
From: NRDC <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 3:24 AM
To: envcomments
Subject: Petition Delivery: Keep General Iron out of the SE Side of Chicago!

[Warning: External email]

Below are the latest signatures delivered from NRDC.

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Download comments: <https://act.nrdc.org/constituents/109480.JU3t6B/>

Dear Mayor Lori Lightfoot, Chicago Department of Public Health, and my Chicago Alderman:

As your constituent, I'm writing today to ask you to deny General Iron's environmental approvals to move its facilities to the Southeast Side of Chicago.

General Iron has been found liable for violating the City's environmental codes, they've been responsible for dangerous explosions and fires, and they've been shut down repeatedly for public health violations.

And now, in the middle of the COVID-19 crisis, they want to move their facilities to a working-class community of color that's already burdened with pollution.

This is environmental racism in action — and is indicative of the type of injustice communities of color in Chicago deal with every day.

Although the inequalities that exist in our city are not new, we have a new opportunity to address them in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and the movement for racial justice.

Please prioritize the health of Chicago's most vulnerable residents over industrial profits. Deny General Iron's environmental approvals immediately.

Thank you so much for your time.

From: Donald Davis [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 5:56 AM
To: envcomments
Subject: NO to Southside Recycling's Metal Shredder permit application
Attachments: GWHS LSC Resolution.pdf

[Warning: External email]

Good morning.

I have lived at [REDACTED] here in Chicago for the past 17 years. My home is less than a mile from the proposed metal shredder facility that Southside Recycling is applying to operate. I want to voice my opposition to the permit, and encourage the City of Chicago to please vote against it in order to protect the health of the community.

I am a Social Science teacher at Washington H.S., which is located less than HALF a mile from the proposed facility. I worry about the detrimental effects on my students due to the increased level of particulate matter that would be released into the air, not to mention increased diesel truck traffic and noise. The 10th Ward already has elevated cases of respiratory illnesses and a history of allowing polluting industries into the neighborhood. For this reason I worked with other members of Washington H.S.' Local School Council to pass the attached resolution demonstrating our school community's opposition to Southside Recycling's Metal Shredder permit application.

With the majority of the student body and community as Latinx, the decision by RMG to relocate from Lincoln Park to the East Side is a stark example of environmental racism as well. Approving the permit would be an injustice perpetuated by the City of Chicago against black and brown communities who are already adversely impacted by Covid-19.

So I strongly urge you to consider the attached resolution and my desire to protect the health of the community in ruling on Southside Recycling's Metal Shredder permit application. Our neighborhood of the 10th Ward NEEDS you to vote NO!

Sincerely,
Donald Z. Davis, NBCT
George Washington H.S.
Social Science Teacher and LSC Teacher Rep.
[REDACTED]
Chicago, Illinois, 60617
[REDACTED]



Your Neighborhood School
Where College is the Mission

College Prep | Performance | Community

3535 E. 114th Street Chicago, IL 60617 PH: 773.535.5725

George Washington H.S. Local School Council
Resolution in Opposition to Southside Recycling's Metal Shredder

Sponsored by Teacher Reps Donald Davis and Chuck Stark

WHEREAS, Southside Recycling intends to operate a Metal Shredder facility on 116th Street and Burley Avenue, AND

WHEREAS, the parent company of this facility, General Iron or RMG, has been known to have negative environmental impacts with its existing industrial operations, including explosions, fires, excessive noise, and releasing of particulate matter into the air, AND

WHEREAS, the East Side community and 10th Ward already has numerous industrial factories and environmental polluters already in operation, AND

WHEREAS, the legacy of pollution and inadequate zoning laws that prioritize industry profits over public health contribute to the East Side and 10th Ward experiencing elevated levels of heart disease, COPD, asthma and other respiratory illnesses, as well as being a medically underserved community, AND

WHEREAS, the proposed Metal Shredder would increase diesel polluting truck traffic and noise on Avenue O, AND

WHEREAS, the proposed Metal Shredder will be permitted to emit up to 16 additional tons of Particulate Matter (PM) into the air per year, AND

WHEREAS, the prevailing winds in East Side are from southwest to northeast, thus blowing much of that PM towards George Washington High School, less than half a mile from the proposed facility, AND

WHEREAS, there are no guarantees that 10th Ward residents will be employed at the new facility, AND

WHEREAS, the facility is being relocated from predominantly white Lincoln Park to a majority Latinx neighborhood--representing a clear example of environmental racism, AND

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago needs to invest in green manufacturing for the 10th Ward and equitable school facilities for George Washington High School that are comparable to those of selective enrollment schools and more affluent suburbs, AND

WHEREAS, many non-profit community organizations and individuals such as United Neighbors of the 10th Ward, the Southeast Side Coalition to Ban Petcoke, Bridges/Puentes, the Southeast Youth Alliance, the Southeast Environmental Task Force, and local clergy stand in solidarity to prevent operation of this facility,

THEN THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the George Washington High School Local School Council opposes operation of Southside Recycling's Metal Shredder on 116th and Burley, and encourages the City of Chicago to deny the final permit for the facility, AND

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that the Washington High Local School Council encourages ALL students, parents, teachers, staff members, and residents of the 10th Ward to e-mail the City of Chicago to encourage denial of the permit: envcomments@cityofchicago.org .

Once approved a copy of this resolution will be sent to Mayor Lori Lightfoot, Dr. Allison Arwady, Alderwoman Susan Sadlowski-Garza and all City Council members, and local news media.

Approved by the GWHS LSC on January 11, 2021.



Top Ranked IB Program

From: pbergdall [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 8:09 AM
To: envcomments
Subject: RMG

[Warning: External email]

Frankly speaking I can't see how anyone could possibly consider approving this. Anyone who is even mildly aware knows that people of color have been hit hardest by Covid and not because of biology, but because of how policies have made their communities unlivable. This would be one more example of "business as usual" where a great percentage of our citizens are deemed unimportant, continuing to make them vulnerable to all the ills we face. This is not "building back better" and should NOT happen in this administration. I would be SO ashamed if it happens. As a Northsider, I insist it helps us all as soon as we strive for equity on the south and west sides.

Sent from my Galaxy

From: Brian Lampert [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 10:10 AM
To: envcomments
Subject: RMG Application Comment

[Warning: External email]

To whom it may concern,

I serve as a teacher in Southeast Chicago, where we already have our fair share of dangerous pollution. Now that could be made worse if General Iron is allowed to move to our largely black and brown neighborhood from white Lincoln Park.

I have found their application to be insufficient to meet baseline needs of the health of the surrounding community. Their assurances of limiting emissions of PM10 is dependent upon technology that is not described due to proprietary concerns. I am certain that they could at the very least reference publicly funded studies where their technology draws inspiration or borrows from so that we can transparently see their methodology. They also do not address PM2.5 emissions, which is of much greater concern to the health of my students.

Although they address traffic capacity of roadways, they did not provide sound estimates of particulate matter exposure from trucks moving towards their facilities. As a teacher, I have seen far better prepared research papers completed by 14 year old students. To know that we were given a limited time to analyze such a disorganized response raises concerns about the intentions of this process.

That's why I'm calling on the city of Chicago and the Department of Public Health to DENY the final permit that General Iron needs to move here. Issuing this permit would be an act of environmental racism.

Sincerely,
Brian Lampert

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Brian Lampert
Science Teacher GWHS
UIC Project SEECC TF

From: Jeff Sant [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 1:22 PM
To: envcomments
Subject: Large Recycling Facility Permit

[Warning: External email]

To whom it concerns,

I have lived in various neighborhoods on the north side for 10 years, and I have grown to love this city. 2020 was a year that I had a lot of time to reflect on my future, the kind of person I want to be, and what kind of community I hope to be a part of. With that said, I hope to support you in creating a more equitable, and environmentally friendly future for the city of Chicago.

When I heard about General Iron's facility moving from the north side, to the south west side, a community that has been overburdened with pollution throughout the history of the city, it was extremely upsetting. I urge you to take action on this issue and stand strong on supporting the Southeast Side. This is a textbook example of environmental racism. If it's not good enough for the North Side, what makes anyone think that it is good enough for this highly populated working class community of color that knocks on the door of an elementary school.

Please urge the Lightfoot administration to take this seriously and to not allow General Iron, a repeat offender of environmental citations and violations to move to an overburdened community in Chicago. Please help move this city to a more equitable future.

Thank you for your time,

Jeff Sant

--

Jeff Sant
Illustration & Motion Design

JeffSant.com
Instagram - [@jeffsant](https://www.instagram.com/jeffsant)

From: Chanel Williams [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 2:49 PM
To: envcomments
Subject: Please deny General Iron's final permit request

[Warning: External email]

Dear Environmental Permitting and Inspections,

I'm writing to demand that the City of Chicago deny the remaining Class IVB Large Recycling Facility Application permit needed for RMG to operate their scrap metal recycler, formerly known as General Iron, at their new location 11600 S Burley Avenue in the Southeast Side.

