

1 Delaware Department of Natural Resources and
2 Environmental Control (DNREC)
3 Scrap Tire Solution Solid Waste Facility Permit
4 Public Hearing

5
6 Docket No. 2023-P-WH-0028
7

8
9 Moderated by Lisa Vest
10 Wednesday, January 24, 2024
11 6:00 p.m.
12

13
14 Remote Proceeding

15 DNREC

16 89 Kings Highway

17 Dover, DE 19901
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21 Reported by: Heidi Schoentube

22 JOB NO.: 6420516
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A P P E A R A N C E S

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List of Attendees:

Lisa Vest, Hearing Officer (by videoconference)

Tanesha Perry, Administrative Specialist III with the
Office of the Secretary (by videoconference)

Erik Gonzalez, Applicant/Presenter (by
videoconference)

Doug Godfrey, DNREC/Presenter (by videoconference)

Jeffrey Richardson, Public Commenter (by
videoconference)

Mujahid Nyahuma, Public Commenter (by videoconference)

Karen Cheeseman, Public Commenter (by videoconference)

Mara Wolff, Public Commenter (by videoconference)

Margaret Alderson, Public Commenter (by
videoconference)

Simeon Hahn, Public Commenter (by videoconference)

C O N T E N T S

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PAGE

Doug Godfrey

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Eric Gonzalez

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E X H I B I T S

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NO.	DESCRIPTION	PAGE
Exhibit 1	Applicant's Presentation	17

P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 MS. VEST: The time is now 6 p.m. It
3 is Wednesday, January 24, 2024, and we are here to
4 provide the virtual platform for DNREC to have and
5 conduct its formal public hearing for the solid waste
6 permit that is currently pending before the Department
7 for Scrap Tire Solution. Their permit is for their
8 facility located in Wilmington, Delaware. For those
9 who may not recognize me, my name is Lisa Vest, and
10 Secretary Garvin has designated me to serve as hearing
11 officer for tonight's proceedings.

12 A few introductory remarks before we
13 get into the meat of tonight's proceedings. I do need
14 to remind everybody that, pursuant to DNREC's standard
15 hearing protocols, this hearing is being conducted
16 virtually. While there are no sign-in sheets like we
17 would normally have in the past or a physical
18 recordkeeping of those in attendance, the Zoom
19 platform does do that automatically, so the Department
20 keeps a record of those who have taken the time to
21 attend tonight's hearing. And again, I thank you for
22 taking time out of your busy schedule to do so.

23 What we're going to do before I get
24 into the parameters of tonight's hearing is to turn

1 the screen briefly over to one of our administrative
2 specialists at DNREC. Tanesha is going to take a
3 couple of minutes very quickly to make sure that those
4 of you in attendance are aware of the closed
5 captioning that Zoom provides and to make sure we all
6 know how to operate it so you can get the most out of
7 tonight's proceedings. So Tanesha, if you are able,
8 please go ahead and do that at this time.

9 MS. PERRY: Hello. My name is Tanesha
10 Perry. I'm an Administrative Specialist III with the
11 Office of the Secretary. I'm here to assist the
12 Hearing Officer tonight. I'd like to make sure
13 everyone is aware that the Zoom platform we're using
14 has the ability for closed captioning in multiple
15 languages. To start closed captioning if you're using
16 a computer, at the bottom of your screen, you should
17 see a "Show Captions" button.

18 If you do not see the "Show Captions"
19 button, you may have to select the three dots that
20 says "More." Once you find your "Show Captions"
21 button, you should click your carrot pointing up,
22 which will bring up the translation options. You can
23 select your preferred language from there. If your
24 preferred language isn't listed, you can select

1 "More," and all of the languages will be listed. If
2 you're on a smartphone, at the bottom of your screen,
3 select "Captions" button indicated by "CC."

4 If your preferred language is not
5 listed at the bottom, you may have to select the three
6 dots that say "More." You should then select "Meeting
7 Settings" with the gear icon next to it. Once the
8 settings page comes up, located at the very bottom,
9 select "Translation Language." From there, you'll be
10 able to select your preferred language, then select
11 "Done" at the top right corner, and then "Done" again.

