

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

**AIR AND RADIATION ADMINISTRATION
APPLICATION FOR A PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT**

**SUPPLEMENT C TO
DOCKET #09-20**

COMPANY: Vaughn Greene Funeral Services, PA

LOCATION: 4905 York Road
Baltimore MD 21212

APPLICATION: Installation of a Matthews Environmental Solutions Power-Pak II Plus human crematory.

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
1	Notice of Final Determination
2	Final Determination and Responses to Comments
3	Copies of the Public Hearing Transcript, public Comments sent via e-mail, and Public comments send via online web form.
4	Final Permit to Construct and Conditions

**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
AIR AND RADIATION ADMINISTRATION
NOTICE OF FINAL DETERMINATION REGARDING A PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT APPLICATION
TO INSTALL A HUMAN CREMATORY**

**SUBMITTED BY VAUGHN GREENE FUNERAL SERVICES, PA
TO BE LOCATED IN BALTIMORE, MARYLAND**

FIRST NOTICE

The Department of the Environment, Air and Radiation Administration (ARA) has made a final determination to issue a Permit to Construct to Vaughn Greene Funeral Services, PA to install one (1) human crematory. The installation will be located at 4905 York Road, Baltimore MD 21212 in Baltimore City. Copies of the application, the final determination, the permit conditions and emissions limitations, the Department's responses to public comments, 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-green>

ARA is issuing the permit, including the conditions and emissions limitations presented in the docket, with an effective date of December 17, 2024.

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 docket that is available for public inspection.

Pursuant to Section 1-601 of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, a final determination by the Department is subject to judicial review at the request of any person that: (1) Meets the threshold standing requirements under federal law; and (2)(i) Is the applicant; or (ii) Participated in a public participation process through the submission of written or oral comments.

Any petition for judicial review must be filed pursuant to Section 1-605 of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland. The petition shall be filed by January 22, 2025 in the circuit court for the county where the application for the permit states that the proposed activity will occur and otherwise conform to the requirements of Title 1, Subtitle 6 of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland. Further information may be obtained by calling Ms. Shannon Heafey at 410-537-4433.

Christopher R. Hoagland, Director
Air and Radiation Administration

**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
AIR AND RADIATION ADMINISTRATION**

**FINAL DETERMINATION CONCERNING A PERMIT-TO-CONSTRUCT
APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY VAUGHN GREENE FUNERAL SERVICES, PA FOR
THE INSTALLATION OF ONE (1) HUMAN CREMATORY**

I. INTRODUCTION

The Maryland Department of the Environment (the "Department") received an application from Vaughn Greene Funeral Services, PA on June 8, 2020 for a Permit to Construct for the installation of one (10 new Matthew Environmental Solutions PowerPak II Plus human crematory. The installation will be located at 4905 York Road, Baltimore, MD 21212.

A notice was placed in The Baltimore Sun on October 20, 2020 and again on October 26, 2020 announcing scheduled virtual and in-person informational meetings to discuss the application for a Permit to Construct. The virtual informational meeting was held on November 2, 2020. The in-person informational meeting was held at the Chapel at Vaughn Greene Funeral Services, P.A. on November 9, 2020. As required by law, all public notices were also provided to elected officials in all State, county, and municipality legislative districts located within a one-mile radius of the facility's property boundary.

Following the informational meetings, the Department received a large volume of letters and e-mails expressing concern about the proposed project from surrounding neighborhood associations including, but not limited to, Woodbourne-McCabe, Guilford, Rosebank, Bellona, Brackenridge, Lake Evesham, and Radnor-Winston (including Winston-Govans). An additional virtual community meeting with association leaders and local elected officials was held on June 3, 2021.

Community associations challenged the zoning approval received by Vaughn Greene Funeral Services for the installation of a human crematory. On January 4, 2022, the Baltimore City Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals (BMZA) granted approval for Vaughn Greene Funeral Services, P.A. to install a crematory and on May 16, 2023, the Baltimore City Circuit Court upheld the BMZA zoning decision.

On December 13, 2023, a community meeting was scheduled to provide the public with an update on the status of the air quality permit to construct application submitted by Vaughn Greene. The in-person meeting was held at Sharp Hall at Govans Presbyterian Church, 5828 York Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21212.

After reviewing the application and other pertinent information, the Department made a tentative determination to issue a permit-to-construct that would authorize construction of the installation as proposed in the Company's applications. A Notice of the Tentative Determination, Public Hearing, and Opportunity to Submit Written Comments was published in the Baltimore Sun on July 24, 2024 and July 31, 2024.

On August 7, 2024, a public hearing was held at Huber Memorial Church, 5700 Loch Raven Boulevard, Baltimore MD 21239 to provide interested parties an opportunity to comment on the Department's tentative determination and draft permit conditions, and/or to present other pertinent concerns about the proposed installation.

II. COMMENTS RECEIVED AND THE DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE

The public comment period on the application initially expired on August 23, 2024, but was extended until October 22, 2024 following a public request for a one-time, 60-day extension. The comments received at the public hearing, and those submitted in writing during the public comment period, expressed concerns about the impact of the proposed new installation on the surrounding community. The Department's responses to the comments are attached.

III. DEPARTMENT'S FINAL DETERMINATION

The Department has reviewed the application and the comments received and has determined that the proposed installation would not cause violations of any applicable air pollution control regulations.

The Department has made a final determination to issue the permit-to-construct. A copy of the final permit to construct conditions is included in the public docket.

**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
AIR AND RADIATION ADMINISTRATION
RESPONSE TO COMMENTS
FOR
VAUGHN GREENE FUNERAL SERVICES, PA
4905 YORK ROAD
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21212**

Hearing Date: August 7, 2024
Huber Memorial Church
5700 Loch Raven Boulevard
Baltimore MD 21239

Purpose of the Hearing:

The purpose of the public hearing was to receive comment on the Maryland Department of the Environment's Tentative Determination for an air quality permit to construct for the installation of a Matthews Environmental Solutions Power-Pak II Plus human crematory to be located at 4905 York Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21212.

Attendance:

Approximately 95 members of the general public attended the hearing. The hearing was also attended by Maryland State Senator Mary Washington, representing District 43. Ms. Shannon Heafey of the Air and Radiation Administration (ARA) of the Maryland Department of the Environment (the Department) presided as Hearing Officer. Ms. Suna Yi Sariscak presented ARA's hearing statement. Vaughn Greene Funeral Services, PA was represented by Mr. Vaughn Greene. Ms. Karen Willoughby from For the Record, Inc. served as the hearing's court reporter.

Comment Period:

The comment period was open from July 24, 2024 through October 22, 2024, following a request for a one-time 60-day extension to the initial 30-day comment period. Comments were received from the public both at the hearing and in writing during the comment period. The public hearing transcript and written comments received are enclosed with this document.

Index:

1. Applicable Air Quality Emissions Standards for Crematories
2. Emissions Factors to Estimate Emissions from Crematories
3. Particulate Matter Emissions Standard and Compliance Demonstration
4. Revised Emissions Information
5. Opacity and Stack Emissions Testing
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7. Crematory Operations

8. Crematory Operating Hours
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15. Other Crematories Operating in Baltimore City
16. Alternative Methods for Cremation
17. Proposed Location of Crematory
18. Construction and Expenditures
19. Location and Scheduling of the Public Hearing

Comments and Responses:

1. Applicable Air Quality Particulate Emissions Standards for Crematories

“The MDE must update the 30-year-old particulate matter emission limit. And for this permit we urge that the MDE use these suggested regulations along with limits on frequency of burning and the source of bodies to compensate for this outdated standard.”

“This emissions limit that you're proud that they're meeting is very old. Since then we've realized that PM2.5, the very, very small particulates that come out of this kind of crematorium and all combustion are much more hazardous than the bigger pollutants which is the one that you're setting a limit for. It can lodge in the deepest recesses of the lungs. It can get into the bloodstream.”

“Fix these standards. It is outrageous that these standards are what this industry is being based on.”

“The first is that there's only one emission limit right now for crematories in MDE regulations. It's for total particulate matter and it hasn't been updated in over 30 years. It was promulgated in 1991 and that was six years before EPA published a single regulation on fine particulate matter which is PM2.5. So this regulation is significantly out of date. Not only that, but nearby states and EPA themselves, when EPA issue permits to tribal nations regulate crematory emissions at a fraction of the level that Maryland does. MDE needs to update the crematory emission limit for particulate to reflect current science and current medicine.”

“Maryland just hasn't needed to address it because cremation hasn't been a big industry until recently. But right now we know that there's close to 116 air permits for crematories in the state of Maryland at this time and all of them have fewer restrictions than the permit that we're potentially getting in the city right now.”

“when does MDE plan to update their data to make data-based decision-making, because the last time I checked I get a pretty big slap on the wrist if I use 30-year-old data –”

“if new data is found in coming decades shows that this facility is harmful to the community, will it be grandfathered in and allowed to continue operating or will it be required to meet new standards as they are issued?”

“MDE must use the most up-to-date federal and state standards in limiting emissions”

“Revise and update the existing COMAR particulate matter emission limit for crematory incinerators to reflect the current state of scientific and medical evidence pertaining to the thresholds and subfractions of airborne particulate matter impacting human health. Ensure that an updated particulate matter emission limit is cited in all MDE permits-to-operate for crematories operating in Maryland.”

“I am concerned that the data used is from 1991 and 1992 and does not properly reflect updated knowledge about the effects of small particulate matter on respiratory and cardiac health. Please refrain from issuing a permit until current data sources can be utilized.”

“Permitting a polluting facility based on 30 plus year old standards that ignore ALL health standards we have today is really frightening and again beneath the standards MDE should set for protecting our communities, our air and our water.”

MDE Response:

Air pollution emissions standards are developed to regulate stationary sources of pollution to minimize the impact of the source on ambient air quality. One of the main responsibilities of the Department’s Air and Radiation Administration is to ensure that Maryland complies with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for carbon monoxide, lead, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, ozone and particle pollution (as PM-10 and PM-2.5).

In the case of crematories, the particulate matter emission standard is 0.10 grains per standard cubic foot, dry (gr/SCFD) (COMAR 26.11.08.05). It was developed to ensure that Maryland achieved attainment with the NAAQS for total suspended particulate (TSP), the form of the NAAQS for particulate matter applicable at the time the crematory regulations were developed. In 1987, the NAAQS for particulate matter with a diameter of 10 microns or less (PM-10) replaced the NAAQS for TSP. In 1997, a NAAQS for particulate matter with a diameter of 2.5 microns or less (PM-2.5) was introduced.

There have been no changes to the particulate matter emission standard for crematories because Maryland currently meets the NAAQS for both PM-10 and PM-2.5. Existing particulate matter emission standards are adequate to ensure that Maryland is in attainment with the NAAQS for both PM-10 and PM-2.5. Additionally, there are no federal regulations or other mandates that require Maryland to adopt more stringent particulate matter emission standards for crematories.

2. Emissions Factors to Estimate Emissions from Crematories

“MDE uses this list along with associated emission factors to estimate TAP emissions from the proposed crematory incinerator. The reference MDE cites for most of the crematory TAP emission factors is a California Air Resources Board (CARB) report published in 1999. This report indicates that the emission factors were taken from a single stack test of a crematory, sometime prior to 1999, and rates the quality of the emission factors:

“The Table III list of TAPs that MDE relies on fails to address metal emissions that are known to exist in present day crematory incinerator emissions due to the presence of medical devices and cosmetic implants in human remains. Given the age of the Table III emission factors, it is unlikely that stack tests conducted 30 and 40 years ago were performed on human remains with imbedded medical devices or cosmetic implants which were not used widely at the time the stack tests were conducted.”

“In the absence of up-to-date and representative TAP emissions factors for crematory incinerators, MDE must obligate measurement of TAPs in crematory stack exhaust to determine compliance with applicable air quality regulations in COMAR. This measurement should be conducted using EPA-approved stack testing methods and include all of the metals identified in Table 2. Further, due to the non-uniformity of human remains committed to cremation, differences in after death care prior to cremation, and variations in maintenance and operating practices, no substitution of stack test results from other crematories should be allowed. Modern cremation practices, MDE must require periodic stack tests for crematory incinerators in order to ensure compliance with applicable regulatory requirements.”

“But those toxic calculations, the big table with all the toxic estimates of pollution, those are based on some crematorium in New Jersey in 1992. So that's very old too.”

“The methods MDE uses in estimating other crematory emissions are likewise over 30 years old. Factors used in estimating toxic emissions do not sufficiently account for the incineration of modern medical or cosmetic devices that contain toxic metals, synthetic materials and chemicals (including radioactive chemicals). In short, current estimates simply do not adequately assure the safety of crematory emissions.”

“The reason that they haven't been updated it is there hasn't been a groundswell of need. EPA hasn't put the money into it. The states might not have the money into it. But something needs to be done to update the emission factors. They're irrelevant. They bear no resemblance, especially since most crematories today, they're managing human remains that include medical devices, that include many, many metals that are not reflected in those current emission factors.”

“emission factors that are in that best practices documents bear no resemblance to all of those things that are going up the stack”

MDE Response:

Emissions factors are used to estimate emissions from air pollution sources, and the data to establish those factors are typically developed using either the average or the worst-case emission levels measured at an operating facility.

The use of emissions factors is a widely accepted practice to establish a reference point for the expected quantity of emissions from a proposed source of air pollution and to use those estimates to determine whether the source will comply with applicable air quality standards.

For human crematories, EPA conducted extensive stack emissions testing of a crematory unit in 1999 for the purpose of developing emissions factors for the industry. These emissions factors are used throughout the United States as the basis for estimating emissions from human crematories.

The Department recognizes the need for confirmation and assurance that the emissions factors established in 1999 still reflect the expected emissions from a human crematory today.

Upon request of several member states including Maryland, the Mid-Atlantic Regional Air Management Association (MARAMA), an association of state and local air agencies, formed a crematory workgroup in October 2023 to assist member agencies. MARAMA member agencies include Maryland, Delaware, the District of Columbia, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and Philadelphia and Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. The workgroup meets monthly and is in the process of developing a best practices document for the permitting and enforcement of human and animal crematories based on the input received from member agencies and other states, such as California and Massachusetts, who also participate in the workgroup.

After reviewing data from the workgroup, the Department has determined that the EPA emissions factors are conservative estimates (higher emission factors expected to be more protective of public health) when compared to actual stack emissions test data conducted in recent years in other states for emissions of sulfur dioxide, volatile organic compounds, and carbon monoxide. For emissions of particulate matter, the Department reviewed recent reported data in the EPA's 2020 National Emissions Inventory Technical Support Document for Cremation to establish a more conservative emissions factor than what was previously used based on the 1999 EPA emissions factors. This document was also used to establish more conservative emissions factors for the following toxic air pollutants: acenaphthylene, arsenic, benzo (g,h,i) perylene, cadmium, chromium (VI), cobalt, hydrogen chloride, and naphthalene. For emissions of acetaldehyde, formaldehyde, and mercury, the Department used the worst-case data from California's Bay Area Air Quality Management District's permit manual for cremation.

The Department's strategy for estimating emissions from the proposed human crematory was to use the worst-case known data currently available for all pollutants, as this represents the maximum amount of a given pollutant that we would expect to be emitted.

Emissions factors are expressed in pounds of pollutant emitted per cremation. Mercury has the most potential for impact to public health (most stringent exposure level) of all the pollutants emitted from a human crematory. The California Bay Area emissions factor to estimate mercury emissions is 0.005 pounds per cremation, which is higher than what Maryland previously used based on EPA's emissions factor (0.003 pounds per cremation). Using the higher emissions factor results in a higher projected mercury emissions rate. For review purposes, using the higher emissions factor provides a more conservative picture of emissions, which leans towards being more protective of public health.

This emissions rate coupled with the stringent exposure level for mercury required by Maryland's toxic air pollutant regulations, limits Vaughn Greene to no more than two cremations in an 8-hour period.

At this limit, emissions of all other toxic air pollutants are well below their established exposure levels. Using mercury emissions as the limiting factor on the operation of the crematory significantly reduces the emissions of all other pollutants.

3. Particulate Matter Emissions Standard and Compliance Demonstration

“It appears that this condition [the Permittee shall conduct performance tests on the crematory stack to determine emissions of particulate matter (as PM-10) using EPA Method 5] is asking the for the stack test to report (only) the PM10 fraction of particulate matter – when the MDE emission limit for crematory incinerators is for total PM. The language of this condition should be revised and clarified to ensure that stack test results are comparable to the MDE PM emission limit for crematory incinerators.”

“It would also be instructive to have speciation of the stack exhaust for both PM10 and PM2.5 since there is a paucity of quantitative data on crematory incinerator emissions in scientific literature, and this would also enable a quantitative assessment of annual emissions of PM pollutants for the annual emissions certification.”

“Clarify the reportable fractions of the Method 5 stack test to include total PM, PM10 and PM2.5.”

“It is unclear how MDE could have arrived at its determination that the proposed crematory incinerator will comply with all applicable State air quality control requirements when it failed to include an analysis of compliance with the PM emission limit for crematory incinerators found in COMAR 26.11.08.05.B.(2)(a).”

MDE Response:

The commenter is correct regarding the particulate matter emissions standard in COMAR 26.11.08.05B(2)(a) of 0.10 gr/SCFD (grains per standard cubic foot of dry exhaust gas). It is a total suspended particulate matter (TSP) standard and not a PM-10 (particulate matter with a nominal diameter of 10 microns or less) or PM-2.5 standard (particulate matter with a nominal diameter of 2.5 microns or less). The appropriate EPA test method to demonstrate compliance with the TSP standard is EPA Method 5. This method is cited correctly in the permit in Part E(3), but the phrase “(as PM-10) using EPA Method 5” is incorrect. Part E(3) in the permit has been corrected to read “to determine emissions of particulate matter using EPA Method 5” and “(as PM-10) has been removed. As there is no applicable PM-10 or PM-2.5 standard for crematories and PM-10 and PM-2.5 are considered subsets of TSP, there is no requirement to conduct performance testing for PM-10 and PM-2.5.

