

417 Linden  
Vermillion, SD

Board Members:

DEMR

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AIR QUALITY  
PROGRAM

Dear Friends:

May I respectfully submit  
some concerns we share, as  
prepared by a research staff <sup>MS</sup>

It's so disheartening to  
think this lovely corner of  
our lovely state will be so  
abused.

Thank you.



Ms. Mary M. Merrigan  
417 Linden Ave.  
Vermillion, SD 57069-3511

Sincerely, Mary M. Merrigan

1. The refinery would annually send into the air over 7000 tons of pollutants, including (from a Sioux City Journal article on 9/11/08) dust, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, and volatile organic compounds, to name a few. One of the organic compounds is benzene, which Dr. Yelverton from the Vermillion Medical Clinic has stated is linked to childhood leukemia. The 7000 number is probably low also, and the ironic thing about all of this is that, as SD air is currently so clean, the refinery can in a sense pollute "up to" the emissions controlled by the federal Clean Air Act monitored by the Environmental Protection Agency. One would assume that these drifting pollutants would also increase respiratory ailments, asthma, etc.

2. What about odor, noise, increased traffic, wear and tear on roads? Where will the pipelines be, the railroad lines, the water lines, etc? From where will the oil come? If it is indeed Tar Sands oil from Alberta, Canada, the consistency is thick and sulfurous and many consider the oil extraction an environmental disaster, not only for Canada but for the world. Why has the DENR not insisted that a complete Environmental Impact Study be completed before it considers issuing the air permit?

3. What about issues of water, wetlands, rivers, streams? Loss of crop land?

4. What about the social impact of the refinery on rural area population and local patterns of development?

Liz

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