

**LAWRENCEVILLE**



**UNITED**



**LAWRENCEVILLE  
CORPORATION**

**Community Meeting on Air Quality/ McConway & Torley Issues**

**April 7, 2015**

**6 – 8pm**

**Goodwill**

# Meeting Overview

**Objective:** To share information compiled on air quality issues and updates on McConway & Torley. To create a forum for sharing questions, concerns, and information relative to these issues.

## **Agenda:**

- I. **Introductions/ Overview of Meeting**
- II. **Air Quality in Pittsburgh**
- III. **McConway and Torley Issues**
  - Air Quality and ACHD Permit/ Upcoming Public Hearing
  - Noise Updates
  - Other Items
- IV. **Additional Comments – McConway & Torley, GASP**
- V. **Q & A**
- VI. **Next Steps/ Wrap Up**

# Meeting Overview

## Ground Rules:

1. Please hold all questions for the end of the presentation. We will go back to a slide if there is a specific question or comment, so please jot own notes that you may want to revisit when we open it for Q&A.
2. Once opened for Questions and Comments, please raise your hand and only proceed with your question or comment once you have been acknowledged by the facilitator. Please also identify yourself by name, and also your relationship or interest in the issue.
3. Please be respectful of all speakers, including those asking questions and making comments.
4. Questions/ comments will be limited to 2 minutes each. A clarification question or comment will be permitted.
5. If time permits, we will call on individuals who would like to ask or make a second or additional question or comment.
6. Please also use index cards available if you'd like to submit a comment or question but are not able to in the meeting. We will compile as part of notes from the meeting.
7. If the ground rules are violated or ignored, we will ask the individual to leave the meeting, and if it continues, we will end the meeting.

# Air Quality in Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh is the 6<sup>th</sup> most offensive city in the country in terms of air pollution (2014 – American Lung Association).

Current levels of air pollution in Pittsburgh are harmful to human health  
- Pittsburgh is not in attainment of federal health-protective standards for specific pollutants.

As Pittsburgh evolves, it doesn't have to be a choice between industry or clean air –these issues can be resolved.

# Air Quality in Pittsburgh

How do we know how much air pollution is in the air?

- PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) monitors the air in most of the state.
- ACHD Air Quality Program oversees monitoring in Allegheny County – data is tracked from air quality monitors.
- Air Quality Index - developed by the EPA

Who is most at risk? Elderly, those with lung and heart disease, children, and groups that work, play, and exercise outdoors.

Advocacy Initiatives:

- The Breath Project ([breatheproject.org](http://breatheproject.org)) – coalition of residents, businesses, government, and other groups working to clean up air for the health of our families and economy.
- Group Against Smog and Pollution (GASP)

## 3 categories of air pollutants in this region:

Ground-level ozone or smog: gas formed when oxides of nitrogen and volatile organic compounds react chemically in the presence of heat and sunlight. Precursors to ozone are emitted by sources such as power plants, coke-and steel-making facilities, cars, trucks, buses, and construction equipment.

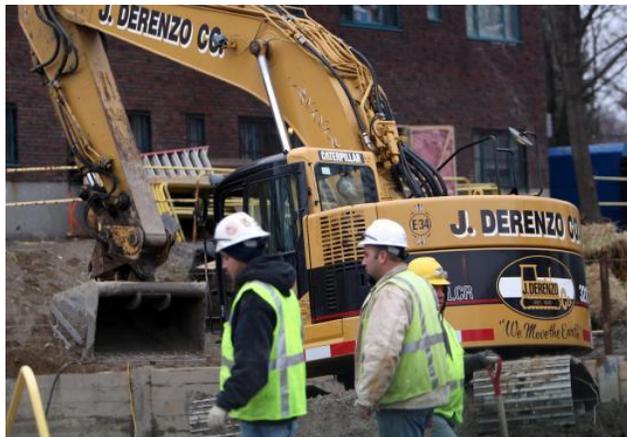
Air toxics : hazardous air pollutants that have a serious negative impact on human health like causing cancer, reproductive effects, or birth defects. Includes benzene (found in gasoline), heavy metals (mercury, lead, and arsenic). Coal fired plants are a major source of certain heavy materials.

Particulate matter/ soot: Pittsburgh's air quality is marked by high **levels** of particulate matter.