12 If the captions are not automatically
13 popping up yet, you may need to select "Captions"
14 again and select "Show Captions." Now I'll turn it
15 back over to Hearing Officer Lisa Vest.

16 MS. VEST: Thank you, Tanesha. As I
17 mentioned, I'm going to go over some brief parameters
18 before we get into the presentations that you all will
19 be seeing tonight. There will be two presentations
20 tonight. There will be one given on behalf of the
21 Department, kind of like a how we got here tonight
22 kind of thing, so that you all understand exactly what
23 is pending before the Department with regard to this
24 permit. And then, once the Department's presentation

1 is done, I will be turning the floor over to the
2 Applicant. Scrap Tire Solution has a brief
3 presentation that they would like to give as well.

4 Once we get done with the
5 presentations, the hearing will then proceed to the
6 public comment portion of tonight's hearing. Pursuant
7 to DNREC's standard hearing protocol, we do have
8 pre-registration enforced for anybody that wishes to
9 offer a live comment at our hearings. The live
10 comment -- well, the ability, rather, to offer live
11 comment -- is headed up by the pre-registration
12 process, and that process always closes at noon on the
13 date of the hearing.

14 For tonight's hearing, we have six
15 individuals who have pre-registered to speak, and
16 again, when we get done with both presentations, we
17 will be turning the floor over to them. Each person
18 will have up to three minutes to offer their comments
19 for the record, and I'll say a little bit more about
20 that before we begin that.

21 I do want to set the parameters, as I
22 said, for tonight's hearing. First and foremost, this
23 is a formal legal proceeding. It is not a town hall
24 meeting; it is not a public workshop or public

1 information session. It is a very formal proceeding.
2 The purpose is to provide the platform for the public
3 to learn more about this permit that's pending before
4 the Secretary right now and again, for the opportunity
5 for those who have pre-registered to offer a comment.
6 So again, I thank everybody for taking the time to
7 join us tonight.

8 All public comments made to DNREC
9 regarding this matter, whether they're received
10 verbally at the hearing tonight, whether they've
11 already come in, or whether they come in between now
12 and the time that the record closes for receipt of
13 public comment, they're all going to bear the same
14 weight. And as long as they pertain to the subject
15 matter at hand, which again are the Scrap Tire
16 Solution's permit application that is pending, it will
17 be incorporated into the record.

18 Everything that you see tonight, along
19 with all the comments that come in, are posted for the
20 public's view on the hearing webpage dedicated to this
21 matter at DNREC. Every hearing that goes through the
22 Zoom process, like we are doing tonight, has its own
23 hearing webpage. You can find that if you go to the
24 DNREC website, click on -- go to the Administrative

1 Law tab that you'll see across the screen. When you
2 click on Admin Law, you will see a sub-pocket called
3 "Public Hearings." You can click on that, and they're
4 all up there chronologically, with the most recent
5 hearings first. So it's pretty easy to find.

6 We have a couple hearings that are
7 going on currently this week and next. So this one is
8 not right at the top, but it's very close to the top.
9 And once again, I would encourage everybody, if you
10 haven't already done so, to go to the hearing page,
11 check it out, watch the comments that come in, and
12 feel free to take advantage of all of that information
13 when you're formulating your own comments because
14 there is a lot there.

15 With regard to the protocols for
16 tonight's hearing, briefly, number one: all comment
17 received must be limited solely to the subject matter
18 of tonight's hearing; I've already mentioned to that.
19 And again, when the comments come in, they are
20 immediately posted on the hearing webpage for everyone
21 to see. Secondly, in order to ensure that everyone
22 that wishes to offer comment is accommodated to do so,
23 the record will not close tonight, but rather it's
24 going to remain open. And again, all comment bears

1 the same weight, whether it comes in tonight or
2 whether it comes in all the way up through February
3 23rd, which is how long the record stays open. So
4 pretty much you've got an entire month to take
5 advantage of all that information on the hearing page
6 and look it over before you make your comment.

