

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
PHILADELPHIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
AIR MANAGEMENT SERVICES
PUBLIC HEARING

Wednesday, January 12, 2022
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

RE: Title V/State Operating Permit, OP20-000052
Title V/State Operating Permit, OP21-000064

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Virtual - GoToWebinar

HELD BEFORE: EDWARD WIENER

RAHEL GEBREKIDAN

JASON LI

PATRICK O'NEILL

1 modifications include updating the facility
2 equipment inventory list; changing the
3 source standard industrial specification
4 SIC code for the facility from 2911,
5 Petroleum Refining, to 1795, Wrecking and
6 Demolition Work since there is no longer
7 any refinery at the facility; removing all
8 shutdown equipment; removing certain
9 processes that are being transferred to
10 these Tank Farm Title V Operating
11 Department; and updating the applicable
12 requirements.

13 More information can be found on
14 the AMS website link listed in the public
15 notice. This proposed permit does not
16 authorize installation of any new
17 processes. The facility is a major
18 stationary source as defined in Title I,
19 Part D of the Clean Air Act Amendments.
20 And therefore, is subject to the Title V
21 Operating Permit Requirements adopted in 25
22 Pennsylvania Code Section 127, Subchapter
23 G.

24 The Department is holding this

1 hearing to allow all interested parties to
2 testify with comments on this plan approval
3 application. This hearing is being
4 transcribed. Please, state your name,
5 address or neighborhood and whom you
6 represent for the record before you begin.
7 If you would like your testimony to apply
8 to both the proposed Former Refinery permit
9 and the proposed Tank Farm permit in the
10 next public hearing, please, just say so at
11 the beginning.

12 Please, limit your testimony to
13 approximately five minutes. Each
14 organization should designate one witness
15 to present testimony. Following your
16 testimony, we may need to ask you for
17 additional information.

18 This hearing will not be a
19 question-and-answer session. However, I
20 can assure you that we will address all
21 comments and questions concerning this plan
22 approval before any determination is made
23 to issue it. All oral or written comments
24 received will become part of the public

1 record.

2 We will prepare a response document
3 prior to final action on this, the
4 operating permit -- Title V Operating
5 Permit. Anyone who included their address
6 on record or attendance will be mailed
7 one -- or these days we, actually, do --
8 typically do it by email. If anyone has
9 written comments to submit, actually, you
10 may do that by emailing them to the address
11 that we have had listed earlier and will be
12 listed again.

13 We will start the oral comments
14 now. Okay. For the Former Refinery, the
15 first person I have listed is Barbara
16 Brandham. And I apologize for screwing up
17 names. In addition to everything else, my
18 handwriting is terrible. Let me -- I got
19 to make sure I find you first. They are in
20 alphabetical order. Thank God.

21 Okay. Barbara Brandham? Okay.

22 Please, unmute yourself.

23 MS. GEBREKIDAN: Can you turn off
24 your mic? There is lot of background

1 noise.

2 MR. WIENER: Okay, Barbara -- you
3 are listed on my screen. You are showing
4 up as being self-muted. Can you -- I'm
5 sorry. Everybody is going to need to
6 unmute themselves, also, before they speak.

7 Shoot. Okay. Let's skip Barbara
8 Brandham for now just to get it moving. We
9 can go back to her if necessary.

10 Bianca Panunto?

11 MS. PANUNTO: Hello. Can you hear
12 me?

13 MR. WIENER: I can hear you great.
14 Okay. If you can, please, start your
15 testimony. We are asking -- reminder, we
16 are asking everybody to start with your
17 name, address or neighborhood and the
18 convention or organization. If this
19 testimony is for both, you want to apply to
20 both permits, please, just say so in the
21 beginning.

22 And you can start now. You have
23 five minutes.

24 MS. PANUNTO: Thank you.

1 Hello. My name is Bianca Panunto.
2 I am speaking on behalf of the Philadelphia
3 Liberation Center. Our organization
4 operates in neighborhoods citywide. And I
5 am based in Grays Ferry in Philadelphia.

6 The Liberation Center requests that
7 Air Management Services deny approval to
8 both permits being discussed today for
9 several reasons.

10 The process for approval of air
11 pollution permits needs to make greater
12 emphasis on community engagement and
13 collaboration. As residents of this city,
14 we deserve to understand what companies
15 plan to pollute our communities with and
16 how much pollution they plan release.
17 Releasing "plain language summaries" is not
18 enough.

19 Polluters should be required to
20 hold community meetings with the people
21 their operations will impact. They need to
22 listen to our concerns and actually work to
23 change them. But just listening to us is
24 not enough. The people in this city need

1 to be the real decision makers here.

2 Air Management Services must guide
3 their work based on the people's organized
4 demands and requests if the Department of
5 Health truly aims to protect our health.

6 As the people living on the ground
7 experiencing pollution from industry every
8 day, we know best. The community should be
9 empowered to make decisions, not polluters.

10 I will discuss issues specifically
11 related to what is included in the two
12 permits up for renewal today.

13 Additional air monitoring should be
14 required to have sufficient data on
15 pollution sources and to protect residents'
16 health. AMS should require PES to do
17 additional air quality monitoring and more
18 frequent leak detection tests because this
19 area is a concentrated environmental
20 justice area as defined by the Pennsylvania
21 Department of Environmental Protection, and
22 because PES has a history of violations --
23 seven from 2012 to 2019 -- and a history of
24 accidents on the site, for example, the

1 2019 explosion and the spill of 50,000
2 gallons of Naphthalene in the same year.

3 Increasing air monitoring at the
4 Refinery and the Tank Farm will also
5 address the high Benzene levels detected in
6 the area by third party groups such as the
7 Environmental Integrity Project even after
8 the closure of the refineries operations.

9 The petroleum tanks need to be
10 decommissioned along with other refinery
11 infrastructure because it harms human
12 health through passive leakage of air
13 pollutants and poses significant risk to
14 public safety. 2020 fence line monitors of
15 the PES site showed Benzene released at --
16 sorry, Benzene releases at three times the
17 actionable levels set by the EPA. Benzene
18 is known to cause cancer and other health
19 issues.

20 In total, the pollution-emitting
21 tanks on this site can hold 360 million
22 gallons of high emission petroleum
23 products. Many date back to the 1950s.
24 And the site is located in a floodplain.

1 Other studies have provided numerous case
2 studies into the possibility of tanks
3 rupturing during flood events, which can
4 have catastrophic impacts on our health as
5 nearby residents into the environment and
6 the Greater Philadelphia region.

7 Renewal of these permits as they
8 are written today is not an acceptable
9 option for the city's residents. The city
10 is setting a clear precedent by renewing
11 these permits. Company's profit motive is
12 more important than the community's health.
13 We do not stand for putting profit over
14 people. And we urge Air Management
15 Services to address the changes described
16 by me and other community representatives
17 at this meeting before renewal of these
18 permits.

19 Thank you.

20 MR. WIENER: Thank you. Okay.

21 Next we have Carly Frintner.

22 MS. FRINTNER: Hi. Can you hear
23 me?

24 MR. WIENER: Yes, I can. Thank

1 you.

2 MS. FRINTNER: Good evening. My
3 name is Carly Frintner. I am a resident of
4 Grays Ferry. Been here since 2014 with my
5 husband.

6 THE STENOGRAPHER: Can you, please,
7 spell your last name for the reporter when
8 you state your name? Thank you.

9 MS. FRINTNER: Sure. My last name
10 is F, as in Frank, r-i-n, like, north, t,
11 like time, n, like north, e-r. My first
12 name is C-a-r-l-y.

13 THE STENOGRAPHER: Thank you. You
14 can continue.

15 MS. FRINTNER: Thank you.

16 As a member of Philly Thrive, I
17 expect that we will hear from various
18 residents many personal stories this
19 evening. And I urge everyone to listen
20 deeply to what will be shared from those
21 personal stories of loss, pain, suffering
22 that is both historical and ongoing due to
23 the Former PES Refinery site and all the
24 other names it's had over its many, many

1 decades of operation and pollution in our
2 area.

3 I wanted to give a zoomed out
4 picture in addition to those more personal,
5 localized stories which is to remark on
6 what I feel is just the absurdity of even
7 having a conversation about continuing to
8 allow this much petroleum product to be
9 stored, well, mined or otherwise extracted,
10 stored and utilized in our world with
11 everything that we know about climate
12 change and the risk that Philadelphia and
13 so many other places in the world are at
14 because of the continued extraction
15 refining and usage of petroleum products
16 such as the ones that are planned to be
17 stored in the Tank Farm, as I understand
18 it.

19 We should be having more
20 conversations and taking more action about
21 frantically reducing fossil fuel extraction
22 and usage so that we actually have a chance
23 of saving this planet that we call home.
24 And instead, however many people are on

1 here tonight, I don't know what -- you
2 know, who is on here for their job, getting
3 paid to be part of this conversation, who
4 is on here as a volunteer. In my opinion,
5 it's a waste of time, money and resources
6 to be debating whether this Tank Farm
7 should be permitted or not. The answer is,
8 no, it shouldn't. We don't need to waste
9 any more time, energy or money debating
10 this.

11 There are alternative solutions to
12 many, many petroleum products. We need to
13 keep exploring those. We need to tap into
14 what's already understood about using those
15 alternative products and services to
16 provide us with what we need in terms of
17 products, in terms of energy. We shouldn't
18 be needing to beg for our lives, the lives
19 of our families, our children, your
20 children, your grandchildren.

21 This is serious. This is not
22 sensationalizing. This is science. We
23 know it. This plan flies in the face of so
24 much that we know. And as I said at the

1 beginning, it's just absurd that this plan
2 of the Tank Farm would even be up for
3 discussion at the moment. The discussion
4 needs to be around how do we have true
5 green alternatives for Philadelphia's
6 people and economy.

