



Theresa Mah

State Representative • 2nd District
2108 W. 35th Street • Chicago, IL 60609
Phone: (872) 281-5775

August 5th, 2019

John J. Kim
Director
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
1021 North Grand Ave. East
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, IL 62794-9276

Sent via email to john.kim@illinois.gov

Dear Director Kim,

After numerous meetings with constituents in my district, particularly those who reside in McKinley Park, I am writing to express my opposition to the issuance of a 5 year operating permit for MAT Asphalt, located on 2055 W. Pershing Rd, Chicago, IL 60609. The temporary "construction" permit for this plant issued in 2017 has expired as of July 2nd. However, the IEPA has still allowed the asphalt plant to operate despite having their first 5-year permit rejected in February 2019.

In their February application, MAT Asphalt Plant had failed to include fugitive dust in their emissions report, which would have put their emissions at major source levels. According to a report by Block Club Chicago^[1], the dust rolled off the storage piles and out of the distribution trucks accumulate to more than 233.76 tons per year. That is well over the limit according to IEPA standards. I believe it is in the best interest of the health of the community for the permit not to be reissued until we can verify that MAT Asphalt Plant will implement a Fugitive Dust Control Plan that includes covering each truck that departs the facility and commit to wetting the asphalt at least once a week to prevent particles from becoming airborne.

In addition, as MAT Asphalt is located in an Environmental Justice area, I strongly urge IEPA to consider the cumulative impacts of potential emissions authorized by this proposed permit, and other existing sources and current ambient air quality conditions. The emissions proposed in the draft permit will add to health-threatening pollution already experienced in our community from transportation, other industrial, and ambient sources, and must be evaluated in that cumulative



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context. Evaluating MAT Asphalt's potential emissions in a vacuum, without regard to the pollution burden currently borne by the community, would fail to recognize actual current conditions and therefore to adequately protect public health.

Given these concerns, I urge you to schedule a public hearing before approving the 5 year permit in order to allow the community to voice their concerns and ask questions of the Agency and of MAT Asphalt.. It is my hope that you will take these action steps into consideration in order to allow for a more transparent and just process for our community.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at rep.theresamah@gmail.com or by phone (872) 281-5775.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Theresa Mah", written over a large, stylized inverted triangle.

Theresa Mah
IL State Representative
2nd District

Cc:
Neighbors for Environmental Justice
Theresa McNamara

[1] <https://blockclubchicago.org/2019/03/28/amid-concerns-over-toxic-dust-controversial-mckinley-park-asphalt-plan-applies-for-epa-permit-again/>