



General Iron Industries, Inc.

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FACT SHEET: General Iron Industries, Inc.
Chicago City Council Committee on Health and Environmental Protection
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General Iron Industries, Inc., is a 100-year-old, family-owned and operated business that processes over 700,000 tons of recyclable scrap metal and related materials annually, which is roughly the same amount as all the garbage collected in the City of Chicago each year.

General Iron employs 130 workers whose average income is \$80,000 annually. Almost half the workforce, which is predominantly Hispanic and African-American, has been with the company for more than 10 years.

The business has operated in its current location for more than a half century, but, in July, announced its intention to sell the property at the existing location and move the operation to a new state of the art facility in a planned manufacturing district along the Calumet River. General Iron and its strategic partner, Reserve Management Group (RMG), anticipate an investment of \$65-70 million and are working cooperatively with the City to move the process forward.

Currently, General Iron typically operates its enclosed, metal shredder from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays and occasionally from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays. To avoid traffic, General Iron allows additional deliveries before rush hour, and operates quieter supplemental sorting processes continuously. The company has consistently maintained the same operating hours for decades.

General Iron is one of only a few metal shredding facilities among more than 300 nationwide that has installed a high-efficiency air filtration system to control metal and particulate matter emissions. Recent tests conducted for the USEPA proved that average particulate matter emissions rates were less than three percent of the company's permitted emission limits. No other metal shredder in Chicago or Illinois has such a filter.

General Iron is cooperating with the USEPA and is planning to exceed regulations by installing a \$2 million regenerative thermal oxidizer (RTO) at the current location, which will then move to the new location. The RTO will capture and destroy hydrocarbon emissions and will position General Iron among the very few metal shredding facilities in the country that use this state-of-the-art technology.

Curtailling General Iron's operating hours before the transition is completed in 2020, would cause severe consequences, including effectively forcing the company to shut down prematurely. The consequences include:

- Eliminating 130 head-of-household jobs for longtime, loyal employees;
- City streets and alleys will become highly congested and sanitation costs will increase because the massive stream of recyclable material will be severely disrupted;

- Environmental concerns will rise because many independent recyclers would either stop transporting certain recyclables or take the material to other recyclers that lack enclosed shredders and air filters; and
- Jeopardize the ability to remain in business and successfully complete the strategic partnership, leaving no viable alternative to the necessary services that the company provides the city and greater Chicago area.

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