An analysis of the expected particulate matter emissions and compliance with the crematory particulate matter emissions limit of 0.10 gr/SCFD is included as follows:

Vendor Provided Data

Outlet stack volumetric flow rate (V): 2300 ACFM or actual cubic feet per minute

Outlet temperature (T): 1100 °F, converted to 1560 °R (Rankine)

Outlet pressure (P): 1 atm (atmosphere)

Standard Data

Standard temperature (Tstd): 492°R

Standard pressure (Pstd): 1 atm

Convert actual volumetric flow rate (V) to standard conditions (Vstd) in SCFM or standard cubic feet per minute using the following equation:

$$V_{std} = \frac{(V * T_{std} * P)}{(T * P_{std})} = \frac{(2300 * 492 * 1)}{(1100 * 1)} = 1029 \text{ SCFM}$$

Convert Vstd in SCFM to $\frac{SCFD}{minute}$ (standard cubic feet dry per minute) by removing the moisture content from the standard flow rate (SCFM) to convert the flow rate to a dry standard flow rate (SCFD per minute). Moisture content of crematory stack exhaust gases vary from approximately 7% to 15%.

$$V_{std, dry} = (V_{std}) - (V_{std} * \% \text{ moisture}) = (1029) - (1029 * 0.15) = 875 \frac{SCFD}{minute}$$

The applicable particulate matter emissions limit for crematories is 0.10 gr/SCFD, or grains per standard cubic feet, dry. By assuming a 15% moisture content, a value that is on the higher end of what is typical for crematory stack exhaust gases and removing that moisture content from the standard flow rate, results in a lower dry standard flow rate (SCFD per minute) than using a 7% moisture content (a value that is on the lower end of what is typical for crematory stack exhaust gases). Since the SCFD value appears in the denominator of the emissions limit and the particulate matter emissions in the numerator will be divided by the SCFD, a lower SCFD will result in conservative, higher particulate matter emissions estimate.

Convert the particulate matter emissions in pounds per hour to grains/SCFD. The particulate matter emissions factor is expressed as 0.25 pounds per cremation. The Department calculated particulate matter emissions rate in pounds per hour, assuming a worst-case scenario of 1 cremation per hour, 0.25 pounds of particulate matter per hour.

$$PM \left(\frac{gr}{SCFD} \right) = \frac{0.25 \text{ pounds}}{\text{hour}} * \frac{7000 \text{ grains}}{\text{pound}} * \frac{\text{hour}}{60 \text{ minutes}} * \frac{\text{minute}}{875 \text{ SCFD}} = 0.03 \frac{gr}{SCFD}$$

The estimated worst-case particulate matter emissions are 0.03 gr/SCFD which is less than the applicable particulate matter emissions limit of 0.10 gr/SCFD.

4. Revised Emissions Information

“I was not able to reproduce the daily or annual emission rates for criteria pollutants shown in Table I, or the hourly emission rates for TAPs shown in Table III.”

“Provide example calculations for how the criteria and TAP emission rates were derived. Include all relevant units and conversion factors used in the calculation.”

“As shown in the *Emissions Methodology for Table I*, the total maximum heat input rate used to estimate criteria pollutant emissions for the crematory burners was reported as 2.2 million Btu per hour. However, the specification sheet and design schematic for the proposed crematory incinerator (as shown in the permit application) reported the Gross Gas Input, Natural or LP Gass = 3,000,000 BTU/hr. See *SPECIFICATIONS Model Power-Pak II Plus*, and *POWER-PAK II PLU.S.-Stack Details, Clearances, & Installation Instructions. Refractory Stack Detail*. It appears that the higher heat input (3,000,000 BTU/hr) rate should have been used to estimate criteria pollutant emissions from the crematory incinerator natural gas burners.”

“Resolve and explain the discrepancy in the crematory heat input. Revise emission estimates as necessary if the higher heat input is correct. If the specification and design schematic submitted in the permit application are out-of-date, obtain an up-to-date specification sheet and design schematic from the manufacturer. Provide all updated specification sheets and schematics in the public record.”

MDE Response:

The commenter is correct. The Department used a maximum rated heat input of 2.2 million Btu per hour to calculate the criteria pollutant emissions from the crematory burners. However, in the specifications for the actual unit in the application, the maximum rated heat input is listed at 3 million Btu per hour. The Department has recalculated both the emissions in Table I and the emissions impacts in Table II from the tentative determination based on 3 million Btu per hour.

While there is a slight increase in emissions of criteria pollutants and VOC, there is no change in the air quality requirements that are applicable to the crematory. The description of the unit in the table on page 2 of the permit to construct has been revised as follows: Matthews Environmental Solutions PowerPak II Plus, 175 pounds per hour, human crematory, equipped with a natural gas fired burner with a maximum rated heat input of up to 3.0 million Btu per hour. This limits the burner design to no more than 3.0 million Btu per hour.

Tables I and II of the Department’s determination have been revised as follows to reflect the increase in criteria pollutants and VOC from the burner size discrepancy. Below Table I, there is a calculations section that explains how the values were calculated for Table I. Table III was not revised, but there is an explanation for the how the values were calculated below.

**TABLE I - REVISED
PROJECTED MAXIMUM EMISSIONS FROM THE PROPOSED
INSTALLATION**

POLLUTANT	EMISSIONS FACTOR	PROJECTED MAXIMUM EMISSIONS	
	(lbs/cremation)	(lbs/day)	(tons/year)
Oxides of Nitrogen (NO _x) (includes Nitrogen Dioxide – NO ₂)	0.56	3.4	0.6
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	0.47	2.8	0.5
Sulfur Dioxide (SO ₂)	0.16	1.0	0.2
Total Particulate Matter (PM) (includes PM-10 and PM-2.5)	0.25	1.5	0.3
Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC)	0.24	1.4	0.3

EMISSIONS METHODOLOGY FOR TABLE I - REVISED

Combustion Emissions from Natural Gas Fired Burners

U.S. EPA approved AP-42 emissions factors, Table 1.4-1 and Table 1.4-1, for natural gas combustion were used to calculate worst-case emissions from the burners. Total maximum rated heat input for the burners is 3 million Btu per hour.

Combustion Emissions from the Cremation Process

For emissions from the cremation process, the most conservative emissions factors were used from the following sources:

1. The U.S. EPA's 2020 National Emissions Inventory Technical Support Document for Cremation for emissions of total particulate matter.
2. The Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Engineering Division – Permit Manual, pages 203-206, for emissions of oxides of nitrogen.
3. U.S. EPA WebFIRE approved emissions factors for cremation for emissions of oxides of sulfur, carbon monoxide, and volatile organic compounds.

Calculations

1. The emissions factors from the burners and cremation process are both expressed in pounds per cremation. Both factors were added together to get total combustion emissions per pollutant.

2. Cremations are limited to 2 per 8-hour period, or 6 per 24-hour operating day. The pounds per day for each pollutant was calculated by multiplying the emissions factor in pounds per cremation by 6 cremations per operating day.
3. Annual emissions in tons per year were calculated using the calculated pounds per day and multiplying the value by 365 days per year and then dividing by 2000 pounds per ton to convert the number into tons per year.
4. Final numbers were rounded to the nearest tenth.

TABLE II - REVISED
PROJECTED IMPACT OF EMISSIONS OF CRITERIA POLLUTANTS FROM
THE PROPOSED INSTALLATION ON AMBIENT AIR QUALITY

POLLUTANTS	MAXIMUM OFF-SITE GROUND LEVEL CONCENTRATIONS CAUSED BY EMISSIONS FROM PROPOSED PROCESS ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	BACKGROUND AMBIENT AIR CONCENTRATION S ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	NATIONAL AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARDS (NAAQS) ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2)	annual avg \rightarrow 0.9	annual avg \rightarrow 17	annual avg \rightarrow 100
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	1-hour max \rightarrow 9.1 8-hour max \rightarrow 6.3	1-hour max. \rightarrow 2177 8-hour max. \rightarrow 1489	1-hour max. \rightarrow 40,000 8-hour max. \rightarrow 10,000
Sulfur Dioxide (SO_2)	24-hour max \rightarrow 1.3 annual avg \rightarrow 0.3	24-hour max \rightarrow 4.2 annual avg \rightarrow 0.8	24-hour max \rightarrow 366 annual avg \rightarrow 78.5
Particulate Matter (PM_{10})	24-hour max \rightarrow 1.9	24-hour max \rightarrow 23	24-hour max \rightarrow 150
Particulate Matter ($\text{PM}_{2.5}$)	24-hour max \rightarrow 1.2 annual avg \rightarrow 0.2	24-hour max \rightarrow 24 annual avg \rightarrow 7	24-hour max \rightarrow 35 annual avg \rightarrow 12

MODELING METHODOLOGY FOR TABLE II

The U.S. EPA's SCREEN3 computer model, which provides conservative estimations concerning the impact of pollutants on ambient air quality, was used to predict the maximum concentration of each pollutant listed in Table II beyond the facility's nearest property boundary. As 2023 complete monitoring data is not yet finalized, background ambient concentrations from 2022 were obtained from the Department's air quality network as follows:

NO₂ and PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} → Lake Montebello Air Monitoring Station, 3900 Hillen Road, Baltimore City

CO and SO₂ → Essex Monitoring Station, 600 Dorsey Avenue, Baltimore County

**EMISSIONS AND MODELING METHODOLOGY FOR TABLE III
PREDICTED MAXIMUM OFF-SITE AMBIENT CONCENTRATIONS FOR
TOXIC AIR POLLUTANTS EMITTED FROM THE FACILITY**

The values in Table III represent maximum facility-wide emissions of toxic air pollutants during any 1-hour period of facility operation. For emissions of toxic air pollutants that would be emitted from the cremation process, the most conservative emissions factors were used from the following sources:

1. The U.S. EPA's 2020 National Emissions Inventory Technical Support Document for Cremation for emissions of acenaphthylene, arsenic, benzo (g,h,i) perylene, cadmium, chromium (VI), cobalt, hydrogen chloride, and naphthalene.
2. The Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Engineering Division – Permit Manual, pages 203-206, for emissions of acetaldehyde and formaldehyde.
3. The Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Engineering Division – Addendum to Mercury Emissions from Cremation of Human Remains, for emissions of mercury.

The U.S. EPA's SCREEN3 computer model was used to predict the maximum concentration of each toxic air pollutant listed in Table III beyond the facility's nearest property boundary. This concentration was then compared to the Department's air toxics screening levels for each toxic air pollutant.

Calculations

Emissions factors were expressed in pounds per cremation. As a worst-case estimate, it was assumed that 1 cremation occurs per hour. Therefore, the emissions factors in pounds per cremation are equal to the emissions in pounds per hour listed in Column 2 of Table III.

The values in Table III are based on the worst-case toxic air pollutant data available and uses the mercury emissions rate coupled with the stringent exposure level for mercury required by Maryland's toxic air pollutant regulations to set the limit on the number of cremations Vaughn Greene Funeral Services, PA can perform in any 8-hour period. Vaughn Greene Funeral Services, PA is required to remove all mercury amalgams prior to cremation, so it is highly unlikely that any mercury emissions will be present in the exhaust gases.

This limitation, along with prohibiting the combustion of halogenated plastics, hazardous waste, hospital waste, medical/infectious waste, municipal solid waste, and other materials required by the Maryland Department of Health, are conservative measures designed to be protective of public health by significantly reducing the potential toxic air pollutant emissions from the process.

5. Opacity and Stack Emissions Testing

“Testing once every five years or testing another stack somewhere else is just not acceptable. There should actually be recurring stack tests throughout that five-year period, and that the crematory ensure that it is operating within regulatory limits.”

“The data needs to be meaningful and it needs to be of the stack and it needs to be repeated so that we can be assured of our health.”

“Recurring stack tests so we have maybe five years things are good, or not so good, and then maybe we'll come back and maybe do another test or maybe take a test from some other location.”

“You can't tell us if this will affect our health in the future because your permit calls for one test of the smokestack on startup of the crematorium.”

“We want more frequent smokestack tests and limits on the number of bodies and hours of operations and more.”

“We want required and frequently recurring stack and opacity tests for this specific Vaughn Greene crematorium. No substitutions for similar crematoriums may be made.”

“...monitor the stack on a regular basis, and of course we will make that data publicly available to the community that is affected by the emissions of that stack, of course we will spell out exactly which emissions we are monitoring and what their levels are, and we will do our darndest to make sure that the permitted levels are as stringent as possible.”

“I am concerned that the proposal states that 3rd party data from a similar smoke stack can be used. If a permit is issued, it should include a requirement for routine testing of the actual smokestack that is being issued the permit.”

“I feel that the permit is inadequate because it does not require emissions testing of the stack proposed at Vaughn Greene.”

“The tests need to be done on Vaughn Greene's unit, not on an “identical unit”. It Appears that virtually all testing (eg: certification of emissions) is to be done by Vaughn Greene.”

The testing should be done by MDE with all costs to be paid by Vaughn Greene. Operating a crematorium is a privilege, not a right and Maryland taxpayers should not have to bear any costs relating to such operation.”

“Remove the permission for a crematorium to submit pollution information from another location...”

“Request that the requirement to conduct an EPA Method 9 opacity observation be expanded to once per calendar quarter during normal crematory operations to ensure that there is ongoing assurance that the crematory is operating according to regulatory requirements.”

“...due to the mechanical wear and fatigue that high temperature incinerators experience over time, it is essential to have periodic stack tests to track and document any potential degradation to the crematory incinerator performance throughout its operating lifetime, and to ensure ongoing compliance with the MDE PM emission limit and TAP regulations.”

“There should be no option to submit surrogate stack tests as representative of stack emissions produced by the VGFS crematory incinerator.”

“In the absence of up-to-date and representative emissions factors for crematory incinerators, MDE must obligate measurement of criteria air pollutants in crematory stack exhaust to determine compliance with applicable air quality regulations in COMAR. This measurement should be conducted using EPA- approved stack testing methods or continuous emission monitors. Further, due to the non-uniformity of human remains committed to cremation, differences in after death care prior to cremation, and variations in maintenance and operating practices, no substitution on of stack test results from other crematories should be allowed.”

“In the absence of any evidence-based foundation on the emissions associated with modern cremation practices, MDE must require periodic stack tests for crematory incinerators in order to ensure compliance with applicable regulatory requirements.”

“In the absence of up-to-date and representative TAP emissions factors for crematory incinerators, MDE must obligate measurement of TAPs in crematory stack exhaust to determine compliance with applicable air quality regulations in COMAR. This measurement should be conducted using EPA-approved stack testing methods and include all of the metals identified...”

“... due to the non-uniformity of human remains committed to cremation, differences in after death care prior to cremation, and variations in maintenance and operating practices, no substitution of stack test results from other crematories should be allowed.”

“MDE must require periodic stack tests for crematory incinerators in order to ensure compliance with applicable regulatory requirements.”

“Request that the requirement to conduct stack emissions testing to demonstrate compliance with applicable PM and TAP requirements be a recurring requirement to occur once at startup, and then at least once during the 5-year term of the air permit. This routine surveillance is needed because all mechanical devices wear over time and periodic stack tests are needed to ensure compliance with applicable regulatory requirements throughout the operating lifetime of the equipment.”

“Request that the requirement to conduct an EPA Method 9 opacity observation be expanded to once per calendar quarter during normal crematory operations to ensure that there is ongoing assurance that the crematory is operating according to regulatory requirements. This routine surveillance is needed because all mechanical devices wear over time and periodic Method 9 observations can track and document any potential degradation.”

MDE Response:

The use of stack emissions testing results from similar or identical units or processes is a widely accepted practice used by industry and federal and state environmental agencies to establish a frame of reference for the quantity, nature, and range of emissions from a certain source category, such as from human cremation. This practice is used when there is little variation in the process and when stack emissions testing is cost prohibitive or impossible to conduct at the actual site.

For the proposed human crematory at Vaughn Greene Funeral Services, PA, the Department recognizes that the need for stack emissions testing at the actual site is critical to assure the public that the emissions will meet applicable air quality standards. Part E(3) of the permit has been revised to remove the requirement allowing the Permittee to submit a stack emissions testing results from an identical unit. Vaughn Greene Funeral Services, PA will be required to conduct an initial opacity test, an initial particulate matter emissions test, and an initial metals emissions test on the actual human crematory within 120 days of initial startup.

Prior to receiving a full-term, five-year State Permit to Operate, the required initial opacity and stack emissions tests must show compliance with applicable air quality standards. Depending on the initial results, additional or subsequent opacity and stack emissions tests may be required in the State Permit to Operate or subsequent renewals. Per COMAR 26.11.01.04, the Department reserves the right to require testing at any time to demonstrate compliance with applicable air quality standards and would exercise that right should conditions warrant more frequent testing.

6. Continuous Monitoring and Emissions Controls

“...we need to have it continuously monitored in a meaningful way so that we can be assured of the science and the data. It needs to be transparent...”

“...the application does not contain a robust monitoring system procedure despite regularly monitoring being considered a best practice. I see that that's been added. I'm curious about the details of the scheduling of the monitoring and how available those results will be to the public. And I just want to see that they're doing what they said they're going to do.”

“We really need strong monitoring...”

“You need to really have monitoring and you need to have monitoring that is reported to the public, really like on a website that we all can see, that we can see daily what is happening at the incinerator.”

“...require independent emissions monitoring throughout the life of the permit.”

“MDE must require continuous emissions monitoring throughout the life of the permit to ensure compliance with safety standards and protect the health of residents.”

“MDE must require independent emissions monitoring throughout the life of the permit”

“What about hazardous emissions that are not visible to the naked eye, such as carbon monoxide?”

“The equipment listed in the permit is also intended to run automatically for long periods of time without staff on site. A key component of crematorium safety is the ability to react when equipment malfunctions. A polluting facility of this size in a densely populated area must have staff on site to reduce response times when equipment fails.”

“Will the “control system” associated with the crematory opacity sensor be able to terminate crematory operation if stack gas opacity exceeds the MDE emission limit, or does the “control system” merely adjust the air/fuel ratio in the refractory to optimize combustion?”

“Clarify language of this paragraph to reflect the exactly how the opacity sensor is expected to affect crematory operation, and whether there will be an automated shutdown if opacity of stack exhaust exceeds the regulatory limit.”

“MDE must mandate the installation of state-of-the-art pollution controls to reduce any harmful emissions.”

“MDE must require adequate pollution controls to be installed”

“Retrofitting a scrubber to the crematorium to reduce emissions”

“lack of requirements for stack scrubbers or other pollutant-mitigating engineering approaches or limits on when and for how many hours a day the crematorium can operate”

“There should be continuous opacity monitoring while the crematory is operating to ensure that visible emissions do not exceed the COMAR limit of 0% opacity, and that the opacity reading should be used in automated feedback to adjust crematory operations to prevent visible emissions. However, if visible emissions persist, there should be an automated shutdown of the crematory, or an obligation to manually shut down the crematory if visible emissions persist past 6 minutes.”

“Carbon monoxide monitoring is the best practice because monitoring for this colorless gas can be an early indicator that some part of a process has gone wrong in a way that could harm human health. Carbon monoxide is sometimes used by the EPA as a proxy pollutant for hazardous air pollutants or HAPs, generally because both can be byproducts of incomplete combustion.”

