

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).

DRAFT – October 13 2007

Dear MWAQC:

One of our AQPAC members, 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 the District of Columbia, particularly the neighborhood of River Terrace. For several years, Mr. Gurley has asked for some accountability and answers from the District government related to questions about emissions and operations of the Benning Road PEPCO plant, with little to no responses with any content or answers. AQPAC has become concerned with the apparent lack of response from government and other responsible parties.

The Benning Road PEPCO station is supposed to close in 2013. However this has not been guaranteed. The station currently operates 11 days each year. Concerns about the station during its operations, particularly for River Terrace, have been brought to AQPAC's attention. The quality of the air in the River Terrace neighborhood is so bad that residents report they must remain inside when the plant is in operation.

Who or what entity regulates the Benning Road station is unclear. Until it can be determined who is responsible for regulating the station, answers to questions cannot be obtained nor can corrective action be achieved. 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 to

- Determine the definitive closure of the Benning Road station in 2013
- Determine who or what entity is the regulator for the Benning Road station
- Evaluate if the River Terrace neighborhood an Environmental Justice situation
- 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 be willing to request information about this Benning Road PEPCO plant problem, but we need your support. The MWAQC's assistance is appreciated. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions

Sincerely,

Jill Engel-Cox, Ph.D.
AQPAC Chair

cc: AQPAC members
Joan Rohlf, COG