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MAYOR EMANUEL INTRODUCES ORDINANCE TO CRACK DOWN ON HARMFUL PET COKE DUST
Ordinance Will Ban New Pet Coke, Coke, And Coal Facilities in Chicago And Prohibit Existing Facilities From Expanding

Mayor Rahm Emanuel, Alderman John Pope (10th), and Alderman Ed Burke (14th) introduced an ordinance at City Council today that will prevent Chicago from becoming a dumping ground for pet coke by prohibiting new petroleum coke, known as "pet coke," coke and coal facilities in the city and banning expansion of existing facilities that process, store, or handle the material.

"Protecting the health and safety of our residents is a top priority, and we will continue to work to regulate their operations to ensure our residents have the best possible quality of life," said Mayor Emanuel. "Just as we fought to shutter the two remaining coal power plants in Chicago, we are working to force existing petroleum coke facilities to either clean up or shut down. These efforts are a significant step to prevent dust from settling in residential areas, and we will not allow new facilities to open or existing facilities to expand."

Pet coke is a solid carbon material derived as a byproduct of the oil refining process and is typically used as a fuel source in power plants. A significant amount of pet coke is produced by the BP facility in Whiting, Indiana, and it is anticipated that the amount of pet coke produced by this facility will triple in the coming year due to an influx of oil from Canada and recent upgrades made to the facility.

The new ordinance will prevent Chicago from becoming the primary dumping ground for any expansion in pet coke production by prohibiting new pet coke, coal, and coke facilities from opening within any district in the city. Existing pet coke, coke, and coal facilities will also be prohibited from expanding their physical footprint. The types of uses that will trigger the prohibitions are new or expanded facilities for coal or coke, including facilities that process, transport, store, handle, or consume the material. For example, the ordinance would prohibit new or expanded footprints of handling facilities to transship coal or pet coke, and, since coal and coke are generally burned for energy, these materials would no longer be used for power generation in plants or for new or expanded industrial kilns.

"Through this ordinance, we are ensuring that the Southeast side of Chicago will not become a permanent dumping ground for these materials," said Alderman John Pope, 10th Ward. "This action

demonstrates the City's serious stance against those operations that are conflict with making our City a healthier, safer, place to live."

The proposed zoning ordinance is aimed at combatting related, but distinct, quality of life issues. The storage, placement, retention, loading, unloading, stockpiling, and processing of coke & coal bulk material such as petroleum coke negatively impacts residential communities near the facilities. Perhaps most importantly, the airborne particulate matter these activities create migrates into residential areas, subjecting Chicagoans to severe inconvenience and unpleasantness by blackening their homes and vehicles, and making it impossible for them to enjoy their outdoor spaces. These coke and coal bulk material uses therefore not only significantly impact nearby residents' quality of life, but also have the practical effect of reducing their property values and inhibiting economic development in their neighborhoods.

The Emanuel Administration is joining the aldermen in proposing the ordinance as the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) is finalizing regulations relating to the handling and storage of bulk materials. Following a call for residents to report pet coke, the City released draft regulations in December that would require bulk storage facilities to fully enclose bulk solid fuel materials, and adopt other best management practices to prevent the spread of these materials into the air.

Since that time, the City and Alderman Pope hosted a public hearing on the issue and the draft regulations were posted online for public comment through February 7, 2014. City officials are currently reviewing public comments before finalizing regulations. Public comments are available for review [HERE](#).

Pet coke generally contains high concentrations of carbon and sulfur, and also may include trace elements of metals such as vanadium, nickel, chromium and lead. Inhaling pet coke can contribute to serious respiratory health problems, particularly for individuals who suffer from heart and lung disease and asthma.

To report a sighting of pet coke dust, residents should call 311, go online to www.cityofchicago.org/311, or email reportpetcoke@cityofchicago.org. Additional information on pet coke is available at www.cityofchicago.org/petcoke.

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