

1            ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

2                            October 19, 2011

3    7:00 p.m.

4    IN RE:

5    PUBLIC HEARING - CONSTRUCTION PERMIT  
6    PROPOSED PORTLAND CEMENT MANUFACTURING PLANT  
7    117th STREET NEAR SOUTH TORRENCE AVENUE

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8            REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS at the hearing of the  
9    above-entitled cause, taken before David Demski,  
10    Certified Shorthand Reporter within and for the County  
11    of Cook and State of Illinois, at Olive-Harvey College,  
12    10001 South Woodlawn Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

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## 1 APPEARANCES:

2 ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
3 BY: MR. DEAN STUDER  
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1 people who are in favor of the project, I would ask  
2 that -- and you don't have a strong conviction to say  
3 something this evening and you're not from the  
4 neighborhood here, I'd ask that you leave. That  
5 you -- I encourage you to leave and give up your seat  
6 for people in the hall.

7                   We want to be sure that everybody has an  
8 opportunity to speak tonight who needs to speak and  
9 there's a lot of people in the hall who really feel like  
10 they need to speak yet. So I'm asking especially Ozinga  
11 employees, and I really appreciate that you're here and  
12 I appreciate your commitment to our organization, the  
13 future of our organization, but I'm asking you now as  
14 supporters of this who -- again people who don't feel  
15 strongly convicted that they need to make a comment,  
16 that you -- that you go. All right?

17                   Then during that time we're going to have a  
18 transition where we're going to reconnect in what seats  
19 are open yet and then allow more people to come in and,  
20 hopefully, we can get everybody in. So, it's going to  
21 be a little bit of a process right now, but again we ask  
22 you to give up your seat for those who are in favor of  
23 the project.

24                   PATRICIA SHARKEY: I want to announce that

1 anybody who's leaving, there is a list outside that you  
2 can sign that says I support the project so that your  
3 coming out tonight will be noted, that you were here and  
4 that you've offered your support. Thank you.

5 DEAN STUDER: Also, I will also accept any  
6 written comments that anyone does have prepared and I  
7 will enter those into the exhibit -- or into the record  
8 as exhibits. They are given the same weight as any oral  
9 comments.

10 For those departing, I appreciate your  
11 flexibility in this matter and I thank you for being  
12 here this evening and I apologize on behalf of the  
13 director for the inconvenience this may have caused.

14 While we're changing the guard here, I'll go  
15 out and touch base with those at the registration desk.

16 (Recess.)

17 DEAN STUDER: If you'll make your way to  
18 your seats, please. I would like to begin as soon as  
19 possible. For those that are coming in the auditorium,  
20 there are a few seats in the center, there's a few empty  
21 seats over here.

22 We're going to begin in 30 seconds.

23 Good evening. We'll go ahead and go on the  
24 record. My name is Dean Studer and I'm the hearing

1 officer for the Illinois Environmental Protection  
2 Agency. On behalf of interim director Lisa Bonnett,  
3 I welcome you to tonight's hearing.

4 My purpose tonight is to ensure that these  
5 proceedings run properly, according to rules, and are  
6 conducted in a fair and efficient manner. Personally,  
7 I will not be responding to specific technical issues  
8 related to the permit, but will defer such issues to  
9 technical staff here with me this evening.

10 This is an informational hearing before  
11 the Illinois EPA in the matter of an application for an  
12 air pollution control construction permit and prevention  
13 of significant deterioration, PSD, approval for a  
14 proposed Portland cement manufacturing plant to be  
15 located in Chicago on East 117th Street near Torrence  
16 Avenue.

17 The proposed plant is in an area designated  
18 as non-attainment for ozone and fine particulate matter.  
19 The plant would be considered a major new source for  
20 emissions of nitrogen oxides, as a precursor for ozone,  
21 and sulfur dioxide, as a precursor to fine particulate  
22 matter, under the state rules for Major Stationary  
23 Sources Construction and Modification, otherwise  
24 referred to as MSACAM, and those regulations are found

1 at 35 Illinois Code Part 203.

2           The plant would also be a major source for  
3 emissions of nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, carbon  
4 monoxide, particulate matter, and greenhouse gases under  
5 the federal rules for the Prevention of Significance  
6 Deterioration. Those rules are found in 40 CFR Section  
7 52.21. The Illinois EPA has made a preliminary  
8 determination that the applicant -- excuse me, that the  
9 application meets the requirements for obtaining a  
10 permit for the project and has prepared a draft permit  
11 for review. The Illinois EPA is holding this hearing  
12 for the purpose of accepting comments from the public on  
13 the proposed issuance of a permit for this project prior  
14 to actually making a final decision on the application.  
15 This public hearing is being held under the provisions  
16 of the Illinois EPA procedures for permit and closure  
17 plan hearings, which can be found at 35 Illinois  
18 Administrative Code, Part 166, Subpart A. Copies of  
19 these procedures can be accessed on the website for  
20 the Illinois Pollution Control Board at  
21 [www.ipcb.state.il.us](http://www.ipcb.state.il.us), or can be obtained from me upon  
22 request.

23           An informational public hearing means  
24 exactly that. It is an opportunity for you to provide

1 information to the Illinois EPA concerning this permit.  
2 This is not a contested case hearing.

3 I would like to explain how tonight's  
4 hearing is going to proceed. First, I will have the  
5 Illinois EPA staff introduce themselves and identify  
6 their responsibility in the agency in regards to this  
7 permitting action. Mr. Smet will then make a brief  
8 statement, then Mr. Marty Ozinga, IV, representing  
9 Universal Cement, will make a short presentation. This  
10 will be followed by additional instructions on how I  
11 will take oral comments this evening and then I will  
12 allow the public to begin providing comments.

13 You are not required to provide your  
14 comments orally. Written comments are given the same  
15 consideration and may be submitted to the Illinois EPA  
16 at any time during the comment period which ends at  
17 midnight November 18th, 2011. All comments submitted by  
18 mail must be postmarked no later than November 18, 2011.  
19 Although we will continue to accept comments through  
20 that date, tonight is the only time that we will accept  
21 oral comments.

22 The Illinois EPA would like to have a final  
23 decision in this matter by the end of this year.  
24 However, the actual decision date will depend upon the



1 number and nature of comments received, as well as other  
2 factors.

3           Any persons who want to make oral comments  
4 may do so, as long as the statements are relevant to  
5 the issues at hand. If you have not completed a  
6 registration card at this point, please see Brad Frost  
7 in the registration area and he will provide you with  
8 a registration card. Please be sure to check the  
9 appropriate box on the card if you desire to make  
10 comments at the hearing this evening. If you have  
11 lengthy comments, it may be helpful to provide a summary  
12 of your comments this evening and submit the comments  
13 in their entirety to me before the close of the comment  
14 period and I will ensure that they are included in the  
15 record as an exhibit. Please keep your comments and  
16 questions relevant to the issue at hand. If your  
17 comments fall outside the scope of this hearing, I may  
18 ask you to proceed to another issue. Universal Cement  
19 is also free to respond to issues that are raised if  
20 willing to do so, but I am not in a position to require  
21 them to do so. However, I will not allow the speakers  
22 to argue or engage in prolonged dialogue with members of  
23 our panel. For the propose of allowing everyone to have  
24 a chance to comment, I ask that everyone keep their

1 comments to 3 minutes. This should give everyone who  
2 desires to speak the opportunity to do so. In addition,  
3 I'd like to stress that we want to avoid unnecessary  
4 repetition. If anyone before you has already presented  
5 what is contained in your comments, please skip over  
6 those issues when you speak. If someone speaking before  
7 you has already said what you desire to say, you may  
8 pass when I call your name to come forward. Again, we  
9 are also accepting written comments which will become  
10 part of the official record in this matter and they will  
11 be considered by the Illinois EPA in making a final  
12 decision.

13           After everyone has had an opportunity to  
14 speak and provided that time allows, I will allow those  
15 who either ran out of time during the initial comments  
16 or have additional comments to speak, and that is  
17 provided time allows. All who legibly complete a  
18 registration card or submit written comments in this  
19 matter will be notified of the final decision and of the  
20 availability of the responsiveness summary. In the  
21 responsiveness summary, the Illinois EPA will respond to  
22 all significant issues that were raised at this hearing  
23 or submitted to me prior to the close of the comment  
24 period. The written record in this matter will close

1 November 18th, 2011. I will accept written comments as  
2 long as they are postmarked no later than November 18th,  
3 2011. While the record is open, all relevant comments  
4 and documents or data will be placed into the hearing  
5 record as exhibits. Please send all written documents  
6 to my attention. They should be mailed to Dean Studer,  
7 Hearing Officer, Office of Community Relations regarding  
8 Universal Cement new air permit, and that's at Illinois  
9 EPA, 1021 North Grand Avenue East, Post Office Box  
10 19276, and that's Springfield, Illinois 62794 --

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: You're going too fast.  
12 I couldn't copy it.

13 DEAN STUDER: I'm sorry?

14 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Could you  
15 state it slower so we can copy?

16 DEAN STUDER: Yes. It's also available in  
17 the hearing notice for tonight, the address is.

18 Thank you. I will slow down.

19 The finishing part of that address is  
20 Post Office Box 19276 and that's Springfield, Illinois,  
21 62794-9276. And as I just indicated, that address is  
22 given on the public notice for this hearing.

23 I also want to call your attention to a  
24 couple of documents that are available in the

1 registration area. The Environmental Justice Analysis  
2 prepared by Universal Cement and the Illinois EPA's  
3 review of the said analysis are available in the back,  
4 in the registration area. Copies of these documents are  
5 limited to one copy of each document per household.  
6 These documents are also available on the EPA web page  
7 and can be found in the document repositories as well.  
8 Illinois EPA will review public comments on the  
9 Environmental Justice Analysis in conjunction with the  
10 other comments in this proceeding before making a final  
11 determination on the application in this matter.

12 Universal Cement has offered to pay for  
13 an expedited copy of the transcript for this proceeding.  
14 Therefore, it should be available on the Illinois EPA's  
15 website by the middle of next week. Our typical  
16 turnaround is normally two to two and a half weeks.  
17 So, this is a -- this is an offer that they made to me  
18 this evening and we are going to get that posted on our  
19 web page as soon as that transcript is available so that  
20 you'll have a transcript of this hearing when preparing  
21 written post-hearing comments.

22 Also regarding Spanish language, we have  
23 someone who has volunteered to be a translator and to  
24 assist anyone that would like to make comments this

1 evening, but cannot do so in English, but can do so in  
2 Spanish.

3                   Is there anyone here this evening in the  
4 room that does not feel that they can make comments this  
5 evening in English?

6                   AUDIENCE MEMBER: Did you say in Spanish?

7                   DEAN STUDER: In Spanish, yes.

8                   PATRICIA SHARKEY: Ms. Garcia?

9                   AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Untranslated Spanish  
10 testimony.)

11                   DEAN STUDER: Thank you.

12                   At this time I'm going to ask everyone in  
13 the room, if you haven't done so, please silence all  
14 cell phones and pagers, and I'm going to turn things  
15 over to Bob Smet for him to do his opening remarks on  
16 the permit.

17                   BOB SMET: Good evening. My name is  
18 Bob Smet and I'm a current engineer in the Illinois  
19 EPA's Bureau of Air. I'll be giving you a brief  
20 description of the project.

21                   Universal Cement has applied for a permit to  
22 construct a Portland cement plant on the south side of  
23 Chicago. Portland cement is manufactured by processing  
24 limestone and other secondary raw material in a

1 high-temperature kiln. This kiln would be the principal  
2 emission unit at the plant.

3           Because the plant would be a major source of  
4 emissions for various pollutants, including greenhouse  
5 gases, emissions of these pollutants must be controlled  
6 with best available control technology and in some cases  
7 to meet the lowest achievable emission rate.

8           For the kiln, the emission controls would  
9 include the use of a baghouse or filter for control of  
10 particulate matter, selected non-catalytic reduction on  
11 the kiln for control of nitrogen oxides, and a fluidized  
12 bed absorption system for sulfur dioxide. Greenhouse  
13 gases will be reduced by the design of the kiln,  
14 including preheater/precalciner technology.

15           The air quality analysis for the project  
16 submitted by Universal Cement and reviewed by the  
17 Illinois EPA shows that the proposed project, as would  
18 be addressed by the permit, should not cause or  
19 contribute to violations of the ambient air quality  
20 standards for CO, SO<sub>2</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub>, and NO<sub>x</sub>; carbon monoxide,  
21 sulfur dioxide, particulate matter, and nitrogen oxides.

22           In addition, because the proposed plant  
23 would be near communities characterized by minority and  
24 low-income populations, Universal Cement prepared an

1 Environmental Justice Assessment document regarding the  
2 possibility of significant adverse air quality impacts  
3 on the nearby communities. Using data from the air  
4 quality analysis, it was determined that there would be  
5 no significant adverse impacts on these communities from  
6 these pollutants. In addition, the Illinois EPA  
7 conducted its own assessment for emissions of hazardous  
8 air pollutants from the proposed plant, which showed  
9 that emissions should not have a significant impact on  
10 the air quality.

11 As a major project for emissions of nitrogen  
12 oxides and sulfur dioxide, Universal Cement must obtain  
13 emission offsets for its permitted emissions of these  
14 pollutants. In addition, an analysis of alternatives to  
15 the project submitted by Universal Cement shows that the  
16 benefits of the proposed plant outweigh its impacts, as  
17 required by Illinois' rules for major projects in  
18 non-attainment areas.

19 The permit for the plant would require  
20 testing, monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting  
21 to address compliance with applicable limits and  
22 requirements. For the kiln, this would include  
23 continuous emission monitoring for emissions of sulfur  
24 dioxide, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, carbon

1 dioxide, and mercury, and monitoring of opacity.

2 In closing, the Illinois EPA is proposing  
3 to issue a construction permit for Universal Cement's  
4 proposed plant. We welcome your comments or questions  
5 on our proposed action.

6 Thank you.

7 DEAN STUDER: Thank you, Mr. Smet.

8 I believe that there's a brief presentation  
9 that Marty Ozinga, IV would like to make this evening.

10 Following this brief presentation, while  
11 he's coming forward, I was reminded that I didn't note  
12 for the record that there was no one that raised their  
13 hand to have assistance this evening in speaking  
14 Spanish.

15 MARTY OZINGA, IV: Thank you Mr. Hearing  
16 Officer Studer, and thank you Mr. Bob Smet for allowing  
17 me to speak.

18 My name is Marty Ozinga, IV. As he said, I  
19 am here representing my family and my family's business.  
20 Many of my family members are here and many of who we  
21 consider our extended family members are here. We have  
22 approximately 800 employees with the Ozinga organization  
23 and we consider them extended family members and we're  
24 happy many of you are here this evening. We're also



1 very encouraged that many people from the community are  
2 here. We're very excited and encouraged about this  
3 project. It's a very exciting day for us to be here,  
4 it's a long time coming and we are excited that you are  
5 all a part of it.

6 I just want to tell you briefly about our  
7 company. Ozinga Ready Mix Concrete is a family-owned  
8 and operated business. We now are in our 83rd year in  
9 business. Our main business is ready-mix concrete  
10 manufacture. You may know us by our red-and-white  
11 striped concrete trucks. Many of them deliver to job  
12 sites in this neighborhood and all throughout  
13 Chicagoland.

14 Tonight we're talking about trying to  
15 build a cement plant. We've never been in the cement  
16 business, but we buy a lot of cement. Our cement is  
17 bought by large foreign-owned multinational corporations  
18 who have now become our competitors and we feel like in  
19 order to stay a family-owned business, we need to get  
20 into the cement business in order to compete  
21 head-to-head and stay locally owned, stay family-owned,  
22 so that's why we're pursuing this project.

23 It's an exciting project also because this  
24 project brings many jobs to a community that -- not only

1 this community, but all over this country at a time when  
2 there's desperate need for jobs. The construction of  
3 this plant would last 30 months and would provide  
4 hundreds of construction jobs. When we operate the  
5 plant there would be 90 full-time jobs that would be  
6 right here on the southeast side. In addition, for  
7 every full-time job there's three additional jobs  
8 estimated that will be created because of the  
9 full-time jobs.

10           Much of the discussion tonight is going to  
11 be about environmental concerns, environmental issues.  
12 We feel like we have done our level best to work very  
13 hard to make sure that we are putting forth a plan and  
14 a proposal that not only meets the standards, but goes  
15 above and beyond the standards that are in place. If  
16 you look at the picture here, you will see a rendering  
17 of the proposed plants. Many of the things of this  
18 plant are state-of-the-art, they're the best control  
19 technologies available, and we are saying that this is  
20 going to be the greenest, cleanest cement plant in the  
21 country. It's going to raise the bar on the industry,  
22 our cement industry, and then raise the bar on the  
23 southeast side, frankly. One of the reasons I say that  
24 is because you see that all of the stockpiles of

1 material are covered. You will not see any open  
2 stockpiles of material anywhere. I know that's been a  
3 big concern that's come out of this community. I drove  
4 over the Skyway today and you see big stockpiles of  
5 material all over the place. None of that will be  
6 outside, it will all be inside. There will be  
7 continuous monitors of emissions that will be available.  
8 As I said, there's innovative control technology.  
9 There's no waste from this plant, no solid waste, and no  
10 waste into the river, no river discharges, and we don't  
11 use any water from the river. Finally, as I said, we  
12 are feeling like this is an innovative plant in many,  
13 many ways.

