

# HECA NEWSLETTER

Winter 2019

Issue#1

<https://www.holderiecokeaccountable.com/>

HoldErieCokeAccountable(HECA)



## What is HECA?

Hold Erie Coke Accountable is a non-partisan citizen and community initiative, inspired by the civic resolve that Erie's rise as a leading 21st Century city of choice rides on high quality of life and a healthy environment, requiring that Erie Coke cease violating its air quality emissions permit and stop contributing to foul-smelling air in our community. HECA leadership is provided by community members Erie Benedictine Sister Pat Lupo and citizen scientist Dr. Mike Campbell.

## Erie Coke : An Environmental Disaster?

Nestled in between the Waste Water Treatment Plant and the East Avenue Boat Launch, the property owned by Erie Coke since 1988 has been in near continuous operation as a coking facility for at least as early as 1925, albeit under several different owners. The footprint of 93 years of coking operations has left an indelible black stain



upon the earth at the foot of East Avenue. The ground where they operate is pitch black and unmistakably visible in aerial photography. The stain is reminiscent of the scar Erie Coke's sister plant, Tonawanda Coke, left in Tonawanda, New York. The now closed plant is a designated [NY State Super Fund](#) site today and undergoing the environmental remediation process.

For east Erie residents living downwind of Erie Coke, the odors emitted from the plant are acrid and obnoxious. The foul smelling sulfurous brew assails the nostrils year round. Those of us who spend time down wind of Erie

Coke suspect the air we are breathing may be unhealthy but up until now there has been little we can do about it. HECA was created with purpose of holding Erie Coke accountable to comply with the Federal Clean Air Act. HECA believes in doing so we will help make Erie City a clean, safe and livable city of choice for our families.

### Putting the Pressure on the DEP

One of the great lessons of the experience of Tonawanda, NY residents is that [public pressure works!](#) The Tonawanda Coke plant was just recently shut down in 2018 over its inability to pay for air quality improvements required by the NY DEQ. Erie Coke's Federal Title V Air Quality Operating Permit is up for renewal now. You can attend a [soon to be announced public hearing](#) and make your voice heard in the public comment part of the

Don't wait for the hearing to let your voice be heard. Contact the DEP today!

### What does this mean?

As a private citizen

- You have a right to complain *every time* you smell or see something of concern.

### What is Reportable?

- Acrid smoke that smells like rotten eggs or mothballs; is sickly sweet; gritty, dusty or tar-like; or trailing past their property line.
- Dark, sticky, tarry, or bad smelling liquids pooling on the ground or sidewalks or going into the sewer grates from Erie Coke activities.

Tell us your stories! Contact Us

Our website:

[www.holderiecokeaccountable.com](http://www.holderiecokeaccountable.com)

Facebook Page:

[HoldErieCokeAccountable\(HECA\)](#)

~ In cooperation with GASP ~  
(Group Against Smog and Pollution)

### News Flash!

Pennsylvania DEP issues an Administrative Order to Erie Coke.

**60 Days to Clean up!**

### Who to Contact:

PA Department of Environmental Protection

Northwest Service Representative,

Kim Yeakle (814) 332-6839 | kyeakle@pa.gov

230 Chestnut Street, Meadville, PA 16335

State Wide Toll-Free Number 1-866-255-5158