

DOCKETED

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Please Vote Against This Plant

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

To Whom it may Concern,

Please vote against this HECA plant that wants to come into Kern Co a couple of miles from a K-8 school.

We have the WORST air in the NATION here - we don't want or need this plant.

We have no coal in CA, so they will truck in (500 round trips) on a two-way highway in the fog in the winter. If the coal is coming from New Mexico put it THERE where the wind blows ALL the time!

Nothing about putting this plant in Kern Co. makes sense unless SOMEONE is making BIG BUCKS to put it here.

PLEASE vote AGAINST this plant. It will just make our air WORSE!!

K. Moore

Air pollution causes cancer, WHO agency concludes

BY MARIA CHENG

AP Medical Writer

LONDON — What many commuters choking on smog have long suspected has finally been scientifically validated: air pollution causes lung cancer.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer declared on Thursday that air pollution is a carcinogen, alongside known dangers such as asbestos, tobacco and ultraviolet radiation. The decision came after a consultation by an expert panel organized by IARC, the cancer agency of the World Health Organization, which is based in Lyon, France.

"The air most people breathe has become polluted with a complicated mixture of cancer-causing substances," said Kurt Straif, head of the IARC department that evaluates carcinogens. He said the agency now considers pollution to be "the most important environmental carcinogen," ahead of second-hand cigarette and cigar smoke.

IARC had previously deemed some of the components in air pollution such as diesel fumes to be carcinogens, but this is the first time it has classified air pollution in its entirety as cancer causing.

The risk to the individual is low, but Straif said the main sources of pollution are widespread, including transportation, power plants, and industrial and agricultural emissions.

Air pollution is a complex mixture that includes gases and particulate matter, and IARC said one of its primary risks is the

fine particles that can be deposited deep in the lungs of people.

"These are difficult things for the individual to avoid," he said, while observing the worrying dark clouds from nearby factories that he could see from his office window in Lyon on Wednesday. "When I walk on a street where there's heavy pollution from diesel exhaust, I try to go a bit further away," he said. "So that's something you can do."

The fact that nearly everyone on the planet is exposed to outdoor pollution could prompt governments and other agencies to adopt stricter controls on spewing fumes. Straif noted that WHO and the European Commission are reviewing their recommended limits on air pollution.

Previously, pollution had been found to boost the chances of heart and respiratory diseases.

The expert panel's classification was made after scientists analyzed more than 1,000 studies worldwide and concluded there was enough evidence that exposure to outdoor air pollution causes lung cancer.

In 2010, IARC said there were more than 220,000 lung cancer deaths worldwide connected to air pollution. The agency also noted a link with a slightly higher risk of bladder cancer.

Straif said there were dramatic differences in air quality between cities around the world and that the most polluted metropolises were in China and India, where people frequently don masks.

Pollution deserves more press

I was depressed to see the article in the Oct. 18 Californian titled, "Air Pollution causes cancer, WHO agency concludes." I think most of us know that diesel exhaust is carcinogenic, and that air pollution causes asthma and bronchitis, and harms the lung development of every child living with bad air.

But the World Health Organization's information was a big reminder for all of us living here in the worst air basin in the nation. Equally if not more depressing was the placement of this article on page 35. This should have been first-page, above-the-fold news. It seems every week we hear of yet another project being brought to Kern that, while providing employment, will ultimately lower our quality of life and possibly cause premature and costly death to many.

I am thinking of the Hydrogen Energy California project, with its 500 round-trips of diesel trucks carrying coal every single day for 20 years. I am thinking of the increase in oil development in our valley, with all of those trucks, movement of earth and drill rigs. This is an environmental-justice issue that should be on page 1.