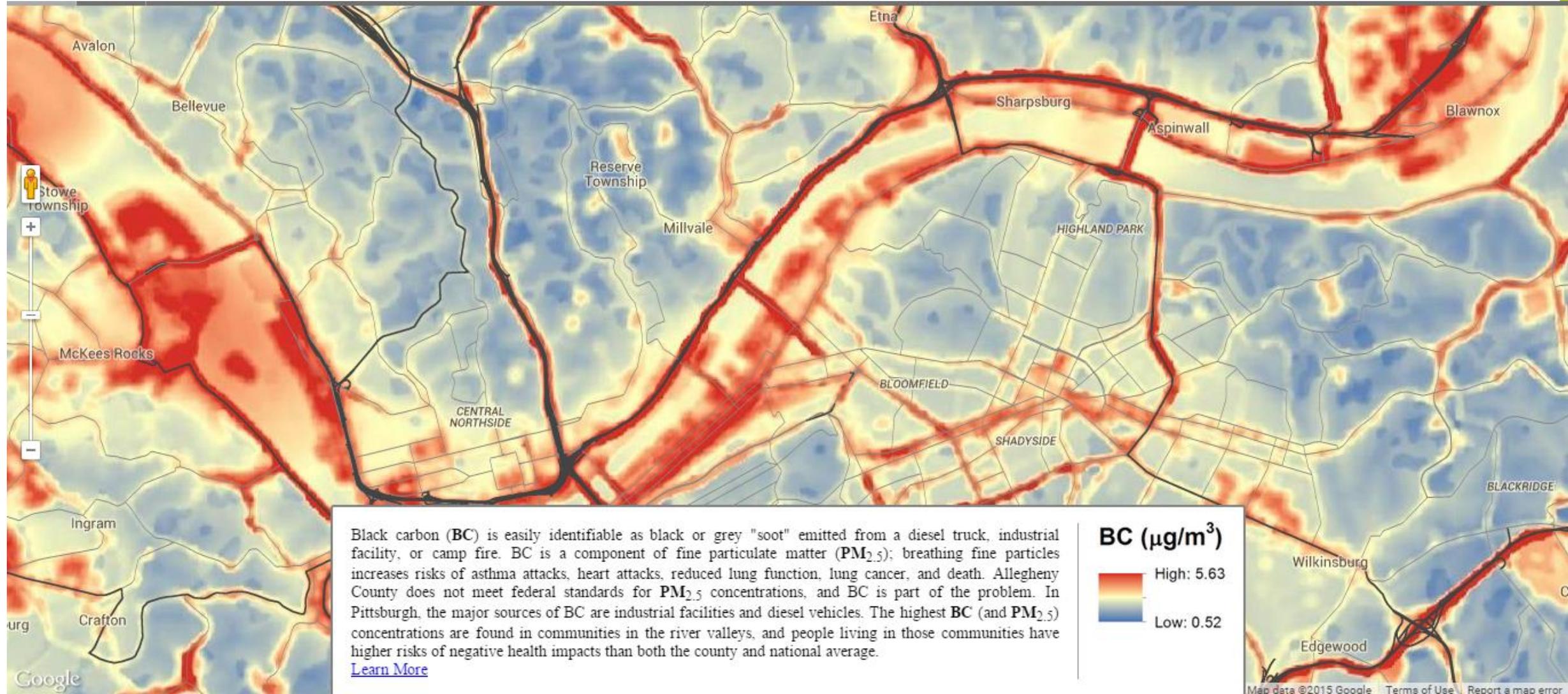
## Particulate matter (PM)

- Particulate matter – complex mixture of extremely small particles and liquid droplets.
- Size of particles is directly linked to their potential for causing health problems
- EPA groups particle pollution into two categories:
  - **"Inhalable coarse particles,"** such as those found near roadways and dusty industries, are larger than 2.5 micrometers and smaller than 10 micrometers in diameter.
  - **"Fine particles,"** such as those found in smoke and haze, are 2.5 micrometers (PM 2.5) in diameter and smaller. These particles can be directly emitted from sources such as forest fires, or they can form when gases emitted from power plants, industries and automobiles react in the air.
- Particulate matter aggravates asthma, can cause respiratory and heart problems, and has been linked to lung cancer and increased hospitalizations, especially among children and the elderly.

