

1 In The Matter Of: Petition Of CITGO Petroleum
2 Corporation For An Adjusted Standard From 35 Ill. Adm.
3 Code 216.121
4

5 Docket No. AS 2026-001 (Adjusted Standard - Air)
6
7

8 Moderated by Bradley P. Halloran, Hearing Officer
9 Friday, June 26, 2026
10 10:59 a.m.
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12

13 Lemont Township Community Center Boardroom
14 16300 Alba Street, Boardroom
15 Lemont, IL 60439
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19 Reported by: Haley Goodwin
20 JOB NO: 8169905
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A P P E A R A N C E S

List of Attendees:

Bradley P. Halloran, Hearing Officer

Anand Rao, Board Member - Chief Environmental
Scientist

Essence Brown, Board Member - Environmental Scientist

Melissa Brown, Outside Counsel, HeplerBroom LLC -
CITGO Petroleum Corporation

Sarah Mckavetz, Assistant Counsel, Legal Division -
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Rory Davis, Regulatory Development Manager, Bureau of
Air - Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Melissa Fischer, Witness

Laura Reigle, Witness

Andrew Kloubec, Witness

Zymante Pagojus, Witness

John Herg, Witness

Ryan Schwartz, Witness

Thomas O. McCurn, Witness

Marina Demirski, Witness

Carrie Eckberg, Witness

Carol Feeney, Witness

Magda Zalewska, Witness

Liz Regnier, Witness

1 Angela Paros, Witness
2 Dr. Steven Fineberg, Witness
3 Dawn Evers Witbrod, Witness
4 Rachel Fineberg, Witness
5 Dave Wilkes, Witness
6 Bernadette Zabransky, Witness
7 Ilona Staszal, Witness
8 Bradley Koperski, Witness
9 Rosie Sylvester, Witness
10 Allen Gedminas, Witness
11 Kristin Katsemes, Witness

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P R O C E E D I N G S

THE HEARING OFFICER: All right, ladies and gentlemen, we're on the record now. Before, I start my -- please be quiet. Thank you. Before I start my opening, there is to be no live streaming, and that means everybody, or I'll ask you to leave. Towards the end of my opening in a couple minutes, I'll go on to discuss any kind of recording situations. So I would ask you not to live stream.

Anyway, welcome. My name is Brad Halloran. I'm a hearing officer with the Illinois Pollution Control Board. I'm also assigned to this matter. It's the CITGO Petroleum Corporation for an Adjusted Standard, AS 26-1. This petition was accepted on October 2, 2025, and by the Board order of April 2, 2026, and because of the public interest, the Board ordered a hearing to allow for public comments or statements only.

I don't make the final decision in this matter. I take all the comments that we -- 150, I think last I counted, that you guys have filed, and thank you for that. And I take the transcript back to the Board, and they read it with a fine tooth comb, and they're very serious about that. And today I have

1 from our technical unit, Mr. Anand Rao and Ms. Essence
2 Brown.

3 And as found in my previous orders, I
4 just want to reiterate, and I'll read verbatim, "The
5 public is reminded that the hearing is only for public
6 comments or statements. Oral public comment or
7 written public statements may be made on the record
8 under oath at the hearing and are subject to cross-
9 examination. Public comments are not made under oath
10 and are not subject to cross-examination.

11 In addition, the public may file a
12 written comment with the Board, even if not at the
13 hearing. Public comments can be filed within 14 days
14 of the close of the hearing. Both oral and written
15 comments are given equal weight when considered by the
16 Board. Public comment and oral written statements
17 must be relevant to the Adjusted Standard at bar.

18 At this point, I would like to ask the
19 attorney for CITGO to stand up and introduce herself,
20 please.

21 And on behalf of the agency, the IEPA.
22 MS. MCKAVETZ: Sarah McKavetz --
23 counsel with the IEPA. This is Rory Davis with the
24 Air Quality -- section --

1 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,
2 Ms. McKavetz.

3 Ms. Brown, would you like to give a
4 short opening? Thank you.

5 MS. BROWN: Good morning. I'm Melissa
6 Brown, outside counsel for Petitioner, CITGO
7 Petroleum. I wanted to thank the hearing officer and
8 Board technical staff in attendance today for their
9 consideration of CITGO's requested Adjusted Standard.
10 CITGO filed its Adjusted Standard petition to
11 request -- could you still hear if I face this way?

12 MS. MCKAVETZ: I can. Just make sure
13 that you -- question that I can --

14 MS. BROWN: Thank you.

15 CITGO filed its Adjusted Standard
16 petition to request an alternative to the existing
17 carbon monoxide standard applicable to fuel combustion
18 emission sources and 35 Illinois Administrative Code
19 216.121. Section 216.121 provides a carbon monoxide
20 emissions limit of 200 parts per million corrected to
21 50 percent excess air applicable to fuel combustion
22 emission sources with actual heat input greater than
23 10 million BTU, or British Thermal Units, per hour.

24 CITGO requests an alternative emissions

1 limit be adopted that would apply during periods of
2 startup and shutdown of the select fuel combustion
3 emission sources at issue. The alternative emissions
4 limit consists of work practice standards applicable
5 during periods of startup and shutdown of the select
6 fuel combustion emission sources at issue. And that
7 is from the Federal Boiler and Process Heater
8 Regulations.

9 The proposed alternative emission limit
10 would apply to boilers and process heaters at the
11 refinery with actual heat input greater than 10
12 MMBtu/hr that are equipped with continuous emissions
13 monitoring systems for carbon monoxide and oxygen.

14 The relief requested that is the
15 subject of this Adjusted Standard proceeding and the
16 subject of this hearing is limited solely to carbon
17 monoxide emissions from these select boilers and
18 process heaters at the Lemont refinery. CITGO's
19 petition and technical support document demonstrate
20 that carbon monoxide emissions that would result from
21 the requested relief have an insignificant impact on
22 air quality.

23 Worst-case modeling of the emissions
24 shows that the modeled ambient concentrations are well

1 below the one-hour and eight-hour average carbon
2 monoxide National Ambient Air Quality Standards. As
3 noted in the hearing officer orders leading up to this
4 hearing, this hearing was scheduled to allow for
5 public comments.

6 CITGO believes sufficient information
7 is provided within its petition and technical support
8 document along with its responses to the Board's
9 written questions to support granting of its requested
10 relief. In its recommendation filed in this matter,
11 the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, or
12 Illinois EPA, does not object to the Board granting
13 CITGO's request.

