



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
CITY OF CHICAGO

Warren Baker |Baker Companies
2222 N. Elston Avenue, Suite 100
Chicago, Illinois 60614

May 10, 2018

Mr. Baker,

I am writing in response to your communication from May 4, 2018. It is inaccurate and inappropriate for you to assert that there is a risk to health for residents living near General Iron based on the preliminary conclusions of Dr. Erdal's pilot study.

First, none of the levels of particulate matter (PM2.5) detected in the study exceed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Ambient Air Quality Standard. This standard defines the levels for which pollutants are considered harmful to public health and the environment.

Second, although the study indicated the presence of some metals in the air, as the study's author has indicated, the metals data were incomplete and were not measured in a way that could be compared to national standards. Therefore, it is inappropriate to draw conclusions until a full study has been completed.

As the Chicago Department of Public Health Commissioner and a physician, my actions and the actions of my department are based on scientific evidence and facts, not on political pressures or influences. My staff and I are committed to protecting the health and well-being of all Chicago residents. As a result, we have routinely and will continue to inspect General Iron to assure their operations follow federal, state and city regulations. We will also work closely with the U.S. EPA to evaluate the results of the air monitoring General Iron will be conducting, and will use that data to make informed decisions regarding the enforcement of city rules and regulations intended to safeguard the health of our communities.

I hope you will exercise the same rigor when interpreting data and not draw unwarranted conclusions.

Julie Morita, MD
Commissioner
Chicago Department of Public Health