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Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2015 7:57 PM

To: Thune, Dave (CI-StPaul); Lindgren, Patricia (CI-StPaul)

Cc: Williams, Josh (CI-StPaul)

Subject: Re: Condition for Hawkins Permit

Dear Council Member Thune,

In the event that the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency does not approve the Environmental Action Worksheet that was submitted by West Side residents regarding the Hawkins Chemical facility, I hope you will place conditions on the permit that specifically state that Hawkins cannot store Hydrochloric Acid or Hydrofluorosilicic Acid at the site or do any additional expansion beyond the 8 tanks presently proposed. The potential risk of having caustic chemicals so close to people far outweighs the potential return on tax base of job creation that Hawkins expansion represents.

Chapter 61.501 of the Saint Paul Zoning Code states that conditional use permits must meet five conditions in order to be approved. I believe that storage of Hydrochloric Acid or Hydrofluorosilicic Acid at the site would be in conflict with section c, which states "The use will not be detrimental to the existing character of development within the immediate neighborhood or endanger the public health, safety, or general welfare." Caustic chemicals are a direct threat to public health, safety, and general welfare, as documented in this article regarding a 2006 spill of hydrochloric acid <http://www.mprnews.org/story/2006/05/23/spill>

Key quotes from the 2006 article:

- "An estimated 5,000 gallons of hydrochloric acid spilled from a rail car outside of Hawkins Chemical. The spilled acid sent a toxic cloud of gas into the air that sickened three people on the ground and threatened dozens of nearby industrial park workers."
- "Hydrochloric acid is a respiratory and skin irritant. If it's inhaled it can cause chest pain, coughing and even ulcers in the respiratory tract. If the chemical comes in contact with skin it can cause severe burns and scarring, Zaccard says the chemical is quite dangerous in large amounts."
- For a time, the early afternoon winds were a major concern as officials tracked the cloud. Zaccard says fortunately a worst-case scenario did not happen. "The wind can be bad depending on how fast or where it's blowing. In this case it's blowing pretty much down the river to an unoccupied area."

If the wind had blown differently in 2006, it could have been the many homes, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, or the Guadalupe Alternative Program School that were evacuated - which represents hundreds of people. I am particularly concerned because my home is directly west of Hawkins - just a fifteen minute walk away. If there is a spill of caustic chemicals in the future, it would be a direct threat to the health and safety not only of my home, but of my immediate neighbors (see the map embedded below). Richard Erstad, the Vice President of Hawkins, has represented to our neighborhood that they will only store ferric chloride due to the level of concern we have about the caustic nature of other chemicals. Please put the protections in place that our neighborhood needs to hold him to that promise.

Thank you,

Roxanne Young Kimball
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