14 In its recommendation, Illinois EPA
15 stated that CITGO has provided robust and adequate
16 technical support and Illinois EPA considers the
17 information provided sufficient evidence that
18 operation under proposed justice standard will not
19 result in air quality impacts that are harmful or
20 violate federal air quality standards.

21 Illinois EPA also noted the United
22 States Environmental Protection Agency staff also
23 reviewed the technical support and agreed with this
24 conclusion. CITGO, in a post-hearing filing, will be

1 responding to the written comments filed and to the
2 oral comments and statements made at hearing today.
3 Again, we appreciate the Board's consideration of the
4 requested relief. Thank you.

5 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,
6 Ms. Brown.

7 And as promised, I want to just briefly
8 comment on the informal recordings of these
9 proceedings. And I'm reading from Section 101.606 of
10 the Board's procedural rules. "Informal recording of
11 Board recordings is allowed as provided for in this
12 section. The hearing officer may prohibit audio or
13 video recording at hearing if the commentator objects
14 to it being on."

15 So if a public commentator comes up
16 here -- and I see a gentleman back here, I don't --

17 Is that a camera, sir, or -- is it a
18 video, sir? You don't -- okay, well, okay, you're not
19 listening to what I'm saying. Well, I know what I'm
20 reading, sir. Sir, you can turn the video off if the
21 public first objects to it, then you can turn it off,
22 sir. Okay.

23 And please withhold your clapping.
24 This is not -- you know, this is a formal proceeding.

1 In any event -- and if the hearing officer determines
2 the recording is disruptive or detrimental to a proper
3 development of the record, I can prohibit such
4 recording.

5 So with that said, I think there's a
6 sign-up sheet in the back. So who's ever first and
7 want to give public comment, and I think I'll limit it
8 to about three to four minutes, they can step up and
9 let me know if you want to give a public comment or a
10 public statement and be sworn in or not.

11 MS. FISCHER: Do you want me to, like,
12 read the list down, call people's names or something?

13 THE HEARING OFFICER: Yeah, well,
14 whoever probably signed up first, they know, but yeah,
15 that would be great, or we could bring it up here,
16 yeah.

17 Okay. Okay. Thank you.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 1: So you have a
19 piece of paper there?

20 THE HEARING OFFICER: There's a bunch
21 there.

22 Okay. We have John Caccial, C-A-C-C-I-
23 A-L, Oh, okay. Yes, sir. Okay, thank you.

24 And we have -- probably your lovely

1 wife, Raquel [ph], cancel?

2 Laura Reigle? Good morning.

3 MS. REIGLE: Good morning. Laura
4 Reigle.

5 THE HEARING OFFICER: If you could
6 spell your name for the court reporter, please.

7 MS. REIGLE: Sure. It's Laura, L-A-U-
8 R-A, Reigle, R-E-I-G-L-E.

9 THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay.

10 MS. REIGLE: I just want to give a few
11 foundations first. I used to work at a Amoco chemical
12 plant when I was an intern in college for my
13 internship in college. So I have familiarity both at
14 another organization that I worked for also with
15 chemicals, being I worked as a chemical waste
16 generator for employment for an agency that I worked
17 for also.

18 My concern solely with what we have
19 going on is we adopt rules and laws. We put them in
20 place with certain regulation amounts to protect the
21 people that we have in our community. That includes
22 the seniors, that includes the children, which are
23 more apt to having issues with the amounts of
24 chemicals in the air. Working in an agency that

1 actually had oxygen deficiency due to the chemicals
2 that got into the air around us, we were trained in
3 safety equipment, having equipment on us so that we
4 could, with oxygen deficiency, put on a full face
5 shield so we could breathe when we were at work.

6 Okay. The difference is, is that when
7 we're dealing with the public, they don't have those
8 apparatuses. They're not trained in it, nor should we
9 have to worry about that when we're being confronted
10 with the amounts of chemicals that -- or other sources
11 that go into our air that we're breathing.

12 People that are seniors that have lived
13 in an area for a long period of time their whole life
14 shouldn't have to worry about the quality of the air
15 that they're breathing on a shutdown, which I'm
16 familiar with, or a startup from an agency producing
17 or putting out more chemicals into the air, which is
18 common at those periods of time.

19 That's when the things that are going
20 to fail or they're going to have problems are going to
21 go wrong is on startups and shutdowns. That's when
22 they release the most amount of chemicals and
23 pollutants into the air. We shouldn't have to be
24 coming here and asking people not to give deviations

1 and laws or variances to people for having the ability
2 to release more into the air.

3 We should be standing true to what we
4 believe was right when they put those laws in place to
5 protect the people. They shouldn't have to come
6 before you and say, Hey, now, let's take -- and should
7 we allow this or shouldn't we? It's harmful to
8 people. We shouldn't allow harmful things to go into
9 the air.

10 We don't know who it's going to affect,
11 and there's no proof that the amount that they're
12 releasing is safe to the community. So without having
13 studies and things out there, we belong sticking to
14 what we have already have in place and shouldn't be
15 deviating from those deviations of the law. Thank you

16 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you so
17 much.

18 Andrew Kloubec? Good morning, sir.

19 MR. KLOUBEC: Good morning, Andrew, A-
20 N-D-R-E-W, Kloubec, K-L-O-U-B-E-C.

21 THE HEARING OFFICER: I'm sorry, do you
22 object to being recorded?

23 MR. KLOUBEC: Oh, no.

24 THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. Terrific.

1 Thank you. You can proceed.

2 MR. KLOUBEC: Good afternoon, members
3 of the Board. My name is Andrew Kloubec, and I'm a
4 resident of Lemont. I'm here today as a concerned
5 community member to strongly oppose the petition filed
6 by CITGO Petroleum Corporation for an Adjusted
7 Standard under docket number AS 2026-001. CITGO is
8 asking this Board for relief from Illinois carbon
9 monoxide emission standards during startup, shutdown,
10 and maintenance periods. I urge the Board to deny
11 this request.

12 Our community lives directly downwind
13 from this facility. We already bear a heavy daily
14 environmental burden. Startup, shutdown, and
15 maintenance events are times when industrial equipment
16 is inherently less stable. Relaxing emissions
17 equipment -- oh, I'm sorry, excuse me. Relaxing
18 emissions standards during these precise moments poses
19 an unnecessary direct risk to the air quality and
20 health of local families.

21 Furthermore, CITGO's history of air
22 quality disputes and regulatory enforcement actions
23 make this request deeply concerning. This plant is
24 routinely ranked in the top three worst polluters in

1 the entire country. Granting this Adjusted Standard
2 would essentially normalize elevated emissions. It
3 tells a major industrial facility that instead of
4 investing in better controls or modern operational
5 solutions, they can simply ask for an administrative
6 carve out.

