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U. S. Environmental Protection Agency

401 M. Street

Washington D. C. 20406

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OFFICE OF THE  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

**I am petitioning the U. S. EPA to object to the issuance of a Part 70 No. : 019—35535-00008 Operating Permit to the Essroc Cement Company in Speed Indiana.**

I am concerned about an explosion or leakage of liquid and or vapors from the hazardous waste Essroc plans to burn. We have been told how safe this process will be and how it will actually help air quality. The Company will be self monitoring and determine when accidental release needs to be reported.

The Essroc Logansport facility is used as an example of how well things have gone using hazardous waste as fuel for kilns.

What had not been mentioned was the sudden and catastrophic explosion on February the 18<sup>th</sup> 1999. During the IDEM meeting 11/14/16 I was told that the explosion occurred while off loading hazardous waste to be mixed prior to being burned in the kilns. Even after the waste is mixed with other material there is still the possibility of an explosion. Some of the materials that will be mixed will be and or may become unstable. There could be an explosion.

An example of what could occur happened at about 12:05 in the early morning of February 18<sup>th</sup> 1999. There was a sudden and catastrophic rupture of a tanker car on the west side of the Logansport Essroc plant near Clymer's Indiana. The tanker full of hazardous material ruptured propelled the tank approximately 750 feet over multi story storage tanks, the tank car contained about 14,185 pounds of a toxic and flammable hazardous waste that was used as fuel for the plants kilns. Fortunately there were no injuries or fatalities. That may not have been the case if all the employees whose shift started at 11:30 pm on February 17<sup>th</sup> had not

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been in an on-site building. If the explosion had occurred during the day there may have been injuries or fatalities

At the time of the explosion the Technician heard a small bang. He said he looked out the window but he didn't see any smoke flame or flash. He was unsure of where the sound had come from. Following the bang he saw an orange fireball which he estimated was 40 feet high moving toward the office and engulfed the entire area. According to the Technician, the fireball hit the window and was gone. Following the fireball, he felt a concussion. After the fire ball and concussion, the Technician looked towards the tank car offloading area and saw the entire area in flames. He said clumps of fire were raining down. The Technician said he was certain that the source was the tanker car (it held the hazardous waste used to run the kilns.) The Technician said he heard 3 other explosions, but he couldn't estimate the time between each explosion.

Pilots at the Indianapolis Airport said they saw a fireball from the explosion at Logansport. This was reported in the Indianapolis Newspaper.

Can you imagine children at school or playing near the plant and an explosion occurs and it's raining fire on the kids. Can you imagine their clothes and hair catch fire and they run screaming trying to escape the flames that are engulfing them?

#### Emergency response

Four Fire Departments and the Grissom Air National Guard Base responded to the fire.

The Essroc Logansport Facility is located in a rural area with no residence in the immediate vicinity; Because of the potentially hazardous smoke and the loss of area electrical power about 100 homes were temporarily evacuated to shelters. **That would not be the case with the Essroc Speed plant. There are 5 schools, multiple homes, churches and businesses close to the plant.** Depending on the time of day there could be thousands of people to evacuate.

Solid chunks of TID matter from the tanker car explosion at Logansport were a debris field across the plant. Numerous solid chunks of the TDI mater were scattered throughout the large field to the west and north of the offloading station. The hazardous waste will be mixed at Logansport and be trucked in to the Speed Plant by tanker car and be off loaded.

Essroc Logansport confirmed that fuels and solvents were released from the damaged storage tank that ruptured that included **flammable and corrosive materials**. Other tankers carrying hazardous waste were also damaged.

Total damage and loss of production were estimated at nearly \$8.2 million dollars. The

National Transportation Board found Essroc and CP Recycling were responsible for the incident. You should read the 71 page NTBS report. The report says that Essroc Logansport tried to off load the material for days with issue. Why should our community with Schools Churches Homes and Business so close to Essroc Speed Plant have to live with the potential disaster?

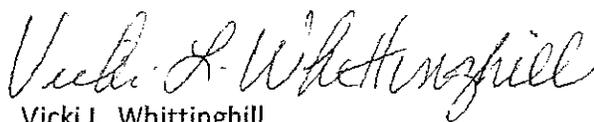
Is this what we as a Community have to look forward to? How long will it be before there is an accident of some type caused by hazardous waste being used to fuel Essroc kilns?

How long will it be before exposure to the chemicals Essroc burns effect the youngest in our Community?

Will the Essroc Speed plant become a soft target for extremist? There is nothing to keep anyone out of the plant facility.

This entire situation is a disaster waiting to happen. It doesn't have to be. Their permit should be denied.

Sincerely,



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