At the end of last year, the City responded to RMG's final permit application with a letter of deficiency. I wholly agree with this response. RMG's permit application is "substantially deficient." The deficiency letter underscores why the community and the City cannot trust that RMG will operate a new facility at the 11600 S. Burley site safely and that CDPH must not grant a permit to RMG for the new incarnation of General Iron on the Southeast Side. RMG has now resubmitted their permit, but the problems and threats to the surrounding community are still there. The city therefore must deny this new permit in order to protect the health and well being of the neighborhood.

During General Iron's tenure in Lincoln Park, they proved time and again that they are not a good neighbor with fires & explosions, City shut-downs, coating the neighborhood in toxic "fluff" and federal EPA citations. There is no reason to believe moving to a new neighborhood will put an end to these harmful practices.

The Southeast side is already environmentally overburdened, with manganese, petcoke and landfill pollution already impacting the health and safety of residents, and we must not continue to use the neighborhood as the City's dumping ground.

The Mayor promised environmental justice. To approve this move would be an injustice to the Southeast side. The City promised the Southeast side transparency, but passed one of two City permits without informing residents. It's time to follow through on these promises and protect all the Chicago communities, not just those on the Northside.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,
Chanel Williams

[REDACTED]
Riverdale, IL 60827

From: Andrew Clarke [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 4:02 PM
To: envcomments
Subject: General Iron Relocation Citizen Comment

[Warning: External email]

January 14, 2021

Dr. Allison Arwardy
Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Public Health

Dear Dr. Arwardy,

I am writing to you regarding the pending air pollution control permit filed by Reserve Management Group (RMG) for the purpose of relocating General Iron's recycling operations to the Southeast Side at 11600 S. Burley Avenue. I urge you to consider the following factors and deny this permit. The City of Chicago should not facilitate the relocation of dangerous operations that offer environmental threats to the 10th Ward, an already overburdened Environmental Justice community.

The proposed relocation site of General Iron by its parent company, RMG, to 11600 S. Burley Avenue, is within walking distance of Rowan Park. Rowan Park is adjacent to George Washington High School and serves as space for high school students to participate in recreational activities. Additionally, Rowan Park is a key gathering place for the 10th Ward community, where residents regularly visit for their physical and mental health--and especially now, amidst a pandemic in which more people than ever are turning to outdoor spaces to socially-distance.

This is not the first instance of the City of Chicago being complacent in allowing polluters to be sited near local parks. Finkl Steel moved its operations to Burnside within a couple of blocks of Burnside Park and Byrnes Park, and the MAT Asphalt plant continues to emit fumes on McKinley Park. Low-income communities and communities of color that we now find are experiencing particularly high rates of COVID-19 are bearing the brunt of these poor decisions, and their health and well-being continues to be threatened. The City of Chicago must not continue to turn a blind eye to the issue of environmental threats being located near parks, including this most timely issue on the Southeast Side.

The science behind the pollution putting the Southeast Side community at risk is simple:

Particulate matter (PM 10 & PM 2.5) will be released into the environment from RMG/General Iron and put resident's lung health and immune systems at risk and further compromise the health of the 10th Ward community amidst a pandemic that targets respiratory systems.

George Washington High School conducted a study that found winds from RMG's location to blow Southwest to Northeast. With the wind pattern present, wind will carry pollutants directly to the learning environment of students and towards community members using Rowan Park.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the World Health Organization (WHO), chronic exposure to particulate matter and air pollutants results in higher asthma rates amongst adolescents, higher lung cancer rates, depression, lower academic performance, and a decreased lifespan.

The Southeast Side historically has battled petcoke and manganese, to name a few. Just recently, arsenic and lead were found in children's baseball fields in the area. Meanwhile, the Confined Disposal Facility at the confluence of the Calumet River and the lakefront is leaking PCBs, mercury, arsenic, and lead back into our water supply, an issue which the Army Corps of Engineers tried to keep from public view.

As all of Chicago has seen, the operations at the General Iron site in Lincoln Park have led to an explosion in May 2020 and a fire in November 2020. Lincoln Park residents have long monitored bad smells, questionable dust, and other concerns associated with this operation and organized to get this threat to their health and safety out of their neighborhood. So we believe that Southeast Side residents have good reason to be concerned. We stand in solidarity with 10th Ward residents in saying that if it isn't good enough for Lincoln Park, it isn't good enough for the predominantly Latino and African-American 10th Ward.

Moving the General Iron plant from Lincoln Park to the south side is a prime example of environmental racism and social injustice. The pollution is too annoying for the wealthy, but just fine for poor Black and Brown communities?

Deny the permit!

Sincerely,
Andrew Clarke
Chicago, IL

From: Amy Bartucci [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 4:56 PM
To: envcomments
Subject: Please deny General Iron's final permit request

[Warning: External email]

Dear Environmental Permitting and Inspections,

I'm writing to demand that the City of Chicago deny the remaining Class IVB Large Recycling Facility Application permit needed for RMG to operate their scrap metal recycler, formerly known as General Iron, at their new location 11600 S Burley Avenue in the Southeast Side.

At the end of last year, the City responded to RMG's final permit application with a letter of deficiency. I wholly agree with this response. RMG's permit application is "substantially deficient." The deficiency letter underscores why the community and the City cannot trust that RMG will operate a new facility at the 11600 S. Burley site safely and that CDPH must not grant a permit to RMG for the new incarnation of General Iron on the Southeast Side. RMG has now resubmitted their permit, but the problems and threats to the surrounding community are still there. The city therefore must deny this new permit in order to protect the health and well being of the neighborhood.

During General Iron's tenure in Lincoln Park, they proved time and again that they are not a good neighbor with fires & explosions, City shut-downs, coating the neighborhood in toxic "fluff" and federal EPA citations. There is no reason to believe moving to a new neighborhood will put an end to these harmful practices.

The Southeast side is already environmentally overburdened, with manganese, petcoke and landfill pollution already impacting the health and safety of residents, and we must not continue to use the neighborhood as the City's dumping ground.

The Mayor promised environmental justice. To approve this move would be an injustice to the Southeast side. The City promised the Southeast side transparency, but passed one of two City permits without informing residents. It's time to follow through on these promises and protect all the Chicago communities, not just those on the Northside.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,
Amy Bartucci
[REDACTED]
Park Ridge, IL 60068

From: Annie Morse [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 5:16 PM
To: envcomments
Cc: info@fotp.org
Subject: Letter to Arwardy

[Warning: External email]

January 26, 2021

Dr. Allison Arwardy
Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Public Health

Dear Dr. Arwardy,

At the suggestion of Friends of the Parks (FOTP) I write to you regarding the pending air pollution control permit filed by Reserve Management Group (RMG) for the purpose of relocating General Iron's recycling operations to the Southeast Side at 11600 S. Burley Avenue.

You will get a lot of these letters, so let me lighten the load for your staff and bullet point the salient issues that matter to me, a West side resident for over 30 years.

- The City of Chicago should not facilitate the relocation of dangerous operations that offer environmental threats to the 10th Ward, an already overburdened Environmental Justice community.
- Rowan Park is a key gathering place for the 10th Ward community, where residents regularly visit for their physical and mental health--and especially now, amidst a pandemic in which more people than ever are turning to outdoor spaces to socially-distance.
- Chicago must not continue to turn a blind eye to the issue of environmental threats being located near parks, including this issue on the Southeast Side.
- The Southeast Side historically has battled petcoke and manganese, while the Confined Disposal Facility at the confluence of the Calumet River and the lakefront is leaking PCBs, mercury, arsenic, and lead back into our water supply. *Yuck!*
- General Iron's site in Lincoln Park hosted an explosion in May 2020 and a fire in November 2020. Southeast Side residents have good reason to be concerned. I stand in solidarity with 10th Ward residents in saying that if it isn't good enough for Lincoln Park, it isn't good enough for the predominantly Latino and African-American 10th Ward.

Please don't approve this plant. There are better ways to grow jobs and healthy people in Chicago.

Sincerely,

Annie Morse

[REDACTED]
Chicago, IL 60622-1908

From: Gaik Ping Ooi (G.P.) [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 5:43 PM
To: envcomments
Cc: info@fotp.org
Subject: Saying No to General Iron in the South Side

[Warning: External email]

Dear Dr. Arwady,

Friends of the Parks (FOTP) is an Illinois not-for-profit organization founded in 1975 and dedicated to promoting healthy parks in the City of Chicago. Our goals include ensuring park lands are equitably distributed and managed across the city in a way that supports healthy communities and a healthy environment.

As such, we write to you regarding the pending air pollution control permit filed by Reserve Management Group (RMG) for the purpose of relocating General Iron's recycling operations to the Southeast Side at 11600 S. Burley Avenue. FOTP urges you to consider the following factors and deny this permit. The City of Chicago should not facilitate the relocation of dangerous operations that offer environmental threats to the 10th Ward, an already overburdened Environmental Justice community.