MDE Response:

A well operated and maintained human crematory should not result in a violation of any applicable air quality standard. There are several measures in place in the permit to construct to ensure that the crematory is properly operated and maintained to achieve complete combustion and is equipped with appropriate emissions control systems and monitoring systems.

First, the permit requires that the crematory be equipped with a secondary combustion chamber capable of achieving a retention time of at least 1.0 second and an operating temperature of at least 1600 °F. A secondary combustion chamber is an emissions control device and serves to ensure that gases from the primary cremation chamber achieve complete combustion, reducing the potential for pollutants to be discharged to the atmosphere. The permit not only requires a minimum temperature of at least 1600 °F, the permit requires that the temperature be continuously monitored and recorded, and a cremation cannot be initiated unless the secondary chamber temperature reaches that temperature.

Second, the permit requires that the crematory be equipped with an opacity sensor that is interlocked with a control system that continuously monitors the stack gases for visible emissions and adjusts cremation operations to prevent visible emissions from exiting the crematory stack. This control system alerts the operator at the facility and also alerts the crematory vendor's 24-hour technician service. Although the control system is designed to make adjustments automatically to prevent visible emissions such as adjusting the air flow or gas mixture to promote complete combustion, the crematory vendor can also make adjustments remotely or instruct the facility operator locally to make adjustments as needed.

Third, the permit requires the stack height of the crematory stack to be at least 40 feet above ground. At this height, the exhaust gases from the stack will be properly dispersed to prevent downwash or heavy concentrations of pollutants at or near the facility and neighboring area.

Fourth, the permit requires initial opacity and stack emissions testing for particulate matter and metal emissions. During the testing, operating parameters for the crematory unit will be monitored to establish the appropriate range that ensures proper operation and emissions compliance.

Fifth, the permit restricts what can be processed in the human crematory, limiting cremations to only two in any 8-hour period.

Finally, the permit requires Vaughn Greene Funeral Services, PA to develop and maintain an Operations and Maintenance Plan that is approved by the Department. The plan would include provisions for the operator to ensure that the crematory is properly operated and maintained and if there are process upsets, what corrective actions would be required.

These measures are more than adequate to ensure complete combustion and proper operation and maintenance. Additional emissions controls or monitors such as scrubbers or carbon monoxide monitors are not necessary to demonstrate compliance with applicable air quality standards.

7. Crematory Operations

"[the draft permit conditions]... do not include Maryland DOH regulations which also pertain to the operation of crematories in Maryland. Several COMAR Title 10 health regulations have direct bearing on the management of air pollutant emissions created by a crematory incinerator, and should be identified in the air permit-to-operate as applicable requirements to ensure awareness and compliance for the crematory owner and operators."

"...Board of Zoning or Baltimore regulations require removal of synthetic plastics, we would like to actually see that in the permit."

"We want all medical implants removed."

"Removal of medical implants before cremation that is not limited to just mercury fillings."

"[there is a] whole industry called crematory recycling where crematories give up the ash that's produced in their crematoriums to recyclers and scrap metalists where they extract the metals that are in that ash for money."

“And by their own estimates sometimes as much as \$100,000 a year can be made by recycling the ash and extracting the metals that are in it, things like cobalt and titanium and nickel and silver and gold and platinum and palladium.”

“...they get they get a lab analysis that tells them exactly the chemical elements that are in there and the amounts. So there is scientific evidence of the amount of metals that are in the ash and that are going up the stack.”

“many things other than human remains are being processed during cremation. These materials appear in sufficient quantities that an industry has sprung up to extract value from metals that accrue in crematory incinerator ash. If metals are present in the ash, they are also unquestionably present in the crematory stack emissions. The industry websites indicate that they recover metals like cobalt, titanium, gold, silver, palladium, platinum, iron, and "dental materials" which appear to have the greatest value according to the graphic below.”

“The presence of these metals in crematory ash is another reason that the 30-year old EPA emission factors are flawed as those factors reflect a time when medical and cosmetic implants were not as widespread.”

“Crematory incinerator owners operating in Maryland with an MDE-issued air permit-to-operate should be formally queried by MDE about whether they send post-cremation remains for metal recycling.”

“The presence of metals in the post-cremation remains should be compared to MDE-recommended air pollutant emission factors in order to determine whether these factors properly reflect the type and magnitude of metals present in crematory incinerator exhaust.”

“Chemical analyses of post-cremation remains should be submitted with the annual emission certifications required of crematory owners with an MDE air permit-to-operate to the extent that they constitute regulated emissions.”

“What happens if you're burning and PFAS are coming out? These are chemicals that do not destruct at that temperature. We've got dioxins. We've got lead, mercury, and PM2.5 that can be coming out.”

“Additionally, in the permit the provisions that only bodies currently owned or operated -- sorry, only bodies from, currently owned or operated by Vaughn Greene can be sent.”

“In order to remove any uncertainty about the scope on origin of human remains processed at VGFS 4905 York Road location, request that language be added to the permit identifying the following locations as the only VGFS entities which may divert cremation business to the VGFS York Road location, and only for business originating at those locations:

- 8728 Liberty Road, Randallstown, Maryland 21133
- 5151 Baltimore National Pike, Baltimore, Maryland 21229
- 4101 Edmondson Avenue Baltimore, Maryland 21229”

“Only bodies from the currently owned facilities be permitted to be cremated, no importation of bodies from other facilities or operations.”

“Limit body processing to other Vaughn Greene owned or operated facilities only”

“Modify permit language to obligate documentation and recordkeeping of materials removed prior to cremation for those materials regulated by COMAR 10.29.19.02.A.(2), (3), (4) and (5).”

“...the regulatory citation provided [in Part D(2)(d) of the draft permit] does not define hazardous waste, or hospital, medical, and infectious waste. There is a definition for hospital waste at COMAR 26.11.08.01B(19), but there are no definitions for hazardous waste, medical waste or infectious waste in the MDE Control of Incinerators regulation (COMAR 26.11.08). Further, municipal waste (Incinerator Institute of America - Type 0 waste) should be added to the list of materials prohibited from being processed in the crematory, along with a relevant COMAR regulatory citation to define the term.”

MDE Response:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) regulates cremations, crematories, and crematory operators under COMAR 10.29.18 and .19. Many of the restrictions found in regulations for that agency overlap with Maryland Department of the Environment requirements and some of them do not. For example, MDH requires the removal of battery operated, implanted devices, any hazardous object, and all jewelry from human remains prior to cremation. In addition, cremation containers cannot be composed of metal or polyethylene material. MDE additionally prohibits the combustion of any halogenated plastics, including polyvinyl chloride (PVC) body bags or PVC pipes, and prohibits the combustion of any hazardous, hospital, medical, and infectious waste. Plastics containing perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are considered halogenated plastics and are prohibited. Furthermore, specific to Vaughn Greene Funeral Services, PA, all mercury amalgams must be removed from human remains prior to cremation.

It is important to note that the Maryland Department of Health’s State Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors conduct their own inspections of crematory facilities to determine compliance with MDH regulations. It is not under the purview of the Maryland Department of the Environment to enforce the requirements governed by a different State agency. However, the MDH requirements will be incorporated by reference in the permit to construct as requested by the commenter to ensure awareness and compliance for the crematory owner and operators.

With regard to metals recycling of implants or other metal devices, non-battery operated medical implants or devices that are not explicitly required to be removed by MDH regulation may be in the human remains that are processed by the human crematory. During the cremation process, water, soft tissues, and the cremation container are burned. In addition to bone fragments, any metal implants and devices capable of withstanding the heat remain intact in the primary chamber and are not emitted as particles to the atmosphere. Although there are some crematory facilities in Maryland who participate in metals recycling programs that provide monetary compensation for metal implants and devices recovered during cremation, Vaughn Greene Funeral Services, PA has indicated to the Department that they will not participate in metals recycling at their facility. Any metals recovered would be returned to the client or disposed of per the client's request.

With regard to COMAR 26.11.08.01B(18), the commenter is correct that the regulation does not define "hospital, medical, and infectious waste" directly. The permit has been revised to include appropriate regulatory citations for the definitions for hazardous waste, and hospital, medical, and infectious waste and will expand the prohibition to include municipal waste along with the citation for the definition of municipal waste.

To further clarify what can and cannot be processed in the crematory, the permit conditions have been revised as follows:

Part D(2)

"The Permittee shall comply with the following premises-wide operational limitations unless the Permittee can demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Department, that compliance with all applicable air quality regulations and standards can be achieved under other operational conditions:

- (a) The Permittee shall only cremate human remains in the Matthews Environmental Solutions, PowerPak II Plus, 175 pounds per hour, crematory.
- (b) The Permittee shall not cremate more than 2 human remains during any 8-hour period.
- (c) The Permittee shall not combust any halogenated plastics, including polyvinyl chloride (PVC) body bags, PVC pipes, or perfluoralkyl substance (PFAS) containing materials.
- (d) The Permittee shall not combust any hazardous waste as defined in COMAR 26.13.02.03; hospital waste as defined in 40 CFR 60, Subpart Ec, medical/infectious waste as defined in 40 CFR 60, Subpart Ec; or municipal waste as defined in 40 CFR, Part 60, Subpart Eb.

- (e) The Permittee shall comply with all crematory operation restrictions and requirements specified by the Maryland Department of Health in COMAR 10.29.18 and COMAR 10.29.19.”

Part D(6)

“The Permittee shall comply with the following local zoning conditions as specified by the Baltimore City Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals (BMZA) unless the Permittee obtains approval from the BMZA to operate at other conditions:

- (a) Only human remains from funeral homes owned, operated, or controlled by Vaughn Greene Funeral Services at this location or one of the following locations may be cremated on the premises:
 - (i) 8728 Liberty Road, Randallstown, Maryland 21133
 - (ii) 5151 Baltimore National Pike, Baltimore, Maryland 21229
 - (iii) 4101 Edmondson Avenue Baltimore, Maryland 21229;
- (b) Vaughn Greene Funeral Services will remove all teeth containing mercury amalgams prior to cremation; and
- (c) Vaughn Greene Funeral Services will comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws.

8. Crematory Operating Hours

“As written, [Part D(2)(b) of the draft permit] allows for the cremation of up to 6 human remains in a 24-hour period (or up to 2,190 human cremations/year), with no limits on the timing of the cremation during a day or during a week...”

“Define the crematory operating schedule as shown below in order to provide nearby residents with fixed intervals of respite from crematory exhaust: Crematory operations shall be permitted up to 12 hours/day between the hours of 6:00AM to 6:00PM, and up to 5 days/week between Monday through Friday. During this interval, the Permittee shall not cremate more than 3 human remains during any 12-hour period.”

MDE Response:

Hours of operation included in permit applications do not constitute enforceable numeric limits beyond the extent necessary to demonstrate compliance with applicable requirements. The Department may limit production rates or hours of operation only as needed to demonstrate compliance with air quality standards. As stated in the MDE Response to Comment 2 - Emissions Factors to Estimate Emissions from Crematories, Vaughn Greene Funeral Services is limited to processing only two cremations in any 8-hour period.

9. Inspections and Enforcement

“One key best practice to minimize equipment failures and risks to human health is to regularly inspect equipment, although MDE's current process only inspects a crematory in the event of a complaint. MDE should not allow Vaughn Greene to operate without a permit with inspections on a schedule recommended by UN standards.”

“...self-regulation doesn't work. And that's what you're really saying that you really want to have happen here is self-regulation, that Vaughn Greene will regulate themselves and hopefully everything goes okay.”

“There also has to be a mandatory notification if things go wrong, not, oh, you may find out a year from now. And we need to have shutdown procedures that everybody knows about, that if something does go wrong things will be shut down immediately.”

“... how am I ensuring that this crematorium is running the way it is supposed to? What are we doing to ensure accountability? How are we making sure they are doing things correctly?”

“Can you please detail what will happen if the permit holder does not follow the requirements?”

“At some point MDE needs to have the authority to shut down the crematorium if the operator does not meet all of the requirements set forth in the permit.”

“The permit requires the operator to “take corrective actions” to bring the facility into compliance if visible emissions are observed. What happens is the operator fails to clean up the visible emissions?”

MDE Response:

Following the initial start-up of the human crematory, Vaughn Greene Funeral Services, PA is required to demonstrate initial compliance with all applicable air quality standards and apply for and obtain an air quality State Permit to Operate from the Department. Upon notification of final installation, post-construction inspections by the Air Quality Compliance Program will be conducted to ensure that the crematory was installed in accordance with the requirements of the air quality permit to construct. Following the issuance of a State Permit to Operate, the Air Quality Compliance Program will conduct a full compliance inspection to ensure that a source is not operating in violation of air quality regulations or permit conditions. These inspections generally include visible emissions observations and an odor survey. Records and logbooks on source operations are also reviewed.

The facility is also required to certify all air pollution emissions annually and pay an emissions-based annual fee to the Department. In areas where the environmental justice score is 75 or above, as is the case for the area in which this facility is planned, the Department has pledged an increased compliance presence. This will involve, as a minimum, conducting more frequent inspections and giving priority to any citizen complaints received. Should a violation of any provision of a permit or a direct regulatory requirement occur, the Department has adequate legal authority to compel a facility to take the necessary measures to address the violation and bring the operation back into compliance.

10. Climate Change

“On average, sites this size produce roughly 28 metric tons of CO₂ annually and it would require about 1,300 mature trees each year just to offset the carbon emissions from one crematory. This directly conflicts with Baltimore's Climate Action Plan which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by 2050. I don't think that this will get us there.”

“The environmental impact of crematories is substantial. On average sites average 113 cremations per year, producing approximately 27.46 metric tons of CO₂ annually. To put this into perspective, it would require about 1,248 mature trees each year just to offset the carbon emissions from one crematory. This potential environmental degradation conflicts with Baltimore's efforts to reduce carbon footprints as outlined in Baltimore City's Climate Action Plan, which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 25% by 2020 and 80% by 2050.”

MDE Response:

There are a few points to consider on the topic of climate change emissions from crematories:

- To put crematory emissions in perspective, the collective amount of CO₂ emissions from crematories is exceedingly small when compared to the inventory of CO₂ emission statewide from all emission source categories. Crematory emissions, according to the commentor, amount to about 28 tons of CO₂ yearly. Statewide CO₂ emissions are on a scale many orders of magnitude higher – over 80 million metric tons as of 2020.
- MDE's plan to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions by 60% by 2031 does not include plans to adopt regulations of any individual business of this size. Rather, MDE's plan focuses on targeting the sectors that constitute the largest share of greenhouse gas emissions and includes a variety of regulatory measures, incentive programs, and transportation related improvements to reduce emissions across several broad sectors, none of which target crematories.

- Many of these measures, especially those that apply to businesses, will take the form of new regulations that drive emission reductions for an entire sector through, for example, the use of alternative fuels, clean power, zero-emission heating equipment, and the implementation of new greenhouse gas reduction standards for large buildings.
- Other reductions will accrue through implementation of new requirements applicable to the purchase of electric vehicles, both cars and trucks, and through the offering of incentives to increase electric vehicle purchases, including school buses, and the equipment to charge them.
- Programs to incentivize home electrification will provide additional reductions, along with reducing methane emissions from Maryland's landfills and natural gas infrastructure, the planting of 5 million trees and reducing vehicle miles traveled statewide.
- Admittedly, every new business, every new vehicle that uses a fossil fuel and every new building that is constructed will add some amount of CO2 emissions to the atmosphere. Addressing climate change does not stop new construction or purchases or new or replacement equipment, it simply requires such construction and purchases to meet whatever new requirements are put in place at the time construction takes place or purchases are made.

The full state plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions can be found here:

<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/air/ClimateChange/CPRP/Pages/Overview.aspx>

11. Environmental Justice (EJ) Issues and Cumulative Impact

There were numerous comments received regarding environmental justice and the impact of additional pollution burden in an area with an EJ Score of 95.

“MDE's permitting system for crematoria is not designed for a source of this kind with population density like this, and the area chosen for this project is already overburdened with other environmental pollutants, is a hotspot for asthma and other conditions, making the proposed facility an extraordinary burden on an already suffering community.”

“Approving this crematorium opens the door for many businesses to greatly exacerbate existing air pollution and environmental and social injustice in communities that are already experiencing these issues to a great extent.

“...the proposed crematory site is within an area that has an environmental justice score of 95. What that means is that it is more environmentally burdened than ninety-five percent of the communities in the state....so the pollution burden in combination with the direct exposure and proximity of air pollution, like factories and roadways and fast food places, and the cumulative impact of this, says that what we should be doing is rather than adding more pollution to the harm for these areas, we should be striving to establish transparent permit review...any additional pollution is adding on to an already bad situation.”

“MDE should apply increased scrutiny to permits for applications for air pollution sources in and near zip codes with high scores on environmental justice scorecards as rated by the EPA.”

“...the MDE, with its own scoring, 95 out of 100 means this location is one of the worst possible places to put another source of pollution...”

“...if we are committed to being about environmental justice, we should be about correcting the years of environmental injustice where we put pollution sources in black and brown communities, where we gave people in those communities more than their fair share, and so we need to be about correcting that.”

“...the Environmental Justice score for the Winston-Govans census tract is a 95. This predominantly black community already deals with a variety of environmental pollutants like those from the 20,000 vehicles that drive through busy York Road each day. Compounding impacts from further sources hurt real people.”

“Environmental justice can no longer be just a score. MDE, you need to be working with the environmental justice community on legislation to have real environmental justice respect and changes to regulation.”

“Cumulative impacts matter. A single pollution source cannot be the only determinant. If there's 20 other pollution sources, we have to take that into account.”

“What precedent would approving this crematorium set? If this gets approved, won't everything else, regardless of if it is in a residential area or not?”

“It is crucial to highlight the correlation between socioeconomic status and environmental health impacts. Lower-income areas, not only have higher asthma hospitalization rates but also suffer from poorer air quality. In contrast, higher-income areas tend to have better air quality and lower asthma rates. This underscores the urgent need for equitable policies that address these disparities and protect our most vulnerable communities, which MDE acknowledges through its own analysis providing a score of 95 Environmental Justice Score.”

“This crematorium is an overt display of environmental racism. Young black children will be forced to breathe in air polluted with human remains, which provides yet another obstacle disproportionately added by our society that these children are forced to overcome. We must care about the future of all young people, not just the ones that fit society’s segregated ideals.”

“Data on the cumulative emissions from crematorium incinerators over the course of their operations and their impact on the health of people living in surrounding communities are extremely limited. History has taught us repeatedly about the destructive consequences that resulted from moving forward with such projects despite acknowledged ignorance about their environmental and health effects. Given the absence of adequate data available about crematory incinerators, MDE should apply a high level of caution with regard to the proposed site, which is situated immediately adjacent to a very densely populated urban neighborhood.”