7 Our neighborhood deserves strict
8 protective environmental enforcement, not customized
9 rules that benefit a corporate bottom line at the
10 physical expense of our residents. I respectfully
11 request that the Illinois Pollution Control Board deny
12 this Adjusted Standard. Please require CITGO to fully
13 comply with existing state emissions rules at all
14 times. Thank you for your time, your consideration,
15 and for prioritizing the health and safety of Lemont
16 residents.

17 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, sir.

18 Okay. Is it Zymante Pagojus, P-A-G-O-
19 J-U-S? I can't even pronounce my last name, so I
20 apologize.

21 MS. PAGOJUS: Zymante Pagojus, Z-Y-M-A-
22 N-T-E, P-A-G-O-J-U-S. Good morning. And my name is
23 Zymante Pagojus. I'm a resident of Lemont. I'm here
24 today because I believe this decision is about much

1 more than one refinery. It is about the kind of
2 environmental protection we want for Illinois, not
3 just today, but for our future generations.

4 Environmental standards exist to
5 protect public health, our environment, and the
6 communities that live alongside industry. They also
7 encourage facilities to continually improve
8 technology, reduce emissions, and operate as safely
9 and efficiently as possible. When meeting a standard
10 becomes technically difficult, should our response be
11 to change standard or should we continue encouraging
12 innovation and operational improvements that reduce
13 emissions, whether -- wherever feasible?

14 That is the question before this Board.
15 CITGO has characterized this petition as reducing
16 administrative reporting. Respectfully, I believe
17 this proceeding is about much more than reporting and
18 requirements. The Board is being asked to replace an
19 enforceable Illinois carbon monoxide standard with an
20 alternate compliance standard during startup,
21 shutdown, and maintenance activities. That is not
22 simply an administrative change. It is a regulatory
23 change that determines how compliance will be
24 evaluated during the very operating conditions when

1 documented carbon monoxide exceedances have already
2 occurred.

3 I am also concerned about the
4 precedence this decision could set. If one refinery
5 receives a site-specific Adjusted Standard because
6 compliance is technically difficult, what prevents
7 other industrial facilities from seeking similar
8 relief in the future? Illinois is home to many
9 refineries and heavy industries. If exceptions
10 gradually become the solution whenever compliance
11 becomes challenging, what will our environmental
12 protections look like 20, 30 or 50 years from now?

13 Environmental protections should move
14 forward, not backward. As residents, we understand
15 that industrial operations are complex, but
16 environmental standards should continue to drive
17 improvement, not adapt to repeated compliance
18 challenges. They should prioritize prevention over
19 accommodation and accountability over flexibility.

20 This issue is deeply personal to me.
21 My son has been battling a serious illness, and like
22 every parent, I think about the air we breathe, and
23 the environment he will grow up in. I'm not here to
24 claim that the refinery caused my son illness or

1 anyone else's. That would not be fair or supported by
2 evidence.

3 But I also cannot ignore what I see in
4 our community. It feels like we are constantly seeing
5 fundraisers for local families whose children,
6 spouses, parents, or loved ones are facing devastated
7 illnesses. Whether those illnesses are related to
8 environmental exposure or not, I believe they remind
9 us of something important. Public health should never
10 be an afterthought.

11 Before weakening an environmental
12 standard that was established to protect public
13 health, perhaps we should first ask whether we truly
14 understand the long-term health impacts on communities
15 that live alongside heavy industries. Should we be --
16 should we be conducting more health studies, should we
17 be gathering more long-term data before replacing an
18 existing standard with an exception?

19 If there is uncertainty, I believe the
20 responsible course is not to weaken protection, but to
21 strengthen our understanding and continue protecting
22 the communities. The decision made by this Board
23 today will not affect only today's residents. They
24 will help shape the expectations we set for industry

1 and the environmental legacy we leave to our children
2 and grandchildren. For those reasons, I respectfully
3 ask you to deny this petition.

4 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you so much
5 for standing.

6 We have John, H-E -- is that R-G?

7 MR. HERG: Yes, I have nothing.

8 THE HEARING OFFICER: All right. Thank
9 you.

10 Marilyn Molitar? Okay, thank you.

11 Ryan Schwartz?

12 MR. SCHWARTZ: Good morning. My name
13 is Ryan Schwartz. I'm here today representing,
14 Representative Nicole La Ha's office. Representative
15 La Ha has taken this issue very seriously. She's
16 continued to be engaged on this, and she would really
17 like to be part of any meaningful discussions between
18 constituents and CITGO on how we can find a meaningful
19 solution to this. And thank you all for being here
20 today and allowing me to come up and present.

21 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, sir.
22 Appreciate it.

23 Thomas O. McCurn?

24 MR. MCCURN: I have nothing to add.

1 THE HEARING OFFICER: All right.

2 Marina Demirski?

3 MS. DEMIRSKI: Hello, good afternoon.

4 THE HEARING OFFICER: Good afternoon.

5 MS. DEMIRSKI: Marina Demirski, M-A-R-
6 I-N-A, D-E-M-I-R-S-K-I. I'm a local resident, just
7 like many of you. And I have serious concerns about
8 CITGO's request and how the public was notified.
9 First, publishing the legal notice in the Joliet
10 Herald-News. Who reads that, first of all; right,
11 effectively kept nearby residents in Lemont and
12 Romeoville in the dark. I'm assuming other
13 communities as well.

14 Lockport, do you read that? I don't
15 think so. Why was the publication chosen that doesn't
16 primarily serve the communities most impacted by this
17 decision? Second, given the overwhelming community
18 opposition -- thank you everybody for being here, has
19 CITGO considered withdrawing this request entirely?
20 Finally, can CITGO continue to operate safely and
21 successfully under its current rules without this
22 request being granted? I urge the Board to deny this
23 request. Thank you.

24 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you so

1 much.

2 Carrie Eckberg, please, good morning.

3 MS. ECKBERG: Hi, good morning, Carrie
4 Eckberg, E-C-K-B-E-R-G. Okay. Hi, everyone. Thank
5 you for being here. I am a foster and adoptive mom.
6 I'm a Lemont resident. It is my job to keep the
7 children in my home safe. I adopted medically
8 sensitive children, and I strongly oppose this
9 petition. We should be raising standards, not
10 lowering standards. We should not be part of an
11 experiment. Again, I strongly oppose, and I request
12 that you withdraw the petition and stop wasting our
13 time.