The proposed relocation site of General Iron by its parent company, RMG, to 11600 S. Burley Avenue, is within walking distance of Rowan Park. Rowan Park is adjacent to George Washington High School and serves as space for high school students to participate in recreational activities. Additionally, Rowan Park is a key gathering place for the 10th Ward community, where residents regularly visit for their physical and mental health--and especially now, amidst a pandemic in which more people than ever are turning to outdoor spaces to socially-distance.

This is not the first instance of the City of Chicago being complacent in allowing polluters to be sited near local parks. Finkl Steel moved its operations to Burnside within a couple of blocks of Burnside Park and Byrnes Park, and the MAT Asphalt plant continues to emit fumes on McKinley Park. Low-income communities and communities of color that we now find are experiencing particularly high rates of COVID-19 are bearing the brunt of these poor decisions, and their health and well-being continues to be threatened. The City of Chicago must not continue to turn a blind eye to the issue of environmental threats being located near parks, including this most timely issue on the Southeast Side.

The science behind the pollution putting the Southeast Side community at risk is simple:

- Particulate matter (PM 10 & PM 2.5) will be released into the environment from RMG/General Iron and put resident's lung health and immune systems at risk and further compromise the health of the 10th Ward community amidst a pandemic that targets respiratory systems.
- George Washington High School conducted a study that found winds from RMG's location to blow Southwest to Northeast. With the wind pattern present, wind will carry pollutants directly to the learning environment of students and towards community members using Rowan Park.
- According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the World Health Organization (WHO), chronic exposure to particulate matter and air pollutants results in higher asthma rates amongst adolescents, higher lung cancer rates, depression, lower academic performance, and a decreased lifespan.

The Southeast Side historically has battled petcoke and manganese, to name a few. Just recently, arsenic and lead were found in children's baseball fields in the area. Meanwhile, the Confined Disposal Facility at the confluence of the Calumet River and the lakefront is leaking PCBs, mercury, arsenic, and lead back into our water supply, an issue which the Army Corps of Engineers tried to keep from public view.

As all of Chicago has seen, the operations at the General Iron site in Lincoln Park have led to an explosion in May 2020 and a fire in November 2020. Lincoln Park residents have long monitored bad smells, questionable dust, and

other concerns associated with this operation and organized to get this threat to their health and safety out of their neighborhood. So we believe that Southeast Side residents have good reason to be concerned. We stand in solidarity with 10th Ward residents in saying that if it isn't good enough for Lincoln Park, it isn't good enough for the predominantly Latino and African-American 10th Ward.

We see this as a great opportunity for the City of Chicago to go back to the drawing board and create environmentally just policies that uplift our overburdened communities. Again, we respectfully request that CDPH deny the permit to operate a large recycling facility in the 10th Ward.

Best,
Gaik Ping Ooi (G.P.)

From: Virginia Witmer [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 7:52 PM
To: envcomments
Subject: Rowan Park

[Warning: External email]

No iron works in the neighborhood. Air pollution is inimical to any attempt to have a clean city.

Thank you.

Virginia Witmer

Friend of the Parks

(I pick up cigarette butts in Printers Row Park once a week.)

Sent from my iPhone

From: Helm, Jutta [REDACTED] >
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 10:24 AM
To: envcomments
Subject: RMG Amended Application

[Warning: External email]

The amended application does not address two concerns:

1. While the city's proposed regulations and monitoring sound promising, past experience shows that they are often ineffective. Does the city - in this time of budgetary stringency - have the personnel to do the close monitoring that will be required? Given RMG's record of ignoring and gaming regulations and monitoring requirements I am not optimistic.
2. I am also VERY CONCERNED that the proposed location of the RMG facility will further cement the SE side of Chicago's image and reputation as a place for "dirty", undesirable industries. With RMG, that image/reputation will be locked in place for decades to come, discouraging other businesses from even considering locating there.

Jutta Helm

[REDACTED]
Chicago, Il. 60640

From: Basta, Robert [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 10:25 AM
To: envcomments
Subject: Southside Recycling metal shredder permit

[Warning: External email]

Dear City Council Members,
Please vote no to reject Southside Recycling's metal shredder permit.

Robert Basta
Teacher
George Washington High School

From: Cembala, Steven [REDACTED] >
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 12:28 PM
To: envcomments
Subject: Vote No!

[Warning: External email]

Dear Mayor Lightfoot and city officials,

While attending the one open community meeting, it was clear Dr. Arwady purposefully tried to limit the types of comments we could leave based on her very unprofessional, staged introduction. Furthermore, her lighthearted, jubilant comments on Covid to open the discussion were disparaging to a community which has been ravaged by it. Clearly, the rhetoric was intentionally manifested to deliver a false sense of hope and trust in a system which continues to cause extra hardships on the most vulnerable, impoverished communities.

The FACT that this company has already been building this new business for months DESPITE not having been approved demonstrates the insider deals, lack of honest and clear transparency, and unethical behavior by many city officials to secretly greenlight this political move from the affluent Lincoln Park area to the East Side.

I ask that you stand up for equality, stand up to the nonstop barrage of environmental racism demonstrated by the city of Chicago and DENY the permit in order to save our community peoples' lives. The city didn't act or even tell residents when they learned our parks and baseball fields were contaminated with toxic pollution. CPS didn't act for over a decade as our neighborhood high school has been inundated with a leaking roof dripping cancerous toxins into our classrooms year in year out.

I hope you vote with your conscience and your soul and with ethics as elected public officials for equality, not a vote to continue putting profits in the hands of the wealthy at the expense of impoverished minority communities.

Respectfully, Steve Cembala
National Board Certified Teacher
Washington High School

--

Steve Cembala

From: Paula Keisler [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 1:06 PM
To: envcomments
Subject: Please deny General Iron's final permit request

[Warning: External email]

Dear Environmental Permitting and Inspections,

I'm writing to demand that the City of Chicago deny the remaining Class IVB Large Recycling Facility Application permit needed for RMG to operate their scrap metal recycler, formerly known as General Iron, at their new location 11600 S Burley Avenue in the Southeast Side.

At the end of last year, the City responded to RMG's final permit application with a letter of deficiency. I wholly agree with this response. RMG's permit application is "substantially deficient." The deficiency letter underscores why the community and the City cannot trust that RMG will operate a new facility at the 11600 S. Burley site safely and that CDPH must not grant a permit to RMG for the new incarnation of General Iron on the Southeast Side. RMG has now resubmitted their permit, but the problems and threats to the surrounding community are still there. The city therefore must deny this new permit in order to protect the health and well being of the neighborhood.

During General Iron's tenure in Lincoln Park, they proved time and again that they are not a good neighbor with fires & explosions, City shut-downs, coating the neighborhood in toxic "fluff" and federal EPA citations. There is no reason to believe moving to a new neighborhood will put an end to these harmful practices.

The Southeast side is already environmentally overburdened, with manganese, petcoke and landfill pollution already impacting the health and safety of residents, and we must not continue to use the neighborhood as the City's dumping ground.

The Mayor promised environmental justice. To approve this move would be an injustice to the Southeast side. The City promised the Southeast side transparency, but passed one of two City permits without informing residents. It's time to follow through on these promises and protect all the Chicago communities, not just those on the Northside.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,
Paula Keisler
[REDACTED]
ST Charles, IL 60174

From: Cruz, Liliaa [REDACTED] >
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 1:20 PM
To: envcomments

[Warning: External email]

Hello! I'm a sophomore student at Washington High School. I believe that the metal factory that will be built would be extremely dangerous. Thinking about the people, especially those with asthma, this toxic air pollution would hurt not only them but other healthy people. Please reconsider.

From: Elsa Trejo [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 1:26 PM
To: envcomments
Subject: Deny RMG/Genral Iron's permit

[Warning: External email]

My name is Elsa Trejo, please deny RMG/General Iron's permit to operate a Large Recycling Facility. We deserve clean air.

We don't want that GARBAGE in the south side;

From: ZURIEL BERRY [REDACTED] >
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 3:12 PM
To: envcomments
Subject: Pollution Control on Southeast Side

[Warning: External email]

I support the 10th ward residents and FOTP to STOP the Reserve Management Group (RMG)/General Iron from polluting our neighborhoods.

See article below with details.

January 14, 2021

Dr. Allison Arwady
Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Public Health

Dear Dr. Arwady,

Friends of the Parks (FOTP) is an Illinois not-for-profit organization founded in 1975 and dedicated to promoting healthy parks in the City of Chicago. Our goals include ensuring park lands are equitably distributed and managed across the city in a way that supports healthy communities and a healthy environment.

