

## Gary Advocates for Responsible Development Fact Sheet

### Carmeuse Lime

#### What is Carmeuse Lime?

Carmeuse is a multinational corporation with headquarters in Belgium. It provides steel mills with limestone, one of the main ingredients burnt in blast furnaces to make iron. The company has local operations in Portage and at 8480 Industrial Highway in Buffington Harbor along the Lake Michigan lakefront in Gary.

#### Why Should Residents be Concerned about Carmeuse?

Carmeuse is seeking a renewal of its 5-year operating permit. However, its emissions are significant, and its record of compliance is poor. Since 2016, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) has issued Carmeuse fifteen violation notices and nine Formal enforcement actions, including for exceeding emissions requirements and failure to properly monitor and conduct performance tests. However, IDEM does not keep a public record on how Carmeuse responded to these notices or any corrective actions that were taken.

#### What is the Potential Harm to Gary and Northwest Indiana Residents?

More than 18,000 residents live within three miles of Carmeuse and in neighborhoods that experience some of the highest levels of pollution in Indiana. Carmeuse is just one of many stationary sources of air emissions in the Region, but its emissions are significant and include dangerous chemicals such as:

- **Fine particulate matter (PM2.5); nitrogen dioxide (NOx), and sulfur dioxide (SO2)**, which interfere with the respirator system and contribute to chronic lung disease.
- **Volatile organic compounds (VOC)**, which irritate the eyes, nose, cause headaches and loss of coordination; nausea; and damage to the liver, kidneys, or central nervous system. Some VOCs are suspected or proven carcinogens.
- **Carbon monoxide (CO)**, which causes fatigue, headaches, confusion, and dizziness due to inadequate oxygen delivery to the brain.

In addition, Carmeuse uses “engineered fuel” in each of its five lime kilns. Although Carmeuse does disclose the composition of its engineered fuel, the term generally refers to the burning of municipal solid waste – more commonly known as trash.

Engineered Fuel derived from municipal solid wastes can have a wide variety of hazardous and toxic constituents when burned due to synthetic chemicals in coated papers, plastics, and other materials that people commonly throw away. These toxins include dioxins, arsenic, mercury, chromium, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), lead, and other hazardous air pollutants that have been found to be carcinogenic.

#### What Should Happen Next?

IDEM should not renew Carmeuse’s permit without seeking more input from the communities affected by this plant. In addition, IDEM should take a number of steps to ensure the Carmeuse plant operates safely and doesn’t add to the region’s existing burden of pollution. These steps include conducting an environmental compliance audit, more robust monitoring and testing of emissions, and a ban on burning trash for fuel. In addition, the permit should include a complete record of Carmeuse’s noncompliance issues as well as improved reporting that promotes public engagement and builds trust.

[Gary Advocates for Responsible Development \(GARD\)](http://Garygard219.org) is a nonprofit organization working to promote an economically and environmentally sustainable future for Gary, Indiana. For more information:  
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