7 Moving along. Okay. Somebody must
8 have their sound up a lot because I'm hearing some
9 feedback. Number three, there is only one authentic
10 recording of tonight's proceedings, and it is the
11 court reporter. They will be, pursuant to DNREC's
12 statutory obligation to do so, providing a verbatim
13 transcript of the hearing tonight. And once we get
14 that from Veritext, it will be posted on the hearing
15 webpage as well.

16 Lastly, it's important to realize that
17 no decision has been made by anyone tonight regarding
18 this pending permit. The Department has not come to
19 any conclusions; the Secretary has not come to any
20 conclusions. Again, we are here tonight simply to
21 provide the platform to make the public aware that
22 this matter is currently pending and also to provide
23 the platform to offer comment should those who wish to
24 pre-register wish to do so.

1 So that being said, I am now going to
2 turn it over to department staff from the Division of
3 Waste and Hazardous Substances. They have a brief
4 presentation to kind of explain the permit that's
5 pending right now. Doug, when you're ready, you may
6 proceed.

7 MR. GODFREY: Thank you. Good evening.
8 My name is Doug Godfrey, and I'm with the Division of
9 Waste and Hazardous Substances. I will be outlining
10 the documents that Scrap Tire Solution ("STS") has
11 submitted for their solid waste permit. The facility
12 will accept only scrap tires and Bobcat tracks for
13 processing, bundling them for transport to a tire
14 recycler.

15 All vehicles transporting solid waste
16 from this facility shall have a valid Delaware Solid
17 Waste Transporter Permit issued by the Department.
18 The total facility volume will be no more than 375
19 tons. The process that took place was the initial
20 application was received by DNREC on May 9, 2023. We
21 provided comments back to STS on June 14th. The
22 application documents submitted -- additional
23 application documents were submitted for review on
24 July 25th. Comments were provided back to STS on

1 August 15th. A complete application was received on
2 December 6th of 2023, and public notice of the
3 application was published on December 10th 2023.

4 The Division of Waste and Hazardous
5 Substances is the last permit to be issued by the
6 Department. Once all of the other permits have been
7 issued, Waste reviews a final submission and modifies
8 the permit to be an operations permit. There are
9 several items that were included in the application.
10 They included a lease zoning verification, permits
11 needed, a plan of operation governing all the onsite
12 facility operations, evidence of no adverse risk, a
13 verification of market, or a letter of intent, a
14 conceptual closure plan, and a financial assurance to
15 cover the potential need for DNREC to close the
16 facility.

17 In addition, we have placed on the
18 public hearing website the following 19 exhibits for
19 the application process. Finally, my contact
20 information is on this screen, and you can contact me
21 if you have questions.

22 MS. VEST: Okay. Great. Thank you,
23 Doug. Just a couple questions to make sure that the
24 record is clear. Are the exhibits that you just

1 showed in your PowerPoint presentation the same as
2 those that are posted on the hearing webpage dedicated
3 to this hearing?

4 MR. GODFREY: Yes, they are.

5 MS. VEST: Okay. Let the record
6 reflect that Department Exhibits 1 through 19, I
7 believe, that were just put up on the board are hereby
8 entered into the hearing record. Does the Division
9 have anything further that they wish to offer at this
10 time?

11 MR. GODFREY: Not at this time.

12 MS. VEST: Okay. Great. Thank you.
13 You can stop sharing your screen if you will. We're
14 now going to turn the matter over to Eric Gonzalez who
15 is representing the applicant right now. Eric, I
16 believe that you still have the ability to share your
17 screen. And if that's the case, you can proceed when
18 ready.

19 MR. GONZALEZ: Can you see that now?

20 MS. VEST: No. I cannot see anything.
21 I mean, I can see you, but --

22 MR. GONZALEZ: Oh, that's not good.

23 MS. VEST: You should have the ability.
24 There you go. There you go.

1 MR. GONZALEZ: Okay. Perfect. All
2 right. So I'm Eric Gonzalez with Scrap Tire Solution,
3 and this is a presentation that I put together to show
4 everybody what we're going to be doing and how we're
5 going to be doing it. So what we're doing is we save
6 tires from ending up in landfills, polluting the
7 earth, and causing environmental hazards. So when
8 tires are laying on the ground or in a pile, they can
9 collect water and become breeding grounds for
10 mosquitoes, and that's one of the things that we're
11 able to make sure that does not happen.

