

Argent Materials

Argent Materials' primary Baldwin Street facility includes outdoor and indoor recycling operations that grind concrete and raw asphalt into base rock and drain rock, producing dust that travels into the nearby community despite their water-based mitigation efforts. At their secondary San Leandro Street fulfillment yard facility there are outdoor operations only and the site is able to transform into their various needs to fulfill customer orders.

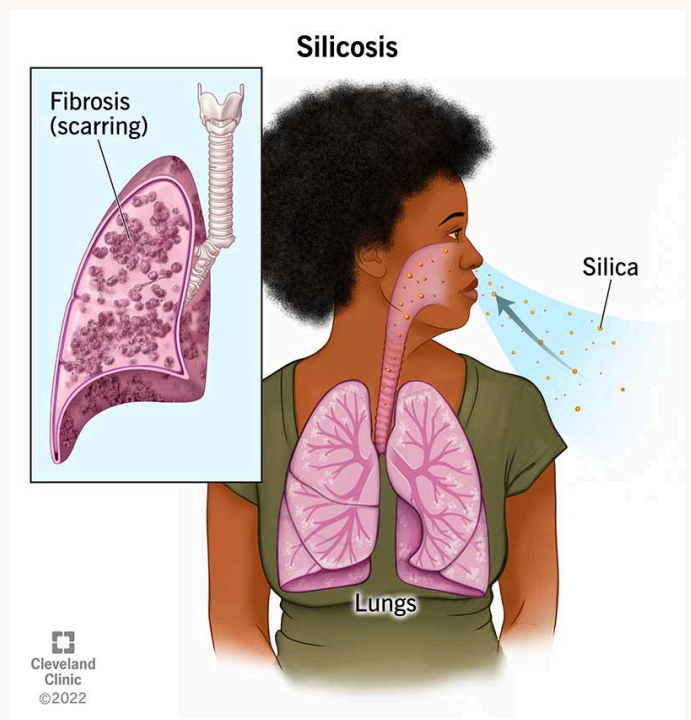


History of Violations

Argent has an extensive NOV history dating back to *October 2017*, where they were issued three separate violations for operating with unpermitted sources and not watering down equipment as required per industry regulations. In *November 2022*, Argent was issued another NOV for failure to meet permit conditions. In the same month, they were issued another NOV for particulate matter monitoring and recordkeeping (BAAQMD 6-6-501) which could provide evidence of negligent record keeping regarding dust track out, which is a major complaint among community members. Most recently, Argent has received two NOVs in *July 2023* for violating BAAQMD's general permit regulations 2-1-301 and 2-1-30; these regulations give sites authority to construct (2-1-301) and operate (2-1-302).

Health Impacts

Prolonged exposure to concrete or silica dust can lead to the development of lung cancer; *silicosis*, an irreversible scarring and stiffening of the lungs; kidney disease; and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Additional symptoms from inhaling concrete dust can include chronic phlegm and wheezing.



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CBE's History of Resistance Against Argent

CBE has a history of advocacy against Argent since early 2020 when we wrote a 25-page comment letter to Oakland's Planning Commission asking them to deny their appeal on the grounds of their operation being a legally non-conforming activity, simply meaning that Argent doesn't have the permission of the City to be in operation. Prior to 2020, CBE was monitoring Argent's activities via BAAQMD permits. Since 2020, CBE has organized around Argent's visible dust ("particulate matter") and vehicle dust track-out that lingers in the streets nears its San Leandro Street and Baldwin Avenue locations. CBE often hosts toxic tours for community members, student groups, and local policymakers where Argent's impact is thoroughly discussed. Additionally, Argent's impact has been a cornerstone in CBE's work throughout the East Oakland AB 617 process that began in 2023 and will continue until 2025 under BAAQMD's supervision.

How We Can Fight Back

1. Become informed about the issue and inform others about the issue so that we can work together on a solution.
2. Make a complaint to the local air district (BAAQMD) and/or local government (City of Oakland) when you experience specific issues; i.e. concrete dust blowing into community, noise and industrial trucks in residential neighborhood.
3. Campaign to add local laws, rules, or regulations to reduce the issues above in #2
4. Outreach to affected East Oakland residents to engage them in existing and future Argent Materials focused *Freedom 2 Breathe* campaign actions.

Important Terms

- **Silo:** A tall sealed storage cylinder to exclude air and protect the internal contents.
- **Notice of Violations (NOVs):** A formal record of a business or person is breaking state, county, local laws, or Air District regulations. In breaking these laws or 'violating' these regulations the business or individual "may be subject to penalty fees and, in serious cases, civil or criminal prosecution."
- **Ordinance:** A law created by a local government.
- **Regulation:** An official rule within an administrative agencies' authority.
- **BAAQMD:** Bay Area Air Quality Management District, the administrative district that regulates air quality rules and regulations.