14           The last thing I want to point out is just  
15 our commitment to you, for those of you who are from  
16 this community, to do our best to continue to be  
17 innovative with the technologies that come available, to  
18 make sure that this plant is not only innovative today,  
19 but it's innovative in the future. That's what we're  
20 all about as an organization and we are committed to  
21 making sure that as new technologies become available,  
22 that we will be constantly monitoring that. Not only  
23 that, our commitment to you in the meantime is to be  
24 regularly available and out there, presenting to you

1 job opportunities as well as updates on how the plant is  
2 going.

3                   Finally, I want to just state to you my name  
4 is on the door of the company, as is many of my family  
5 members who are in this room. We have 83 years worth of  
6 business and I hope you hear from many people tonight  
7 who do know us, who understand that this is a business  
8 of honesty and integrity and we go above and beyond to  
9 make sure that we do things right. And so we're putting  
10 our name on this and we don't do that lightly, because  
11 our good name is much more important than any kind of  
12 money that we could ever make. Thank you very much for  
13 giving me time.

14                   One of the things -- I want to do two things  
15 yet. I want to -- Mr. Hearing Officer, I want to submit  
16 letters of support.

17                   I have letters here from Mayor Rahm Emanuel,  
18 City of Chicago.

19                   Thomas Villanova, Chicago and Cook County  
20 Building Construction Trades Council.

21                   President Jorge Ramirez, Chicago Federation  
22 of Labor.

23                   Alderman John A. Pope, Tenth Ward.

24                   President and CEO Doug Whitley at Illinois

1 Chamber of Commerce.

2 Michael Yauger, Teamster Local 786.

3 President Frank Libby, Chicago Regional  
4 Council of Carpenters.

5 President Patrick La Cassa, Cement Mason's  
6 Union Local 502.

7 President Ted Stalnos, Calumet Area  
8 Industrial Commission.

9 State Representative Marlow Colvin, 33rd  
10 District.

11 President Craig Satalic, Bridge, Structural  
12 and Reinforcing Iron Workers Local One.

13 William Kelly, Local 269.

14 Executive Director Neil Bosanko, South  
15 Chicago Chamber of Commerce.

16 All these letters of support for the project  
17 that I want to submit as part of the record. And, also,  
18 I have a submittal of the Environmental Adjustment  
19 Assessment that's been -- copies are made available to  
20 everybody here tonight and I'm submitting this for the  
21 record. Thank you.

22 DEAN STUDER: Thank you, Mr. Ozinga.

23 I'll go through instructions, just as a  
24 reminder to everyone. We've got a full house, we've got

1 a lot of people that want to speak, so we're going to  
2 have to move things along this evening. For that  
3 reason, I'm going to ask that we do not applaud from  
4 this point forward during this hearing.

5           While the issues raised tonight may indeed  
6 be heartfelt concerns to many of said attendants,  
7 applause is not appropriate during the course of this  
8 hearing. On a similar note, hissing and jeering are  
9 also not appropriate and will not be permitted this  
10 evening. Secondly, I am going to -- excuse me. I am  
11 not going to allow statements to be made tonight that  
12 do not relate to the issues involved with this air  
13 construction permit. Specifically, statements and  
14 comments that are of a personal nature or reflect on the  
15 character of a person or a group of people are not  
16 appropriate at this hearing. As statements or comments  
17 begin to drift into this area, I may interrupt the  
18 person speaking and ask they proceed to the next  
19 relevant issue. As hearing officer, I intend to treat  
20 everyone here tonight in a courteous, respectful, and  
21 professional manner. I ask that the public do the same.  
22 If the conduct of persons attending this hearing should  
23 become unruly, I am authorized to adjourn this hearing  
24 should the actions warrant. In such a case, the

1 Illinois EPA would still accept written comments through  
2 the close of the comment period which is November 18th.

3           Since we have a limited time in which to  
4 conduct this hearing, Illinois EPA staff members will  
5 be responding to issues primarily for clarification  
6 purposes. We are here tonight to listen to  
7 environmental issues. You may disagree with or object  
8 to some of the statements and comments made tonight, but  
9 this is a public hearing and everyone has a right to  
10 express their comments on this matter. Again, written  
11 comments are given the same consideration as oral  
12 comments received during this hearing and may be  
13 submitted to Illinois EPA at any time within the public  
14 comment period, which ends at midnight on November 18,  
15 2011. Although we will continue to accept comments  
16 through that date, tonight is the only time that we  
17 will accept oral comments. Any person who wishes to  
18 make an oral comment may do so as long as statements are  
19 relevant to the issues at hand and time allows. If you  
20 have lengthy comments, please consider giving only a  
21 summary of those comments during this hearing and, then,  
22 submitting the comments in their entirety to me in  
23 writing before the close of the comment period. I will  
24 ensure that they are included in the hearing record as

1 an exhibit. Please keep your comments relevant to the  
2 issue at hand. If your comments fall outside the scope  
3 of this hearing, I may ask you to proceed to your next  
4 issue. For the purpose of allowing everyone to have a  
5 chance to comment and to ensure that we conduct this  
6 hearing in a timely fashion, I will impose a time limit  
7 of 3 minutes per speaker. This should allow everyone  
8 that desires to speak to have the opportunity to do so.  
9 After everybody has had an opportunity to speak and  
10 provided that time permits, I may allow those who  
11 initially did not speak or desire to speak to do so. If  
12 time still permits, I may then allow those who initially  
13 ran out of time to speak again. In the event that we  
14 cannot accommodate everyone who wishes to make comments  
15 this evening, you are asked to submit your comments to  
16 us in writing. Again, written comments are given the  
17 same weight as comments made orally at this hearing.  
18 Again, I stress that we want to avoid unnecessary  
19 repetition. Once a point is made, it makes no  
20 difference if the point is made once or whether it's  
21 made 99 times. It will be considered and will be  
22 reflected only once in our responsiveness summary. The  
23 final decision of the Illinois EPA will not be based  
24 upon how many people support or oppose this project, but



1 rather upon the application and its supporting documents  
2 indicating how the facility will comply with applicable  
3 laws and regulations. We have a court reporter here who  
4 is taking a record of these proceedings for the purpose  
5 of us putting together our administrative record.  
6 Therefore, for his benefit, please keep the general  
7 background noise in the room to a minimum so that he can  
8 hear everything that is said. Illinois EPA will post a  
9 transcript for this hearing on our web page in the same  
10 general place as the hearing notice, the project  
11 summary, and the draft permit have been placed, we're  
12 also placing the EJ documents in that same area. We  
13 anticipate the transcript will be available by the  
14 middle of next week.

15                   When it is your turn to speak, I will call  
16 your name to come forward. For the record, you should  
17 state your name and, if applicable, any governmental  
18 body, organization, or association that you represent.  
19 If you are not representing a governmental body or an  
20 organization or an association, you may simply indicate  
21 that you are a concerned citizen or a member of the  
22 public. For the benefit of the court reporter, I ask  
23 that you spell your last name. If there are alternate  
24 spellings for the first name, you may also spell your

1 first name. Once you spell your name, I will start  
2 timing and you will have 3 minutes to complete your  
3 comments. I ask that while you are speaking, that you  
4 direct your attention to the hearing panel and to the  
5 court reporter and this will ensure that an accurate  
6 record of your comments are made. Prolonged dialogue  
7 with members of the hearing panel or with others here in  
8 attendance will not be permitted. Comments directed to  
9 the audience are also not allowed. Again, I remind  
10 everyone that the focus of this hearing is the  
11 environmental issues associated with the air  
12 construction permit. People who have requested to speak  
13 will be called upon in the order they have registered.

14 Are there any questions regarding the  
15 procedures that I'll use this evening in conducting this  
16 hearing? Let the record indicate there were no hands  
17 raised --

18 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: You said  
19 about the written will equal in weight the oral. You  
20 didn't say if there's any limits on the written  
21 comments.

22 DEAN STUDER: That's correct. Written  
23 comments supplied in writing are given the same weight  
24 as oral ones and we have not had a policy where we have

1 limited the number of the pages that may be submitted.  
2 What I will say is that repetition, just as repetition  
3 at this hearing, doesn't add anything to the record.  
4 Sending form letters doesn't necessarily add anything to  
5 the record either. If you are so inclined to do that,  
6 I would propose that rather than doing that, you send in  
7 a letter that's associated and attached to a petition of  
8 those that would support it and that goes a lot faster  
9 and administratively is much easier to handle and  
10 accomplishes the same goal. Because, again, our  
11 decision is not based on the number of people that make  
12 the same comment.

13 Are there any questions on procedures this  
14 evening? Okay, if not, the first person is Alderman  
15 John Pope. If Alderman Pope would like to make his way  
16 down to the microphone.

17 To speed things up, I'm also going to say  
18 who will be following the person that is speaking.  
19 Jamie Salazar will be after Alderman Pope.

20 Go ahead.

21 JOHN POPE: Good evening, Hearing Officer  
22 Studer, Mr. Smet, and all in attendance this evening.

23 I am John Pope, P-o-p-e, a lifelong resident  
24 of the southeast side here and a 10th Ward alderman. As

1 a matter of fact, I grew up about 1.5 miles from the  
2 proposed site and my family and I still live within a  
3 stone's throw of the site today. I am proud and pleased  
4 as an alderman and a resident of this community, a  
5 lifelong resident, to support this project. And very  
6 simply, I support this project for a number of reasons.  
7 One, it creates jobs. It keeps a longtime Chicago  
8 business in the community, in the city. It's a \$250  
9 million investment in our southeast side, something we  
10 have not seen for decades. It's accompanied with a  
11 proven track record, a track record of doing good  
12 business and working with the community hand-in-hand.

13           This is a state-of-the-art facility, not  
14 like the steel mills that most of us are used to or  
15 were used to decades and decades ago. It is not the  
16 steel mills of our grandfathers. It will be a most  
17 aggressive -- environmentally aggressive and progressive  
18 cement plant in the entire country, not to mention in  
19 comparison with some European and Asian factories, and  
20 it's ideally situated here in the southeast side in the  
21 Lake Calumet industrial corridor. And speaking of jobs,  
22 it creates 90 permanent jobs and 2- to 400 much needed  
23 construction jobs.

24           It's a project that's been vetted well with

1 the community. We've had community meetings back in  
2 April with leaders, we've had some in September, as a  
3 matter of fact, just last week and this evening. Also  
4 should the IEPA go forward with issuing this permit,  
5 have countless other meetings as it goes through the  
6 city process. So, the process here has just begun.

7           As alderman, I try to represent the entire  
8 community and as a result I'm presented with countless  
9 projects, projects that a lot of people are in favor of,  
10 a lot of people are opposed to. A lot of projects that  
11 I do not even present to the community because I know  
12 they're not something that the community wants,  
13 something like incinerators, which I've had multiple  
14 proposals, 24-hour business, pawnshops, things of that  
15 nature, and some that we have spoken about and addressed  
16 in the past, like a landfill, the CIE landfill just  
17 down the street. We as a community fought to limit  
18 additional garbage in our community. So I do take these  
19 issues to heart. I do have to weigh the benefits of  
20 costs and try and support those that I think will  
21 benefit the entire community, including my family.

22           I'm proud here again to support this  
23 project. It's a good project, it's a project that's  
24 been well thought out, much analysis. You heard a brief

1 summary by Mr. Ozinga. The Ozinga name goes a long way  
2 in Chicago, throughout the country, and I'm proud to  
3 support it. I hope that the IEPA supports it. I hope  
4 the entire community becomes more informed and that we  
5 clarify some of the misinformation on it and get this  
6 project into the ground here on the southeast side.

7 Mr. Hearing Officer, I'm proud to present  
8 some 100 signatures of individuals who are also in  
9 support of this project.

10 Thank you.

11 DEAN STUDER: Thank you and I will enter  
12 them into the record. Thank you again, Alderman Pope,  
13 for your comments this evening.

14 Jamie Salazar. Following him will be  
15 Karen, is it Roothaan? You'll be after Mr. Salazar.

16 Go ahead.

17 JAIME SALAZAR: The first name is J-a-i-m-e,  
18 the last name is Salazar, S-a-l-a-z-a-r.

19 It's incredible the amazing clarity that  
20 comes with cancer. Things that I saw only when I looked  
21 are just painfully clear. I was always someone who  
22 played by the rules. Growing up in South Chicago I  
23 always heard the key to a good life was education. I  
24 studied hard, I got good grades. I was the class

1 speaker at my graduation where I earned my degree in  
2 electrical engineering and now I'm nearly done with my  
3 master's degree.

4           Like many kids from the area, I ate what was  
5 close, what was fast, and what I could afford. That  
6 meant a lot of Burger King and McDonald's. Once I was  
7 married and had kids, I went to the doctor and he told  
8 me I was a ticking time bomb, a heart attack waiting to  
9 happening. I was morbidly obese at the age of 26. I  
10 value my life. I love my kids. My wife and I studied  
11 nutrition and fitness. I exercise at least five days  
12 a week. I cut out animal parts from my diet and lost  
13 100 pounds. I've kept it off for over seven years.  
14 I've done everything they told me to. I've tried to  
15 help others get healthy by spreading what I know about  
16 healthy lifestyles. I played by the rules.

17           About six months ago I was diagnosed with  
18 stage three adenocarcinoma of the appendix. I didn't  
19 understand. I take really good care of myself. I  
20 talked to experts, doctors, professors of biology. If  
21 it were colon cancer, it would be what I was eating.  
22 But the appendix, it was the environment. I was on two  
23 concurrent chemo schedules. Crazy poisons that was  
24 damage done by toxins in the air I breathe.

1                   It looks like I'll beat this. The last scan  
2 showed my intestine and liver now clear, but my lungs  
3 with masses caused by asthma and granuloma, also caused  
4 by the environment. I battled cancer for six months,  
5 but I have battled with asthma for 32 years. But asthma  
6 does not go into remission, this is the battle I will  
7 fight to the end.

8                   I've played by the rules, but it's the  
9 businesses and politicians who have made the game and  
10 ruled the rules. I'm doing all I can. What am I  
11 supposed to do? Stop breathing? Stop drinking the  
12 water? It's like the residents of Crestwood were  
13 knowingly poisoned by the water they were drinking.  
14 Why? To save a buck? To make a buck? They put a price  
15 tag on our lives.

16                   Well, I'm here tonight to say my health, my  
17 life, is not for sale. My kids' health, their life is  
18 not for sale. Let's make a statement here and now that  
19 the lives of people of South Chicago -- please say it  
20 with me -- are not for sale.

21                   Thank you.

22                   DEAN STUDER: Thank you, Mr. Salazar.

23                   The next person will be Karen Roothaan, and  
24 on deck will be Robert it looks like is it Garcia?



1                   KAREN ROOTHAAN: Hi. My name is Karen  
2 Roothaan, R-o-o-t-h-a-a-n. I'm actually going to read  
3 article one from the Illinois constitution which  
4 guarantees citizens of the State of Illinois a right to  
5 a clean environment, so it's quite short.

6                   Section 1, Public Policy, Legislative  
7 Responsibilities. The public policy of the state and  
8 the duty of each person is to provide and maintain a  
9 healthful environment for the benefit of this and future  
10 generations. The General Assembly shall provide by law  
11 for the implementation and enforcement of this public  
12 policy.

13                   Section 2 is the rights of individuals.  
14 Each person has the right to a healthful environment.  
15 Each person may enforce this right against any party,  
16 governmental or private, through an appropriate legal  
17 proceeding, subject to reasonable limitation and  
18 regulation of the general assembly may provide by law.

19                   Thank you.

20                   DEAN STUDER: Thank you.

21                   On deck will be Rayanna Evans. Rayanna  
22 Evans, if you're here, please make your way down to the  
23 chair next to the podium.

