

From: Bill Almon (Quarry No)
Sent: Sunday, April 17, 2011 5:36 PM
Subject: Health Issues

When you met with the Air District they said no trouble found and that there were no current Health issues emanating from the Lehigh Cement operation. They mentioned the Acute Mercury Reference Exposure Level of .6ug/m3 and emphasized that Cupertino samples didn't come close ranging from .003ug/m3 to .008ug/m3 again sounding the "All Clear" which was very significant coming from the Agency responsible for Air Quality. We all had heard before the prior public assurances from Messrs. Broadbent and Bateman to the County Supervisors that there were no Health issues from the Lehigh operation.

The new (March 30) Health Risk assessment tells a different story. On page ES4 the statement is made that the Acute Hazard Indexes at the MEIR(2.1) and the MEIW(2.6) exceeded the BAAQMD notification threshold of 1.0 for 2008/2009 that the Acute Hazard Indexes at the MEIR(1.5) and the MEIW(1.9) exceeded the BAAQMD notification level for 2010 even with credit for full implementation of kiln mill dust recycling. This is the first time Lehigh has admitted exceeding any notification level but then they argue they are historic numbers and of no consequence so Public Notification is not required.

This however is not a mere numbers game. The MEIW is the Maximum Exposed Individual Worker near Deer Hollow Farm in Rancho San Antonio which is funded by Los Altos Hills. The dangerous mercury falling on him is also falling on the visitors to the Farm and Park as well as on the Maryknoll Center and adjacent residences. According to Lehigh even after more equipment is installed this MEIW Acute Hazard Index only drops to .94, a hair below the 1.0 notification threshold.

Montclair and Waldorf schools are in Los Altos City limits and represent Lehigh air pollution impacts there. Lehigh has dramatically raised the Mercury levels for both reporting Montclair at .42ug/m3 and Waldorf at .425ug/m3. Since the MEIW is considered to be an Adult and not as susceptible as a child or a mother plus is assumed to only be impacted at work it could be that these lower Montclair and Waldorf levels also trigger public notification.

The Air District knew, as did we, that the current HRA was wrong and that the Mercury levels were dramatically understated based on multiple discussions with Lehigh after they directed Lehigh

to revise the draft HRA that Lehigh had submitted September 13,2010. While we talked about it in our 1 minute speeches Messrs. Broadbent and Bateman said all is well misleading the Public and the Supervisors. Now Lehigh is lobbying the Air District that Public Notification is still not required on the basis that new equipment (still in crates) will be installed later this year.

However regardless of future events Lehigh states that .42ug/m³ of mercury is falling on Montclair and Waldorf schools right now and has been for several years. There is no debate that it is falling and that the source is Lehigh. Is it harmful? Is there a residual impact even after it stops? We suggest that Los Altos and Los Altos Hills ask the Air District for a written statement that there is no health impact from these levels in the vicinity of these schools. Concurrently it would be reassuring to ask the same question of a qualified but independent professional.

Even if the question is never asked there must be a statement to residents that since 2008 Lehigh has been dumping levels of toxins known to the State of California to be toxic and that they remain on the ground and in the water.

Bill