12 We have downstream partners that
13 recycle all parts of the tire and those raw materials
14 are used in power construction and industrial
15 applications. We're essentially located where a
16 shipping facility is easily accessible to the parts
17 along the east coast over there at 195 Hay Road.
18 There are different problems again with the tires.
19 There's leaching, meaning chemicals that can go into
20 the ground.

21 Mosquitoes, as I just explained, and
22 also combustibility, where tires that are loose can
23 catch on fire and they're very hard to put out. Our
24 solution is to take the tires -- collect tires in our

1 facility, and we will be baling them or bundling them
2 with a machine that compresses the tires and puts them
3 in a bale and loading those bales into sea containers
4 for our customers, a very simple process.

5 Benefits of the tire baling: As I
6 mentioned, the tires do collect water when they are
7 laying on the ground or in piles. And as we know,
8 when that water gets warm, that is a huge breeding
9 ground for mosquitoes, and that is a major problem as
10 far as tire piles go. And when we put the tires in a
11 bale or when we do the baling process, the reason why
12 it's not as combustibile as they are when they're
13 laying there loose is that once they're in bales, then
14 they're tightly compressed, oxygen cannot penetrate
15 the bale to add fuel to a fire, for instance. So we
16 take away that problem when we put the tires in bales.
17 Am I going too fast?

18 MS. VEST: No, you're fine.

19 MR. GONZALEZ: Okay, perfect. Next
20 steps: bale tires are shipped overseas, which is
21 U.K., Canada, India, and other countries. There's a
22 process called "pyrolysis" to specific -- or specially
23 burn the tire bales to create energy. This energy is
24 used to fuel motors, engines, and factories and also

1 creates byproducts which are either recyclable or
2 reusable. The slide that we're looking at here is
3 basically tires. It goes into the pyrolysis plant and
4 what is left over after the plant is done using the
5 tires for energy is black carbon dust, steel wire.
6 There's also polyester that's in the tires, and there
7 is an alternate fuel, or a black goo if you will, that
8 is fuel that these other countries use to run their
9 factory's generators and plants. And that is it.
10 That is what we do.

11 MS. VEST: Okay, Eric. Thank you very
12 much for that presentation. And just as a side again,
13 I have already advised the applicant that I am going
14 to enter this presentation in as part of the hearing
15 record. I'm going to mark it at this point for the
16 record as Applicant's Exhibit Number 1, and it is
17 already up on the hearing webpage that we've been
18 talking about.

19 (Exhibit 1 was marked for
20 identification.)

21 So again, if those in attendance
22 haven't had the opportunity, please do take the
23 opportunity to go to that webpage and check it out.
24 You'll find all the exhibits that were referenced in

1 the PowerPoints. Each is downloadable, and you can
2 read them at your leisure, as well as the applicant's
3 presentation that we just saw. And again, Eric, I
4 thank you for that.

5 MR. GONZALEZ: [Unintelligible
6 response.]

7 MS. VEST: At this point, we are going
8 to turn our attention to those who have
9 pre-registered. As I mentioned at the beginning of
10 tonight's proceedings, there are six members of the
11 public who have registered to speak tonight. A little
12 protocol for the comment period while Tanesha is
13 finding them in the attendance list and getting that
14 all prepped up. Comment again, must be related to the
15 subject matter of tonight's hearing. Each commenter
16 is given three minutes to offer their comment for the
17 record; they certainly don't need to take that much
18 time, but they have that as a maximum.

19 The timer will begin when the commenter
20 starts talking, and the system will automatically
21 re-mute the commenter at the end of the three-minute
22 period. The commenter's video does remain off while
23 speaking; there is no sharing or yielding of each
24 person's time. Each commenter gets three minutes;

1 that's it.

2 And while the Department does
3 appreciate all comments received, I do need to note
4 that there is a zero-tolerance policy for disparaging
5 remarks, offensive language, or personal attacks. I
6 certainly don't foresee that happening, but if it
7 does, the commenter will be interrupted, given a
8 warning, and if such offense continues, they will be
9 removed from the meeting. That being said, Tanesha,
10 I'm checking with you. First up on the list is
11 Mr. Jeffrey Richardson. Have you located him in the
12 attendance sheet?