“This permitting process presents an ideal opportunity for MDE to demonstrate the real life and on the ground application of the EJ score. The EJ is otherwise a meaningless number. MDE must take a leadership role and communicate through its permitting decisions that communities with the highest EJ scores will simply no longer be burdened with additional sources of pollution. Businesses that request air pollution permits for activities whose emissions are inadequately studied and whose safety is not well established (in this case human crematorium incinerators), must look elsewhere.”

“MDE knows that residents here already experience a worse pollution burden and health status than 95% of Marylanders...Regardless of any rhetoric or argument about the safety levels at the operation's emissions, these emissions will compound with existing pollution.”

“Cumulative impacts are real. Pollution standards must recognize that endless small permits equal large amounts of pollution.”

“MDE must support efforts in Annapolis to recognize cumulative impacts and protect already overburdened communities and prevent others from reaching this status.”

“Both State and Federal EJ scoring should be foundational criteria in the execution of MDE administrative decisions on how and where to issue environmental permits, and the conditions imposed in such permits. The utilization of EJ scoring should not be informational, ad hoc or subjective. Communities that are demonstrably overburdened as conveyed by EJ scoring should not be subjected to additional environmental burdens.”

“In New Source Review permitting under the Clean Air Act, when a qualifying air pollution source wishes to situate in an area that fails to meet ambient air quality standards, it must offset all of the new pollution that it will create plus an additional amount in order to help the area regain compliance with health-based air quality standards. A similar paradigm should exist for Environmental Justice scoring: there should be no new environmental burdens introduced into a community that already is experiencing the highest valuation of existing environmental hazard and health burden, without controlling or limiting new exposures that contribute to the hazard and the burden.”

MDE Response:

The Department is limited to evaluating only air quality impacts associated with the equipment presented in the application for a permit for the construction of an air pollution source.

Water, land use, solid waste, noise and other such issues are not considered within the context of the Department’s evaluation but may be considered independently as part of reviews conducted for other state or local permits which may need to be secured.

As part of its evaluation of the application, the Department reviews technical information contained in both the application and the Department’s files and in published reference materials. A determination is then made as to whether the estimated emissions from the equipment under review will or will not cause or create:

1. A violation of any of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (for federal criteria pollutants) or regulatory requirements associated with those standards.
2. An adverse effect on public health (for toxic air pollutants).
3. A nuisance.

Cumulative impacts for criteria pollutants are taken into account indirectly in that the emissions from all existing sources are reflected in the pollutant concentrations measured by monitors located around the State. From a permit review standpoint, the monitored value for a criteria pollutant is considered to be a background level (more detail regarding this is provided in the next paragraph). If an existing source or a collection of existing sources has an adverse impact on air quality, it would be reflected in the monitoring data. Cumulative impacts associated with toxic air pollutants are indirectly considered in the setting of the standard: the regulatory standards established for toxic air pollutants were set conservatively (1/100th of the worker safety level) to, among other things, account for the presence of multiple sources.

For criteria pollutants, the Department reviews modeling information (or conducts its own modeling exercise) and determines the maximum ambient pollutant concentration the equipment is expected to generate. This maximum concentration is then added to the background (monitored) concentration to determine an overall estimated impact. If the overall impact is estimated to be below the federal ambient air quality standard, the determination is that the equipment will not adversely impact air quality.

For toxic air pollutants, the Department reviews modeling information to determine whether the maximum ground-level concentration is below conservative (more protective of public health) standards established by the Department. If the modeling determines that the maximum concentration is below the standards, the Department's conclusion is that the equipment will not harm public health.

For Vaughn Greene Funeral Services, PA, the conclusion reached by the Department is that the emissions from the proposed human crematory would not cause a violation of any ambient air quality standard and the maximum concentration of any toxic air pollutant would be below any threshold that the Department considers injurious to public health.

A high EJ score provides a basis to take a critical look at what can be done using current regulatory authority to help address environmental justice concerns. In this case, the Department conducted additional outreach to provide more opportunities for the public to learn about the project and how the Department conducts its review.

In addition to the required public hearing and an extended public comment period, several opportunities for the public to receive information regarding this proposed application were provided. The Department held two informational meetings in November 2020, a meeting with community leaders in June 2021, and a community status update meeting in December 2023. The Department also met with Senator Mary Washington in July 2023 and provided permits for other crematories in Maryland and other technical documents to the Senator's technical advisor, Lisa Polyak, in October 2023 and March 2024.

A second action that arose from the Department taking a more critical look at the project was the imposition of more stringent emission standards and operating restrictions on Vaughn Greene's proposed operation. These tightening of requirements came about as a result of direct conversations with some commenters that participated in the added outreach events mentioned above. These more stringent requirements are being imposed as enforceable permit conditions.

Specifically, the Department has added several protective measures in the permit to ensure that the unit is properly operated, maintained, and monitored. Opacity observations and stack emissions tests to ensure compliance with applicable air quality standards will be required. These requirements represent the most stringent conditions ever proposed for a human crematory in the State of Maryland.

The final element of the Department's efforts to address EJ concerns is the commitment to increase its compliance presence by conducting more frequent inspections and responding to complaints expeditiously should a complaint be lodged.

With regard to environmental justice, an EJ Score of 95 indicates that the proposed human crematory would be located in an area that is already disproportionately impacted by environmental and public health hazards resulting in a higher risk of health problems from environmental exposures. The Department is committed to addressing injustices that have occurred throughout history in communities located next to industry that have been exposed to higher levels of pollution.

Information on the Department's actions and goals related to environmental justice issues can be found on the Department's website here: https://mde.maryland.gov/Environmental_Justice/Pages/Landing%20Page.aspx

12. Odor Concerns

"I'm wondering about the odor that's going to come through the emissions through that building. Are they going to have some sort of odor scrubber that's going to scrub the emissions coming through there?"

"I don't want one in my neighborhood where I can smell it"

"I don't want to smell or breathe dead people while at school."

"Crematoriums can produce unpleasant odors that may negatively impact the quality life for nearby residents."

MDE Response:

A well operated and maintained human crematory should not be a source of odors. MDE reviewed its records for the last several years and found no record of an odor complaint associated with a crematory. The permit requires Vaughn Greene Funeral Services, PA to develop and maintain an Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Plan that must be reviewed and approved by the Department. The plan must include procedures that ensure proper operation and maintenance of the crematory.

13. Health Impacts

“The other thing is, if this thing is installed and 10 years from now we find out people start to get cancer, because cancer's like running rapid now.”

“...I'm concerned about the health effects that will have on the people in the neighborhood now, five, 10, 20 years from now.”

“Will metals and toxics settle in my yard where my grandchildren play? Will more particles in the air make worse the high childhood asthma rate on our blocks?”

“According to the EPA's EJ screen program, the census tract of this neighborhood has a significantly higher asthma rate than the rest than the average of the state of Maryland. On top of this, several studies have shown that childhood exposure to air pollution has been linked to a significant increase in asthma diagnoses.”

“This health disparity demonstrates that this family oriented community already carries a much larger stress compared to the rest of the state.”

“It is a known fact that the brown and black communities have a high impact of asthma.”

“There's significant data out there confirming that ingesting and being exposed to toxic chemicals as we develop are detrimental not only to a child's development but their physical development, their cognition, and how they develop in the brain, and of course their emotional development.”

“We have people with health issues. We have many elderly people in the area.”

“What is the risk with the installation of a crematorium in the heart of our community?”

“...how many veterans living within our specific area that basically is involved with the PACT Act and the impact that a crematory can have as far as their health and the psychological experiences of breathing bad air and the smell of death. I'm talking from a veteran standpoint.”

“The asthma hospitalization rate in Baltimore is significantly higher than both the Maryland state and national averages. According to the Baltimore City Health Department, the city's rate of emergency department visits due to asthma is the highest in Maryland. Specifically, the hospitalization rate for asthma among adult residents (≥ 18 years) in Baltimore City is approximately 3.3 times higher than the hospitalization rate for Maryland adults as a whole (42.9 vs. 13.2 per 10,000)”

“...pediatric asthma-related emergency room visits occur in Baltimore at more than double the statewide rate.”

“It is also concerning that there are more than three elementary/middle schools and two parks within walking distance from the site that our residents trust to be a safe space for their children. How do you plan to ensure that residents, park patrons, and students will not experience adverse impacts?”

“According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), exposure to particulate matter is linked to respiratory and cardiovascular diseases and can exacerbate conditions like asthma, which is already prevalent in this area.”

“Proceeding with this permit, without also updating methods and limits to be in alignment with national EPA would have destructive consequences for residents in the area.

That means higher rates of diseases exacerbated by air pollution (asthma, COPD, heart disease), AND lower life expectancy.”

“Baltimore faces significant public health challenges related to air quality with pediatric asthma related emergency visits occurring at more than double the statewide rate. But yet this permit would allow an incinerator to be within walking distance of three schools and two parks.”

“What data do we have about the impact of the toxic pollutants that are emitted from a crematorium in underdeveloping children? I personally don't know that. I'm asking that. Do we have accountable protocol policies in place to be mindful of our children when they commute from home to school or ensuring air quality safety when these children go outside for any learning opportunities or any recreational opportunities?”

MDE Response:

The Department's review process does considers broad health impacts rather than health impacts based on specific health conditions. That is the situation for every permit application reviewed, from crematories to large industrial facilities to power plants. Part of our permit review process considered whether a facility will meet federal ambient air quality standards. In this regard, impacts to public health are considered by EPA in the development of those national ambient air quality standards. The development is done by health experts, and the resulting standards are set to protect public health with an adequate margin for safety.

For federal non-criteria pollutants (188 hazardous air pollutants at the federal level) the EPA establishes technology standards that apply to various operations. These standards result in the installation of pollution control technologies that minimize the amount of pollution allowed. Although there are no federal technology standards for crematories, technology controls are addressed within the Maryland permitting arena and health impacts are addressed indirectly.

In this regard, crematories and hundreds of other source categories that emit toxic air pollutants (there are over a thousand such pollutants at the state level), technology requirements also apply. Control Technology for Toxics (TBACT) applies, which requires crematories to be equipped with a secondary chamber capable of achieving a minimum residence time and combustion zone temperature. Following the use of TBACT, a crematory must ensure that the after-control level of emissions of any toxic air pollutant will not endanger public health. This is done by comparing the modeled concentration of a particular toxic air pollutant at the worst-case ground level point beyond the property line to a concentration set by the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists for that same pollutant. That organization sets their concentration at a level to protect workers in an industrial setting to which those workers are exposed to the pollutant in question daily over an eight-hour period. Under the Maryland permitting system, the Department takes that concentration and divides it by a factor of 100 so that is more protective of public health.

14. Incinerator Definition

“...incinerators are not allowed in residential areas...it is a very arbitrary kind of distinction to say that incineration of human remains are somehow different qualitatively than incinerator of anything else.”

“...make no mistake, it is an incinerator”

MDE Response:

The Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 26.11.08.01B(9-1) defines a crematory as a “furnace where a human or animal corpse is burned with: (a) The container or bag in which the human or animal corpse is placed or transported; and (b) The animal bedding, if applicable.” Conversely, COMAR 26.11.08.01B(20) defines an incinerator as a “furnace or combustion unit that uses controlled flame combustion for the thermal destruction of municipal solid waste, industrial waste, special medical waste, or sewage sludge.”

Human and/or animal remains are not considered municipal solid waste, industrial waste, special medical waste, or sewage sludge. Additionally, human and/or animal remains are also not considered to be hazardous waste. As such, a crematory is not considered a waste incinerator with respect to the applicability of federal and State air quality requirements.

15. Other Crematories Operating in Baltimore City

“There’s been no new permits issued for crematoriums in Baltimore City since 1999. Could you confirm that is the case?”

“How many crematoria are there in Baltimore City and how are they being regulated?”

“The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) states that ‘no other crematory permit in Maryland at this time requires this level of testing to verify emissions.’ Could you clarify when the last permit was approved and what the standards were at that time? It is crucial to compare this with the last approved permit to understand the advancements in regulatory requirements.”

MDE Response:

There following facilities in Baltimore City currently operate human crematory units:

1. On-Site Cremation Center, LLC
(A subsidiary of Joseph H. Brown, Jr. Funeral Home, P.A.)
2140 N Fulton Avenue
Baltimore MD 21217

This facility currently operates two human crematories under a renewable, five-year Air Quality State Permit to Operate issued on February 1, 2024. An Air Quality Permit to Construct for the two crematories was issued on October 9, 2020 and the two units replaced an existing older unit. The applicable air quality standards for opacity and particulate matter emissions are the same as the applicable standards for Vaughn Greene Funeral Services, PA. However, the operating and monitoring requirements are less stringent.

Each crematory unit must be equipped with a secondary chamber that must be maintained at a temperature of at least 1600 degrees Fahrenheit. However, there are no requirements to install an opacity sensor and no opacity or stack emissions test requirements for this facility. A review of ARA database records which include records from 2008 to present show that there have been no air pollution complaints or air pollution violations related to this facility during that timeframe.

2. Bayview Crematory
5500 O'Donnell Street
Baltimore MD 21224

This facility currently operates two human crematories and one animal crematory under a renewable, five-year Air Quality State Permit to Operate issued on November 15, 2022. The most recent Air Quality Permit to Construct was issued for the animal crematory installed in 2007. The applicable air quality standards for opacity and particulate matter emissions are the same as the applicable standards for Vaughn Greene Funeral Services, PA.

Each crematory unit must be equipped with a secondary chamber that must be maintained at a temperature of at least 1700 degrees Fahrenheit. However, there are no requirements to install an opacity sensor, and no opacity or stack emissions tests are required for this facility. A review of ARA database records which include records from 2008 to present show that there have been no air pollution complaints or air pollution violations related to this facility during that timeframe.

3. Loudon Park Memorial Association, Inc.
Operating as Baltimore Crematory
3620 Wilkens Avenue
Baltimore MD 21229

This facility currently operates one human crematory under a renewable, five-year Air Quality State Permit to Operate issued on September 1, 2023. The most recent Air Quality Permit to Construct was issued for the crematory installed in 1992. The applicable air quality standards for opacity and particulate matter emissions are the same as the applicable standards for Vaughn Greene Funeral Services, PA. Each crematory unit must be equipped with a secondary chamber that must be maintained at a temperature of at least 1600 degrees Fahrenheit. However, there are no requirements to install an opacity sensor and no opacity or stack emissions tests required for this facility. A review of ARA database records which include records from 2008 to present show that there have been no air pollution complaints or air pollution violations related to this facility during that timeframe.

16. Alternative Methods for Cremation

“Why not use water cremation? You say people want to be cremated, choose a different source. You can buy water cremation now in Maryland, install it, and then we can be pollution free.”

“If Vaughn Greene wants to cremate and they found a need, an economic need, then ...go ahead and do water cremation.”

“Support Vaughn Greene homes to pilot green alternatives to traditional fire cremation at its Govans location (i.e., human composting and water cremation), which as of the latest General Assembly are now legal in Maryland. Both processes are believed to use less energy and release less pollution into the environment than traditional fire cremation.”

MDE Response:

The Department received an air quality permit to construct application for a human crematory, and the Department reviewed the application based on its expected air pollution impact. The Department does not have the authority to require an applicant to consider an alternate type of cremation or deathcare practice.

17. Proposed Location of the Crematory

“...oppose the siting of a human crematorium less than 500 feet from homes”

“...do not allow a human crematorium to be built in a densely populated Baltimore City neighborhood.”

“...move it somewhere else...”

“...you have another place somewhere up there in Randallstown. Maybe there's a place for it there...”

“...why would you all want to allow a crematorium here on this York Road Corridor in these people's backyards?”

“...we just really do not believe that Vaughn Greene, that there is any place for a crematorium in a residential neighborhood.”

“Putting a crematorium so close to a university will negatively impact so many people's health.”

“...why this facility should be located in that densely populated, seriously polluted, area, near schools and very close to homes...”

“Have great concerns about adding a crematorium to the VG funeral home due to heavy residential and commercial population in the area.”

“...have a high likelihood of degrading the value of the surrounding area, including businesses and institutions like Loyola...”

“...allowing the crematorium ...would serve as another barrier to sustainable development...”

“The presence of a crematorium in a residential area can have a detrimental effect on property values.”

“They can always go to a rural area to burn bodies. They don't have to do it three blocks from a college campus.”

“A crematorium should not exist in a congested urban area that does not have sufficient air flow and is already at risk for increasing temperatures in the summer due to climate change. Moving this crematorium just 6-7 miles north would allow for more air flow and be in an area with summer temperatures lower than in this Baltimore City area.”

MDE Response:

The Department cannot specify where a source may be located nor base its review of the permit application on land use concerns and possible economic impacts on the local economy or individual citizens. The Department’s decision on the application is based solely upon the projected air pollution related environmental impact on the area. Local issues such as zoning and land use are under the purview of Baltimore City. On January 4, 2022, the Baltimore City Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals (BMZA) granted approval to Vaughn Greene Funeral Services to install a crematory and the Circuit Court for Baltimore City affirmed the BMZA’s zoning decision.

18. Construction and Expenditures

“I’ve heard in some of these hearings is a concern about the applicant having made some expenditures and therefore it would be not fair to the applicant to then not give them -- to not make the final approval.”

“I just wanted to clarify that in this instance, that we’re putting on notice that no expenditures or anything should be made until a final determination, would that be correct?”

“And the fact of a purchase of equipment or expenditure on consultants or plans or anything is incumbent on the applicant, and again is not to be considered as a part of the deliberation of whether or not to approve the final permit?”

MDE Response:

The Department does not consider expenditures or investments made by an applicant toward the installation or operation of a project in its decision to issue an air quality permit to construct. The applicant may not begin construction of the human crematory before an air quality permit to construct is issued. Any expenditures made by the applicant toward construction of the human crematory prior to receiving an air quality permit to construct are at the applicant’s risk.

19. Location and Scheduling of the Public Hearing

“Many are absent due to the expeditious scheduling of this hearing. The first notice was given July 25th. The hearing was scheduled less than a month, 23 days to be exact, and then we see that the actual public notice was even later than that. It was July 25th, so sort of less than two weeks.”

“...scheduling a hearing so quickly curtailed the efficacy of the Department's public messaging and its public engagement process...”

“...it raised an unnecessarily and avoidable barrier to inclusive and already overburdened by pollution and other environmental hazards such as MTA, the MTA bus line.”

“I sent the Department a letter of concern and asked them to reschedule this hearing to September to 7 allow more public participation, the day after Labor Day as a matter of fact, but obviously that request was not accepted.”

“This is a terrible time, a terrible location and place for this hearing. It's really disrespectful to this community. This is two miles from the affected community. This is in a pretty hot room at 5:30, which is when most working people are getting off work and trying to get over here. I suggest that a best practice for MDE be that the permittee not be allowed to pick the time, place, location.”