14 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

15 All right, Tom and Rebecca something.
16 Okay. Thank you.

17 Carol Feeney?

18 MS. FEENEY: Nothing.

19 THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay, thank you.

20 Cecilia Darcy [ph]? Okay. Thank you.

21 Thanks for helping me out with this
22 between the -- yeah.

23 Magda Zalewska? Thank you. Good
24 afternoon.

1 MS. ZALEWSKA: I'm here today as a
2 resident of Romeoville. My question lies is, where is
3 all this information about how it's going to be
4 affecting our air quality coming from? If we take a
5 look at last year's air quality report, I mean, it
6 shows right there that our air is not clean compared
7 to our surrounding neighborhoods.

8 As a provider of Will County, a family
9 council board member of Region 56, and most
10 importantly, a mom of three kids under the age of six,
11 I want to voice health concerns on behalf of the
12 residents. Increasing health issues are a concern to
13 me in the area and the families I work with in the
14 surrounding areas.

15 My daughter has hydrocephalus, and I'm
16 worried about her health because she's more
17 susceptible to environmental factors such as air
18 pollution. Not to mention we live three miles from
19 the refinery, and we live right next -- less than two
20 miles from Madison, who I know works hand-in-hand with
21 CITGO, and they also contribute to air pollution.

22 So my ask is to oppose this petition
23 and keep in mind all residents held over profit.
24 We're asking for accountability and to keep in mind

1 how this is going to affect us all in the long run and
2 our children. We are not experiments. Thank you.

3 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

4 Melissa Fischer, please.

5 MS. FISCHER: Sorry, I did not come
6 prepared so --

7 THE HEARING OFFICER: You'll do fine.

8 MS. FISCHER: Melissa Fischer. M-E-L-
9 I-S-S-A, F-I-S-C-H-E-R. I was born in Lemont. I'm a
10 Lemont resident now for almost 39 years. Lived just a
11 mile from CITGO, which I didn't listen to my dad when
12 he said, do not live close to the refinery. So he
13 is -- you know, whatever. Anyways, I live a mile
14 away. I have personally seen pitch black, just clouds
15 of smoke coming -- not smoke, whatever they --
16 whatever it is coming out of CITGO.

17 I've taken photos. I've sent photos to
18 the Lemont Odor Network. I've done all of the things
19 and after seeing that firsthand. I also have three
20 little kids at home. One of them, since birth, has
21 been dealing with a lot of health issues directly
22 related to a toxic overload. And I think if you saw
23 her, if you saw the smoke, you would -- I mean, deny
24 this without a doubt.

1 There's standards in place, what
2 everyone else said. It's just the most gross ask to
3 me from CITGO to be like, We know we're polluting it,
4 but not so much. So let's pollute it a little bit
5 more. When again, we've spoken very explicitly to
6 CITGO saying we've got all sorts of issues. Again,
7 maybe not caused by them, but just in general, like
8 the better our community can be, the better and
9 healthier we all would be. So again, just asking for
10 everybody to please deny the ask and find a way to
11 work within the standards. Thank you.

12 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.
13 Rosie Sylvester? Okay, thank you.
14 Let's see. Liz Regnier? Sorry.
15 Thanks.

16 MS. REGNIER: Hi, my name is Liz
17 Regnier, L-I-Z, R-E-G-N-I-E-R. I'm here on behalf of
18 Illinois State Senator Rachel Ventura. We are here
19 because our office gets calls and emails from local
20 residents with concerns about the CITGO plant. These
21 calls are about whether it's safe to live where they
22 live and if they should be worried about the air that
23 they and their children breathe.

24 I'm here to speak out on behalf of our

1 constituents to tell you that the community is
2 generally concerned and would like to see CITGO and
3 the Pollution Control Board address these concerns and
4 uphold emission standards. We are here to support our
5 community and stand in solidarity with our
6 constituents. I genuinely hope that the CITGO and the
7 Pollution Control Board also stand with area
8 residents. Sorry.

9 We also, on behalf of the Will County
10 Board member, Destinee Ortiz, want to urge -- requests
11 that the Illinois Pollution Control Board deny the
12 petition as it would reduce reporting requirements and
13 erode public trust. CITGO has not met the burden of
14 proving this adjustment will not adversely impact the
15 environment and the public's health. Thank you.

16 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

17 Angela Paros, and I can't read the last
18 name, surname. Oh, here we go.

19 I do want to note for the record that
20 we do have about, what, 75, 80 people here and it's an
21 overflow crowd, for the record. Thank you.

22 You may proceed.

23 MS. PAROS: Hi, my name's Angela Paros,
24 P-A-R-O-S, is the last name. And I am just kindly

1 requesting that CITGO withdraws an increase in carbon
2 monoxide release into our environment. I support
3 everything that was said already here today. We
4 should definitely be increasing our standard, not
5 decreasing.

6 I am a mother of triplets, and one is
7 in heaven. So I lost her in March, and we fought very
8 hard, and I've been very attuned to what's going on in
9 our environment. I support everyone that is showing
10 up to all the meetings. I think it's very important.
11 I think it's a disgrace to even have CITGO think that
12 they can get away with this.

13 And it was very sneaky, as Marina was
14 saying, to publish it in the Joliet paper. I'm so
15 glad I got my eyes on that. But I think very strongly
16 that they should try to improve their technology, try
17 to release the poisons in the community, and not
18 release the carbon monoxide and the poison, you know,
19 I don't know, if that just makes sense on that, to
20 improve our technology to decrease the poisons. And
21 thank you for listening and having me here today.

22 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

23 Chris Domzalski? Okay, thank you.

24 Alexander, G-A-Z-Y-B? Okay, last call.

1 Dr. Fineberg?

2 DR. FINEBERG: Steven Fineberg, S-T-E-
3 V-E-N, last name, F-I-N-E-B-E-R-G. First, I'd like to
4 thank the Board for the opportunity to speak this
5 morning. My name is Dr. Steven Fineberg. I'm a
6 physician, a surgeon, a resident of this community,
7 and a father of a one-year-old daughter.

8 I'm here today to respectfully urge the
9 Board to deny CITGO's request for an Adjusted Standard
10 that would allow higher carbon monoxide emissions
11 during startup, shutdown, and maintenance events. As
12 a physician, I spend my career thinking about
13 population health. We often talk about preventing
14 disease before it starts, rather than treating after
15 bodily damage is done.

16 Air quality is one of those preventive
17 health measures. Children are especially vulnerable
18 to air pollution. Their lungs are still developing.
19 They breathe more air per pound of body weight than
20 adults, and they have many more years ahead of them
21 for the effects of the environmental exposures to
22 accumulate.

