

August 28, 2014

To: Bechara Chaucair, MD
Commissioner of Health
Environmental Permitting and Inspections
333 South State Street, Room 200
Chicago, IL 60604

RE: Petcoke Regulations / Variance Requests-Oppose

To: Ms. Bechara Chaucair, MD

My name is Bertina L. Alston. I have been a Registered Nurse for over 30 years. I recently retired from Provident Hospital of Cook County where I worked for over 21 years. Currently I'm working part-time at Roseland Hospital which is in an area where many residents live near a company that stores Petroleum Coke, known as "Petcoke".

As a healthcare professional, my first and foremost responsibility is to advocate on behalf of my patients.

It is a health hazard for any residents living and/or working near piles of "Petcoke" particulates. The dust from "Petcoke" becomes airborne when the wind blows. People with respiratory illnesses are particularly vulnerable to any exposure.

I definitely do not agree with any corporations receiving regulatory variances. Corporations need to comply with the current regulations as they exist. In fact, I feel there should be even stricter regulations imposed on Petroleum Coke Corporations, which will make it safer for area residents. The Department of Public Health needs to enforce its mandate to protect the public.

Sincerely,

Bertina L. Alston, RN