“I am concerned that the public hearing was not held on the York Road corridor that is directly affected by this issue. Was the location chosen on a bus route that allowed for access to the affected public?”

“The August public hearing approach was totally inadequate.”

“...Short notice in prime vacation period...”

“...5:30 start time when people are trying to get home from work...”

“...Location almost seemed designed to make it hard to get to hearing. Multiple bus rides would be required and the offer of tokens required people to take time off to go to the library to get these.”

“The time, date and location of the public hearing substantially impaired the ability of the affected community to participate.”

“The hearing date – less than 30 days from notification – made it difficult to rally community members with sufficient time to read and understand the draft permit; and during the height of summer vacations – made it impossible for many community members to attend who were out of town.”

"MDE's Applicant's Guide to Environmental Justice and Permitting states: "It is important that residents who may be adversely affected by a proposed source be aware of the current environmental issues in their community in order to have meaningful involvement in the permitting process.... The minimum threshold for "meaningful involvement" should obligate that important events related to a proposed pollution source are held at a time and location that favor participation by the affected communities."

"Residents of a community with a high indicator score and a high degree of environmental exposure should be afforded broader opportunities to participate in the permit process and understand the impacts a project seeking permit approval may have on them."

MDE Response:

Many factors impact when and where a public hearing is scheduled to receive comment on a draft air quality permit. When a draft permit is ready for public comment, the Department must consider the availability of Department staff to moderate and present the Department's statement at the hearing, the availability of a court reporter to record the hearing, and the availability of the applicant to attend the hearing. To ensure that the public has an opportunity to attend the hearing, the selected venue must be accessible and located in the same political subdivision, in close proximity to the location of the proposed facility, per Maryland Statute, Environment Article §1-601(f)(2)(iii). The hearing is typically scheduled on a weekday and in the evening to provide the public as much of an opportunity to attend the hearing.

With regard to the venue, the applicant must bear any costs associated with reserving a venue for the public hearing. The applicant was asked to find a larger location than the Govans Presbyterian Church which was the site of the standing room only community status update meeting in December 2023. Once it was confirmed that Huber Memorial Church could accommodate more than 100 attendees, was in the same political subdivision, and located two miles from the proposed facility, the Department allowed the applicant to reserve this location. The hearing time was set to 5:30 p.m. to allow at least two to three hours for the public to make comments at the hearing.

The date of the public hearing was originally scheduled for August 6, 2024. The Department informed local elected officials on July 12, 2024 of the hearing date. The official notice was first published in the Baltimore Sun on July 15, 2024 and letters were sent to elected officials and interested parties on the same date. After being informed by elected officials that the hearing date conflicted with Baltimore City's National Night Out event, the Department rescheduled the hearing for August 7, 2024 and required the applicant to reserve the hearing location for the rescheduled date.

The revised notice for the new hearing date was published in the Baltimore Sun on July 24, 2024 and July 31, 2024 meeting the requirements of Maryland Statute, Environment Article, §1-602 to publish the notice at least once a week for two consecutive weeks prior to the hearing date.

Approximately 95 members of the public attended the public hearing on August 7, 2024 and everyone who wished to make a comment at the hearing was given time to do so. All information presented at the hearing and a recording of the hearing were posted online directly after the hearing. A one-time 60-day extension to the comment period was received, so in addition to the opportunity for the public to make comments at the public hearing on August 7, 2024, written comments were accepted through October 22, 2024.

Prior to the public hearing, several opportunities for the public to receive information regarding this proposed application were provided. The Department held two informational meetings in November 2020, a meeting with community leaders in June 2021, and a community status update meeting in December 2023. The Department also met with Senator Mary Washington in July 2023 and provided permits for other crematories in Maryland and other technical documents to the Senator's technical advisor, Lisa Polyak, in October 2023 and March 2024.

In the Matter of:

Maryland Department of the Environment

August 7, 2024

Public Hearing

Condensed Transcript with Word Index



For The Record, Inc.

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2 AIR AND RADIATION ADMINISTRATION	2
3	3 ON BEHALF OF VAUGHN GREENE FUNERAL SERVICES, PA:
4	4 MR. HOWARD J. SCHULMAN, ESQ.
5	5 MR. J. NEIL LANZI, ESQ.
6 PUBLIC HEARING	6 MR. ANDREW M. GLICK, ESQ
7 NOTICE OF TENTATIVE DETERMINATION	7 LAW OFFICES OF WRIGHT, CONSTABLE, & SKEEN, LLP
8 CONCERNING AIR QUALITY PERMIT APPLICATION	8 1 Olympic Place, Suite 800
9	9 Towson, MD 21204
10 VAUGHN GREENE FUNERAL SERVICES, PA	10 (410) 659-1300
11 4905 YORK ROAD	11
12 BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21212	12
13	13 ALSO PRESENT:
14	14 Mr. Angela Bianca, MDE
15 AUGUST 7, 2024	15 Mr. Sam Mrida, MDE
16 5:30 p.m.	16 Ms. Tracy Leeser, MDE
17	17 Mr. Nischal Subedi, MDE
18	18 Ms. Janel Dutton, MDE
19	19 Mr. Rick Garner, MDE
20	20
21	21
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1 A P P E A R A N C E S	1 P R O C E E D I N G S
2	2 - - - - -
3 ON BEHALF OF THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT:	3 MS. HEAFEY: Okay. Hi, folks. We're going
4 MS. SUNA YI SARISCAK, MANAGER	4 to get started now.
5 Air and Radiation Administration	5 Okay, folks. I want to thank everyone for
6 Maryland Department of the Environment	6 coming out tonight. My name is Shannon Heafey.
7 1800 Washington Boulevard	7 I'm with the Air Quality Permits Program. I'm going to
8 Baltimore, MD 21230	8 be acting as hearing officer this evening. Thank you
9 (410) 537-4129	9 for all coming out. I appreciate it in this weather and
10	10 heat. I'm a northern girl. This is killing me.
11 MS. SHANNON HEAFEY, TITLE V COORDINATOR	11 So I have like a big statement to read. It's
12 Air and Radiation Administration	12 including some housekeeping items so it's going to be a
13 Maryland Department of the Environment	13 little bit of a longer statement than I usually have to
14 1800 Washington Boulevard	14 read. So bear with.
15 Baltimore, MD 21230	15 Okay. I should introduce first. Also here
16 (410) 537-4433	16 from the Department of the Environment tonight is Mr.
17	17 Angelo Bianca. He's our Deputy Air Director. And Ms.
18	18 Suna Sariscak is our Air Quality Permits Program
19	19 Manager. She's also handling the permit. And the
20	20 company is going to be going to be represented tonight
21	21 by Mr. Vaughn Greene.
22	22 The public hearing is being held to accept

