



Andrea Horwath MPP
Hamilton Centre

October 16, 2017

Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change
11th Floor, Ferguson Block
77 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2T5

Dear Minister Ballard:

As you should be aware, the people of Hamilton as well as environmental groups such as Environment Hamilton have grown increasingly concerned at your ministry's failure to ensure compliance of air pollution emission standards at the ArcelorMittal Dofasco in our city.

On August 3, Environment Hamilton wrote to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change to ask why the company should receive another extension of the January 1, 2017 compliance deadline, when a similar facility had already *exceeded* its compliance standards, not just for 2017 but for 2020 as well.

A few days after that, a large cloud of particulate pollution was emitted from the ArcelorMittal Dofasco site, sending a toxic and foul-smelling plume across adjacent Hamilton neighbourhoods, apparently as a result of "coffining" by plant operators. On Thanksgiving weekend, Hamiltonians reported yet another of these "coffining" clouds.

It's been eight years since your ministry agreed to conduct a review of cumulative air pollution in "hot spots" like Hamilton. Despite repeated demands for updated regulations from community groups, public health organizations, environmentalists and the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario, the results of that review remain nowhere to be seen. As a result, a single emitter within a concentrated cluster of other emitters continues to be regulated as if it were the only emitter in the area. This is completely inadequate for communities including Hamilton, where numerous emitters are located next to family homes, schools and hospitals.

I urge you to take immediate action prevent more of these "coffining" events, and to ensure that air pollution regulations are properly enforced. In addition, I also urge you to come to Hamilton to meet with Environment Hamilton, community groups, businesses, local MPPs and other stakeholders, to develop site-specific policies that address individual emitters as well as cumulative air pollution in the Hamilton area.

Respectfully,

Andrea Horwath, MPP
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