24                   ROBERT GARCIA: Robert Garcia. As a former

1 Teamster, I sympathize with my union brothers and  
2 sisters desire for more --

3 DEAN STUDER: Can I ask you to spell your  
4 last name, for the record?

5 ROBERT GARCIA: G-a-r-c-i-a.

6 DEAN STUDER: Thank you. Go ahead.

7 ROBERT GARCIA: As a former Teamster, I  
8 sympathize with my union brothers and sisters desire for  
9 more employment. On various occasions I've urged the  
10 alderman and other suits to build more union factories  
11 on the old polluted USX site instead of condo  
12 developments for Dave Matthews Bands. However, the more  
13 I've been involved with the community, the more I see a  
14 recurring theme. Area pollution is killing our people.  
15 I have already lost several relatives to battles with  
16 diseases such as cancer, respiratory infections. It's  
17 a real sad sight to see brave men who helped win wars  
18 for this country not surviving the battles to breathe.  
19 I like many of the pollution supporters could easily  
20 shrug it off as just something everyone goes through.  
21 I could shrug it off, but when I see otherwise healthy  
22 friends and their family members afflicted with the same  
23 diseases that killed members of my own family, that  
24 fought hard to build unions and equal rights for people

1 here, it's hard to say it's just preventative. When I  
2 see a heartbreak of my young friend going to chemo  
3 constantly, explaining to his young daughter why daddy  
4 can't carry her no more, it's devastating. It's  
5 devastating because I wondered how long before I was  
6 next. I wonder who the next person I know will be that  
7 will end up in the same struggle. I can easily shrug it  
8 off because I want to see jobs in the area. I can  
9 easily say that everyone experiences this, except that  
10 friends that live in other areas don't seem to go  
11 through the same thing. Friends I know from the suburbs  
12 can have asthma, but not suffer like relatives I've seen  
13 suffer. When the shit smelled that my cousin called the  
14 "east side funk" was in the air, I could shrug it off,  
15 but I won't. I won't because the jobs these polluters  
16 are claiming to bring aren't worth the suffering of any  
17 more people. I won't because I know there are clean  
18 alternatives like renewable energy shops that were  
19 proposed by our area and could have provided my union  
20 brothers and sisters jobs, but not kill their kids in  
21 the process. I won't because I know these proposals  
22 were rejected on the whim of some political suit, the  
23 same suits that could easily move the factories south,  
24 but instead are paying people to come and support their

1 agendas. I won't because I know that a company's bottom  
2 line is profit and if it costs a few fines or a few  
3 union brothers their lives, then for them it's just the  
4 cost of doing business. I know. I've seen it enough  
5 already. Our people are vulnerable and lack the medical  
6 resources that would turn otherwise -- pollution, induce  
7 respiratory conditions into death notes.

8 I came here today to ask you to help us. I  
9 came here today to tell my union brothers and sisters to  
10 stop being misled by money. I came here today because  
11 until there is concrete evidence that the health  
12 afflictions our people are suffering from here and are  
13 not -- are suffering from here are not caused by these  
14 polluters, there should be a moratorium on their  
15 development.

16 Health over finance. The workers over  
17 profit. All power to the people.

18 I thank you for your time.

19 DEAN STUDER: Thank your for you comments.

20 Rayanna Evans.

21 Again I remind everyone that applause is not  
22 appropriate during this hearing.

23 On deck we'll have it looks like Isis Zaki.  
24 If you'd make your way down to the chair in front.

1                   RAYANNA EVANS: Hi. My name is Rayanna and  
2 I'm here because too much of my family and friends are  
3 sick. It's true, I'm only a teen --

4                   DEAN STUDER: One moment. For the record  
5 it's Rayanna, R-a-y-a-n-n-a, last name Evans, E-v-a-n-s.  
6 Thank you.

7                   I'm sorry. Go ahead.

8                   RAYANNA EVANS: It's true, I'm only a teen  
9 and I don't fully understand pollution ratings, EPA  
10 reports, and all the different charts and graphs I've  
11 looked at recently. But it doesn't mean what I have to  
12 say means nothing. What I do know is that I have a  
13 small town circle of my family and friends who have  
14 lived in the southeast side all their lives and many of  
15 them are sick. I always heard the words asthma, asthma  
16 attacks, or your uncle is in the hospital because he had  
17 an asthma attack. I heard this so much that it was  
18 normal to me. Well, I'm older now and I know it's not  
19 normal. It's scary not being able to breathe or like my  
20 cousin said, it's like a -- person sitting on your  
21 lungs. I only have two uncles, they both have asthma  
22 and so do most of their children.

23                   For my family, it didn't just stop with just  
24 asthma. Earlier in the year, my uncle was diagnosed

1 with cancer. Now every day I'm scared that my other  
2 uncle will also. I asked my mom why her brothers and  
3 their families were so sick and my brothers and I didn't  
4 have any of those problems. She said she did when she  
5 was younger, but for a short while after she moved out  
6 of the area everything seemed to disappear. Because my  
7 mom grew you up in this area, she has friends and their  
8 kids are my good friends and some are here today to tell  
9 you their stories. You'll see it's very much like mine.  
10 I don't believe this is all coincidence and I don't  
11 think it's natural to inhale pollution every day. If it  
12 was, we wouldn't be here today. That is why I don't  
13 approve of this plant. I'm a community resident.

14 DEAN STUDER: Thank you. We appreciate your  
15 comments.

16 Isis, if you'll make your way to the podium.

17 Rev. Zaki Zaki, if you'd like to make your  
18 way down to the chair. And, Isis, if you would spell  
19 your last name and give your name for court reporter.

20 ISIS ZAKI: First or last? Last name?

21 DEAN STUDER: Yes.

22 ISIS ZAKI: Zaki, Z-a-k-i.

23 Good evening. My name is Isis Zaki. I'm  
24 a resident of the southeast side of Chicago. I'm a

1 seventh grade student at George Washington Elementary  
2 School. I want to start by saying thank you to the  
3 Illinois EPA for holding a public hearing.

4 Many might believe that my age should stop  
5 me from speaking at what I believe in. I may only be  
6 12 years old, but I feel that I'm old enough to know  
7 what is good and what is bad. I'm old enough to know  
8 that more pollution will do nothing but harm the  
9 environment and the people who live in it.

10 I am sure that almost everyone in this room  
11 knows someone who has asthma or they have asthma. The  
12 asthma levels in our community are very high. Surely  
13 bringing this factory to the community will not help  
14 that. If anything, this plant will make it worse.

15 Why is it that my generation has to pay for  
16 the mistakes of those who are abusing the law and accept  
17 that there are new clean options available to us?

18 Thank you.

19 DEAN STUDER: Thank you.

20 On deck is Bishop Edward Peecher. If you  
21 would make your way down to the chair.

22 Rev. Zaki, if you would give your name for  
23 the record and please spell your last name. Thank you.

24 REV. ZAKI L. ZAKI: Zaki L. Zaki. Z-a-k-i.

1                   Good evening. My name is Rev. Zaki L. Zaki.  
2 I'm a father of five children. I'm also a resident of  
3 the southeast side of Chicago. I'm the pastor of the  
4 first church to be established on the southeast side of  
5 Chicago, the East Side United Methodist Church. I'm  
6 also the founder and director of the Zone Youth  
7 Community that serves hundreds of children and youth in  
8 daily programs.

9                   I have tremendous respect for the Ozingas,  
10 but I will not speak today about the Ozinga family.  
11 This is about my community.

12                   The air quality monitor at George Washington  
13 High School located at 114th and Avenue O shows that the  
14 southeast side of Chicago has the highest level of air  
15 pollution in the entire City of Chicago. Research by  
16 the City of Chicago Department of Health shows that the  
17 east side has one of the highest mortality rates from  
18 respiratory disease. That record also shows one of the  
19 highest rates of asthma. No wonder the southeast side  
20 of Chicago is assailed by the increasing levels of  
21 pollution from within and from without. Increasing  
22 levels of pollution from numerous sources locally, in  
23 addition to increasing levels of pollution from across  
24 the state line, in Whiting and Hammond, Indiana.





1 20 years. I did not come to speak to the merits of the  
2 project. I came to speak to the character of the  
3 family. I know them to be hardworking, involved people.  
4 I serve on the board of the Washington Park Consortium  
5 with Marty Ozinga. I had dealings with Ken Ozinga 20  
6 years ago when our church could not get a loan from any  
7 bank. Even though we had over \$300,000 in the bank,  
8 no bank would loan us money. We went to First National  
9 of Evergreen and Ken Ozinga said when he granted us  
10 a \$2.5 million loan, he said this loan may not make  
11 fiduciary sense, but it makes good community sense.  
12 Strong churches make strong communities.

13 I have known the Ozinga family to be  
14 committed to community, to building strong communities,  
15 and I believe that they have taken the extraordinary  
16 efforts and measures to make sure this plant does not  
17 only not add to the pollution, but it becomes a model  
18 for what plants should be as they proliferate in this  
19 nation.

20 I think the South Chicago community could  
21 set the tone for raising the bar of what a plant should  
22 look like when it is very conscientious about the impact  
23 of the community. Not only will it bring jobs, not only  
24 will it bring progress to this community, but it will

1 set a standard of cleanliness that can be modeled all of  
2 this nation, and I think the South Chicago community has  
3 a sterling opportunity to raise the bar for the rest of  
4 the nation.

5 Thank you very much.

6 DEAN STUDER: Thank you, Bishop Peecher.

7 Anthony Navarro.

8 And on deck is Tom Shepherd. Tom Shepherd,  
9 if you're in the auditorium, if you'd make your way down  
10 to the chair please.

11 Go ahead.

12 ANTHONY NAVARRO: Good evening. My name's  
13 Anthony Navarro. N-a-v-a-r-r-o, Navarro.

14 I'm a lifelong resident of the South Chicago  
15 community. I've lived and worked in this community for  
16 60 years. This community has suffered with  
17 environmental problems, health problems. Our people in  
18 our community have suffered from environmental diseases,  
19 cancer, asthma, throat cancer, stomach cancer, for many  
20 years due to the steel mills and all the toxic waste,  
21 the landfills in this community.

22 We don't need another toxic environmentally  
23 bad company come to this community. We have been a  
24 dumping ground for too long. All I can say is that I

1 want to go on the record to say that I oppose it, our  
2 community opposes it, and I also want to go on the  
3 record and say that we will hold the IEPA accountable  
4 and we will hold our local politicians accountable, and  
5 that's what I have to say this evening.

6 Thank you.

7 DEAN STUDER: Thank you. I appreciate your  
8 comments.

9 Mr. Shepherd, if you'd make your way to the  
10 podium.

11 Following Mr. Shepherd is Daniel Estrada.  
12 Daniel Estrada, if you're here, if you'd make your way  
13 down to the chair, please.

14 Mr. Shepherd.

15 TOM SHEPHERD: My name is Tom Shepherd,  
16 S-h-e-p-h-e-r-d. I'm a board member with the Southeast  
17 Environmental Task Force and the task force is preparing  
18 comments that will be submitted in writing to the IEPA.  
19 While I'm here, though, I wanted to make a few personal  
20 comments.

21 I live about a mile south of where we are  
22 right here and was born about a mile north of this place  
23 right here, and I live about a mile and a half from  
24 where this plant is proposed to be built.

1                   The southeast side is already the site of  
2 many polluting industries, including landfills and other  
3 coal-using industries. We also have Petco, crushed  
4 limestone, salt piles, scrap iron piles. I think I  
5 mentioned landfills, but I'll mention them again for  
6 good measure. We have our share of them, we've had them  
7 for years. We have it all here and we breathe it every  
8 day.

9                   The EPA -- according to the EPA's own  
10 summary, this plant will be considered a major source  
11 for emissions of nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide,  
12 carbon monoxide and particulate matter. All can lead to  
13 damaging affects to human health, including reduced lung  
14 function, triggering extensive asthma attacks, inflamed  
15 respiratory cells, and causing permanent lung damage in  
16 both children and adults.

17                   The Southeast Environmental Task Force is  
18 a 20 year old -- a 21-year-old organization and we've  
19 been fielding a number of calls, numerous calls about  
20 pollution problems and over the years a lot of coal dust  
21 problems, particulate matter in the air, people who have  
22 health concerns, people who have filthy houses, filthy  
23 cars, even their pets get dirty. They can't hang their  
24 laundry outside. Kids walk around and go to school

1 with respirators here, much higher than anywhere else  
2 that -- anywhere in the city certainly and probably most  
3 places in the country.

4                   So, the Southeast Environmental Task Force  
5 is joining with other community health and environmental  
6 groups to say no to the proposed Ozinga Universal Cement  
7 plant for the southeast side and we hope that you will  
8 deny this permit.

9                   Thank you.

10                   DEAN STUDER: Thank you for your comments,  
11 Mr. Shepherd.

12                   Mr. Estrada, if you'd make your way to the  
13 podium.

14                   And on deck, if you would make your way down  
15 to the chair, it looks like Aurora Insurriaga.

16                   Go ahead, Mr. Estrada.

17                   DANIEL ESTRADA: Hello. My name is  
18 Daniel Estrada. Estrada is spelled E-s-t-r-a-d-a. I  
19 live on 8450 South Burley. I am a part of a group  
20 called Tree Keepers, because they're beautiful, and most  
21 of all our Bush Community Garden of Hope.

22                   One of the things that I'm noticing is we  
23 can't get rid of the toxins that are in our soil where  
24 we are trying to plant our garden. We get soil from as

1 many places as we can, but it seems to come up  
2 contaminated. I want to know is there anybody here that  
3 can tell me where I can get clean soil? That's my first  
4 question.

5                   Another question. My son has asthma. He  
6 started having his attacks recently when they started  
7 digging up Part 503. I didn't connect the two together,  
8 but I know when I asked them questions when he was  
9 getting them, it was about the same time they started  
10 digging up the soil. Okay, that tells me there's  
11 something there that's not supposed to be there. So,  
12 now, my son has to go around, ride his bike around to go  
13 to work in Blue Island. He can't be going to work, he's  
14 missing three and four days out of the week because of  
15 his asthma.

16                   Could anybody tell me is there a guarantee  
17 that maybe -- you know, something could be done so that  
18 this doesn't happen to somebody else's family? It is  
19 very hard for me to see a lot of my friends and a lot  
20 of their kids walking around with respirators, walking  
21 around with masks, but they want to come to the garden  
22 and they want to plant. They want to come and help us  
23 plant trees as well. They can't do it. I have to tell  
24 them no because I can't take the risk. I've see my son

1 go through an asthma attack. Okay, I can't take that  
2 chance. And now I understand that there are  
3 technologies and they're different, but there's no  
4 guarantees. Let's clean up the place. Let's get  
5 everything organized. Let's come out with all the  
6 information. I got information -- all this information  
7 I got today. The alderman could have come out and put  
8 that information out on the Internet. He could have  
9 come out and put it out to the churches. He could have  
10 informed us, but he hasn't done it. Why, for whatever  
11 reasons. He brought a hundred signed petitions. I  
12 would double -- I will triple that.

13 I want to be able to see my grandkids grow  
14 up in an environment like everybody else's grandkids up  
15 on the north side, up in Aurora, and anywhere else.  
16 We gotta do this. I understand he wants to proceed.  
17 I understand he wants to continue for a hundred more  
18 years. But, so do I and so do my family and so does  
19 everybody else's family.

20 Please, think about what you're doing. Make  
21 sure that the decision you make is the one that you can  
22 live with because I'm going to have to live with it.

23 Thank you.

24 DEAN STUDER: Thank you, Mr. Estrada.



1                   The person -- if they're here, it looks like  
2 Yolanda I can't make out the last name, it looks like  
3 Detrivia(phonetic). If she would make her way to the  
4 chair down here if she is here.

5                   AURORA INSURRIAGA: My name is Aurora  
6 Insurriaga. I-n-s-u-r-r-i-a-g-a. I am a resident of  
7 the southeast side. I moved here not too long ago,  
8 a few years ago, and since I've been here --

9                   DEAN STUDER: Can everyone in back hear?

10                  AURORA INSURRIAGA: I'm a resident of the  
11 southeast side. I moved here a few years ago and since  
12 I moved to this area I've noticed my health declining  
13 and I can only attribute that to the pollution that's  
14 already in the area, and bringing in another industry or  
15 more that are going to pollute the area even further  
16 really has me concerned for my health and the health  
17 of everyone around me.

18                  I would ask you to please deny this permit.

19                  DEAN STUDER: Thank you.

20                  Richard McGraw. Richard McGraw, if you're  
21 here, please make you way down to the podium. And that  
22 will be followed by Margaret Baker.

23                  RICHARD MCGRAW: Good evening. My name is  
24 Richard McGraw. I am a long-term resident of the

1 southeast side.

2           My major concern with these types of  
3 projects that are coming into the community now is  
4 within the past year we've received an asphalt plant,  
5 we have a proposed gasification plant coming, we have  
6 a composting plant that is coming, and now we have the  
7 Ozinga Universal Cement company plant coming.

8           With all of these plants coming together,  
9 each one may be able to pass a test of the environmental  
10 soundness, but when the accumulative effect of all  
11 these plants together interacting goes unobserved or  
12 unmonitored, that's where the problem begins. And each  
13 one of these plants requires us to have large numbers  
14 of trucks which are burning diesel fuel, large numbers  
15 of trains which are delivering petroleum coke and which  
16 are bringing in coal from southern Illinois, possibly on  
17 barges, all of this stuff. There are no regulations  
18 determining how this stuff is delivered and there are no  
19 regulations determining whether the items are covered  
20 and whether the dust from these items is allowed to be  
21 airborne as they are arriving.

