June 13, 2018

Department of Public Health  
Attn: Environmental Permitting and Inspections  
333 South State Street, Room 200  
Chicago, IL 60604

To whom it may concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Chicago Department of Public Health’s (“CDPH”) proposed changes to the Rules and Regulations for Control of Emissions from the Handling and Storage of Bulk Material Piles (“Bulk Material Rules” or “Rules”). These comments are submitted on behalf of the Alliance for the Great Lakes (Alliance).

The Alliance is working collaboratively with many different partners and Southeast Side residents who live, work and play near the Calumet River to help plan and advocate for a revitalized riverscape, one where both residents and industry thrive. In order to realize this future, the City of Chicago must take aggressive action to address the pervasive air and water pollution threatening the health and well-being of Southeast Side Residents.

Manganese has threatened and is threatening the health and well-being of Southeast Side residents. Given the recently identified soil problems and ongoing issues with air pollution, and new research on the threats from manganese, the Alliance supports CDPH aggressively addressing manganese pollution to protect public health. We also believe that the City must adopt a comprehensive plan for addressing environmental justice burdens on the Southeast Side, specifically addressing land use on the Southeast Side in light of the pressures from re-visioning and re-zoning of the North Branch.

Thank you for considering our comments. If you have any questions please contact me at mflanagan@greatlakes.org or (312) 445-9741.

Sincerely,

Molly M. Flanagan
Vice President, Policy