



ORGANIZING for
HEALTH and JUSTICE

52 Linwood Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14209
(716) 852-3813
cacwny.org

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Golden Gas
Mask Award
winners 2

We've got a
new
5-year Stra- 2

Campaign
updates 3

For more detailed up-
dates, visit our blog:
www.cacwny.org/press/

Get social with Clean Air:



Clean Air
Coalition of
WNY



@cleanairwny



@cleanair

Clean Air Connection

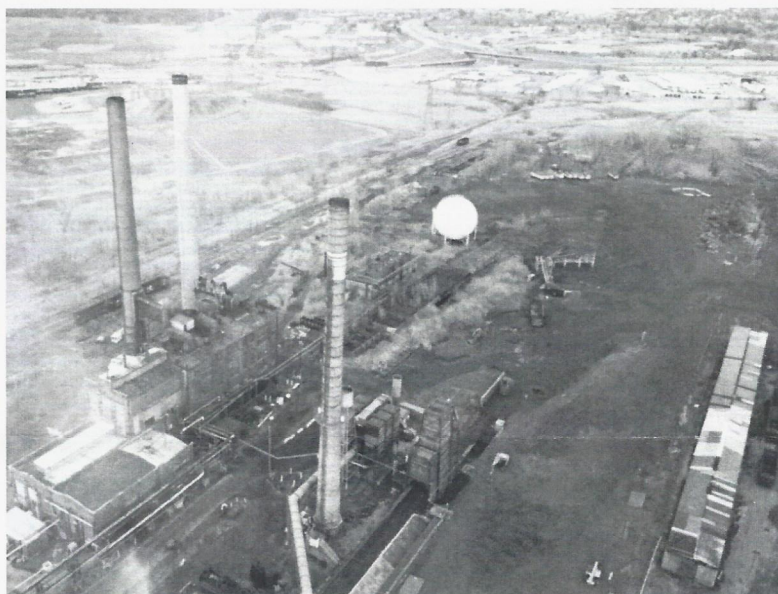
JUNE 2018 NEWSLETTER

Tonawanda Coke toxic exposure risk

Public Accountability Meeting set for July 23rd

A company with a long track record of damaging the environment and violating health and safety regulations is responsible for another accident at its Tonawanda plant. In mid-May, the waste heat tunnel at the Tonawanda Coke Corporation collapsed.

The impact of the collapse remains unclear; however, there is strong potential that the collapse will result in increased toxic emissions into the surrounding community.



The main purpose of the waste heat tunnel is to collect combustible heat waste from the ovens. Now that the tunnel has collapsed, gases are not flowing into the facility's chimneys, and the company can't draw enough fresh air into the manufacturing process. Without enough fresh air to ensure proper heating of the oven walls, there are likely dirty and toxic releases into the ambient air and the surrounding community.

In 2013, Tonawanda Coke was found guilty in criminal court of 11 counts of violating the Clean Air Act. In the investigation leading to the conviction, Tonawanda Coke was found to be disposing hazardous waste without a permit, and was also charged with three counts of violating the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act due to negligent waste disposal. In 2016, the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration levied fines against the company for being found at fault for the death of Richard Wade, a 60-year-old employee who was pulled into the rotating shaft of a coal elevator.

Clean Air is calling on the Environmental Protection Agency and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to perform a full investigation, including the cause of the tunnel collapse, the risks posed to workers, and the risks posed to the surrounding community. If you live or work in the area and are noticing dark smoke or odors coming from the facility, submit a complaint to the DEC by calling 851-7000.

Residents are also invited to our public meeting on Monday, July 23rd at 6pm at the Brounshidle Post, 3354 Delaware Ave. in Kenmore.