

**Talking Points for NC Division of Air Quality's Public Hearing on the  
Proposed Titan Cement Manufacturing Facility  
October 20, 2009  
Cape Fear Community College, North Campus**

Even though Titan has frequently promised to operate “the cleanest cement plant in the world,” the data show that what they are proposing isn't even close to the cleanest plant in the U.S. Air permit experts who reviewed the draft said what Titan was proposing in terms of pollution controls is a Chevy, not a Cadillac, even though the technology exists and is currently in use to cut cement plant emissions by 80 to 90 percent. Below are some suggested talking points collected from air permit experts and various folks in the StopTitan Action Network that stress why the draft air permit issued by North Carolina Division of Air Quality does not go far enough to protect our air, water and health. Feel free to use these in your comments, or come up with better ones of your own. Remember, the Division of Air Quality really doesn't care that we hate this plant or that we think it is a bad idea for our area. They are simply checking their boxes to see if Titan has done the minimum necessary to pass their very low bar to get a permit. Although none of us are air permit experts here, any comment you can make of technical nature will likely go a lot farther than a simple, “Stoptitan!” But feel free to say that with feeling as well if you are so moved.

According to the American Lung Association, **more than 88,000 residents of New Hanover County—46% of our population—suffers from health conditions that will be exacerbated by Titan's air pollution**—including heart disease, asthma, diabetes, emphysema, and chronic bronchitis. Why has DAQ not completed a multi-pathway health risk assessment on every toxic release from the Titan plant before granting it a draft permit?

**Children are most susceptible to air pollution** and Titan's stack will be within five miles of schools housing **8,700 students**. Numerous studies have come out in the last two years on the **harmful effects of air pollution on children**. Has DAQ specifically looked at the impact of Titan's emissions on school age children, especially the elementary students at Castle Hayne Elementary, which is less than 2 miles from Titan's site?

Titan will be one of the **largest polluters in our region for the next 30 to 50 years** in a county that already has some of the highest toxic emissions in the state—further sealing our fate as a heavy industry haven to the detriment of tourism, fisheries, retirees, and future high-tech, clean-industries that do not want to locate near a heavy polluting cement plant. Our county is already close to non-attainment for ozone standards. Has DAQ analyzed how close Titan will bring us to non-attainment standards?

The draft air permit **still allows Titan to emit 263 lbs of mercury even though the company committed to meeting the much lower draft EPA mercury rule that was proposed last spring, which included an almost 90% reduction in mercury emissions to roughly 30 pounds.** Titan committed to abiding by the proposed EPA NESHAPS rules verbally and in writing to DAQ and in meetings with Representative Carolyn Justice and Representative Danny McComas. **This permit should reflect the proposed rules now or be delayed** until the new rules are finalized. If they can comply then, why not now? Don't we deserve cleaner air now?

**Titan also promised our elected officials that they would put Constant Emissions Monitors for mercury on their kiln. Why are CEMS for mercury not included in the draft air permit?** Other cement plants in the nation have underestimated their mercury emissions by as much as ten times (estimating 40 pounds, when their actual emissions were more than 400). CEMs for mercury are currently in use on other cement plants in the nation. Why not here?

SEPA (State Environmental Policy Act): This is a big project that is getting more than \$4 million in taxpayer dollars. We deserve to know its impacts. **So how can DAQ issue any permit until the impacts without assessing the cumulative impacts to our community and ecosystem through the State Environmental Policy Act—our top environmental law that was specifically designed to evaluate such projects that receive public money and/or use public lands or waters?**

NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act): If the state refuses to do a review, **DAQ should not bias the federal Environmental Impact Statement** being conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers by approving Titan's air permit before the EIS evaluates all reasonable alternatives.

North Carolina in 2002 passed the Clean Smokestacks Act which requires significant reduction in pollution from coal-fired power plants. **Why is DAQ undermining the intent and emissions reductions of the Clean Smokestacks by not requiring Titan—which will burn the same amount of coal as a small power plant and have the emissions of a medium-sized power plant—to be regulated under the Clean Smokestacks Act?**

Why is DAQ allowing Titan to emit nearly 700 tons of particulate matter each year, including **double New Hanover County's current emissions of PM 2.5—the most dangerous type**—which can contribute to asthma, heart attacks, strokes, and sudden death.

Why does DAQ not look at secondary impacts of the emissions? Secondary impacts to the ground, vegetation, and **water are critical since secondary exposure to Titan's pollutants (by eating fish, for example) will increase human exposure to mercury** and other toxic pollutants that could endanger human health as well as wildlife and fisheries. DAQ is required to consider secondary impacts yet they have not considered these impacts in the draft permit.

At a time when the E.P.A. is formulating new regulations to reduce emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>, mercury, and other air pollutants from coal-fired industries, **why is DAQ allowing a new industry to burn more than 280,000 tons of coal a year?**

Especially when the Sutton Power Plant will no longer be outfitted with scrubbers as originally promised? Why is DAQ not requiring Titan to use cleaner primary fuel for its kiln, such as natural gas? Why Titan not required to sequester its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions?

How did DAQ model air dispersion and fallout from the Titan plant? How can they accurately predict where the emissions will fall? **Why didn't they evaluate the deposition of mercury and other toxins into a river system that is already mercury impaired?**

The permit application states that the emissions from this kiln will be the result of the mining operation from the existing quarry that is located on site. According to Titan, they plan to mine the entire site, except for the CAMA wetlands and a 1600-acre site across Holy Shelter Road. **How can DAQ issue an air permit when the limestone's chemical make-up from other areas is not known?** Unless DAQ analyzes all potential sources of limestone for mercury and other toxins, the draft permit can not truthfully evaluate what Titan's long-term emissions really are.

New Hanover County already has some of the highest emissions of criteria air pollutants in the state. **Why isn't DAQ working to decrease the amount of air pollution and toxic emissions in the region instead of rubber stamping a permit for an industry due to heavy lobbying and political pressure?**

**Why have DAQ personnel who are actively involved in reviewing this permit responded to citizen inquiries with statements that blatantly support the Titan project?** (i.e. "We need the jobs." "We need the cement"—both arguable statements at best) Their job is to evaluate the air emissions and make an un-biased decision that protects public health—not promotes individual industries.

**DAQ's public information officer, Tom Mather, stated in email correspondence on April 28<sup>th</sup> that the new EPA regulations would apply to Titan and EPA's new mercury and toxic pollutant regulations would be reflected in Titan's draft permit.** Why then has DAQ approved a draft air permit that is virtually a carbon copy of their original air permit application? What happened to the new regulations DAQ was going to hold Titan to?

Titan will increase the amount by the following amounts (out of 100%) in New Hanover County for the following pollutants: (These are just the highest increases)

Carbon Monoxide	25%	Mercury	115%
Nitrogen Oxide	30%	Lead	25%
Particulate Matter (2.5)	45%	Benzene	76%
Particulate Matter 10	40%	Ammonia	38%
Manganese	143%	POM	247%

Tell DAQ that you want a strategy to clean our air, not increase the pollution in our community. EPA defines criteria pollutants as materials that are responsible for many adverse effects on human health, causing thousands of cases of premature mortality and tens of thousands of emergency room visits per year. These pollutants also cause acid rain and can significantly harm the environment and critical ecosystems in our region.

**Why is DAQ allowing Titan to use fly ash from the Sutton Power plant when the EPA bans the use of fly ash that increases mercury levels over the baseline levels (operating the plant without fly ash)?**