As such, we write to you regarding the pending air pollution control permit filed by Reserve Management Group (RMG) for the purpose of relocating General Iron's recycling operations to the Southeast Side at 11600 S. Burley Avenue. FOTP urges you to consider the following factors and deny this permit. The City of Chicago should not facilitate the relocation of dangerous operations that offer environmental threats to the 10th Ward, an already overburdened Environmental Justice community.

The proposed relocation site of General Iron by its parent company, RMG, to 11600 S. Burley Avenue, is within walking distance of Rowan Park. Rowan Park is adjacent to George Washington High School and serves as space for high school students to participate in recreational activities. Additionally, Rowan Park is a key gathering place for the 10th Ward community, where residents regularly visit for their physical and mental health--and especially now, amidst a pandemic in which more people than ever are turning to outdoor spaces to socially-distance.

This is not the first instance of the City of Chicago being complacent in allowing polluters to be sited near local parks. Finkl Steel moved its operations to Burnside within a couple of blocks of Burnside Park and Byrnes Park, and the MAT Asphalt plant continues to emit fumes on McKinley Park. Low-income communities and communities of color that we now find are experiencing particularly high rates of COVID-19 are bearing the brunt of these poor decisions, and their health and well-being continues to be threatened. The City of Chicago must not continue to turn a blind eye to the issue of environmental threats being located near parks, including this most timely issue on the Southeast Side.

The science behind the pollution putting the Southeast Side community at risk is simple:

- Particulate matter (PM 10 & PM 2.5) will be released into the environment from RMG/General Iron and put resident's lung health and immune systems at risk and further compromise the health of the 10th Ward community amidst a pandemic that targets respiratory systems.
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- According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the World Health Organization (WHO), chronic exposure to particulate matter and air pollutants results in higher asthma rates amongst

adolescents, higher lung cancer rates, depression, lower academic performance, and a decreased lifespan.

The Southeast Side historically has battled petcoke and manganese, to name a few. Just recently, arsenic and lead were found in children's baseball fields in the area. Meanwhile, the Confined Disposal Facility at the confluence of the Calumet River and the lakefront is leaking PCBs, mercury, arsenic, and lead back into our water supply, an issue which the Army Corps of Engineers tried to keep from public view.

As all of Chicago has seen, the operations at the General Iron site in Lincoln Park have led to an explosion in May 2020 and a fire in November 2020. Lincoln Park residents have long monitored bad smells, questionable dust, and other concerns associated with this operation and organized to get this threat to their health and safety out of their neighborhood. So we believe that Southeast Side residents have good reason to be concerned. We stand in solidarity with 10th Ward residents in saying that if it isn't good enough for Lincoln Park, it isn't good enough for the predominantly Latino and African-American 10th Ward.

We see this as a great opportunity for the City of Chicago to go back to the drawing board and create environmentally just policies that uplift our overburdened communities. Again, we respectfully request that CDPH deny the permit to operate a large recycling facility in the 10th Ward.

Sincerely,

Juanita Irizarry
Executive Director

DO THE RIGHT THING!

Thank you,
Zuriel Berry

From: Kaara Kallen [REDACTED] >
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 4:27 PM
To: envcomments
Cc: info@fotp.org
Subject: Please do not accept General Iron's request to relocate recycling operations to the S. Burley Ave. location

[Warning: External email]

January 26, 2021

Dr. Allison Arwardy
Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Public Health

Dear Dr. Arwardy,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the pending air pollution control permit filed by Reserve Management Group (RMG) for the purpose of relocating General Iron's recycling operations to the Southeast Side at 11600 S. Burley Avenue. Friends of the Parks (FOTP) has already ably expressed the concerns around this relocation, so I will submit their request and rationales below.

FOTP is an Illinois not-for-profit organization founded in 1975 and dedicated to promoting healthy parks in the City of Chicago. Their goals include ensuring park lands are equitably distributed and managed across the city in a way that supports healthy communities and a healthy environment. FOTP urges you to consider the following factors and deny this permit. The City of Chicago should not facilitate the relocation of dangerous operations that offer environmental threats to the 10th Ward, an already overburdened Environmental Justice community.

The proposed relocation site of General Iron by its parent company, RMG, to 11600 S. Burley Avenue, is within walking distance of Rowan Park. Rowan Park is adjacent to George Washington High School and serves as space for high school students to participate in recreational activities. Additionally, Rowan Park is a key gathering place for the 10th Ward community, where residents regularly visit for their physical and mental health--and especially now, amidst a pandemic in which more people than ever are turning to outdoor spaces to socially-distance.

This is not the first instance of the City of Chicago being complacent in allowing polluters to be sited near local parks. Finkl Steel moved its operations to Burnside within a couple of blocks of Burnside Park and Byrnes Park, and the MAT Asphalt plant continues to emit fumes on McKinley Park. Low-income communities and communities of color that we now find are experiencing particularly high rates of COVID-19 are bearing the brunt of these poor decisions, and their health and well-being continues to be threatened. The City of Chicago must not continue to turn a blind eye to the issue of environmental threats being located near parks, including this most timely issue on the Southeast Side.

The science behind the pollution putting the Southeast Side community at risk is simple:

- Particulate matter (PM 10 & PM 2.5) will be released into the environment from RMG/General Iron and put resident's lung health and immune systems at risk and further compromise the health of the 10th Ward community amidst a pandemic that targets respiratory systems.
- George Washington High School conducted a study that found winds from RMG's location to blow Southwest to Northeast. With the wind pattern present, wind will carry pollutants directly to the learning environment of students and towards community members using Rowan Park.
- According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the World Health Organization (WHO), chronic exposure to particulate matter and air pollutants results in higher asthma rates amongst adolescents, higher lung cancer rates, depression, lower academic performance, and a decreased lifespan.

The Southeast Side historically has battled petcoke and manganese, to name a few. Just recently, arsenic and lead were found in children's baseball fields in the area. Meanwhile, the Confined Disposal Facility at the confluence of the Calumet

River and the lakefront is leaking PCBs, mercury, arsenic, and lead back into our water supply, an issue which the Army Corps of Engineers tried to keep from public view.

As all of Chicago has seen, the operations at the General Iron site in Lincoln Park have led to an explosion in May 2020 and a fire in November 2020. Lincoln Park residents have long monitored bad smells, questionable dust, and other concerns associated with this operation and organized to get this threat to their health and safety out of their neighborhood. So FOTP and I believe that Southeast Side residents have good reason to be concerned. We stand in solidarity with 10th Ward residents in saying that if it isn't good enough for Lincoln Park, it isn't good enough for the predominantly Latino and African-American 10th Ward.

We see this as a great opportunity for the City of Chicago to go back to the drawing board and create environmentally just policies that uplift our overburdened communities. Again, I, and FOTP, respectfully request that CDPH deny the permit to operate a large recycling facility in the 10th Ward.

Sincerely,

Kaara Kallen

From: yolanda meza [REDACTED] >
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 9:06 PM
To: envcomments

[Warning: External email]

My name is Yolanda Meza and I am a community member. I stand in solidarity with 10th ward South East Side residents against General Iron. Firstly, the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) and Public Health Commissioner Dr. Allison Arwady has a duty and the authority to protect the public's health. Therefore, I demand that CDPH and Dr. Arwady protect the public's health by exercising their duty, due diligence, and authority to deny General Iron the permit to operate a Large Recycling facility on the Southeast Side.

The science behind the pollution putting the SE side community at risk is simple: Particulate matter (PM 10 & PM 2.5) will be released into our environment from RMG/General Iron and go into our lungs and further compromise the immune system of 10th Ward residents. Just because we cannot see it does not mean it is not there.

A study conducted by George Washington Highschool, the high school directly across the road from RMG/General Iron, found winds from RMG's location to blow Southwest to Northeast. With the wind pattern present, the wind will carry pollutants directly to the learning environment of our students and negatively impact their health.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the World Health Organization (WHO), chronic exposure to particulate matter and air pollutants results in higher asthma rates amongst adolescents, higher lung cancer rates, depression, lower academic performance, and a decreased life span.

Moving an industrial facility's operations from a gentrified, mostly white neighborhood to a community with majority Black, Brown, Immigrant, and working-class residents already overburdened with polluting industry is a prime example of environmental racism. The City must deny the permit if it is to be in compliance with the US Fair Housing Act.

If you all do not deny this permit, you all are signing away valuable years of our lives at the expense of another scrap metal yard.

Deny RMG/General Iron's permit to operate a Large Recycling Facility. We deserve clean air.

Sincerely,

Yolanda Meza
[REDACTED]

Chicago, IL 60629
[REDACTED]

From: Gail [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 7:43 AM
To: envcomments
Subject: General Iron

[Warning: External email]

The proposed relocation site of General Iron by its parent company, RMG, to 11600 S. Burley Avenue, is within walking distance of Rowan Park. Rowan Park is adjacent to George Washington High School and serves as space for high school students to participate in recreational activities. Additionally, Rowan Park is a key gathering place for the 10th Ward community, where residents regularly visit for their physical and mental health--and especially now, amidst a pandemic in which more people than ever are turning to outdoor spaces to socially-distance.

