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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6175

November 20, 2013

Dr. Barry Wallerstein
Executive Director
South Coast Air Quality Management District
21865 Copley Dr.
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

Dear Dr. Wallerstein:

I ask that the South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast) exercise all available authorities to suspend AllenCo operations due to severe symptoms experienced by families, including children in the University Park neighborhood of Los Angeles.

I know that South Coast has issued many warnings and fines to this AllenCo facility. Unfortunately, the University Park community has continued to suffer unacceptable health effects.

After writing AllenCo's President two letters, I received his response (attached) stating: "We welcome the ongoing diligence of the South Coast Air Quality Management District and other regulatory agencies as they independently and collaboratively work to identify the type and source of any harmful emissions in this area."

They missed the point. The point is that we cannot allow children and families to continue to suffer. Please let me know how you plan to address these unacceptable conditions.

Sincerely,

Barbara Boxer
Chairman

Attachments

CC: Mr. Jared Blumenfeld
Regional Administrator for Region 9
U.S Environmental Protection Agency

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COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6175

November 8, 2013

C.E. Peter Allen
President
Allenco
2109 Gundry Ave.
Signal Hill, CA 90806-3517

Dear Mr. Allen,

I am calling on you to immediately shut down your oil pumping operation in the University Park neighborhood in Los Angeles, which is causing pain and suffering to many families who live in the surrounding community.

My understanding is that since 2010 local officials have received 340 complaints about strong odors from this facility, and that there have been 64 site inspections, 16 notices of violations, and over $200,000 in penalties and actions to address violations at the facility. Unfortunately, according to local residents the severe chemical odor problem has persisted.

During this shutdown period, I ask that you work together with the community, as well as federal and local officials to ensure that if operations continue in the future, they will be safe for the people in the surrounding area, including pregnant women, infants, and children.

I look forward to your immediate response and follow-up.

Sincerely,

Barbara Boxer
Chairman

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6175

November 15, 2013

Mr. C.E. Peter Allen
President
AllenCo
2109 Gundry Ave.
Signal Hills, CA 90806-3517

Dear Mr. Allen:

I wrote to you on November 8th asking you to immediately suspend operations at AllenCo's University Park oil and gas pumping facility while an investigation is conducted into reports of severe chemical odors. To date, I have received no response to my letter.

As you know, last week I visited the University Park neighborhood and spoke to local residents who described terrible odors and illnesses, including dizziness, headaches, respiratory ailments, and recurring nosebleeds. One 12-year-old girl who lives across the street from the AllenCo facility told me that she has "heart problems, headaches, nosebleeds frequently and stomach problems." This situation cannot continue unabated.

I am writing to reiterate my request that you immediately suspend operations at AllenCo's University Park facility until the ongoing investigation has been completed, and I ask that you work with the community, as well as federal and local officials, to ensure that residents do not continue to suffer. I must request once again that you provide an immediate response regarding your plans to address the serious concerns of University Park residents.

Sincerely,

Barbara Boxer
Chairman

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AllenCo Energy

November 18, 2013

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Chair, United States Senate
Committee on Environment and Public Works
Washington, DC 20510-6175

Dear Senator Boxer:

On behalf of AllenCo Energy, I want to convey our appreciation for the dedication to and concern for the health of your constituents in the University Park area of Los Angeles, located near our facility there.

Please know that like you, we are 100% committed to protecting public health and the health of our neighbors and our employees. We welcome the ongoing diligence of the South Coast Air Quality Management District and other regulatory agencies as they independently and collaboratively work to identify the type and source of any harmful emissions in this area.

While we certainly respect your call for us to immediately suspend operations at our facility, we believe it is important that we allow these agencies, through round-the-clock monitoring, data collection and analysis to dictate the most appropriate next steps. As you may know, this facility has been in operation since the 1960's, often at production levels seven or eight times greater than we have ever reached, using equipment that did not approach the level of emission control that we use today.

In closing, please allow me to reiterate that we are committed to working with you and your office, as well as, all relevant government agencies and representatives, to identifying any and all potential threats to the health and safety of our neighbors and employees. Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time if you would like to tour our facility to view our operations first-hand. Thank you again for your commitment and dedication and best regards.

Sincerely,

C.E. Peter Allen
President
AllenCo Energy

2109 Gundry Avenue, Signal Hill, Ca. 90755-3517
Ph: (562) 989-6108 Fax: (562) 989-6104