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Express opposition to ethanol plant

(On a recent) weekend, we visited two ethanol facilities in the Midwest, the Badger State Distillery in Monroe, Wis., and the Lurgi-built Atkins Energy in Lena, Ill.

We have not changed our minds about the quality and possible health concerns of ethanol emissions.

At the Badger facility, the down drafts of the emissions smelled like acrid burnt nuts and chemical, and the mist vapors irritated our eyes in spite of the thermal oxidizers that were added in place to control odors and emissions. This facility would be the size of the plant built in Chambersburg.

Our valley cannot be ventilated like the Midwest at Atkins, a smaller facility. A man living nearby said his health and business declined after the odors of the Atkins plant were permeating the air.

The plants also make a loud hissing sound. Remember, the process is a continuous 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. It will not be a good neighbor. Penn Mar never stated how much of the vapors and particles can be burned.

I urge you to contact your township supervisors and tell them not to approve the building of the proposed Penn-Mar Ethanol plant.

Hugh Baker

Chambersburg

- *If you have questions about letters to the editor, call Kathy Leedy, editorial page editor, at 262-4761 on weekdays. Please call after 9:30 a.m. if possible.*

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