13 MS. PERRY: Yes, I have. And I've
14 asked him to unmute.

15 MS. VEST: Okay. Mr. Richardson,
16 hopefully, you can figure that out and please let me
17 know when you've been unmuted. Can you hear me?

18 MR. RICHARDSON: I can hear you. Can
19 you hear me?

20 MS. VEST: I can hear you loud and
21 clear, sir.

22 MR. RICHARDSON: Oh, great.

23 MS. VEST: The time will begin. You
24 should be able to see the screen with the three

1 minutes. You can begin when ready.

2 MR. RICHARDSON: Great. Thank you very
3 much. Hello. My name is Jeffrey Richardson with the
4 Delaware Community Benefits Agreement Coalition.
5 According to DRNEC's website on scrap tire management:
6 "Scrap tire piles present a number of environmental,
7 health, and safety hazards to our communities. They
8 are ideal breeding grounds for mosquitoes. A tire
9 fire started by arson or a lightning strike could take
10 days, even weeks, to extinguish because burning rubber
11 is extremely difficult to put out. The smoke from a
12 tire fire contains hazardous gases and the oily liquid
13 runoff from the melted tires can pollute ground
14 water." Last year -- that's end of quote.

15 Last year, communities near the DuPont
16 Edgemoor location on Hay Road experienced the dumping
17 of 10,000 tons of tires at a lot on Hay Road a few
18 parcels up from the proposed site of the Scrap Tire
19 Solution's facility. We experienced insecurity of
20 living with an enormous illegal time bomb that could
21 have made many communities unlivable if a fire had
22 occurred. The existing safe guards and protections
23 did not protect the public.

24 Now we face a permit request for a

1 permanent facility that uses scrap tires as its
2 primary product source. Scrap Tire's statement on
3 safety is very thin, given the potential air, water,
4 and life quality threat represented by the facility.
5 The New Castle County Office of Public Works raised
6 additional concerns in their January 23, 2024 letter:
7 "The proposed scrap tire area appears to be located
8 near the County's 66-inch sanitary sewer force main
9 and within the County's 30-foot easement area of the
10 force main. The force main must remain protected and
11 easily accessible at all times should an emergency
12 arise.

13 "This will not be the case if there are
14 20 containers of tires located on top of the main
15 force. Has there been any analysis to determine the
16 effect, the weight of the containers, baling
17 equipment, and heavy equipment will have on the force
18 main below? Without additional information, the
19 County cannot support the location of the scrap tire
20 area bordering the pump station parcel and over the
21 main force."

22 There are environmental justice
23 communities near the proposed facility location. They
24 are impacted by numerous facilities that release

1 toxins into the air. The Scrap Tire facility will add
2 additional unhealthy air levels related to diesel or
3 truck emissions. Cumulative impact of proposed
4 facilities operations has not been considered;
5 therefore, we cannot agree to the signing of the Scrap
6 Tire Solution's facility. Finally, public
7 participation must be expanded to deepen this process.
8 I will submit additional information and comments via
9 the website and through the proper channels. And
10 thank you very much for this time. And again, this
11 was Jeffrey Richardson with the Delaware Community
12 Benefits Agreement Coalition. Thank you.

13 MS. VEST: Thank you very much,
14 Mr. Richardson, appreciate that. Next up, we have --
15 and I am going to apologize if I mispronounce the name
16 Mujahid Nyahuma. I'm sure I said that terribly.
17 Tanesha, have you found the next commenter?

18 DR. NYAHUMA: Yes, I'm here.

19 MS. VEST: Okay. Thank you, sir. As I
20 said before, the record or the timer rather, will
21 begin when you do, so you may begin when ready.

22 DR. NYAHUMA: Okay. I'm ready. This
23 is Dr. Mujahid Nyahuma. I'm the executive member of
24 the Delaware Community Benefits Agreement Coalition.