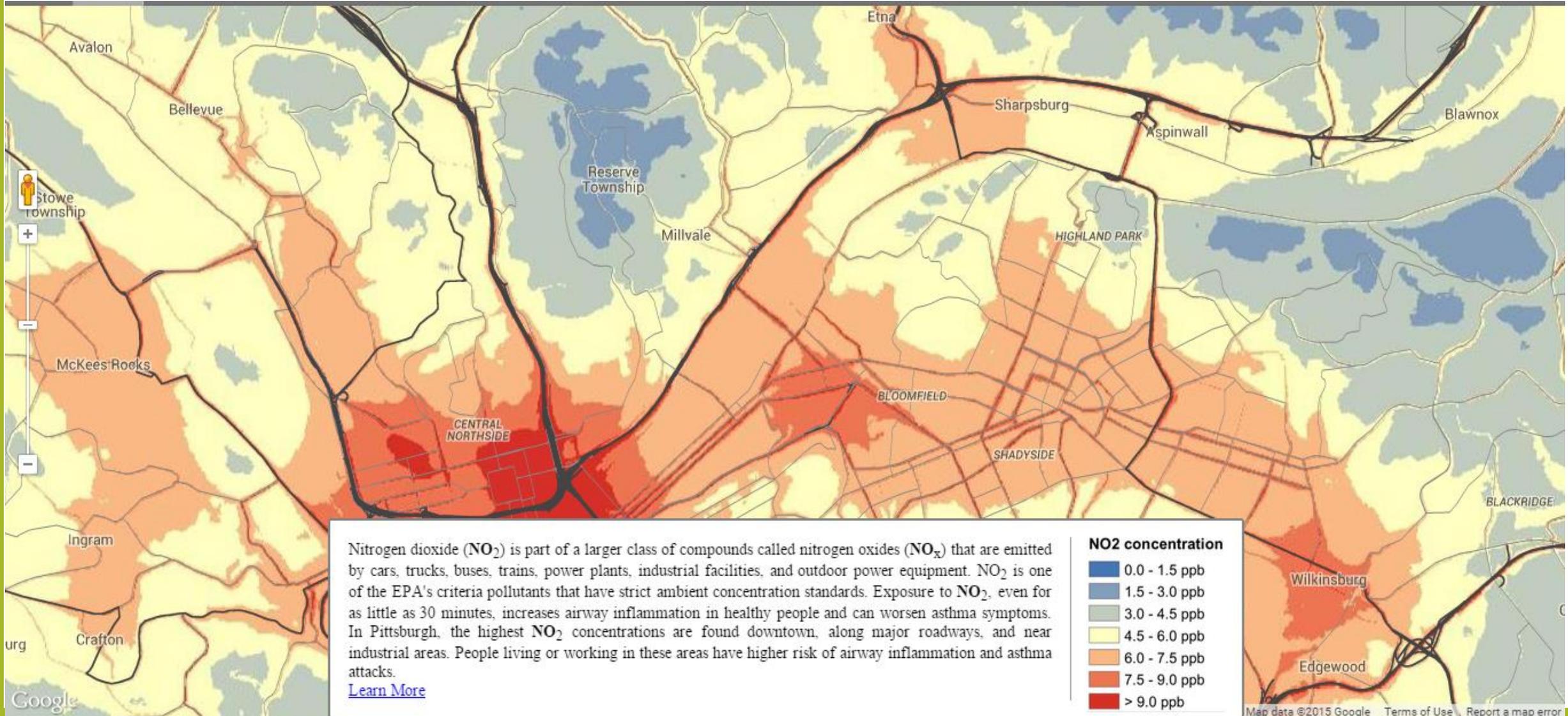
# What does Air Pollution look like?



**Fine Particulate Matter: Black Carbon (BC)** (Identifiable as black or grey soot emitted from diesel trucks, industrial facilities, or camp fires). BC is a component of fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>). Allegheny County does not meet federal standards for these concentrations. Increases risks of asthma attacks, heart attacks, lung cancer).



**Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>)** is emitted by trucks, cars, buses, trains, industrial facilities. EPA has strict standards relative to NO<sub>2</sub>. Exposure for 30 minutes, increases airway inflammation in healthy people and can worsen asthma symptoms. (Presto, CMU)



# Lawrenceville Issues

What are some factors or causes in Lawrenceville to be aware of?

- Truck and vehicular traffic
- Construction
- Wood Burning, Crematorium
- Increased Energy Use
- Industrial Facilities and Uses along the Allegheny River

What can you do to limit exposure to air pollution?

- **Speak up for clean air!**
- Pay attention to the Air Quality Index (AQI) - Plan outdoor activities on bad ozone days in morning before it accumulates. At risk groups should reduce exposure by limiting activity on Code Orange (and higher) days.
- Air filters, Carpool, Walk!
- Conserve energy! - save electricity and avoid burning wood and other material.

# Lawrenceville Issues

Of all EPA monitored areas of Pittsburgh with factories- Lawrenceville's 15201 is the single largest emitter of three major chemicals associated with developmental disorders (EPA's Toxic Release Data, 2014):

- Chromium, lead, and manganese
- The total release of these toxins from Lawrenceville's factories are 587% higher than the next monitored area (Neville Island).
- These values are 1074% higher than the next most polluted neighborhood with a population size similar to Lawrenceville (Swissvale).

