

Dear Committee Members,

I am a resident at SE 21st and Tibbetts, just one block north of Powell. I live with my husband and our four year old daughter. My husband and I have lived here for sixteen years, and my young daughter her whole life. Our house is located less than a quarter mile from Bullseye Glass. My husband and I, along with our neighbors were shocked to hear about the high concentration levels of arsenic and cadmium detected so close to our homes.

The routine of mine and my family's life came to a screeching halt on February 3, 2016, the day DEQ made the air sample results collected in October 2015 public. Since learning the news of the elevated levels of both cadmium and arsenic, my husband and I, along with many of our neighbors have been inundated with the onerous task of writing letters to state and city elected officials, DEQ, EPA and Bullseye directly. We have spent money and time taking soil samples and medical tests. When our daughter's pediatrician was unable to interpret our daughter's lab results which indicated high levels arsenic/creatinine and cadmium/creatinine we spent many hours consulting with a family member who is a doctor, staff at OHA, and a specialist in the Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit in Seattle, all in an effort to collect information and interpret results on our own. This information was particularly difficult to interpret in many regards because children are not typically exposed to chemicals like arsenic and cadmium. At the very least, it's been a long few weeks.

Frankly, I am astonished that we find ourselves here with this situation in 2016. The fact that Bullseye, as well as other facilities of its size, are able to operate without any type of pollution controls just seems reckless to me. Is it not the job of DEQ to regulate and ensure that the air we breath is both safe and meets reasonable standards? Given that Bullseye is compliant with their current permits, why are we seeing such high level of concentrations of both cadmium and arsenic, concentrations that far exceed benchmarks? The answer is clearly that current regulations, or lack thereof, are irrelevant and outdated for such facilities as Bullseye.

I urge legislatures to work with DEQ and EPA to enable them to exert their authority and change regulation policy. Bullseye is just one of many. There are many other facilities of this size and scale operating without pollution controls in Portland.

If Portland is truly one of the most "livable cities" I would encourage you to act quickly and decisively on its air toxic problems to keep Portland desirable for both the people who live here and the people and industries who may choose to live here in the future.

Thank you for your time,

Cathy Leece
3100 SE 21st Ave
Portland, OR 97202