1 And I concur with all the statements that my previous
2 speaker just made regarding this project. And I
3 concur with the municipal party in terms of not
4 supporting this project until they are able to provide
5 reasonable information regarding the precautions for a
6 fire prevention and any other type of environmental
7 impact. Thank you.

8 MS. VEST: Thank you, sir. Next up on
9 the list of pre-registrants is Karen Cheeseman.
10 Tanesha, if you have found Ms. Cheeseman --
11 Ms. Cheeseman can you hear me? I'm sorry, if
12 somebody's talking, I can barely hear it. Tanesha,
13 have you found Ms. Cheeseman?

14 MS. PERRY: No. Ms. Cheeseman, can you
15 raise your hand, please?

16 MS. VEST: Okay. You know what? While
17 we're trying to find her, let's just go on to the next
18 person. We'll circle back around to see if we can
19 find her once we go through the rest of the list. The
20 next up on the list is Mara Wolff. Have you located
21 Mara?

22 MS. PERRY: I do not see Mara. Can you
23 raise your hand, please, if you're in attendance?

24 MS. VEST: Okay. We might have to

1 circle back around for them as well. Let's carry on.
2 Next up is Margaret Alderson. Ms. Alderson -- have we
3 located her?

4 MS. PERRY: Ms. Alderson, if you're in
5 attendance, can you please raise your hand? I see
6 Peggy, but I do not see Margaret.

7 MS. ALDERSON: I am Peggy.

8 MS. VEST: Okay. I was getting ready
9 to say, I had seen an email where it referenced Peggy
10 as well. So Ms. Alderson, thank you for attending.
11 The timer will begin when you do, so --

12 MS. ALDERSON: I'm a resident of North
13 Hills in North Wilmington. The Hay Road facility is
14 not very far from where I live. My concern is the
15 closeness of this facility that is proposed to so many
16 people. I was a nurse for many, many years and took
17 care of firefighters who fought the Penrose Avenue
18 tire fire in Pennsylvania. These young men came back
19 within a couple of years with multiple types of
20 cancer, and they died a very not nice death. So I'm
21 concerned about the potential of fire. I'm concerned
22 about the mosquito.

23 I think the proposal to get rid of
24 tires is wonderful, but not at Hay Road. We have the

1 shopping center there; we have multiple apartment
2 complexes there and many, many homes. In the event of
3 fire, all these people will be exposed to carcinogens.
4 And that's all I have to say. Thank you.

5 MS. VEST: Great. Thank you,
6 Ms. Alderson, I appreciate that. Next up, Simeon
7 Hahn. Mr. Hahn -- have we located him on the list?

8 MR. HAHN: Can you hear me?

9 MS. VEST: I can hear you. Excellent,
10 excellent. As we've said before, Mr. Hahn, the timer
11 will begin when you do, so proceed when ready.

12 MR. HAHN: Okay. I'm also a resident
13 of North Wilmington in North Hills. And I'm a
14 recreational user of the Delaware River and its
15 shorelines. Concerned about environmental quality and
16 conservation of natural resources and restoration
17 along the Delaware River especially in New Castle
18 County. First became aware of the permit project of
19 the DRNEC solid waste public notice. Not sure what
20 other permits were required. Due to the illegal tire
21 disposal in Edgemoor that occurred with the port
22 project, I was concerned about more tires in the area.

23 I feel that this DNREC public notice
24 system is not that effective in communication and

1 outreach in general. Three minutes is not a lot of
2 time. I'll try to get through these. It was
3 indicated it's not a public meeting, it's a legal
4 process, so you can't ask questions. There's a lot of
5 mistrust. You know, as mentioned, Hay Road is an area
6 that presents EJ issues; there's a lot of cumulative
7 impacts, and you know, these just aren't addressed
8 efficiently by DNREC.

9 So therefore, I requested a public
10 meeting and consultation with Councilman Cartier who
11 could not make the meeting tonight. Subsequently,
12 Councilman Cartier and I met with Eric Gonzalez. I
13 also did some research on the technology as well
14 before meeting with him. Mr. Gonzalez provided a lot
15 of information and offered to have a community
16 meeting, which isn't required as I just mentioned.