23 Poor air quality has been linked to
24 increased asthma attacks, respiratory illness,

1 cardiovascular disease, and adverse health outcomes.
2 Carbon monoxide itself reduces the body's -- the
3 blood's ability to carry oxygen, placing particular
4 stress on infants, young children, pregnant women,
5 older adults, and those with underlying heart or lung
6 disease.

7 While this petition focuses on carbon
8 monoxide standards during certain operating periods,
9 it raises a broader concern. Startup and shutdown
10 events are often when industrial processes are least
11 stable. Those are not the moments when we want our
12 community to receive less protection. They're the
13 moments when strong safeguards matter most.

14 This is not simply an engineering or
15 regulatory issue. It is a public health issue.
16 Families in Lemont should not have to wonder whether
17 corporate convenience is being prioritized over their
18 air and their -- that their children breathe.

19 If a facility cannot consistently meet
20 the standards designed to protect public health, the
21 solution to be -- should be investing in improved
22 technology and operations, not lowering the standard.
23 I respectfully ask the Board to deny this petition and
24 uphold the existing emission limits. Our community

1 deserves clean air, accountability, and the confidence
2 that public health remains the highest priority.
3 Thank you for your time and consideration.

4 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,
5 Doctor.

6 Sean or Dawn Witbrod? Apologize again.

7 MS. EVERS WITBROD: I want to thank
8 everyone for being here from our town. This was a
9 topic of conversation at -- well, I'll say my name,
10 Dawn Evers, E-V-E-R-S, Witbrod, W-I-T-B-R-O-D.

11 This was a topic of conversation at the
12 Lemont soiree last night. Everyone was talking about
13 it. I even mentioned it to the man from CITGO today
14 that he really has our town riled up about this. The
15 more I thought about this, I'm like, I was just
16 curious to see what the EPA, what their definition
17 was.

18 So I wrote -- this says, "The US
19 Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, defines carbon
20 monoxide as a colorless, practically odorless, and
21 tasteless gas. It's a toxic combustion pollutant
22 generated when carbon-based fuels do not burn
23 completely."

24 The key word in that is "toxic." Let's

1 go, what does toxic mean, first? For ones that don't
2 know, "toxic" means capable of causing injury,
3 illness, or death to a living organism through
4 chemical means. I'm like, Okay, that's interesting;
5 right?

6 So toxic, our community, kids, just
7 breaks my heart; right? So I didn't come here today
8 because I'm an expert. I came here because I care.
9 I'm about to move out of Lemont in the next couple
10 years because my son is older. I can go to Florida
11 and go relax on the beach, but I felt it was important
12 that I came here today.

13 So over the last few days, I've been
14 reading, asking questions, and trying to understand
15 this proposal. And the more I learned, the more I
16 realized, this isn't just about permits or
17 regulations. It's about people. It's about all of us
18 in this room.

19 It's about the little boy playing on
20 the baseball field tonight. It's about the family
21 taking a walk after dinner. It's about me walking my
22 dog. It's about breathing this air. It's about the
23 grandparents sitting on their front porch watching
24 their grandkids.

1 It's about every child who calls Lemont
2 home. It's -- our children only get one set of lungs.
3 We all do. As adults, we're supposed to make
4 decisions that leave our community better than we
5 found it, better than we found it. Let's all keep
6 that in mind.

7 We should never have to wonder if
8 choosing convenience over someone's health. I'm not
9 here to tell you what decision to make. I'm here to
10 ask you to be absolutely certain before you make it.
11 Please ask every question. Listen to every expert,
12 consider every concern.

13 And if there's any uncertainty about
14 how this could affect the people who live here, I ask
15 that you choose the people because we matter. Because
16 once someone's health is gone, we cannot get it back.
17 Please deny this. Thank you.

18 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.
19 Rachel Fineberg?.

20 MS. FINEBERG: Good morning. My name
21 is Rachel Fineberg, R-A-C-H-E-L, F-I-N-E-B-E-R-G, and
22 I'm a Lemont resident and mother of a one-year-old
23 daughter, an aunt to a four-year-old, two-year-old,
24 and one-year-old boy who all live in the vicinity of

1 the CITGO Lemont refinery. I'm here because this
2 decision isn't just about regulations or numbers on a
3 page. It is about the air our children breathe every
4 single day.

5 As parents, we do everything we can to
6 protect our kids. We research the latest -- the
7 safest car seats, the healthiest foods, and the best
8 doctors. We shouldn't also have to worry that the air
9 outside our homes is becoming less safe because a
10 large corporation is asking for an exception to
11 pollution standards. Children are especially
12 vulnerable to air pollution because their lungs are
13 still developing. They deserve stronger protections,
14 not weaker ones.

15 I understand that industry faces
16 operational challenges, but these challenges should be
17 solved through better technology and compliance, not
18 relaxing standards that exist to protect public
19 health. I respectfully ask the Board to deny CITGO's
20 petition and put the health of Lemont families ahead
21 of corporate convenience. Thank you for your time.

22 THE HEARING OFFICER: That's all I have
23 on my list up here. Are there any other names back
24 there or feel free to come up. That's it?

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 2: There's
2 another -- no, I'm not on the list. I'm not even on
3 the list, like the third name -- list.

4 THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay, I'm sorry.
5 Thank Nobody's fooled me. Thank you.

6 MS. FISCHER: Anyone who hasn't spoken,
7 just go, even without the list.

8 THE HEARING OFFICER: Yeah, I don't --

9 MS. FISCHER: So, Dave, if you want to
10 speak.

11 THE HEARING OFFICER: Yeah, if there's
12 -- yeah. As I said earlier, if there's no list,
13 anybody can jump up here -- where'd it go? Somebody's
14 --

15 MS. BROWN: They said they gave him
16 two?

17 THE HEARING OFFICER: Yeah, I've been
18 calling all the names. But anyway, here we are.

19 MR. WILKES: Dave Wilkes, W-I-L-K-E-S.
20 I'm the closest resident to CITGO. I know half the
21 people here. My big concern is I've lived here 35
22 years. I've done every shutdown since 1980 to 2023.
23 I retired five years ago. I've worked all the
24 shutdowns. CITGO is a good plant. Texaco and Mobil,

1 I worked with them all.

2 CITGO is probably the best one I've
3 worked in. That's not the issue. The issue is if you
4 pass this, it opens a window up for Mobil, for Clark,
5 Texaco, Chevron, everybody else to fall behind this
6 and bump this up. In the last 30 years, they've done
7 a fabulous job down there. But if you pass this, like
8 I said, it opens a gateway for every refinery to jump
9 on it, and they're going to say, Well, you passed it
10 for CITGO. We should get the same.

