

## **BCAAT TO APPEAL VISKASE PERMIT**

On March 14<sup>th</sup>, the state of Tennessee granted a permit to allow Viskase to expand their Loudon plant and greatly increase noxious air pollutants into the air we breathe. This was done in spite of strong objections from residents concerned about their health, quality of life, and property values.

This permit would allow Viskase to dump an additional 440 tons of pollutants into Loudon air, over and above actual current levels. These pollutants include air toxics, ozone forming chemicals, and strong odor producing substances.

Carbon disulfide, a neurological toxin, will increase by 220 tons per year. In addition to its neurological toxicity, it is a volatile organic compound (VOC) which causes increased ozone levels. Loudon does not achieve current federal standards for ozone, which causes breathing problems for our citizens. Furthermore, this chemical has a very offensive odor.

Hydrogen sulfide, widely known as “rotten egg gas”, will increase by 144 tons per year. This strongly odiferous substance will certainly add to the odor problems experienced by Loudon residents and surrounding areas.

Power plant emissions of nitrous oxides (NOx) and sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) will each increase by nearly 40 tons per year. Nitrous oxides cause ozone pollution and sulfur dioxide is a lung irritant which causes acid rain.

These pollutants contribute to breathing and cardiovascular difficulties of Loudon County residents. Further, odor from this pollution clearly detracts from quality of life in our communities. As such, this increase in pollution will negatively impact both economic growth and the property values of our homes and businesses. This can offset the economic benefits of the 39 jobs Viskase predicts will be created.

We believe these are unacceptable tradeoffs. Therefore BCAAT will formally appeal this permit to require that Viskase significantly lower this pollution.

Mike Crosby  
President  
Breathe Clean Air Action Team