

Rab, 25 – 11 – 2023

Dear sir/madam,

As you know, Hemp has been planned in our residential area in the summer months since 2022. Since then, we have complained to you and several authorities about the nuisance caused by this cannabis plantation. The nuisance concerns health problems that are not minor. With this letter we are sending you again all the documentation that we have previously sent you, including the new documentation.

This summer 2023, we once again informed you that hemp was once again planted. Unfortunately, the plantation has returned and we have once again developed serious health problems. You can think we are crazy that we come up with the complaints, but it is not about 1 or 2 people, it concerns several residents of different houses.

We are really fed up with the fact that time and time again, as it were, an attempt is made to kill our health, because our health is damaged every time and that really has to stop!

That is why we continued to look for options ourselves and asked Nzzjz Rijeka for help. They indicated that they could come and analyze the ambient air, as if it were a working environment. They did this on September 15, 2023 at our own expense.

On October 9, 2023 we received the results, which we have added to this letter as [pdf 1](#).

Measurements were taken at 4 places around the hemp plantation, as also described in the Nzzjz report.

On October 17, 2023 we received the following answer from Mr. Goran Crvelin of Nzzjz to our question whether the report now proves that the plantation is dangerous to our health.

The answer from Mr. Goran Crvelin Nzzjz:

*Pozdrav,*

*mi smo pristupili kao da se radi o radnom okolišu i mjerenja su provedena na granici radne zone, a sami rezultati interpretirani prema Pravilniku o zaštiti radnika od izloženosti opasnim kemikalijama na radu, graničnim vrijednostima izloženosti i biološkim graničnim vrijednostima (NN 91/2018) i Pravilniku o izmjenama i dopunama Pravilnika zaštiti radnika od izloženosti opasnim kemikalijama na radu, graničnim vrijednostima izloženosti i biološkim graničnim vrijednostima (NN 1/2021). Ovakav koncept mjerenja ne udovoljava odredbama Pravilnika o praćenju kvalitete zraka (NN 72/20) za vanjsku atmosferu te nije moguće klasificirati područje prema stupnju onečišćenosti zraka- za to su potrebna mjerenja od najmanje godinu dana.*

*Rezultati provedenih mjerenja pokazuju da je prekoračena GVI (granična vrijednost izloženosti za 8-satno radno vrijeme) za dva spoja: 1,3-butadien i nitrobenzen, dok spojevi koje smo očekivali iz skupine terepentina nisu detektirani. Ovo spada u nadležnost državnog inspektorata- inspekcija zaštite na radu, oni mogu naložiti da radnici koriste osobnu zaštitnu opremu prilikom rada ili slično.*

*Vi ćete u sudskom postupku morati dokazati da ako je nešto štetno za radnike u pogonu da je onda štetno i za stanare obzirom da se radna zona nalazi u stambenom naselju i tražiti da se plantaži zabrani rad na ovoj lokaciji. Nas će vjerojatno zvati kao svjedoke u tom postupku, ali više od toga Vam ne mogu pomoći jer Zavod nema inspeksijskih ovlasti.*

*Lp, Goran Crvelin*

The gases that are much too high during the period that the hemp plantation is active are:

### 1.3 Butadiene and Nitrobenzen

These gases are CANCER CAUSING and we have had to deal with them 24 hours a day for several months for 2 seasons.

Nzzjz carried out the measurement based on a working environment.

In a working environment the most people spend approximately 8 hours a day.

We, the residents around the hemp plantation, live here 24 hours a day, so we are exposed 3 times more per day. It should not be forgotten that the measurement was done by Nzzjz where approximately 30 hemp plants of a approximately height of 30cm were present. In the 2022 season there were approximately 82 plants with a height of approximately 2 meters.

To make it even clearer to you how dangerous the hemp plantation is for us, we have started looking for even more documentary evidence that describes everything we have been complaining about from the beginning: a hemp plantation is harmful to health!

Hemp plants emit substances during their growth. These substances are also called VOC, which stands for volatile organic compounds.

1,3-Butadiene and Nitrobenzene are recognized as highly reactive volatile organic compounds that are very harmful to health.

The VOCs emitted by the hemp plant during the growth process are therefore VOCs, also called terpenes. The 'Spex Certiprep' website already explains something about this.