17 Mr. Gonzalez is a local resident of
18 North Wilmington in Councilman Cartier's district and
19 demonstrated a willingness to work with the community.
20 He offered to help solve a big community problem at
21 Edgemoor with the illegal tire disposal and in the
22 county and in the region with waste tire ports. As a
23 result of the meeting, Councilman Cartier and I
24 support Mr. Gonzalez and ask to have the public

1 hearing request retracted.

2 This is a lot in due to consequences
3 related to the DNREC schedule and time impacts it
4 would have on starting to remove tires. As mentioned,
5 Mr. Gonzalez has offered to remove the tires illegally
6 disposed at Edgemoor. DNREC should be a better
7 community partner, especially on Hay Road. The
8 community wants a healthier Delaware River coastline
9 along Hay Road. We recommend that the permit be
10 approved and Mr. Gonzalez be allowed to start work as
11 soon as possible.

12 It is concerning that beneficial
13 projects as this one and projects like dam removal on
14 the Brandywine take years and large amounts of money.
15 While at the same time, major projects like the port
16 expansions seem to be fast-tracked and shortchanged in
17 terms of environmental review. Lastly, Mr. Gonzalez
18 indicated that this project will be helpful to the
19 city and county in managing waste tires -- illegally
20 tires. He even indicated he could solve the problems
21 at Edgemoor. The process will be on already-developed
22 property in a towing lot. I visited the site and the
23 environmental impact will be minimal.

24 Tires will not be stockpiled onsite.

1 Tires will not be brought in from faraway. There is a
2 market for their reuse. Increased truck traffic has
3 been studied. There's relatively minimal addition
4 from this. However, the cumulative study is needed
5 and should be presented to the community on truck
6 traffic. And that's what I have. Thank you. I
7 recommend and thank Mr. Gonzalez for meeting and look
8 forward to future engagement with him.

9 MS. VEST: Thank you, sir, I appreciate
10 that. We're going to go back up now and see if we can
11 find the two pre-registrants that first time around we
12 couldn't find. I believe I did see that Ms. Cheeseman
13 entered the room. Ms. Cheeseman, are you available,
14 and do you still wish to offer comment? Tanesha, have
15 you found her?

16 MS. PERRY: I just let her in. I'm
17 looking for her. She's unmuted. Ms. Cheeseman?

18 MS. VEST: Ms. Cheeseman, if you can
19 hear us, you're certainly welcome to offer your
20 comment if you still wish to do so. Can you hear me?
21 Okay.

22 MS. PERRY: I think she left.

23 MS. VEST: Okay. We'll try her one
24 more time. Mara Wolff, do we see her?

1 MS. PERRY: I see her now.

2 Ms. Cheeseman? All right. I think your phone is
3 muted. I see your mouth is moving, but we can't hear
4 you.

5 MS. CHEESEMAN: You hear me now?

6 MS. VEST: I can hear you.

7 MS. PERRY: Yes.

8 MS. VEST: Excellent. Thankfully. I
9 was hoping that we wouldn't [sic] be able to connect
10 properly. Ms. Cheeseman, thank you for attending.
11 You do have three minutes on the clock, and the timer
12 will begin when you do.

13 MS. CHEESEMAN: Okay. My major
14 concerns -- I live in Edgemoor Gardens which is a
15 stone's throw where this plant is going to be. Now,
16 we just got rid of tires from being put on the new
17 port site, and we're now going two lots down or a
18 couple lots down to do a tire processing. I'm
19 wondering if the two are connected. Plus, the risk of
20 fire and all the truck traffic, we were already
21 dealing with truck traffic now from the port using the
22 Edgemoor ramp. If more trucks are introduced, it's
23 going to become a major safety hazard for vehicles
24 getting on 495 at Edgemoor Road; that is my concern.

1 My neighborhood does not need any more
2 chemicals being released into the air. We dealt with
3 DuPont; we dealt with IKO. Now, we're wanting to put
4 up a processing plant for tires, which is going to put
5 more chemicals into the air and the risk of
6 mosquitoes, any kind of flying insect. The risk of
7 fire -- and even though they're keeping it indoors,
8 there's still going to be a risk of fire. And the
9 fact that they can't put them out, they have to let
10 them burn, which means my neighborhood is at risk, and
11 we are a low-income neighborhood. And I don't feel
12 that it's fair to put a processing plant like that
13 down there. It just isn't fair to the residents of
14 the area. That's all.