This is not the first instance of the City of Chicago being complacent in allowing polluters to be sited near local parks. Finkl Steel moved its operations to Burnside within a couple of blocks of Burnside Park and Byrnes Park, and the MAT Asphalt plant continues to emit fumes on McKinley Park. Low-income communities and communities of color that we now find are experiencing particularly high rates of COVID-19 are bearing the brunt of these poor decisions, and their health and well-being continues to be threatened. The City of Chicago must not continue to turn a blind eye to the issue of environmental threats being located near parks, including this most timely issue on the Southeast Side.

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The Southeast Side historically has battled petcoke and manganese, to name a few. Just recently, arsenic and lead were found in children's baseball fields in the area. Meanwhile, the Confined Disposal Facility at the confluence of the Calumet River and the lakefront is leaking PCBs, mercury, arsenic, and lead back into our water supply, an issue which the Army Corps of Engineers tried to keep from public view.

As all of Chicago has seen, the operations at the General Iron site in Lincoln Park have led to an explosion in May 2020 and a fire in November 2020. Lincoln Park residents have long monitored bad smells, questionable dust, and other concerns associated with this operation and organized to get this threat to their health and safety out of their neighborhood. So we believe that Southeast Side residents have good reason to be concerned. We stand in solidarity with 10th Ward residents in saying that if it isn't good enough for Lincoln Park, it isn't good enough for the predominantly Latino and African-American 10th Ward.

We see this as a great opportunity for the City of Chicago to go back to the drawing board and create environmentally just policies that uplift our overburdened communities. Again, we respectfully request that CDPH deny the permit to operate a large recycling facility in the 10th Ward.

Sincerely,

Gail McLaughlin

Last week Southeast Environmental Task Force pointed out RMG/General Iron's attempt at misleading the community with falsehoods. But the Southeast Side knows their neighborhood best, and a scrap metal shredder doesn't belong near a public park!



The Southeast Side should not bear the environmental burdens for the entire City of Chicago – the community has spoken loud and clear, #StopGeneralIron!

Sent from my iPad

From: Frances Ramirez [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 8:47 AM
To: envcomments
Subject: Dumping

[Warning: External email]

To Whom it May Concern,
Enough is enough!
Let the higher ups , place it in their neighborhood!

Sent from my iPhone

From: Linda Waycie [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 9:18 AM
To: envcomments
Subject: Please deny General Iron's final permit request

[Warning: External email]

Dear Environmental Permitting and Inspections,

I'm writing to demand that the City of Chicago deny the remaining Class IVB Large Recycling Facility Application permit needed for RMG to operate their scrap metal recycler, formerly known as General Iron, at their new location 11600 S Burley Avenue in the Southeast Side.

At the end of last year, the City responded to RMG's final permit application with a letter of deficiency. I wholly agree with this response. RMG's permit application is "substantially deficient." The deficiency letter underscores why the community and the City cannot trust that RMG will operate a new facility at the 11600 S. Burley site safely and that CDPH must not grant a permit to RMG for the new incarnation of General Iron on the Southeast Side. RMG has now resubmitted their permit, but the problems and threats to the surrounding community are still there. The city therefore must deny this new permit in order to protect the health and well being of the neighborhood.

During General Iron's tenure in Lincoln Park, they proved time and again that they are not a good neighbor with fires & explosions, City shut-downs, coating the neighborhood in toxic "fluff" and federal EPA citations. There is no reason to believe moving to a new neighborhood will put an end to these harmful practices.

The Southeast side is already environmentally overburdened, with manganese, petcoke and landfill pollution already impacting the health and safety of residents, and we must not continue to use the neighborhood as the City's dumping ground.

The Mayor promised environmental justice. To approve this move would be an injustice to the Southeast side. The City promised the Southeast side transparency, but passed one of two City permits without informing residents. It's time to follow through on these promises and protect all the Chicago communities, not just those on the Northside.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,
Linda Waycie

[REDACTED]
Mt. Prospect, IL 60056

From: Benieta Powell [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 9:58 AM
To: envcomments
Subject: Please deny General Iron's final permit request

[Warning: External email]

Dear Environmental Permitting and Inspections,

I'm writing to demand that the City of Chicago deny the remaining Class IVB Large Recycling Facility Application permit needed for RMG to operate their scrap metal recycler, formerly known as General Iron, at their new location 11600 S Burley Avenue in the Southeast Side.

At the end of last year, the City responded to RMG's final permit application with a letter of deficiency. I wholly agree with this response. RMG's permit application is "substantially deficient." The deficiency letter underscores why the community and the City cannot trust that RMG will operate a new facility at the 11600 S. Burley site safely and that CDPH must not grant a permit to RMG for the new incarnation of General Iron on the Southeast Side. RMG has now resubmitted their permit, but the problems and threats to the surrounding community are still there. The city therefore must deny this new permit in order to protect the health and well being of the neighborhood.

During General Iron's tenure in Lincoln Park, they proved time and again that they are not a good neighbor with fires & explosions, City shut-downs, coating the neighborhood in toxic "fluff" and federal EPA citations. There is no reason to believe moving to a new neighborhood will put an end to these harmful practices.

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The Mayor promised environmental justice. To approve this move would be an injustice to the Southeast side. The City promised the Southeast side transparency, but passed one of two City permits without informing residents. It's time to follow through on these promises and protect all the Chicago communities, not just those on the Northside.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,
Benieta Powell
[REDACTED]
Makanda, IL 62958

From: tyrone harrington [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 9:59 AM
To: envcomments
Subject: Stop General mills
Attachments: Sample_comment_letter_on_General_Iron_permit_01_2021.docx.pdf

[Warning: External email]

#2021 Taking Position!!
+TH

Public comment is open until 1/14/2021 for the permit process
Send emails to: envcomments@cityofchicago.org

PUBLIC COMMENT email script (ENGLISH):

Date:

"Hello,

My name is Tyrone harrington and I am a community member, (parent, student, community member, resident, etc). I stand in solidarity with 10th ward South East Side residents against General Iron. Firstly, the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) and Public Health Commissioner Dr. Allison Arwady has a duty and the authority to protect the public's health. Therefore, I demand that CDPH and Dr. Arwady protect the public's health by exercising their duty, due diligence, and authority to deny General Iron the permit to operate a Large Recycling facility on the Southeast Side.

The science behind the pollution putting the SE side community at risk is simple:

- Particulate matter (PM 10 & PM 2.5) will be released into our environment from RMG/General Iron and go into our lungs and further compromise the immune system of 10th Ward residents. Just because we cannot see it does not mean it is not there.
- A study conducted by George Washington Highschool, the high school directly across the road from RMG/General Iron, found winds from RMG's location to blow Southwest to Northeast. With the wind pattern present, wind will carry pollutants directly to the learning environment of our students and negatively impact their health.
- According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the World Health Organization (WHO), chronic exposure to particulate matter and air pollutants results in higher asthma rates amongst adolescents, higher lung cancer rates, depression, lower academic performance, and a decreased life span.

Moving an industrial facility's operations from a gentrified, mostly white neighborhood to a community with majority Black, Brown, Immigrant, and working-class residents already overburdened with polluting industry is a prime example of environmental racism. The City must deny the permit if it is to be in compliance with the US Fair Housing Act.

If you all do not deny this permit, you all are signing away valuable years of our lives at the expense of another scrap metal yard.

Deny RMG/General Iron's permit to operate a Large Recycling Facility. We deserve clean air.

Sincerely,

Bishop Tyrone Harrington

From: Mayte Aldrett [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 11:07 AM
To: envcomments
Subject: comment on General Iron's Final Permit
Attachments: comment_letter_on_General_Iron_permit2021.pdf

[Warning: External email]

My comments are attached below.

1/28/2021

Hello,

My name is Mayte Aldrett and I am a member of the Southeast Chicago Community. I stand in solidarity with 10th ward South East Side residents against General Iron. Firstly, the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) and Public Health Commissioner Dr. Allison Arwady has a duty and the authority to protect the public's health. Therefore, I demand that CDPH and Dr. Arwady protect the public's health by exercising their duty, due diligence, and authority to **deny General Iron the permit** to operate a Large Recycling facility on the Southeast Side.

The science behind the pollution putting the SE side community at risk is simple:

- Particulate matter (PM 10 & PM 2.5) will be released into our environment from RMG/General Iron and go into our lungs and further compromise the immune system of 10th Ward residents. Just because we cannot see it does not mean it is not there. We are in a respiratory illness pandemic, and there has to be regard for the health of this vibrant community already facing disproportionate access to healthcare and vaccination for a life threatening virus.
- A study conducted by George Washington High school, the high school directly across the road from RMG/General Iron, found winds from RMG's location to blow Southwest to Northeast. With the wind pattern present, wind will carry pollutants directly to the learning environment of our students and negatively impact their health.
- According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the World Health Organization (WHO), chronic exposure to particulate matter and air pollutants results in higher asthma rates amongst adolescents, higher lung cancer rates, depression, lower academic performance, and a decreased life span.