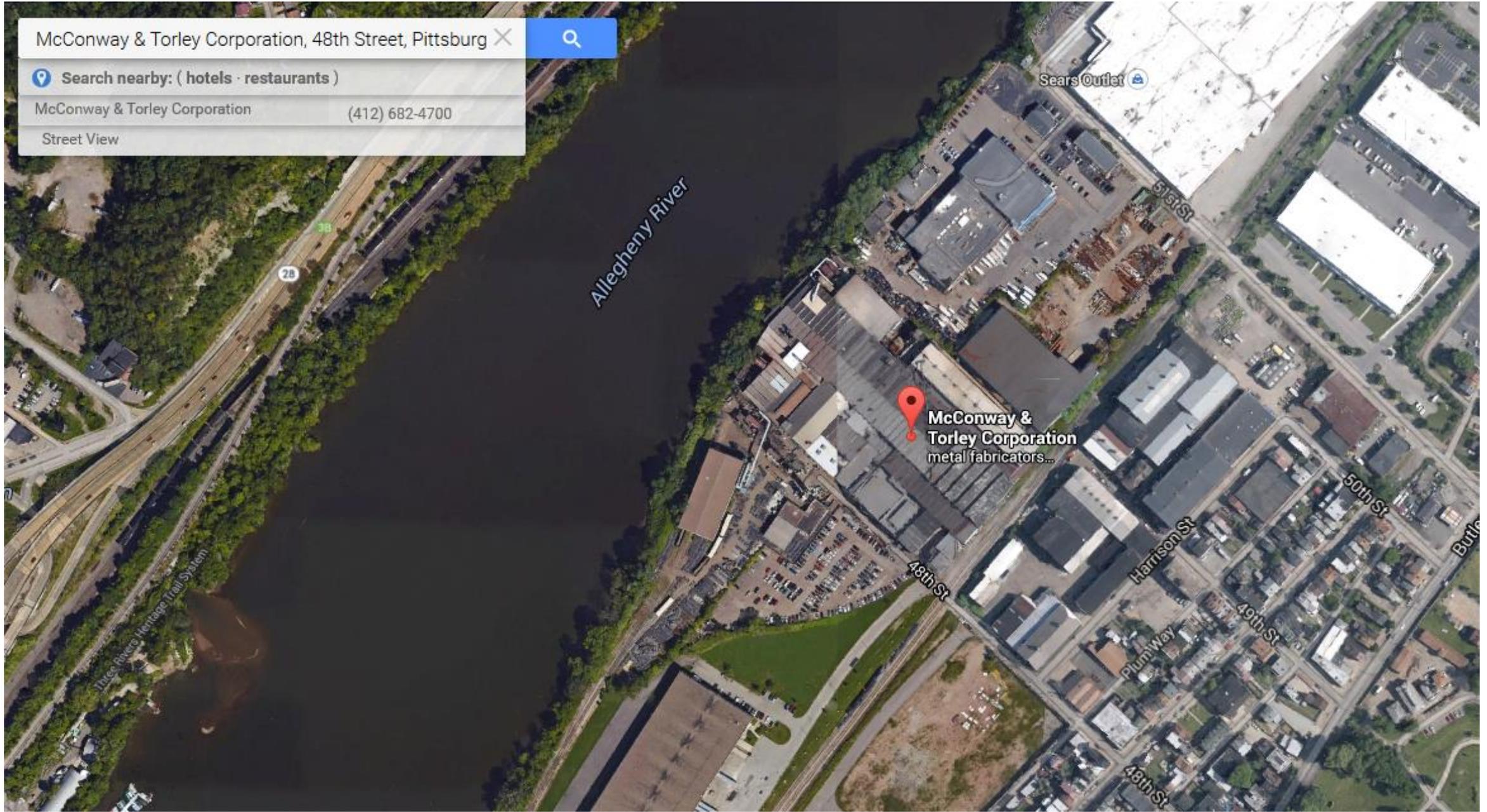
McConway & Torley Corporation, 48th Street, Pittsburg X



Search nearby: ( hotels · restaurants )

