GASP (Group Against Smog and Pollution) strongly opposes the interim final rule published on July 3 that delays compliance deadlines for National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Integrated Iron and Steel Making Facilities.

These revisions, which were initially set to improve air quality and protect public health, are now being undermined by extended compliance timelines, specifically impacting facilities like U.S. Steel’s Edgar Thomson Works in our region.

The decision to push back compliance deadlines from April 3, 2025, or April 3, 2026, to April 3, 2027, for critical standards is unacceptable.

While the EPA cites industry-provided information about infeasibility for most delays, and "consistency" for the fenceline monitoring requirement, these reasons do not outweigh the significant public health consequences.

This delay, while saving nine facilities an estimated $3.3 to $3.5 million, will result in an additional 120 tons of hazardous air pollutants being emitted that would have been avoided under the original deadlines.

This is a detrimental trade-off that prioritizes industry convenience and budget considerations over the health and well-being of frontline communities that disproportionately bear the burden of air pollution.

Delaying these vital protections jeopardizes air quality progress and prolongs exposure to harmful pollutants for communities living near these facilities. We urge the EPA to reverse this interim final rule and enforce the original compliance deadlines to safeguard public health and uphold environmental justice.