

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 16, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

Ms. Cathy Stepp
Region 5 Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Dear Administrator Stepp:

We write to request that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) require additional lead monitoring at the Mayco Industries facility in Granite City, IL.

If an exceedance in lead emissions is found, we urge EPA to perform residential soil sampling and remediate the soil in this area using the standard employed by EPA Region 5 at the USS Lead Superfund site and by the Illinois EPA at the DePue Superfund site: a threshold of 400 parts per million (ppm). We are deeply concerned that lead emissions from this facility are at the highest recorded levels in six years and have the potential to do grave public health damage to vulnerable populations, such as children and the elderly, if EPA fails to swiftly act to require mitigation and remediation.

EPA's National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for lead requires facilities like Mayco to monitor and maintain lead emissions under an average of 0.15 micrograms per cubic meter of air ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) every three months. Illinois EPA identified recorded lead emissions from Mayco near or above the NAAQS and cited Mayco for other compliance failures. In accordance with the NAAQS for lead, which provides that Regional Administrators "require additional monitoring beyond the minimum requirements where the likelihood of lead air quality violations is significant," we strongly urge you to direct EPA Region 5 to investigate Mayco's recent violations and determine if further action is needed.

Enforcing additional monitoring requirements and remediating excess lead is vital to safeguarding public health. Decisive action by EPA will provide confidence to my constituents in Granite City and East St. Louis that you are prioritizing their well-being ahead of corporate profits. Thank you in advance for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator