

Exhibit 5

Public Comment for United States and Allegheny County Health Department v. United States Steel Corporation, D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-2-1-12083

Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division
P.O. Box 7611
Washington, DC 20044-7611

June 22, 2022

Assistant Attorney General:

First, I would like to express my appreciation of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Allegheny County Health Department to address the chronic, more than a century old problems perpetrated by United States Steel Corporation, specifically, the Edgar Thomson plant against fenceline communities in the Mon Valley of Pennsylvania. Not only the harm it has consistently delivered to the people who live adjacent to it's crumbling and declining structures and operations but also the harm it contributes to the land, the river that it sits on the banks of, the animals, plants, ancestors, and future living beings that have to contend, remediate, and be poisoned by its drive for profits.

June 21, 2022 was a particularly bad air quality day. An alert was issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and the Allegheny County Health Department. Here's a photograph taken by a community member the morning of June 21, 2022 of Edgar Thomson.



This is one example on one day of the harm that US Steel inflicts on its neighbors and the region. This is why it is incredibly important for the actions of this court to prioritize the safety and health of all who live here. This consent decree is an opportunity to center justice for so many of us who live adjacent to this major source polluter.

One of my concerns about the proposed consent decree is the lack of community engagement and input about how money from the fine will be dispersed. Connectivity is an important issue. The proposed use of the fine to contribute to a bicycle trail along Braddock Avenue could eventually be a valuable asset for the municipalities it crosses as well as other people in the region. However, there are many issues our environmental justice community faces. Transportation is one. It will not be solved by a bicycle path. How will using the fine to help fund a \$9 million dollar bicycle trail system mitigate the ongoing air, soil, and water contamination that is the result of the activities at Edgar Thomson? Additionally, what was the process used to determine the use of the money? This seems like it would have been an excellent opportunity to connect with residents of Braddock, East Pittsburgh, North Braddock, and North Versailles, the four municipalities in which Edgar Thomson sits, to discuss how best to use the fine money to improve our lives, health, and mitigate some of the harms generated by Edgar Thomson. I propose that the consent decree adjust the determination of the use of the fine, that a robust justice centered, community process is outlined to determine the use of this money.

Transparency is another important aspect to ensuring the consent decree is focused on justice for fenceline community members. Regular updates about ET's notice of violations, what work if any is being done to mitigate the pollution episodes, what measures are being taken to improve conditions, and so on are critical to keeping residents informed and up to date of the work regulatory agencies are doing to protect our health and safety. This could be done in a variety of ways including monthly updates from ACHD at municipal council meetings, creating meaningful engaging dialogue with community members via regularly scheduled public meetings in our communities, updates at ACHD Board of Health Meetings, newsletters, and overall relationship building with environmental justice communities.

As someone who lives a little more than ½ mile away from Edgar Thomson, I encourage the court to view this consent decree as a way to reduce harm to all the living beings in the Mon Valley and region. It is an opportunity to prioritize public health and safety. To work towards extending life expectancy through the reduction of air, water, and land pollution. Our communities cannot continue to be a sacrifice zone.

Sincerely,

Edith Abeyta

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