22           So, I am requesting that the Illinois EPA  
23 please deny this permit and I thank you for listening.

24           DEAN STUDER: Thank you, Mr. McGraw.

1 Ms. Baker, if you would come forward.

2 The next person to make their way out to the  
3 seat is Rich Martinez, Jr. Rich Martinez, Jr., if you  
4 could make your way down to the seat up front.

5 Go ahead, Ms. Baker.

6 MARGARET BAKER: Margaret Baker. B-a-k-e-r.  
7 I am a lifelong resident of the east side community of  
8 the 10th Ward.

9 In any project like this where there's a  
10 tension between private and public rights, Universal  
11 Cement will own the land, the facility, the materials  
12 in the facility, but it does not own the air, none of us  
13 does. And when the emissions leave this plant, they  
14 will leave the private sector and enter into the public  
15 sector and, as such, we would have a right to know what  
16 that is and how much.

17 I add my voice to my fellow community  
18 members asking the denial of this permit. But, if it is  
19 passed, I would ask that in addition to the monitoring  
20 which is mandated in the permit, that it also be  
21 mandated that the results of that monitoring be made  
22 public and not just as, like, an annual summary for --  
23 emissions, but actual raw data in a timely manner.

24 Thank you very much.

1 DEAN STUDER: Thank you, Ms. Baker.

2 Mr. Martinez.

3 The next person is Becky Clayborn. If  
4 you're here, if you'd make your way down to the seat.

5 Go ahead.

6 RICHARD MARTINEZ, JR: Good evening. Thank  
7 you for allowing us the come before you and speak this  
8 evening. My name is Richard L. Martinez, Jr., Martinez,  
9 M-a-r-t-i-n-e-z. I reside at 10950 South Avenue C, in  
10 the eastside neighborhood which is one neighborhood to  
11 the east of this proposed facility. In addition to  
12 being a member of East Side United Methodist Church, GG  
13 Church, and co-chair of the new 10th Ward community  
14 service organization, I am a citizen, homeowner,  
15 taxpayer, husband, and father of five children.

16 My maternal great grandfather worked at  
17 Wisconsin Steel and died as a result of lung cancer.  
18 My paternal grandfather, who worked at US Steel South  
19 Works, also died as a result of lung cancer. As a  
20 father, my wife and I had the unfortunate experience of  
21 seeing all five of our children suffer with respiratory  
22 issues almost from birth.

23 Since 1999, our family has had to contend to  
24 numerous visits to our pediatrician, hospital stays,

1 nebulizers, albuterol, and steroids to help our children  
2 with their breathing.

3           The 10th Ward southeast side is widely known  
4 for having the greatest numbers of heart disease,  
5 cancer, and asthma.

6           The lone operating air monitor on the  
7 southeast side is located at Washington High School and  
8 this monitor has recently indicated extremely dangerous  
9 and hazardous levels of pollution and that's just one  
10 monitor.

11           As a community, the 10th Ward of the  
12 southeast side is a predominant community of color.  
13 According to the 2010 census, the 10th Ward consists of  
14 about 52,000 people, of which 32,000 are Latino or 63  
15 percent, 9500 African American, for a combined total of  
16 80 percent of the ward. So, when there is a cumulative  
17 impact and a preponderance of hazardous toxic polluting  
18 industry in our past, in our present, and scheduled for  
19 our future, this speaks to egregious and serious acts of  
20 environmental injustice and smacks of environmental  
21 racism.

22           As you already know, the southeast side has  
23 been designated a non-attainment area. It must be noted  
24 that while this project meets IEPA's individual

1 environmental standards, the panel must also take into  
2 consideration the cumulative effects and impact upon our  
3 community. In addition, this panel must also strongly  
4 weigh and consider the liquid asphalt plant already down  
5 the street, the proposed coal gasification plant, and  
6 the many other projects and plants that our community  
7 is not even aware of. These projects are not being  
8 proposed in Jefferson Park, Sauganash, and Lincoln Park,  
9 but they are being proposed to be built near Rowan Park,  
10 Washington High School, Bright School, and Trumbull  
11 Park.

12                   Therefore, we have no choice but to view  
13 these types of projects as an all out affront and an  
14 assault on our families, our homes, our children, and  
15 community. Therefore, this community is urging you, the  
16 IEPA, to help us send a strong message to all companies  
17 and industries and current proposals, yes, we do want  
18 economic development, we do want jobs, and we do want  
19 investment. But, they must not -- I reiterate, they  
20 must not contribute to the already exacerbated and  
21 negative impact on our health, safety, and environment.  
22 This means that proposed projects for our community must  
23 confirm to higher standards and to a higher level of  
24 expectations, even if it is at a greater cost to those



1 would enter that as an exhibit into the record.

2 On deck is Rosa Pierriea. If you are here,  
3 please make your way down to the chair.

4 Ms. Clayborn, go ahead.

5 BECKY CLAYBORN: My name is Becky Clayborn.  
6 C-l-a-y-b-o-r-n. I'm here as a representative for the  
7 Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign.

8 The Sierra Club is the oldest and largest  
9 grassroots environmental organization in the United  
10 States. We have over three million members and  
11 supporters in the US and over 9000 members here in  
12 Chicago.

13 First, I'd like to thank the IEPA for  
14 holding a public hearing. This is a crucial-crucial  
15 part of protecting our air, our water, and our  
16 community. So, thank you.

17 The Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign has  
18 a long history engaging in coal-fired power plant  
19 permitting in Illinois. This permit and our concerns  
20 with this coal-fired cement plant falls into three  
21 areas. We're concerned about increased air pollution,  
22 we're concerned about increased global warming pollution  
23 or carbon dioxide, and we're especially concerned about  
24 the community impact.



1                   I have in front of me some questions about  
2 the non-attainment area and I'm hoping that you can shed  
3 some light on it. So, Universal Cement's own computer  
4 monitoring -- own computer modeling analysis shows that  
5 particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter will  
6 exceed the national ambient air quality standard.

7                   Can you please explain how in their own  
8 modeling shows that it's going to exceed a standard, how  
9 they still have a permit?

10                  BOB SMET: You're catching me off guard here  
11 a little bit because I don't know the specifics of the  
12 modeling. Let me think about that for a second.

13                  BECKY CLAYBORN: Sure.

14                  BOB SMET: You've got me thrown off here.

15                  BECKY CLAYBORN: Sorry, Bob.

16                  BOB SMET: You have to understand, I write  
17 the permit. We have a whole different group that does  
18 the modeling. So --

19                  BECKY CLAYBORN: If this is something that  
20 you need to respond, I mean we are going to have written  
21 comments. But I think this is something that I would  
22 like to flag for you, that their modeling shows that  
23 they are going to exceed that standard.

24                  BOB SMET: We go into some level of detail

1 in the project summary in regard to that.

2 BECKY CLAYBORN: So I'll see this in the  
3 responsiveness summary, your response?

4 BOB SMET: On the project summary we do talk  
5 about that. But certainly as to the comment you're  
6 making to us, we will go into detail on that issue in  
7 the responsiveness comments.

8 BECKY CLAYBORN: Great. Thank you.

9 PATRICIA SHARKEY: Mr. Hearing Officer, I  
10 think that Ozinga's air modeler might be able to give a  
11 short statement, just to clarify the record on that.

12 DEAN STUDER: As long as it's short, yes.

13 BECKY CLAYBORN: And it doesn't take away  
14 from my 3 minutes.

15 DEAN STUDER: Yes. Do you think your --

16 JOHN IWANSKI: John Iwanski, I-w-a-n-s-k-i.

17 I was employed and have been retained by  
18 Ozinga as the air quality consultant that assisted with  
19 the air dispersion model.

20 The modeling analysis that has been  
21 submitted does not show a violation of the standard.  
22 The modeling analysis had to do an additional analysis  
23 because there were receptors near the facility, but on  
24 another source's property. The permit has been written

1 such that that property has to be fenced-in so the  
2 general public does not have access to that property.  
3 That has been documented within US EPA guidance  
4 documents as an acceptable practice to prevent the  
5 general public the ambient -- from getting into ambient  
6 air by having a barrier. So, with those receptors,  
7 there has been a provided protection to the public from  
8 entering that airspace by having that barrier installed.

9 BECKY CLAYBORN: I'm glad you brought that  
10 up. Because I just want to point out that the type of  
11 air pollution we're talking about causing the asthma  
12 attacks, heart attacks, and premature death, and this  
13 property that he was just talking of is Cargill Salt and  
14 there are workers that are going to be working in that  
15 ambient air quality, whether it's fenced off from the  
16 general public or not. So, I feel that's a concern. I  
17 also feel that there's a concern, what if Cargill sells  
18 their property? Who's going to make sure that their  
19 next property owners either keep the fence up or their  
20 property -- it's an appropriate use of the property?  
21 What if they want to put a day care center there? I  
22 don't think that can happen, but what if? We need to  
23 make sure that the air quality is not going to in the  
24 future affect people as well.

1                   I also have a concern that the ambient air  
2     quality in the Cargill space next door, it's hard for me  
3     to imagine that it really only stays in that property.  
4     Three blocks away there are indian rich wetlands on  
5     Torrence Avenue which are part of the Chicago Park  
6     District. Those are being used by the public, if not  
7     now, they will be in the very near future. That's only  
8     three blocks away. So, I'd like to make sure that IPA  
9     is checking that that area is not going to have a high  
10    ambient air quality.

11                   I also am curious to know if other locations  
12    were considered for this proposal?

13                   BOB SMET: Universal Cement did look at  
14    other alteratives away from the Chicago area and took a  
15    look at costs, et cetera, and we go into the discussion  
16    in the project summary on that alteratives analysis.  
17    So, that's provided in some of detail in both the  
18    application and our discussion of the project. So, yes,  
19    they did --

20                   BECKY CLAYBORN: In addition to that, were  
21    other fuel stocks considered -- feed stacks? Sorry.

22                   BOB SMET: In regard to this project for  
23    this site?

24                   BECKY CLAYBORN: Yes.

1                   BOB SMET: They looked -- it was required as  
2 part of the analysis to take a look at different fuels,  
3 and the cost analysis indicated it would be cost  
4 prohibitive.

5                   BECKY CLAYBORN: So it's cheap to use coal,  
6 it's the cheapest option. However, using natural gas  
7 might actually reduce the emissions coming out of this  
8 plant.

9                   BOB SMET: Well, there's also some technical  
10 issues in regard to the use of natural gas as well. It  
11 would be -- not only would it be cost ineffective -- or  
12 I'm sorry, cost prohibitive, but you'd have to redesign  
13 the kiln. It would incur greater costs to do so. It  
14 just isn't the way a typical kiln is designed. It would  
15 lose its effectiveness in terms of its efficiency, if  
16 you had to go redesign the kiln to burn natural gas.

17                   PATRICIA SHARKEY: Mr. Hearing Officer, our  
18 air pollution people can add to that response on the air  
19 quality question.

20                   REX JAMESON: My name is Rex Jameson,  
21 J-a-m-e-s-o-n. I'm with Universal Cement.

22                   In terms of a natural gas use in a cement  
23 kiln, it's important to note that changing to natural  
24 gas in a cement kiln does not achieve the same thing it

1 does when you change to natural gas in a power plant.  
2 Particulate emissions don't change, sulfur emissions  
3 don't change. Most metals emissions don't change, some  
4 of the volatiles do. CO2 emission, yes, do change.  
5 But, it's important to note that in the middle process  
6 that occurs in a cement kiln, you don't get the same  
7 effect from natural gas that you do in a power plant.  
8 In addition to all that, the overall system efficiency  
9 goes down, so you end up using more BTUs to accomplish  
10 the same purpose.

11 BECKY CLAYBORN: Thank you.

12 I'm glad you brought up CO2. One of the  
13 main concerns that the Sierra Club has is global warming  
14 issues, carbon dioxide. Obviously, any time you use  
15 coal to produce anything you are going to have a carbon  
16 dioxide emission.

17 Is there an emission limit for CO2 in this  
18 permit?

19 BOB SMET: Yes, there is.

20 BECKY CLAYBORN: What's the limit, because  
21 I looked and I couldn't find it.

22 BOB SMET: For the kiln we have 1860 pounds  
23 per ton of clean air produced. That's the back limit,  
24 that's thermal controls --

1                   BECKY CLAYBORN: What does that mean in  
2 terms of annual emissions?

3                   BOB SMET: I think we have the limit of that  
4 as well. In 2.1.6, we have emissions of carbon dioxide  
5 equivalence shall not exceed 1.1 million tons per unit.

6                   BECKY CLAYBORN: Thank you. And I'm  
7 assuming, since I don't see anything in the permit about  
8 this either, that there's no intention of Universal  
9 Cement Ozinga to actually shut down another source of  
10 CO2 somewhere. This is just additional CO2 into our  
11 atmosphere?

12                  BOB SMET: That is correct.

13                  BECKY CLAYBORN: So, I just want to point  
14 out that Sierra Club doesn't take CO2 emissions lightly.  
15 We are definitely looking at these large sources of CO2  
16 and we're committed to stopping such sources of CO2.  
17 So, we will be having -- a significant portion of our  
18 comments will be addressing the CO2 limits.

19                  And, then, finally, I just want to talk  
20 about the community. This community -- I've been  
21 working in this community, on and off, for the last year  
22 and a half or so and I've heard the stories, the stories  
23 that make me cry when I listen. And it bothers me to no  
24 end that I can drive around in this community and see

1 stack after stack after stack and smells that I've never  
2 smelled before and there's this onslaught of new  
3 pollution sources coming their way. And I know that  
4 Universal Cement's trying to do the best job they can.  
5 I've never seen an enclosed coal pile proposed so far,  
6 but this is the third in a very recent onslaught of new  
7 pollution sources that are high in air pollutants for  
8 asthma, high in carbon dioxide pollutants, and there  
9 is a serious concern in this community that we're not  
10 really looking at the cumulative impact, that we're not  
11 really paying attention to not only how do all the  
12 permits add up in this area, but over the border in  
13 Indiana, how do we take that into consideration when  
14 it's a stone's throw away.

15               So, I'm wondering if you could give us kind  
16 of an overview of what it is the IEPA does to take into  
17 consideration the cumulative impact, and if there's  
18 anything that's done, especially if you take into  
19 consideration right across the border when we've got all  
20 those industries in Indiana as well.

21               DEAN STUDER: That's something that's going  
22 to require -- in the interest of keeping things moving  
23 tonight, we'll provide a written --

24               BOB SMET: It is a complicated question to



1 try to answer. I'm not trying to dodge it. But, in  
2 general, we look at are individual contributions to the  
3 air quality and can on top of what is already is a  
4 background amount -- background pollution as a baseline.  
5 But to -- I apologize. I am stammering here, because  
6 this notion of looking at something cumulative is -- in  
7 terms of a per-project type thing is much more  
8 difficult.

9 BECKY CLAYBORN: And I understand that, Bob,  
10 your job is to do the permit and not necessarily to look  
11 at the policies of EPA as a whole. But, I think that we  
12 need to address in situations like the southeast side of  
13 Chicago and probably other major industrial areas, there  
14 needs to be a way to access this before we start adding  
15 more sources of pollution into the area.

16 These people don't want this anymore.  
17 They're tired of having all this pollution and they're  
18 not going to stop fighting, I don't think, and so we  
19 need to figure out a way to address that problem. IEPA,  
20 City of Chicago, the community, the Sierra Club will  
21 help, but we need to figure this out so that maybe we  
22 can get solar farms or wind farms or some other industry  
23 in the area that will give us jobs without polluting  
24 people and having young men with cancer and a family of

1 five kids with asthma. It's ridiculous. So, I'm just  
2 telling you that we're requesting IEPA look at  
3 cumulative impacts to this area.

4 We also think it would be good to have more  
5 air monitors in the area. The air monitors that are  
6 there right now are either too far apart or they're not  
7 placed in the right places and we're happy to give you  
8 information on what we think needs to happen. And the  
9 community doesn't understand what the air monitors mean,  
10 I don't understand what the air monitors mean. We need  
11 explanation on the ground on a quarterly basis what's  
12 going on, when is there problems in the air and when  
13 aren't there problems in the air.

14 One last thing -- two last things. We don't  
15 have a good system for community members to let EPA know  
16 when something is going wrong. There's already existing  
17 sources of pollution there. People see things, they  
18 smell things, they know that there's something wrong.  
19 They know they can call the EPA, but they don't get a  
20 lot of support and they're frustrated.

21 BOB SMET: Is that a consequence of calling  
22 our field office and not getting much response in regard  
23 to that?

24 BECKY CLAYBORN: Yes.

1                   BOB SMET: Do you mind me asking what type  
2 of typical responses --

3                   BECKY CLAYBORN: What's the address of the  
4 smokestack? Which direction is the wind blowing right  
5 now? Just questions that the person doesn't know,  
6 they're just looking at a smokestack and saying, look,  
7 there's something wrong --

8                   DEAN STUDER: If comments are made from the  
9 audience, they're not going to be recorded on the  
10 record. So, we're going to have to find a different way  
11 to address this other than this.