11 The other thing is you're saying for
12 shutdowns and startups. They need to clarify that.
13 If it's the EPA five-year shut down, that's fine. And
14 you can look at that, but you can't say for every
15 startup and shut down. We might shut down a boiler
16 today, start it back up on Friday.

17 You can't change the standards for
18 every startup and shutdown because that opens the
19 gateway to carte blanche. You know, like I said,
20 CITGO's been nice to me, but you can't open this up.
21 It's going to open a big can of worms up. You know,
22 people don't realize this. I've been down there.
23 I've done the shutdowns, everything else, you know.

24 The union guys that worked down there

1 are quality workers. We straightened that plant out
2 big time. But if you open this up, like I said, it
3 opens up a window for every refinery, not only in
4 Illinois, in the United States because they're all
5 going to fall back on it. You got to straighten out
6 the wording and, you know, say what a shutdown is,
7 what a startup is. That's my big issue. Thank you.

8 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, sir.
9 Anybody else, please?

10 MS. ZABRANSKY: Well, I've worked --

11 THE HEARING OFFICER: Could you state
12 your name and spell it for the court reporter, please?

13 MS. ZABRANSKY: Okay. Get ready for
14 this one. First name is Bernadette. Can you spell
15 that, or do you want me to spell it? Last name is
16 Zabransky, Z-A-B-R-A-N-S-K-Y. Got it? Oh, man,
17 you're good.

18 I worked in the oil industry for 46
19 years. I worked primarily in the pipeline. You do
20 not put profits before safety. What we focused on was
21 public safety and operational safety, obviously, which
22 impacts public safety. But when I see companies that
23 come along and say, Well, we have to reduce our
24 reporting, we have to reduce this. Why, to put money

1 in somebody's pocket?

2 I'm sorry, you're taking -- as people
3 here have said with children, it's impacting children,
4 it's impacting juniors, which I am. You can't do
5 that. So I'm tired of hearing this. I'm tired of
6 hearing it for oil companies. I'm tired of hearing it
7 for everyone. Start looking at the people, the
8 residents in this community, and realize what's
9 important for us, what's important for our future.

10 On the pipeline, we really focus on, as
11 I said, operational safety, but public safety. You
12 don't do things that are going to hurt people and
13 toxic, and the one lady that talked about the black
14 smoke going up, I don't live close to the CITGO
15 refinery, but I saw that smoke coming from my house,
16 and I thought, this is not good so stop it. We
17 can't -- we can't just say, Oh, sure, go ahead, you
18 know. So I, again, respectfully request that you --
19 you reject their -- their, you know, increases. It's
20 wrong. Thank you.

21 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, ma'am.
22 Anybody else? My plan is the Board and
23 I will be here until -- including the court reporter
24 until, we said, 1:30. So, you know, for now, if no

1 one else wants to give comment, we can just sit here
2 and look at each other or whatever, but nothing's
3 going to be happening. Oh, here we go.

4 MS. STASZEL: My name's Ilona Staszel.
5 Do you need me to spell it?

6 THE HEARING OFFICER: Please.

7 MS. STASZEL: Okay. I-L-O-N-A, last
8 name, S-T-A-S-Z-E-L. I didn't plan to speak today. I
9 am here with my two daughters, and we want more
10 transparency from CITGO, not less. We want more
11 regulations, not less. We want tighter standards. We
12 don't want more pollution in our air.

13 I want my kids to grow up with being
14 able to run outside, not worrying about what they're
15 breathing. Sometimes the air smells really off in
16 Lemont. I know a lot of us have smelled it, so I
17 strongly recommend you oppose this. Thank you.

18 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

19 Anyone else would like to get --

20 Yes, sir. Yes, please, for the court
21 reporter.

22 MR. KOPERSKI: My name's Bradley
23 Koperski, B-R-A-D-L-E-Y, K-O-P-E-R-S-K-I, and I want
24 to know, is this proposed relief? Is this, like, a

1 temporary with, like, any timeframe, or is it just the
2 exemption for those that -- definitely for these
3 periods that they're saying they want relief for.

4 THE HEARING OFFICER: Well, you can
5 give comments, sir, but no questions.

6 MR. KOPERSKI: Oh, my comment -- all
7 right, my comment would just be that the Romeoville,
8 Lemont, Lockport area, they're all growing areas, and
9 I can see the CITGO refinery from my house, and people
10 are really concerned about the pollution from there.
11 So why would we make exemptions because if people
12 think that they're going to be increasing pollution
13 from there, it's going to discourage people from
14 moving into this area and hinder the growth.

15 So long term, what's the benefit of
16 just letting them give a little slip to the
17 regulations when overall people are becoming more
18 health conscious and are worried about these things.
19 That's my only comment.

20 THE HEARING OFFICER: All right. Thank
21 you, sir.

22 Anyone else? Okay, it's approximately
23 11:45. We'll take a short break off the record. I'll
24 be back on the record in about ten minutes. Thank

1 you.

2 (Off the record.)

3 THE HEARING OFFICER: We're going to go
4 back on the record. I think the court reporter's
5 ready. My fault. And anyway, ladies and gentlemen,
6 we'll keep it down. We're back on the record. I just
7 wanted to see if there was any other folks that wanted
8 to give public comment, and I see a hand.

9 You can just step up and state your
10 name and spell it for us.

11 MS. SYLVESTER: Hi, my name is Rosie,
12 R-O-S-I-E, Sylvester, S-Y-L-V-E-S-T-E-R. I'm a
13 survivor from Sterigenics, cancer, non-Hodgkin's
14 Lymphoma. They closed the plant finally. I cannot
15 tell you how many thousands of people were affected,
16 air quality, breathing. It is the same with our --
17 our CITGO here.

18 As I could remember, we had -- I don't
19 know how many attorneys in on this, and they finally,
20 as you've seen on the news, Sterigenics closed, 63rd
21 and 83. It affected all of us, children. There are
22 many kids with cancer, many kids with breathing
23 problems. So we have the same issue here. Let's let
24 our people live.

1 They finally closed them so they could
2 live in that community. Let's do it for our
3 community. Try. You have loved ones too. You had
4 mothers, daughters, sisters. Let's take care of
5 ourselves. I know that offhand. Thank you.

6 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

7 Anyone else? All right, we'll go back
8 off the record until somebody else comes in or wants
9 to give comment. We're off the record now. Thank
10 you.

11 (Off the record.)