15 MS. VEST: Okay. Thank you,
16 Ms. Cheeseman, I appreciate your comments. And
17 apologies for the disconnect or the issues that we
18 had, but we got you, so again, thank you. Tanesha,
19 last one, Mara Wolff. Were we able to locate that
20 commenter?

21 MS. PERRY: I do not see anyone by the
22 name Mara or with the last name Wolff.

23 MS. VEST: Okay.

24 MS. PERRY: So if she's in attendance,

1 if she could raise her hand?

2 MS. VEST: Okay. Well, you know what?
3 I'm going to go ahead and start my concluding remarks.
4 In the meantime, Tanesha, if you do see either Mara or
5 anyone with the last name Wolff, please interrupt me
6 because, certainly, if they are here in attendance,
7 we'd like to give them their time.

8 That being said, I'm going to go ahead
9 and say some concluding remarks. I do want to thank
10 everybody again for taking time out of their busy day
11 to be with us this evening. I apologize for my voice;
12 it keeps going in and out. Just a reminder that
13 whether the comments came in prior to tonight, if they
14 came in live tonight, and if they did come in live, by
15 the way, they're captured on the court reporter's
16 transcript.

17 And again, as soon as we get that
18 transcript from Veritext, it'll be posted on the
19 hearing webpage, and you can go back and review the
20 comments if you'd like to do so. So in a way, even
21 the verbal comments are written because they get
22 captured by that transcript. Or if comments come in
23 between now and February 23rd, which is how long the
24 record remains open for receipt of comments,

1 regardless of when they come in, as long as they are
2 received by the Department before February 23rd and
3 they pertain to this particular matter, we will go
4 ahead and enter them into the record, post them on the
5 hearing page, and they will all be taken into
6 consideration prior to the Secretary making a
7 decision.

8 So how do we get these comments in? As
9 the screen that you're looking at now says, comments
10 can be submitted in writing via the DNREC comment
11 form, and you can find that at de.gov/dnrecomments.
12 You can send them via email to
13 DNREChearingcomments@delaware.gov. I get those
14 directly. So the minute that they come in, I will
15 receive them and as long as they are related to this
16 particular matter, they'll go up on this hearing
17 webpage.

18 Or you can send it by United States
19 Postal Service to my attention as Hearing Officer at
20 DNREC, Office of the Secretary, 89 Kings Highway,
21 Dover, Delaware 19901.

22 I should make a note that written
23 comments to DNREC may not be submitted via any social
24 media platforms such as X used to be Twitter,

1 Facebook, YouTube, or standardized text messaging.

2 Again, I want to thank everybody for
3 coming out tonight. There is a lot of information on
4 the hearing webpage, so please take the time and avail
5 yourself of that resource. Thank you again for
6 everybody taking the time. This matter is adjourned.

7 (Whereupon, the meeting concluded at
8 6:38 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

1
2 I, HEIDI SCHOENTUBE, the officer before whom
3 the foregoing proceedings were taken, do hereby
4 certify that any witness(es) in the foregoing
5 proceedings, prior to testifying, were duly sworn;
6 that the proceedings were recorded by me and
7 thereafter reduced to typewriting by a qualified
8 transcriptionist; that said digital audio recording of
9 said proceedings are a true and accurate record to the
10 best of my knowledge, skills, and ability; that I am
11 neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any
12 of the parties to the action in which this was taken;
13 and, further, that I am not a relative or employee of
14 any counsel or attorney employed by the parties
15 hereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the
16 outcome of this action.




17 HEIDI SCHOENTUBE

18 Notary Public in and for the
19 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

I, RAVINNA WILLS, do hereby certify that this transcript was prepared from the digital audio recording of the foregoing proceeding, that said transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings to the best of my knowledge, skills, and ability; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this was taken; and, further, that I am not a relative or employee of any counsel or attorney employed by the parties hereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of this action.



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