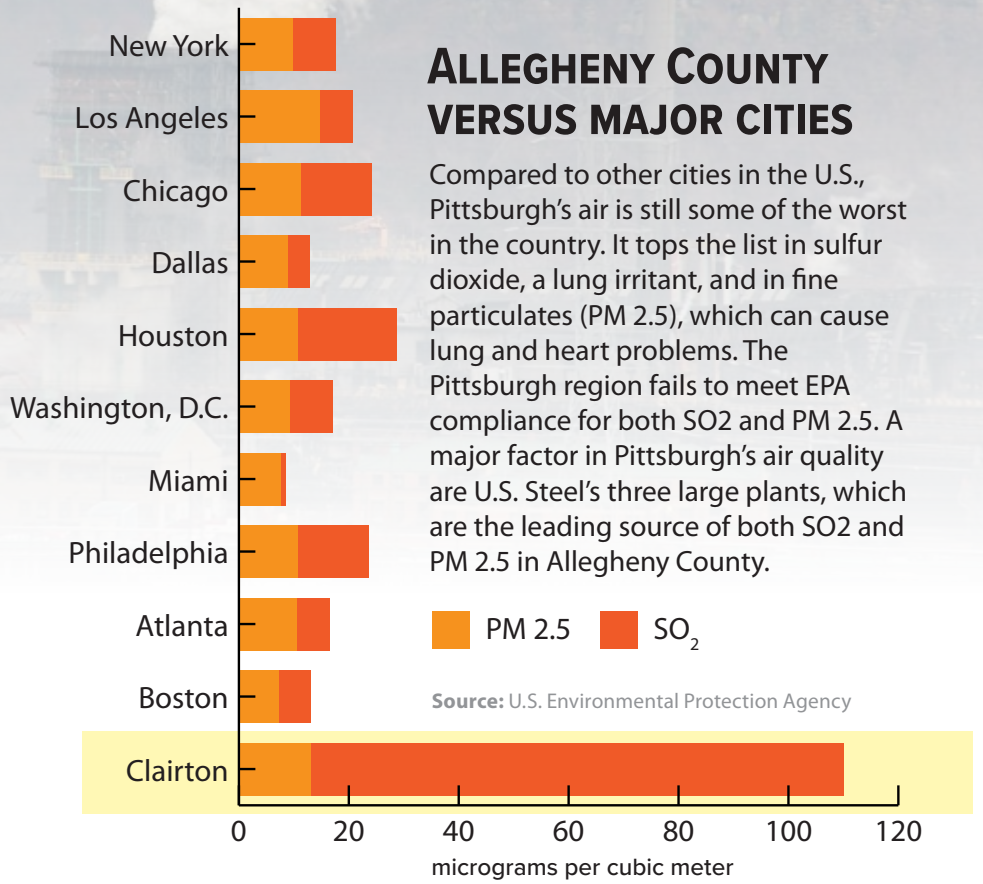
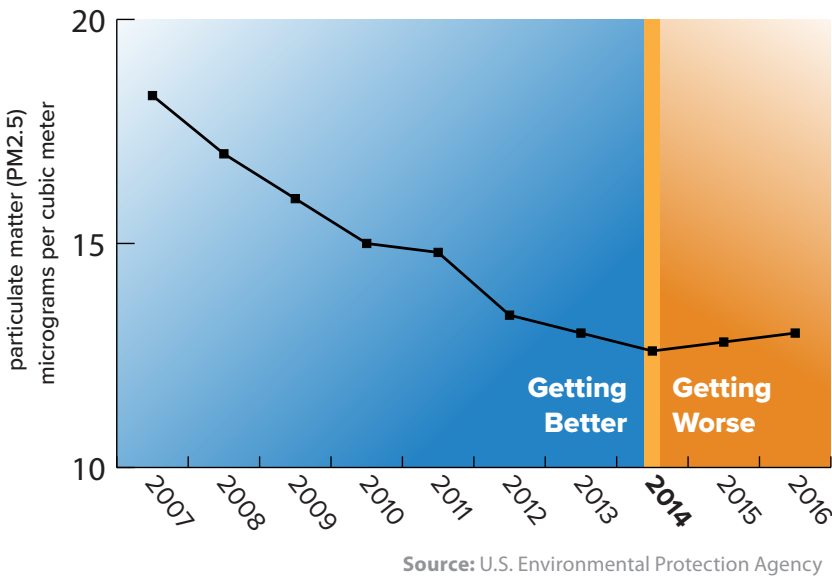


CLAIRTON'S AIR TROUBLES

U.S. Steel's Clairton Plant is the largest coke works in North America. Every day, it produces 10,000 tons of coke, a key component of steelmaking. It also produces a large amount of air pollution, and has made the air near Pittsburgh some of the worst in the United States. An air monitor one mile from the Clairton plant has some of the highest sulfur dioxide levels of any city in the country, and the area's air has the highest levels of fine particles, which can lodge themselves deep in the lungs, anywhere east of the Rockies. A Dec. 24, 2018 fire knocked out the plant's pollution control system, causing it to release five times the amount of sulfur pollution as it is permitted to do, according to Allegheny County. Thousands of residents complained. On April 5, the plant's air pollution controls were put back in service.



