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South Durban
Community
Environmental
Alliance



12th February 2024

*Ms. Rosemary Van Heerden
Health Unite Head, Durban
Date: 12th February 2024*

Dear Ms. Van Heerden

We as the South Durban Community Environmental Alliance (SDCEA), write to you regarding an urgent matter.

Subject: Request for Facilitated Meeting Regarding Engen Refinery's Continuous Air Pollution Impact on fence-line Communities.

I am writing to you on behalf of the South Durban Community Environmental Alliance (SDCEA) to express our concerns regarding the ongoing air pollution emanating from the Engen Refinery, which is adversely affecting the communities residing in the vicinity, particularly the Fence-line communities. As representatives of these affected communities, it is imperative that we address this pressing issue in a collaborative manner to ensure the well-being and health of our residents.

The consistent emissions from the Engen Refinery have resulted in significant public health related complaints, environmental degradation and health hazards for the fence-line communities. The detrimental effects of air pollution on public health, including respiratory illnesses, cardiovascular diseases, and other adverse health outcomes, are well-documented in South Durban, considering the Health study done in 2004 to 2007. Therefore, it is imperative that immediate action is taken to mitigate the impacts of this pollution and safeguard the health and quality of life of our community members.

In light of these concerns, we respectfully request the eThekweni City Health Department to facilitate a meeting between the management of Engen Refinery and representatives from SDCEA and our external team to address the following objectives:

The Right to Know | The Duty to Inquire | The Obligation to Act

SDCEA Members
Earthlife Africa- Durban
GroundWork
Centre for Civil Society-UKZN
Isipingo Environmental Committee
Umlazi Unemployed peoples
movement

P.O. Box 211150
Buff, 4036
Kwazulu- Natal, South Africa
028- 964- NPO

SDCEA Members
Isipingo Ratepayers Association
Merebank Clinic Committee
Silverglen Civic Association
Wentworth Development Forum
Treasure Beach Environmental Forum
Christ the King Church

1. To comprehensively understand the scope and magnitude of the air pollution issues stemming from the Engen Refinery, including the types of pollutants being emitted and their potential health impacts on the surrounding communities.
2. To seek clarification from Engen Refinery regarding their existing pollution control measures and mitigation plans aimed at reducing air pollution and protecting the environment and public health.
3. Clarification on current and future emission licences at the ENGEN refinery and whether the AELs are being reviewed.
4. We also need to know whether ENGEN intend to submit a decommissioning plan.
5. To discuss any proposed or ongoing initiatives by Engen Refinery to address the concerns raised by the affected communities and ascertain the timelines for the implementation of these measures.
6. To explore opportunities for collaboration and coordination between Engen Refinery, the eThekweni City Health Department, and SDCEA in monitoring and addressing air quality issues in the fence-line communities.

We believe that convening this meeting will provide a platform for constructive dialogue and engagement among all stakeholders involved, thereby fostering transparency, accountability, and collective action in addressing the air pollution challenges facing our communities. Furthermore, it will enable us to work collaboratively towards finding sustainable solutions that prioritize the health and well-being of our residents.

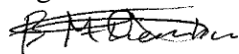
We kindly request your assistance in coordinating and scheduling this meeting at your earliest convenience. The City facilitating this dialogue process is greatly appreciated and will undoubtedly contribute to the collective efforts aimed at addressing the environmental and public health concerns of the fence-line communities.

Please feel free to contact us via email at bongani@sdceango.co.za or desmond@sdceango.co.za should you require any further information or clarification regarding this matter.

We look forward to your prompt response and cooperation in addressing this urgent matter.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Regards




Bongani Mthembu
Air Quality & GIS Officer
South Durban Community Environmental Alliance (SDCEA)



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