

### THE STACKS ARE COMING DOWN AT TONAWANDA COKE

We know that our community has a lot of questions regarding safety during and before the June 5th explosion at 6AM. We have gathered some answers to our members questions from the developer, Riverview Innovation and Technology Campus

#### HOW LOUD WILL THE EXPLOSION BE?

- 1. We have been told that the explosion will be no louder than a typical firework and will be heard for about a half mile from the site.
- 2. We expect that people living in Southern Grand Island, parts of Tonawanda including Sheridan Parkside, parts of Riverside near the park and others will be able to hear the explosion

#### WILL THERE BE DUST? WHAT SHOULD I DO IF DUST FALLS ON MY PROPERTY?

- 1. We have been told that there will not be dust outside of the buffer zone of 300 feet, which is inside of the TCC property.
- 2.TO BE SAFE: If there is dust on your property, here are some precautions to take:
  - a. Replace or clean any HVAC filters in your home
  - b.Use gloves when cleaning any debris. This debris has the possibility of containing heavy metals such as lead, and should not be handled with bare hands
  - c. Wipe down outdoor furniture, play equipment or toys, car windshields, etc.
  - d. If you have a pool, you may want to put on a cover the night before the blast.
  - e. Call the Town if you have more questions . When in doubt, ask!

#### WHAT WILL BE IN THE DUST?

- 1. We have been told that the stacks have been abated of any asbestos or other hazardous materials.
- 2. We also know that these stacks have been in operation for over a century and have emitted tons of
- hazardous materials into our air such as benzene, heavy metals, coal soot and other things.
- 3. If, best case scenario, there are no chemicals in the dust, the dust itself may cause people with breathing issues or heart problems to experience a reaction.

#### IS IT SAFE TO WATCH THE EXPLOSION? WHERE SHOULD I WATCH IT?

- 1. It is safe to watch the explosion but we urge you to be as far away and not downwind as possible.
- 2. We are hosting a viewing event at Fisherman's Landing in Grand Island. More on that later.
- 3. Parts of River Road will be closed the day of the explosion. We urge you to check the wind direction and go where the wind is NOT blowing towards you.

#### WHAT IF THERE IS AN EMERGENCY? WILL WE NEED TO EVACUATE

- 1. We have been told that all emergency personnel will be on site to address any unlikely emergency issues that arise.
- 2. We have also been told that there will be no need to evacuate
- 3. We also know that when there is an emergency, there are systems set up by the Town, City, County and state to alert people about safety concerns and give directions. If you have questions on this, the best people to talk to would be the Town of Tonawanda or your other elected officials

#### DOES THIS MEAN THAT IT'S SAFE TO GO ON THE TCC SITE NOW?

- 1.NO! The TCC site has a long way to go to be safe for everyday people to go on it.
- 2. We know it can be tempting when noone is looking, but we assure you that this site is full of nasty, dangerous chemicals and materials that we do not want you near.

#### WILL THERE BE AIR MONITORING DONE?

- 1. Yes, we have been told that the NYSDEC will be conducting onsite and offsite air monitoring for volatile organic compounds and for other particulate matter
- 2. If you have access to any air monitoring equipment, please let us know! We have folks who can advise you on how, when and where to set up your equipment so that we the people can have the data we need without relying solely on the DEC

#### WHAT ABOUT IF I HAVE ASTHMA OR OTHER BREATHING ISSUES?

- 1. Even if there aren't chemicals in the dust, the dust itself can be an issue
- 2. If you have breathing issues, we would suggest that you take all necessary actions to protect yourself. This includes wearing a quality mask if outside, changing your filters in AC or air filtration systems in your home and having your medicine or other treatments available.
- 3. It is better to be safe than sorry; try to not be downwind or outside during or hours after the explosion.

#### SHOULD I CLOSE MY WINDOWS?

- 1. We have been told that dust or other debris is not expected to travel outside of the Tonawanda Coke site
- 2. We also know that wind exists. We would advise people to shut your windows, cover your pools, bring in any outdoor furniture or toys and other common sense precautions to decrease your exposure to any possible debris

## I WANT TO BE WITH MY COMMUNITY WHEN THE STACKS COME DOWN. IS CLEAN AIR DOING ANYTHING?

- 1. We will be hosting a viewing of the explosion at Fisherman's Landing in Grand Island on Saturday, June 5th at 5:45AM.
- 2. The address is (1510 E River Rd, Grand Island, NY 14072)
- 3. We will be setting up an altar to remember those we have lost. We invite you to join us in brining a photo, memento or anything else that you feel called to bring to add to our space
- 4. We will have coffee and donuts. It's nothing fancy, but it is important for us to be with one another as we share in the grief, joy, celebration and exhaustion that is the demolition of the Tonawanda Coke stacks.

# It is the reponsibility of the Town, the NYSDEC and the developers to answer your questions. If you have additional questions or concerns, please call the following people:

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- John P. Black (For Riverview Innovation & Technology Campus) john.black@inventumeng.com or 571.752.6559
- James Hartz (For Town of **Tonawanda, NY** (716) 871-8847 ext. 1

Ben McPherson (For NYSDEC) 716.851.7220

 Victoria Streitfeld (For Honeywell)
victoria.streitfeld@woodplc.com or 609.218.9460 (call or text)

