

Re: Docket No. M-2026-3059601 – Opposition to Redevelopment of Barbadoes Island

Dear Secretary Chiavetta,

As a resident of Norristown and current Councilmember at-large, I strongly oppose the inclusion of Barbadoes Island in the PATER Study for new power generation. The existing Barbadoes Island Substation is already located in a FEMA-mapped regulated floodway and is partially at the end of its life (even according to the report itself). Building a new power plant on this flood-prone island would place critical energy infrastructure directly in harm's way, risking catastrophic failure during extreme weather events. We all remember the record flooding of Hurricane Ida around here.

The Schuylkill River corridor is already burdened by legacy industrial pollution. Adding a new combustion power plant would worsen air quality for our community. Norristown is designated an Environmental Justice area and development of this sort would only compound the legacy of harm. I urge the Commission to exclude Barbadoes Island from the PATER Study's shortlist and prioritize sites that would not exacerbate existing environmental and flood risks.

Sincerely,
David McMahon
Norristown Councilmember at-large
Norristown, PA