12                   Becky, you've gone beyond the 3 minutes.  
13 So, you need to do a very brief summary of your initial  
14 comments and it's time for someone else to go on, and  
15 once your done Bob will address a couple issues.

16                   BECKY CLAYBORN: Okay. So, I think we need  
17 a good way for the community to get a response from  
18 IEPA. If that means someone stationed in the area and  
19 not far away, maybe that would work.

20                   And, then, finally, my final question is, is  
21 there anything that would move the Illinois EPA to deny  
22 this permit?

23                   BOB SMET: Well, I want to answer both of  
24 those, so I'm going to answer the last question first

1 and then try to get back to the responding.

2 DEAN STUDER: I'll let Bob do that and I'm  
3 going to call the next people forward and he can respond  
4 while they're coming down.

5 I called Rosa Piearrea(phonetic) and there  
6 was no response.

7 The next person would be Omeshia Perez.  
8 Okay, and following her will be David Holmberg.

9 BOB SMET: Okay. In regard to denying the  
10 permit, we're obligated to issue a permit. If Universal  
11 Cement will comply with all applicable rules and  
12 regulations, we must issue. So I -- I'm sorry.

13 In regard to the issue that you say about  
14 lack of response from IEPA. A fallback certainly is  
15 call us down in Springfield, if you're not getting what  
16 you want from our field office here in the Chicago area.  
17 And I would also add that in your comments to us,  
18 provide those typical responses that you get -- you  
19 know, that you have from the IEPA and we'll note them  
20 and act upon what we can.

21 BECKY CLAYBORN: Thank you very much for  
22 your time.

23 DEAN STUDER: Thank you, Ms. Clayborn.

24 David Holmberg, are you here? If you could



1 crying because they can't breathe. Windows can't be  
2 opened while they're sleeping because they can't  
3 breathe. And then I have one question for you that I  
4 can't answer and I'm wondering if you have an answer  
5 for it. When you have a three-year-old asking you, mom,  
6 am I going to die?

7                   We tried looking outside a few more times  
8 after that, but every time the same things were -- the  
9 things were happening. When the company waters coal  
10 down and you stand in my backyard, you can feel the coal  
11 with the water hitting over you. Then smells, different  
12 bad smells. The air you can't breathe.

13                   I can literally dust coal off my windowsill  
14 every day. We can't open the windows because the coal  
15 dust covers everything from the kitchen to the bathroom  
16 and to the bedroom. So what many I supposed to do, run?  
17 If you were me, what you run?

18                   I am here because this has to stop, because  
19 if you were in my shoes, you wouldn't put your children  
20 in this situation. I will not let my children go  
21 outside and play because their hair gets full of dust.  
22 It becomes hard to get out of their hair, and you can  
23 see the dust on their clothing and I am afraid of what  
24 it is going to do to my children's health.

1           I am asking you please, do not allow Ozinga  
2 to come into my community. I don't want anymore of the  
3 same worse and nasty effects to affect my family's  
4 health.

5           Thank you.

6           BOB SMET: Can I ask you a question?

7           OMESHIA PEREZ: Yes.

8           BOB SMET: Do you know the company name?

9           OMESHIA PEREZ: Ozinga?

10          BOB SMET: No --

11          OMESHIA PEREZ: Oh, I'm sorry. Yes, I have  
12 it here. I believe it's called Coal Fields.

13          BOB SMET: C-o-a-l?

14          OMESHIA PEREZ: Yes.

15          BOB SMET: Coal Fields?

16          OMESHIA PEREZ: Yes. It's located right  
17 behind my house.

18          BOB SMET: Do you happen to have an address  
19 of their --

20          OMESHIA PEREZ: No, I don't have the address  
21 with me at the moment -- well, it's located behind my  
22 house. But, my address is 10201 South Commercial  
23 Avenue.

24          DEAN STUDER: Thank you.

1                   David Holmberg is coming to the microphone.  
2   And Michael Solanos, if you are here, please make your  
3   way down to the chair in front.

4                   Go ahead, Mr. Holmberg.

5                   DAVID HOLMBERG: I'm David Holmberg, that's  
6   H-o-l-m-b-e-r-g. I've lived and worked in the Calumet  
7   area for more than 30 years.

8                   I began my work career on the kill floor of  
9   a large unionized meat production facility in Iowa at  
10   age 18. I moved to Detroit for several years and into  
11   the Calumet area, where I've worked at an integrated  
12   steel mill operation for more than 25 years before  
13   joining the staff at the Calumet Area Industrial  
14   Commission about seven years ago.

15                   I'm a certified industrial hygienist, a  
16   certified safety professional, a certified hazardous  
17   materials manager, and a QEP, a qualified environmental  
18   professional. I would like to make three quick remarks.

19                   I moved to the Calumet area for one reason,  
20   a better job. Because of that job I have stayed in the  
21   Calumet area, spent my money in the Calumet area, and  
22   enjoyed life in the Calumet area. I believe that jobs  
23   such as those generated by the proposed Universal Cement  
24   plant are critical to the future of the Calumet area.



1                   I believe I understand the proposed -- my  
2                   second comment is I believe I understand the proposed  
3                   Universal Cement plant project and I believe it will  
4                   be built and operated by the Ozinga family in an  
5                   environmentally acceptable manner, meeting or exceeding  
6                   all environmental regulatory requirements.

7                   My third comment is I am also an avid runner  
8                   and being in my sixties, my health and specifically the  
9                   health of my lungs is critical to my pastime. When I  
10                  am at the starting line of the Boston, Chicago, New York  
11                  City, Berlin, London, and other marathons, I look around  
12                  at the competition, mostly 20- and 30-year-olds, and I  
13                  want to feel confident that my health is not being  
14                  negatively impacted by where I live. I do have that  
15                  confidence, I do have that confidence and will continue  
16                  to have it after the new Universal Cement plant is  
17                  operational.

18                  Thank you, and I'd like to submit my  
19                  comments for the record.

20                  DEAN STUDER: Go ahead and bring them  
21                  forward.

22                  Michael Stalnos -- okay, Kevin Kuhn.

23                  I'll enter those as an exhibit. Thank you.

24                  While Kevin Kuhn is coming down, Ted

1 Stalnos, if you would make your way down to the chair.

2 Go ahead, Mr. Kuhn.

3 KEVIN KUHN: Kevin Kuhn. The last name is  
4 spelled K-u-h-n. I thank the IEPA for this public  
5 hearing.

6 My name is Kevin Kuhn. I'm a resident of  
7 Forestville and 113th. I'm a regular volunteer with  
8 Green Course Chicago, which is a wonderful crew of  
9 workers who are currently working to restore national  
10 green areas of our south side.

11 We need more clean renewable energy jobs  
12 like this in Chicago. The small amount of jobs that  
13 will be produced by the proposed Ozinga Universal Cement  
14 plant are not the clean renewable jobs that we need in  
15 our community. The cumulative effect of these  
16 industries must be noted. Our community has more than  
17 it's fair share of polluting industries.

18 I ask that the Illinois EPA do not grant  
19 an air quality permit to Ozinga Universal. This is our  
20 time in our human history to move beyond coal, and EPA  
21 please deny this permit.

22 Thank you.

23 DEAN STUDER: Thank you, Mr. Kuhn.

24 Ted Stalnos. And the next person will be

1 Charlene Tejeda.

2                   TED STALNOS: Hi. My name is Ted Stalnos,  
3 that's S-t-a-l-n-o-s. I am president of the Calumet  
4 Area Industrial Commission. I have already submitted  
5 a comment already to you, so I'll just -- I'll save  
6 everybody a long lengthy thing and will do it verbally.

7                   But something I'd like to point out as one  
8 of my coworkers just announced that he lives in the  
9 area. I also am living in the area, my children live in  
10 the area, my grandchildren live in the area, and I hire  
11 all local people. So, I would like that entered into  
12 the comments also that were formally put in.

13                   Thank you.

14                   DEAN STUDER: Thank you.

15                   Charlene, you may step up to the microphone.

16                   CHARLENE TEJEDA: Good evening. My name is  
17 Charlene Tejeda, T-e-j-e-d-a. Charlene with a "C".

18                   I am a 67-year-old lifelong resident of  
19 South Chicago, Slag Valley, east side, in South Deering.  
20 South Deering is the area where Ozinga wants to put the  
21 plant. I live on Torrence Avenue. This is my home.

22                   My grandparents came from Mexico in 1920.  
23 My grandfather was one of the first Mexicans to  
24 establish a business in South Chicago and raise a family

1 of six. As a child, due to asthma and hayfever, my  
2 mother would have me wear a respiratory mask similar to  
3 this, like the ones the steelworkers used. I needed it  
4 to go to the local movie theatre when my allergies were  
5 bad. The theatre was the only air-conditioned place I  
6 could find relief. When my asthmatic attacks were  
7 combined with hayfever, our family doctor would meet us  
8 at his office to give me a shot of insulin -- of  
9 adrenalin. The shot would be given to me in 15-minute  
10 intervals because the medication was so strong. It left  
11 me limp, but I could breathe again.

12                   Please help our neighborhood, the 10th Ward.  
13 I do not want us to go backwards. I have seen too many  
14 kids today with respiratory problems. We do not need  
15 more pollution. It's not getting any better. Yes, we  
16 want jobs, but at what costs? Our children's health?

17                   I have worked with kids of all ages, three  
18 years of daycare, 36-1/2 years in the Chicago Board of  
19 Education, nine years at St. Kevin's day camp, 14 years  
20 with Girl Scouts of America, along with many  
21 organizations including the Zone, totalling over 60  
22 years serving the community, and I have seen many of my  
23 kids with respiratory problems over the years, having to  
24 carry inhalers or sitting out from playing sports, both

1 indoors and out, due to medical problems. Many of my  
2 friends were unable to carry a fetus full term. Most of  
3 my friends, after moving out of the area, were able to  
4 give birth to healthy children, after having many  
5 miscarriages while living here. Some friends never were  
6 able to have children. I, myself, never could have  
7 children.

8           No one can answer why our families have had  
9 these medical problems. Now autism is showing up in our  
10 area. The Ozinga company said they will bring barges  
11 to move their supplies on our river, which means the  
12 bridges going up stops traffic. The east side is cut  
13 off by bridges and trains now, so in an emergency  
14 ambulances have to stop for bridges and trains.

15           And will any of these companies help with  
16 our family medical bills? The old U.S. Steelworks had a  
17 small hospital for both workers and the public. What do  
18 these companies have for us? We all want jobs in the  
19 10th Ward that will last more than three years. We have  
20 enough soot and dust in our homes, whether the windows  
21 are opened or closed. We are told by the media let your  
22 kids play outside. But here, in the 10th Ward, we do  
23 not always have that privilege.

24           Please stop the southeast side from being

1 a dumping ground. We want clean renewable energy jobs  
2 now. Our people want to work and keep their families  
3 healthy.

4 IEPA please deny this permit. Thank you.

5 DEAN STUDER: Thank you.

6 Christine is it Sowa? Christine is not  
7 here.

8 Luce Forez.

9 Ari Rubenstein, if you'd state your name.

10 The next one is Daniel McMahon.

11 ARI RUBENSTEIN: Hi, thank you. My name is  
12 Ari Rubenstein, A-r-i, R-u-b-e-n-s-t-e-i-n. I'm with  
13 the Sierra Club and the Environmental Justice Alliance  
14 of Greater Southeast Chicago. Thank you very much for  
15 holding this hearing tonight.

16 As many people here have been quick to point  
17 out, I am quite new to the community. The first time I  
18 came to the southeast side I was surprised by what I saw  
19 and what I was showed and told by the effective members  
20 of this community, many of the things we've already  
21 heard about tonight. Coal piles in peoples backyards,  
22 coal dust in the streets. Coal trains rolling over the  
23 bridges, all adjacent to residential neighborhoods.  
24 Seeing this, I was not surprised to learn that the

1 southeast side is among the highest rate of air  
2 pollution and asthma in all of Chicago.

3           It is no coincidence that the community in  
4 which the plant is proposed is predominantly minority  
5 and predominantly working class. This is a clear case  
6 of environmental injustice.

7           Since I arrived, I've spoken with many of  
8 the members of the community, and what I and they are  
9 here to say respectfully, the southeast side has had  
10 enough of dirty coal. This community needs jobs, but it  
11 needs clean healthy jobs that do not make people sick  
12 and with all due respect, it needs more than 90  
13 permanent jobs. We are here to say the southeast side  
14 wants clean jobs in the renewable energy sector and no  
15 more coal.

16           EPA, please remember that you are charged  
17 with protecting our health and the environment. Please  
18 stand up for the southeast side, EPA, and deny this  
19 permit. Thank you.

20           DEAN STUDER: Thank you.

21           Go ahead. The next one is Margarete  
22 Jacobs. If you're here, please make your way to the  
23 chair.

24           DANIEL MCMAHON: My name is Daniel McMahon,

1 that's M-c-M-a-h-o-n. I live on the east side, 106th  
2 and F. My first house, my only house, is here on the  
3 east side. My wife and I raised two children here,  
4 grew up here. I, personally, spent my whole life  
5 enjoying recreation in the 10th Ward, playing on the  
6 ball fields, swimming in Wolf Lake all my life.

7 I don't need prepared remarks. I'm going  
8 to talk to you from the heart. I am a career union  
9 carpenter, make a good living. That's my past, that's  
10 this community's past. I am here to talk about the  
11 future and the future that's needed with this type and  
12 future developments that are on the cutting edge and  
13 well within the guidelines of the Illinois Environmental  
14 Protection Agency. I'm here to talk about we need to  
15 change from what we have on the east side is a jobs  
16 desert. What we have on the east side is an opportunity  
17 desert. And projects like this will lead to much more  
18 than just 90 jobs. There will be other concerns that  
19 will come into the community. They will give us  
20 opportunities. Opportunities my children don't have to  
21 get a good job here in their community where they've  
22 grown up.

23 I urge and my community urges the Illinois  
24 Environmental Protection Agency to move forward with



1 this project, approve the permit, and let's get to work.

2 Thank you.

3 DEAN STUDER: Thank you for your comments.

4 We need to move along. I've been informed  
5 by security that we are supposed to be out of this  
6 building by 10:00 o'clock this evening. We have a lot  
7 of ground to cover tonight. Therefore, I'm asking if  
8 there are people here that have written prepared  
9 remarks, if they have written prepared remarks and would  
10 like to submit them into the record, if they would do so  
11 this evening, in lieu of making them orally, it would  
12 really accelerate the process this evening.

13 Go ahead.

14 MARGUERITE JACOBS: My name is Marguerite  
15 Jacobs. Marguerite, M-a-r-g-u-e-r-i-t-e, Jacobs,  
16 J-a-c-o-b-s.

17 I have been affected by secondhand smoke,  
18 so I have one lung, a hole in one lung the size of a  
19 quarter. My kids have now developed asthma. Since  
20 Ozinga has a good name and they say they have a good  
21 name, why would you pick our area?

22 As we look at this picture, I wondered  
23 whether they stated that they would use the water. How  
24 would you not get any in the water? Where would these

1 trucks be driving through and coming through on the  
2 expressway or anything else? Now, you show us how it's  
3 covered, but I would like to know how the cars and  
4 trucks will be covered and where they will be sitting.  
5 Because as they go into there and come out, it would be  
6 on wheels, it would be getting into the air.

7                   So, as we think of bringing this to this  
8 area, other things are to be looked at. How can you  
9 cover that? How can you stop this? We see a beautiful  
10 picture right there, but we don't see the other stuff  
11 that goes on deep inside.

12                   Now, if you say you're of integrity and you  
13 have a great name, with everybody telling you the things  
14 that's going on, how could you bring this here in this  
15 community? We're already in the red.

16                   So, I beg and I plead. Let's look at this  
17 twice and let's look at the families that's already  
18 hurt. And I know it could be a better answer, a better  
19 place you could take it, a better deal, whatever that  
20 you think, Ozinga, that this a good place for you.  
21 We don't think the same.

22                   We would like to plead on your behalf that  
23 you would take consideration of the things that's  
24 already happening in these neighborhoods. Thank you.

1 DEAN STUDER: Thank you.

2 Roger DeGroot.

3 ROGER DEGROOT: I'll submit my comments in  
4 writing.

5 DEAN STUDER: Thank you.

6 Linda Ruxton. Following Linda, Maya  
7 Martinez.

8 Again I'm being informed that we do have  
9 to be out of here by 10:00 o'clock tonight. So, if we  
10 can keep our comments brief I would appreciate it, but  
11 I do want to give everyone that absolutely has a  
12 comment to make to do so.

