

Trust Issue #2

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

We have been told by the smelter developer, the mayor and certain council members that they will make sure that a clean smelter is constructed using state of the art technologies.

The TRUTH is...

New technologies for constructing smelters are still in either the *design or experimental stages*. The mayor and certain council members have *repeatedly misled the citizens* as if we are not smart enough to find out the truth.

In a recent KJFF interview, Ben DeClue (Ward 2) was quoted as saying, "This technology exists to take the CO2 coming from an industrial development and reconvert it back into oxygen. The technology exists to capture that CO2, store it and resell it as industrial CO2."

Fact

CO2 sequestering technologies have a questionable future. The project that Ben DeClue referenced in this interview *has had its public funding terminated because of exorbitant projected cost overruns.*¹

Fact

A recent Wall Street Journal article states that commercial applications of *CO2 capture and storage are as much as 20 years away.*²

In the December 27, 2007 issue of the Leader, Richard Mead (Ward 4) says, "I am absolutely confident this plant will not pollute our environment."

Fact

*Smelters DO pollute the environment, and the best way to reach "near-zero" emissions is to capture and store the pollution before it enters the air, and that technology is as much as 20 years away.*³

Fact

The Particulate Matter and dust alone, emitted from unloading coal and the handling of iron ore, is a pollution concern. *These particles can be so small that people can get them lodged in their airways.* Particulates can effect people with cardiovascular problems, COPD, emphysema, diabetes and asthma. Asthma is already on the rise among children, and parts of this development would be very close to the Crystal City Schools.

How are we supposed to TRUST some of our current city council members? Are they doing their job as elected officials to represent our best interest and concerns?

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“When your speaking of coal [as fuel] you’re talking about nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds that can contribute to smog formation. We would probably be concerned about particulate matter (fine particles) that you can breathe deeply into your lungs and can cause lung, respiratory conditions or problems.”

— Ms. Leanne Tippet-Mosby (Missouri Department of Natural Resources)
9-5-07 Public Meeting at Crystal City High School

Particulate Matter (PM) Pollution Has Been Linked To:⁵

- Death from respiratory and cardiovascular causes
- Increased hospitalization for asthma among children
- Inflammation of lung tissue in young, healthy adults
- Increased severity of asthma attacks in children

Local Health Concerns as Described by the Disability Resource Association

Crystal City’s population median age is 37.8 years old which is higher than the median age of the nation. Of the general population, 19% have disabilities and 44% over the age of 65 have a disability.

The Particulate Matter can be so small that people can get it lodged in their airways. The effects of this is increased on individuals with disabilities and breathing problems.

Dangers and Safety Issues

An article stated that the derailment of a pugh ladle car at Indiana Harbor Works touched off an **explosion that reportedly could be heard 25 miles away**, in Michigan and north suburban Chicago.

The ladle car **spilled about 200 tons of molten iron**. The explosion occurred when **liquid metal came in contact with water** on the ground.⁶

Similar Industrial Facility Facts

James Kennedy (Wings Enterprises) said at the 9-5-07 public meeting that the smelter’s emission and noise would be equivalent to or less than the AmerenUE Rush Island facility. **Rush Island ranks as one of the dirtiest/worst polluting facilities in the USA**. In Jefferson county, the AmerenUE Rush Island facility as a whole ranks #1 in Carbon Monoxide emissions, #1 in Nitrogen Oxides, #1 in Particulate Matter 2.5, #1 in Particulate Matter 10, #2 in Sulfur Dioxides, and #3 in Volatile Organic Compound Emissions.⁷

According to scorecard.org (a pollution information web site collecting information from 400 scientific, and governmental databases – including the EPA) Jefferson county, Missouri ranks in the top 20% of the dirtiest counties in the country.

Why should we add more pollution to this region?

Can you really TRUST what the current city officials are telling you?

¹ Deirdre Shesgreen, *Feds officially abandon FutureGen project*, Post-dispatch Washington Bureau; online edition,

<http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/special/srlinks.nsf/story/5AD10530E2B6F74E862573E8007DC5A2?OpenDocument>, 02/08/2008.

^{2,3} Jone-Lin Wang, *Reducing the Carbon Footprint of Electricity*, The Wall Street Journal; pA15, 2/13/2008.

⁴ http://www.scorecard.org/chemical-profiles/summary.tcl?edf_substance_id=124%2d38%2d9#hazards

⁵ <http://www.lungusa.org/site/pp.asp?c=dvLUK9O0E&b=50324>

⁶ Mike Beirne, *Ladle car derailment causes blast*, American Metal Market; 12/20/1990.

⁷ http://www.scorecard.org/env-releases/facility.tcl?tri_id=63028RSHSL100BI#major_chemical_releases

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