



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **“Communities Stepping Up to Request Investigation of Noramco and the Impact of VOC Emissions on Community Health”**

**New Castle County, DE** (October 31, 2023) – Community leaders are stepping up to request an investigation into the impact (permitted) VOC emissions, from the Noramco plant in Wilmington, is having on nearby community health and that permit: **Docket# 2023-P-A-0018 Noramco Air Quality Permit and Wilmington, DE.** to install a new vacuum pump and an expansion manufacturing process for two new unknown products (referred to as D8 and D9), which will emit 0.5 volatile organic compounds (VOCs) per 12-month rolling period and will emit 0.22 tons of hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) over the same period, be placed on hold until investigated findings are complete.

Delaware State University was awarded a grant of \$1.15 million by the National Institute of General and Medical Sciences (National Institutes of Health) to conduct a two-year study to provide answers to some of the questions raised in this press release.

George X, president of Clean and Fresh Environmental Services, Inc. (“CFESSERV”), a Delaware Corporation registered to do business throughout the State of Delaware, including the city of Wilmington, highlighted in his comments and opposition of the permit expansion based on the following:



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Re: “Communities Stepping Up to Request Investigation of Noramco and the Impact of VOC Emissions on Community Health”

- *The impact of the novel corona viruses upon the entire State of Delaware has revealed the health status of the residents of Wilmington is compromised by secondary health challenges.*
- *According to Medical News Today, a person might have a higher risk of developing severe symptoms if they are older, have a weakened immune system or another health condition.*
- *Gov. Carney issued the “Declaration of a Public Health Emergency for the state of DE “dated April 12, 2021 notifying everyone that does business with the state and the residents of the imminent threat to human life, then implemented a protocol to support healthcare as they aid residents, preserve their lives and health.*
- *The emission of additional HAPs, including Methylaltraxone bromide may subject residents, their families and people doing business in Delaware to a health crisis that is irreparable*

Joe Wall, chief operating officer of Veterans Services (“Veterans”), a business authorized to do business throughout the State of Delaware, including the city of Wilmington, opposes the permit request and requests that members of Wilmington City Council demand an investigation into the clinical health of the communities to learn the impact of the current level of VOC emissions. He asks council to take the following actions to protect all people in our communities, especially veterans:

- *Cause Noramco to immediately cease and desist its current VOC emissions of hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) into our communities until a clinical investigation of our community’s health is completed.*
- *Cause Noramco’s pending Permit: APC-2023/0086-CONSTRUCTION (VOC RACT) (Docket# 2023-P-A-0018) request to be deferred, postponed and delayed until investigation of our community’s health is completed*
- *Cause the Governor’s Office to make the communities’ elected officials to have greater oversight and involvement in policies and procedures of DNREC*

Penny Dryden, executive director of Community Housing & Empowerment Connections Inc., and lead for the Community-led Air Quality Monitoring



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Network in New Castle County, Delaware, understand the importance of engaging community early and throughout environmental initiatives, contacted Lee Karras, Group Chief Executive Officer at Noramco and Angela Marconi, director of Air Quality at DNREC, in response to the news journal article in September that mentioned concerns from community member Davon Marque Hall, on potential hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) coming from the Noramco facility. During phone conversations and email exchanges, Mr. Karras expressed his regret for not being proactive by reaching out to nearby communities prior to permit requests and beginning operations. He also shared a factsheet (attached) highlighting current operations at the plant. But left one critical question unanswered: How are emissions at the plant being monitored? Ms. Marconi shared information on the requested Public Information Hearing to be held in October/November and offered the DNREC website for additional updated information.

We commend the aforementioned community stakeholders Davon Hall, CFESSERV and Veterans for their fortitude, authentic voices and commitment to environmentally clean, safe and healthy communities for all.

Lastly, CHEC to oppose this permit request for reasons that have already been clearly stated and we further urge Noramco, government officials and elected officials to incorporate equity and community engaged approaches (CEAs) in their work to alleviate distrust, disruption and delays that hurts us all. CEAs starts with full Transparency and involves:

- *intentional and explicit inclusion of impacted communities in decision-making; as partners, contributors, participants, and/or reviewers in the industry process.*
- *engaging community stakeholders early and throughout; in design, implementation, and analysis can strengthen designs and more effectively address local needs and challenges early.*



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- *community engagement improves the quality, impact, and sustainability of community and business relationships. Community members offer direct experiential knowledge and expertise that are impossible for others to possess.*