

Residents: Restrict emissions at oil refineries

August 5 2014, by Emily Schmall

Residents living near oil refineries and environmental activists are asking the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to adopt stricter emissions standards to reduce communities' exposure to a cancer-causing chemical.

About 30 people addressed the federal agency during a hearing in suburban Houston on Tuesday about a proposal that would compel refineries for the first time to monitor and report emissions of [benzene](#) to nearby communities.

Tuesday's meeting was the second and final public hearing required as part of a lawsuit filed by Earthjustice and the Environmental Integrity Project on behalf of communities near [oil refineries](#).

The suit argued that the EPA was more than a decade late in reviewing and updating toxic air standards for refineries.

The federal agency has until April 2015 to issue a final rule.

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