



OPPORTUNITY TO DEMAND CLEANER AIR FOR BAYTOWN

Say NO to Particulate Matter pollution in YOUR neighborhood!

GMJ MATERIALS LLC - HOT MIX ASPHALT PLANT AIR PERMIT RENEWAL

Location: 4907 West Cedar Bayou Lynchburg Road, Baytown, Texas, 77521

What is being decided in this process?

- GMJ Materials, LLC has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for an air permit to construct and operate **a new permanent** hot mix asphalt plant at 4907 West Cedar Bayou Lynchburg Road, Baytown, Texas, 77521. The new facility will produce and manufacture asphalt.
- The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is deciding whether to approve the permit, approve it with changes, or reject it. The company must have an air permit to construct the plant.
- Asphalt plants and other facilities like it are unfairly clustered in working-class communities of color.

What concerning pollutants are emitted by asphalt plants?

- Particulate Matter 2.5 (super-fine particles of soot, dust, silica, etc.): Can enter into lung tissue and the bloodstream, triggering asthma attacks and adverse cardiovascular outcomes for vulnerable persons.
- Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) (e.g., benzene, formaldehyde, ethylene, etc.) are toxic even at low concentrations, causing respiratory irritation, headaches, and nausea. Exposure to VOCs over a long time has been linked to organ damage and cancers as well.
- Carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen oxides are all hazardous air pollutants.
- Noise, odors, and light pollution impact the mental well-being of residents around the facility.

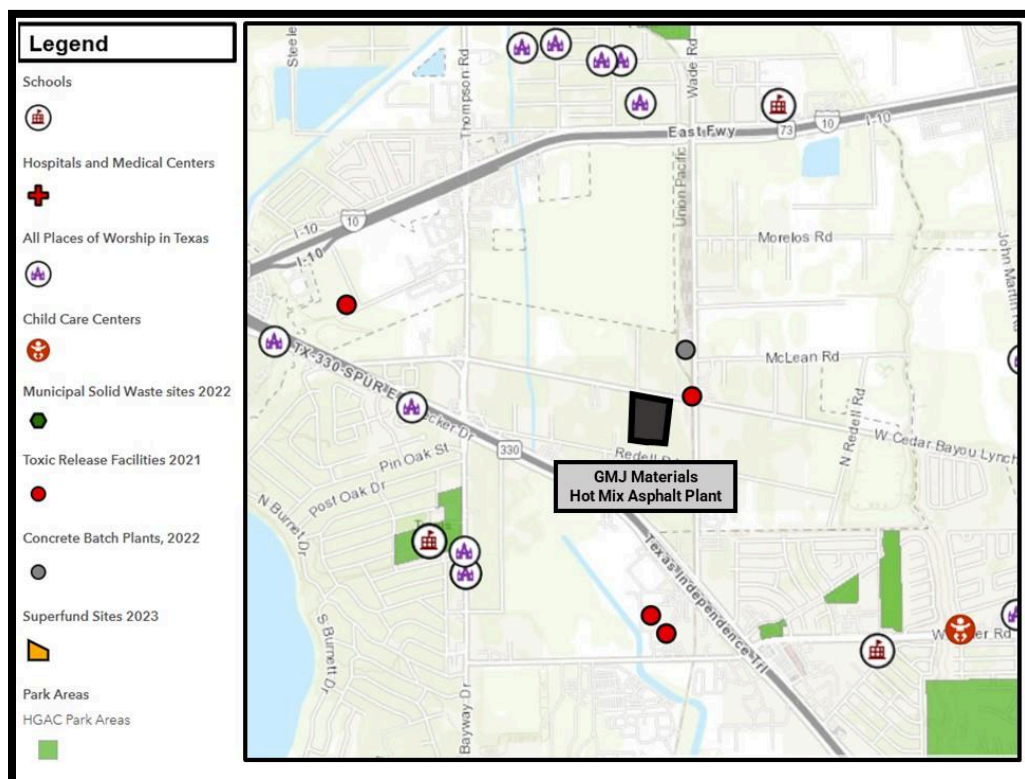
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What are the specific concerns about GMJ Materials Hot Mix Asphalt Plant?

