



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT

December 29, 2020

John Putnam  
Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment  
4300 Cherry Creek S. Drive  
Denver, CO 80246

RE: Suncor Commerce City Refinery

Dear Mr. Putnam,

The City of Commerce City (the “City”) is aware of the January 7, 2020 the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (“CDPHE”) listening session on the matter of the Suncor Plant 2 Title V Operating Permit (the “Permit”). On behalf of the City, I write this letter to share perspective and as a call to action for CDPHE. The City will also participate in the formal period for public comment begins in the middle of January.

The refinery has been a part of the community fabric that dates back to 1931. It has been a resource of employment and fiscal health for the City. At the same time, the refinery’s operations and a lack of transparency have not only affected the long-term health and well-being of City residents, but the trust of the community. To simply state, the relationship of the City and its community with the refinery is one of complexity and in need of redefining so, we can change the “community health perception,” address health and environmental concerns, and become a model of environmental leadership and a healthy city for future generations.

The Suncor Commerce City Refinery’s continual air emission exceedances and operational upsets put the health, general welfare, and safety of our residents at risk. We understand the Permit review provides opportunities to increase monitoring, record keeping, and reporting for sources of air pollution emissions. CDPHE has a paradigm-shifting opportunity to consider the general health and welfare of our current and future residents by determining mitigating conditions that can improve transparency, reduce exceedances and upsets, and drive decision making that can positively affect health outcomes and disparities.

The City understands the refinery will continue to be complex constituent of our community’s fabric. However, the City expects that CDPHE will engage the City and its residents in a robust and meaningful way to ensure a healthful setting and improvement of our residents’ quality of life.

On behalf of the City, we look forward to our continued interactions to foster a healthy, safe, and prosperous community. Thank you.

Sincerely,