7 MS. GEBREKIDAN: Sorry to
8 interrupt. You have 45 seconds left.

9 MS. FRINTNER: I appreciate that.
10 Thank you.

11 So to me, the obvious choice is to
12 deny any permits for a Tank Farm, to deny
13 any operation of any -- bringing in or
14 exporting of petroleum products in this
15 area. These things should no longer exist
16 in our world or should be phased out as
17 soon as possible, not being given the
18 go-ahead to continue. The life of the
19 entire planet is at stake.

20 And like I said, that's not an
21 exaggeration. That's science.

22 So, I urge people to follow the
23 science and consider the gravity of the
24 choices made about this site and what will

1 be there in the future. Thank you.

2 MR. WIENER: Thank you. Okay.

3 Next we have Alexa Ross.

4 MS. ROSS: Okay. I believe this
5 might be an instance where I was
6 registering other people to speak. And I
7 got unmuted instead of them. So I was -- I
8 right away registered Derien Thomas and
9 Earl Wilson. And they should be registered
10 on this meeting under their names.

11 So, Derien Thomas is the first one
12 and Earl Wilson.

13 MR. WIENER: Okay. Thank you for
14 clarifying that.

15 MS. ROSS: I know that Pastor
16 Derien Thomas has to leave at 7:00, so
17 that's why I got his registration in right
18 away.

19 MR. WIENER: Okay.

20 MS. ROSS: Thank you.

21 MR. WIENER: We will go to those
22 two first then.

23 Okay. Pastor Thomas?

24 PASTOR THOMAS: Yes. Good evening.

1 MR. WIENER: Hello?

2 PASTOR THOMAS: Yes. Am I being
3 heard? Hello?

4 MR. WIENER: Yes. You are unmuted.
5 Please start with your name, address of
6 your neighborhood.

7 PASTOR THOMAS: Yes. My name is
8 Pastor Derien Thomas. I'm in Association
9 with the South/Southwest Coalition located
10 here in Southwest Philadelphia.

11 I'd like to say briefly that few
12 years ago, City Council, the Mayor and
13 other public officials announced that they
14 wanted Philadelphia to be the greenest city
15 in America. And being the greenest city in
16 America requires change -- solar energy,
17 wind energy, so many other alternatives
18 than storing oil -- or storing anything
19 that's detrimental to the quality air and
20 the lifestyle.

21 We have had situations with floods
22 in our community. We had I-95 come right
23 through the community with pollution, I-76
24 with the traffic, incinerators. We have --

1 we had the oil refinery itself and many
2 other industries that have affected the
3 quality of our lifestyle even to the point
4 where Southwest Philadelphia, South Philly
5 has suffered the highest rate of infant
6 mortality, asthma and other diseases
7 especially effecting the poor and children.

8 So, what we are proposing is that
9 if -- look at other alternatives such as
10 wind and solar and other things for the
11 future. We are going backwards by creating
12 this storage for oil when we should be
13 moving forward like many other countries
14 are doing in other cities. So, we're
15 proposing that they reevaluate their
16 interest in profit by looking at green
17 energy technology, so that our children's
18 children will not be left with this -- in
19 this condition the next one hundred years.

20 Thank you very much.

21 MR. WIENER: Thank you.

22 Next we have Earl Wilson.

23 MR. WILSON: Good evening. And
24 thanks very much for this opportunity.

1 Excuse me. My name is Earl Wilson.

2 And I am a resident of Eastwick Southwest
3 Philadelphia. I am also President of
4 Eastwick Friends and Neighbors Coalition.
5 EFNC is an environmental and community
6 organization, and is also a member of the
7 United Southwest Coalition for a Healthy
8 Community.

9 I am speaking to you tonight to
10 show my concerns for what is happening at
11 the PES Sunoco Refinery site. I know that
12 it is under new management. And the new
13 managers Hilco Development Partners base --
14 its publicity efforts have promised to be
15 good neighbors. I am finding out now that
16 Hilco and the City is beginning to move
17 away from some of their environmental
18 advances.

19 How? This week ends the public
20 comment period on air pollution permits.
21 Hilco is pursuing from the City's Air
22 Management Services. One of the permits
23 would come from continuing to operate the
24 petroleum tank farm as well as docks and

1 the rail yard that allows for import and
2 export oil products. The largest part of
3 the tank farm, I should remind you, is
4 closest to my community in Eastwick.

5 The oil tanks on the property can
6 hold a combined approximately 360 million
7 gallons of petroleum products. And many of
8 them were installed in the '50s. Can you
9 imagine? Fifty years -- plus years of
10 erosion, rust and wear on those tanks.
11 Those storage tanks leak casts of air
12 pollutants around the clock, which was one
13 explanation as to why air monitors are
14 picking up on an increased basis the
15 Benzene level that is being permeated in
16 the atmosphere itself.

17 Benzene is one of the chemicals
18 that's been causing cancer in neighborhoods
19 in the community surrounding the refinery
20 for generations. That Benzene alone with
21 other chemical compounds is carcinogenic.
22 This is definitely an environmentally
23 unjust situation. If the City and Hilco
24 means anything with their environmental

1 rhetoric, then they should need to review
2 their positions. If the City and Hilco
3 thought it to be unacceptable to expose a
4 low-income community of color to additional
5 years of constant pollution, the permits
6 and plans for the tank farm should not be
7 allowed.

8 Hilco should pull these permits and
9 immediately engage the impacted residents
10 in the challenging work of planning for
11 sustainable development. And the City
12 should understand this move and not rubber
13 stamp these particular permits. No one
14 promised it would be easy or comfortable to
15 keep moving toward environmental justice.
16 And no one from the community organization
17 will tell you that.

18 But these are the defining
19 crossroads that will allow a situation to
20 be determined finally and able to work
21 together to end the legacy and harm done to
22 communities, especially communities of
23 color.

24 MS. GEBREKIDAN: Sorry to

1 interrupt. You only have one minute left.

2 MR. WILSON: Thank you very much.

3 I appreciate that. I will use less.

4 Texas can tell us what it's like to
5 have flood waters rupturing storage tanks
6 within its borders. Remember that Hilco's
7 tanks are in the same flood plain that sent
8 flood waters onto I-676 last year. Let's
9 not ignore the possibility of this
10 happening again. Please, don't ignore
11 that.

12 Thanks for your time, your concerns
13 and cooperation in this matter. Thank you
14 very much.

15 MR. WIENER: Thank you.

16 Next we have Russell Zerbo.

17 MR. ZERBO: Great. Can everybody
18 hear me?

19 MR. WIENER: I can hear you, yes.

20 MR. ZERBO: Oh, okay. Great.

21 Thank you all for putting this on.

22 I'm Russell Zerbo, R-u-s-s-e-l-l,
23 Z-e-r-b-o. I live at 1330 South Millville
24 Street, right on the other -- right on the

1 west side of Grays Ferry Bridge. And I
2 also work for the non-profit Clean Air
3 Council. And my testimony will mostly
4 focus on the Former Refinery, but there is
5 a little bit about the Tank Farm, as well.

6 So, the biggest thing that Clean
7 Air Council is asking for is that both the
8 permit for the Former Refinery and the
9 permit for this cool river Tank Farm have
10 facility-wide tons per year pollution
11 limits. Mr. Wiener mentioned that both
12 permits are for major sources of volatile
13 compounds, nitrous oxides, hazardous air
14 pollution -- hazardous air pollutants,
15 carbon monoxide, sulphur oxides and
16 particulate matter.

17 So we know that there are major
18 sources of all those different pollutants,
19 but we don't know how much. So, it would
20 be great if in these two permits there were
21 tons per year pollution limits for all
22 those different pollutants particularly
23 because the Former Refinery is in a
24 low-income community and a community of

1 color. And is recognized as an
2 environmental justice area by both the
3 State of Pennsylvania and the City of
4 Philadelphia.

5 And in terms of the Former Refinery
6 permit, there is this absurd inclusion of
7 active petroleum tanks in what is supposed
8 to be a permit for a demolition and
9 deconstruction. There is actually more
10 permitted petroleum and petro chemical
11 storage in what is supposed to be a
12 demolition permit rather than the actual
13 Tank Farm permit. And PES/Hilco is
14 proposing to move other active pieces of
15 infrastructure on the east side of the
16 river to the Tank Farm permit.

17 So again, it's absurd the,
18 particular a series of over 40 million
19 gallon crude oil tanks that Hilco is still
20 proposing to use as crude oil tanks are in
21 the permit for the Former Refinery. And if
22 that permit was allowed to go through,
23 active Benzene fence line monitoring would
24 cease at that site as well as the Tank

1 Farm.

2 And we know in 2020, because the --
3 both sides of the river were being
4 regulated as a refinery and required to do
5 fence line Benzene monitoring, we know from
6 that required monitoring that even when the
7 refinery wasn't functioning 2020, Benzene
8 levels were recorded more than three times
9 the EPA actual level. So, we have proof
10 that when this facility is not functioning,
11 it's still releasing Benzene at an
12 extremely high level.

13 So, we want that Benzene monitoring
14 to keep going as long as those levels are
15 higher than established EPA levels in
16 refinery fence line monitoring.

17 So again, those are our two biggest
18 considerations. We want that Benzene
19 monitoring to continue because it's been
20 proven that the facility is emitting
21 dangerous levels of Benzene even without
22 functioning at all in the year 2020. And
23 again, we would like tons per year
24 facility-wide pollution limits for all of

1 the air pollutants that both sides of the
2 river are major sources of.

3 And again --

4 MS. GEBREKIDAN: Sir, sorry to
5 interrupt. You only have one minute left.

6 MR. ZERBO: Okay. Great. Thank
7 you. I will not use all of that limit.

8 And again, even though Hilco is
9 claiming this is a demolition and wreckage
10 permit, that are obviously saying that they
11 are going to treat a large amount of
12 refinery wastewater at the Former Refinery.
13 They are going to be selling a large amount
14 of crude oil from the tanks of Former
15 Refinery. So as long as those two things
16 are happening, we would like this facility
17 to be regulated as an active refinery or at
18 least have the Benzene fence-line
19 monitoring that a normal refinery would be
20 subject to.