13 Go ahead.

14 LINDA RUXTON: My name is Linda Ruxton, it's  
15 R-u-x-t-o-n, and I'm a resident of the southeast side.

16 I do suffer from asthma. I don't know how  
17 much it has been made worse by the pollution in the  
18 area, but I can't think that it hasn't been. I almost  
19 died of an asthma attack three years ago. I had an  
20 asthma attack and called the ambulance at 6:30 in the  
21 morning, they came. Within about 3 minutes of them  
22 coming I became unconscious and I woke up the next  
23 afternoon at 2:00 o'clock and I had a heart attack and I  
24 had been intubated, and I was intubated in the hospital

1 because fortunately -- I guess the bridges were down.

2 Okay?

3 I just have a question about this plant  
4 was touted as having maybe just one-tenth of the  
5 pollution of say, state line coal plant, energy plants,  
6 and Fisk, and I'm just wondering how one-tenth of all  
7 that pollution and those are plants that really should  
8 really not be operating in the state that they are now,  
9 because of the great pollution that they cause and  
10 because of the health benefits they cause to people in  
11 the area, how 10 percent of that pollution cannot be  
12 affecting our health. It's just hard to believe.

13 Also, you say you look at background  
14 pollution when you make the decision as to whether to  
15 grant the permit, but you don't really have adequate  
16 monitors on the southeast side to say just how much  
17 pollution there is. There's a monitor at Washington,  
18 but further north where a lot of that particulate matter  
19 comes from all the coal piles, that may not be  
20 registering down there. And the thing is there's just  
21 so much cancer, so much asthma, and so much lung  
22 problems in this area, and to add to that is I think  
23 unconscionable and I think that should be a cost  
24 that's prohibited. Thank you.

1                   DEAN STUDER: Thank you. Go ahead.

2                   Jacqueline Lopez, if you're here, please  
3 make your way down to the front.

4                   MYRA ORTEZ: Good evening, my name is Myra  
5 Ortez and I'm in the seventh grade and I am a concerned  
6 resident and a member of generations and generations of  
7 Teamsters here on the southeast side. Thank you for  
8 allowing me to speak to you today.

9                   I'm remember when I was younger I was  
10 constantly getting sick. Every day before school I had  
11 to use an inhaler and every night my parents had to give  
12 me a nebulizer breathing treatment. My pediatrician  
13 always asked my parents if I had asthma and what  
14 neighborhood we lived in. She would say that our  
15 illnesses had to do with where we lived.

16                   We already have enough pollution here on the  
17 southeast side and we don't need any more. If you allow  
18 this proposed cement plant to be built in our community,  
19 you will be contributing to the increased rates of  
20 asthma, heart disease, and cancer that already exist.  
21 I am very concerned about my health and the health of  
22 my brothers and sisters and the health and future of my  
23 community. Therefore, I respectfully urge this panel to  
24 force the Universal Cement plant to use a cleaner fuel

1 stock or deny their air permit.

2 Thank you very much and God bless.

3 DEAN STUDER: Thank you for your comments.

4 David Dillon, if you're here, please make  
5 your way down to the front.

6 JACQUELINE LOPEZ: Hello. My name is  
7 Jacqueline Lopez, L-o-p-e-z, and I am 14 years old and  
8 currently attend George Washington High School. I  
9 suffer from asthma and I constantly get asthma attacks  
10 when I'm in school or walking to and from school, and my  
11 brothers they are five years old, both of them, they  
12 have bronchiolitis and they constantly suffer from that  
13 because of all the pollution. And one time when we  
14 were just driving around the neighborhood one of them  
15 suffered a really horrible and drastic attack from  
16 bronchiolitis and had to be hospitalized for two or  
17 three days, and that was horrible to realize that it was  
18 because our community in here and how it was, like, all  
19 the pollution that's already here. And for you to want  
20 to put more pollution in this environment is really  
21 saddening, that you don't see what it's doing to the  
22 rest of us here. Because like other people in different  
23 neighborhoods, they could clearly -- they don't have as  
24 drastic because they don't have as many factories here

1 as we do. They don't see as much pollution as we do,  
2 and because of that we suffer from great amounts of  
3 asthma already in here in this neighborhood.

4 I strongly urge you not to put this  
5 cement -- Universal Cement plant in here because of  
6 everything that's already in this community.

7 Thank you for your time.

8 DEAN STUDER: Thank you for your comments.

9 Mr. Dillon.

10 Sam Gomez, if you're here, please make your  
11 way down to the front. Please try and keep your  
12 comments as brief as possible this evening. Thank you.

13 DAVID DILLON: Good evening. My name is  
14 David Dillon, D-i-l-l-o-n.

15 I am a practicing attorney and I also am  
16 the current chairman of the Calumet Area Industrial  
17 Commission, which is a 40-year-old organization focused  
18 on the development of economic activity and jobs in this  
19 region.

20 I have been involved in this area since  
21 I was a teenage locomotive fireman on the company  
22 presently known as the CSX Railroad in 1964. At that  
23 time, I was able to observe the environmental damage  
24 then being done. There was no state EPA, there was no

1 federal EPA, there was virtually no regulation, and much  
2 of that damage remains in effect today and I'm sure it's  
3 going to continue to take an extended period of time to  
4 clean that up. I might also add that I worked with a  
5 large group of locomotive engineers, five of whom,  
6 including my own father died of lung cancer and  
7 emphysema in their fifties. So, I am a very strong  
8 proponent of clean air and a clean environment.

9           That being said, what we're focusing on here  
10 tonight is a specific project and specific parameters  
11 which attach to it. Does it or does it not meet the  
12 applicable standards imposed by the laws of Illinois and  
13 the regulations of the state EPA? We have heard nothing  
14 or seen nothing that said it does not. Not only that,  
15 we have the well-established Ozinga's family word that  
16 this plant will be managed in a manner that as the  
17 state-of-the-art improves, the plant will be improved to  
18 comply with that standard and it is committed to provide  
19 a state-of-the-art, a raise-the-bar operation, which  
20 will provide a basis for other plants to comply.

21           There's another dimension to this. My law  
22 practice is concentrated in the area of real property  
23 taxation. As such, I am familiar with the City of  
24 Chicago's budget and Cook County's budget. Due to the



1 fact that Chicago and Cook County are one of the few  
2 large cities and counties which have lost population  
3 in the last census, the city and county are in dire  
4 financial straits. We are losing population all the  
5 more, we are losing companies. We are 900 Chicago  
6 police officers short on any given day because there is  
7 no money to hire them as they retired. This shortage  
8 will only grow. We are short school teachers due to the  
9 fact that they're being laid off, there's no money to  
10 pay them, and as teachers retire, they are not being  
11 replaced.

12 I submit to you that it is important to  
13 encourage and foster the development of business and  
14 industry in this area which complies with all applicable  
15 economics -- environmental standards and wants to  
16 provide good jobs and pay the kind of taxes we need to  
17 provide the kind of environment we want for ourselves  
18 and our children. Thank you.

19 DEAN STUDER: Thank you.

20 SAM GOMEZ: Good evening. My name is  
21 Sam Gomez, G-o-m-e-z. I'm a lifelong resident and the  
22 cofounder and general manager of Our Neighborhood Times,  
23 a local community publication.

24 One thing I want to say, first of all, if

1 I go on public record, which I am, in support of this  
2 business, Universal Cement, that it does not mean that  
3 I am anti-environmental. Also, there's a lot of talk  
4 in the community about other options, renewable energy,  
5 things of this nature which I'm all for. But we have to  
6 remember that just because a business is a renewable  
7 energy business does not mean that it's going to be  
8 successful.

9 I enter into the record the example of  
10 Solyndra, a solar panel company that lost \$535 million  
11 in taxpayer money. This is a real thing, this business,  
12 although it was a great idea, was not fully thought out,  
13 and it ended up costing the community a lot of money.  
14 I also want to say that I am proud that we have young  
15 individuals in this community who have the guts to get  
16 up here and stand up, but I also want to say that the  
17 majority of my friends that I grew up with, that I went  
18 to school with are also no longer here. But, it isn't  
19 because of disease, it's because there was no  
20 opportunity for them here to stay for.

21 I feel like this business and this company  
22 is definitely going above and beyond in every measure  
23 that there is available today. As a matter of fact,  
24 even today I know it seems that there aren't too many

1 people in this community that are in support of this  
2 business, I stand before you to say that I am, but the  
3 reason for that is because Mr. Ozinga went above and  
4 beyond once again to ask his own supporters to leave the  
5 room so that these people can be heard, and I appreciate  
6 that and I feel like throughout the process they will  
7 also continue to do that. I think if everybody does  
8 their job here, that everything should be fine.

9                   And, lastly, I want to say why should we  
10 make this plant -- actually I have another point to  
11 make. Why should we make this plant pay the price of  
12 the environmental infractions of the past? I did speak  
13 to the medical director of Mobil Care Foundation, her  
14 name is Dr. Stephanie White, and I asked her the  
15 question, she actually -- if you seen the -- vans that  
16 go to the community and local schools, I actually asked  
17 her, expecting to hear that percentages of asthma in the  
18 community were going to be higher than she had seen  
19 across ethnic boards. But, she said, to my surprise,  
20 that there actually isn't any larger percentage. It's  
21 that the parents, the concerned parents in communities  
22 are so concerned about the air quality, that when those  
23 documents are presented to the parents they fill them  
24 out. And, so, actually what's happening is children are

1 being identified early, prior to having major attacks,  
2 and they are being treated. And a perfect example of  
3 that is my friend and cofounder, Dan Leara, his children  
4 also have asthma. So, we definitely are concerned about  
5 that, but again I say, I plead that you allow this  
6 business to be here because we definitely need the  
7 jobs and the prosperity here in the community again.

8 Thank you.

9 DEAN STUDER: Thank you, Mr. Gomez.

10 If there are people in the room that are  
11 going to speak this evening, I'm going to ask that you  
12 stand where you are now. I need to get a solid count,  
13 if I could, please.

14 Okay. We've got approximately 20 people and  
15 I do remind you that we have to be out of the room.

16 Is Albert Raffin here, please?

17 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Excuse me.

18 I asked you earlier couldn't you ask for extended time  
19 from the management of this --

20 DEAN STUDER: That is being worked on at  
21 this moment, but I haven't gotten an answer and until  
22 I get an answer I have to go by --

23 AL RAFFIN: My name is Al Raffin, R-a double  
24 F, as in Frank, i-n. I'm the vice president of Raffin

1 Construction Company. We're a fourth-generation  
2 construction company that's been located in the Pullman  
3 area since 1916. We are a general contractor that  
4 involves an industrial concrete contractor. It  
5 is -- concrete contractor that has gotten to know the  
6 Ozinga company and the Ozinga business family.

7           We have been doing business with Ozinga for  
8 over 50 years. Ozinga provides the majority of  
9 ready-mix concrete for their firm purchases. We have  
10 found them to be honest, fair to deal with, service  
11 oriented, and competitively priced in Chicago markets.  
12 I have found that the Ozinga employees we have dealt  
13 with over the years to be of high moral character which  
14 reflects the company's business policies. I have also  
15 found them to be good corporate citizens, supporting  
16 programs in the local communities in which they do  
17 business.

18           That being said, I have great support of  
19 Ozinga's initiative to construct a new facility on the  
20 southeast side. As has been stated, the project will  
21 create a significant number of construction jobs and  
22 more than 90 permanent high-paying jobs. This will have  
23 a ripple effect throughout the local economy. Also,  
24 significant taxes will be paid into the local economy

1 from sales tax generated on the sales of their product,  
2 real estate taxes, and business taxes. All of this will  
3 stay here in the Chicago area, rather than being sent to  
4 foreign countries.

5           While 90-plus jobs may not seem like a lot,  
6 I think that the rebirth of manufacturing in Chicago  
7 will occur through small local facilities like Ozinga  
8 and Peoples Steel, to name a few. In my 27 years in the  
9 business, I have seen many large companies leave  
10 Chicago, never to return, and taking high-paying jobs  
11 with them.

12           The plant will exceed the Illinois EPA  
13 standards for emissions for plants operating in this  
14 area. The proposed plant will be built in a responsible  
15 environmental way.

16           Many people do not know this, but foreign  
17 companies have purchased many of the businesses that  
18 supply raw materials needed to produce concrete. Also,  
19 many of the local regular suppliers throughout the  
20 county have been brought out by large conglomerates.  
21 Ozinga is one of the largest independent ready-mix  
22 suppliers in the country. This plant is needed to give  
23 Ozinga access to cement at a competitive price. This  
24 allows the businesses in the Chicago area to get their

1 concrete at prices that allows building in Chicago to be  
2 able to compete with other areas of the country. If  
3 Ozinga does not have access to their own raw material  
4 supplies and has to sell it to a large conglomerate, a  
5 local company that is a good community citizen will be  
6 gone and our area will see higher concrete prices across  
7 the board. Their main competitor of -- materials is  
8 owned by a Brazilian company.

9                   Anyway, I'm here to ask for your support  
10 and allowing Ozinga to construct this facility here.

11                   Thank you.

12                   CHRISTOPHER ROMAINE: Thank you for your  
13 comments.

14                   Next, I'd like to ask Luther Howard to come  
15 down. The next person on board is Eve -- is Luther  
16 here?

17                   Eve, go ahead.

18                   EVE TSELETATIOTIS: Hi. My name is Eve,  
19 last name T-s-e-l-e-t-a-t-i-o-t-i-s. I'm also a  
20 lifelong resident of the southeast side since 1967,  
21 a long time. I went to Washington High School which was  
22 right across the street from Republic Steel where my  
23 father worked as a steelworker, a union steelworker.  
24 I'm a child of union labor, proud -- proud of that very

1 much. I appreciate the jobs that are being proposed to  
2 come into our neighborhood. But, I do want to say that  
3 speaking of a kid of union labor, our parents worked  
4 really hard at that mill and many of them got sick, many  
5 of them died, and I think they worked so hard not for  
6 just the idea of a job, but to give their children a  
7 better life and I think that's really important to  
8 remember. For everyone who's in labor and working hard  
9 at their unions and other places, I think you all do it  
10 because you want a better life for your children, for  
11 your communities, and I think we can't dismiss that.  
12 It's not simply about bringing jobs to our neighborhood,  
13 it's about bringing good jobs and a good future to our  
14 families as well. I wish that our civic leaders and  
15 business leaders would champion this neighborhood and  
16 stand up for it more so.

17           Surely there are businesses that come  
18 into this neighborhood that don't require hearings  
19 on breathing and cancer and asthma. Certainly  
20 supermarkets, clothing stores, malls, anything like that  
21 would not require us to have to discuss the death rates  
22 and children with cancer and children with asthma.

23           I appreciate the Ozinga family's efforts to  
24 create a better type of plant, I really do. I



1 researched cement plants. It's not a glamorous thing to  
2 do, but I have done that and my understanding is that  
3 even the EPA has said that cement plants are some of  
4 the largest producers of mercury and other types of  
5 contaminants for local areas. There have been not only  
6 asthma and cancer rates and so forth, but there have  
7 been miscarriages, birth defects, and other things that  
8 have been documented connected to cement plants  
9 themselves. Also, my understanding is that it's not  
10 about the concrete is bad, it's not about that, it's the  
11 way concrete is produced. That there are other places  
12 in other countries, Australia for instance I read about,  
13 have plants that aren't as toxic, they don't release  
14 that many dioxins and other contaminates and  
15 particulates into the environment.

16           And I also want to say that regarding that  
17 drawing behind us or in front us there, there's more to  
18 green energy than having a still of green coloring along  
19 a plant. Green energy should also not be about money.  
20 It really should be about something clean, something  
21 durable, and something viable for a community. Although  
22 I really want more jobs in our area, I do have to say  
23 that I think we could do more research and I wish that  
24 our alderman and other people would champion other

1 projects as well, and I firmly ask that you deny this  
2 permit.

3 DEAN STUDER: Thank you.

4 PATRICIA SHARKEY: I'd like to request  
5 that we actually maintain time for -- that allows us to  
6 complete this hearing by 10:00 o'clock, if we need to be  
7 out of the building.

8 DEAN STUDER: Okay. If we've got to be out  
9 of the building, there are approximately 20 people that  
10 spoke -- so I'm going to ask if you got -- if you've got  
11 something in writing that you were going to read, I'm  
12 asking that you submit it as a written comment. It is  
13 given the same weight as if it's read at the hearing,  
14 but that way it'll also help us to stay within the time  
15 frames of this evening. Otherwise, there are going to  
16 be people that don't have comments that are prepared  
17 that were not going to be able to get into the record  
18 this evening in oral comments and I would like to  
19 accommodate as many people as we can.

20 PATRICIA SHARKEY: And I think we're getting  
21 into the area of cumulative comments that you indicated  
22 you would not be allowing.

23 DEAN STUDER: Yes, that's correct. There's  
24 been a lot of repetition this evening. If your comments

1 are repetition, I am going to tell you that I'm going to  
2 say you're going to have to move on to your next issue.

