



September 25, 2008

Several reports were produced by Blacksmith's Technical Advisory Board members following Blacksmith Institute's visit to La Oroya in May 2008. One was authored by Brian Wilson from ILMC, and the second by Ian von Lindern, from TerraGraphics. These attached reports laid out our findings from this visit, and our recommendations for future actions.

Interestingly, the reports also proved controversial in some circles. Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense (AIDA), a collaboration of EarthJustice, was highly critical of our findings and saw fit to publish its own report criticizing our findings. It, too, is attached.

It is instructive to review all of these reports as a way of understanding the different perspectives that different types of organization bring to a project. The role of Blacksmith Institute is practical. Our process is fact-driven and politically neutral. We work with all stakeholders in a constructive fashion to figure out what needs to happen to solve the problem of lead in the environment. We aim to work cooperatively with those players who can make a difference.

Other organizations, AIDA amongst them, adopt a different strategy. There is an advocacy organization, working with public opinion and the courts to try to pressure action from the responsible parties.

Both strategies are reasonable and probably both are needed in the circumstances of La Oroya. The advocacy of AIDA keeps Doe Run Peru (DRP) on their toes and makes sure they follow through on their promises.

We do note, however, that AIDA's report is incorrect in a number of key facts. They suggest, for example, that the smelters were not operational during our visit (they were in full operation). They also cherry-picked data from secondary sources in their report, and insinuate that Blacksmith staff were having the wool pulled over their eyes during their visit. They also indicated that we did not meet with the NGO community. None of this is true. Our team of experts has over 100 years of combined experience in lead and smelting clean-up operations, and our reviews were detailed and as complete as possible. The report from AIDA needs to be viewed as being a work of advocacy trying to put pressure on DRP and local authorities.

A critical step to move towards a real solution is for all parties to agree on a common database, as a basis to identify those additional measures that will be most effective in bringing about a safer environment for the children. Blacksmith will continue to monitor the progress of activities to reduce emissions at DRP and remediate legacy contamination. Blacksmith will also provide technical assistance to any and all parties,

especially where our expertise can assist in moving remedial activities forward as swiftly as possible.

La Oroya continues to be one of the most polluted places on earth, and we hope these activities will one day remove it from that list.