McConway & Torley Corporation (412) 682-4700

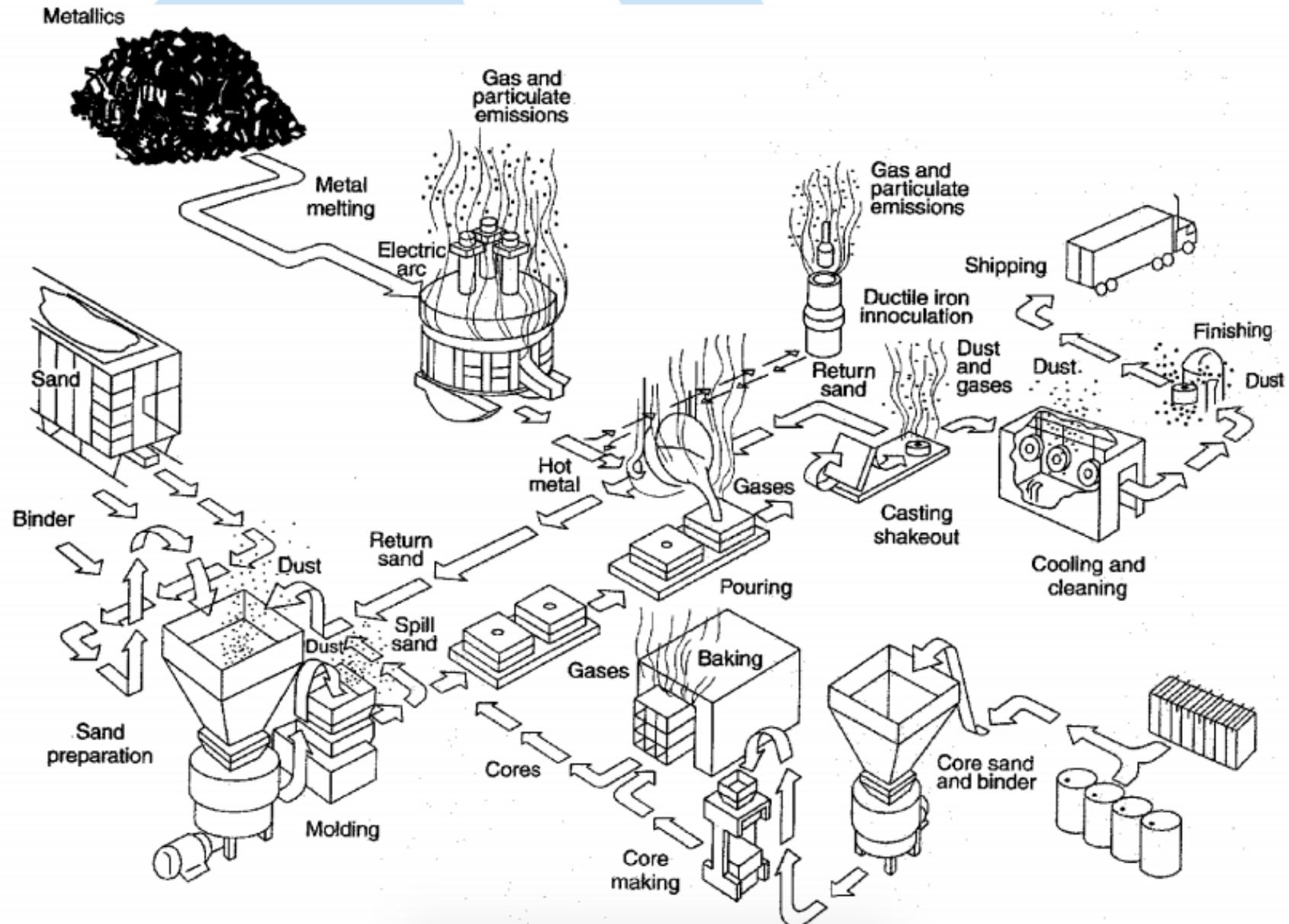
Street View



# McConway & Torley

- A steel foundry that manufactures steel rail and mining castings, has operated since 1868
- One of the railway's first suppliers of steel castings
- Owned by Dallas-based Trinity Industries since 1980 (2014 Revenue \$6.17 billion – MSN money)
- 400 employees, varying levels- currently 25 open positions, operates 24/7
- Moves ½ product by rail and ½ product by truck – moving as much to rail as possible





# McConway & Torley

## Operating as a synthetic minor source of:

- particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter (PM<sub>10</sub>)
- particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter (PM 2.5 )
- volatile organic compounds (VOCs) ( incl. benzene)
- Metals (incl. manganese)
- Carbon monoxide (CO)

## Operating as a minor source of:

- particulate matter (PM), Nitrogen oxides (NOX), sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), and hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) emissions.

