

August 7, 2009

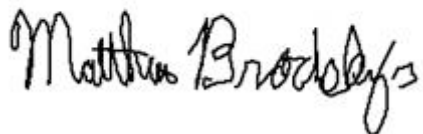
To Whom It May Concern:

I am a neurologist on faculty at Oregon Health & Science University, and reside in Northwest Portland at 1806 NW 32nd Avenue, in close proximity to ESCO. I am writing to express my grave concern about the air quality in my neighborhood. As a clinical researcher with expertise in Movement Disorders, I have investigated the effects of manganese on the nervous system and am very familiar with the literature that exists on this topic. It is well-documented that aerosolized manganese fumes have irreversible toxic effects on brain tissue, and in particular to a part of the brain called the "Globus Pallidus". Damage to this part of the brain causes Parkinsonism, with disabling muscle rigidity, tremors and slowed movements. People exposed to manganese fumes also develop a condition called Dystonia, where there are painful overcontractions of muscles. The most severe types of exposures have been well-documented in outbreaks of these neurologic disorders at metal foundries where there is not adequate ventilation. However, damage also occurs to the nervous system in less severe conditions where there is direct exposure to aerosolized manganese. I would be happy to share with you videos of patients who have suffered from exposure to aerosolized manganese, my own research on this topic, and the literature that exists in this field.

As it is to many others in my neighborhood, the almost-daily acrid odor that emanates from ESCO as I ride my bicycle to work is disturbing to me. One wants to hold their breath as they walk, ride, or even drive through the neighborhood in the hopes that they will not be inhaling what is being put in the air, but of course this is not possible. It is astounding to me how this can be allowed to continue in such a densely populated neighborhood, and in such proximity to an elementary school full of children with rapidly developing little brains that are at the greatest risk of long-term neurologic damage.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Brodsky". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Matthew Brodsky, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Neurology
Oregon Health & Science University