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SIERRA CLUB AND EARTHJUSTICE MOTION TO INTERVENE GRANTED IN COURT CASE TO PROTECT INDIANA COMMUNITY FROM HAZARDOUS WASTE

Environmental Groups Support Community Members in Southeast Indiana to Stop the Essroc Cement Corporation from Burning Hazardous Waste within Half a Mile of Two Schools

Clark County, IN – On Friday, February 3 Clark County Circuit Court granted a Sierra Club and Earthjustice motion in support of community members who are trying to stop Essroc Cement Corp. from burning fuel derived from hazardous wastes in its kiln in the small community of Speed, near Sellersburg, about 10 miles north of Louisville.

“The Sierra Club Hoosier Chapter is proud to stand with community members to achieve their goal of protecting their children from harm,” said Bowden Quinn, the Chapter director.

Essroc initially received approval from the executive director of the county plan commission to make changes at its Speed facility without seeking a required zoning change. Community members banded together to fight that decision, which was made without public notice or participation. They finally succeeded in convincing the commission to rescind that approval. The commission said in a letter to Essroc that the company had initially misled the commission by indicating it wouldn’t store or process hazardous waste at the site and it would have to seek a zoning change or variance to do so.

The Essroc Cement Plant is within one mile of five area schools. Essroc has appealed the plan commission’s decision in Clark County Circuit Court. Earthjustice lawyers representing the Sierra Club were granted a motion to intervene in the case in defense of the commission’s action.

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About the Sierra Club

The Sierra Club is America’s largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization, with more than 2.4 million members and supporters. In addition to helping people from all backgrounds explore nature and our outdoor heritage, the Sierra Club works to promote clean energy, safeguard the health of our communities, protect wildlife, and preserve our remaining wild places through grassroots activism, public education, lobbying, and legal action. For more information, visit www.sierraclub.org.