<p style="text-align: right;">5</p> <p>1 comments from the public for an air quality permit</p> <p>2 application submitted by Vaughn Greene Funeral Services</p> <p>3 for the installation of one human crematory. The</p> <p>4 proposed installation would be located at their funeral</p> <p>5 home at 4905 York Road, Baltimore.</p> <p>6 The Department has made a tentative</p> <p>7 determination that the crematory will meet all</p> <p>8 applicable federal and state air quality rules and</p> <p>9 regulations and may be issued. This hearing is to offer</p> <p>10 the public the opportunity to formally comment on the</p> <p>11 Department's tentative determination and draft permit</p> <p>12 conditions. You all are welcome to submit comments in</p> <p>13 writing, which I will give you more information on that.</p> <p>14 Notification for the original date for this</p> <p>15 hearing was published July 17, 2024, Baltimore Sun.</p> <p>16 Notification of the date change for this hearing</p> <p>17 appeared in the Baltimore Sun on July 24th and July</p> <p>18 31st.</p> <p>19 Additionally, all local elected officials</p> <p>20 within a one-mile radius of the location were notified</p> <p>21 by email, as was everyone on the interested parties</p> <p>22 list, and the information was added to the MDE website.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">7</p> <p>1 statement.</p> <p>2 I have you guys marked off. Where you</p> <p>3 checked off yes, I will be calling those people up</p> <p>4 first. There will be a three-minute time limit, and</p> <p>5 I'm going to call you up in groups of five. You can</p> <p>6 come over here and sit down here, because it could be a</p> <p>7 few minutes, obviously. Get comfy.</p> <p>8 And then when you're done, I'm going to ask</p> <p>9 you to go over to the far table. We have two court</p> <p>10 reporters tonight. Cameron, at the far end, is going to</p> <p>11 be verifying your information so we make sure that all</p> <p>12 the right statements -- this is formal -- that the right</p> <p>13 statements, the right spellings, all of that is taken</p> <p>14 care of.</p> <p>15 Okay. And then after we've invited everybody</p> <p>16 up who has signed in, if someone then chooses to make a</p> <p>17 statement, I'll invite those folks up after that. So</p> <p>18 everybody will have a chance to do that.</p> <p>19 And here's the second rule, the basic rules of</p> <p>20 consideration. Please give the same consideration to</p> <p>21 people making statements that you would expect when</p> <p>22 giving your statement. Please do not interrupt or talk</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">6</p> <p>1 If you go on to our MDE website on the very</p> <p>2 front page, on the right-hand side there is a link for</p> <p>3 Vaughn Greene, and you can also submit comments through</p> <p>4 that link.</p> <p>5 So a docket of information containing the air</p> <p>6 quality application, tentative determination, and draft</p> <p>7 permit conditions is available on the MDE website under</p> <p>8 the Air tab, the same location, and you click on that</p> <p>9 link. And that docket will be updated as we continue</p> <p>10 this process.</p> <p>11 So here's the housekeeping part. The first</p> <p>12 will be the order of statements. Ms. Sariscak is going</p> <p>13 to read her statement about the tentative determination</p> <p>14 and the draft permit conditions in the fact sheet into</p> <p>15 the formal record. And then I'm going to invite our</p> <p>16 elected officials to come up and make a statement if</p> <p>17 they would like to. And then I'm going to invite</p> <p>18 Mr. Vaughn Greene to come up and make a statement if</p> <p>19 he would like to.</p> <p>20 After the officials and Mr. Green have made</p> <p>21 statements, I will invite people who have signed in on</p> <p>22 the sign-in sheets that they would like to make a</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">8</p> <p>1 over anyone giving testimony, and do not applaud. That</p> <p>2 takes time out of people's availability to speak. Any</p> <p>3 disruption can cause the court reporter to miss part or</p> <p>4 all of a statement. You do want to make sure that your</p> <p>5 comments are recorded properly. So, again, please don't</p> <p>6 speak over anybody else.</p> <p>7 There are a number of microphones along here,</p> <p>8 so as great as that can be, for getting what people are</p> <p>9 saying, it will also pick up background noise. So we</p> <p>10 want to be careful that we don't cause too much of that.</p> <p>11 And, again, no personal attacks will be</p> <p>12 accepted tonight. If someone begins a personal attack,</p> <p>13 I will ask them to leave.</p> <p>14 Please keep your statements to the topic of</p> <p>15 air pollution concerns in this draft permit. We</p> <p>16 understand there are a lot of other concerns, but this</p> <p>17 permit is limited to air quality, and that's the part</p> <p>18 that's going to be reviewed and addressed in the</p> <p>19 response to comments document that will be given out</p> <p>20 to everybody after the end of the comment period.</p> <p>21 Now, the comment period has been extended</p> <p>22 until August 29th, so up until that day feel free to</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">9</p> <p>1 call me if you have questions, email me your comments if</p> <p>2 you want to, or you can mail them by post to the</p> <p>3 Department to my attention.</p> <p>4 I have business cards out on the front table.</p> <p>5 And in your agenda, that side of the agenda should have</p> <p>6 my contact information as well.</p> <p>7 So, as I started to say, the last part is</p> <p>8 going to be the presentation of the comments. So,</p> <p>9 again, what I have up here isn't necessarily the order</p> <p>10 in which you signed in. It's the order in which I got</p> <p>11 the sign-in sheets. But I will call everybody who has</p> <p>12 said that they would like to make a statement.</p> <p>13 And then, again, at the end of that, after</p> <p>14 each person gets 30 minutes, I will invite anybody up</p> <p>15 who didn't think they wanted to make a comment, but now</p> <p>16 they want to. And then, if we still have time, which I</p> <p>17 don't know, we have to be out of here by 8:30 so we're</p> <p>18 going to hustle, but if we do still have time I will</p> <p>19 invite folks to come back up and add on to their</p> <p>20 statements that they made earlier.</p> <p>21 I do have a favor. If anyone has a really</p> <p>22 long statement that might take longer than two or three</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">11</p> <p>1 That's how we're doing all of these. The meetings and</p> <p>2 the hearings and the notifications are all by statute.</p> <p>3 We will also place the information on the MDE</p> <p>4 webpage under that same tag. All of this will be added</p> <p>5 to that. And then, at the end, any person contending</p> <p>6 that they will be adversely affected by the Department's</p> <p>7 final determination may seek remedy within the circuit</p> <p>8 court system of Maryland.</p> <p>9 A petition for judicial review must be filed</p> <p>10 in the Circuit Court of Baltimore City within 30 days</p> <p>11 after the publication of a notice of final</p> <p>12 determination. You will be emailed that same day that</p> <p>13 the newspaper notice is published. So it will be that</p> <p>14 very same day, so you can start your 30-day clock.</p> <p>15 Ms. Sariscek will give a statement about the</p> <p>16 tentative determination and fact sheet, and then I'll</p> <p>17 take the comments for the record.</p> <p>18 And, again, this is really important because</p> <p>19 we do this with a response to comments document, and</p> <p>20 because there may be people who would like to know</p> <p>21 what's going on and didn't have the chance, couldn't</p> <p>22 come tonight, two things.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">10</p> <p>1 minutes to read, if you could summarize what you want to</p> <p>2 say and then hand that statement over to the court</p> <p>3 reporter. The entire statement will be added to the</p> <p>4 record. But because we're in a limited time frame,</p> <p>5 we're going to want to make sure that everybody has the</p> <p>6 option. So if you have a 10-minute speech, just kind of</p> <p>7 bring it on down.</p> <p>8 What else? Yeah, any different statements,</p> <p>9 that would work. Okay. And I got part of this done</p> <p>10 already.</p> <p>11 So at the conclusion of the comment period,</p> <p>12 again, August 29th, all the comments received in writing</p> <p>13 during the comment period will be reviewed and addressed</p> <p>14 in making a final determination to issue or to deny the</p> <p>15 permit.</p> <p>16 The response to comments document will be</p> <p>17 prepared by the Department, sent to the commenters and</p> <p>18 those who participated in the public review process for</p> <p>19 this application, and to all the elected officials.</p> <p>20 A notice of final determination will be placed</p> <p>21 in the legal section of a newspaper of general</p> <p>22 circulation in the area. That's required by statute.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">12</p> <p>1 One is this is being recorded by MDE, and it</p> <p>2 will be put up on the MDE YouTube channel. I'm not sure</p> <p>3 how long, a couple of days, I guess, to get it prepared.</p> <p>4 But it will be available then. The entire hearing will</p> <p>5 be available at that point. So that should work out for</p> <p>6 some folks, I hope.</p> <p>7 If you ask questions as part of your</p> <p>8 testimony, we're not going to address those tonight.</p> <p>9 We take them as testimony, but at the end of the comment</p> <p>10 period, when we put that response to comments document</p> <p>11 together we will have the question and we will have the</p> <p>12 answers. That way, everybody gets to hear what your</p> <p>13 question and concern was and then what the answer is.</p> <p>14 So that's the most fair way for everybody who's</p> <p>15 interested to find out what was going on and who was</p> <p>16 asking and which questions were being asked.</p> <p>17 So, with that, I'm going to ask Suna to take</p> <p>18 over.</p> <p>19 MS. SARISCEK: Hi, thank you. Can you guys</p> <p>20 hear me okay?</p> <p>21 Okay. Before I get started, I just want to</p> <p>22 say one clarification. The comment period is actually</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">13</p> <p>1 open through October 22, 2024. Shannon was saying</p> <p>2 August 29th, but there has been a one-time 60-day</p> <p>3 extension already requested. So it is open through</p> <p>4 October 22, 2024 and we will have a slide up here that</p> <p>5 gives you all that information as well. Just a</p> <p>6 clarification.</p> <p>7 So, good evening, everyone. My name is Suna</p> <p>8 Yi Sariscak. I'm the manager of the Air Quality Permits</p> <p>9 Program and the air quality permit engineer who reviewed</p> <p>10 the permit application and drafted the permit for the</p> <p>11 proposed project.</p> <p>12 The Maryland Department of the Environment has</p> <p>13 reviewed the application submitted by Vaughn Greene</p> <p>14 Funeral Services, PA for an air quality</p> <p>15 permit-to-construct that would authorize the</p> <p>16 installation of a Matthews Environmental Solutions</p> <p>17 PowerPak II Plus, 175 pounds per hour, human crematory.</p> <p>18 The proposed location for the human crematory</p> <p>19 is 4905 York Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21212 in</p> <p>20 Baltimore City.</p> <p>21 So during the technical review of this</p> <p>22 application, I think at the community status update</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">15</p> <p>1 that we are developing and working together to get the</p> <p>2 most current, recent inventory information for</p> <p>3 estimating emissions from human cremation.</p> <p>4 So current 2020 U.S. EPA emission guidelines</p> <p>5 or emissions inventory for cremation, and 2021 Bay Area</p> <p>6 California guidance documents have been established as</p> <p>7 appropriate methods by this best practices or this</p> <p>8 workgroup that we're working on to estimate emissions</p> <p>9 from crematories, so that's what the Department used.</p> <p>10 So I didn't want to show you a bunch of boring</p> <p>11 tables and numbers, but they are available online in</p> <p>12 Tables I, II, and III of the Department's tentative</p> <p>13 determination document there online.</p> <p>14 The expected emissions, you can find all of</p> <p>15 that and the impact of the emissions are in that</p> <p>16 tentative determination document in the Docket 0920,</p> <p>17 I believe is what it is online.</p> <p>18 The permittee is not expected to be a major</p> <p>19 source of particulate matter, volatile organic</p> <p>20 compounds, oxides of nitrogen, sulfur oxides, or carbon</p> <p>21 monoxide. In addition, emissions of toxic air</p> <p>22 pollutants are estimated to be less than the allowable</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">14</p> <p>1 meeting we talked about how we were going to go ahead</p> <p>2 and begin the technical review of the application.</p> <p>3 What we need to do is determine or estimate the</p> <p>4 emissions that we believe will be coming out of this</p> <p>5 proposed human crematory.</p> <p>6 So some of the methods that we used to</p> <p>7 estimate emissions, we recognized that we had some</p> <p>8 crematory emission factors and standards that might have</p> <p>9 been outdated and hadn't been updated in quite a while.</p> <p>10 This is kind of an issue that has been going on on the</p> <p>11 East Coast. So we've been working with the Mid-Atlantic</p> <p>12 Regional Air Management Administration, also called</p> <p>13 MARAMA, to develop a best practices guidance document</p> <p>14 for estimating emissions from crematory operations.</p> <p>15 Other agencies that are involved in MARAMA and</p> <p>16 in this work group include Delaware, the District of</p> <p>17 Columbia, New Jersey, North Carolina, Central</p> <p>18 Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, Philadelphia, and</p> <p>19 Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.</p> <p>20 We have been meeting monthly since before</p> <p>21 December 2023 to go over all of our methods and</p> <p>22 procedures for estimating emissions from crematories so</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">16</p> <p>1 limits determined to be protective of public health.</p> <p>2 So what are the applicable air quality</p> <p>3 requirements that the applicant has to demonstrate</p> <p>4 compliance with in order to receive an air quality</p> <p>5 permit from the department?</p> <p>6 The first applicable air quality requirement</p> <p>7 is an opacity limit. Then there's a particulate matter</p> <p>8 emissions limit. They also have to use control</p> <p>9 technology that reduces toxic air pollutant emissions,</p> <p>10 and they also have to demonstrate compliance with our</p> <p>11 toxic air pollutant ambient impact requirement.</p> <p>12 The Opacity Limit. That's found in the Code</p> <p>13 of Maryland Regulations 26.11.08.04. This prohibits</p> <p>14 visible emissions from the human crematory except water</p> <p>15 vapor, that's steam, and then also during certain</p> <p>16 operations such as startup or adjustments or occasional</p> <p>17 cleaning as long as they don't occur for more than six</p> <p>18 consecutive minutes in a 60-minute period and it's not</p> <p>19 greater than 40 percent.</p> <p>20 So how are they going to demonstrate</p> <p>21 compliance with the opacity limit? The permit requires</p> <p>22 them to equip the human crematory with an opacity</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">17</p> <p>1 sensor. It's going to be interlocked with a control</p> <p>2 system that alerts the operator, continuously monitors</p> <p>3 the stack gases for visible emissions during operation,</p> <p>4 and then it adjusts the cremation operations to prevent</p> <p>5 visible emissions from exiting the crematory stack.</p> <p>6 In addition, they're also going to be required</p> <p>7 to conduct an initial U.S. EPA Method 9 opacity</p> <p>8 observation. This must be performed by an independent</p> <p>9 third party to conduct the test, and that's going to be</p> <p>10 required in the permit.</p> <p>11 Also, all of our air quality compliance</p> <p>12 program staff that would inspect the facility are</p> <p>13 certified to conduct Method 9 observations and will</p> <p>14 conduct these observations during inspections.</p> <p>15 Particulate Matter Emissions Limit. The human</p> <p>16 crematory must meet the Code of Maryland Regulations,</p> <p>17 26.11.08.05B(2)(a). This limits the concentration of</p> <p>18 particulate matter in the exhaust gases from the human</p> <p>19 crematory to 0.10 grains per standard of cubic foot of</p> <p>20 dry exhaust gas.</p> <p>21 To demonstrate compliance with the particulate</p> <p>22 matter standard, the permittee will be either required</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">19</p> <p>1 Finally, Maryland has a very stringent Toxic</p> <p>2 Air Pollutant Ambient Impact Requirement. Not every</p> <p>3 state has this, and that's something that we found out</p> <p>4 when we were working with the MARAMA workgroup, that our</p> <p>5 toxic air pollutant requirements are far more stringent</p> <p>6 than other states.</p> <p>7 The Code of Maryland Regulations 26.11.15.06</p> <p>8 prohibits the discharge of toxic air pollutants at</p> <p>9 levels that would unreasonably endanger human health.</p> <p>10 When we talk about unreasonably endangering</p> <p>11 human health, the Department or the regulations set</p> <p>12 protective levels for toxic air pollutants. For each</p> <p>13 toxic air pollutant there is a level that is set at</p> <p>14 1/100th of the level allowed for work or exposure at the</p> <p>15 facility itself.</p> <p>16 So at their property line, they cannot exceed</p> <p>17 1/100th of that number, so one percent of that number</p> <p>18 that a worker that's working at the facility could be</p> <p>19 exposed to from an occupational standpoint. They have</p> <p>20 to be below that level.</p> <p>21 If the toxic air pollutant is considered</p> <p>22 carcinogenic, there are additional protective levels</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">18</p> <p>1 to conduct the stack emissions testing to demonstrate</p> <p>2 compliance with the applicable particulate matter</p> <p>3 emissions limit using EPA Reference Method 5, or they</p> <p>4 may provide a stack test report conducted within the</p> <p>5 last five years by an independent third party stack</p> <p>6 testing company on an identical crematory unit.</p> <p>7 The Toxic Air Pollutant Control Technology</p> <p>8 Requirement. COMAR 26.11.15.05 requires the permittee</p> <p>9 to implement best available control technology, or</p> <p>10 T-BACT, for toxics to control emissions of toxic air</p> <p>11 pollutants.</p> <p>12 For crematories, T-BACT is identified as</p> <p>13 having the crematory be equipped with a secondary</p> <p>14 combustion chamber that's capable of meeting at least</p> <p>15 a one second retention time and a minimum operating</p> <p>16 temperature of 1,600 degrees Fahrenheit.</p> <p>17 The crematory must have a temperature sensor</p> <p>18 and monitor, continuously measure and record the</p> <p>19 temperature of the secondary combustion chamber, and the</p> <p>20 exhaust gases must be vented out of a stack at a height</p> <p>21 of at least 40 feet from the ground to ensure proper</p> <p>22 dispersion of the exhaust gases.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">20</p> <p>1 that are added to ensure continuous exposure to that</p> <p>2 toxic air pollutant for a period of 70 years would not</p> <p>3 cause an increase in lifetime cancer risk of more than</p> <p>4 one in 100,000.</p> <p>5 So to demonstrate compliance with this air</p> <p>6 toxic ambient impact requirement, the applicant is</p> <p>7 subject to a number of limits. They can only cremate</p> <p>8 human remains in the crematory, and they cannot cremate</p> <p>9 more than two human remains during any eight-hour</p> <p>10 period.</p> <p>11 In addition to that, they can't combust</p> <p>12 anything halogenated, like halogenated plastics,</p> <p>13 including PVC body bags or polyvinyl chloride body bags</p> <p>14 or PVC pipes, and they can't combust anything that's</p> <p>15 considered hazardous waste or hospital, medical, or</p> <p>16 infectious waste.</p> <p>17 They have to conduct stack emissions testing</p> <p>18 for emissions of metallic toxic air pollutants,</p> <p>19 including mercury, to demonstrate compliance, or the</p> <p>20 permittee may provide a stack test report conducted</p> <p>21 within the last five years by an independent third-party</p> <p>22 stack testing company on an independent crematory unit.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">21</p> <p>1 So what we found with the stack test reports</p> <p>2 in this MARAMA workgroup is that almost all of them were</p> <p>3 fairly consistent from crematory to crematory, so this</p> <p>4 is what we've proposed in the permit.</p> <p>5 In addition, there are a lot of other added</p> <p>6 protective measures in this permit. We recognize that</p> <p>7 this is an environmental justice area.</p> <p>8 The things that we have added to ensure</p> <p>9 continuous compliance are above and beyond any other</p> <p>10 crematory in the state of Maryland. Not only the stack</p> <p>11 testing requirement, the opacity sensor requirement, but</p> <p>12 they must also develop and maintain an operations and</p> <p>13 maintenance plan that's approved by the Department.</p> <p>14 The plan has to include the proper procedures</p> <p>15 for proper operation and maintenance, periodic</p> <p>16 monitoring, what they're monitoring, what they're</p> <p>17 looking for, what the values are, all the records that</p> <p>18 they have to keep. And if they had to do anything or</p> <p>19 make any corrective actions, what those corrective</p> <p>20 actions are and what they're supposed to do.</p> <p>21 In addition to that, they have to keep lots of</p> <p>22 records, continuous records of flue gas temperature at</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">23</p> <p>1 stringent requirements that we have ever, the Department</p> <p>2 has ever put in a permit-to-construct for a human</p> <p>3 crematory in the state of Maryland.</p> <p>4 They have to demonstrate initial compliance</p> <p>5 with these requirements and apply for and obtain a state</p> <p>6 operating permit. If they're unable to demonstrate</p> <p>7 initial compliance within the initial 180-day temporary</p> <p>8 operating period, they won't have a full permit to</p> <p>9 operate this crematory.</p> <p>10 In addition, as a state permit-to-operate</p> <p>11 source, they have to annually certify their actual</p> <p>12 emissions of regulated pollutants from the facility,</p> <p>13 and they must report all occurrences of excess</p> <p>14 emissions.</p> <p>15 On top of this, there are many other</p> <p>16 requirements this crematory is subject to outside of the</p> <p>17 air quality permit-to-construct.</p> <p>18 One is the requirements from the Baltimore</p> <p>19 City Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals, or BMZA.</p> <p>20 This limits the type of human remains that can be</p> <p>21 processed in the crematory unit to only those owned,</p> <p>22 operated, and controlled by Vaughn Greene. So it's not</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">22</p> <p>1 the outlet of the secondary combustion chamber. Also</p> <p>2 for each cremation, they have to have logs that show the</p> <p>3 date and start time of each cremation, the approximate</p> <p>4 weight of each charge, and the duration of each</p> <p>5 cremation cycle.</p> <p>6 They also have to have records of the</p> <p>7 description of the remains, the place of origin, the</p> <p>8 record of receipt, accompanying materials to be</p> <p>9 cremated, and an identification of materials removed</p> <p>10 from the remains prior to cremation.</p> <p>11 They also have to keep records of all</p> <p>12 maintenance performed on the crematory, including the</p> <p>13 date and description of the maintenance performed and</p> <p>14 the actions taken.</p> <p>15 They have to keep a copy of the O&M plan after</p> <p>16 it's approved by the Department, and they have to keep</p> <p>17 records of all the results of opacity observations and</p> <p>18 stack emissions tests performed.</p> <p>19 So as I stated previously, the conditions of</p> <p>20 this draft permit-to-construct, such as the opacity</p> <p>21 sensor, the stack testing requirements, the O&M plan,</p> <p>22 the operations and maintenance plan, represents the most</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">24</p> <p>1 going to be a commercial operation where they can bring</p> <p>2 in human remains that are not affiliated with their</p> <p>3 company.</p> <p>4 And also, they can only process human remains</p> <p>5 that have had all teeth containing mercury amalgams</p> <p>6 removed. This is kind of important because we're still</p> <p>7 having them test for mercury. We're still having them</p> <p>8 test for other metals, because in the event that they</p> <p>9 weren't removing the mercury amalgams we want to know or</p> <p>10 we want to see if there's any mercury emissions.</p> <p>11 All of our emissions estimates are based on</p> <p>12 the fact that they did not remove the mercury amalgams.</p> <p>13 So the two cremations per eight-hour period is based on</p> <p>14 this protective level for mercury if there is still</p> <p>15 mercury in those human remains, even though the zoning</p> <p>16 requirement requires them to remove them before</p> <p>17 cremation.</p> <p>18 In addition to the Department of Environment</p> <p>19 requirements, there's Maryland Department of Health</p> <p>20 requirements. The State Board of Morticians and Funeral</p> <p>21 Directors also regulate and inspect crematory facilities</p> <p>22 and require training from crematory operators. They</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">25</p> <p>1 require that all hazardous objects be removed from human 2 remains and cremation containers and then properly 3 disposed of before cremation. Cremation containers must 4 also comply with all local, state, and federal 5 governmental emissions regulations. 6 So I'm going to leave this up here after we 7 call for comments, but that's basically my public 8 hearing statement. 9 I did want to clarify again, written comments 10 can be submitted through October 22, 2024. So let me 11 just open that, I guess, up to comment. And you said 12 three minutes, Shannon? 13 MS. HEAFEY: Yes. 14 MS. SARISCAK: Okay. So I'm going to put a 15 timer up here for three minutes. It's going to be a 16 loose three minutes. We'll see how long this goes. 17 So, Senator, if you want to go. 18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Is there a list of the 19 hazardous materials and the infectious medical wastes 20 that you're worried about on your website that we can 21 look at? You said no remains that have infectious 22 medical waste or hazardous materials will be cremated.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">27</p> <p>1 Maryland Department of the Environment evaluates any new 2 source of pollution. 3 So it's already, of course, been determined 4 that a crematory is a new source of air pollution. 5 Therefore, the Department must determine and can 6 determine whether or not a proposed use complies with 7 all of our air quality regulations and meets all our air 8 quality standards when evaluating the application. 9 So as a part of the application process, this 10 evaluation, the Department notifies and engages the 11 public, and that's why we're here today. I just want 12 to make sure we're all on the same page. 13 So on June 8, 2020, Vaughn Greene Services 14 submitted an air quality permit-to-construct. And that 15 permit was to add a crematorium to their existing 16 funeral home. That's an allowable conditional use. 17 It's not a by right use. It's a conditional use. 18 The Department held its first public meeting 19 on December 2, 2020, and since then it's met with the 20 public at least three times. So we've had at least 21 three times where we've talked about this particular 22 application. And at every single meeting there has been</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">26</p> <p>1 Is there a list of what's considered those things 2 somewhere? 3 MS. SARISCAK: Okay. So the hazardous 4 materials that have to be removed are regulated by the 5 Department of Health, so they do have a list of those 6 materials that are required to be removed. They cannot 7 actually be handed over, the cremated remains cannot be 8 handed over to Vaughn Greene for cremation until those 9 are removed. 10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you. 11 MS. HEAFEY: Okay, folks, again, hold off 12 asking questions for your testimony so we can make sure 13 it's all recorded as part of the formal comments and 14 then we can formally address them. I appreciate it. 15 Thank you. Senator. 16 SENATOR WASHINGTON: Thank you. Good 17 evening, everyone. I hope you're all staying cool. 18 I appreciate the opportunity to be here. 19 For the record, I'm Senator Mary Washington. 20 I represent the 43rd Legislative District. And just to 21 be clear, what we're talking about is air pollution and 22 the requirement that under Maryland law, anyone that the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">28</p> <p>1 strong opposition and serious concern expressed by not 2 only residents that live directly adjacent to it, but 3 individuals who are tracking human health across the 4 state, and in some cases across the country. 