12 THE HEARING OFFICER: We're back on the
13 record. We have a follow-up comment by a former
14 commentator.

15 You may proceed. Thank you. Your
16 name?

17 MR. KLOUBEC: Andrew Kloubec.

18 THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay.

19 MR. KLOUBEC: Would you like me to
20 spell it? Okay, thank you. In addition to my
21 previous statements, I just want to express profound
22 disappointment in the Illinois Environmental
23 Protection Agency. The IEPA is tasked with being the
24 shield that protects our air, our health, and our

1 families. Yet they have issued a recommendation to
2 approve CITGO's petition without doing the
3 foundational due diligence our community deserves.

4 To our knowledge, the IEPA rubber
5 stamped this request based entirely on technical data
6 provided by CITGO itself. They did not seek out,
7 fund, or consider a single independent outside
8 scientific study or health impact research project
9 before backing this standard reduction.

10 Accepting an industry giant's self-
11 reported data during highly volatile startup and
12 shutdown phases without verifying those claims through
13 rigorous, independent, environmental research is a
14 failure of oversight. The state shouldn't be taking a
15 polluter's word at face value when the physical health
16 of Lemont residents is on the line. Thank you.

17 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

18 Okay. I see two other people entered
19 the room.

20 Would you like to give a public
21 comment? We're on the record now. Thank you. All
22 right, well, if you could wait and then just state
23 your name and spell it for the court reporter, sir.
24 Thank you so much.

1 MR. GEDMINAS: Okay. My name is Allen
2 Gedminas, G-E-D-M-I-N-A-S. I'm from the Pleasantdale
3 area. I don't -- I just got -- found out about this
4 about an hour ago. It's just -- it seems like the
5 community is getting stuff swept under their feet.
6 You all know about the gas wash over in -- on 97th and
7 Lemont Road, that thing passed. Couldn't say anything
8 about it.

9 This sounds like everybody remembers
10 Sterigenics over in Willowbrook. It's the same thing
11 we're hearing now, from what I understand, about the
12 carbon monoxide. It -- it's just ridiculous the way
13 the people in the community just have no say so in
14 this at all. That's all I got.

15 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, sir.
16 All right. We can go back off the
17 record, please. Thank you.

18 (Discussion held off the record.)

19 THE HEARING OFFICER: We're back on the
20 record now. We have another commentator.

21 State your name and spell it, please.

22 MS. DEMIRSKI: Yes, Marina Demirski.
23 M-A-R-I-N-A, D-E-M-I-R-S-K-I. I'm up again here to
24 urge this Board to deny CITGO's petition for an

1 Adjusted Standard. CITGO wants you to relax its
2 carbon monoxide emission requirements during startup
3 and shutdown, and I'm asking you to say no. We should
4 not grant environmental relief to a chronic violator.
5 Citgo has proven year after year that they're not a
6 good neighbor despite all the money they try to dump
7 into our community to mask their violations.

8 Their Lemont facility has a long
9 documented history of infractions and fines. An
10 almost two million dollar federal civil penalty, forty
11 million dollars in mandated compliance upgrades, and
12 over \$700,000 in additional air quality penalties.
13 They have repeatedly poisoned our air, paid the fine,
14 and continued to pollute.

15 Let me ask you a direct question. I
16 know you cannot answer. This is just a statement, a
17 comment. Would any member of this Board tolerate a
18 rule change in your own home? Would you allow someone
19 to lower the standards on your home's carbon monoxide
20 monitor? Would you let dangerous gases slip by your
21 family just to accommodate a rule breaker? I don't
22 think so. I certainly wouldn't.

23 Our community deserves the exact same
24 baseline of safety. The air we breathe, the water we

1 drink should protect us and not poison us. Relaxing
2 emission controls rewards corporate negligence. Just
3 look at what happened yesterday with Monsanto in
4 Supreme Court. Very unfortunate. It tells big
5 corporations that if they pollute long enough,
6 Illinois will just lower the bar for them.

7 Our community has endured enough.
8 Please prioritize the health of Lemont and the
9 surrounding communities. Please hold CITGO strictly
10 accountable to existing standards. Thank you.

11 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

12 You may step up, another --

13 MS. ZALEWSKA: Z-A-L-E-W-S-K-A. I just
14 want to make one last comment before I leave for work
15 today. It's just near and dear to my heart since we
16 have the time for it. I'm from Wood Dale originally,
17 raised my children, my two sons to be super healthy
18 boys in Glen Ellyn.

19 We moved -- I was a first-time home
20 buyer. I got accepted. I bought a home in
21 Romeoville. I was so excited. It was -- I'm going to
22 be a homeowner and my three kids are going to have a
23 backyard to run in finally. And all of a sudden -- I
24 was six months pregnant when we moved in. Pregnancy's

1 healthy, everything is fine.

2 About a month before I have to give
3 birth, we're doing just another routine screening and
4 all of a sudden measurements are coming up wrong on my
5 daughter's head circumference, no doctor can explain
6 to me besides, oh, it can be due to some unknown
7 toxins in environment or just bad luck.

8 So my daughter ended up having
9 hydrocephalus. I'm a healthy individual. My parents
10 are healthy individuals. We take care of ourselves.
11 We eat healthy. We -- we grow food in our backyard.
12 We're growing cucumbers, tomatoes, like, we're -- we
13 take care of our health.

14 So to me, I just really want to stress,
15 please, please, please stop polluting my air. I want
16 to feel comfortable that when my children are swinging
17 on the swings, that when my daughter, who's already
18 delayed and has a shunt in place in her head for the
19 rest of her life, if we can just play healthy -- or be
20 healthy and play outside and remain a normal life. I
21 don't want to move out of Romeoville, but all of this
22 is making me feel like I have to, and I'm a single
23 mom. It's going to be hard to do, but if that's what
24 I have to do.

1 I don't care about all those community
2 events that we have in Romeoville with CITGO's
3 signature on the bottom. I don't. I care about my
4 children's health just like all 35 families that I
5 work near and dear with, they care about their
6 children's health, and the fact that their health
7 concerns are on the rise, specifically in this area.
8 Please address that concern. Thank you so much for
9 your time.

10 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. Thank
11 you. All right, we're off the record again. Thank
12 you.

13 (Off the record.)

14 THE HEARING OFFICER: All right. We're
15 back on the record. We have another commentator.

16 Please proceed. State your name and
17 spell it, please.

18 MS. KATSEMES: First name's Kristen, K-
19 R-I-S-T-I-N. My last name is K-A-T-S-E-N-E-S. So I'm
20 a resident of Lemont since 2017. I'm about to have
21 three kids, and -- and I strongly oppose this
22 permission for CITGO to have more emissions.

23 THE HEARING OFFICER: All right. Thank
24 you so much for stepping up.

1 All right. We can go back off the
2 record again.

3 (Off the record.)

