MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AIR AND RADIATION ADMINISTRATION

NOTICE OF TENTATIVE DETERMINATION, PUBLIC HEARING, AND OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS

FIRST NOTICE

The Department of the Environment, Air and Radiation Administration (ARA) has completed its review of an application for a Permit to Construct submitted by Vaughn Greene Funeral Services, PA on June 8, 2020 for the installation of a Matthews Environmental Solutions Power-Pak II Plus human crematory. The proposed installation will be located at 4905 York Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21212.

The issuance of the Permit-to-Construct for this facility will be the subject of a Public Hearing to be held on August 6, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. at the Huber Memorial Church, 5700 Loch Raven Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21239.

Pursuant to Section 1-604, of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, the Department has made a tentative determination that the Permit-to-Construct can be issued. A final determination on issuance of the permit will only be made after review of all pertinent information presented at the public hearing or received in written comments. Copies of the Department's tentative determination, the application, the draft permit to construct with conditions, and other supporting documents are available for public inspection on the Department's website. Look for Docket #09-20 at the following link:

https://mde.maryland.gov/vaughn-greene

In accordance with HB 1200/Ch. 588 of 2022, an environmental justice (EJ) Score was determined for the census tract in which the project is located using the Maryland EJ Screening Tool. The EJ Score, expressed as a statewide percentile, was shown to be 95%. This score considers three demographic indicators, minority population above 50%, poverty rate above 25% and limited English proficiency above 15%, to identify underserved communities, and multiple environmental health indicators to identify overburdened communities. The Department's review of the environmental and socioeconomic indicators contributing to that EJ score is included in the tentative determination that is available for public inspection.

Persons who wish to make a statement concerning this application at the hearing are requested to provide the Department with a copy of their statement. In lieu of oral statements at the hearing, written comments may be submitted at the time of the hearing or to the Department no later than 30 days from the date of this notice or within 5 days after the hearing, whichever is later.

Interested persons may request an extension to the public comment period. The extension request must be submitted in writing and must be received by the Department no later than 30 days from the date of this notice or within 5 days after the hearing, whichever is later. The public comment period may only be extended one time for a 60-day period.

All requests for an extension to the public comment period and all written comments should be directed to the attention of Ms. Shannon Heafey by email to shannon.heafey@maryland.gov or by mail to the Air and Radiation Administration, 1800 Washington Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21230.

The Department will provide an interpreter for deaf and hearing impaired persons provided that a request is made for such service at least ten (10) days prior to the hearing.

Further information may be obtained by calling Ms. Shannon Heafey at 410-537-4433.

Christopher R. Hoagland, Director Air and Radiation Administration