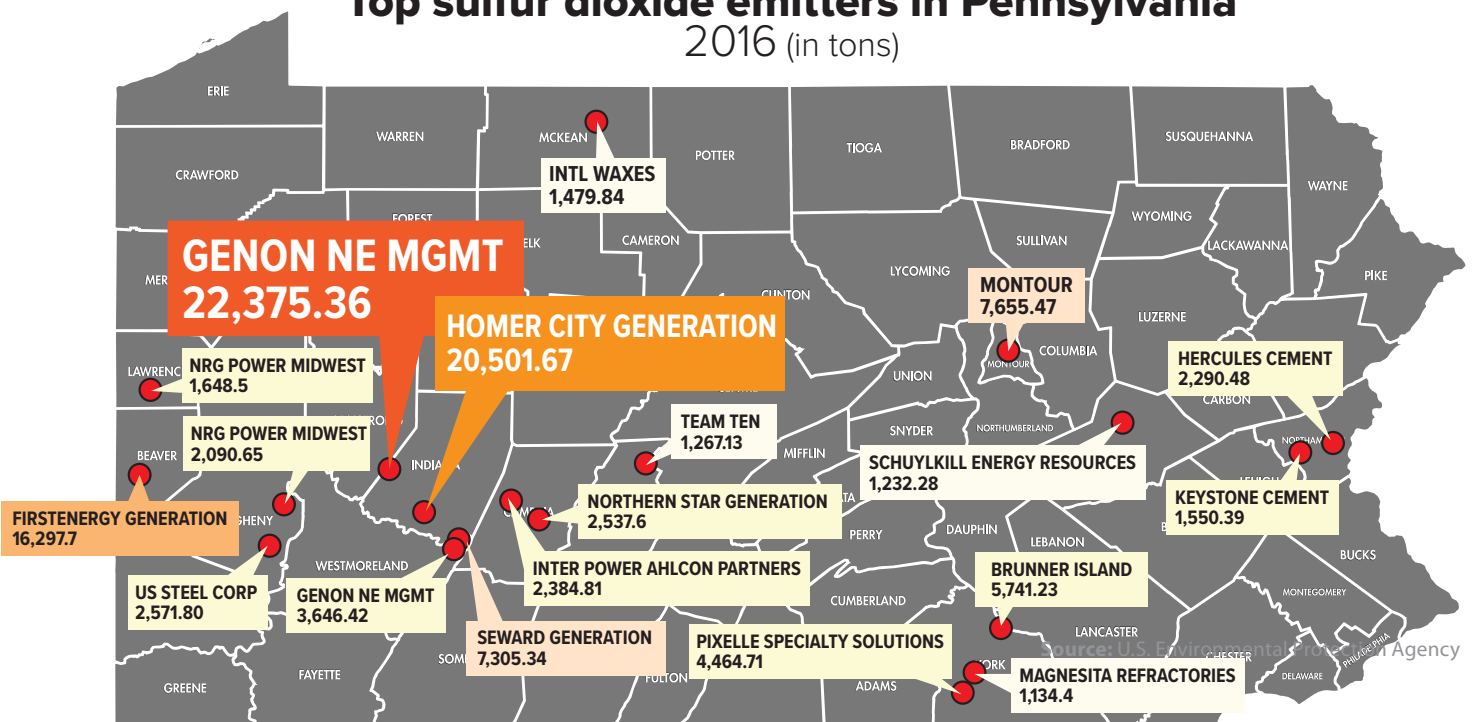
Air quality near the Clairton Plant



DECLINING AIR QUALITY

After years of steady improvement, the air quality near the Clairton Plant has declined since 2014. The Allegheny County Health Department says the plant is the cause of this deteriorating air quality because of "ever-increasing visible emissions and unexplained exceedance." In 2017, the county's air quality monitor in Liberty, a mile downwind from the plant, recorded the highest year-round amount of fine particles of any air monitor east of the Rockies, according to EPA data. The county fined U.S. Steel over \$2 million since June 2018, and has threatened to force the company to 'hot idle' parts of the plant if it doesn't clean up its emissions. The company is appealing the order.

Top sulfur dioxide emitters in Pennsylvania 2016 (in tons)



Though Clairton and U.S. Steel's other plants near Pittsburgh are the largest source of sulfur dioxide in Allegheny County, many other facilities in Pennsylvania emit SO₂ into the ambient air. Most sulfur dioxide comes from fossil fuel combustion, and coal plants are some of the biggest sources in the state.

Since October 2014, Clairton has been fined \$6.65 million for 39 enforcement actions. U.S. Steel has appealed two recent fines totaling \$1.6 million.

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; published reports