

# Join STOP

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Township/Boro: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me updates

*I want to get involved by...*

putting a sign in my yard/window

distributing information

circulating petitions

attending meetings

giving money

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donation

## *Community Impacts:*

- **Air and Water Pollution**
- **Noise**
- **Odors**
- **Traffic Congestion**
- **Decreased Property Values**

Company permit documents and the Draft Environmental Impact Statement admit that there will be a significant amount of air and water pollution and many other impacts, including serious traffic congestion.

The Department of Energy argues that the prison and the waste coal burning “cogen” power plant have already affected property values so much that they cannot be damaged any further. We have our doubts.

## *Taxpayer Abuse:*

The \$612 million refinery experiment would be completely covered by state and federal tax dollars. No private investors seem confident enough to want to invest in this scheme.

### **Millions:**

\$100 in loans from the U.S. Department of Energy (not finalized yet)  
\$47 in tax credits from the state  
\$465 in loan guarantees from the state  
\$612 **TOTAL**

Other subsidies include state purchasing of the refinery's product at \$1.30/gallon (30 cents more than their cost of production) and a Keystone Opportunity Zone that exempts them from all state and local taxes through 2013.

## *This is NOT a “done deal”*

Groups of local citizens have been successful at protecting their communities from many polluting facilities – many of which were considered “done deals.” If not for local grassroots groups in Pennsylvania, our state would now be home to a multi-state nuclear waste dump, and many more power plants, landfills and incinerators (mostly to serve people in other states) and various other dangerous industrial facilities.

### The proposed refinery project is no “done deal”

- **Lack of investors:** Despite having giant oil corporations involved, they and Wall Street aren't risking a penny on this refinery experiment. That's why they've sought taxpayer money for every cent of the project.
- **Money delayed:** The \$100 million in U.S. Department of Energy loans can't be awarded until the Environmental Impact Statement is finalized. Extensive comments have been submitted each step of the way, forcing multi-year delays as all comments must be answered.
- **Air pollution permit challenged:** The air pollution permit granted by the PA Department of Environmental Protection is currently being appealed due to alleged fraud.
- **Two other permits still needed:** Water quality and storage tank permits required by the state have been delayed for many months.
- **Additional water permits may be needed:** If they draw down the mine pool, they may need additional water withdrawal permits.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” -Margaret Mead

# Schuylkill Taxpayers Opposedto Pollution



## **No Coal-to-Oil Refinery**

**STOP is a new citizens organization dedicated to stopping plans for an experimental coal-to-oil refinery – the nation's first – in Schuylkill County.**

**www.UltraDirtyFuels.com**

# Air

The state DEP has granted the refinery a permit to release **590 tons of health-damaging air pollution each year**.

Pollutants include nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxides, particulate matter (soot), ammonia, acid gases, volatile organic compounds and many toxic hazardous air pollutants, including **mercury** and **arsenic**.

These pollutants will be released from **six smokestacks** (five would be 200 feet tall and the 6<sup>th</sup> would be 300 feet tall). The facility's 13 storage tanks are expected to leak over one ton of diesel and naphtha each year.

The chemicals that would be released are known in scientific studies to cause:

Cancer	Heart attacks
Asthma	Birth defects
Low birth weight	Premature births
Learning disabilities	Kidney problems
Memory loss	Behavior problems
Reproductive disorders	Sudden infant death

Some argue that the amounts released would be at "safe" levels. However, **no studies have been done on the safety of adding this pollution to many other polluting industries in the area** (including the 3 cogens nearby).

Most of the toxic pollution would never be monitored. Some pollutants would be monitored infrequently, even though technology exists to monitor continuously. The lack of monitoring means **there is no way to properly enforce the permit limits**.

# Water

The Susquehanna River Basin Commission has granted permission for the refinery project to extract **7 million gallons of water a day** from the Gilberton mine pool.

This mine pool water holds up the roof of the abandoned mine workings below Gilberton. Massive water withdrawal risks collapse of the mine roof, threatening homeowners with subsidence.

Due to years of dumping toxic waste coal ash from the Gilberton cogen, the **mine pool water is highly contaminated with lead**, a toxic metal known to cause brain damage and behavioral problems. Extracting massive amounts of this water will further expose people as it's used in the refinery and released in various waste streams.

The Department of Energy has stated that **"toxic and carcinogenic substances, including cyanides and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) such as pyrene, might be present"** in the wastewater from the refinery.

Their Draft Environmental Impact Statement mentions many other contaminants in the liquid wastes produced by the refinery, including **methanol, ammonia, acids, cyanides, sulfates, chlorides, biocides, oil and grease**. These would all be dumped into the ground in a tailings pond near the refinery – ultimately contaminating the ground and the mine pool.

# Waste

The refinery would produce massive amounts of solid waste, mostly from its gasification system.

The refinery would produce about **2,000 tons of toxic slag a day**. This solid waste would be dumped throughout the region, replacing culm piles with piles of toxic slag. Contained in this slag and other waste products would be around **500 pounds of mercury** each year. The amount of mercury in one thermometer is enough to contaminate a 20-acre lake to the point where the fish are unsafe to eat. Eventually, this mercury and other toxins concentrated in the slag will leach out, damaging streams and groundwater more than culm piles currently do.

In addition to the slag, the refinery would produce about **500 tons a day of soot-like "filter cake" and 7,400 tons a year of sludges which would be dumped in the area**. They'd also produce **4,000 tons a year of sulfur byproduct**, which they hope to sell to the pharmaceutical industry, but which may end up contaminating landfills if there's no market for it.

The refinery is expected to process more than just culm. As part of their experiments for the Department of Energy, they are **expected to test a variety of wastes, including trash and industrial wastes**. Once the supply of cheaply available culm declines, **the refinery could end up importing trash, tires and other wastes for fuel, bringing new toxic hazards**.

# Location of Proposed Refinery

