

From: [C.Cloutier](#)
To: [Amy Rusko](#)
Subject: Proposed hot dip galvanizing plant
Date: Friday, June 21, 2024 3:23:35 PM

This message is from an External Sender

This message came from outside the City of Arlington

Hello Ms. Rusko,

We received a printed today (presumably from someone in our neighborhood) regarding a proposed hot dip galvanizing plant to be established at 18520 67th Avenue in Arlington. It appears there has already been a public hearing about the plant and unfortunately, we didn't learn of this until today; I'm hoping writing will still be worthwhile. (I admit I'm not familiar with how these things work, and it's time to learn!)

I didn't want to write you without any knowledge of actual environmental and health concerns relevant to this kind of manufacturing (whether there even *are* any concerns to speak of), so I searched the web to see how much of a concern this proposed plant actually presents. Although I didn't see any conclusive research indicating hot dip galvanizing activities at these plants *commonly* lead to severe environmental or public health impacts, I did find that there really is no room for error due to the inherent *extreme* environmental and public health threat posed by the materials used in this process combined with the process itself.

I became most concerned when I read this, part of an article on a steel company's site (www.endura-steel.com) citing the advantages and disadvantages of hot dip galvanization. Keep in mind, this is a company (unsurprisingly) in favor of this process, a fact the writer makes plain in the article*. And yet, the text below reads a lot like "These materials and processes are inherently highly toxic and destructive to the environment. If you _____ and _____ and _____ everything should be ok, but if you don't, the consequences to water, air, and all who depend on both will be significant."

Here is the company's text, copied and pasted from the site:

Environmental Impact

Although galvanization effectively protects the steel from corrosion, the process can significantly impact the environment. The production process involves using chemicals such as zinc and hydrochloric acid.

These chemicals can cause air pollution and are classified as hazardous waste. Additionally, during the galvanizing process, wastewater contains high levels of pollutants.

The impact can be significant if proper measures are not taken to mitigate these effects. Emissions from this process can contribute to smog formation and acid rain if released into the atmosphere unchecked.

Furthermore, wastewater containing high levels of pollutants can affect nearby waterways leading to pollution and damage to aquatic life. There are several approaches that manufacturers may consider, such as using eco-friendly alternatives in their manufacturing processes or implementing effective wastewater treatment plans to reduce or mitigate the environmental impact caused by the production of galvanized steel

Before the City accepts this proposal, I trust you'll ensure it's agents and residents have access to information, written in clear terms, free of jargon:

- a) not only the *likelihood* of an event at this plant that would endanger the air, water, community, and wildlife in this area, but about the *seriousness* of the potential *consequences* of such an event even if it's likelihood is relatively small
- b) necessarily rigorous regulations the City will have in place to ensure our air, waterways, residents, and wildlife are protected
- c) what sort of consistent, active oversight the City will provide to enforce those regulations (and where residents can find that information)
- d) how this company will be held accountable should efforts to ensure safe operation at the plant fail
- e) what plans the City will have in place to ensure swift remediation should protections at the plant fail resulting in dangers to environmental and human health

If all this information already exists, would you let me know where I can find it? (If the expectation that such information should be openly available seems naive to you, I'll have to take the hit; like I said, I'm unfamiliar with how these things work. I would argue, though, that if this *isn't* how it works — full, transparent, comprehensive disclosure written in language the average resident can understand — it should be.)

All of that said, I hope the City will recognize that *any* manufacturing whose materials and processes, without perfect adherence to significant regulations and safeguards, present a serious, even catastrophic threat to our environment and those who depend on it, has no place near our residential communities (or anyone's).

Thank you for your time!

Respectfully,

Cynthia Cloutier
Gleneagle community

*<https://endura-steel.com/galvanized-steel-a-shield-against-corrosion-or-a-bane-for-the-environment/>