

# Trust Issue #1

A weekly series focused on the current issues we are facing as citizens of Crystal City

On multiple occasions, the mayor and some councilmen have said "just trust us" and that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will "save us" by making the Smelter clean and nonpolluting.

## The TRUTH is...

These government agencies can't always protect the citizens. In fact, in Jefferson County alone, there are some cases where the health and welfare of the citizens have been compromised by the regulatory actions of the DNR and EPA.

### FACT:

The Doe Run Company in Herculaneum offers the closest example of negligent regulatory actions by the DNR and EPA. The smelter has only met the weak ambient air standards 2 out of 29 years. Even more alarming is the fact that since the pollution levels are still so high, citizens' yards are being recontaminated AFTER they have been cleaned up. Lou Gehrig's disease occurs at a higher rate within 3 miles of the smelter. Sadly enough, a few years ago 56% of the kids within 1/4 mile of the smelter had excessively elevated blood lead levels. How were they saved by the DNR and EPA?

### FACT:

Another alarming issue is that the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) didn't initially catch the fact that there were potentially contaminated fire bricks near Platin Creek on the old PPG site. After it was brought to their attention, the site was inspected again and in a recent letter from the MDNR to an executive at PPG (see back side of this insert) they stated that they did indeed find fire bricks on the site after a second, more recent, site inspection.

## How are we supposed to TRUST the DNR and EPA? Will they really "save us"?

**Trust is earned.** Elected officials and government agencies aren't automatically deserving, especially if they fail to be concerned for, and protective of the very people that put them in their positions.

*Please see the back side of this insert to read more about the MDNR letter and a few city official's misleading statements in the LEADER newspaper.*

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# Closed

Continued from Page 1A

"No, it's not over by a long shot."

She said the new would focus her efforts on having the site and lease over the city, violated in readings laws.

"At this point, even a discussion of this is premature. But I can absolutely say that no one is going to be forced from their home."

## Firebrick not found on site

DeClue and Kennedy both disputed claims by the group that firebrick, blocks of ceramic material that are used to line furnaces and kilns, have been found along the Platin Creek. Kerr's engineer, Mel Kowandick, has maintained that if those bricks are found to have chromium abnormal - a substance that is produced on firebrick after exposure to high temperatures - they would be considered highly toxic.

"The Missouri Department of Natural Resources did a study in April that was a Phase I environmental study, the gold standard, and they didn't find anything," DeClue said. "Wings again did their own study, a Phase I study, in December. Again, nothing was found. We sent city workers to walk the property, and we didn't find anything. That was a crack team of city workers. At any rate, it's a Pittsburgh problem. Pittsburgh is forever on the look for what they did on this property."

Kennedy agreed. "We hired a very respected engineering firm to do a Phase I site assessment under state and federal guidelines relating to brownfields and voluntary cleanup sites. They visited the site in December, with all the ridiculous letters that the city has received, in their hands. They determined that no ascertainable risks were found on the property."

## City accepted minor problems with lease

Schilly and DeClue characterized the proposed exceptions that the city agreed to accept in order to close its mainly procedural issues. "There are some lingering questions concerning easements, rights of way, and lines - things that go back to the 1980s," Schilly said. "The legal descriptions in some of these things are a little off and things that aren't even there. These things will be corrected."

Schilly's attorney, "We don't want to move forward without a legal description," DeClue said, despite pending litigation by Sun Kerr of Florida Corp. involving its easement to the former PPG office and property that goes through the former glass factory.

In addition, William "Jack" Giesemer, who owns the former PPG hospital site at Mississippi Avenue and Bailey Road, has filed suit concerning his property line. Giesemer is one of the organizers of the Concerned Citizens group.

## LEADER - December 27, 2007

"[Ward 2 Councilman] **Ben DeClue and James Kennedy** [Smelter developer] **both disputed claims** by the group [CCCC] **that firebrick, blocks of ceramic material that are used to line furnaces and kilns, have been found along the Platin Creek.**"

"... **DeClue said, 'We sent city workers to walk the [PPG] property, and we didn't find anything. That was a crack team of city workers.' ...**"

"... **Kennedy agreed, 'We hired a very respected engineering firm to do a Phase I site assessment ... They visited the site in December, ... and they determined that no ascertainable risks were found on the property.'**"

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HWY. 8 - 3 Miles from PPG ...



February 11, 2008

Mr. Tom Ebbert  
PPG Industries, Inc.  
4131 Riverside Drive  
Allentown, PA 18101

RE: PPG Former Works #9 Facility-Crystal City, Missouri  
Soil Management Plan

Dear Mr. Ebbert:

In December 2007, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) received a complaint of firebrick and glass cullet in Platin Creek adjacent to the PPG Former Works #9 Facility in Crystal City, Missouri. In response to the complaint, MDNR's St. Louis Regional Office (representing Mr. Joe Zamboni and Mr. Tom Matthews), regional Platin Creek with Mr. Bob French, the city of Crystal City, and Mr. Skully Jackson, MDNR Superfund Section. The MDNR staff noted firebrick in the creek adjacent to the Sentinel Area. Firebrick was also observed washed over the fence by the road. The MDNR is concerned the firebrick may contain chromium that could leach into the creek. Staff also saw an area of glass cullet near the creek.

As part of the PPG site's cleanup through the Brownfields/Voluntary Cleanup Program (BVCP), a Remedial Consent (RC) and Soil Management Plan (SMP) were executed. In accordance with the RC and SMP, the issues noted above must be addressed. Please submit a work plan to the BVCP to further investigate/address the firebrick and glass cullet in and near Platin Creek by the Sentinel Area. The plan must include:

- Sampling and analysis of the firebrick (synthetic precipitation leaching procedure)
- Sediment sampling in Platin Creek for metals analysis.
- Investigation of the washed firebrick over the fence and in the creek for proper removal or capping, etc.
- Investigation of the glass cullet for proper removal or capping. Please note glass cullet is not clean fill.

As outlined in the SMP, site soils may not be disturbed except in accordance with the SMP provisions. Please contact me or your nearest conservation to discuss the plan and establish a timetable for implementation of the plan. The BVCP will encourage your contractor and collect all data samples to the SMI. You may contact me by telephone at (314) 713-7178 or by writing to:

Hazardous Waste Program, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0176. I look forward to working with you to resolve these issues.

Sincerely,

HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM

Christine O'Keefe  
Environmental Specialist  
Brownfields/Voluntary Cleanup Section

February 11, 2008

From:  
**Christine O'Keefe**  
Environmental Specialist  
Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR)

To:  
**Tom Ebbert**  
PPG Industries, Inc.

"... MDNR's inspectors inspected Platin Creek ... with Mr. Bob French [Building Commissioner] ... **The MDNR staff noted firebrick in the creek adjacent to the Solarcool Area ...** The MDNR is concerned the firebrick may contain **chromium** that could leach into the creek."