21 And that's it. I appreciate
22 everyone's time.

23 MR. WIENER: Okay. Thank you.

24 Next we have Jeff Singletary. Jeff

1 Singletary, you are still showing up as
2 muted. Going once?

3 Actually, let's move on and go
4 back. Okay. Next we have David
5 Szczepanik.

6 MR. SZCZEPANIK: Hi. Can you hear
7 me?

8 MR. WIENER: Yes.

9 MR. SZCZEPANIK: Hi. My name is
10 David Szczepanik. S as in Sam, z as in
11 zebra, c as in cat, z as in zebra, e as in
12 elephant, p as in Paul, a-n-i-k. I live in
13 Grays Ferry near Lenora Park.

14 Given that the -- and I am here
15 representing myself. Given that the Former
16 Refinery is still storing and selling
17 petroleum products and still adhering to a
18 consent decree requiring active pollution
19 monitoring and refinery wastewater
20 treatment, this facility should be
21 regulated as an active refinery until all
22 petroleum products and refinery wastewater
23 are safely and properly removed from the
24 site.

1 It needs to be said that Hilco is
2 blanketing lies of a green future in
3 advertisement across the City right now.
4 And yet, they continue to do the bare
5 minimum, court-mandated minimum in
6 relationship to environmental protection.
7 They don't even pick up their own trash on
8 the property at 26th Street Highway. And
9 today, they are requesting special
10 permission to pollute our City and continue
11 the 150-year history of giving my neighbors
12 cancer.

13 I'm an occupational therapist for a
14 home health agency. And I visit many
15 members of my community who have suffered
16 from the effects of a history of pollution
17 at this site. Asthma, COPD, cancer are a
18 few of the issues that are making my
19 neighbors homebound. Hilco is a bad actor
20 as evidenced by their site plan differences
21 in place compared to Evergreen to remediate
22 soil contamination. And we still have not
23 had reports released regarding water and
24 underground aquifer pollution on this site.

1 Because they are bad actors, I
2 demand the highest level of government and
3 community oversight, including a
4 comprehensive facility-wide program for
5 monitoring and controlling emissions of
6 Benzene and other volatile organic
7 compounds.

8 Today's permits must be denied.
9 But at the very least, the permit must
10 include restrictions including very
11 specific vapor collection requirements that
12 must be followed.

13 Thank you so much.

14 MR. WIENER: Thank you.

15 Next is Lisa Hastings.

16 MS. HASTINGS: I'm unmuted now?

17 MR. WIENER: Yes. I can hear you.

18 MS. HASTINGS: Hi. I'm Lisa
19 Hastings, L-i-s-t-i-n-g-s -- L-i-s-a,
20 H-a-s-t-i-n-g-s. And I'm speaking here
21 tonight on behalf of the Pennsylvania Legal
22 Women Voters Environment Committee.

23 We agree with most people that
24 certainly the Tank Farm -- permitting the

1 Tank Farm to continue to operate on a long
2 term basis is not reasonable. The
3 demolition permit should be rewritten to
4 exclude the operating tanks and, you know,
5 focus on the items that are being
6 demolished. The operating tanks should be
7 included with all of the other tanks into
8 a, you know, a restrictive permit, if they
9 are allowed at all. Basically, operating
10 facilities don't belong in a demolition
11 permit.

12 Regrettably, these permits indicate
13 to me that AMS and the City are dealing
14 with a Former Refinery site with a
15 "business as usual" standards. Although,
16 this is not a business as usual position.
17 You are following a policy that if a permit
18 application meets the minimum standards
19 that AMS applies, then the permit is issued
20 maybe with a few modifications, if any,
21 regardless of or in spite of public health
22 issues that are not adequately covered
23 under current regulations.

24 And regardless of the location of

1 the polluting sources in or near EJ area as
2 long as it's zoned for that industry. This
3 may or may not be technically legal, but it
4 is unethical. And continues to violate the
5 constitutional environmental rights of the
6 public, and it perpetuates environmental
7 injustices. The City must do better than
8 this.

9 Following the -- is the application
10 meets the standards to issue the permit
11 policy, is especially inappropriate when
12 evaluating major sources of pollution in an
13 EJ area where the public and the
14 environment have suffered for over a
15 century under business as usual policies,
16 including permis of -- permitting and lacks
17 enforcement. These permits, even for
18 continued operation of previously permitted
19 tank farms to not be viewed as little more
20 than renewals and going through the motion.

21 All permits in Former Refinery area
22 need to be looked at as requests for new
23 operations of highly explosive and
24 carcinogenic materials in an EJ community.

1 The neighbors and community have suffered
2 enough. Thank you.

3 MR. WIENER: Okay. Thank you.

4 Sorry, had to run and get a cord
5 for my laptop.

6 Next we have Shamar Pitts.

7 MR. PITTS: Good evening,
8 everybody. Can y'all hear me?

9 MR. WIENER: I can hear you. Yes.

10 MR. PITTS: Okay. Thank you.

11 My name Shamar Pitts. Last name,
12 P-i-t-t-s. And I would like to say, shame
13 only Hilco, shame on the City, shame on
14 whoever got something to do with it man.
15 This is crazy.

16 They want to be an oil refinery.
17 That's what they want to be. But what my
18 organization Philly Thrive, we lobbied. We
19 went to the time hearings, the bankruptcy
20 hearings in New York because they had the
21 reputation that they are the kind of
22 company that comes in and cleans up
23 industrial catastrophes, which is what we
24 had with the PES site.

1 This is an industrial catastrophe,
2 an environmental catastrophe. Because for
3 years, the people in my community have
4 suffered, have died, have just been choked
5 out from the oil refinery.

6 So now, we went to these hearings
7 and we lobbied for Hilco to come in and be
8 a company that was supposed to be green,
9 friendly. You know, we went to City
10 Council and we asked City Council to pass
11 legislation that whoever inherits this
12 site, they can't be a polluter. And you
13 know, they still supposed to be looking
14 into that. You know what I mean, everybody
15 dragging they feet. That's why it's shame
16 on the City because they not doing they job
17 either.

18 So now, when it comes to these
19 permits, you know, I'm asking, please,
20 don't give them people no permits, man.
21 Don't give them people no permits to do
22 none of that stuff. That's nonsense. We
23 know what that stuff is. We act like we
24 don't know. We want to do business as

1 usual, give them the permits, and they just
2 keep on doing what they doing. That's not
3 going to work. They killing us. They
4 killing us. They been killing us forever.

5 All you -- you can look at and you
6 can see. It's documented. Everybody knows
7 that the level of asthma and cancers, all
8 different types. Types you don't even know
9 the name of. We got it in abundance
10 because of that oil refinery sitting over
11 there. They said they was going to come
12 in, clean it up. They was going to be
13 friendly to the community. All that's bull
14 crap, man. This is nonsense for real.

15 It's like Carly said earlier, we
16 shouldn't even be here talking about this
17 stuff, man. We know what this stuff is.
18 If you had cancer and you was sick, you
19 went to the doctor, you was sick, you had
20 cancer and you smoke, you got lung cancer.
21 Right then and there, they going to put in
22 your treatment plan, listen, you got to
23 stop smoking or you going to die, right?
24 That's what they going to tell you. And if

1 you want to live, you got to stop smoking.

2 So, we know what this fossil fuel
3 industry is doing to the planet. We
4 already know that. It's not a secret no
5 more. Everybody knows it. So, I don't
6 understand how they get ready -- because
7 they getting ready to get them. They
8 getting ready to get permits to further
9 this nonsense when they said they was going
10 to come in and clean it up.

11 They take us for a joke. They
12 don't care nothing about us. They going to
13 give us some more deaths. And the
14 people -- AMS, if y'all give them the
15 permits, y'all giving us death. That's
16 what y'all giving us because that's what
17 they been doing for years. And I don't
18 understand how is right in everybody view
19 and everybody is okay with it. I'm not
20 okay with it. This is some bull crap to
21 me. This is some real nonsense.

22 And I don't understand how time
23 after time everybody look at us like we
24 crazy. We crazy for saying we don't want

1 them there. We the ones that's the bad
2 ones. We the ones disturbing everything.
3 We got to disturb everything because y'all
4 killing us. And y'all want to give them
5 the permits. Oh, yeah, just give them the
6 permits. We going to give them a few more
7 stipulations and all that. All right.
8 Well then, let it be known, let the record
9 show, y'all part of the process of killing
10 us, too. Y'all part of the process that's
11 killing us, too, because you're letting
12 them do it.

13 And if you ask me, everybody knew
14 if -- you know, it was the best kept
15 secret. We the ones that didn't know. We
16 the ones that was a fool that was fighting
17 for Hilco to win bankruptcy proceedings and
18 get the -- buy the property and all that so
19 we can clean it up and it can be
20 environmentally friendly and all that kind
21 of stuff. Yeah, they came in and said all
22 the right stuff, but look at it now.

23 MS. GEBREKIDAN: Sorry to
24 interrupt.

1 MR. PITTS: Everything --

2 MS. GEBREKIDAN: You have one
3 minute left.

4 MR. PITTS: Listen, they came and
5 they said all the right stuff. And they
6 going to do this and they going to do that.
7 Now look at them. They doing the same
8 thing the oil refinery was doing for 150
9 years. They don't give a damn about us.
10 And if y'all give them permits, y'all don't
11 give a damn about us.

12 And it ain't over yet. It ain't
13 over yet. You will be hearing from us,
14 especially me. Especially me. You'll be
15 definitely hearing from me. Because I
16 ain't going down, laying down. I don't
17 roll like that.

