

OKLAHOMA

PRIMARY ALUMINUM

Setting the Record Straight: The Facts on Oklahoma Primary Aluminum (OPA)

Our goal is simple: to set the record straight with verifiable facts regarding the strict environmental oversight, domestic regulatory compliance and fiscal safeguards built into this development. We are deeply committed to being transparent neighbors, a vital economic engine and a collaborative partner for Oklahoma.

Additional information is available on our [Answers Center](#).

Accusation: *Oklahoma is giving Oklahoma Primary Aluminum \$255 million, waiving property taxes, and providing Tax Increment Financing (TIF), and that the state is handing more than \$1 billion to a foreign company to build a smelter near Inola.*

The Facts: Neither the project, EGA, nor Century Aluminum will directly receive any Oklahoma taxpayer dollars. The state's \$255 million LEAD package is placed into an interest-bearing fund, and this indirect support is only distributed after the project is operational and meets strict job creation requirements. Additionally, the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district does not waive taxes, divert existing taxpayer dollars, or increase taxes for area residents; it only sets aside the new, incremental tax revenue generated by the project itself to fund local infrastructure. Ultimately, the facility will generate an estimated \$1.3 billion in new state and local tax revenue over 30 years, providing a net financial benefit to Oklahoma taxpayers.

Accusation: *It's a Muslim Monarchy that won't follow our rules.*

The Facts: Oklahoma Primary Aluminum will be based in Oklahoma and is fully subject to all applicable U.S. laws and regulations, like any domestic company. The facility is bound by multiple levels of strict regulatory oversight, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Clean Air Act, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ).

Accusation: *The smelter will put 425 tons of fluoride particulate into the air every year. Anything over 10 tons is labeled by the EPA as a high polluter. It will decimate the hay crop and residents won't be able to run cattle.*

The Facts: This is false. The 425 tons in the air permit application reflects the initial and hypothetical level of emissions at the plant, not the actual level of emissions that are expected from the plant. The facility will generally be modeled after EGA's plant in Abu

Dhabi, which is recognized as one of the best-performing facilities in the world as reflected in [this chart](#) comparing emissions of plants in relation to production capacity. This chart is available in the Answers Center on our website.

Accusation: *The school is within 3 miles and will have to close down anytime the wind is blowing toward it. Also, if the wind comes out of the east downtown Tulsa will have to shut down.*

The Facts: This claim is false. This facility will safely operate, meeting or exceeding safety requirements under state and federal law. The plant can only be built and operated after safety is demonstrated and confirmed by independent experts at the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, a process currently underway. Oklahoma Primary Aluminum will be a modern, highly controlled plant with multiple safeguards, including emissions monitoring systems to protect health and the environment.

Accusation: *The facility will use more water than the Inola wastewater treatment plant can accommodate.*

The Facts: Tulsa Ports recently built a \$72 million, state-of-the-art wastewater treatment plant, funded by millions in federal and regional grants, to provide capacity for new industrial developments and replace the aging system used by the Town of Inola. The facility will operate under an Industrial Discharge Permit issued by the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, which includes pretreatment limits, monitoring and reporting requirements.

Accusation: *OPA will produce 750,000 metric tons of aluminum. For every ton of aluminum produced, one ton of "aluminum sludge" is produced and can't be put in landfill.*

The Facts: This claim is false. There is no material known as "aluminum sludge," and aluminum smelting does not produce a ton of solid waste per ton of aluminum produced. In the UAE, EGA has achieved 100% recycling of the main byproducts generated through its aluminum smelting, ensuring that these materials are reused rather than disposed of as waste.

Accusation: *If a facility pollutes the air instead of stopping operations, it may simply be fined rather than shut down.*

The Facts: The facility cannot simply "pay a fine" to pollute. Oklahoma Primary Aluminum will operate under one of the nation's most stringent environmental permitting and compliance frameworks, including emissions monitoring. Any emissions that exceed permitted limits must, by law, be reported to the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) by the next business day. ODEQ has broad

enforcement authority, including the ability to require corrective action, restrict operations or shut down the facility for serious violations. Knowingly failing to report an exceedance is a violation of the law and may result in criminal prosecution of responsible personnel.

Accusation: *South Carolina and Kentucky smelters are fined and sued every year for the pollution that they put into those communities.*

The Facts: Century Aluminum has an extensive track record of environmental and community excellence. Their Sebree, Kentucky facility recently won the Kentucky Division of Water Area Wide Optimization Program Award in 2025 for water management. Globally, all Century locations hold ISO 9001, 14001, and 45001 certifications, which are rigorous international standards for safety, quality, and environmental management.