Moving an industrial facility's operations from a gentrified, mostly white neighborhood to a community with majority Black, Brown, Immigrant, and working-class residents already overburdened with polluting industry is a prime example of environmental racism. The City must deny the permit if it is to be in compliance with the US Fair Housing Act.

As someone who has grown up with various health issues related to surrounding industry in my childhood home, particularly metal recycling facilities, experience serves as evidence of the long term repercussions for the children growing and developing their bodies in this community. The communities on the north side neighbored by the original RMG facility can attest to that. If you all do not deny this permit, you all are signing away valuable years of our lives at the expense of another scrap metal yard.

Deny RMG/General Iron's permit to operate a Large Recycling Facility. We deserve clean air.

Sincerely,
Mayte Aldrett


60649

From: Mary Shepro [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 11:33 AM
To: envcomments
Subject: Please deny General Iron's final permit request

[Warning: External email]

Dear Environmental Permitting and Inspections,

Economic justice. Racial justice. Environmental justice. These are all forms of justice that human beings deserve and that Chicago is failing to provide or protect for South Side residents. I'm writing to demand that the City do better.

I'm writing to demand that the City of Chicago deny the remaining Class IVB Large Recycling Facility Application permit needed for RMG to operate their scrap metal recycler, formerly known as General Iron, at their new location 11600 S Burley Avenue in the Southeast Side.

At the end of last year, the City responded to RMG's final permit application with a letter of deficiency. I wholly agree with this response. RMG's permit application is "substantially deficient." The deficiency letter underscores why the community and the City cannot trust that RMG will operate a new facility at the 11600 S. Burley site safely and that CDPH must not grant a permit to RMG for the new incarnation of General Iron on the Southeast Side. RMG has now resubmitted their permit, but the problems and threats to the surrounding community are still there. The city therefore must deny this new permit in order to protect the health and well being of the neighborhood.

I live right near General Iron's old facility. I saw and heard the destruction and degradation. We need companies to provide these services, but they must do so in a safe and clean way. General Iron has had plenty of time to demonstrate its ability to do so and it has failed.

During General Iron's tenure in Lincoln Park, they proved time and again that they are not a good neighbor with fires & explosions, City shut-downs, coating the neighborhood in toxic "fluff" and federal EPA citations. There is no reason to believe moving to a new neighborhood will put an end to these harmful practices.

The Southeast side is already environmentally overburdened, with manganese, petcoke and landfill pollution already impacting the health and safety of residents, and we must not continue to use the neighborhood as the City's dumping ground.

The Mayor promised environmental justice. To approve this move would be an injustice to the Southeast side. The City promised the Southeast side transparency, but passed one of two City permits without informing residents. It's time to follow through on these promises and protect all the Chicago communities, not just those on the Northside.

Thank you for your consideration. Please step up.

Mary Shepro
Concerned citizen, attorney, and friend of Chicago—all of it.

Sincerely,
Mary Shepro
[REDACTED]
Chicago, IL 60614

From: Janet Lipner [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 11:34 AM
To: envcomments
Subject: Please deny General Iron's final permit request

[Warning: External email]

Dear Environmental Permitting and Inspections,

I'm writing to demand that the City of Chicago deny the remaining Class IVB Large Recycling Facility Application permit needed for RMG to operate their scrap metal recycler, formerly known as General Iron, at their new location 11600 S Burley Avenue in the Southeast Side.

At the end of last year, the City responded to RMG's final permit application with a letter of deficiency. I wholly agree with this response. RMG's permit application is "substantially deficient." The deficiency letter underscores why the community and the City cannot trust that RMG will operate a new facility at the 11600 S. Burley site safely and that CDPH must not grant a permit to RMG for the new incarnation of General Iron on the Southeast Side. RMG has now resubmitted their permit, but the problems and threats to the surrounding community are still there. The city therefore must deny this new permit in order to protect the health and well being of the neighborhood.

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The Mayor promised environmental justice. To approve this move would be an injustice to the Southeast side. The City promised the Southeast side transparency, but passed one of two City permits without informing residents. It's time to follow through on these promises and protect all the Chicago communities, not just those on the Northside.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,
Janet Lipner

[REDACTED]
Chicago, IL 60618

From: Ignacio Salinas [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 11:46 AM
To: envcomments
Subject: Please deny General Iron's final permit request

[Warning: External email]

Dear Environmental Permitting and Inspections,

I'm writing to demand that the City of Chicago deny the remaining Class IVB Large Recycling Facility Application permit needed for RMG to operate their scrap metal recycler, formerly known as General Iron, at their new location 11600 S Burley Avenue in the Southeast Side.

At the end of last year, the City responded to RMG's final permit application with a letter of deficiency. I wholly agree with this response. RMG's permit application is "substantially deficient." The deficiency letter underscores why the community and the City cannot trust that RMG will operate a new facility at the 11600 S. Burley site safely and that CDPH must not grant a permit to RMG for the new incarnation of General Iron on the Southeast Side. RMG has now resubmitted their permit, but the problems and threats to the surrounding community are still there. The city therefore must deny this new permit in order to protect the health and well being of the neighborhood.

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Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,
Ignacio Salinas

[REDACTED]
Chicago, IL 60637

From: Thomas Stoodt [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 12:54 PM
To: envcomments
Subject: Comments on RMG application to expand a recycling facility

[Warning: External email]

Please see listed below my concerns with the revised application. Thank you.

1. Page 2 references torch cutting. No worker safety or site environmental information is provided on this known heavy metals hazard. Studies in other cities (Houston) have shown that the amount of torch cutting correlates with the amount of heavy metals sampled at the perimeter of similar facilities. Was this activity factored into the air study?
2. Will employees have routine blood screenings for lead poisoning?
3. Page 4 references property adjacent to the Calumet River that will be used by Southside Recycling to access barges. The application cites that the "owner of the property will fulfill their obligations under agreement with DHS." This is very vague. What company or entity is responsible for the safety and environmentally soundness of the barge loading operation? This should be clear in the application. Are there gaps in accountability here?
4. Page 4-5 mentions storm water run-off, detention ponds, catch basins, etc. It doesn't appear feasible to handle large amounts of snow seen in the Chicago area. Where will plowed snowbanks that could potentially be polluted with lead and other metals be accommodated and isolated from the river? What is the expected gallons per year of water expected from rain and snow on the facility? Are systems sized to handle this load as well?
5. Will there be a program where the grounds of the facility are tested for metals contamination? This should be monitored. Over years of operation, this could create a considerable hazard and expensive cleanup cost.
6. The air dispersion modeling report at the bottom of page V-9 states that shredder emissions were estimated from emissions testing at the existing GII metal shredder on November 14, 2019. This is concerning because it is a single data point measured by the same company and not independently verified. This does not appear to be a statistically sound approach. No information is provided on the rates that the GII was running, the composition of the feed material, the prevailing weather conditions, etc. No methodology at all is mentioned. At minimum some extended test run period with more numerous sampling should have been used. For example a minimum of 5-7 days of steady operation at or near design rates with a feed material composition documented as reflecting what the facility was designed for. It is also assumed that the emissions factor is a linear function that is easily scaled and applied to a new facility. This assumption is not scientifically supported and would

certainly depend on the exact nature of the equipment proposed and the design of the process. This approach is overly simplistic and does not appear to reflect sound engineering practice.

7. Addendum 1 pages 13-14. The section discusses an error in the emission rate from Dust Collector DC-01. It is mentioned that a rate was converted from lb/min to lb/hr and a model re-run. So the rate in the model went up by a factor of 60x from the original. In spite of this change to a rate 60 times higher, the predicted highest PM10 concentration stayed essentially the same. This does not sound credible and merits closer examination. This modeling is the cornerstone of what the company is using to establish that it will be safe for the neighborhoods, yet the basis is a single data point from a potentially mechanically different operation, and it appears to be extremely insensitive to large changes in the assumed emission rates. The entire modelling approach should be reviewed.

8. As stated in a previous comment, CPDH and the IEPA should ask General III to conduct a HAZOP (hazards and operability study). This would provide a detailed rigorous examination of the design of each processing step, especially studying what happens when the plant is started up, shut down, or experiences an upset such as an explosion or a sudden loss of power. A HAZOP is generally accepted as a good practice in engineering design. I would think that General III would welcome a HAZOP as a good idea and a necessary step to protect workers and the community. If an early pre-startup HAZOP had been done on the Clifton Ave. site, circumstances leading up to the explosion upset of May 2020 might have been anticipated and prevented ahead of time. It is not enough to simply say that an operation is being transferred from the Northside to the Southside and it is therefore just as safe (or unsafe as the case may be).

