

September 20, 2013

Ms. Sue Chang  
Los Angeles City Planning Department  
Office of Zoning Administration  
200 N. Spring Street, Room 763  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**RE: ZA 17528(PA4)**

Dear Ms. Chang:

Freeport-McMoRan Oil & Gas, LLC's request to drill three wells and to "drill 24-hours a day, seven days a week" for three months is unmerited, unreasonable and should be rejected.

To the degree that you determine Freeport-McMoRan Oil & Gas has violated the conditions of their past permits and that they operate irresponsibly and without respect for our community, we ask you to hold them accountable to make right their wrongs prior to approving any drilling.

The following photos illustrate that Freeport-McMoRan Oil & Gas is driving their business under the influence of greed with a reckless regard for our community. They are a neighbor nobody would want next door.

The company's buildings are in a state of obvious disrepair. Bricks are visibly missing from the building facade on the corner of Van Buren Pl. and Jefferson Blvd (see photo 1). Windows are boarded up with plywood (see photo 2). Paint is peeling off the eaves of another building (see photo 3). Electrical lines and extensions cords pop out of rusty vents and run across the roof of their building (see photo 4). Google Street View images from January 2011 show that these problems are long-standing.

The company has left the sidewalks around their property in such an extreme state of disrepair that our neighbors in wheelchairs can no longer access the sidewalks but must navigate in the streets around Freeport-McMoRan Oil & Gas' property (see photos 5, 6, 7, and 8).

Freeport-McMoRan operates in violation of the Zoning Administrator's previous conditions. Condition 5 states, "The applicant shall permanently post at all of the site's entry gates a direct telephone number to the supervisor of the site at that time for residents to call and report any ongoing problem..." Photo 9 shows that all of the gates do not have the emergency contact number as stipulated.

Condition 6 states, "The site and its adjoining sidewalks and parkways shall be kept free and clear of debris at all times." Photos 10 and 11 show that litter covers the grass around the

property. Google street view photos from January 2011 confirm that this is a long-standing problem.

Condition 7 states, “All graffiti on the site shall be removed or painted over to match the color of the surface to which it is applied within 24 hours of its occurrence”. However, graffiti covers the company’s buildings and the sidewalks surrounding their property (see photos 12, 13, and 14). Whereas other business owners paint out graffiti immediately, Freeport-McMoRan Oil & Gas leaves graffiti on the building for several days at a time.

Two weeks ago on Van Buren Pl. neighbors observed a company employee painting the curb red in front of Freeport-McMoRan Oil & Gas’ property (see photo 2 and 2b). They thereby deprived residents and other businesses of vital parking. One business owner received a parking ticket in this do-it-yourself red zone after decades of parking in this space.

The company takes no action where a legal and moral duty exists to repair their sidewalks, paint out graffiti, and post emergency contact information. On the other hand, they take illegal action to paint public curbs red. In all circumstances they demonstrate a low regard for the law and a high regard for expediency to the detriment of our community.

The City picks up trash in our community on Mondays. However, the company leaves its trash cans on the street for days (see photo 2). Google Street View images from January 2011 show the company storing a recycling bin at the front of the property on Jefferson Blvd. This is a long-standing problem.

Trucks transporting toxic chemicals and heavy equipment to the property regularly block traffic, double-park on our residential streets, and obstruct sidewalks when making deliveries instead of immediately pulling into their property (see photos 15, 16, 17, and 18).

The company regularly runs pipes into the ground as part of their oil extraction process. In other parts of the city the company shields the community from these operations by enclosing the rig with materials meant to obscure the blight and quiet the noise. Freeport-McMoRan Oil & Gas shows no such consideration for our community (see photo 19).

The acrid smell of oil permeates the air around the property. Depending on the wind, the stench is most noticeable at the adjacent residences on Budlong Ave. near the NE corner of the property (see photo 20). The heavy smell of petroleum suggests that emissions detrimental to the health and well-being of nearby residents are not sufficiently regulated.

Residents tell stories of oil from the wells spraying their cars on Budlong Ave. Others remember a serious fire several years ago.

The bottom line is that Freeport-McMoRan Oil & Gas is not a good neighbor. Their operations bring toxic chemicals into close proximity of our residences, foul odors into our homes, and incessant noise into our bedrooms day and night. Their operations and neglect have severely degraded our quality of life and property values. This must change.

Therefore I ask you to reject Freeport-McMoRan Oil & Gas's Plan Approval request until they fulfill the following preconditions:

- Repair the sidewalks and curbs immediately surrounding their property.
- Fully enclose the oil rig in keeping with the historic West Adams Arts & Crafts aesthetic.
- Repair cracked and missing masonry and peeling paint on all buildings.
- Replace boarded-up windows with glass.
- Remove self-applied red curb paint.

To demonstrate a meaningful departure from their current practices, Freeport-McMoRan Oil & Gas should make a positive investment in our community. For example, the company could contract with the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Street Lighting to install a pedestrian-oriented, ornamental street lighting system around their property that is decoratively consistent with the street lighting immediately adjacent to USC.

