

Good morning Chairman Stanek and Commissioners Richard, O'Donnell, Linton, and Herman.

I am speaking in regards to case 9330.

My name is Joseph Jakuta am the lead volunteer on the Climate Parents of Prince George's Campaign. I am testifying today with great concern about the changes to the methane pipeline that Mattawoman Energy Center, LLC is seeking an amendment for. We submitted a letter on October 12, 2020 noting the lack of consideration in the amendment to the affects of air toxics emissions on the nearby people in particular those in attendance at schools nearby to the proposed project. This issue appears to never have been addressed in Mattawoman energy Center, LLC in their original amendment no subsequent documentation. I bringing this up today since it did not appear to have been addressed at the November 4 meeting mentioned by Chairman Stanek earlier and since the amendment, to my understanding involved a relocation of the planned pipeline, these impacts should be part of the discussion.

Methane transporting pipelines can result in the emission of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), in particular known carcinogens such as benzene. Studies have shown that these air toxics can travel distances beyond one kilometer and likely could impact the long-term health of students and others that live so close to the proposed pipeline. Several studies over the past few years such as those from the California Air Resources Board and the Houston Advanced Research Center have independently shown benzene fugitive emissions along methane pipelines of all ages. Other studies, such as one this year by Zachary Weller et al in Environmental Sciences and Technology, are showing that leak rates from methane pipelines can be twice as high as current estimates from the EPA. Much of this research is new so we would not have expected the PSC to have considered these factors five years ago, but now these issues are becoming common knowledge and can no longer be ignored.

This is particularly concerning given the proximity of the proposed terminus to Brandywine Elementary School, in particular, though Gywnn Park Middle and High School are also in the vicinity. 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 color 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 as well as the other nearby people.

At this point it is not appropriate to approve this amendment without an evaluation of the impact that air toxics emissions will have on nearby communities. Doing so aligns with the mission of the PSC including to act in the public interest, for the safety of the public, for the conservation of the environment (specifically cleaner air and water), and to encourage public trust and confidence. We are also supportive of the actions called upon by Clean Air Prince George's today and others and believe time is needed

Thank You