18 Thank you.

19 MR. WIENER: Thank you.

20 Okay. Going back to people we
21 weren't able to -- Barbara Brandham sent a
22 message that she's having problems unmuting
23 and was going to send hers in writing.
24 Going to take one more stab at Jeff

1 Singletary just in case we can get -- still
2 wanted to testify. Just a second.

3 Jeff Singletary, if you did want to
4 testify, you are up now.

5 MR. SINGLETARY: Hello?

6 MR. WIENER: Yes.

7 MR. SINGLETARY: Can you hear me?

8 MR. WIENER: Yes, we can. I can
9 hear you.

10 MR. SINGLETARY: My name is Jeffery
11 Singletary, S-i-n-g-l-e-t-a-r-y. I'm with
12 the South/Southwest Coalition from the
13 Grays Ferry section of Philly Thrive.

14 I've been living around here all my
15 life, and it's been polluted ever since.
16 For them to even say that they can -- that
17 they are going to be granted permission to
18 further pollute us is ridiculous. We've
19 been fighting for this. My parents, my
20 grandparents died from everything coming
21 from over there. We have no idea what's
22 coming from over there and what's still
23 over there.

24 Now you talking about demolition.

1 But every pipe cut, there is something else
2 released into the atmosphere that flows
3 right into the Grays Ferry section and West
4 Philly and Southwest Philly. But what
5 you're telling me is our fight is futile
6 because you are just going to let us -- let
7 them pollute us a little bit? A little
8 pollution is a lot. And it's not going to
9 fly because somebody else is going to die.
10 And we going to keep dying.

11 You say -- they say it's going to
12 be a greener -- a greener -- where is the
13 grass going to grow? From Benzene? Grass
14 don't grow from Benzene. How long are we
15 talking that -- that we have to endure
16 this? How much more? I don't see grass
17 over there. I don't even see wild life.
18 Birds is dead. Everything is dead, and
19 it's shifting to us because we are dying
20 right across the street.

21 That's going to be wasteland just
22 like -- just like the refinery. Now,
23 you're talking about -- you're talking
24 about confining, sharing everything else

1 and confining this poison to another
2 section of the refinery. So, that has
3 to -- and probably, it will be trying to
4 hold the same amount of poison in a smaller
5 space. That is going to emit even more
6 poison out. Going to have to work harder
7 because of how many -- how many
8 contaminants they had from the beginning.

9 Another thing is that when they --
10 every line they cut is going to emit
11 something different into the atmosphere.
12 How about the collaboration of it? Does
13 that -- is it a possibility that it makes
14 it more deadly? What about the ponds over
15 there? That -- they never cleaned that up.
16 That's psychedelic.

17 Where does the metal go when it's
18 demo'd? Back into recycle? Poisonous
19 metal? Where does the residual in the
20 bottom of the pipe in the bottom of the
21 containers go? What about a HEPA filter
22 not to release it into the atmosphere?
23 What about a huge HEPA filter? Some kind
24 of way not to -- if they want, not for us

1 to absorb it in the ground and in the air.

2 We lose if you agree to rubber
3 stamp it with however they say it. But
4 it's people's lives in jeopardy. Just a
5 little bit is a lot. A little bit of
6 pollution is whole lot when we've been
7 polluted for so long, for generations. And
8 they been saying the same thing but just
9 switching companies. When does it stop?
10 We're fight for what? For our children to
11 have to fight, also? For our children to
12 watch us die, have obituaries out the
13 behind because of that?

14 When you have -- it's so easy to
15 blame everything on COVID now. But before
16 COVID, it was the refinery.

17 MS. GEBREKIDAN: You have one
18 minute left.

19 MR. SINGLETARY: Excuse me?

20 MS. GEBREKIDAN: You have one
21 minute left.

22 MR. SINGLETARY: Nobody is
23 concerned about life. They are concerned
24 about profit. They're going to get their

1 profit, and we are going to get a casket, a
2 box. And we are going to keep burying each
3 other, and we going to keep going to each
4 others' funeral if y'all sign that paper.
5 And like -- like Mr. Pitts said, I'm in it
6 for the long haul. Y'all going to hear it
7 from me. Y'all going to keep hearing from
8 me. Because if you cared, this wouldn't
9 even be an issue. If they cared, it
10 wouldn't be an issue because it's just
11 going to keep switching hands as it usually
12 does.

13 But we need to know more. They
14 need to give us more information. They
15 need to bring us into their facility for us
16 to physically see their blueprint and their
17 little -- their ten-year plan. Most times,
18 these big corporations have models of
19 everything they are doing with the sites.
20 We need to see that and some paperwork.
21 Every time it's polluted, we need to know.
22 Not fifteen days, right away.

23 MS. GEBREKIDAN: Sorry to interrupt
24 you again. Your time is up, your five

1 minutes.

2 MR. SINGLETARY: Thank you very
3 much. Appreciate you.

4 Don't sign it. Don't.

5 MR. WIENER: I'm sorry. Thank you.

6 Okay. That is everyone I had
7 listed specifically for the Former
8 Refinery. Anybody I missed or late
9 decisions they would like to add, please,
10 send a quick note in the questions. I will
11 give people a minute or two to do that just
12 to be safe.

13 Okay. We have Sheila Tripathy who
14 would like to speak for both permits. As
15 soon as I find you, I will let you go.

16 Okay. Sheila Tripathy?

17 MS. TRIPATHY: Can you hear me
18 okay?

19 MR. WIENER: Yes.

20 MS. TRIPATHY: Great. I'm Sheila
21 Tripathy. T as in Ted, r-i-p as in Paul,
22 a-t as in Ted, h-y. And I'm an air
23 pollution exposure scientist and
24 epidemiologist. I'm going to discuss

1 several air monitoring issues related to
2 both the entire Hilco site and the Tank
3 Farm.

4 In 2020, the Former PES Refinery
5 was the second highest Benzene emitting
6 refinery within the Us with annual levels
7 over three times the EPA action limit.
8 Hilco started -- stated during their
9 June 2021 community meeting that they were
10 continuing to monitor fence line Benzene
11 concentrations, and were planning on
12 putting this data on their website.

13 Hilco's website currently has a
14 placeholder for the data that says:
15 Beginning in 2018, Benzene monitoring was
16 conducted at the perimeter of the property
17 as required by the Petroleum Refinery
18 Sector Rule. Benzene's data collected as
19 part of this monitoring is shared on this
20 page, but there is currently no data
21 available on the website.

22 I am glad that Hilco has continued
23 to monitor Benzene, but the public needs
24 access to this data to know what the

1 current levels are and what has happened
2 since 2020. This data should be readily
3 accessible to the public and in multiple
4 formats including maps.

5 The only air quality system
6 regulatory monitor in South and Southwest
7 Philly is located at 24th and Ritner and is
8 run by AMS. Benzene is monitored there
9 once every six days. During the refinery
10 explosion on June 21, 2019, Benzene wasn't
11 sampled from the Ritner site until June 26,
12 five days after the explosion.

13 Monitoring Benzene and other VOCs
14 once every six days is inadequate. In
15 addition, as an epidemiologist, it's very
16 challenging to conduct health impact
17 studies when data is only available once
18 every six days. There is also a lag
19 between when data is collected versus
20 publicly available. The most recent
21 Benzene data available from the EPA API for
22 this monitor is from September 2021.

23 Having more timely access to data
24 from the fence-line monitoring and Ritner

1 Street monitor would be a great start. But
2 we need additional monitoring to be
3 conducted in residential areas where
4 community members live and work surrounding
5 the site. Where the technology exists, we
6 need continuous monitoring of VOCs and
7 other pollutants of concern.

8 Over 300,000 people live within
9 three miles of the Former Refinery.
10 Fence-line residents are exposed to
11 multiple pollutant sources simultaneously.
12 In addition to the Former Refinery and
13 current Tank Farm, there are numerous local
14 and industrial sources, the Airport and
15 multiple highways. Regional pollution can
16 also exacerbate local conditions. The
17 total burden of pollutant exposures needs
18 to be considered.

19 Thank you for your time.

20 MR. WIENER: Thank you.

21 Next we Fred Stine.

22 MR. STINE: Great. Thank you very
23 much. Can you hear me okay?

24 MR. WIENER: Yes.

1 MR. STINE: My name is Fred Stine.
2 I work with the Delaware River Keeper
3 Network. Stine is S-t-i-n-e. And I would
4 like my comments to go to both permits.

5 I totally support what Earl from
6 EFNC and the Russ Zerbo from the Clean Air
7 Council have said, and Mr. Pitts and
8 Mr. Singletary's comments along with many
9 others. It's so compelling.

10 It just seems like Hilco is such a
11 bad actor. I mean, there is a -- it seems
12 like they just tell outright lies in order
13 to get whatever they want. I think we are
14 at a point in time -- AMS is at a point in
15 time where a real change in the City can be
16 made. And a few -- a few tweaks in their
17 permit does not seem enough. I think that
18 these permits both have to be denied in
19 order to take a big step forward to the
20 community's health in Philadelphia.

21 And I do hope someone like
22 Mr. Pitts or Singletary will speak after me
23 to -- to bring the human element back in.
24 But I'm with the Delaware River Keeper

1 Network. And I'm talking about the health
2 of lower Schuylkill River and the Delaware
3 River estuary which provides millions and
4 millions of dollars worth of economic --
5 economic income to the region, to
6 Philadelphia. It provides ecosystem
7 services and stormwater management,
8 water -- water supplied to millions of
9 people both in Philly and Pennsylvania and
10 South Jersey.

11 The fact that this refinery is in
12 the floodplain and, as Earl pointed out as
13 we saw in Texas, with ever increasing
14 flooding, those flood waters come up and --
15 and cause excessive damage and destruction
16 of those tanks, which is the exact same
17 situation we are in here in the lower
18 Schuylkill with the old Tank Farm. And if
19 that were to happen, the impact to the
20 lower Schuylkill water quality and the
21 Delaware estuary all the way down into the
22 Atlantic Ocean and Cape May and that has
23 long lasting effects because it's tidal.
24 It keeps going ut. It comes back. It goes

1 out. It comes back.

