

April 10, 2021

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

I am writing this letter to support the Marple Townships zoning board's decision to deny the special exception in regards to the location of the proposed PECO Gas Expansion Plant/Reliability Station at the corner of Sproul and Cedar Grove Roads.

Some of my reasons are as follows:

1. My community and I were not properly notified of the plan to build this expansion plant. I was made aware of this only because of a protest sign randomly placed near the location. There was no letter, no notification, no information, no formal outreach provided to my home which is less than 0.8 miles away from the proposed site.
2. In a recent virtual "town hall" meeting hosted by PECO, numerous valid questions raised by myself as well as other residents of this immediate area were either deferred for answer at some "later" unknown, unprovided date or completely ignored. In at least one incident, a resident raising an objection was immediately muted by one of PECO's representatives. It appears, only a few people living within 150 feet were notified.
3. PECO has used the terms gas line, gas pipe, gas main interchangeably in their discussions, however, when this same terminology was used in a discussion by a resident, they were quickly shutdown and corrected by PECO in an attempt to downplay the severity of what they are building.
4. During the virtual townhall that PECO hosted, they provided 3 artist renderings of the facility in an attempt to show the facility as a town plaza with brick walls, US and Township flags, a town square clock, landscaping, etc. In all 3 of their artist renderings of the facility, however, they completely omitted to show the industrial heaters and 18ft high stacks that'll protrude behind the glamorized landscaping they tried pushing in an attempt to mislead the community by leaving out a critical detail of the facility.
5. During one meeting, PECO admitted that this is the "first of its kind" facility in the PECO network and they have no experience constructing or operating such a facility. I am very concerned that something that may not have been properly tested in such a location could be catastrophic in terms of lives lost and property damaged.
6. Additionally, in the same town hall meeting as well as other discussions, PECO has openly admitted that although they have untested safe guards in place, there is a chance of a venting or explosion. They cannot guarantee the safety of their facility let alone predict the erratic traffic patterns that are well known at this particular, high traffic junction.
7. This lot is in close proximity to many residential homes, Russell Elementary School, an extremely busy fast-food restaurant (Freddy's), and a strip of small local business including a Wawa. It also sits at a busy intersection which is prone to vehicular accidents. The speed limit is 40 mph, but is often exceeded.
8. PECO's argument that a collision of a truck with the natural gas expansion plant cannot result in an explosion and/or fire is misleading. The Operations spokesman for PECO said (in a public forum via Zoom) that if a truck collided with the facility it would only result in a gas leak, not an explosion, because the natural gas is conveyed in an oxygen deficient engineered environment and therefore cannot explode. That's true if and only if the gas remains in the controlled conditions of the engineered facility. Once the system was breached by a collision, operating accident or other event, the natural gas would mix with the oxygen in the atmosphere and potentially then be explosive. PECO cannot legitimately argue that explosion or fire at such a facility is not possible.
9. PECO argues that they must locate this facility in close proximity to the existing gas main running along Sproul Road. They claim it must be within a ½ mile radius of Lawrence and Sproul Rds. But this was before they even began replacing pipe all along Sproul Rd for miles many months ago. This appears to be purely a financial consideration lacking any safety consideration. I see on the

docket they claim to have looked at ten other locations, however on the recorded video they claim to have only looked at a few which were all too far away. Additionally on the call, PECO confirmed that they did not complete their due diligence in reaching out to other vacant properties that are located away from residential areas and laid claim to this one because it was marked with a sale sign. It appears no consideration or priority was given to select sites that were away from homes, schools, and businesses.

10. Alternatively, it would be more advantageous from a public safety perspective to locate this proposed natural gas facility in the Lawrence Park Industrial Center rather than the currently proposed location. At least the Industrial Park is already "industrial".
11. PECO argues this is part of a ten-year plan for future gas needs. Why should future potential residents and businesses be more important than currently existing residents and businesses? How do we know that gas usage will actually go up when Pennsylvania's goal is to develop more clean energy and move away from fossil fuels?
12. It is apparent to me that the proposed PECO Natural Gas Expansion Plant location at Sproul and Cedar Grove Roads was made with disproportionate weight given to PECO's convenience and project costs considerations, not public safety. The site selection process should have first defined areas that meet defined and accepted public safety criteria and then within that geographic "safe" envelope, project cost, schedule and PECO convenience factors could optimize the final location. PECO seems to have overlooked, or at least undervalued, public safety considerations in selecting the proposed site. This facility should not be constructed where currently proposed.

Secretary Chiavetta - I am sure you would not want this built next to your family; we ask that you consider our family as well.

Like many other Marple residents who firmly believe that PECO is violating the safety and the very nature of our close-knit community, I am astounded by the sheer irresponsible nature of this corporation to step into our area and not give consideration to the families that have lived here for generations. We are not against natural gas, we are not against their technology or work, however, we are not aligned with the location for this facility being placed only a few feet away from our homes. Like hundreds of other families with young children, Cedar Grove Road and Sproul Road are roads we take on a regular basis multiple times throughout the day. To place a facility to manage gas pressure with 18 foot high heating stacks with even a *slight* chance of venting or an explosion is beyond comprehension. We have a responsibility to protect our homes and our families - no amount of safe valves, technology, or planned safety measures can ever guarantee the potential of a fatal hazard.

We are a strong community of families and the hometown pride of up keeping our neighborhood is at the core of why any of us still choose to live in this area. We have an industrial center, we have empty parking lots - pick one of those if this project is that important as PECO claims.

Thank you,

/s/

Ashok Kailath
2516 Parke Lane
Broomall, PA 19008
ashokkailath@yahoo.com
610-420-1208

VERIFICATION

I swear that the facts I am presenting in this Protest are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief. I understand that the statements I am making in this Protest are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa. § Section 4904 (relating to unsworn falsification to authorities).

Respectfully Submitted,
/s/

Date: 4/10/2021

Print Name: Ashok Kailath

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**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Petition of PECO Energy Company for a Finding Of Necessity Pursuant to 53 P.S §10619 that the Situation of Two Buildings Associated with a Gas Reliability Station in Marple Township, Delaware County Is Reasonably Necessary for the Convenience and Welfare of the Public : : Docket No. P-2021-3024328

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served a true and correct copy of the foregoing Protest upon the parties listed below, in accordance with the requirements of 52 PA Code § 1.54 (relating to service by a participant) in the manner listed below upon the parties listed below:

Emily I. DeVoe Administrative Law Judge Public Utility Commission 400 North Street Keystone Bldg. Harrisburg, PA 17120	JACK R GARFINKLE ESQUIRE PECO ENERGY COMPANY 2301 MARKET STREET PO BOX 8699 PHILADELPHIA PA 19101-8699 215.841.6863 jack.garfinkle@exeloncorp Accepts eService
CHRISTOPHER A LEWIS ESQUIRE FRANK L TAMULONIS ESQUIRE STEPHEN C ZUMBRUN ESQUIRE BLANK ROME LLP ONE LOGAN SQUARE 130 NORTH 18TH STREET PHILADELPHIA PA 19103 215-569-5793 lewis@blankrome.com ftamulonis@blankrome.com szumbrun@blankrome.com Accepts eService	KAITLYN T SEARLS ESQUIRE J. ADAM MATLAWSKI ESQUIRE MCNICHOL, BYRBE & MATLAWSKI, P.C. 1223 N PROVIDENCE ROAD MEDIA PA 19063 ksearls@mbmlawoffice.com amatlawski@mbmlawoffice.com Accepts eService

Respectfully Submitted,
/s/

Date: 4/10/2021

Print Name: Ashok Kailath
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