Regards,

Tom Stoodt

Retired Chemical Engineer (38 years experience)

From: Missy Diehl [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 1:09 PM
To: envcomments
Subject: Please deny General Iron's final permit request

[Warning: External email]

Dear Environmental Permitting and Inspections,

I'm writing to demand that the City of Chicago deny the remaining Class IVB Large Recycling Facility Application permit needed for RMG to operate their scrap metal recycler, formerly known as General Iron, at their new location 11600 S Burley Avenue in the Southeast Side.

At the end of last year, the City responded to RMG's final permit application with a letter of deficiency. I wholly agree with this response. RMG's permit application is "substantially deficient." The deficiency letter underscores why the community and the City cannot trust that RMG will operate a new facility at the 11600 S. Burley site safely and that CDPH must not grant a permit to RMG for the new incarnation of General Iron on the Southeast Side. RMG has now resubmitted their permit, but the problems and threats to the surrounding community are still there. The city therefore must deny this new permit in order to protect the health and well being of the neighborhood.

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The Southeast side is already environmentally overburdened, with manganese, petcoke and landfill pollution already impacting the health and safety of residents, and we must not continue to use the neighborhood as the City's dumping ground.

The Mayor promised environmental justice. To approve this move would be an injustice to the Southeast side. The City promised the Southeast side transparency, but passed one of two City permits without informing residents. It's time to follow through on these promises and protect all the Chicago communities, not just those on the Northside.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,
Missy Diehl

[REDACTED]
Schaumburg, IL 60193

From: Anne Holcomb [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 1:14 PM
To: envcomments
Subject: My health and my home vs. General Iron

[Warning: External email]

My name is A. Anne Holcomb and I am a resident of Chicago's South Shore in the 7th Ward. I stand in solidarity with 10th ward South East Side residents against General Iron. Our communities are already considered "Environmental Justice" areas due to having been overburdened by industrial polluters over the decades. I have to ask, "Where is this "justice" now?" And "Where is the racial equity here?"

The Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) and Public Health Commissioner Dr. Allison Arwady has a duty and the authority to protect the public's health. Therefore, I demand that CDPH and Dr. Arwady protect the public's health by exercising their duty, due diligence, and authority to deny General Iron the permit to operate a Large Recycling facility on the Southeast Side. General Iron was "kicked out" of white, well-to-do, Lincoln Park. What is bad for Lincoln Park is also bad for Chicago's South Side. There move to our side of town is totally unacceptable!

The science behind the pollution putting the SE side community at risk is simple:

- Even though the proposed location is a few miles from where I live, we all breathe the same air. Some of the pollution will spill into my community. I also care about the health and well-being of my Black and Brown neighbors who live in East Side and South Chicago, who would be getting most of the polluted fall-out. Particulate matter (PM 10 & PM 2.5) will be released into our environment from RMG/General Iron and go into our lungs and further compromise the immune system of 10th Ward and 7th Ward residents. Just because we cannot see it does not mean it is not there.
- A study conducted by George Washington Highschool, the high school directly across the road from RMG/General Iron, found winds from RMG's location to blow Southwest to Northeast. With the wind pattern present, wind will carry pollutants directly to the learning environment of our students and negatively impact their health. Powell School on South Shore Drive near my home is also in the wind path.
- According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the World Health Organization (WHO), chronic exposure to particulate matter and air pollutants results in higher asthma rates amongst adolescents, higher lung cancer rates, depression, lower academic performance, and a decreased life span.

Moving an industrial facility's operations from a gentrified, mostly white neighborhood to a community with majority Black, Brown, Immigrant, and working-class residents already overburdened with polluting industry is a prime example of environmental racism. The City must deny the permit if it is to be in compliance with the US Fair Housing Act.

Is my life and health valueless? I'm a fully employed taxpayer, a homeowner, and a small landlord. If you all do not deny this permit, you all are signing away valuable years of our lives at the expense of another scrap metal yard. I don't want to move away from Chicago following Chicago's recent trend of

de-population, but if my life is so valueless when compared to the interests of a corporation which has a reputation as a bad actor, then I will have to consider selling my building and leaving this city-- and I'm sure that many of my neighbors will also consider this too.

Deny RMG/General Iron's permit to operate a Large Recycling Facility. We deserve clean air, clean water, and clean ground. We deserve our right to healthy homes which we have bought and paid for. We deserve our right to healthy communities that we pay property taxes to maintain.

A. Anne Holcomb, M.S.

[REDACTED]

Chicago, IL 60649

cell: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Sharon Louis [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 2:35 PM
To: envcomments
Subject: Clean Air

[Warning: External email]

envcomments@cityofchicago.org

Date: 01/28/21

"Hello,

My name is Sharon C. Louis and I am a **South Shore resident since 1966**, (parent, student, community member, resident, etc). I stand in solidarity with 10th ward South East Side residents against General Iron. Firstly, the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) and Public Health Commissioner Dr. Allison Arwady has a duty and the authority to protect the public's health. Therefore, I demand that CDPH and Dr. Arwady protect the public's health by exercising their duty, due diligence, and authority to deny General Iron the permit to operate a Large Recycling facility on the Southeast Side.

The science behind the pollution putting the SE side community at risk is simple:

- Particulate matter (PM 10 & PM 2.5) will be released into our environment from RMG/General Iron and go into our lungs and further compromise the immune system of 10th Ward residents. Just because we cannot see it does not mean it is not there.
- A study conducted by George Washington Highschool, the high school directly across the road from RMG/General Iron, found winds from RMG's location to blow Southwest to Northeast. With the wind pattern present, wind will carry pollutants directly to the learning environment of our students and negatively impact their health.
- According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the World Health Organization (WHO), chronic exposure to particulate matter and air pollutants results in higher asthma rates amongst adolescents, higher lung cancer rates, depression, lower academic performance, and a decreased life span.

Moving an industrial facility's operations from a gentrified, mostly white neighborhood to a community with majority Black, Brown, Immigrant, and working-class residents already overburdened with polluting industry is a prime example of environmental racism. The City must deny the permit if it is to be in compliance with the US Fair Housing Act.

If you all do not deny this permit, you all are signing away valuable years of our lives at the expense of another scrap metal yard.

Deny RMG/General Iron's permit to operate a Large Recycling Facility. We deserve clean air.

Sincerely,

Sharon C. Louis

--

Sharon

<http://www.southshoreconnected.blogspot.com>

From: Sean Long [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 2:44 PM
To: envcomments
Subject: Please deny General Iron's final permit request

[Warning: External email]

Dear Environmental Permitting and Inspections,

I'm writing to demand that the City of Chicago deny the remaining Class IVB Large Recycling Facility Application permit needed for RMG to operate their scrap metal recycler, formerly known as General Iron, at their new location 11600 S Burley Avenue in the Southeast Side.

At the end of last year, the City responded to RMG's final permit application with a letter of deficiency. I wholly agree with this response. RMG's permit application is "substantially deficient." The deficiency letter underscores why the community and the City cannot trust that RMG will operate a new facility at the 11600 S. Burley site safely and that CDPH must not grant a permit to RMG for the new incarnation of General Iron on the Southeast Side. RMG has now resubmitted their permit, but the problems and threats to the surrounding community are still there. The city therefore must deny this new permit in order to protect the health and well being of the neighborhood.

During General Iron's tenure in Lincoln Park, they proved time and again that they are not a good neighbor with fires & explosions, City shut-downs, coating the neighborhood in toxic "fluff" and federal EPA citations. There is no reason to believe moving to a new neighborhood will put an end to these harmful practices.

The Southeast side is already environmentally overburdened, with manganese, petcoke and landfill pollution already impacting the health and safety of residents, and we must not continue to use the neighborhood as the City's dumping ground.

The Mayor promised environmental justice. To approve this move would be an injustice to the Southeast side. The City promised the Southeast side transparency, but passed one of two City permits without informing residents. It's time to follow through on these promises and protect all the Chicago communities, not just those on the Northside.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,
Sean Long

[REDACTED]
Mt. Prospect, IL 60056

From: Sean Long [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 2:47 PM
To: envcomments
Subject: Please deny General Iron's final permit request

[Warning: External email]

Dear Environmental Permitting and Inspections,

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Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,
Sean Long

[REDACTED]
Mt. Prospect, IL 60056

From: Natalie Spetter [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 4:22 PM
To: envcomments
Subject: Please deny General Iron's final permit request

[Warning: External email]

Dear Environmental Permitting and Inspections,

I'm writing to demand that the City of Chicago deny the remaining Class IVB Large Recycling Facility Application permit needed for RMG to operate their scrap metal recycler, formerly known as General Iron, at their new location 11600 S Burley Avenue in the Southeast Side.

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During General Iron's tenure in Lincoln Park, they proved time and again that they are not a good neighbor with fires & explosions, City shut-downs, coating the neighborhood in toxic "fluff" and federal EPA citations. There is no reason to believe moving to a new neighborhood will put an end to these harmful practices.