2 Finally, I just want to urge the
3 AMS to deny both of these permits. It's
4 not in the best interest of the City.

5 Thank you very much.

6 MR. WIENER: Thank you.

7 Next we have State Senator Katie
8 Muth.

9 SENATOR MUTH: Hello. Can you hear
10 me?

11 MR. WIENER: Yes.

12 SENATOR MUTH: Okay. Hi. Thank
13 you. My name is State Senator Katie Muth,
14 M-u-t-h, K-a-t-i-e. I represent Senate
15 District 44 in Pennsylvania, which is parts
16 of Montgomery, Berks and Chester County. I
17 do not represent, directly represent the
18 members of this community. But I had the
19 honor and privilege of having many of them
20 take me on a tour of their community and
21 what they are forced to live around.

22 And I would just like to advocate
23 on their behalf for their livelihood, for
24 their safety and, you know, for their

1 constitutional right for clean air and
2 water. And the fact that this is probably
3 Pennsylvania's most epic failure in terms
4 of combating environmental racism. And to
5 leave these families with continued
6 pollution and no way of protecting
7 themselves is, frankly, criminal.

8 And I urge anyone who has the
9 authority to revise the plans, listen to
10 what these members have said. I don't need
11 to repeat them. They made their asks of
12 you. They have been misled. And sadly,
13 I've only been -- only been a Senator for
14 three years. And unfortunately, this is a
15 common theme I'm finding amongst government
16 regulators who continue to cater to the
17 industry instead of listening to the
18 communities.

19 These people have been directly
20 impacted. They have lost their family
21 members to cancer, to heart disease, to a
22 number of conditions that were all
23 preventable. Each and every one of them
24 deserves to know what is going on around

1 them. Data has not been made available to
2 them online. There has been very limited
3 community engagement and very fragmented.
4 These people are asking why the plan wasn't
5 as they were told and explained. They
6 deserve answers.

7 As Air Management Services, you
8 should deny these permits for continued
9 pollution for this long-term environmental
10 justice community or the permits must
11 function to remove harms to the community.
12 We already heard about the Benzene in the
13 air. We already heard about how this
14 impacts people and the lack of monitoring.
15 I agree with the scientist who spoke before
16 that the monitoring should be daily.

17 This isn't a cost issue. There is
18 plenty of money here to actually fund
19 proper monitoring and remediation. Any
20 permits granted need to require disclosure
21 of specific products and all oil tanks.
22 And I actually say, I don't think you
23 should give a permit for one single oil
24 tank.

1 There has not yet been a
2 groundwater impact study submitted that was
3 sufficient. It's years late. And there
4 shouldn't be any activity beyond actual
5 clean up and remediation at this site until
6 the full assessment of the damage has
7 actually occurred. And that still to date
8 has not occurred. These petroleum tanks
9 need to be decommissioned along with other
10 refinery infrastructure. Because if not,
11 it's immense harm to human health to the
12 passage of air pollutants and poses
13 significant risk to public safety.

14 I urge you, you know, again, up
15 your game in the data. These people need
16 to know there's accountability here that is
17 not being enforced. There has been how
18 many spills? How many accidents? There is
19 leak detection tests that need to be done
20 more frequently that are happening. And
21 this is, you know, a long history polluter
22 here. There has been how many violations.
23 And the fence-line monitoring, you
24 absolutely need to be doing that. And it

1 needs to be expanded in its capacity and
2 its regularity.

3 I urge you to do the right thing
4 here and use your authority to help people,
5 not harm them. Thank you for allowing me
6 to speak.

7 MR. WIENER: Okay. Lost my place.
8 All right. Okay.

9 Next we have Jeffrey Richter.

10 MR. RICHTER: Hello. Can you hear
11 me?

12 MR. WIENER: Yes.

13 MR. RICHTER: Thank you. I will
14 keep it brief. I'm a relatively new
15 resident to Philadelphia, though I lived in
16 the area for a long time. Currently,
17 living in South Philadelphia.

18 The fact that these permits are up
19 for consideration in the first place, I
20 understand that being, you know, a
21 procedural matter. Any company can submit
22 application for permits. But you know,
23 again, the fact that we are even here is
24 kind of the height of ridiculousness. We

1 understand we have a free and open society
2 that, you know, where, you know, processes
3 and procedures can be, you know, open to
4 anybody. This is crazy, guys. The is
5 crazy.

6 The generational effects of
7 pollution in the high impact zones in the
8 community surrounding the refinery, the
9 Former Refinery, is obvious, right? And
10 that's only with the information that we
11 have on hand, right? That's only knowing
12 what has been reported. And it's not
13 rocket science to know that this has been
14 criminally under reported. Like, the
15 health data, the social data, the income
16 data, everything is right here.

17 We know what this is. This is
18 blatant and truly disgusting environmental
19 racism, right? This is disgusting. So the
20 fact that, you know, again we are
21 considering anything here apart from a
22 state of the art, you know, environmental
23 remediation effort, right? Something that
24 should be in the record books, right, for

1 an actual comprehensive clean up here that
2 does not continue to threaten the lives or
3 the livelihoods of the folks who live in
4 those surrounding areas in those high
5 impact zones is a farce. So you know, I
6 would like to have that comment be there.

7 Yeah, this is crazy guys. This is
8 absolutely nuts. I really ask you, you
9 know, to follow whatever procedures you
10 might need to in keeping this a fair and
11 honest and open thing. But frankly, how
12 fair and honest do we even know this is,
13 right? You know, this company has, you
14 know -- the iterations of this company has
15 probably, I will allege, is corrupt. Has
16 probably taken part in illegal greasing of
17 hands and so on and so forth. This is, you
18 know -- this is crazy. This is absolutely
19 crazy.

20 Yeah. I submit the rest of my
21 time. Thank you.

22 MR. WIENER: Thank you.

23 And if Morgan Madotti, it's not
24 clear to me if you wanted to testify or if

1 you are just making a comment. I am going
2 to, as soon as I find you -- Morgan
3 Madotti, did you want to testify? And you
4 are listed as muted.

5 Okay. Okay. I am not seeing any
6 new -- so if you did want to, please, send
7 me quick questions. We can add you to the
8 Tank Farm.

9 That is all of the requests --
10 okay. That's all the requests I had
11 specifically for the Former Refinery to
12 testify for that one. We still have the
13 Tank Farm coming up next.

14 Going to take a three-minute break
15 before we get to that, and we will be back.
16 If you would like to testify for the Tank
17 Farm and you have not registered yet,
18 please, send a quick message in the
19 questions. I have right now -- I can't
20 read my writing.

21 I have currently Richter, Sheila
22 Tripathy. I believe she testified for both
23 in the Refinery one, David Szczepanik and
24 Alexa Ross/Carol Fey -- I believe it's

1 Carol Fey. And I have Coryn Wolk listed.
2 Anybody who I did not mention, please, send
3 a note in the questions. And we are going
4 to take just a quick three-minute break for
5 now.

6 (Break taken at 7:35 p.m.)

7 - - -

8 (Back on the record at 7:40 p.m.)

9 -- TANK FARM TESTIMONY --

10 MR. WIENER: We are ready to start
11 the second public hearing for the Tank
12 Farm.

13 Once again, my name is Edward
14 Wiener, Chief of Source Registration for
15 Air Management Services of the Philadelphia
16 Department of Public Health. Please note,
17 this Public Hearing is being recorded.

18 We are here to accept testimony on
19 a proposed Title V/State Operating Permit
20 for the Philadelphia Energy Solutions
21 Refining and Marketing Tank Farm located at
22 70th Street and Essington Avenue in
23 Philadelphia, PA 19145. This hearing was
24 publish in the notices section of the

1 Pennsylvania Bulletin on Saturday,
2 December 4, 2021 and in the Philadelphia
3 Daily News on November 29 and 30 and
4 December 1, 2021.

5 This proposed Title V/State
6 Operating Permit, Number OP-21-000064 is
7 both a modification to and a renewal of
8 existing Title V/State Operating Permit for
9 the facility. The proposed modifications
10 include transferring certain equipment from
11 the Former Refinery, updating the facility
12 equipment inventory list, updating permit
13 contact information and updating applicable
14 requirements. More information can be
15 found on the AMS website at the link listed
16 in the public notes. This proposed permit
17 does not authorize installation of any new
18 processes.

19 The facility is a major stationary
20 source as identified in Title I, Part D of
21 the Clean Air Act Amendments; and
22 therefore, is subject to Title V Operating
23 Requirements adopted in 25 Pennsylvania
24 Code Section 127, Subchapter G.

1 The Department is holding this
2 hearing to allow all interested parties to
3 testify with comments on this Title V/State
4 Operating Permit application. This hearing
5 is being transcribed. Please, state your
6 name, address or neighborhood and whom you
7 represent for the record before you being.
8 Please, limit your testimony to
9 approximately five minutes. Each
10 organization should designate one witness
11 to present testimony.

12 Following your testimony, we may
13 need to ask you for additional information.
14 This hearing will not be a question and
15 answer session. However, I can assure you
16 that we will address all comments and
17 questions concerning this Title V/State
18 Operating Permit.

19 Before any determinations are made
20 to issue it, all oral and written comments
21 received will become part of public record.
22 We will prepare a response document prior
23 to final action on this permit. Anyone who
24 included their address will be mailed one

1 or -- once again, anyone who has written
2 comments, you can submit those to the email
3 address that we had posted earlier and will
4 be up again.

5 And we will start the oral comments
6 now.

7 Okay. The first person I have is
8 Dave Szczepanik.

9 MR. SZCZEPANIK: Hello. Can you
10 hear me now?

11 MR. WIENER: Yes.

12 MR. SZCZEPANIK: Thank you.

13 Benzene has been released into the
14 air before during and after the 2019
15 Refinery explosion. And Hilco acted
16 secretly and within their owner corporate
17 interest over the last two years when the
18 community noticed active Benzene leaks at
19 the Ritner Street Station.

20 According to the Inquirer on August
21 28, Philadelphia Energy Solutions Refinery
22 in South Philadelphia last year emitted
23 average airborne Benzene levels had tripled
24 the federal threshold even though the site

1 had been closed since 2019 due to an
2 explosion and fire, according to a report
3 by a Texas-based environmental integrity
4 project.

