

LOUISVILLE METRO COUNCIL

601 West Jefferson Street

Thursday, August 13, 2015

Methane Plants and the Food Port

Dear Council Metro Council Members

I am a member of the Rubbertown Emergency ACTION and a board member of the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist & Political Repression. REACT is a community based organization that comprise mostly of residents that live near the eleven chemical plants in Rubbertown. REACT was organized with the goal of working for a clean and safe environment for Louisville residents. REACT has formed alliances with other organizations in Louisville and throughout the United States. We recognizing that the highest priority of our elected representatives and governmental agencies is to protect the health and safety of the community. This is the reason why we opposed the two Nature's Methane plants to be built in West Louisville.

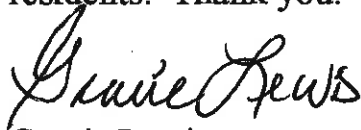
On July 6, 2015, James Brugger wrote an article in the Courier-Journal that celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the STAR Program. The article was entitled "10 Years Later, Louisville Breathes Easier." The Louisville Metro Air Pollution Strategic Toxic Air Reduction or STAR Program went into effect on July 1, 2005. The program capped decades of fighting over industrial air pollution, especially with the 11 chemical plants in Rubbertown. Rev. Louis Coleman and the Justice Resource Center spent decades in the environmental justice movement. So, it is deeply disturbing to REACT and the Kentucky Alliance as well as the community at large that our elected officials would have even considered bring Methane Plants to West Louisville. We believe the FoodPort is a trogon horse that misled everyone. I come here today to remind you of the decades of sacrifice that occurred to clean up our environment.

Nature's Methane gas is an extremely flammable gas and is hazardous to all of the residents in West Louisville. Protective clothing and measures would have had to

be used to ensure safety. This includes adequate ventilation. Emissions from ventilation or work process equipment would have to check to ensure they complied with the requirements of environmental protection standards. So immediately when the plan was discussed the community should have been totally involved in the process.

Nature's Methane LLC posed to build a \$40 million composting facility at the FoodPort at 30<sup>th</sup> Street and Muhammad Ali and the one at 17<sup>th</sup> and Maple should have been off the table for it would have posed an immediate threat to the residents. Manure digester have sparked fires in Wisconsin in 2014. Clear Horizons LLC biodigester sparked a fire that destroyed a \$250,000 nylon inflatable cover over one of its three digesters. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources This is why methane gas plants need to be placed on farms and away from residents. Furthermore, there are no rules for how to regulate biodigesters in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Any future plans pertaining to the FoodPort should involve West Louisville residents. Thank you.

  
Gracie Lewis

## MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET

### SECTION 1. PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION

**PRODUCT NAME:** Methane **FORMULA:** CH<sub>4</sub>  
**CHEMICAL NAME:** Methane, Saturated Aliphatic Hydrocarbon, Alkane  
**SYNONYMS:** Methyl Hydride, Marsh Gas, Fire Damp  
**MANUFACTURER:** Air Products and Chemicals, Inc.  
7201 Hamilton Boulevard  
Allentown, PA 18195 - 1501  
**PRODUCT INFORMATION :** (800) 752-1597  
**MSDS NUMBER:** 1070 **REVISION:** 6  
**REVIEW DATE:** July 1999 **REVISION DATE:** July 1999

### SECTION 2. COMPOSITION / INFORMATION ON INGREDIENTS

Methane is packaged as pure product (>99%).

**CAS NUMBER:** 74-82-8

**EXPOSURE LIMITS:**

**OSHA:** None established

**ACGIH:** Simple Asphyxiant

**NIOSH:** None established

### SECTION 3. HAZARD IDENTIFICATION

#### EMERGENCY OVERVIEW

Methane is a flammable, colorless, odorless, compressed gas packaged in cylinders under high pressure. It poses an immediate fire and explosion hazard when mixed with air at concentrations exceeding 5.0%. High concentrations that can cause rapid suffocation are within the flammable range and should not be entered.

#### EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

800 - 523 - 9374 In Continental U.S. , Canada and Puerto Rico  
610 - 481 - 7711 outside U.S.

#### ACUTE POTENTIAL HEALTH EFFECTS:

##### ROUTES OF EXPOSURE:

**EYE CONTACT:** No harmful affect.

**INGESTION:** Not applicable

**INHALATION:** Methane is nontoxic. It can, however, reduce the amount of oxygen in the air necessary to support life. Exposure to oxygen-deficient atmospheres (less than 19.5 %) may produce dizziness, nausea, vomiting, loss of consciousness, and death. At very low oxygen concentrations (less than 12 %) unconsciousness and death may occur without warning. It should be noted that before suffocation could occur, the lower flammable limit for Methane in air will be exceeded; causing both an oxygen deficient and an explosive atmosphere.

**SKIN CONTACT:** No harmful affect.

#### POTENTIAL HEALTH EFFECTS OF REPEATED EXPOSURE:

**ROUTE OF ENTRY:** None

**SYMPTOMS:** None

## Manure digester explosion sparks fire

Associated Press

POSTED: 08/07/2014 12:01:00 AM CDT | UPDATED: 12 MONTHS AGO

Wisconsin officials are investigating an explosion that destroyed the roof of a 1.25-million gallon manure digester near Waunakee.

Dane County sheriff's office spokeswoman Elise Schaffer said the blast at the Clear Horizons LLC biodigester sparked a fire Wednesday that destroyed a \$250,000 nylon inflatable cover over one of its three digesters. No injuries were reported, according to the Wisconsin State Journal.

Jim Ditter, chief executive officer for PPC Partners Inc., which owns Clear Horizons, said the company believes the explosion was caused by the ignition of methane gas as an employee started an electric blower. He said the digester won't be used until officials determine the definite cause of the explosion and ensure it's safe to begin operating again.

The Clear Horizons facility generates electricity by burning methane in manure and reduces phosphorus in manure that will be used on farms.

The company has come under the scrutiny of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources after three spills occurred at the facility within nine months, releasing more than 400,000 gallons of manure. The department also began investigating allegations that Clear Horizons failed to remove enough phosphorus from the waste.

Records released Wednesday showed the facility has also had issues with pipeline blockages and untreated animal waste.

"Definitely things like this have come up too often," said David Mosher, wastewater specialist at the state's Department of Natural Resources.

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"Right now we're just looking for avenues to get them in compliance with the permit."

If the violations continue, the department could levy fines of up to \$1,000 per day or shut the plant down by revoking its permit.

Ditter said PPC Partners Inc. has spent a lot of money trying to search for solutions to the spills, blockages and adequate phosphorus reduction. The company is considering the addition of new equipment to reduce phosphorus levels.

"From our point of view it's been a huge investment, but it's been a huge plus for Dane County just in terms of the phosphorus we've removed and kept out of the lakes," Ditter said.