



League of Women Voters of Michigan

600 W. Saint Joseph St., Suite 3G
Lansing, MI 48933-2288

EDUCATING AND ADVOCATING FOR RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

January 22, 2016

Annette Switzer,
Acting Permit Section Supervisor
MDEQ Air Quality Division
P.O. Box 30260
Lansing, MI 48909-7760

RE: Permit 8-08B – AK Steel

Dear Ms. Switzer,

The LWV of Michigan opposes any increase to pollution emissions in the Dearborn/Detroit area which are already known to have the highest levels of pollution in the State of Michigan. In particular, the LWV of Michigan has some serious concerns regarding the AK Steel application for the 27.75 tpy increase of VOC emissions for the Hot Dip Galvanizing Line (currently 10.9 tpy) and the Pickle Line Tandem Cold Mill. The requested increase in pollution will further degrade the local air quality as well as the air quality of communities downwind of the facilities.

The citizens in Dearborn, Dearborn Heights and Detroit are largely comprised of minorities - they are not wealthy, nor are they politically powerful. Such a situation exposes environmental justice concerns. The Census data below indicates a level of vulnerability in the affected populations.

Percentage of People in Community Demographic – per the US Census 2010-2014			
	Detroit	Dearborn	Dearborn Heights
White*	10.6	89.1	86.1
Black	82.7	4.0	7.9
Hispanic	6.8	3.4	4.7
Below Poverty	39.8	28.6	19.4
Foreign Born	5.2	26.5	18.3
Primary Language other than English	9.8	47.0	27.4
Lack of Health Insurance	21.4	15.7	17.2

* White includes Arab Americans in Census data

Certainly, these people need jobs that will enable them to take care of their families, but they should not have to do so at the loss of a healthy environment.

The LWV of Michigan has concerns about how provisions stated in the permit will be enforced.

For instance, item number 6 of the AK Steel Dearborn Works draft permit (A8640) No. 8-08B, specifically