5 It needs to be said that Hilco is
6 blanketing lies of a green future in
7 advertisement across the City right now as
8 the Bellwether District. And yet, they
9 continue to do the court-mandated bare
10 minimum in relationship to environmental
11 protection. And today, they are requesting
12 special permission to pollute our lungs and
13 continue the 150-year history of giving my
14 neighbors cancer.

15 Hilco is, also, a bad actor in
16 relation to their plans being different
17 than Evergreen's to remediate soil
18 contamination. And we still have not heard
19 any report about water and underground
20 aquifer solution on the site. We demand
21 the highest level of government and
22 community oversight, including requiring
23 oversight. Treating the site not only as a
24 refinery but an active refinery.

1 I work with many in my neighborhood
2 who are suffering because of cancer, COPD
3 and asthma as related to this refinery
4 site. I remember the last tire fire we had
5 this summer specifically exemplifying what
6 you will allow to happen by providing these
7 permits. My neighbors with old windows
8 were driven from their homes by the wind
9 blowing VOCs into our homes, trapping us in
10 pollution. When these oil storage permits
11 allow another release of air pollution, you
12 regulators will be the reasons for our
13 neighbors' deaths.

14 Today's permits must be denied.
15 This is not the Bellwether District. This
16 is the fair weather district because Hilco
17 will only be here in the good times when
18 they can take a profit and make us deal
19 with the negative side effects.

20 I, also, want to mention today that
21 comments in opposition to Hilco have been
22 peaceful and civil. If and when these
23 permits are renewed, we know we will have
24 no voice in meetings like this. And will

1 have to resort to larger acts of civil
2 disobedience in order to protect the health
3 of our community.

4 These 70-year-old tanks must be
5 taken away and remediated. There is no
6 other solution for this application brought
7 on by an organization decommissioning the
8 site. Thank you for your time.

9 MR. WIENER: Thank you.

10 Next we have -- let me get this
11 right, Carol Foy? Carol Foy, you are still
12 listed as showing up as self-muted.

13 Okay. Okay. Let's skip over and
14 go track her at the end again.

15 Let's try Coryn Wolk?

16 MS. WOLK: Hi, I'm here.

17 MR. WIENER: Okay. You're up.

18 MS. WOLK: Thank you.

19 I am addressing my comments on the
20 Tank Farm. But since I don't know what the
21 real use is of trying to create a
22 distinction between them, since it seems
23 like there's a shell game going on about
24 what is classified under which permit down

1 to the pollution and the infrastructure
2 itself.

3 A lot of people have pointed out
4 the issues around Benzene monitoring. And
5 I would like to note that in the coverage
6 of this, which made international news in
7 how bad it is that this much Benzene has
8 come from the refinery site before and
9 after the explosion, especially during the
10 demolition process. AMS and EPA have said
11 that there was both not as much Benzene
12 coming out of the site as was reported, and
13 that it's not dangerous anyway. And so,
14 there is so many levels here on which
15 people are being told that they are not
16 seeing the very limited things that they
17 are able to see that haven't been
18 successfully hidden. But it makes it hard
19 to know where to address and comments.

20 I, also, want to point out that in
21 2012 -- and this isn't necessarily AMS.
22 More kind of DEP EPA. But the various
23 regulatory agencies involved allowed PES to
24 bundle the Marcus Hook Refinery permits

1 with the Sunoco Refinery permits,
2 presenting them as one major permit for air
3 pollution even though the facilities are 17
4 miles apart just because Marcus Hook was
5 closing. And therefore, they transferred
6 that air pollution to this site.

7 And so, this seems like essentially
8 the same thing again ten years later. And
9 after ten years of many, many hearings and
10 more pollution coming out of the site and
11 I, personally, attending many of these
12 meetings, I do kind of wonder what the
13 point is. And since those of you
14 representing AMS have, seems like, more
15 agency and more of a voice, I encourage you
16 to understand where the frustration is
17 coming from and reflect on what your time
18 is being spent doing here because it
19 doesn't seem like we have gotten anywhere
20 besides having more Benzene in the air.

21 I know that I don't have a lot of
22 time here. I, also, want to point out that
23 we were told to keep our comments related
24 just to the air pollution, not to

1 questions, not to remediation or flooding
2 or anything like that. But the site is in
3 a flood plain an a tidal river in one of
4 the most rapidly warming regions in the
5 country, which has already experienced
6 flooding and already had a huge increase in
7 nuisance flooding over the past few
8 decades. And as we saw in the Gulf, when
9 there has been extreme weather events, any
10 kind of petro chemical or chemical facility
11 including and specifically tank farms, are
12 at much higher risk of having flaring
13 events, fires, just major catastrophic
14 events with huge one time or continuous
15 emissions of air pollution.

16 And so, to try to decouple the
17 remediation from climate from flooding and
18 everything is, essentially, absurd. I
19 think we can expect if that kind of thing
20 did happen here, AMS would consider it as
21 just a catastrophic event that's too bad
22 for Hilco.

23 Finally, in considering their
24 essentially bullshit permit application and

1 what kind of restrictions AMS will expect
2 Hilco to follow, anything that they might
3 consider or AMS as might consider as cost
4 burdensome, I encourage you to ask them for
5 their PR budget for the -- this Bellwether
6 campaign they have been running for several
7 months. Because the cost to broadcast
8 nationally that they're basically building
9 a nice little hotel facility and park, I'm
10 sure are much, much higher than what it
11 would cost to actually have good air
12 emission controls at the facility. And so,
13 if they do push back about any restrictions
14 you do decide to set, please, request that
15 information and make it publicly available.

16 Thank you.

17 MR. WIENER: I'm sorry. Before you
18 leave, can you spell your name really
19 quick? I forgot to --

20 MS. WOLK: Oh, yes. Sorry. I
21 forgot to start with it. My name is
22 C-o-r-y-n, W-o-l-k. And I'm a resident of
23 West Philadelphia.

24 MR. WIENER: Thank you.

1 Next we have Peter Furcht. Okay.

2 Also, was pointed out, at least on mine to
3 unmute yourself. To unmute yourself, there
4 is -- look for a little circle with a
5 microphone in it.

6 MR. FURCHT: I got it. Thank you.

7 MR. WIENER: Great.

8 MR. FURCHT: So, I'm not going to
9 get into the specific issues.

10 MR. WIENER: State --

11 MR. FURCHT: Sorry. My name is
12 Peter. Last name is Furcht. F like in
13 Frank, u-r-c-h-t, as in Tom.

14 So, I'm not going to get into the
15 specific issues of the subject of the
16 permits. Normally, I bring up PES' Hilco's
17 violation safety issues, et cetera.
18 Instead, I first want to provide some
19 background by way of what should be a
20 simple review. I am going to read
21 Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental
22 Protection Emissions Statement.

23 And I quote: The Department of
24 Environmental Protection's Mission is to

1 protect Pennsylvania's air, land and water
2 from pollution, excuse me, and to provide
3 for the health and safety of its citizens
4 through a cleaner environment. We will
5 work as partners with individuals,
6 organizations, governments and businesses
7 to prevent pollution and restore our
8 natural resources. End quote.

9 In a couple of statements from the
10 City of Philadelphia's Air Management Code,
11 which is the code I assume the AMS is to
12 act with or in accordance with, the City --
13 again, I am quoting here. The City Council
14 of the City of Philadelphia finds that the
15 atmosphere over the City is polluted with
16 to a degree which is harmful and
17 detrimental to the health, welfare and
18 safety of its inhabitants.

19 The City Council of the City of
20 Philadelphia finds that the discharge of
21 air contaminants to the atmosphere over the
22 City of Philadelphia is causing the air to
23 be polluted. The City Council of the City
24 of Philadelphia claims that no one has any

1 right to discharge air contaminants into
2 the atmosphere. I'll repeat that. No one
3 has any right to discharge air contaminants
4 into the atmosphere.

5 So exactly, I want to ask a simple
6 question now. If your vote represents the
7 guiding principles under which the DEP and
8 AMS are to regulate sources of pollution,
9 why is Hilco/PES being given any
10 consideration regarding reductions to the
11 stringency of their permits or even
12 continuation of existing environments of
13 permits and monitoring around those
14 permits. It's unthinkable that there would
15 be any consideration given to loosening the
16 Hilco PES permits or monitoring of those
17 permits in any way, thus allowing for
18 increased levels of pollutant discharges.

19 Even allowing -- excuse me. Even
20 allowing for the historical -- or even
21 allowing for historically equal levels of
22 discharge and monitoring is unacceptable.
23 It is the DEP's and AMS's responsibility to
24 "protect the residents of Philadelphia, to

1 prevent pollution and restore our natural
2 resources, health welfare and safety of the
3 residents of Philadelphia, especially the
4 communities surrounding the site, many of
5 which are -- qualify as environmental
6 justice areas, must be top priority of the
7 DEP and AMS when determining operational
8 parameters permit discharge levels from and
9 monitoring frequency of Hilco site."

10 Please, execute your job per
11 mission statements and code.

12 Thank you.

13 MR. WIENER: Thank you.

14 Next we have Alexa Ross.

15 MS. ROSS: Thank you. Oh, okay.

16 Did you call Alexa Ross?

17 MR. WIENER: Alexa Ross, yes,
18 please.

19 MS. ROSS: Thank you. I am
20 supporting Carol Foy who was trying to be
21 unmuted earlier. She cannot figure out
22 unmuting. So, I think she is going to
23 speak -- I have her on the phone -- if she
24 can share her testimony now.

1 Does that work?

2 MR. WIENER: As long as we can hear
3 it, I don't have -- I don't see a problem
4 with that.

5 MS. ROSS: Okay. Ms. Carol, are
6 you ready to share your testimony?

7 MS. FOY: Yes, thank you.

8 MS. ROSS: Okay. Can you all hear
9 Ms. Carol? Do you want to share your name?

10 MS. FOY: Yes, hello.

11 I -- (Inaudible.)

12 MR. WIENER: It's a little --

13 THE STENOGRAPHER: I cannot hear
14 very well.

15 MS. ROSS: You can't hear her? Is
16 that what I'm hearing?

17 MR. WIENER: Yeah. I can't hear
18 very well. And I believe that was Angela.
19 Angela is the important one. She is
20 recording it.

