

From: [Brian Esposito](#)
To: [Brown, Don](#); [Halloran, Brad](#)
Subject: [External] Opposition to CITGO Lemont Refinery Petition – AS 2026-001
Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2026 7:51:06 PM

Dear Director Brown and Hearing Officer Halloran,

I am writing as a resident of Romeoville, Illinois, in the Will County community directly neighboring the CITGO Lemont Refinery, to formally oppose the petition filed by CITGO Petroleum Corporation for an adjusted standard from 35 Ill. Adm. Code 216.121 (Case AS 2026-001).

I am deeply concerned for the following reasons:

1. RECENT DOCUMENTED VIOLATIONS

FOIA documents obtained by community members confirm that CITGO was cited for 27 violations on January 14, 2026. Among these were two documented exceedances of carbon monoxide (CO) emissions:

- FCCU (Fluid Catalytic Cracking Unit) – October 19, 2025: A 7-hour event releasing 1,291.4 lbs of CO, exceeding the federal CO standard.
- Process Heater Event – September 3, 2025: A 10-hour event releasing 303.46 lbs of CO, exceeding the permit limit.

Additional incidents may exist that were categorized as “deviations” rather than violations. Granting relief from existing CO standards while these violations remain unresolved would send the wrong message to this facility and to our community.

2. INADEQUATE PUBLIC NOTICE

CITGO fulfilled its public notice requirement by publishing in the Joliet Herald News — a publication probably not widely read in Romeoville or the surrounding communities most affected by this facility’s emissions. This effectively denied nearby residents a meaningful opportunity to participate in this proceeding. I respectfully ask that the Board take note of this gap in community outreach and consider requiring broader notification before any decision is made.

3. OPPOSITION TO LOOSENING CO STANDARDS

CO is a serious air pollutant with well-established health risks, particularly for children, the elderly, and individuals with cardiovascular or respiratory conditions. Given CITGO’s recent record of exceeding both federal and permit CO limits, this is not the appropriate time to grant regulatory relief that would allow even higher emissions. Doing so would undermine public trust in the regulatory process and potentially harm the health of thousands of Will County residents.

I respectfully urge you to:

- Deny CITGO’s petition for an adjusted CO emissions standard.
- Ensure that any future public notices for matters affecting our community are published in media outlets that actually reach Romeoville, Bolingbrook, Lockport, and neighboring communities.
- Require CITGO to demonstrate sustained compliance before any consideration of expanded emission allowances.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to protecting Illinois residents. I am happy to provide additional information or to participate in any public hearing on this matter.

Sincerely,

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Re: AS 2026-001 – CITGO Lemont Refinery Petition