surrounding petroleum coke facilities often register record high levels of particulate matter—which is known to aggravate asthma, lead to premature deaths in people with heart or lung disease, and cause nonfatal heart attacks.

It is clear that public exposure to petroleum coke dust particles leads to serious health and environmental problems. Therefore, I urge Bunge Milling to use every available method to limit Illinoisans' exposure to petroleum coke and look forward to hearing your plans to protect the surrounding areas from its harmful effects.

Sincerely,

Richard Durbin  
U.S. Senator

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-1304

November 12, 2013

Mr. John Minge  
CEO, BP America Inc.  
501 Westlake Park Blvd  
Houston, TX 77079-2604

Dear Mr. Minge:

I write to inquire about BP America's policy and practices in the handling of petroleum coke in Illinois. The Chicago Tribune and other news outlets have published articles highlighting the negative environmental effects caused by the large mounds of petroleum coke that are stored at shipping facilities near the Calumet River. The articles report that residents in Southeast Chicago have seen clouds of black dust swirling above the piles and invading their neighborhoods. During these dust events, many in the area are forced to keep their children inside with the windows closed.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, BP America's Refinery in Whiting has a permit to handle petroleum coke. I am concerned that Illinoisans living near your facility are regularly being exposed to pollution that contains heavy metals and carcinogenic materials. Therefore, I am writing to ask what steps BP America currently takes to mitigate any potential health and safety issues caused by the processing, transportation, or storage of petroleum coke and how these efforts can be strengthened to better protect the public.

Air quality monitors in the areas surrounding petroleum coke facilities often register record high levels of particulate matter—which is known to aggravate asthma, lead to premature deaths in people with heart or lung disease, and cause nonfatal heart attacks.

It is clear that public exposure to petroleum coke dust particles leads to serious health and environmental problems. Therefore, I urge BP America to use every available method to limit Illinoisans' exposure to petroleum coke and look forward to hearing your plans to protect the surrounding areas from its harmful effects.

Sincerely,

Richard Durbin  
U.S. Senator

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-1304

November 12, 2013

Mr. Alan Beemsterboer  
CEO, Beemsterboer Slag Corporation  
3411 Sheffield Avenue  
Hammond, IN 46383

Dear Mr. Beemsterboer:

I write to inquire about Beemsterboer's policy and practices in the handling of petroleum coke in Illinois. The Chicago Tribune and other news outlets have published articles highlighting the negative environmental effects caused by the large mounds of petroleum coke that are stored at shipping facilities near the Calumet River. The articles report that residents in Southeast Chicago have seen clouds of black dust swirling above the piles and invading their neighborhoods. During these dust events, many in the area are forced to keep their children inside with the windows closed.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, Beemsterboer's facility in Chicago has a permit to handle petroleum coke. I am concerned that Illinoisans living near your facility are regularly being exposed to pollution that contains heavy metals and carcinogenic materials. Therefore, I am writing to ask what steps Beemsterboer currently takes to mitigate any potential health and safety issues caused by the processing, transportation, or storage of petroleum coke and how these efforts can be strengthened to better protect the public.

Air quality monitors in the areas surrounding petroleum coke facilities often register record high levels of particulate matter—which is known to aggravate asthma, lead to premature deaths in people with heart or lung disease, and cause nonfatal heart attacks.

It is clear that public exposure to petroleum coke dust particles leads to serious health and environmental problems. Therefore, I urge Beemsterboer to use every available method to limit Illinoisans' exposure to petroleum coke and look forward to hearing your plans to protect the surrounding areas from its harmful effects.

Sincerely,



Richard Durbin  
U.S. Senator

# United States Senate

Washington, DC 20510-1504

November 12, 2013

Ms. Patricia A. Woertz  
CEO, Archer Daniels Midland Company  
4666 Faries Parkway  
Decatur, IL 62526

Dear Ms. Woertz:

I write to inquire about Archer Daniels Midland's policy and practices in the handling of petroleum coke in Illinois. The Chicago Tribune and other news outlets have published articles highlighting the negative environmental effects caused by the large mounds of petroleum coke that are stored at shipping facilities near the Calumet River. The articles report that residents in Southeast Chicago have seen clouds of black dust swirling above the piles and invading their neighborhoods. During these dust events, many in the area are forced to keep their children inside with the windows closed.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, Archer Daniels Midland has a permit to handle petroleum coke. I am concerned that Illinoisans living near your facility are regularly being exposed to pollution that contains heavy metals and carcinogenic materials. Therefore, I am writing to ask what steps Archer Daniels Midland currently takes to mitigate any potential health and safety issues caused by the processing, transportation, or storage of petroleum coke and how these efforts can be strengthened to better protect the public.

Air quality monitors in the areas surrounding petroleum coke facilities often register record high levels of particulate matter—which is known to aggravate asthma, lead to premature deaths in people with heart or lung disease, and cause nonfatal heart attacks.

It is clear that public exposure to petroleum coke dust particles leads to serious health and environmental problems. Therefore, I urge Archer Daniels Midland to use every available method to limit Illinoisans' exposure to petroleum coke and look forward to hearing your plans to protect the surrounding areas from its harmful effects.

Sincerely,



Richard Durbin  
U.S. Senator