21 MS. ROSS: Okay. Okay.

22 Ms. Carol, do you want to try one
23 more time, kind of as loud as you can be,
24 and just go slow -- just with your name

1 again to see if the person recording can
2 hear you. Let's try that one more time.

3 MS. FOY: Yes, hello. This is
4 Carol Foy. Spelled F-o-y, Foy. And I'm a
5 member of Philly Thrive. I'm a -- for the
6 membership circle. And I just want to
7 support -- I am here today to support --

8 MS. ROSS: So, wait, Ms. Carol.
9 One second. Let me check in with them.

10 Is that clear?

11 MR. WIENER: I can hear reasonably
12 well. Angela?

13 THE STENOGRAPHER: It's hard, but
14 we are just going to do the best we can.

15 MS. ROSS: Okay.

16 MR. WIENER: Yes. Try speaking
17 slowly.

18 MS. ROSS: Ms. Carol, go as loud as
19 you can and just go slow so we can make
20 sure the recorder can hear you.

21 MS. FOY: Yes. My name is Carol
22 Foy. And I'm a member of Philly Thrive.
23 I'm here today to speak on the Tank Farms.

24 With the Tank Farm caught on fire

1 in August 2021, the people in the community
2 know about the fire that happened when it
3 was an oil refinery. And my thing is that
4 they don't need know -- they should have no
5 oil tanks. All the oil tanks should be
6 removed. And that's even ones underground
7 because they cause a lot of death and a lot
8 of people die from cancer from all this,
9 from the oil refinery. And all tanks that
10 they want removed -- oil tanks should be
11 removed. All of them should be removed.
12 And just like when we go buy land -- when
13 you go buy land for your house, your land
14 is clear. Ain't nothing there but an empty
15 space. And I think the oil refinery should
16 be -- the tanks should be removed. So,
17 shouldn't be no oil tanks. They got to
18 clean all the oil tanks up. And oil tanks
19 should be removed. And if removed, no oil
20 tanks should be left at all.

21 Because the City with the fire
22 start -- before it a was three-alarm fire
23 back in 2021. And same thing happen again.
24 And a lot of our lives are at stake there.

1 And so, a lot of members in our community
2 got -- died of cancer. And like one of the
3 members was talking about, we have a stack
4 of obituaries of people that die with
5 cancer from the refinery.

6 I lost my son to cancer. I lost my
7 mother. My daughter has cancer -- had to
8 have cancer removed. And I think that the
9 oil refinery should move. A lot of people
10 I know is on oxygen and stuff, breathing
11 machines and stuff because of the refinery.

12 So like the -- I have asthma -- I
13 have diabetes. And you know, I think when
14 y'all getting ready clean up -- and I think
15 they should have no permit at all. They
16 should have no permit to keep the oil tanks
17 there. That permit should be not given to
18 them at all. At all. It should not be
19 given to them at all.

20 And I think, you know, that we have
21 a voice that need to be heard. And I think
22 in our community, our voice should be
23 heard. And they decide if they want -- if
24 y'all decide you want to give them permit,

1 we will be there every day clockwork,
2 Monday through Saturday clockwork picketing
3 again, same way we picketed for the oil
4 refinery closing down. That's the same way
5 when we do if y'all give them a permit for
6 the oil refinery, keep them tanks there.

7 I don't think they should be there.

8 I think that you all, all the other -- all
9 the other chemical poison should be
10 removed. And I think that's what should be
11 done. It shouldn't be there at all.

12 Because so many people lost lives, lost
13 family members to that oil refinery. And I
14 don't live too far from the oil refinery --
15 from the refinery, right up the road.
16 Maybe like a mile or maybe two miles up the
17 road.

18 I know a lot of people that living
19 in Passyunk homes had to move out because
20 refinery was poisoning they -- they home.
21 Where you can smell rotting eggs right --
22 back in the '60s and '70s and '80s where
23 they live on poison there. And I think the
24 oil tanks should -- every last oil tank

1 should go. And the ones that got hooked in
2 the ground should be removed. No oil tanks
3 should be there at all.

4 And like I said and all the
5 other -- I know Philly Thrive said, we will
6 be there. I don't think they should be --
7 y'all, dealing with me. Y'all is wrong.
8 Do not give them the permit. Because once
9 they get their permit, they know that they
10 can start a oil refinery again. We not
11 going to have it. I know I'm not. And I
12 know my Philly Thrive not -- never had --
13 want no oil refinery. Once they get a
14 permit, you giving them a permit to kill
15 us. And I don't think that's right.

16 And enough is enough. Too many
17 people that died too much. Like Philly say
18 all the time, enough is enough. And now is
19 about time we stand up where our voice
20 should be heard.

21 Thank you for letting me share.

22 MR. WIENER: Thank you.

23 Alexa Ross, did you want to testify
24 also or --

1 MS. ROSS: I was -- yeah. I was
2 hoping to if I can now.

3 I will -- I should be brief.

4 MR. WIENER: Sure.

5 MS. ROSS: I think I have a quick
6 list I'm going to tick through.

7 So, my name is Alexa Ross, R-o-s-s.
8 And I have been community organizer around
9 Grays Ferry for eight years. I think a lot
10 of residents have spoken on critical
11 points. And I think the ones I would like
12 to add in addition or kind of underscore
13 are for the -- I'm sorry, speaking on both
14 permits.

15 For the Refinery permit, ensuring
16 that there are barriers in place. I think
17 multiple residents have spoken of the dust
18 from the demolition of the refinery site
19 that has -- that often travels over the
20 Passyunk Bridge. And so, requirements for
21 barriers and using every technology
22 possible to absorb the air pollutants
23 coming as a result of the demolition as
24 well as the passive releases from the Tank

1 Farm.

2 The second point is, I know for as
3 many years as PES was violating the Clean
4 Air Act, the Clean Water Act and through
5 other laws meant to protect health, it was
6 very unclear where fines from the
7 violations were going. And though I think
8 you are hearing loud and clear residents
9 saying that life is more important than any
10 company's profit or any status quo within
11 the government. And I think something that
12 would be critical to put in place is making
13 sure that any fines from violations around
14 these permits are directed to a community
15 fund that actually goes towards impacted
16 neighborhoods and doesn't disappear into
17 the government. So, there is different, I
18 believe, supplemental environmental
19 projects, are one example, or community
20 environmental project are precedents we
21 have found for channeling violation fines
22 back into the effected communities.

23 And yeah, I have my -- I think my
24 last point is around requiring a cumulative

1 impact study. Several speakers from South
2 and Southwest Philly have spoken of the
3 many polluting sources, major polluting
4 sources in this area from the Airport to --
5 to the highways, the expressway. And so,
6 requiring PES/Hilco to conduct a cumulative
7 impact study to show -- actually show that
8 this would not be adding additional burden
9 to the environmental justice community in
10 South and Southwest Philly would be
11 important.

12 And thank you.

13 MR. WIENER: Okay. Thank you.

14 R. Merriman-Golding?

15 MS. MERRIMAN-GOLDRING: Hi. Can
16 you hear me?

17 MR. WIENER: Yes.

18 MS. MERRIMAN-GOLDRING: Hi. My
19 name is R, the letter. And my last name is
20 long, so I will spell it for you. It's
21 Merriman-Goldring. M-e-r-r-i-m-a-n,
22 hyphen, G-o-l-d-r-i-n-g. And I am speaking
23 as a Philadelphia resident and a member of
24 Philly Thrive.

1 I will not belabor points that
2 numerous, dozens in fact, residents have
3 already shared tonight about permit
4 requests for the Refinery site and the Tank
5 Farm. But just want to start with a clear
6 statement of confusion and disbelief that
7 regulators and decision makers could look
8 at the 2019 explosion in South Philly that
9 nearly killed one million Philadelphians
10 due to a pipe corrosion due to an old piece
11 of aging fossil fuel infrastructure, right,
12 and think, yes, we should continue to store
13 enormous quantities of petroleum products
14 in tanks, many of which date back 50 to 70
15 years. That decision is not rooted in
16 reality or in the facts of life that
17 Philadelphians have experienced over the
18 last three years and over the last 154
19 years.

20 Philly Thrive has prepared a public
21 comment that we've sent to AMS via email.
22 But I want to take this opportunity to
23 share a few highlights.

24 Like many folks on this call,

1 including our comrades in the united South
2 and Southwest Coalition, we called on AMS
3 to deny these permits for the continued
4 pollution or add abundant restrictions and
5 protections that guarantee community
6 safety, including requiring specific
7 disclosure of what's in these tanks rather
8 than letting Hilco hide behind the
9 description of them merely as petroleum
10 products. Requiring the repair of any
11 leaks within fifteen days and prompt and
12 clear public notification and restricting
13 the use of truck racks to export gasoline.

14 Like many folks on this call, we
15 also call on AMS to require significantly
16 more robust air quality monitoring and leak
17 detection tests. The fact that this is a
18 environmental justice neighborhood
19 surrounding all sides of the refinery site
20 and it -- the PES/Hilco/Sunoco have
21 repeated history of violations makes that
22 vital.

23 So, I just want to close by sharing
24 the last piece of Philly Thrive statements

1 and rooting us in the moment that we are
2 in, right, where the climate crisis is
3 continuing to accelerate. And we are in
4 our third year of the COVID-19 pandemic,
5 recording historic hospitalizations in
6 Philadelphia. It's beyond clear that it's
7 time to shut down and phase out fossil fuel
8 production and storage facilities, starting
9 with the Tank Farm in South and Southwest
10 Philadelphia.