# McConway & Torley

## ACHD Draft Operations Permit

- M & T had applied for 6 separate installation permits in 6 years (and operating with a limit of 92,500 tons of steel/ year).
- M& T applied for another installation permit in 2014. ACHD wanted to revisit the operational permit and other standards that were being reviewed county-wide.
- The County has changed standards – a building can no longer be used as a control device for emissions.
- Operations underway and changes within the County prompted a review of M& T's operations, emissions, and operational permits.
- Draft permit was released in January, 2015 – LU/ LC/ GASP requested extension and public hearing.
- As part of draft permit - facility is limited to melting 21,250 tons/ year of steel using 167,700 tons/ year of sand – to remain eligible for minor source status.
- Public Comment Period is open and Public Hearing scheduled for April 14<sup>th</sup>, ACHD (Penn Avenue), 6pm

# M&T Pollutants of Concern

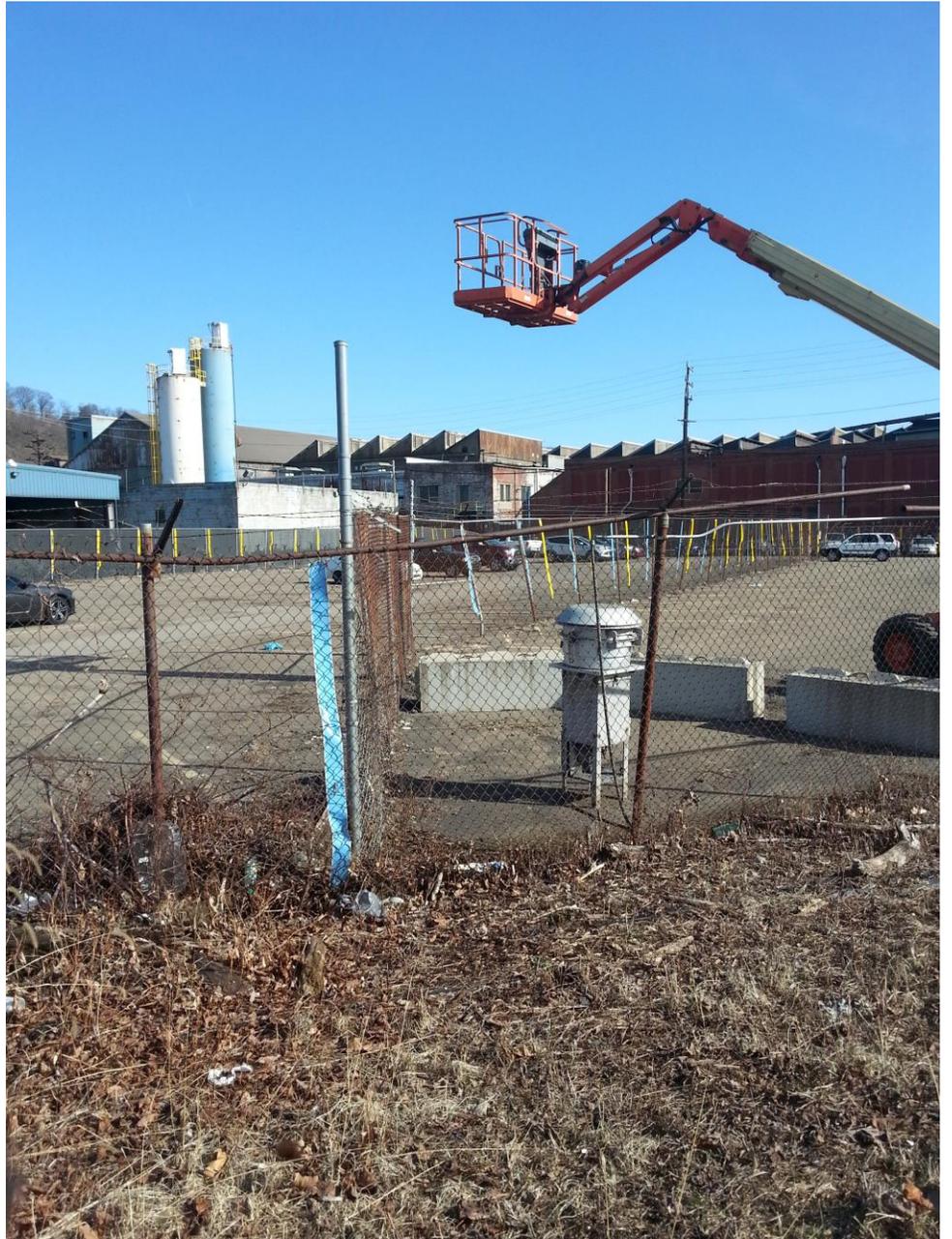
**Manganese:** exposure to high levels can experience health problems involving the nervous system, and undesirable effects on brain development in children (ATSDR).