3 MR. GARRITANO: Garritano.  
4 G-a-r-r-i-t-a-n-o. A lifelong resident, 32 years here  
5 in the -- park area, right by Sacred Heart which I went  
6 to grammar school and after a year of convincing got my  
7 wife to move here from the Beverly area, which took some  
8 work. But now that you're here, I do see a lot of  
9 stuff, like people that go through and have been here  
10 for a short amount of time and we're driving through and  
11 they're seeing clouds of dust. What I see is a bunch of  
12 nothing. I see storefront after storefront and business  
13 after business close down, boarded up. I see my friends  
14 come and go. I see property values somewhere near about  
15 30,000 to \$50,000 for homes that people bought a few  
16 years ago for probably about 150,000.

17 Simply put, jobs equal excitement, equal  
18 interest, equals new opportunities. This area, like  
19 the gentleman said earlier, is a desert. It needs  
20 opportunities, it needs to begin somewhere. People like  
21 the Ozinga family are people that we can put our trust  
22 in, people like the Alderman John Pope, we put our trust  
23 in his leadership, as well as the Calumet Area  
24 Industrial Commission. So, I definitely support the

1 Ozingas having this property to work with.

2 DEAN STUDER: Thank you.

3 John Stero.

4 John Molloy, M-o-l-l-o-y. Go right to the  
5 microphone. This is to be followed by Steve -- oh, my,  
6 T-s-e-l-e.

7 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Point of  
8 information. Are you English, that you don't know any  
9 of these names?

10 DEAN STUDER: Go ahead, John.

11 JOHN MALLOY: John Molloy with the City of  
12 Chicago, Urban Policy -- I'm here today to voice the  
13 city's support for this staggering \$250 million project.  
14 It's 90 new permanent jobs and over 300 construction  
15 jobs. For each construction job created, it's been  
16 proven that two or three ancillary jobs are created also  
17 and that could only help improvement this area and area  
18 businesses and we stand to support the Ozinga family in  
19 any way we can. Thank you.

20 DEAN STUDER: Thank you.

21 Steve is it -- he passes, okay.

22 Thomas Wolf, please. And after that is  
23 Marion Zaki.

24 THOMAS WOLF: Good evening. My name is

1 Tom Wolf, W-o-l-f, like the animal. I submitted a  
2 letter, so I will keep this to 30 seconds or less.

3 I apologize for not knowing all the EPA  
4 rules and regulations on how you look at a company's  
5 history when you look at the air permit. My guess is  
6 you don't. The chamber does when you get asked to come  
7 up and publically speak on behalf of companies, and I  
8 want to tell you right now we get a request from Ozinga,  
9 we jump at the chance. You will find they're a good  
10 neighbor and when they make a promise they keep it.  
11 Promises made, promises kept, in the community and with  
12 the environment. Thank you very much.

13 DEAN STUDER: Thank you.

14 Marion Zaki. Please keep your comments as  
15 brief as possible.

16 Frank Corona will be next.

17 MARION ZAKI: Hello. My name is Marian Zaki  
18 and I'm 14 years old and I'm a senior at George  
19 Washington Elementary School. I grew up in this  
20 neighborhood all my life and the only bad thing is -- by  
21 our beaches and by our homes. I fortunately don't have  
22 asthma, but a lot of people at my school and all my  
23 friends do. And this technology is very advanced and it  
24 goes into our lives and there's better ways to build

1 more plants that cause no pollution or less pollution.  
2 And this is going to affect our generation, so do this  
3 for us and stop this plant from being moved into our  
4 community. Thank you.

5 DEAN STUDER: Thank you.

6 Julie Matthews will be next.

7 FRANK CORONA: Frank Corona, C-o-r-o-n-a.  
8 Born and raised on the south side of Chicago and  
9 activist. I've had the monitor put on the corner of my  
10 house, 1046 Avenue G. I still haven't had a response,  
11 that was 10 years ago. Fifty years ago I went to a  
12 meeting when John Buchanan was the mayor -- I mean the  
13 alderman and they were talking the same stuff.

14 But, I want to ask you if you're familiar  
15 with the bill that was just denied in Springfield,  
16 that's HR 2681 that was voted on for the EPA, regulatory  
17 relief, Relief Act of 2011? Are you familiar with that?  
18 That was voted on in Springfield and it has to do with  
19 the concrete building industry seek -- upcoming EPA  
20 ruling.

21 My question to the EPA is don't let them  
22 fool you with the talk here. You don't have to be a  
23 Harvard graduate or a political scientist. My question  
24 to the EPA is do you have the rules and regulations

1 right now of what's going to happen here? Because that  
2 doesn't count -- matter to us. But do you have right  
3 here what they went to Springfield for and voted on?  
4 There's no regulations. Am I right or wrong?

5 CHRISTOPHER ROMAINE: You're incorrect.  
6 There are federal regulations that apply, there are  
7 state regulations that apply, there is the federal  
8 permitting programs that apply that we implement. There  
9 are ample regulations that address new Portland cement  
10 plants.

11 FRANK CORONA: Okay. Well, I just want you  
12 to bring up that make sure you know who your lobby is  
13 down in Springfield and congress are because they're  
14 making decisions without us because they have plans to  
15 gentrify our area and this is part of the  
16 gentrification.

17 I want to say thank you very much for giving  
18 me some time to speak. Thank you.

19 DEAN STUDER: Thank you.

20 Julius Matthews is not here. Mike Comquest  
21 please and Steve Surup.

22 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm going to  
23 relinquish my time to Bill who lives right in the  
24 neighborhood.

1                   WILLIAM KELLY: My name's William Kelly,  
2 K-e-l-l-y. I'm the labor business manager of Local 269.

3                   I was born and raised on the east side when  
4 all the steel mills were up and running full force. I  
5 worked in all the steel mills, now they're all gone.  
6 We've lost thousands of jobs.

7                   I just want to thank the Ozinga family for  
8 investing in the community and bringing this project  
9 here and hope that you pass this permit and that this  
10 work can continue and we want to thank them very much.

11                  DEAN STUDER: Thank you.

12                  Mark -- I can't pronounce it, it looks  
13 D-a-u-v-e-r-n. I apologize for that. Go ahead. And  
14 following that is Ivan Solis. Is Ivan Solis here?

15                  Just keep your comments as brief as  
16 possible.

17                  MARK DAVERN: I'll be very brief. Mark  
18 Davern, D-a-v-e-r-n. I do not live in the ward.  
19 However, I am a carpenter and would benefit from the  
20 work in the ward. And just listening to all the tales  
21 of asthma and disease in the area tonight, as an  
22 outsider it seems that Ozinga has done everything in  
23 their power with this plant so the emission isn't that  
24 bad and I would like to say that I support the plant and



1 I applaud Ozinga. Thank you.

2 DEAN STUDER: Ivan Solis, if you'd keep your  
3 comments as brief as possible, I'd appreciate it.

4 Junior Cabralus, if you'd sit in the chair.

5 IVAN SOLIS: Good evening. My name is  
6 Ivan Solis. I'm president of Solis Construction,  
7 S-o-l-i-s. I also serve on the board of Hispanic  
8 American Association and, as such, would like to express  
9 our support for this project. I think that it would be  
10 a good job creator. We also support the economic  
11 development and I think that we can -- we should step  
12 back a little and take this project as an example of  
13 building greener and operating in a greener fashion. If  
14 people say that you cannot cover coal, and you can so  
15 point back to the Ozinga plant and say there you have  
16 it, you can cover it up, you can operate in a cleaner  
17 way. I think that instead of looking at this as a  
18 challenge, we should also approach it from an  
19 opportunity point of view and raise the bar and clean up  
20 the rest of the businesses. If there is going to be  
21 additional air monitors placed around the area, that  
22 would bring everybody else into compliance and I applaud  
23 Ozinga for engaging this conversation. I think that  
24 this is an example of what can be done and in a way to

1 clean up some of this business. So, we support the  
2 issuance of a permit for the Ozinga development.

3 Thank you.

4 DEAN STUDER: Thank you.

5 Michael Schmanski, if you're here just make  
6 your way to the chair.

7 Go ahead.

8 J.R. CABRALUS: J.R. Cabralus,

9 C-a-b-r-a-l-u-s.

10 I was born and raised on 87th in South  
11 Chicago in the exchange area, moving up to the -- area,  
12 Local Carpenter 272. Just having the Ozinga company  
13 come here is just a stepping stone. If we get this  
14 company in here, showing that they can prove that they  
15 can do the EPA what they asked for and for the community  
16 it's a start, and these are the other opportunities for  
17 other companies to come in and bring more -- it doesn't  
18 seem much, but hey, 90, zero. Which is better? Ninety,  
19 I agree. So I will -- I ask please, let the Ozinga  
20 company put their company here.

21 Thank you.

22 DEAN STUDER: Thank.

23 Olga Bautista.

24 OLGA BAUTISTA: I'm going to pass and submit

1 it in writing.

2 DEAN STUDER: Okay, thank you.

3 Katie Bautista. And while she's coming  
4 down, Miranda Soldanda. If you would make your way to  
5 the chair, Miranda. And again, Katie, if you'd keep  
6 your comments brief, I would appreciate it.

7 KATIE BAUTISTA: Good evening. My name is  
8 Katie Bautista, B-a-u-t-i-s-t-a.

9 DEAN STUDER: If you're going to read a  
10 comment, I would ask that you just provide a summary and  
11 we'll add the written into the record. Go ahead.

12 KATIE BAUTISTA: I have been born and raised  
13 in South Chicago and my whole life what has always stood  
14 out most about my community is the overabundant and mass  
15 amount of industry in the area. The constant flow of  
16 semi trucks coming in and out of my neighborhood and the  
17 awful odors produced by various companies surrounding  
18 the area, and this has been my whole life.

19 I know the neighborhood has a potential to  
20 be so much more, to thrive, to be beautiful, but what's  
21 standing in our way is the influx of companies wanting  
22 to continue to pollute the neighborhood. Ozinga and  
23 Universal Cement's proposal promises to emit literally  
24 billions of pounds of pollution a year. They have made

1 it clear in their proposal that they will be a  
2 contributor to the neighborhood's already high pollution  
3 rate. And what really troubles me is that they know  
4 that this area has been plagued with numerous industries  
5 that has and continues to pollute the neighborhood.  
6 They know that this neighborhood has so much industry  
7 that it is the most polluted area in the city.

8                   Enough is enough. My community deserves  
9 better. We deserve to breathe clean air. We deserve to  
10 be healthy. We deserve a community free of dirty  
11 industry. Thank you.

12                   DEAN STUDER: Thank you.

13                   Miranda, if you'd make your way to the  
14 microphone. Nanekia Jones, the chair if you're going to  
15 speak. Keep your comments brief.

16                   Go ahead.

17                   MIRANDA SALDANA: Hello. My name is Miranda  
18 Saldana. Last name S-a-l-d-a-n-a. I'm 16 years old,  
19 I go to -- academy and I am a concerned resident of the  
20 southeast side of Chicago. I am disgusted by the amount  
21 of pollution and environmental injustice that I have  
22 grown to become familiar with in my community. As a  
23 child, I was not able to prevent the toxic and disease  
24 causing pollutants that have been brought into my

1 backyard. However, my awareness of these injustices  
2 have obnoxiously hit me in the face the second I stepped  
3 out of my house and inhale toxic fumes. I knew from  
4 that moment on that I as a student, a community  
5 activist, and as a human being was responsible for  
6 stopping this dirty industry from cheating, deceiving,  
7 and harming the people of my community and protect the  
8 health and wellbeing of our future.

9 I have suffered with asthma for seven years  
10 and refuse to sit back and allow the wants for more jobs  
11 to predict whether or not my asthma will progress. I  
12 ask you Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to  
13 protect my environment and its people and prevent  
14 Universal Cement from polluting my neighborhood.

15 Thank you.

16 DEAN STUDER: Thank you. If you'd spell  
17 your last name for court reporter, please.

18 Martin Ozinga, were you going to speak?  
19 Again, I ask you to keep your comments brief.

20 Go ahead.

21 MANIKIA JONES: Hello. My name is Manikia  
22 Jones, M-a-n-i-k-i-a, J-o-n-e-s.

23 I come here on behalf of the people to say  
24 that if you bring this company to the south side of

1 Chicago, how many lives are you damaging? They say that  
2 gang violence is the leading killer, but no one speaks  
3 of the silent and deadly killer of toxin waste that  
4 comes in these neighborhoods. I have suffered with  
5 asthma for 27 years. I have a nephew that is five years  
6 old and asthma that is very serious because of the air.  
7 No one speaks of -- everything that goes on, they keeps  
8 it under wraps. I hear a lot of piggybacking. I don't  
9 hear nobody supporting the fact that these people saying  
10 that we will adhere to everything that's going on. But  
11 I hear a lot of let's go on with it, let's progress with  
12 the jobs that are coming. Yeah, if you can get the  
13 jobs, yeah, the jobs will come in. But how many people  
14 in these neighborhoods are going to receive the jobs?  
15 Living in these parched communities that we reside in.  
16 Where are we going to get in the next few years, that  
17 they say we will evolve in five to ten years, where they  
18 see they selves at. I hear a lot of people standing  
19 behind them, but I really don't hear the truth. I'm  
20 here to speak the truth, get the truth, and nothing but  
21 the truth.

22                   So, how far are we going to go with this?  
23 If we gonna breathe, confess, and talk the truth, that  
24 the truth be spoken of and not covered up. You can say

1 what you want to say on paper, but in the hearts, we  
2 really know the truth already, and if anybody wanna know  
3 the truth, there's a lot of coverup that I hear and it's  
4 a lot about money and not about one's health, not about  
5 one's community, and not about one's everything that  
6 they stand for in life, of other children and adults,  
7 ones that have healthy homes. I don't hear that. I  
8 hear we gonna reside and do this and help the community  
9 to breathe this and breathe that, but no one speaks the  
10 truth. All I hear is no progression, I hear setbacks,  
11 and that's my comment.

12 DEAN STUDER: Thank you.

13 I'm going to ask if there are people here  
14 that are not planning to speak, if they would leave the  
15 building. We need to vacate the building as much as  
16 possible by 10:00 o'clock and it is just a couple  
17 minutes until and I do want to accommodate as many  
18 people that want to speak this evening as absolutely  
19 possible. So, if you're not planning to speak, I would  
20 ask that you would leave the hearing room. We will have  
21 the transcript posted on our website. Thank you.

22 Go ahead.

23 MARTY OZINGA: Good evening. I'm Marty  
24 Ozinga. I'm Marty Ozinga's father, in case there's any

1 confusion about that.

2 I'm the president of Ozinga Brothers. I was  
3 born and raised in Evergreen Park where my father was  
4 born and raised, where all six of my sons were born and  
5 raised. This business was started by my grandfather in  
6 1928. It's a family business, a private company. We're  
7 not a big public corporation. We're not a company that  
8 lives someplace else, far away, someplace that just  
9 looks at the numbers and calculates the economics of the  
10 whole thing. We're very proud to be part of this  
11 community.

12 I'm very humbled and honored to be here  
13 tonight, that so many of you folks from the community  
14 came out, that came out to express concerns, to came  
15 out to express support. These are all things that come  
16 together to create an opportunity in a community to  
17 live, to work, to progress.

18 It's kind of ironic, but I spent about  
19 a third of my time traveling around this country and  
20 around the world and, ironically, working on community  
21 health projects. It's my observation all around the  
22 world that environmental issues and the quality of the  
23 environment that people live in is directly tied to the  
24 ability of those places and those countries to generate



1 good jobs and have solid economies and have an  
2 opportunity to progress. What this economy needs  
3 today obviously is jobs.

4           We're hoping that this state-of-the-art  
5 cement mill does in fact relate to the rest of the  
6 cement industries in the United States and around the  
7 world as a model for how to produce cement at the best  
8 quality standards that any money can buy. It's a  
9 product that is a basic necessity. There is no building  
10 construction being built that does not include concrete.  
11 It's not a product that goes away, it's a product that  
12 is here, it has been for 2000 years and will continue to  
13 be the foundation, literally and figuratively, of our  
14 growing economy. And I just encourage and thank you  
15 that we continue this kind of dialogue, that we continue  
16 to seek ways to improve the environment, to produce  
17 concrete, to produce cement in a better and more  
18 friendly environmental way, at the same time progress  
19 economically, provide jobs, and to work together to see  
20 to it that all of those things happen together.

21           DEAN STUDER: Let's keep the applause down.

22           Antonio Artenao? No.

23           Frank Ebleski? No.

24           Tom Tertskra, T-e-r-t-s-k-r-a? No.

1                   It's Oscar Salazar. Again, if you'd keep  
2 your comments brief. We have to be out of the building  
3 here just as soon as we absolutely can, and after you're  
4 done speaking I would ask that you also vacate the  
5 building this evening. Thank you. Go ahead.

6                   OSCAR SALAZAR: Good evening, gentlemen.  
7 Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak today.  
8 My name is Oscar Salazar, S-a-l-a-z-a-r.

