

From: [John Walsh](#)
To: [Brown, Don](#); [Halloran, Brad](#)
Subject: [External] Please Deny CITGO's Request
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2026 6:04:39 AM

Dear Members of the Illinois Pollution Control Board,

I am writing to respectfully oppose CITGO Petroleum Corporation's request for an adjusted carbon monoxide standard for the Lemont refinery under Docket No. AS 2026-001 / AS 26-1.

I am not submitting this comment as a technical expert. I am submitting it as a community member who believes that existing public health protections should be honored, especially when they affect families and children living near a major industrial facility.

Carbon monoxide is not a minor concern. It is a toxic gas that can reduce the body's ability to deliver oxygen, and children are especially vulnerable because their bodies are still developing. Families in and around Lemont should not have to accept weaker protections during startup, shutdown, maintenance, or malfunction periods simply because those periods may be inconvenient or administratively burdensome for CITGO. Those are exactly the moments when strong standards, careful reporting, and public accountability matter most.

I am also concerned about the fairness of changing the rules after families have already made decisions about where to live. Many residents chose to move to this area with the understanding that the refinery would be required to operate under the current environmental regulations. People made major life decisions — buying homes, raising children, investing in the community — based on the protections in place. It is unfair to ask residents to absorb more uncertainty or potential health risk after the fact.

CITGO frequently describes itself as a responsible neighbor. A responsible neighbor honors its commitments to the state and the community. That means complying with existing standards, investing in safe operations, reporting transparently, and putting public health ahead of administrative convenience. If CITGO believes its operations are safe and that emissions will not increase, then it should be willing to continue operating under the current rules and reporting requirements.

I respectfully urge the Illinois Pollution Control Board to deny CITGO's request for an adjusted standard and require the refinery to continue complying fully with Illinois' current carbon monoxide standards.

Thank you for considering this comment and for protecting the health, safety, and trust of the surrounding community.

Sincerely,
John Walsh
Lockport, IL