- **ATSDR** (2012) (now referenced by the EPA and ACHD) has set a target/ level of 300 nanograms of manganese per cubic meter.
- **IRIS** (1993) set a target/ level of 50 nanograms of manganese per cubic meter.
- Current 4-year average is **79.2 nanograms per cubic meter** (M& T reports that these levels have decreased this year due to a new baghouse being installed in 2013-14).

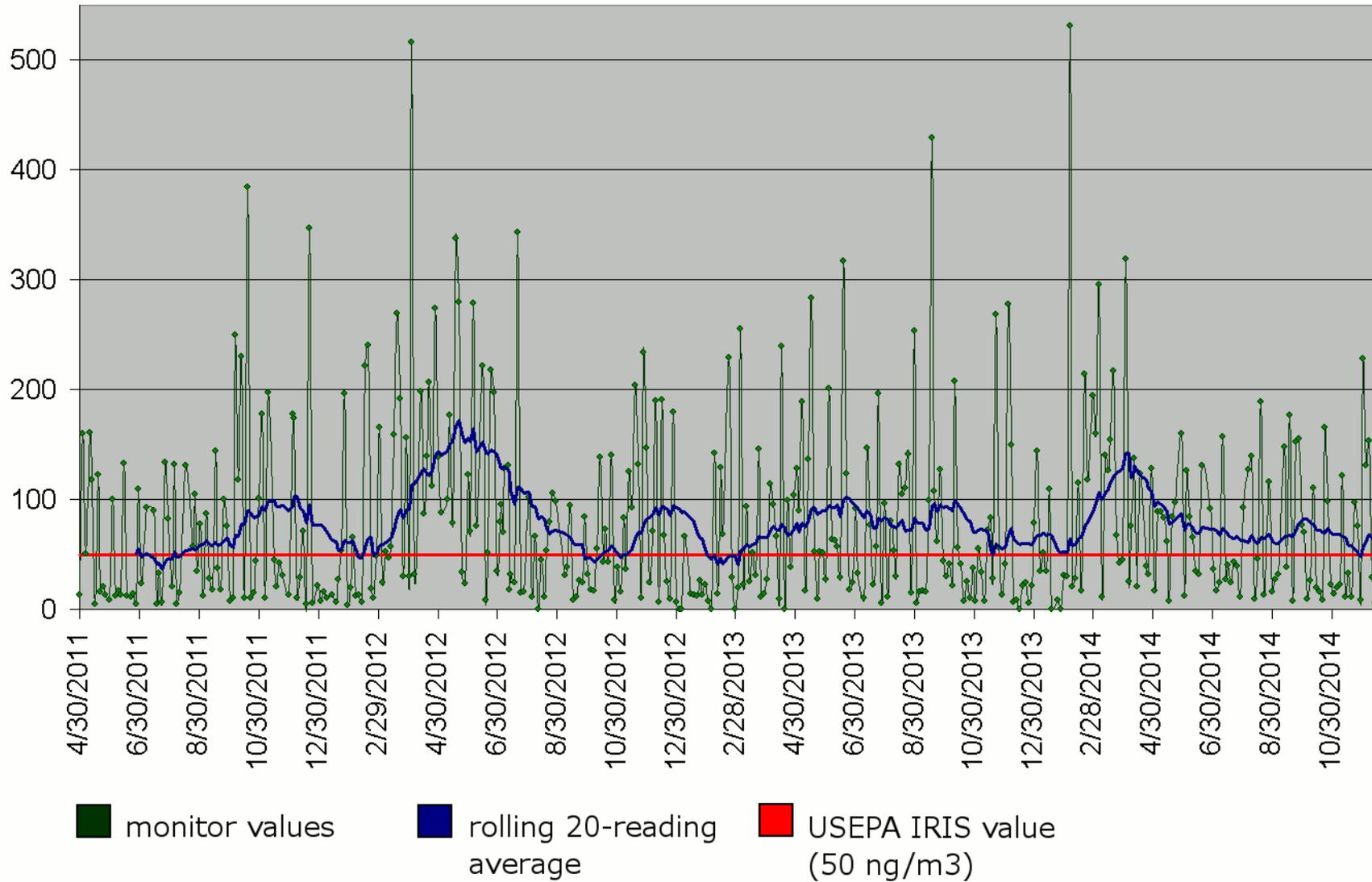
ation, 48th Street, Pittsburg



(412) 682-4700



ACHD monitored ambient air manganese concentrations at  
McConway & Torley facility fenceline. 4/30/2011 - 12/19/2014 (ng/m<sup>3</sup>)



# McConway & Torley Pollutants of Concern

## Particulate Matter:

- EPA sets levels and standards.
- We don't have data on particulate matter from M&T
- PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels in Lawrenceville are nearly 2 x the levels of other, cleaner parts of the city.

