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Date: October 19, 2023

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Dirty 'Hydrogen Hubs' A Threat To Environmental Justice Communities

\$1 Billion awarded for Midwest Hydrogen Hub; Concerns Abound Over Pollution, Safety

This week, the U.S. Department of Energy [announced](#) the creation of seven “hydrogen hubs” across the United States, including one in Michigan, to produce, transport and use hydrogen gas as a source of energy. These facilities will use a variety of methods to generate hydrogen, including pollution-emitting fossil fuels.

Environmental Justice communities have expressed serious concern regarding the safety and efficacy of hydrogen fuel, noting in particular the large quantities of [fresh water](#) required to produce hydrogen, the fact that hydrogen still requires more energy to produce than it generates, and the grave risk of harmful explosion.

The Midwest Hydrogen Hub, one of the seven announced hubs, was [awarded](#) \$1 billion, and will include projects in Detroit, Ypsilanti, Flint, Saginaw, and Kalamazoo.

Statement from Juan Jhong-Chung, Climate Justice Director, Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition:

“President Biden and Governor Whitmer are putting the interests of corporate polluters ahead of environmental justice communities that have long borne the brunt of harmful and unjust environmental policies. Make no mistake: hydrogen generated from fracked gas and nuclear power is dirty, and it is a threat to our communities, our air, our water, and the entire planet. We will not accept the perpetuation of the same environmental injustices that enrich fossil fuel companies while Black, Brown, Indigenous and low-income communities must contend with higher rates of asthma, cancer and a host of other poor health outcomes. We call on our leaders to invest in a just transition away from fossil fuels - with community-owned wind and solar projects leading the way. Michigan cannot afford to invest in false promises.”

Statement from Nayyirah Shariff, Director, Flint Rising:

"Our communities are incredibly disappointed in this decision by DOE to grant billions of taxpayer dollars to the same corporations who have caused the climate crisis in the first place and call it Justice40. Environmental justice communities are tired of being the field experiments for big industry. We are extremely concerned that the Midwest Hydrogen Hub will extend the life of natural gas and nuclear plants, increasing pollution and health burdens in impacted communities. Hydrogen hubs are a false solution attempting to breathe new life into the fossil fuel industry and derailing us from real solutions to the climate crisis. MachH2 has not engaged with people in Detroit or Flint, or with tribal communities. How can industry and our elected leaders speak of "benefits" when no one has even been consulted? - this is environmental racism rebranded as climate action."

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The Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition (MEJC) works to achieve a clean, healthy, and safe environment for Michigan residents most affected by inadequate policies. We build power and unity within our community, so we all can thrive. www.michiganej.org