



Health Impact Assessment: Southside Recycling Permit Application

Public Engagement Session #2: Breakout Session #5

[Audio](#) | [Video](#)

1. Benefits - Based on what you have heard thus far, please share some of the potential benefits of this proposal on you and your community. Who specifically benefits?

The owners of RMG. The Labkon family.

RMG has multiple permits, but cumulatively, if they applied as a single site, may not be given the City permitting process and don't comply.

Know families that are ill (chronic illness), and the past history of the legacy pollution (steel mills), who this benefits fundamentally are shareholders and owners, pharma over medication, etc.

Understand it's a job and need to work, but also it's where people live, and it's not the only company. Concern if the permit is given, that more companies will try to increase in size and increase the pollution affecting his family.

From what I know so far the business, its employers and other business that benefit from the material being recycled on site.

I think that it goes to the customer, we help them as they help us in the business of recycling

Know of concerns, RMG is being unfairly grouped with legacy polluters in SE side. Steel mills have a legacy, and RMG operates over that land and cleaned the site, and recycles under strict regulations.

Feels it helps the community to recycle. It also helps himself and his family as an employee.

2. Burdens - Based on what you have heard thus far, please share some of the potential burdens of this proposal on you and your community. Who specifically is burdened?

Burdens, legacy pollution, over 100 industries to emit, and RMG has one. They state in the application vs the EPA sensor at GWHS, is above the WHO threshold. The reality on the SE side is no more added pollution

There is already a lot of particulate matter in the air and more is dangerous for public health. Any increase in PM10 & heavy metals like Mn, Cadmium, and lead. Has adverse health effects - there is no minimum risk for lead and cadmium.

There are multiple industries and the issue is that it is cumulative and additive. Hope that the city looks at past citations. The new permit allows for new shredder, but look at past history of explosion when on

Understand what the city has interpreted, but what has happened in the past has already demonstrated what will happen. The rules state that the city can deny the permit. It's RMG's responsibility to build a facility

Would like the city follow the rules and think about the residents that live in the area. The limits EPA set are well below the WHO.

The quick answer is the community will burden over dirty industry. I've done my research, I've seen both sides of this fight and I need the city to do its job. Show us data, explain these reports, and show us how we will begin to

Agree SE side is overburdened and well-documented with petcoke, manganese, and steel mills in the past. RMG is complying with stringent rules. Why don't the existing businesses comply with these standards

Equipment from northside and transferred to the southside have been tested by the EPA and approved that it works as it should. Issues in northside are acknowledged but were resolved.

I think the one thing that everyone in this group can agree on is that the City has been, at best, incompetent in their administration of this process.

3. Lived Experience - Is there anything else that you want people who are working on this proposal to know or think about based on your experience as a community member?

In General Iron/BMC moving to SE side, feel the employees helped their family.

To show us the number of residents you employ, that they are in fact living wages what they are being paid, the jobs are sustainable and the effect this has had on your company.

Suggestion that BMC doesn't care or would want malfunction of their equipment, is not what they want. Them and the city investigated and added safeguards.

the city has a duty to protect public health under title vi and title viii of the civil rights act

Hard to hear mothers crying over their children, and hearing from those that don't live in lab family that their air is fine. What does it say about the city that don't listen to residents and don't follow HIA community involvement.

Cumulative burden when residents work and their kids get ill, or when the age gap shows a scientific fact that PM2.5 lowers life expectancy.

They failed to do so. They failed on multiple occasions. I'm pulling up the consent decree from the EPA. You have failed on multiple occasions.

Data is deficient, UIC SDH and NDDC put out a memo on deficiencies over the data CDPH put out.

BMC have shown failures to properly protect area residents when it was CI on northside.

City responsibility is to the residents of the SE side and that industry is protecting families as well as benefit, not harmed healthwise, economically and not displaced and assist in living life. This development is not that.

There is already enough evidence to show the opening of BMC will have adverse effects on public health.

Was gentrified out of S. Chicago and caught in the middle between that and industry in the E. side.

City needs to do additional work that safeguards are in place. Biden admin is due to revise of PM2.5 levels mid-next year, and should wait for fed assessment before moving forward.

Unfair to do this during holidays.

This process has been frustrating and hard to perceive as having been in good-faith.

4. Looking Forward - Beyond the permit decision, what should we be aware of as we embark on other policy or process change initiatives? Do you have any specific recommendations?

City needs to reevaluate the permit process. If city allows this permit, allows other companies to outsource pollution to other companies they manage.

Like Ford, they can increase their allowable pollution by creating a small subsidiary to outsource more pollution.

City has some avenue of community dialogue, but needs to show that they are taking seriously the community dialogue.

Deny the permit, regardless what was already decided and need to listen to teh communities, for public health, for the community.

I think the city has to do a lot more leg work and really invest time in the communities. 10th ward is the largest ward in the city and has 50,000 residents. More public outreach needs to be done.

Fair housing and civil rights act and not perpetuate segregation.

City has laws and regs, and are ignoring their own laws.