

City of Minneapolis

Request for Committee Action

To: Health, Environment & Community Engagement
Date: 6/17/2016
Referral: Refer to a second committee.
From: Health Department
Lead Staff: Daniel Huff, Director Environmental Health
Presented by: Daniel Huff
File Type: Action
Subcategory: Staff Direction

Subject:

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's proposed action regarding Northern Metals

Description:

Directing appropriate staff to draft and submit written comments in support of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Notice of Intent to Revoke Without Reissuance the air quality permit for Northern Metals Recycling, LLC, Minneapolis facility.

Previous Actions:

March 21, 2012 Receive and File additional comments by Staff to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency regarding the Environmental Assessment Worksheet for Northern Metals LLC's application to amend its permit to operate a hammermill metal shredder at its Pacific Street scrapyard.

2001R-657 Direct staff to submit comments to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency regarding Northern Metals LLC's application to amend its permit to operate a hammermill metal shredder at its Pacific Street scrapyard in Minneapolis.

Ward/Address:

Ward 5
2800 Pacific Street North

Background/Analysis:

Northern Metals Recycling, LLC operates a metal shredding facility at 2800 Pacific Street North. This facility received a revised air quality permit from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) in 2012. During this 2012 permitting process, the City submitted written comments to the MPCA Commissioner and Citizen Board requesting this revised permit be denied, citing concerns of cumulative health impacts on Minneapolis residents and the lack of addressing Environmental Justice issues.

Since this time, MPCA air quality monitoring has reported high levels of total suspended particles and lead adjacent to 2800 Pacific Street North.

The Hawthorne Neighborhood, which includes 2800 Pacific Street North, has the highest incidence of lead poisoning in children within the city and one of the highest rates of asthma hospitalization rates in the state.

Financial Review:

No financial impact.

Attachments:

1. MPCA Public Notice of Intent to Revoke Without Reissuance
2. Northern Metals Cited for Air Quality Violations(2010 MPCA Press release)
3. Air Monitoring in North Minneapolis (2012 MPCA fact sheet)
4. North Minneapolis Air Monitoring Study: 2015 Data Summary (MPCA)
5. Air Pollution monitoring results for North Minneapolis (MPCA, 2016)
6. New data confirms poor air quality in North Minneapolis (2016 MPCA press release)
7. MPCA moves to shut down Minneapolis shredder (2016 MPCA Press release)