



1250 NIAGARA ST
BUFFALO, NY 14213-1502

CLEAN AIR COALITION OF WNY

WWW.CACWNY.ORG

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – MEDIA ALERT

12/3/2009

Contact: Erin Heaney, 716.472.8042

Tonawanda Residents Concerned About Hazardous Waste at Tonawanda Coke

Clean Air Coalition members write to NYS DEC, US EPA with questions about tar sludge at the facility.

TONAWANDA, N.Y.

What: Monday, December 7th at 4:00 pm Tonawanda residents will gather at the Kaufman playground to express their growing concerns about hazardous waste at the Tonawanda Coke facility. Residents will ask questions of the plant owner, J.D. Crane, and call on the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and United States Environmental Protection Agency for assistance.

The Clean Air Coalition of WNY has written letters to the NYS DEC and to the US EPA asking questions about the quantity, handling and transportation of tar sludge at Tonawanda Coke. Tar sludge, a by-product of the coking process is a highly aromatic hydrocarbon, and known to have adverse effects on humans if mishandled.

Why: At a recent community meeting many residents expressed concern about hazardous waste at Tonawanda Coke. In addition, the Coalition has reports from former employees at the plant that the company is accepting tar sludge from other locations and that the substance causes sticky run-off in the rain and dangerous conditions for workers who handle the substance.

Where: The Kaufman playground, across the street from 127 Kaufman Road in Tonawanda.

Who: The Clean Air Coalition of Western New York is a community-based organization that works to protect the right of residents to live and work in a healthy environment. The Coalition is currently campaigning to get Tonawanda Coke to dramatically reduce benzene emissions. A recent NYS DEC study determined that Tonawanda Coke is the predominant source of benzene in the region and that emissions from the plant puts neighboring communities at an increased risk for cancer. Benzene is a human carcinogen that is linked to numerous cancers as well as respiratory and skin diseases.