

Air Quality Public Advisory Committee

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<http://www.mwcog.org/environment/committee/>

The Air Quality Public Advisory Committee (AQPAC) is an advisory body to the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC).

October 22, 2007

Dear MWAQC:

We request your support in acquiring information about the Benning Road PEPCO station and its impact on air quality.

One of our AQPAC members, Mr. George Gurley, who represents the Urban Protectors League of the District of Columbia, has spoken at recent meetings of the AQPAC about the Benning Road PEPCO station. Fine particles and other air pollutants from the station are a health concern to residents in DC, particularly the neighborhood of River Terrace. Mr. Gurley reports that he has asked for accountability and answers from the District government related to questions about emissions and operations of the Benning Road PEPCO station, with little to no response. AQPAC is concerned with the apparent lack of response from government and other responsible parties.

We understand the station currently operates 5-30 days each year and is expected to close in about 5 years. Concerns about the station during its operations, particularly for the residents of River Terrace, have been brought to AQPAC's attention. The quality of the air in the River Terrace neighborhood is such that residents report they must remain inside when the plant is in operation.

What entity regulates utility operations at the Benning Road station? The air permit is issued by the District government. With the fine particle State Implementation Plan (SIP) being prepared this year, we believe the SIP may be a timely opportunity to investigate and address the station's emissions.

AQPAC asks that the MWAQC assist us to

- Determine the definitive process for closure of the Benning Road station in 2012
- Determine who or what entity or entities have regulatory authority for the Benning Road station
- Evaluate if the River Terrace neighborhood is an Environmental Justice area
- Investigate what is being done now, and until the Benning Road station closes, to assist the River Terrace neighborhood with its health concerns
- Consider fine particle pollutant reduction at the Benning Road station as a possible control measure under the fine particle SIP being prepared now

AQPAC would like to request information about air emissions at this Benning Road PEPCO station and we request your concurrence. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jill Engel-Cox, Ph.D.
AQPAC Chair

cc: AQPAC members
Joan Rohlf, COG