11 The hundred of millions -- over
12 300 million gallons of fossil fuels that
13 this site can represent -- can store,
14 excuse me, actually represents a measurable
15 percentage, around half a percent depending
16 on the emission's intensity of the fuel of
17 the world's remaining global carbon budget,
18 right? And that's the amount of carbon
19 that we can burn to have the 50 percent
20 likelihood of staying below that 1.5
21 degrees of Celsius of global warming that
22 folks are often talking about.

23 So, I just invite you to really
24 take that information and that statistic

1 into your body and see the ways in which
2 this decision affects folks across the
3 country and folks across the world as we
4 grapple with worsening climate change. We
5 are not exaggerating when we say that
6 choices around this refinery site will
7 affect the health of hundreds of thousands
8 of Philadelphians and will affect the
9 health of people around the world.

10 So, that makes clear to us that --
11 and clear to me that AMS needs to break
12 from business as usual and deny this permit
13 renewals, both for the Former Refinery site
14 and the Tank Farm site. The moment that we
15 are in with the global respiratory pandemic
16 has continued to shed light on the various
17 and vast ways that pollution in Black
18 neighborhoods compounds and worsens
19 inequalities, right?

20 Dozens of studies have come out
21 over the last two years showing a clear
22 link between long term exposure to air
23 pollution, like what has been happening
24 over the last 154 years and what you all

1 are debating continuing on this site
2 through these permits.

3 Philly Thrive member is living in
4 Grays Ferry, who you have heard from
5 tonight, have all lost loved ones to
6 pollution-related diseases including --

7 MS. GEBREKIDAN: Sorry to interrupt
8 you. You have 30 seconds.

9 MS. MERRIMAN-GOLDRING: Thank you.

10 Yes. I will repeat that sentence.
11 Philly Thrive members living in Grays Ferry
12 have all lost loved ones, many several or
13 dozens of loved ones to pollution-related
14 diseases including cancer, lung disease and
15 heart disease. This is a historic
16 decision. And these permit renewals should
17 not be taken lightly. And I hope you will
18 take a close look at the written comment
19 that Philly Thrive has submitted and really
20 allow yourself to sit with the enormity of
21 the testimony that you received tonight
22 from folks across South and Southwest
23 Philly.

24 Thank you.

1 MR. WIENER: Okay. Thank you.

2 The last person I have actually
3 listed and signed up to testify for the
4 Tank Farm -- if I miss any one or if any
5 late decisions, I'm going to keep live for,
6 like, another minute or so. Please, send
7 me a quick question so I get it in the
8 question box. This is, also, last chance
9 to write down the email address. Hoping
10 you guys can see on the screen. Just also
11 adding, hypothetically, if you have any
12 questions not related to this particular --
13 these particular public hearings, you can
14 also use the email address for that.

15 Okay. All right. I see a Sonya
16 Sanders?

17 MS. SANDERS: Yes, hello.

18 Hi. My name is Sonya Sanders.

19 Last name Sanders, S-a-n-d-e-r-s.

20 Can you hear me?

21 MR. WIENER: Yes, I can hear you.

22 MS. SANDERS: Great. I want you to
23 continue to hear me. And you will not be
24 able to hear me if you sign this, because I

1 will be dead. You will be signing my death
2 warrant.

3 Have you ever seen someone die of
4 cancer? Maybe you haven't, but I have. My
5 husband died of cancer. We lived here for
6 five generations of family members. My
7 husband died of cancer. His family members
8 have died of cancer. We do not want to die
9 anymore. My neighbors have been erased.
10 We -- my son will not die in vain. You
11 cannot sign this death warrant.

12 When you see someone die of cancer,
13 they are suffering. Suffering, okay, and
14 wanting one more day of life. Begging for
15 one more day of life. We cannot let this
16 go on. This has to stop. It has to stop.
17 My life is worth more than any amount of
18 money. You are saying to me if you sign
19 this, that I deserve to die and that my
20 family, my community deserve to die.

21 I do not want to sit here looking
22 at people rolling they eyes around or
23 someone not listening. This is important.
24 I am talking about my life today. I am

1 coming to you, begging you to let me and my
2 child live. This is no joke for me. I
3 fight along Philly Thrive with every breath
4 in my body because I want my community to
5 survive.

6 You must not agree to this because
7 you're saying, once again, that we deserve
8 to die. That we don't have a right. That
9 we don't have anything. That we -- our
10 voice cannot be heard.

11 We have been lied to and tricked,
12 okay? We are lied to and tricked. No more
13 tricks. No more lies. No more tricks.
14 Take this serious, okay? You cannot put a
15 profit on my life. I won't let you do
16 that. I won't let you kill not one more
17 person in my community. I speak for the
18 dead. I speak for my life. We deserve to
19 live, and let us live.

20 We fight with everything we got in
21 us. We're tired of being told that we're
22 not important, because that's what you're
23 saying by signing this. That we cannot
24 speak, and we do not deserve to live and we

1 don't have a right.

2 Think about my life. Think about
3 community life. Think about the people
4 that died. Of our neighbors that is dead
5 from cancer, TOBD, asthma. The children
6 that are dying. The little kids that don't
7 have a future, okay? Almost is killed when
8 I was over the hospital with my husband
9 that was dying in the hospital knowing that
10 my son might be dead in the house because
11 of the refinery blowing up. Don't let me
12 live another nightmare. Do not let me live
13 another nightmare.

14 Stop this right now. It's all I
15 ask. It's all I ask. Not for no money. I
16 ask for my life to continue. It's all I
17 ask, and not for nobody to be sitting here
18 rolling they head around. This is serious.

19 My husband died. I suffer still.
20 I suffer still because we wanted to live in
21 a community where our lives didn't matter.
22 We have a little bit of hope. Don't take
23 that little bit of hope away from us. Let
24 us breath. Let us live and breath that

1 life.

2 Thank you for listening.

3 MR. WIENER: Thank you.

4 Okay. I have a note from Carolyn
5 Campbell. And it's not clear to me if you
6 want to speak or -- okay. I'm not hearing
7 anything.

8 Joseph Ingrao?

9 MR. INGRAO: Hello. Can you hear
10 me?

11 MR. WIENER: Yes.

12 MR. INGRAO: Hi. So my name is
13 Joseph Ingrao. That's spelled Ingrao. I
14 am a resident of West Passyunk and a member
15 of the Clean Air Council. But the comments
16 I'm going to give tonight are on my own
17 behalf.

18 I want to say -- I don't want to
19 echo a lot of -- or I would want to echo
20 what a lot of the community members have
21 said tonight about the Refinery and the
22 Tank Farm permits. But I would limit my
23 comments specifically to the EJ Policy of
24 AMS.

1 We appreciate, of course, the plain
2 language summary provided on AMS' website
3 as well as the ability to come to this --
4 this hearing in the first place that -- as
5 a result of the EJ Policy and the slightly
6 extended comment period. But I believe
7 that the community would be able to have a
8 better grasp of the situation, to
9 understand more of its ability to impact
10 the development of the site and the future
11 of permits like these and operations on the
12 site and would feel more empowered in its
13 ability to do so if the City were to expand
14 the Environmental Justice Policy for air
15 permitting and other forms of permits.

16 I know that the City is currently
17 forming an Environmental Justice Advisory
18 Committee. I think that the future of AMS
19 could ask for further extensions to the
20 Environmental Justice Policy at AMS to
21 perhaps involve public hearings intended
22 issues are published in the PA Bulletin,
23 other things like this that may actually
24 give more opportunities for public

1 education ahead of opportunities for public
2 involvement that I believe would empower
3 communities to give substantive comments
4 and would help ameliorate some problems of
5 historical environmental injustice in the
6 City.

7 Thank you for your time.

8 MR. WIENER: Thank you.

9 David Steinberg or Stineberg.

10 Apologize for not getting it right.

11 Okay.

12 MR. STEINBERG: Hello? Can you
13 hear me?

14 MR. WIENER: Yes.

15 MR. STEINBERG: Fantastic. My name
16 is David Steinberg. I'm a resident of New
17 Jersey. I live in Runnemedede, New Jersey.

18 What the hell am I doing on a night
19 like this on something that supposedly
20 doesn't really affect me? But it does, and
21 I will tell you why very briefly.

22 I am concerned about the pollution
23 at the Refinery into the aquifer that
24 services New Jersey residents and farmers.

1 But that's not why I'm here to talk. I'm
2 here to talk simply because of all the
3 speakers, only one of them has gotten to
4 what I call the root issue as far as the --
5 what you are planning to do with the
6 refinery.

7 And the root issue is this. The
8 Pennsylvania Constitution contains the
9 strongest environmental rights amendment in
10 the United States, Article I, Section 27.
11 The people have a right to clean air, pure
12 water and the preservation of the natural
13 scenic historic and aesthetic values of the
14 environment.

15 What this means is very simply,
16 it's as important as the right to bear
17 arms. Important as far as right to free
18 speech, free assembly, et cetera, et cetera
19 because it's in that part of the
20 Constitution which protects our rights.
21 Therefore, every level of government,
22 whether state government, whether it's the
23 local government or whether it's commission
24 or something involving any kind of

1 activity, local or state, must follow these
2 few words. These are some of the most
3 important words in any constitution
4 anywhere in the United States.

5 The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania
6 back in 2014 affirms this right. And
7 therefore, any decision must be made, must
8 be taken into consideration for -- for
9 these things: The right to clean air, pure
10 water and preservation, the natural scenic
11 historic aesthetic values of the
12 environment.

13 Thank you very much. I appreciate
14 it.

15 MR. WIENER: Okay. Thank you.

16 Okay. That is everybody I have a
17 message for asking to testify. Since we
18 have seemed to have covered everybody, we
19 are going to end the public hearings.

20 Thank you. Angela, you can stop
21 recording.

22 (At this time, the Public Hearings
23 adjourned at 8:24 p.m.)

24

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, hereby certify that the proceedings and evidence noted are contained fully and accurately in the stenographic notes taken by me in the foregoing matter, and that this is a correct transcript of the same.

ANGELA M. KING, RPR,
Court Reporter, Notary Public

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