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Citizens File Suit to Void Contract and Lease Allowing Smelter

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On behalf of the Concerned Citizens for Crystal City, Great Rivers Environmental Law Center files suit today arguing that the City Council violated Missouri's Sunshine Law when it allowed the Mayor to sign a contract for the purchase of the old PPG property and a lease for a coal-fired pig iron ore smelter to be built. Additionally, an application for a Temporary Restraining Order was filed to prevent the City of Crystal City from closing on the sales contract with PPG.

The City Council violated the Sunshine Law when it signed a Confidentiality Agreement in 2006 which prohibited council members from discussing with their constituents the plans to purchase the property and to allow a smelter.

The smelter is slated to be built on property just 80 feet from plaintiffs' property, and will be a major source of noise, air and global warming causing pollutants.

"The Confidentiality Agreement should never have been entered into," said Kathleen Henry, President of Great Rivers Environmental Law Center. "Councilpersons don't have unlimited freedom to negotiate with industry in secret."

"The voice of the people is loud and strong," said Jill Thomas, Spokesperson for the Concerned Citizens for Crystal City. "The Concerned Citizens want the contract and lease voided, and would like for a feasibility study to be done to determine the best use of the old PPG property."

Detailed information is available at the Concerned Citizens website, www.ClearPillar.com.

Great Rivers is a nonprofit public interest environmental law firm in St. Louis that provides free legal services to those working to promote preservation of open space, clean energy, clean air and clean water. Its web address is: www.greatriverslaw.org.

The Concerned Citizens for Crystal City is a nonprofit organization formed to stop the smelter on the old PPG site and to demand a full feasibility study to be done to determine the best use of the soon-to-be public land.