Freeport-McMoRan Oil & Gas has a market capitalization of \$35.8 billion. Surely, its executives hold a higher standard for the well-being of their communities and homes. Their dual standard is an injustice that must be fixed.

Please reject their plan approval request until they demonstrate a strong, positive commitment to right all that is wrong with their operations and to carry out their business as a good neighbor.

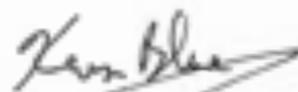
Sincerely,



Richard Parks  
West Adams Neighborhood Association



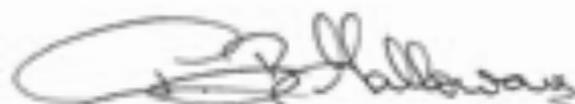
Lisa Barlow, Executive Director  
Redeemer Community Partnership



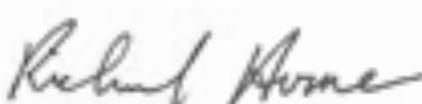
Kevin Blue, Sr. Pastor  
Church of the Redeemer



Marco Flores, President  
Adams-Normandie Neighborhood Association



Prett Galloway, President  
Budlong, Juliet, Catalina (BJC) Block Club



Richard Hume, President  
Raymond Ave. Neighborhood Association

cc: Bernard Parks, Councilman of CD8  
Noel Pallais, CD8 Planning and Economic Development Deputy  
Daniel Skolnick, Office of Zoning Administration



Leslie Evans, President  
Van Buren Place  
Community Restoration Association



Joey Viera, North Area Representative  
North Area Neighborhood  
Development Council (NANDC)



**Photo 1:** Freeport-McMoRan Oil & Gas Building on the NE corner of Jefferson Blvd. and Van Buren Pl. The façade bricks have been missing for years. Gang graffiti appears on the Jefferson Blvd. side of the property and on the sidewalk.



**Photo 2:** Do-it-yourself red curbs (with matching red paint on the garage entrance) deprive parking to local business patrons. Freeport-McMoRan Oil & Gas's trashcans remain on the sidewalk Thursday evening, three days after trash collection. All of the windows along Van Buren Pl. have been boarded-up with plywood and painted over.



**Photo 2b:** Freeport-McMoRan Oil & Gas employees painting curbs red in front of company property on Van Buren Pl. in early September 2013.



**Photo 3:** Freeport-McMoRan Oil & Gas Building on Budlong Ave. Peeling paint on the eaves.



**Photo 4:** Rust and peeling paint cover roof vents. Electrical cords emerge from the vents and run across the roof.



**Photo 5:** Raised sidewalks in front of Freeport-McMoRan Oil & Gas property along Jefferson Blvd.



**Photo 6:** Raised sidewalks in front of Freeport-McMoRan Oil & Gas property along Jefferson Blvd. The sidewalks are impassible to neighbors in wheelchairs.



**Photo 7:** Broken sidewalk in front of Freeport-McMoRan Oil & Gas property on Van Buren Pl.



**Photo 8:** Broken sidewalks and do-it-yourself red curb in front of Freeport-McMoRan Oil & Gas property on Van Buren Pl.



**Photo 9:** Freeport-McMoRan Oil & Gas gates on Budlong Ave.—immediately adjacent to homes—do not display an emergency contact phone number.



**Photo 10:** Litter covers the grass in front of Freeport-McMoRan Oil & Gas' property along Jefferson Blvd.



**Photo 11:** Litter in front of Freeport-McMoRan Oil & Gas property along Budlong Ave.



**Photo 12:** Parents walking their children to school past the Freeport-McMoRan Oil & Gas building.



**Photo 13:** Graffiti on the façade of the Freport-McMoRan Oil & Gas building next to their address on Jefferson Blvd. This graffiti tag has been present for at least three days and counting.



**Photo 14:** Graffiti covers the sidewalks on all sides of the property.



**Photo 15:** The driver delivering this load of toxic chemicals blocked traffic on Van Buren Pl. while waiting for an employee to open the gate.



**Photo 16:** An 18-wheel big rig delivering heavy equipment to Freeport-McMoRan Oil & Gas double parks on Van Buren Pl.



**Photo 17:** A big-rig truck delivering heavy equipment to the Freeport-McMoRan Oil & Gas site double-parks outside the entrance on Budlong Ave. blocking traffic.



**Photo 18:** A semi-truck delivering heavy equipment to Freeport-McMoRan Oil & Gas' Budlong Ave. entrance parks over the sidewalk.



**Photo 19:** The Freeport-McMoRan Oil & Gas rig has no enclosure to hide its presence or mitigate noise from operations.



**Photo 20:** Freeport-McMoRan Oil & Gas operations take place immediately adjacent to high density housing. The acrid stench of petroleum is particularly acute at this NE entrance to the property on Budlong Ave.