5 So as a representative of this jurisdiction 6 and the people directly impacted, I stand with these 7 committed residents here, the businesses and the 8 property owners who relentlessly oppose the siting of a 9 human crematorium less than 500 feet from homes that 10 are already impacted by poor air quality. So dozens of 11 neighborhoods from Guilford to Loch Raven to Woodbourne 12 to Perring Loch, Lake Evesham to Govans, all have come 13 forward to express their opposition, resulting in a 14 united front. How often does that happen in Baltimore? 15 Hundreds of individuals, signatures and hours 16 of testimony, asking the Department to deny this permit 17 application. Students from Loyola and Notre Dame, 18 church leaders, neighborhood associations, 19 environmentalists, all have had the same message, 20 please do not allow a human crematorium to be built 21 in a densely populated Baltimore City neighborhood. 22 However, the numbers here tonight do not</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">29</p> <p>1 accurately reflect the widespread and fervent 2 opposition. While again it fills this room, it does not 3 reflect the many people who have. Many are absent due 4 to the expeditious scheduling of this hearing. 5 The first notice was given July 25th. The 6 hearing was scheduled less than a month, 23 days to be 7 exact, and then we see that the actual public notice was 8 even later than that. It was July 25th, so sort of less 9 than two weeks. 10 So, as such, the community has had to scramble 11 to thoroughly review the draft, to gather their thoughts 12 and comments to make time to attend this hearing, 13 demonstrating their unwavering commitment. 14 Additionally, just last night, just not for 15 nothing, it's very hot in this room, and it is known 16 that there is no air conditioning in this room. And 17 last night a number of city events were canceled due to 18 heat. So I just want to make a note of that as well. 19 So scheduling a hearing so quickly curtailed 20 the efficacy of the Department's public messaging and 21 its public engagement process. And, in fact, it raised 22 an unnecessarily and avoidable barrier to inclusive and</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">31</p> <p>1 already overburdened by pollution and other 2 environmental hazards such as MTA, the MTA bus line. 3 Another sort of fun fact. It's the highest -- it has 4 the greatest traffic of MTA buses traveling down the 5 York Road corridor. 6 A crematory, even when we close some of these 7 gaps to improve human health, a crematory does emit 8 toxic pollutants such as mercury, lead, and dioxins that 9 damage the environment, trees as well as human health, 10 and people who live near it. 11 And as was mentioned earlier, that the 12 proposed crematory site is within an area that has an 13 environmental justice score of 95. What that means is 14 that it is more environmentally burdened than 15 ninety-five percent of the communities in the state. 16 Ninety-five percent. 17 Okay. So the pollution burden in combination 18 with the direct exposure and proximity of air pollution, 19 like factories and roadways and fast food places, and 20 the cumulative impact of this, says that what we should 21 be doing is rather than adding more pollution to the 22 harm for these areas, we should be striving to establish</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">30</p> <p>1 transparent permit review, which is why we are here 2 today. So the Department and the stakeholders 3 responsible for preserving public health should note 4 that tonight's public testimony is incomplete. 5 I sent the Department a letter of concern and 6 asked them to reschedule this hearing to September to 7 allow more public participation, the day after Labor Day 8 as a matter of fact, but obviously that request was not 9 accepted. If anyone is interested in receiving a copy 10 of this letter, please contact my office. 11 Now, while the draft permit conditions -- now 12 on to the permit. It does reflect an important step 13 forward. The permit commissions can still, however, be 14 strengthened to further protect health and safety of 15 neighboring communities. 16 The Department and State has an obligation, 17 regardless of zoning, regardless of allowable use, 18 ultimately and fundamentally it is our responsibility to 19 protect communities from undue harm. 20 The need for tighter regulations and 21 management of even small incinerators is vital to this 22 process and it is very urgent, especially in areas</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">32</p> <p>1 health equity and true environmental justice regardless 2 of the safety measures and permit conditions imposed. 3 This incinerator will still produce harmful 4 emissions in the area already burdened. The potential 5 harm to the community cannot be overstated. And as I 6 said, the air quality permit should not, or I'll say 7 now ultimately, my comments, while there have been 8 adjustments, that the permit should not be granted. 9 Additionally, the Department, should it decide 10 to approve, it must strengthen the permit conditions to 11 mitigate harm. So we conferred with resident experts, 12 some environmental engineers, I'm sure you might hear 13 some of this, environmental health scientists with 14 decades of experience, and there are at least three 15 suggestions. 16 One, the recurring stack test. Testing once 17 every five years or testing another stack somewhere else 18 is just not acceptable. There should actually be 19 recurring stack tests throughout that five-year period, 20 and that the crematory ensure that it is operating 21 within regulatory limits. 22 Also, while we did note that the Baltimore</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">33</p> <p>1 Board of Zoning or Baltimore regulations require removal 2 of synthetic plastics, we would like to actually see 3 that in the permit. Additionally, in the permit the 4 provisions that only bodies currently owned or 5 operated -- sorry, only bodies from, currently owned or 6 operated by Vaughn Greene can be sent. 7 These requested additions are more than 8 reasonable, and their inclusion should demonstrate that 9 the Department, the state of Maryland, abides by its 10 mission to protect and restore the environment for the 11 health and well-being of Marylanders. 12 The proposed development or approval of a 13 conditional use has been contested since June 2020. 14 It's not the length of time or how long someone's waited 15 should not come into consideration. In other words, 16 part of the reason I was given why this was held so 17 quickly is that, well, the operator has been waiting a 18 long time. Well, I would say these communities have 19 been waiting a long time to breathe clean air. 20 (Applause.) 21 SENATOR WASHINGTON: They have been waiting a 22 long time to understand that their health matters, that</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">35</p> <p>1 it's going to be under-evaluated. It's not going to be 2 evaluated properly. 3 So again, as I said, for too long we've 4 allowed the desires of business to overtake the 5 consideration of the destruction that might be to our 6 environment. We cannot afford to allow this situation 7 to persist. I will not stand for it as your 8 representative. We have to prioritize. We can feel the 9 temperature. We see the rain. We see the changes in 10 the environment. Continuing to contribute to this as 11 simply a tradeoff for economic development is just no 12 longer palatable. 13 So at this point, the Department of the 14 Environment is the only agency that can do what's 15 necessary to protect the lives of the people in this 16 room and their families and their businesses. I urge 17 you to take this responsibility and stand up for the 18 public health and do not grant this air quality permit. 19 Thank you. 20 (Applause.) 21 MS. HEAFEY: Thank you. I would like to 22 invite Mr. Greene up. Is he here yet?</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">34</p> <p>1 their communities matter, and they've been waiting a 2 long time to stop simply saying that we stand for 3 environmental justice. What do they say, instead of 4 just talking about it, be about it. And so they've 5 been waiting for that. 6 So this community has sought every avenue to 7 stop this. And it's not about preventing a business 8 from meeting customer demands. In fact, there's another 9 location that is not adjacent to any commercial 10 properties that the owner could in fact have that. 11 (Applause.) 12 SENATOR WASHINGTON: So there are options for 13 this. And we understand that the use of cremation as a 14 choice is increasing in popularity. And, in fact, we 15 should note that when these laws were written and the 16 regulations were written, only 10 percent of the 17 population used cremation as an option for the final 18 disposition. Now, upwards of 60 to 75 percent of 19 people are projected to use that. 20 So again, if we're still using standards that 21 were based on 10 percent when now it's actually going to 22 be upwards of 60 to 70 percent, from the very beginning</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">36</p> <p>1 MR. GREENE: Thank you very much. Good 2 evening, everyone. 3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. 4 MR. GREENE: First of all, I'd like to 5 express my appreciation to the Huber Church for their 6 hospitality in hosting this meeting and their concern 7 for the community and allowing the community to engage 8 in this environment. 9 I want to thank the Maryland Department of the 10 Environment for all the hard work that they've done over 11 the last four years in working on this process. I'm 12 sure it's been stressful for them. 13 And I want to thank everyone who is here this 14 evening, and I certainly want to thank those persons 15 that for the last 20 years or so have been faithful to 16 the partnership that the East Baltimore community has 17 had with Vaughn Greene Funeral Services. 18 My name is Vaughn Green. I am a licensed 19 funeral director in the state of Maryland. I'm the 20 owner of Vaughn C. Greene Funeral Services. 21 I started working at a funeral home when I was 22 15-years-old. My grandfather was friends with a local</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">37</p> <p>1 funeral director, and my father impacted me the benefits 2 of hard work, got me a job working for a funeral home in 3 West Baltimore. My job was maintaining the parking lot, 4 mowing lawns, vacuuming the carpet, maintenance type 5 work, and I worked for him throughout high school. 6 I'm a product of Baltimore City Elementary 7 School, junior high, senior high, and I went to college 8 in the state of Maryland. Once I graduated from high 9 school, I knew funeral service was my calling. I feel 10 it's a God-ordained profession, a God-ordained calling. 11 So I went to mortuary school, got my degree in mortuary 12 science, and I went back to the funeral home that I 13 worked for as a youngster. 14 I was promoted as a manager, and I worked for 15 James Morton Funeral Homes in West Baltimore for 15 16 years before I founded Vaughn Greene Funeral Services 17 with my partner, Bill Miller, in 1996. 18 A lot of changes have taken place in funeral 19 service over the time that I've been in funeral service. 20 I'm not going to tell you how old I am now, but I've 21 been doing this since I was 15. The only other job I 22 had was a paper route. So I've been hanging around the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">39</p> <p>1 have to outsource their decedent to a third-party 2 vendor. That third-party vendor is not located in 3 Baltimore City. So the decedent from Baltimore City has 4 to be transported to Baltimore County to a crematory 5 that handles those services. 6 These are lifelong residents of Baltimore 7 City. These are persons who are part of the very fabric 8 of what Baltimore City is, and they have to be 9 transported outside of the city that they love because 10 those services are not available for them in the 11 community where they live. 12 I am one of the trusted community partners 13 that the family decides to call when they are in need of 14 these services. If they wanted to use a cremation 15 vendor in Catonsville or outside of the city, they would 16 have simply called those persons. 17 They called me to minister to them in their 18 season of need. Me having to entrust them to a 19 third-party or this third-party that I have to entrust 20 them to a family it doesn't even know. So they have to 21 go through the stress and anxiety of a family member 22 being transported to a vendor that they're not familiar</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">38</p> <p>1 funeral industry for a long time. 2 Fifty percent of the citizens of the state of 3 Maryland choose cremation as the mode of disposition. 4 Actually, in the United States it's higher. In some 5 geographies it's as high as 70 to 80 percent. In my 6 community, because I mainly serve the African-American 7 community, right now about 30 to 40 percent of that 8 number is cremation, and it's increasing every year. 9 These are services that the community is 10 requesting from me. 11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: What community? Not here. 12 MR. GREENE: I'm not marketing cremation. 13 I'm providing these services because these are the 14 services that the community that I serve is requesting 15 from me. 16 I'm simply trying to provide services that the 17 people need and the people are requesting of me without 18 having to put them through the uncomfortable process of 19 having their family member outsourced outside of the 20 city where they live. 21 As it stands right now, when a family entrusts 22 their loved one to my care for cremation services, I</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">40</p> <p>1 with, and personally I have to absorb the liability if 2 there's an issue. 3 I can't contain or control my liability 4 because if a third-party vendor has an accident, the 5 liability is on Vaughn Greene Funeral Services because 6 they trusted their family member to my care. 7 I have been a trusted community partner for 8 more than 25 years, and the African American community 9 has provided tremendous support in the partnership with 10 Vaughn Greene Funeral Services. I would never, please 11 hear me clearly, I would never ever bring services to 12 the people that I serve, the people that I worship with, 13 the people that I play golf with, the people that I 14 network with, I would never bring services to those 15 people that I thought were harmful. 16 The reality is there's opposition, but there's 17 also significant support. I have pastors in churches I 18 serve that serve their communities. I have letters of 19 support where pastors represent over 20,000 parishioners 20 that support having this service available in their 21 community. They don't want to continue to see their 22 members and their family members outsourced to Baltimore</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">41</p> <p>1 County because these services aren't available to</p> <p>2 Baltimore City residents.</p> <p>3 I have served over 18,000 families that have</p> <p>4 put their confidence and trust in me. They wouldn't be</p> <p>5 doing that if they didn't trust me. Three hundred fifty</p> <p>6 families every year call me for cremation services.</p> <p>7 Those decedents have parents, sisters,</p> <p>8 brothers, friends, and by calling me for cremation</p> <p>9 suggests that they are supporting this process, because</p> <p>10 if they didn't support this process they wouldn't be</p> <p>11 calling me and asking me to provide these services</p> <p>12 locally.</p> <p>13 The reality is there's more support for this</p> <p>14 project than opposition. There are a hundred people in</p> <p>15 this room. She just mentioned eight to 10 communities,</p> <p>16 and there are hundreds of people in this room. I get a</p> <p>17 hundred phone calls a month encouraging me to keep on to</p> <p>18 provide these services to the people that are calling on</p> <p>19 me.</p> <p>20 (Audience disruption.)</p> <p>21 MS. HEAFEY: I had asked everyone to please</p> <p>22 not talk over people. I want you to show the respect</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">43</p> <p>1 and internationally for cremation equipment. I knew in</p> <p>2 serving this community that I wanted the very best in</p> <p>3 terms of technology and the very best that was</p> <p>4 available.</p> <p>5 I knew that this company was known for that.</p> <p>6 They have a reputation of being the best out there, and</p> <p>7 that's why I sought them for this project. They will</p> <p>8 continue to be an important partner in the operation of</p> <p>9 the facility. If nothing else, because I know that</p> <p>10 that's what the community wants. They want oversight.</p> <p>11 I would like to emphasize, I would never do</p> <p>12 anything harmful to the community I serve. I have</p> <p>13 employees and family members who work at the York Road</p> <p>14 location. I would never put them or anybody else at</p> <p>15 risk.</p> <p>16 Crematoriums operate safely in every county in</p> <p>17 the state of Maryland and all over the United States of</p> <p>18 America. Cremation has been around since biblical days.</p> <p>19 There's one just north of me in Towson, and there's</p> <p>20 another in West Baltimore. There haven't been any</p> <p>21 issues, because if there were they would certainly be</p> <p>22 highlighted.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">42</p> <p>1 that we will be showing to you. So please let Mr.</p> <p>2 Greene finish his statement and then I'll be inviting</p> <p>3 everybody --</p> <p>4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: -- I'm going to leave</p> <p>5 because this is a joke.</p> <p>6 MS. HEAFEY: Okay.</p> <p>7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Okay. So I'm going to</p> <p>8 leave, no problem. I have six family members. I live</p> <p>9 less than 200 feet from there. I can walk out of my</p> <p>10 yard, look right there, and Vaughn Greens is there. I</p> <p>11 have grandchildren that are sick, my mom and me, right?</p> <p>12 So it's a joke. It's disrespectful to us.</p> <p>13 MS. HEAFEY: Okay. Step out here. Let's</p> <p>14 step out here and talk.</p> <p>15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: It's a joke. It's</p> <p>16 disrespectful to us.</p> <p>17 (Audience disruption.)</p> <p>18 MR. GREENE: Please don't put her out. Allow</p> <p>19 her to continue to be here and express her opinion and</p> <p>20 be a part of this process.</p> <p>21 We selected Matthews Environmental Solutions</p> <p>22 for this project. They're the market leader nationally</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">44</p> <p>1 There's nothing that nobody has found that</p> <p>2 suggested that a crematorium in Maryland has been</p> <p>3 responsible for illnesses and catastrophic challenges</p> <p>4 involving people. But if there were, those issues would</p> <p>5 be raised, and the reasons that they're not being raised</p> <p>6 is because those issues don't exist.</p> <p>7 I began this process fully aware that the</p> <p>8 Maryland Department of the Environment has a reputation</p> <p>9 for having amongst the strictest emissions standards in</p> <p>10 the country. The emissions from our facility will be</p> <p>11 way under those standards. As a lifelong Maryland</p> <p>12 resident, thank you for the work you do.</p> <p>13 And in conclusion, I would like to say that</p> <p>14 the opposition likes to refer to the crematorium as an</p> <p>15 incinerator.</p> <p>16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Because it is, it is.</p> <p>17 MR. GREENE: Incinerators incinerate trash,</p> <p>18 refuse, garbage. The parents, the brothers and</p> <p>19 sisters, the children, the family members who have</p> <p>20 services with the urn present, who put their remains,</p> <p>21 cremains in jewelry and wear it around their neck, they</p> <p>22 don't consider their family members trash.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">45</p> <p>1 It is not an incinerator. A crematorium is a 2 controlled process that is an approved method for the 3 final disposition of human beings. 4 Thank you so much for the privilege of 5 allowing me to share. Again, thank you, MDE, Huber 6 Church. And again, thank all of you. Some of you I've 7 served over the years. I pray that that partnership 8 continues to move forward. And may God continue to 9 bless you in this community and may he continue to smile 10 upon you is my prayer. 11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: How close do you live to 12 the incinerator? Howard County. That's where he 13 lives. A Baltimore man living in Howard County. 14 MS. HEAFEY: Okay. So as I mentioned 15 earlier, I'm going to call people up five at a time to 16 come and sit over here and then will speak. When this 17 first five goes, I'll call the next five, et cetera. 18 There will be a three-minute timer. I think someone's 19 going to have that up there for you. 20 And again, it isn't necessarily the order in 21 which you signed in. It's just the order that I have 22 the sign-in sheets. But we will get to everybody.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">47</p> <p>1 are somehow different qualitatively than incinerator of 2 anything else. So it's my opinion that the MDE should 3 never have approved the permit to begin with, but that's 4 where we are right now. 5 What I wanted to say to MDE is that I work in 6 computer science and analyze data a lot. Data is very 7 important to tell the story, to address, to prove the 8 compliance. And I believe the one thing that I would 9 want to say is this must not be a one and done sort of 10 thing. The data needs to be meaningful and it needs to 11 be of the stack and it needs to be repeated so that we 12 can be assured of our health. 13 The reason also that we have vociferously 14 opposed this crematory is that 95 percent environmental 15 justice score is 95 percent bad. Any additional 16 pollution is adding on to an already bad situation. Any 17 pollution, any additional pollution, so we don't want 18 it. 19 If it's here, we need to have it continuously 20 monitored in a meaningful way so that we can be assured 21 of the science and the data. It needs to be 22 transparent. And I believe that is furthering the</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">46</p> <p>1 (Audience disruption.) 2 AUDIENCE MEMBER: He's just gone out for a 3 minute. He will be right back. 4 MS. HEAFEY: Okay. So I'd like to call up 5 Jeff Tompkins. Is it Tzipporah Horowitz? Vincent 6 Smith. Karen DeCamp. And Jennifer Halstead. Thank 7 you for your patience. Sorry, I want to make sure I 8 get all this right. 9 Okay. So Mr. Tompkins, if you want to come 10 up. What I need you to do is state your name and spell 11 it for the court reporters. 12 MR. TOMPKINS: My name is Jeff Tompkins. 13 Jeff Tompkins, J-E-F-F, T-O-M-P-K-I-N-S. I'm here 14 because my community, who I'm very proud of because 15 they've stood up for themselves and the health of our 16 neighbors, has opposed this crematorium vociferously 17 for a long time. 18 I think it's very important to point out why 19 was the word incinerator even brought up here. It's 20 because incinerators are not allowed in residential 21 areas. And I believe that it is a very arbitrary kind 22 of distinction to say that incineration of human remains</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">48</p> <p>1 mission of MDE to keep us, keep the residents of 2 Maryland safe. That's primary. So I would just like to 3 say keep the data real, keep us safe, and keep the 4 standards up to date. That's all I have. Thank you. 5 (Applause.) 6 MS. HOROWITZ: Can I keep the mic over here 7 so I can see the timer? 8 MS. HEAFEY: If you wish to, sure. 9 MS. HOROWITZ: Thanks. 10 MS. HEAFEY: And again, say your name and 11 spell it. 12 MS. HOROWITZ: My name is Tzipporah Horowitz. 13 That's T-Z-I-P-P-O-R-A-H, and then the last name is 14 H-O-R-O-W-I-T-Z. I work with the Chesapeake Climate 15 Action Network. Thank you for the opportunity to 16 submit comments on this permit for the installation of 17 a Matthews Environmental Solutions PowerPak II Plus 18 Human Crematorium. 19 We carefully reviewed the permit application 20 after attending the meeting on December 13, 2023 on the 21 proposal before addressing the specific technical 22 complaints with the draft permit as written. We would</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">49</p> <p>1 like to highlight several factors that weigh heavily</p> <p>2 into our concerns about the proposal.</p> <p>3 MDE has not sufficiently taken into account</p> <p>4 the strong community opposition to the project. MDE's</p> <p>5 permitting system for crematoria is not designed for a</p> <p>6 source of this kind with population density like this,</p> <p>7 and the area chosen for this project is already</p> <p>8 overburdened with other environmental pollutants, is</p> <p>9 a hotspot for asthma and other conditions, making the</p> <p>10 proposed facility an extraordinary burden on an already</p> <p>11 suffering community.</p> <p>12 MDE should apply increased scrutiny to permits</p> <p>13 for applications for air pollution sources in and near</p> <p>14 zip codes with high scores on environmental justice</p> <p>15 scorecards as rated by the EPA.</p> <p>16 As the process moves forward, MDE should take</p> <p>17 into account several factors to assure that the best</p> <p>18 available technology to reduce the risk to human health</p> <p>19 is available to the community.</p> <p>20 The United Nations Environmental Program has</p> <p>21 laid out best practices for crematoria operations in the</p> <p>22 Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutions</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">51</p> <p>1 response times when equipment fails.</p> <p>2 The standard process for reviewing crematorium</p> <p>3 permits, as MDE conceded at the public meeting, is</p> <p>4 insufficient for the current application due to the</p> <p>5 proposed crematorium's location in a densely populated</p> <p>6 neighborhood.</p> <p>7 One key best practice to minimize equipment</p> <p>8 failures and risks to human health is to regularly</p> <p>9 inspect equipments, although MDE's current process only</p> <p>10 inspects crematory in the event of a complaint.</p> <p>11 Just 10 more seconds and I will finish.</p> <p>12 MS. HEAFEY: Go fast, really fast.</p> <p>13 MS. HOROWITZ: Okay. MDE should not allow</p> <p>14 Vaughn Greene to operate without a permit with</p> <p>15 inspections on a schedule recommended by UN standards.</p> <p>16 Similarly, the application does not contain a</p> <p>17 robust monitoring system procedure despite regularly</p> <p>18 monitoring being considered a best practice. I see that</p> <p>19 that's been added. I'm curious about the details of the</p> <p>20 scheduling of the monitoring and how available those</p> <p>21 results will be to the public. And I just want to see</p> <p>22 that they're doing what they said they're going to do.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">50</p> <p>1 for UN standards. Based on these UN standards, we have</p> <p>2 several concerns with the permit as written.</p> <p>3 First, the permit lists the equipment as the</p> <p>4 Matthews PowerPak II Model Plus IE43PP2 Plus. I asked</p> <p>5 for the technical specifications from the company and</p> <p>6 reviewed them. It only measures opacity, not carbon</p> <p>7 monoxide.</p> <p>8 Carbon monoxide monitoring is the best</p> <p>9 practice because monitoring for this colorless gas can</p> <p>10 be an early indicator that some part of a process has</p> <p>11 gone wrong in a way that could harm human health.</p> <p>12 Carbon monoxide is sometimes used by the EPA as a proxy</p> <p>13 pollutant for hazardous air pollutants or HAPs,</p> <p>14 generally because both can be byproducts of incomplete</p> <p>15 combustion. Therefore, MDE should pay particular</p> <p>16 attention to this flaw.</p> <p>17 The equipment listed in the permit is also</p> <p>18 intended to run automatically for long periods of time</p> <p>19 without staff on site. A key component of crematorium</p> <p>20 safety is the ability to react when equipment</p> <p>21 malfunctions. A polluting facility of this size in a</p> <p>22 densely populated area must have staff on site to reduce</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">52</p> <p>1 Thank you.</p> <p>2 (Applause.)</p> <p>3 MS. HEAFEY: (Inaudible).</p> <p>4 MS. HOROWITZ: I'm happy to, I'll bring a</p> <p>5 card.</p> <p>6 MS. HEAFEY: That would be great. I</p> <p>7 appreciate that. Thank you.</p> <p>8 MR. SMITH: My name is Vincent Smith,</p> <p>9 V-I-N-C-E-N-T, S-M-I-T-H. I don't have nothing</p> <p>10 written, so basically I'm coming off the top of my</p> <p>11 head.</p> <p>12 I've lived in that community all of my life,</p> <p>13 60 plus years, and I work in the wastewater field. So</p> <p>14 I'm wondering about the odor that's going to come</p> <p>15 through the emissions through that building. Are they</p> <p>16 going to have some sort of odor scrubber that's going to</p> <p>17 scrub the emissions coming through there? That's one</p> <p>18 question I wanted to bring to the table.</p> <p>19 The other thing is, if this thing is installed</p> <p>20 and 10 years from now we find out people start to get</p> <p>21 cancer, because cancer's like running rapid now. So, I</p> <p>22 mean, there's children in my neighborhood. And if this</p>

