
KEEP ERIE'S ENVIRONMENT PROTECTED (K.E.E.P.) MEETS TO FIGHT PROPOSED TIRE- BURNING PLANT

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The local environmental group K.E.E.P's (Keep Erie's Environment Protected) first objective is to prevent the largest energy plant fueled by 80,000 tires per day from being built within the Erie City limits. Plants like this have been proposed for other communities in the United States and have been rejected.

The group will be meeting this Monday, August 27th at 6:30 PM at Mount Calvary RC Church located at 2022 East Lake Road. The attendance at the July meeting far exceeded the room capacity at the Blasco Library. Our guest speakers will be Mike Ewall and Susan Graham of the statewide environmental group ActionPA.. (www.ActionPA.org) They plan to present materials related to health and environmental dangers of using waste tires as fuel for an energy plant.

As K.E.E.P members have predicted, the ERE LLC investors recently insisted they are not burning tires; it is not a tire plant and it is not an incinerator. They've used terms such as "fluidized bed", "chemical reaction", "combustion", "gassed", and continue to promise no soot, smells or pollution. What they have been unable to do is provide any details that really matter.

The fluidized bed technology is many decades old. When you take a solid, release its energy through heat and what is left is ash, it's pretty hard to convince the general public that burning it is not taking place.. The investors of the plant and their spouses can continue to deny the obvious and call it combustion, gassing, vaporizing, or even micro waving.. The end result is the same; more pollution being forced out smokestacks and into our environment.

The tire-to energy investors told the Times News editorial board that just 12 railroad cars would be needed for the raw material. Twelve of the largest railroad cars will not hold a days worth of tires. Stacking the tires for optimum space utilization requires a minimum of 37-40 railroad cars per day.

If there were to be no pollution, there would be no reason for 250 foot tall smokestacks and no need for an emissions permit from the DEP.. What really come out of the stack are micro and nano size particles of identifiable dioxins and other hazardous compounds. The air quality in Erie is already rated very low, and adding more pollution to it will make it worse.

The next K.E.E.P meeting afterward will be held Monday, September 24th at Erie City Council chambers beginning at 7:00 PM. All meetings are open and the public is encouraged to attend.