

Mr. Andrew S. Johnston, Executive Secretary
Maryland Public Service Commission
6 Saint Paul Street, 16th Floor
Baltimore, MD 21202

Re: Opposition to 'Request for Amendment of CPCN. Case No. 9330(ML# 231832)'

Dear Mr. Johnston:

The Public Service Commission (PSC) should deny the 'Request for Amendment of CPCN. Case No. 9330(ML# 231832)' based on the lack of analysis of the impacts this project will have on the exposure of nearby populations from benzene and other air toxics.

It is our understanding that Mattawoman's latest revision goes well beyond the scope of an amendment and thus constitutes a large and critical change in the project's scope, including the total relocation of the planned natural gas pipeline route. As the applicant's proposal acknowledges, an entirely new route would bring significant impacts to completely different Areas of Concern (AOCs).

We are particularly concerned with the lack of evaluation presented on the impacts on the students at Brandywine Elementary School, in particular, though Gywnn Park Middle and High Schools are also near to the terminus of the proposed pipeline. The end of the proposed pipeline is less than one kilometer from playgrounds at Brandywine Elementary School. The population of this school is nearly 95% people of color¹ and environmental justice concerns need to be given the highest priority in regards to the impact that this proposed pipeline will have on the well being of those in the educational environment at Brandywine Elementary.

Natural gas pipelines can in particular result in the emission of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), in particular known carcinogens such as benzene.² These air toxics can travel distances beyond one kilometer³ and likely could impact the long-term health of students that live and learn so close to this proposed project. It is not appropriate to approve this application without an evaluation of the impact the air toxics emissions will have on nearby communities, especially students of color.

The PSC must deny the 'Request for Amendment of CPCN. Case No. 9330(ML# 231832)'.

Sincerely,



Joseph Jakuta
Lead Volunteer, Climate Parents of Prince George's County

¹ <https://reportcard.msde.maryland.gov/Graphs/#/Demographics/Enrollment/3/17/12/16/1101/2019>

² Ridlington, E. & Madsen, T. (2017). Our health at risk: Why are millions of Americans still breathing unhealthy air? <http://pennenvironment.org/sites/environment/files/reports/PennEnvironment%20Our%20Health%20at%20Risk%20April%202017%20web.pdf>

³ Shuai, Jianfei et al. "Health risk assessment of volatile organic compounds exposure near Daegu dyeing industrial complex in South Korea." *BMC public health* vol. 18,1 528. 20 Apr. 2018, doi:10.1186/s12889-018-5454-1