

The Post

LOCAL NEWS

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■ READING

Citizen groups grade plant

A coalition of citizen groups today issued a report card for the environmental performance of the Morton International/Rohm & Haas plant on West Street in Reading and the efforts of regulatory agencies to address problems there.

The Campaign for Safer Neighborhoods, made up of seven groups, said high levels of toxic air pollution around the plant threaten public safety, and public agencies have failed to investigate citizen complaints about that problem.

The group released its findings during a press conference at the home of Gene Koetter, who lives near the plant and has been complaining about it for 10 years to the Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services and the Ohio EPA, said Rachel Belz, of Ohio Citizen Action.

The Campaign for Safer Neighborhoods has been working with the company and the agencies since February to address residents' concerns, Ms. Belz said.