

Eramet:

The French Connection



Eramet Marietta Inc. is a manganese alloys manufacturer in Washington County, Ohio, just across the Ohio River from Wood County, West Virginia. Eramet's Marietta plant is owned by Eramet SA, which is headquartered in Paris, France. **The company's second largest shareholder is the French government.**

Neighbors of the plant are suffering from Eramet's release of manganese dust into the air, and from choking odors up to five miles from the plant. Eramet admits it dumps over 5 million pounds of pollution into the air, land and Ohio River every year.

Manganese is a neurotoxin, affecting the brain and nervous system. It has been linked to subtle problems like poor balance and tremors, as well as mood disturbances, sexual dysfunction and Parkinson's disease. University of Cincinnati researchers are now studying Marietta's children to determine how airborne manganese affects them. The study will compare the intelligence, balance and memory of Marietta's children to a control group in Cambridge, Ohio.

Eramet SA operates much cleaner facilities in Europe, including two manganese plants in Norway. In 2006, the company reported an 82% increase in profits from the previous year, led by their extremely strong manganese division. **If Eramet uses cleaner technology in Europe and has plenty of money, what is keeping them from upgrading the Marietta plant for cleaner, more efficient operation?**

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The Marietta-based Neighbors for Clean Air and Ohio Citizen Action have worked for over two years to urge Eramet to clean up and be a good neighbor. In late 2007, Ohio Citizen Action members began sending petitions to President Sarkozy of France, care of the French embassy in Washington DC, pointing out France's role in polluting Marietta. By February, the Ambassador himself had met both with Eramet managers in Paris and Ohio Citizen Action. Just a few weeks later, local plant managers in Marietta finally agreed to start talks with Neighbors for Clean Air and Ohio Citizen Action. **In March, we learned of preliminary improvements to one of the facility's three furnaces, but Eramet has yet to commit publicly to the community's top priorities: significant reductions in airborne manganese and odors.**

Progress is being made via the French connection. Add your voice to more than 55,000 others who have written the company. It takes just minutes and is a powerful part of a winning strategy. Many people have included air pollution themed drawings from their children.

Please write French President Nicolas Sarkozy

Letters are best written in your own words, but here are a few suggestions:

- The French government as an Eramet shareholder is responsible for polluting Ohio and West Virginia residents
- The health and quality of life of the people of Marietta Ohio are just as valuable as their counterparts in Norway or in France
- You should run your Marietta plant to the same standards as your plants in Norway
- Make a public commitment to the community's top two priorities: significant reductions in airborne manganese and odors.

Address your letter to:

M. Nicolas Sarkozy, President of France
c/o Embassy of France
4101 Reservoir Road, NW
Washington, DC 20007

Please tape your letter to your door by 8pm. Any postage you can contribute is much appreciated. Thank you!