*(Tunno, B.J., Michanowicz, D., Shmool, J.L.C., Kinnee, E., Cambal, L., Tripathy, S., Gillooly, S., Chubb, L.G., Roper, C., Clougherty, J.E., Spatial Variation in Inversion-Focused vs. 24-hour Integrated Samples of PM<sub>2.5</sub> and Black Carbon across Pittsburgh, PA. Journal of Exposure Science and Environmental Epidemiology, (in press).*

## VOCs:

- We do not have data on VOCs emitted from M&T
- Emitted as gases from certain solids or liquids. VOCs include a variety of chemicals, some of which may have short- and long-term adverse health effects. Concentrations of many VOCs are consistently higher indoors (up to ten times higher) than outdoors.

# McConway & Torley

## Improvements made by McConway & Torley (reported by M&T)

- \$10 million in improvements made (baghouses, new capture hoods, other control measures since 2012).
- Applications under review by ACHD for \$8 million in additional improvements (installation permits not yet issued) that have not been implemented.
- They are increasing production and will continue to (over 11,000 tons of steel produced through March).

# Running List of Needed Information

**Need additional monitoring:** All emissions data currently comes from one monitor that is located on M&T property upwind of the main stacks of the foundry, and is located at the ground level.

No current (or shared) data on fine particulate pollution, heavy metal levels, or significant health anomalies (ex. cancer clusters) in the neighborhood itself.

Need a public health inventory of the neighborhood, or data shared if this has been done.

Need to monitor impacts of other causes within Lawrenceville community.

# McConway & Torley

## Other Quality of Life Issues:

- NOISE!
  - Reports of loud and constant humming since August 2014.
- TRAFFIC!
  - Truck traffic and impact of traffic continues to be an issue.



# McConway & Torley

## Noise

Humming (started in fall- 2014)- source likely to be baghouse fan as reported by M& T and ACHD.

City of Pittsburgh regulates noise issues (610.04 Noise Control)

- Daytime 65 Db(A)
- Nighttime 60 Db(A)

M& T has been monitoring noise in response to complaints : ranges from 57 Db(A) – 62 Db(A)

### **Changes made to date:**

- Industrial vacuum operations moved off inside facility and off 48<sup>th</sup> Street during operations (fall 2014)
- Installation of noise attenuating, deflecting hoods for redirection and dissipation for air compressor exhaust along 48<sup>th</sup> St. (fall 2014)
- Sound barrier wall constructed around dust collector 11 (fall 2014)

# McConway & Torley

## Planned Noise Reduction Controls (as reported by M&T April 2015)

- Construct sound barrier around dust collector 8 fan housings (Spring 2015)
- Install stack silencer inside baghouse exhaust for 11 (Spring 2015)
- Construct sound barrier around dust collector 11 fan housings (Spring 2015)
- Noise dampening walls/ barrier at the action arm handler (Spring 2015)
- Implement noise dampening/ stack silencer on 12 (New installation 2016)
- Plant trees along fence line at community side to aid in noise reduction (Spring/ Summer 2015)

## Traffic Issues

- Expressed willingness to work with community to identify preferred truck routes.

## Workforce Development

- Willingness to work with Lawrenceville WORKS! program to recruit candidates for open positions.

# Next Steps

**Follow Up on Questions and Requests from Meeting** – LU to post presentation and notes from meeting.

**Copy of Draft Permit** available at <http://www.achd.net/air/publiccomment2015/mcconway-synop-draft-b.pdf>

**Public Comment on ACHD Draft Permit** - Public Comment period is currently open and ends on April 14<sup>th</sup>. Submit comments to ACHD at 301 39<sup>th</sup> Street, Pgh, PA 15201 or to [aqpermits@achd.net](mailto:aqpermits@achd.net).

**ACHD Public Hearing on Draft Permit** - Hearing to be held April 14<sup>th</sup>, 6 pm, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room of Building 7 of the Clack Health Center, 301 39<sup>th</sup> Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15201. **Register to speak at the hearing by calling by 4:00 pm April 13<sup>th</sup> - 412-578-8103**

**Complaints:**

**Noise:** 3-1-1

**Odors, dust, smoke:** ACHD hotline 412-687-ACHD or online complaint form <http://www.achd.net/contactAQcomplaint.html>