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Great Rivers Finds Crystal City Smelter Ordinances Illegal

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Great Rivers Environmental Law Center faxed a letter to the Crystal City Council on behalf of the Concerned Citizens of Crystal City stating that the ordinances passed by the City Council which set in motion the proposed iron ore smelter for Crystal City, Missouri are illegal.

The ordinances are illegal for several reasons, including the fact that they were not made available to the public seven days before the Council's vote as required by state law. In addition, the ordinances authorized the mayor to sign a lease and contract which violate the existing Crystal City ordinances in that the zoning ordinances prohibit a smelter on land with that zoning.

Crystal City also failed to give the citizens the requisite notice of the plan for the proposed smelter and engaged in a lengthy series of closed meetings in violation of existing state statutes.

"The Crystal City Council is ignoring the will of its citizens in trying to saddle them with this huge, polluting, global-warming causing plant," said Kathleen Henry, President of Great Rivers Environmental Law Center. "Missouri law prohibits city governments from acting in secrecy."

The Concerned Citizens want the ordinances rescinded and the resulting contract and lease voided.

Great Rivers is a nonprofit public interest environmental law firm in St. Louis that provides free legal services to those working to promote preservation of open space, clean energy, clean air and clean water. Its web address is: www.greatriverslaw.org.