We have added the pdf of the website to this letter as [pdf 2](#).

The following is described on the 'Clean Air Zone' website:

*High levels of VOCs are extremely harmful to workers, especially those exposed to these chemical gases in enclosed spaces. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, some of the immediate side effects of being exposed to high amounts of VOCs include eye and respiratory tract irritation, headaches, dizziness, visual disorders, and memory impairment.*

The link to the website is:

<https://www.cleanairzone.com/2021/07/29/the-importance-of-controlling-voc-emissions-during-cannabis-production/>

We have saved the page as a pdf and are adding it as [pdf 3](#)

This website initially writes about VOCs in a closed space, which is not the case at our places, as the plants are on a plot without a building, so they are in the open air.

Health complaints are described that are identical to those that we, the local residents, experience during the period that the cannabis plantation is present. Once the plantation is harvested, the symptoms gradually disappear and we can live a more normal life again.

The website of 'Clean Air Zone', which is an article dated 29-10-2021, also describes:

*If released into the outside air, VOCs can also contribute to the ground ozone level. Unlike the ozone layer in the atmosphere which protects us from UV rays, ground ozone is a toxic air pollutant that is created when oxides of nitrogen and VOCs chemically react.*

*Those exposed to ground ozone level might experience its dangerous health effects such as sore or scratchy throat, and difficulty when breathing deeply. Individuals that suffer from lung diseases such as asthma, emphysema, and chronic bronchitis might find their symptoms worsen.*

The VOCs that come from hemp plants during the growth process and which in our case therefore end up directly in the ambient air cause a dangerous health effect.

So there is NO MAYBE, but there is clearly that the VOCs cause health problems, such as the symptoms we have been experiencing since 2022 during the period when the hemp plantation is active.

The 'Science Daily' website describes that the pungent smell of a cannabis/hemp plant contributes to air pollution on a much larger scale:

We have saved the page as a pdf and are adding it as pdf 4

*The same chemicals responsible for the pungent smell of a cannabis plant may also contribute to air pollution on a much larger scale, according to new research from the Desert Research Institute (DRI) and the Washoe County Health District (WCHD) in Reno, Nev.*

***The Desert Research Institute (DRI) is a recognized world leader in basic and applied interdisciplinary research. Committed to scientific excellence and integrity, DRI faculty, students, and staff have developed scientific knowledge and innovative technologies in research projects around the globe. Since 1959, DRI's research has advanced scientific knowledge, supported Nevada's diversifying economy, provided science-based educational opportunities, and informed policy makers, business leaders, and community members. With campuses in Reno and Las Vegas, DRI serves as the non-profit research arm of the Nevada System of Higher Education. For more information, please visit [www.dri.edu](http://www.dri.edu).***

*At each facility, the team found high levels of strongly-scented airborne chemicals called biogenic volatile organic compounds (BVOCs), which are naturally produced by the cannabis plants during growth and reproduction. At facilities where cannabis oil extraction took place, researchers also found very high levels of butane, a volatile organic compound (VOC) that is used during the oil extraction process.*

*"The concentrations of BVOCs and butane that we measured inside of these facilities were high enough to be concerning," explained lead author Vera Samburova, Ph.D., Associate Research Professor of atmospheric science at DRI. "In addition to being potentially hazardous to the workers inside the cannabis growing and processing facilities, these chemicals can contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone if they are released into the outside air."*

*Although ozone in the upper atmosphere provides protection from UV rays, ozone at ground-level is a toxic substance that is harmful for humans to breathe.*

We would also like to point out at this point that the above-mentioned researchers already describe that if VOCs are released into the air, they have a harmful effect on people.

We are dealing with an open-air cannabis/hemp plantation that is just a few meters from our houses. During the growth process of the hemp plantation, which takes place from approximately June to September/October, we are exposed 24 hours a day to VOCs that are extremely harmful to our health.

We therefore request that you impose a ban on the hemp plantation so that we are no longer exposed to carcinogenic substances that comes from the hemplants and which absolutely damage our health. It is like an assassination attempt on our lives, otherwise it cannot be described.

Therefore, once again: please issue a ban on the hemp plantation!