

Ebbie Cook's Statement

5th & Hill Press Conference Tuesday, August 23, 2011

My name is Ebbie Cook and I am a long time resident of the 5th & Hill Neighborhood. I am a founding member of the 5th & Hill Neighborhood Rights Campaign.

Today we have shown that this pipe is dangerously contaminated. It is bad enough that the residents of the 5th & Hill Neighborhood have had to deal with contamination coming from the Ameren gas plant but now, these tests show contamination surrounds our neighborhood on both sides.

The city of Champaign has plugged up this toxic pipe and stopped more contamination from getting into the Boneyard Creek and the residents are grateful for that work. However, we now know that a four block long pipe that is full of toxic contamination is sitting in our neighborhood and nobody is doing anything about it. The IL EPA, to this day, has refused to investigate this pipe, even though their own tests show contamination at highly toxic levels.

We are calling on the City of Champaign to join with the residents of the 5th & Hill Neighborhood Rights Campaign to demand that the IL EPA fully investigate and clean up the toxic contamination associated with this pipe. The IL EPA already let us down by not finding this pipe in the first place; we will not let them ignore it a second time.