9                   I am a lifelong resident of the 10th Ward,  
10 father of two, a union member of Carpenters Local 272.  
11 I am not a biologist nor an engineer. I am not an  
12 activist. I am a father foremost, a father of two  
13 children.

14                   What we have here is a plant that will be  
15 used for construction material to build our next school,  
16 to build our roads, to build the future. I cannot keep  
17 on holding onto my past because it will keep me from  
18 knowing what my future holds for me.

19                   I know this, this area has been polluted for  
20 many years. I remember swimming back in those bodies of  
21 water, fishing, catching three-eyed fish, fishing, and  
22 then swimming and eating them. And then I remember  
23 swimming on drums, drums, thinking what a great  
24 flotation device. We cannot put that on this company

1 that's coming here and planning on building this  
2 facility, a topnotch, state-of-the-art, high-tech.

3           America is in need of that, we need  
4 companies to stay in America. What better place than  
5 here on the southeast side of Chicago. I do know that  
6 our economy is suffering and I do know that I do not  
7 want to be paying somebody, another foreign country's  
8 profit margin.

9           I hope that the EPA does their  
10 due -- performs their due diligence in making sure that  
11 this will be an environmentally stable operation. And I  
12 know that Ozinga, when names don't meaning nothing and  
13 they falter, I know Ozinga's name won't and I know  
14 they'll lead this all the way through. Thank you.

15           DEAN STUDER: Thank you.

16           Carolyn Martinez. And that will be followed  
17 by Carolyn Ziegler.

18           UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Do you have a  
19 Cheryl Johnson down there?

20           UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Do you have a  
21 Perez, Jorg Perez?

22           DEAN STUDER: I do not have a Cheryl Johnson  
23 -- oh, yes, I do. She's at the very end. She must have  
24 been the last one to register.

1 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: No, I was  
2 not.

3 DEAN STUDER: Okay.

4 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: What about  
5 Jorg Perez?

6 DEAN STUDER: What was the name?

7 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Perez, Jorge  
8 Perez.

9 PATRICIA SHARKEY: Can we have people who  
10 are going to testify line up so we can get to them?

11 DEAN STUDER: Yes, yes. Let's do that.

12 Those that are speaking -- you can go ahead,  
13 Cheryl, spell your last name for the record and we'll  
14 move forward.

15 CAROLYN MARTINEZ: My name is Carolyn  
16 Martinez. C-a-r-o-l-y-n, M-a-r-t-i-n-e-z.

17 DEAN STUDER: Go ahead.

18 CAROLYN MARTINEZ: I'm going to read from  
19 Scriptures.

20 "Do you not know that your body's a temple  
21 of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have  
22 received from God? You are not your own. You were  
23 bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your  
24 body." First Corinthians 6:19-20.

1                   We need to honor our bodies because they are  
2 temples. We do not need anyone else telling us what we  
3 need to do in our community, health-wise or any other  
4 wise.

5                   I'm representing here in standing up for the  
6 community based on God's laws, not on your laws.

7                   Thank you.

8                   DEAN STUDER: Spell your last name, for the  
9 record.

10                  WILLIAM BALSA: It is William Balsa. The  
11 last name is B-a-l-s-a. I just got off work so I was  
12 a little bit late so I missed a few things. I work at  
13 Mount Sinai on the west side which is your next closest  
14 trauma center and today on this side of the city all  
15 your hospitals were on bypass. So you gotta go to  
16 Northwestern, Mercy, other hospitals. The problem  
17 with -- when I spoke to Mr. Ozinga --

18                  UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Speak in the  
19 mic. We can't hear you out here.

20                  WILLIAM BALSA: A lot of the things  
21 that -- the problems with this plant is the CO2. This  
22 plant can have zero CO2 emitted if they did a little bit  
23 more research which I'm sure they will do. When they  
24 had their truck out there, there's some things with

1 their truck that they had zero emissions.

2 My thing is, is we all need the jobs, but  
3 with Walmart and a new school and all of this, we're  
4 taking up all of our real estate and putting it in the  
5 wrong places. There's also the potential of the Ozinga  
6 plant in Gary. Now, that's a little bit later in time.  
7 Why don't we give it to Gary? Still create the jobs.

8 Why don't we look at our health first,  
9 because if you go down right here, you're out of luck,  
10 you're going to die right here. Because the closet  
11 ambulance is already at a hospital more than likely,  
12 because we won't have enough here. So my thing is if  
13 you're actually really into the community, open that  
14 medical center and open a hospital. You can do it for  
15 under \$50 million and I'm more than willing to help  
16 anybody that wants to help this community, and not just  
17 in a business sense, but in a health sense. Because if  
18 anybody goes down here, Ambulance 25 is never at  
19 quarters, and if they are it's a miracle. You have to  
20 wait for one to come from South Chicago and one to come  
21 from over in south Englewood. So my thing is we need to  
22 start taking care of the community health-wise. The  
23 second-largest cancer in the city. So my thing is if  
24 you want to help, start bringing more money into the

1 healthcare industry out here because Trinity ain't  
2 cutting it.

3 DEAN STUDER: Thank you. Last name, please  
4 spell it for the record.

5 JORG PEREZ: The last name is Perez,  
6 P-e-r-e-z, the first name is J-o-r-g. I'm from South  
7 Chicago, I'm a lifelong resident of 83rd and Houston,  
8 grew up there, currently live there with my family.

9 On a personal perspective, we strongly urge  
10 the IEPA to allow this air permit for the construction  
11 of this project. We think it's a formidable project.  
12 It is one of many years waiting, and we believe the  
13 Ozinga family should be commended for their leadership.

14 I'm also here as the executive director of  
15 the Hispanic American Construction Industry Association,  
16 where we represent over 300 construction related  
17 companies in the Chicagoland area. We strongly support  
18 this project because it is good for the economy at a  
19 very pivotable time where jobs are ever so critical.  
20 This is the type of project that we support fully and  
21 we've been working with Ozinga to look at sourcing  
22 additional Hispanic contractors to design and build this  
23 facility. Thank you.

24 DEAN STUDER: Thank you.

1                   JIM KLEKOWSKI: Hi. I'm Jim Klekowski,  
2 K-l-e-k-o-w-s-k-i, also a lifelong resident of the  
3 neighborhood. Thanks for the opportunity of speaking.

4                   Our alderman John Pope mentioned Neil  
5 Bosanko's name. It should be mentioned here that Neil  
6 is dying of cancer right now and never smoked a day in  
7 his life, but he lived here every day of his life. And  
8 everything's that come before this is not on your  
9 shoulders. You have a great family name, Ozinga's  
10 fantastic. But, from this point on what came before  
11 isn't going to be allowed again, not by these people.  
12 These people, no offense, shuffle papers. You're going  
13 to answer to this community of what's going to be going  
14 on. What's going to come on the barges, what's not  
15 covered, and you have everybody watching now. That's  
16 what's in this community now. So please be prepared for  
17 that. Thank you.

18                   DEAN STUDER: Thank you.

19                   If you'd step forward to the microphone and  
20 please state your last name and then you can state your  
21 name. Thank you.

22                   RAY BANKS: Hello. My name is Ray Banks,  
23 the last name is spelled B-a-n-k-s.

24                   I've known the Ozinga's for several years



1 and I've known them to be people of integrity, and I  
2 believe that -- I agree with most of you folks, what  
3 you're saying about health and about people being  
4 healthy and the environment being bad in this area.  
5 I believe that the Ozinga Universal Cement project is  
6 aware of that too, and they too are trying to make  
7 sure that their company is not adding to the pollution  
8 and that -- not adding to the pollution of the  
9 environment. So, I strongly support the Universal  
10 Cement project. Thank you.

11 DEAN STUDER: Thank you.

12 Please step forward to the microphone.  
13 State your name, if you would please.

14 CHERYL JOHNSON: My name is Cheryl Johnson.  
15 J-o-h-n-s-o-n. I'm also a member of the IEPA Rightful  
16 Justice Working Group. I'm also a member of the  
17 Southeast Environment Alliance. And I want to put on  
18 the record I was here at 7:00 o'clock and I put in a  
19 card. I should have been called 40 cards before you  
20 called that call, so not to be at the bottom of the  
21 list. But as -- I'm here to represent -- I am the  
22 president and the CEO of People for Community Recovery,  
23 the oldest environmental justice group in the midwest,  
24 under the auspice of my mother, the late Hazel Johnson,

1 who put environmental justice on the map. And if you  
2 read the first page of the executive summary, to read  
3 the first page, you talk about it, environmental  
4 executive order 12898, where if you were to look at  
5 environmental -- the executive order, it will look at  
6 the first statement we talked about because my mother  
7 was there to witness the signing of the executive order,  
8 that you would look at class and race, and this is one  
9 of the factors of why this type of facility is being  
10 located in our area. You know, and it behoves me to  
11 look and see that you as IEPA, that knows, adheres to  
12 the new guidance that came out that says that you have  
13 to look at the precautionary principle of the effect of  
14 any industry coming into the area. That's what they  
15 told you already, about this -- this area should not be  
16 a site for any type of pollutant industry in this area.

17 I've had 30 years working for environmental  
18 justice from a personal level. I have seen facilities  
19 say that has the best available technology and I have  
20 not seen that today. Robbins, Illinois, here with a  
21 chemical incinerator, the City of Chicago and everything  
22 they promote is jobs for us. The jobs do not come to a  
23 community that's immediately around these facilities.  
24 For example, supposed to be the environment, supposed to

1 be the economic interest for this area. For an  
2 agency -- first come from Valparaiso, Indiana. So don't  
3 sit up here and just tell us about jobs, because people  
4 in my community, Altgeld Gardens need to be inclusive of  
5 this. Because the wind pattern of where these emissions  
6 come comes out of the southwest corner of the southeast  
7 side of Chicago, which smacks us dead in Altgeld  
8 Gardens, and I don't see nothing inclusive of Altgeld  
9 Gardens being in this report. And you talk about a  
10 two-mile radius, if you do a real two-mile radius, our  
11 neighborhood would have been inclusive in this study and  
12 it has not been in it. Because at the end of the day,  
13 when we just had that explosion a week ago from those  
14 truckers, those -- that smoke rolled over and settled in  
15 Altgeld Gardens. The same thing, because man makes  
16 mistakes. They did it with the incinerator, I can see  
17 if you're using sulfur, carbon dioxide, and all these  
18 chemicals right on our border which is a border that  
19 we -- to emit hazardous stuff.

20                   So, I'm just saying that go back to the  
21 drawing board, dismiss this process, and start all over  
22 and make sure that my community is inclusive, because we  
23 are the oldest environmental justice community that has  
24 been fighting this for 30 years and if it wasn't for my

1 mother, bless her soul, environmental justice wouldn't  
2 even be on the map. Thank you.

3 DEAN STUDER: Thank you.

4 Please come to the mic and state your last  
5 name.

6 BRIAN URBASZEWSKI: My name is Brian  
7 Urbaszewski, U-r-b-a-s-z-e-w-s-k-i. I'm the director of  
8 environmental health programs for Respiratory Health  
9 Association of Metropolitan Chicago. We're a  
10 100-year-old lung health charity based here in Chicago  
11 that focuses on lung health, research advocacy, and  
12 education. I wanted to highlight a few issues and find  
13 out how they're being addressed. Don't respond tonight,  
14 but in the record.

15 You know, first our concern over this  
16 project is mainly that it's going to increase ozone,  
17 precursors, things that are formerly known as toxic  
18 emissions. The short story here is we have a  
19 longstanding air pollution problem with ozone which is a  
20 caustic acid that essentially burns lung tissue and the  
21 last thing we need is more emissions that are going to  
22 make a bad air quality situation already worse. On this  
23 front it appears that NOX emissions will be the largest  
24 wedge of the emissions pie from this project, over 800

1 tons a year allowed, and SCNS -- SNCR is identified as  
2 a control strategy for the plant, selected non-catalytic  
3 reduction. From what I've been able to gather, such a  
4 technology to reduce ozone producing NOX by about 35 to  
5 65 percent. But at the same time there's SCR  
6 technology, selected catalytic reduction technology,  
7 which was used in cement plants about a decade ago and  
8 it can typically get 80 percent reduction in NOX and  
9 that's what US EPA is saying. And it's very important  
10 that one plant in Europe using SCRs has even achieved a  
11 NOX reduction rate as high as 95 percent. SCR works in  
12 coal plants, it's an industry standard for NOX control,  
13 proven technologies have demonstrated that SCR works  
14 even in high-dust environments like cement ones. So why  
15 isn't SCR technology being required in this situation  
16 when it's proven technology in cement plants and can  
17 bring significant health benefits in reducing harmful  
18 air pollution?

19           At the same time, the limit for NOX in the  
20 draft permit is 1.5 pounds per ton clinker. SCR used  
21 on a coal plant has achieved levels about half that,  
22 .8 pound per ton per clinker at a plant in Europe.  
23 Surely we should be using and requiring the use of much  
24 more effective pollution control that was first used on

1 cement plants about a decade ago. We're talking about  
2 lowest achievable emission rates here and that's not  
3 what this permit is doing. Even a coal-fired plant in  
4 Arizona that came online this year has much more  
5 effective pollution control technology, they're meeting  
6 a limit that -- of NOX limit that is lower than what's  
7 being proposed for this plant yet to be built. They've  
8 achieved 1.2 pounds per ton of clinker. They even use  
9 gas for startup. Has that even been considered here?  
10 Is coal burning -- of gas to lower emissions of toxic  
11 chemicals being considered as part of this project?

12           Lead is another issue. We're talking about  
13 toxic air pollution too. Lead emissions in the permit  
14 are a concern. The plant would be allowed to emit 800  
15 pounds of lead a year, but the Wholesome plant south of  
16 St. Louis which is four times the size of this plant I  
17 believe is only allowed to emit 260 pounds a year.

18           Something is seriously wrong here, and I  
19 don't need to ask why the disparity appears to be so  
20 great and what the agency would do to propose lowering  
21 these lead emission rates, particularly since a monitor  
22 in the City of Chicago near a similar sized source,  
23 almost 800 pounds, apparently reported violations of the  
24 lead ambient air quality standards. This would be the

1 monitor in the Pilsen neighborhood near the Fisk power  
2 plant and near the Kramer foundry.

3           These are just some of the points I wanted  
4 to bring out. I think there's some serious problems  
5 with the permit here. We're reserving the right to  
6 amend and extend these comments in writing.

7           Thank you.

8           DEAN STUDER: Thank you.

9           If you'd spell your last name and state your  
10 name for the record, please.

11           KENNETH LADIEN: Kenneth, k-e double N,  
12 e-t-h, Ladien, L-a-d-i-e-n, not to be confused with  
13 Bin Lauden.

14           We talked about international, we talked  
15 about national. We talked about standards elsewhere and  
16 as I spoke with Mr. Ozinga the third the last time, in  
17 Germany along the Rhine River you can swim within two  
18 blocks of the steel mill back in 1967. We're a part  
19 river basin here, we're part of -- basin and we're sort  
20 of like Salacia. Well, we haven't taken advantage of  
21 the science and we don't have to be a so-called minority  
22 to live here. And we have Polish here, we got Italian,  
23 we got Serbian, we got Croatian, and it's never  
24 been replanted by a speaker who has trouble pronouncing

1 the names that he -- to say how much English he has.

2 In an industrialization to coal, getting rid  
3 of coal is going to de-industrialize the United States.  
4 If we're going to get rid of coal, then we might as well  
5 go back to the occupation of Aurora, we might as well go  
6 back to the starvation of Germany proposed by the  
7 secretary treasurer of -- Roosevelt, Franklin, Henry  
8 Worthingthal who had turned Germany into Tokyo. We can  
9 have all that greed, but we can't eat it.

10 So I suggest as a former member of the  
11 Illinois Compensation of Ethnicity and Education of the  
12 house of delegates of the Chicago Teacher's Union,  
13 American Federation of Teachers Local One, house of  
14 delegates, that again we impasse the other material  
15 that's been excluded here and for those that -- EPA is  
16 going to be the final answer, they allow pollution on  
17 the beautiful north side, point to me, if you want to  
18 know, I'll tell you where.

19 DEAN STUDER: Is there anyone here this  
20 evening that would like to make comments? Thank you.

21 Okay. I'll remind everyone that the hearing  
22 record is open until November 18th. We'll accept  
23 written comments through that date.

24 I thank you for your attendance and your



1 patience this evening.

2 (Hearing concluded at 10:25 o'clock p.m.)

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## 1 C E R T I F I C A T E

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3 DAVID J. DEMSKI, being first duly sworn on oath  
4 says that he is a court reporter doing business in the  
5 City of Chicago; that he reported in shorthand the  
6 proceedings given at the taking of said hearing on the  
7 19th day of October, 2007, and that the foregoing is a  
8 true and correct transcript of his shorthand notes so  
9 taken as aforesaid, and contains all the proceedings  
10 given at said hearing.

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14 DAVID J. DEMSKI - CSR# 084-004386

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