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NO PETCOKE OR COAL PRESENT IN SOUTHEAST SIDE FURNACE FILTERS

CHICAGO—Results from a chemical analysis released today show that furnace filter samples taken from homes on Chicago's southeast side contain no evidence of either petroleum coke or coal. Area residents provided the furnace filters to the Southeast Environmental Task Force, which provided them to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for testing to identify whether the dark material collected on the filters was regular dust or whether that material was coal and petroleum coke from nearby facilities.

The furnace filter results follow six months of air monitoring data that show ambient air quality near KCBX Terminals is within federal clean air standards. The EPA's ambient air monitor at Washington High School near the KCBX facility also shows air quality is within national standards.

The tested filters are from homes in the East Side and South Deering neighborhoods that the EPA tested and also provided to KCBX for its own independent analysis. That analysis, conducted by Environmental Health and Engineering, Inc., compared the samples to settled house dust, outdoor air from various places around Chicago, indoor air from urban areas in the United States, and Chicago soil.

The results show the furnace filter samples were consistent with outdoor air across Chicago and not unlike those taken from settled household dust found in other urban areas in the United States. The vanadium to nickel ratios found in filter samples did not denote petcoke or coal and were consistent with ratios found in the indoor air of homes in urban areas elsewhere in the United States, as well as in the outdoor air and soils of Chicago. The EPA has stated that the vanadium to nickel ratio in petroleum coke ranges from 4 to 12, and the vanadium to nickel ratios in the furnace filter samples were all below 1.0, thus indicating no presence of petcoke on the furnace filters.

A complete set of data explaining the furnace filter testing can be found at www.aboutpetcoke.com.