



Resolution regarding Health Consequences of Cement Kiln Emissions in N.C.

Submitted By: The New Hanover - Pender County Medical Society, March 8, 2011

WHEREAS, a pending cement kiln Air Quality Permit application requests the emission of large amounts of Hazardous Air Pollutants including particulate matter of 2.5 microns (PM 2.5), particulate matter of 10 microns (PM 10), Mercury, Sulfur Dioxide, Nitrous Oxide, Polycyclic Amines and over 40 additional Hazardous Air Pollutants -- all of which are harmful to health; and

WHEREAS, PM 2.5 has been linked in extensive medical research to preterm births, pediatric asthma, and decreased lung capacity in children and adults; and both acute and chronic cardiac disease in adults from exposure to PM 2.5; and a pending cement kiln Air Quality Permit application requests the yearly emission of 160 tons of PM 2.5; and

WHEREAS, Mercury is a potent neurotoxin documented to cause permanent effects on fetal and pediatric health, existing levels of Mercury in freshwater fish in southeastern North Carolina are among the highest in the United States, and Mercury advisories are already in effect for all citizens -- especially pregnant women, nursing mothers and children, and a pending cement kiln Air Quality Permit application requests the emission of 46 pounds of Mercury yearly; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has identified existing levels of Sulfur Dioxide in New Hanover County, N.C. as injurious to public health and the EPA has identified New Hanover County as the only pending non-attainment area for Sulfur Dioxide in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, a Cement Trade Association is currently attempting to eliminate existing EPA Cement Kiln Regulations, and without strict adherence to the EPA Cement Kiln Regulations, as currently written, these emissions limits will possibly increase; and

WHEREAS, a pending cement kiln Air Quality Permit does not address recently identified health consequences of cement kiln emissions, or New Hanover County's pending Sulfur Dioxide non-attainment status; and

WHEREAS, the EPA and extensive medical research documents serious acute and chronic medical consequences of these air pollutants, and reductions in these same air pollutants have been shown to significantly improve health parameters in children and adults; and

WHEREAS, as licensed medical professionals in the state of North Carolina, we have an ethical duty and responsibility to protect the health of North Carolina citizens by prevention of acute and chronic diseases and these good faith actions represent proactive, preventive health for the general public which is both medically effective and economically desirable: then be it

Resolved, that

New Hanover-Pender County Medical Society, based on health consequences identified by contemporary medical literature, respectfully petition Governor Beverly Perdue to withhold any Air Quality Permit pending a comprehensive, independent medical risk assessment of the acute and chronic, individual and cumulative, health impacts of all N.C. Division of Air Quality-regulated Hazardous Air Pollutants and ensure that any Air Quality Permit be in compliance with current EPA Hazardous Air Emissions Regulations.