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The Mayor promised environmental justice. To approve this move would be an injustice to the Southeast side. The City promised the Southeast side transparency, but passed one of two City permits without informing residents. It's time to follow through on these promises and protect all the Chicago communities, not just those on the Northside.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,
Natalie Spetter
[REDACTED]
Chicago, IL 60605

From: Jean [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 5:10 PM
To: envcomments
Subject: FW: Deny RMG Permit

[Warning: External email]

Please acknowledge receipt of the document below.

Jean Madigan
[REDACTED]

From: [Jean](#)
Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2021 12:21 AM
To: envcomments@cityofchicago.org
Subject: Deny RMG Permit

I would like to voice my objection to the expansion of RMG on the southeast side of Chicago. I attended the virtual meeting in December and am concerned about how that platform excluded many from participation. If this is not a "done deal" I would think that the pandemic we are currently experiencing would be sufficient reason to halt this expansion, or at least delay further action until we can safely meet in person to discuss it. The fact that this is even being considered at a time when research is showing that COVID-19 is more lethal for people who are breathing dirty air is absurd.

"Researchers from Harvard University's T.H. Chan School of Public Health analyzed data on PM2.5 levels and COVID-19 deaths from about 3,000 U.S. counties covering 98 percent of the U.S. population. Counties that averaged just one microgram per cubic meter more PM2.5 in the air had a COVID-19 death rate that was 15 percent higher."

"If you're getting COVID, and you have been breathing polluted air, it's really putting gasoline on a fire," said Francesca Dominici, a Harvard biostatistics professor and the study's senior author.

This is in addition to the wide-ranging health damage the environmental toxins of our community cause on their own. If, as your website states, "the City is committed to working with residents to improve quality of life and mitigate air pollution in low-income communities and communities of color disproportionately impacted by pollution" why are we even considering RMG's expansion to this area? Despite the city saying it is not "a violation of the federal Executive Order 12868 on Environmental Justice to move General Iron's facility to the southeast side of Chicago," it is an overt violation of the commitments Chicago makes to reducing racial & economic segregation when receiving Federal dollars from the US Dept of Housing and Urban Development. The City has moved a vast majority of industrial businesses from the rezoned North Branch Industrial Corridor to Industrial Corridors in Black & Latinx majority communities, in addition to giving 1.3 billion dollars of TIF money to that same area that is not blighted and would be enticing and profitable without such incentives to developers.

There are many terms the city is using that I find disturbing. We need to be protected from more than "visible" dust. "Mitigation" is not sufficient to keep our community safe. I still do not know the frequency of "regular" inspections. I am not comfortable with issues of "on-road mobile emissions sources and PM2.5" being "addressed in more comprehensive air permitting rules that we plan to develop." It is imperative that we are protected from PM2.5 now!

History has shown us that watchdog groups put in place to safeguard us end up serving other interests. We continue to be disappointed by elected officials, but hopefully current events have reminded us of the power of our vote. Do not assume that we are being fooled. RMG has acknowledged that the background PM10 measured by the IEPA Air Quality Monitors at GWHS is already at 77micrograms / L. These levels are considered dangerous by the World Health Organization and are illegal in the European Union. It is imperative that our air become cleaner, not more harmful! We also know that fines and citations are not effective in preventing additional violations.

For forty years, alongside other concerned citizens, I have worked to defend our community from threats to our health, our homes, and our children, by taking buses to hearings, attending meetings, signing petitions. It is exhausting, but we are motivated because it is the right thing to do. Now we need the decision makers and influencers to do the right thing, too. RMG's history of polluting our ground, water, and air should be sufficient to deny this permit. Current regulation is not preventing violations. We need a moratorium on polluting industry in this area already oversaturated with pollution, not expansion of it. The Chicago Department of Public Health must assert its regulatory authority to protect the health of Chicago's residents in the 10th Ward. Please deny this permit.

Thank you,
Jean Madigan

From: Susan Carton [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 5:57 PM
To: envcomments
Subject: RMG

[Warning: External email]

I am opposed RMG building a metal recycling facility at 11600 S. Burley in Chicago for the following reasons:

Metal recycling is an activity that heavily pollutes the surrounding environment, RMG has been sanctioned for violating pollution guidelines at 11 of its other facilities, this facility will likely do the same.

The Southeast Side neighborhood is made up of Latino families who on their own do not have the resources to fight for clean air and water they deserve.

Historically, the Calumet Region has been a dumping ground for industrial polluters, this facility will place an even greater burden the area. Recently there has been a great effort to restore some of the natural features of this unique ecosystem. Adding this facility to the already deeply scarred area is an affront to the neighborhood and to the people of Illinois who lay claim to the Calumet Region

Susan Carton

From: Erin Fry [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 7:07 PM
To: envcomments
Subject: Please deny General Iron's final permit request

[Warning: External email]

Dear Environmental Permitting and Inspections,

I'm writing to demand that the City of Chicago deny the remaining Class IVB Large Recycling Facility Application permit needed for RMG to operate their scrap metal recycler, formerly known as General Iron, at their new location 11600 S Burley Avenue in the Southeast Side.

At the end of last year, the City responded to RMG's final permit application with a letter of deficiency. I wholly agree with this response. RMG's permit application is "substantially deficient." The deficiency letter underscores why the community and the City cannot trust that RMG will operate a new facility at the 11600 S. Burley site safely and that CDPH must not grant a permit to RMG for the new incarnation of General Iron on the Southeast Side. RMG has now resubmitted their permit, but the problems and threats to the surrounding community are still there. The city therefore must deny this new permit in order to protect the health and well being of the neighborhood.

During General Iron's tenure in Lincoln Park, they proved time and again that they are not a good neighbor with fires & explosions, City shut-downs, coating the neighborhood in toxic "fluff" and federal EPA citations. There is no reason to believe moving to a new neighborhood will put an end to these harmful practices.

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The Mayor promised environmental justice. To approve this move would be an injustice to the Southeast side. The City promised the Southeast side transparency, but passed one of two City permits without informing residents. It's time to follow through on these promises and protect all the Chicago communities, not just those on the Northside.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,
Erin Fry
[REDACTED]
Chicago, IL 60642

From: Mail service [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 11:01 PM
To: envcomments
Subject: RMG General Iron Shredding facility

[Warning: External email]

Dear Envcomments: I once worked right across the river from where general iron is currently located, near 1685 N. Throop for about 1.5 years and the pungent smell and metallic flakes that used to carry over via the wind/air was something that never went away while I worked across the river from general iron and I used to get sick of smelling the pungent odor coming from the general iron plant and there was never a day that went by where after my shift at work, my vehicle would not be completely covered in the metallic particles that floated over from general iron's shredding facility. And when I used to take walks on my lunch hour, I would walk near the general iron plant and it was always filthy in that area and filled with nothing but crushed vehicles waiting to be shredded, with dirt and noise all around coming from the non-stop traffic of trucks delivering more and more crushed vehicles waiting to be shredded. And there's the many fines that have been levied at general iron that I've read about in the newspapers makes it apparent that who would want such a company in their neighborhood? Not me, and btw, why doesn't RMG or the proprietors of general iron move the plant to their neighborhood in Ohio? See how they like, it. I can guarantee you that they won't, because they know firsthand the pollution it causes. Anyhow, I once spoke to an employee of general iron and I asked him how he like working there, and he stated that it was hard and dangerous work, so my opinion of general iron is that it's a company that doesn't care about the environment, its employees and most of all the residents, not matter how much they state that they're a legally qualified business operating pursuant to rigorous controls and conditions. It's a bunch of B.S., it's all about the money for them. And the only reason that the Lincoln Park residents have been successful in getting general iron to close down and relocate is because it's an affluent neighborhood where its largely white residents have money, and that includes the investors of the Lincoln Yards development projects.

I think that it was totally wrong for governor pritzker and mayor lightfoot to approve the move for the RMG/General Iron shredding facility to the Southeast side of Chicago, especially since our neighborhood is already filled with business along the Calumet River that are already polluting our neighborhood with heavy metals. You can bet that they don't live in a polluted area, because they're smart enough to realize, like us, that pollution is unhealthy, especially heavy metals and metallic particles floating around in the air, one breathes into one's lungs. Also, since the Southeast side where general iron wants to move to, is a lower working-class neighborhood made up of brown and black people, the Pritzker administration and the City of Chicago and RMG/General Iron, apparently don't care about our neighborhood and its residents, and so I pray that the lawyers for the Civil Rights divisions at the EPA and the Department of Housing and Urban Development, investigating the approval for RMG/General Iron to move to the Southeast side, find that it is illegal and that they block the RMG/General Iron move entirely, because enough is enough. If we as residents don't speak up, then what? We get stepped on, and we can't let that happen.

Best, Benito Herrera