- The permit requested by GMJ Materials will authorize the construction of a **new** hot mix asphalt plant.
- This permit will allow them to release over 112 tons of air pollution annually, including particulate matter, VOCs, and other hazardous air pollutants.
- More than 1,100 households are within 1 mile of the proposed new plant.
- The proposed plant will also be close to multiple schools, childcare centers, nursing homes, places of worship, parks, and other sensitive areas as well including McElroy Park
- The community within half a mile of this plant is comprised of:
 - 89% people of color, with 72% identifying as Hispanic, and 17% identifying as Black
 - 32% Spanish speaking, with 24% of households classified as “limited English-speaking”
 - 71% low income households.
- The surrounding zip codes 77520 and 77521 are also experiencing elevated levels of cancer, stroke, heart disease, asthma, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) compared to the Harris County average.

Further, **toxic releases into the air within the 1-mile radius of the facility have a risk score of 140,000 compared to the state average of 12,000 and national average of 4,600.**



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What should TCEQ do about the permit application?

- TCEQ should say “no” to the environmental and health harms posed by asphalt plants like this one and deny the permit outright – especially since the community is already overburdened with far too many sources of pollution, including toxic release inventory sites, other aggregate production operations, multiple air pollution sources, and water dischargers. This plant will add to the already high pollution levels and severely worsen health concerns in the Baytown community.
- Unfortunately, we know that TCEQ will not stand up for environmental justice, so, barring a permit denial, they must do everything in their power to strengthen the permit itself and require all enhanced pollution control practices.
- Require greater fence line monitoring for better transparency about pollution emissions.
- Require all Best Pollution Control Practices to reduce the plant’s pollution:
 - a. Ensure that Vulcan paves each road, parking lot, or other areas at the plant site used by vehicles with a cohesive hard surface and properly maintain, clean, and water to minimize dust emissions.
 - b. Require that stationary equipment, stockpiles, and vehicles used at the plant, except for incidental traffic and vehicles as they enter and exit the site, be located or operated more than 100 feet from any property line.
 - c. Install a 12-foot high dust-suppressing barrier as a border around roads, traffic, and work areas.
 - d. To minimize dust emissions, stockpiles should be covered when not in use, and three-walled bunkers should be placed at least two feet above the top of all stockpiles.
 - e. Ensure fabric/cartridge filter systems and suction shroud are operated without tears or leaks.
- TCEQ should require that they maintain a vegetative barrier, like trees and other foliage, around the perimeter of the facility, install a wheel wash and rumble strips at the exit of the facility to prevent tracking concrete onto the roadway. They should also ensure that they operate only during daylight hours.

What can you do?

- Contact your elected officials and voice your concerns about this new asphalt plant being proposed near you that will release pollution in your community by having their permit issued
- Type up your comments and submit them to TCEQ online. To submit written comments, go to: <http://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/>. Type “174666” in the Permit Number box. You will be taken to an online form to type in your comments or attach a document. The form requires you to provide contact information.

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- Check out the Air Alliance Houston website for updates. www.airalliancehouston.org > **Community Updates > AirMail**

COPY AND PASTE THESE SAMPLE COMMENTS

I live near GMJ Materials, LLC's new hot mix asphalt plant proposed to be built at 4907 West Cedar Bayou Lynchburg Road, Baytown, Texas, 77521, and am stating my opposition to this permit being granted.

Asphalt plants emit health harming pollutants including:

- Particulate Matter 2.5 which when inhaled, can enter into lung tissue and in the bloodstream triggering asthma attacks and adverse cardiovascular outcomes for vulnerable persons.
- Carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides: all hazardous air pollutants.
- Noise and light pollution, impacting the mental wellbeing of residents around the facility.

More than 1,100 households are within 1 mile of the proposed asphalt plant. It would also be close to multiple schools, childcare centers, nursing homes, places of worship, parks, and other sensitive areas as well including McElroy Park

I understand that this facility will be a major source of hazardous air pollution, including Particulate Matter and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), which has been linked to respiratory, cardiovascular illnesses, and cancer. I am writing this to prioritize my health and my community's health. Time and time again, TCEQ has failed us in doing so. This is your opportunity to stand right by fellow Texans.

ADD YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY HERE: This can be about your health, your quality of life as affected by this facility or others etc.

I want TCEQ to prioritize the community's health, as they have the power to stop this concrete batch from exposing me and my neighborhood to continued air pollution and all of its negative health and quality of life impacts. Reject this permit!

END OF SAMPLE COMMENTS

Please contact Air Alliance Houston at (713) 528-3779 for additional information. To join our movement for clean air, sign up for our mailing list by scanning the QR code with your phone camera or follow this link:
<https://secure.airalliancehouston.org/a/subscribeaah>



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