4 THE HEARING OFFICER: All right. We're
5 back on the record at approximately 1:15. I think we
6 have a continuation.

7 MS. REIGLE: Yeah.

8 THE HEARING OFFICER: Your name again,
9 hi.

10 MS. REIGLE: Hello. Laura Reigle, L-A-
11 U-R-A, R-E-I-G-L-E. The concern I continue to hear
12 from residents is not that they want less transparency
13 or less reporting, quite the opposite. People want
14 more transparency, more accountability, and more
15 opportunities to understand what is happening at a
16 facility that has a significant presence in our
17 region. That is why I believe the public reaction to
18 this petition has been so strong.

19 By your own description, one of the
20 outcomes of this petition is a reduction in
21 administrative reporting requirements. Whether
22 intended or not, many residents view that as moving
23 away from transparency rather than report it. My
24 advice is whatever is -- whatever it's worth, is that

1 CITGO should carefully consider what message it's
2 sending to our community.

3 A position of "we are permitted to do
4 this, therefore we will," is unlikely to build trust.
5 Listening to concerns, slowing down, and creating
6 additional opportunities for engagement would, if
7 CITGO truly wants to be viewed as a responsible
8 community partner, I believe it should consider
9 postponing, if not withdrawing, the petition until
10 residents and local officials have a meaningful
11 opportunity to voice their concern and receive direct
12 answers to their questions.

13 There's been way too many questions on
14 this that, obviously, I think everybody's heard today.
15 They really have questions from the community. They
16 really want answers from the community, and they
17 really want that transparency. I don't think the
18 process itself, because I've actually headed for CITGO
19 when I was in college because I went to college with
20 people that actually had jobs at CITGO. So we
21 actually, in college, had a tour of the facility.

22 I don't believe this community and the
23 community surrounding CITGO actually know what CITGO
24 actually does, the product that they produce, the

1 products that they produce, or what's actually going
2 on. It's like a big black box to the community.

3 I think the transparency that they're
4 referring to would be the transparency of actually
5 knowing what is actually done at CITGO itself, what
6 products they produce, and what they're actually doing
7 in there instead of having it such a big black box. I
8 think that's what people are actually sending to me
9 right now saying that they don't know what exactly is
10 done there completely.

11 I won't go into it now. I do know a
12 lot about -- from being on the premises of CITGO,
13 what's done there, but I think that CITGO should be
14 sharing that with the community and letting them know
15 about the products that are made, what's going on
16 there, what their facilities do, and that transparency
17 should be open along with the air quality and stuff
18 that comes in there because what facilities
19 actually -- which unit's actually creating this?

20 It's not really in the petition
21 what's -- what's actually creating the carbon
22 monoxide, which unit's actually producing those
23 emissions. I don't think that's been stated anywhere.
24 There's -- it's still too vague for anybody to make a

1 decision on this at this point because I don't think
2 that the public's been told, the Board, or the
3 community's been told to give a blank check to them to
4 do anything with all the facilities as a blank check.

5 Which one is the one are we talking
6 about here? Which one produces this? Is it all of
7 them that do this on startup and shutdown, or is it
8 particularly one unit that does this in startup and
9 shutdown? Because there's many different facilities
10 within that CITGO's property there, and they produce
11 more than one product. So which product is doing the
12 damage at the moment? Which one's producing the
13 carbon monoxide? Which one's doing those things --

14 Those are, I think -- the public hasn't
15 heard that, hasn't seen that. They don't know enough
16 about it. I don't even think that enough of it's been
17 put in the petition to clarify, the petition to give a
18 justification to -- for people to say yes, it's a go
19 ahead and yes, you can -- we'll raise the limits. I
20 think that should be taken into consideration all the
21 way around.

22 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

23 MS. REIGLE: Thank you.

24 THE HEARING OFFICER: I appreciate it.

1 For the record, it's approximately
2 1:20, and I just want to note again for the record
3 that in the last hour there's probably been three,
4 maybe four public commentators. I'll be closing the
5 hearing as noticed in about eight minutes.

6 We can go off the record. Thank you.
7 (Off the record.)

8 THE HEARING OFFICER: We're back on the
9 record. It's 1:30. There's no more people to give
10 public comment. The room's virtually empty. We have
11 two interested parties here. We had an overflow
12 crowd.

13 I want to thank the people of Lemont
14 Township Center. They were immense help and
15 particularly Cindy O'Malley, and that's it. Just a
16 safe drive home and thanks for being here. I
17 appreciate it.

18 Off the record.
19 (Whereupon, at 1:30 p.m., the
20 proceeding was concluded.)
21
22
23
24

CERTIFICATE

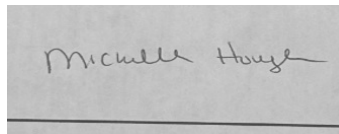
I, HALEY GOODWIN, the officer before whom the foregoing proceedings were taken, do hereby certify that any witness(es) in the foregoing proceedings, prior to testifying, were duly sworn; that the proceedings were recorded by me and thereafter reduced to typewriting by a qualified transcriptionist; that said digital audio recording of said proceedings are a true and accurate record to the best of my knowledge, skills, and ability; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this was taken; and, further, that I am not a relative or employee of any counsel or attorney employed by the parties hereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of this action.



HALEY GOODWIN
Notary Public in and for the
State of Illinois

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

I, MICHELLE HOUGH, do hereby certify that this transcript was prepared from the digital audio recording of the foregoing proceeding, that said transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings to the best of my knowledge, skills, and ability; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this was taken; and, further, that I am not a relative or employee of any counsel or attorney employed by the parties hereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of this action.

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle Hough". Below the signature is a solid horizontal line.

MICHELLE HOUGH

[1 - afternoon]

Page 1

1	3	absolutely	additional
1 10:18	30 17:12 34:6	31:10	43:12 48:6
10 6:23 7:11	34970 53:14	accepted 4:15	address 25:3
101.606 9:9	35 1:2 6:18	44:20	46:8
10:59 1:10	33:21 46:4	accepting	adequate 8:15
11:45 38:23	39 23:10	41:10	adjusted 1:2,5
14 5:13	4	accommodate	4:14 5:17 6:9
150 4:20	46 35:18	43:21	6:10,15 7:15
16300 1:14	5	accommodati...	14:6 15:1,12
1980 33:22	50 6:21 17:12	17:19	17:5 27:9 43:1
1:15 47:5	56 22:9	accountability	adjustment
1:20 51:2	6	17:19 22:24	25:14
1:30 36:24 51:9	60439 1:15	29:1 47:14	adm 1:2
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