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1 thing is needed, it's not for us to be penalized for it.
2 Move it somewhere else. Buy some land somewhere out in
3 Hagerstown somewhere, you know, but don't bring it down
4 in that area.

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. SMITH: As they spoke earlier and said
7 about it being densely populated and the pollution
8 factor is already existing, why would you do this now?
9 I mean, you all granting them permits, you all
10 shouldn't do it. So that's all I got to say. Thank
11 you.

12 (Applause.)

13 MS. DECAMP: Hi. I'm Karen DeCamp. I live
14 in Radnor-Winston. K-A-R-E-N, D-E-C-A-M-P. I just
15 want a couple of comments for MDE.

16 This is a terrible time, a terrible location
17 and place for this hearing. It's really disrespectful
18 to this community. This is two miles from the affected
19 community. This is in a pretty hot room at 5:30, which
20 is when most working people are getting off work and
21 trying to get over here. I suggest that a best practice
22 for MDE be that the permittee not be allowed to pick the

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1 time, place, location.

2 (Applause.)

3 MS. DECAMP: I want to point out just a
4 couple other quick things. I hear a lot from MDE about
5 environmental justice. I hear a lot of mouthing of
6 environmental justice. And, you know, the MDE, with
7 its own scoring, 95 out of 100 means this location is
8 one of the worst possible places to put another source
9 of pollution, right?

10 So basically, if we are committed to being
11 about environmental justice, we should be about
12 correcting the years of environmental injustice where we
13 put pollution sources in black and brown communities,
14 where we gave people in those communities more than
15 their fair share, and so we need to be about correcting
16 that. So just issuing a permit, putting some conditions
17 on it, good start. Needs to be a hell of a lot stronger
18 than that. And I think some people are going to cover
19 that.

20 But I just want to read out to you, and I'm
21 going to circle back to the issue of getting people two
22 miles over here right after work, it's the dinner hour.

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1 MDE has said, "It's important that residents
2 who may be adversely affected" -- anybody here going to
3 be adversely affected -- "by a proposed pollution source
4 be aware of current environmental issues in their
5 community in order to have meaningful involvement in
6 this permitting process." Hauling people here right
7 after work, two miles away from the affected community.

8 In August, when many people replied back to
9 me, I can't make it, I'm not going to be here, I can't
10 make it from work, not great. Please, please, please
11 correct your practices, MDE.

12 And I want to say that the environmental
13 justice part of this, the idea of correcting the
14 injustice that we've done to black and brown
15 communities, you have a special duty here to protect
16 this community and make the permit conditions as strong
17 as they possibly can. Recurring stack tests so we have
18 at least some information besides, gee, how opaque is
19 the smoke? That's what we need from you. We need
20 strong permit conditions. Do better.

21 MS. HEAFEY: Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

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1 MS. HALSTEAD: Good evening. My name is
2 Jennifer Halstead and I represent the Evesham Park
3 Neighborhood Association. I'm here today to express
4 our strong opposition for the proposed permit at Vaughn
5 Greene Funeral Services. Our concerns are rooted in
6 the significant environmental and public health impacts
7 that this facility would bring to an already burdened
8 community.

9 According to MDE, the EG score or EJ score is
10 95 percent, which has been mentioned here tonight
11 several times. Baltimore faces significant public
12 health challenges related to air quality with pediatric
13 asthma related emergency visits occurring at more than
14 double the statewide rate. But yet this permit would
15 allow an incinerator to be within walking distance of
16 three schools and two parks.

17 When you state that there are no other
18 crematory permit in Maryland at this time that requires
19 this level of testing to verify emissions, I think it's
20 crucial to provide context as you kind of touched on in
21 the beginning.

22 Well, from what I researched there's been no

<p style="text-align: right;">57</p> <p>1 new permits issued for crematoriums in Baltimore City</p> <p>2 since 1999. Could you confirm that is the case? If so,</p> <p>3 we ask what were the standards that were last approved</p> <p>4 for the permit in 1999 and how have regulatory</p> <p>5 requirements evolved since then? Without this context,</p> <p>6 it is impossible to fully understand the adequacy and</p> <p>7 effectiveness of the current testing protocols.</p> <p>8 It raises serious questions on whether the</p> <p>9 proposed standards are sufficient and in good faith to</p> <p>10 protect our community's health and environment in the</p> <p>11 face of modern challenges.</p> <p>12 Additionally, but not without consequence, the</p> <p>13 environmental impact of crematoriums is substantial. On</p> <p>14 average, sites this size produce roughly 28 metric tons</p> <p>15 of CO2 annually and it would require about 1,300 mature</p> <p>16 trees each year just to offset the carbon emissions from</p> <p>17 one crematory. This directly conflicts with Baltimore's</p> <p>18 Climate Action Plan which aims to reduce greenhouse gas</p> <p>19 emissions by 80 percent by 2050. I don't think that</p> <p>20 this will get us there.</p> <p>21 We urge the board to consider these factors</p> <p>22 seriously as you are the Maryland Department of</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">59</p> <p>1 and you're judging things on estimates. And maybe five</p> <p>2 years things are good, or not so good, and then maybe</p> <p>3 we'll come back and maybe do another test or maybe take</p> <p>4 a test from some other location.</p> <p>5 That is really ridiculous. We really need</p> <p>6 strong monitoring. And if you really think about</p> <p>7 everything that can come out of an incinerator, this is</p> <p>8 a human incinerator, but it is an incinerator, let's</p> <p>9 just look at things. We got PFAS. We don't even know</p> <p>10 what the limits should be for PFAS right now.</p> <p>11 What happens if you're burning and PFAS are</p> <p>12 coming out? These are chemicals that do not destruct at</p> <p>13 that temperature. We've got dioxins. We've got lead,</p> <p>14 mercury, and PM2.5 that can be coming out.</p> <p>15 Well, you're coming back and saying, well, we</p> <p>16 trust Vaughn Greene that they won't be coming out. How</p> <p>17 do we really know? You need to really have monitoring</p> <p>18 and you need to have monitoring that is reported to the</p> <p>19 public, really like on a website that we all can see,</p> <p>20 that we can see daily what is happening at the</p> <p>21 incinerator. So this is something that really needs to</p> <p>22 work.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">58</p> <p>1 Environment. Approving this permit would not only</p> <p>2 counteract our City's climate goals but also place</p> <p>3 additional health burdens on our community's most</p> <p>4 vulnerable populations. Thank you for your time.</p> <p>5 (Applause.)</p> <p>6 MS. HEAFEY: Thank you. Okay. I would like</p> <p>7 to invite up the next five. Okay. So the next five I</p> <p>8 want to bring up, if they're available, is Dave Arndt,</p> <p>9 Karen Thompson, Cindy Camp, Sophie Valkenburg, and Dan</p> <p>10 Pontious. Just remember to state your name and spell</p> <p>11 it for the record.</p> <p>12 MR. ARNDT: Okay. Hello, my name is Dave</p> <p>13 Arndt. I'm a Baltimore resident and a co-lead of</p> <p>14 Maryland Legislation Coalition Climate Justice Wing and</p> <p>15 I'm kind of deeply upset at what's going on here and</p> <p>16 what MDE is allowing.</p> <p>17 Basically, I'm looking at kind of one of the</p> <p>18 first principles is self-regulation doesn't work. And</p> <p>19 that's what you're really saying that you really want to</p> <p>20 have happen here is self-regulation, that Vaughn Greene</p> <p>21 will regulate themselves and hopefully everything goes</p> <p>22 okay. And you're just going, like hopefully it does,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">60</p> <p>1 There also has to be a mandatory notification</p> <p>2 if things go wrong, not, oh, you may find out a year</p> <p>3 from now. And we need to have shutdown procedures that</p> <p>4 everybody knows about, that if something does go wrong</p> <p>5 things will be shut down immediately.</p> <p>6 The one thing I also have to do is talk to</p> <p>7 Vaughn Greene here. This last year we passed a bill in</p> <p>8 the state that allowed for water cremation. Why not use</p> <p>9 water cremation? You say people want to be cremated,</p> <p>10 choose a different source. You can buy water cremation</p> <p>11 now in Maryland, install it, and then we can be</p> <p>12 pollution free.</p> <p>13 So please, if you're really concerned about</p> <p>14 the people in the neighborhood, install a different type</p> <p>15 of crematorium. Thank you.</p> <p>16 (Applause.)</p> <p>17 MS. CAMP: Hello, everyone. My name is Cindy</p> <p>18 Camp and I live in 500 block of Ragnar, which is less</p> <p>19 than 200 feet from the crematorium.</p> <p>20 My family, my mom is 89. My brother is</p> <p>21 bedridden, has been for at least seven to eight years.</p> <p>22 I have three grandchildren, all of which has asthma,</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">61</p> <p>1 residing right there. So if you look out my window, 2 there's Vaughn Greene. So I'm concerned about the 3 health effects that will have on the people in the 4 neighborhood now, five, 10, 20 years from now. 5 Will metals and toxics settle in my yard where 6 my grandchildren play? Will more particles in the air 7 make worse the high childhood asthma rate on our blocks? 8 MDE, you can't tell us whether this is safe for us now 9 because you are using outdated emission factors. You 10 can't tell us if this will affect our health in the 11 future because your permit calls for one test of the 12 smokestack on startup of the crematorium. Do better. 13 We want more frequent smokestack tests and 14 limits on the number of bodies and hours of operations 15 and more. So when you look at me, I am my community. 16 It's a marginalized community. We have enough issues. 17 So we don't need any more emissions or toxins in our 18 community. We deserve better. 19 (Applause.) 20 MS. VALKENBERG: I'm Sophie Valkenburg, 21 S-O-P-H-I-E, V-A-L-K-E-N-B-E-R-G. I'm a resident of 22 Radnor-Winston right behind the post office. And also,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">63</p> <p>1 this we, as a community are calling for stronger 2 regulations. 3 We want all medical implants removed. We want 4 required and frequently recurring stack and opacity 5 tests for this specific Vaughn Greene crematorium. No 6 substitutions for similar crematoriums may be made. 7 The MDE must update the 30-year-old 8 particulate matter emission limit. And for this permit 9 we urge that the MDE use these suggested regulations 10 along with limits on frequency of burning and the source 11 of bodies to compensate for this outdated standard. 12 The drafted permit violates the human right to 13 clean air of an already overburdened community. I 14 strongly urge that the MDE reconsider this permitting 15 decision and strengthen the current regulations and 16 limitations. This community deserves and has a right to 17 clean air. Do not pollute and hurt the city and 18 community you claim to love so much. Thank you. 19 (Applause.) 20 MR. PONTIOUS: Hello. My name is Dan 21 Pontius. D-A-N, P-O-N-T-I-O-U-S. Since 2018 I've been 22 the president of the Radnor-Winston Improvement</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">62</p> <p>1 my dad is a lung cancer survivor, so not starting off 2 super strong. 3 So I want to also start by calling attention 4 to something that all of us in the room are now aware 5 of, that the Environmental Justice score for the 6 Winston-Govans census tract is a 95. 7 This predominantly black community already 8 deals with a variety of environmental pollutants like 9 those from the 20,000 vehicles that drive through busy 10 York Road each day. Compounding impacts from further 11 sources hurt real people. The permit requires some 12 additional measures because of this but they need to be 13 stronger. 14 According to the EPA's EJ screen program, the 15 census tract of this neighborhood has a significantly 16 higher asthma rate than the rest than the average of the 17 state of Maryland. On top of this, several studies have 18 shown that childhood exposure to air pollution has been 19 linked to a significant increase in asthma diagnoses. 20 This health disparity demonstrates that this 21 family oriented community already carries a much larger 22 stress compared to the rest of the state. Because of</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">64</p> <p>1 Association right across York Road from the proposed 2 crematorium. 3 And since May I'm the very new president of 4 the York Road Partnership, which is a coalition of more 5 than 30 member neighborhoods and institutions along York 6 Road. And I would like everyone affiliated with York 7 Road Partnership, if you could stand up right now. 8 Stand up. Stand up. Let's show that we have folks 9 here. 10 (Applause.) 11 MR. PONTIOUS: These are the folks in the 12 neighborhoods along the York Road corridor and we are 13 all standing together with people like Cindy Camp you 14 just heard from who live less than 200 feet there. 15 We have stated as a coalition that we believe 16 that this was not an appropriate site because people 17 live so close. The BMC, when they heard the zoning, 18 they said, well, we have to defer to MDE, we don't know 19 about health, even though the city code requires them to 20 make their own health determination. We appealed that. 21 The Appellate Court of Maryland just ruled, well, no 22 that was okay after all. So it's all up to you, MDE.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">65</p> <p>1 Like we tried other avenues to protect our</p> <p>2 citizens from the pollution from this site, and the only</p> <p>3 one left, the Maryland Department of the Environment is</p> <p>4 the only entity standing between the pollution from this</p> <p>5 proposed crematorium and the families who live less than</p> <p>6 200 feet, you know, right around that crematorium. So</p> <p>7 it's all up to you.</p> <p>8 The permit kind of is proud that you believe</p> <p>9 this will meet all the limits, pollution limits, but the</p> <p>10 particulate matter emissions limit that you put on the</p> <p>11 slide, this is from 1991. Vaughn Greene didn't even</p> <p>12 exist as a company I just learned tonight in 1991.</p> <p>13 This emissions limit that you're proud that</p> <p>14 they're meeting is very old. Since then we've realized</p> <p>15 that PM2.5, the very, very small particulates that come</p> <p>16 out of this kind of crematorium and all combustion are</p> <p>17 much more hazardous than the bigger pollutants which is</p> <p>18 the one that you're setting a limit for. It can lodge</p> <p>19 in the deepest recesses of the lungs. It can get into</p> <p>20 the bloodstream. And yet you are not going to regulate</p> <p>21 that whatsoever from this crematorium. So when people</p> <p>22 say this is an old standard, this is the old standard,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">67</p> <p>1 submit written comments. But I just want to point out</p> <p>2 that you are the only thing protecting people now and</p> <p>3 your standards are old, and so it's appropriate to set.</p> <p>4 We're glad that you're trying to limit the</p> <p>5 bodies that come. Vaughn Greene only asked to cremate</p> <p>6 bodies for 12 hours a day, six days a week. It would be</p> <p>7 nice if you put that in the permit you gave them what</p> <p>8 they asked for. So these types of limits, we need to</p> <p>9 take out the implants. There are a lot more implants in</p> <p>10 bodies than there were in 1992 now. All that emissions</p> <p>11 will go up the stack. That has no pollution controls</p> <p>12 whatsoever.</p> <p>13 We will put more detail in the comments. But</p> <p>14 I just want to make it clear your job is to protect our</p> <p>15 public health, and the limits that you've got in this</p> <p>16 permit are not doing it.</p> <p>17 (Applause.)</p> <p>18 MS. HEAFEY: Please state your name and spell</p> <p>19 it first.</p> <p>20 MS. THOMPSON: Good evening. Thompson, Karen</p> <p>21 Thompson, T-H-O-M-P-S-O-N. Yes, I've lived in the</p> <p>22 Govans community for 54 years. My father brought me</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">66</p> <p>1 the standard older than the Vaughn Greene funeral home</p> <p>2 itself.</p> <p>3 And similarly, the toxic -- you know, this is</p> <p>4 only -- we got two weeks notice of this hearing, which</p> <p>5 is not even in the same zip code, I realized just now</p> <p>6 too. So we're still trying to understand the permit and</p> <p>7 all the toxic measurements. But those toxic</p> <p>8 calculations, the big table with all the toxic estimates</p> <p>9 of pollution, those are based on some crematorium in New</p> <p>10 Jersey in 1992. So that's very old too.</p> <p>11 So, you know, given that the limits that you</p> <p>12 are certifying that this proposed crematorium can meet</p> <p>13 are so old, and the fact that this these communities are</p> <p>14 so vulnerable, as your own permit indicates,</p> <p>15 environmental justice measure of 95 out of 100 --</p> <p>16 MS. HEAFEY: Your three minutes are up. If</p> <p>17 you want to continue after that --</p> <p>18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: He can take my three</p> <p>19 minutes.</p> <p>20 MS. HEAFEY: Are you sure? Okay. All right.</p> <p>21 MR. PONTIOUS: So I'll wrap up. I will need</p> <p>22 more time to take a look at the permit and we will</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">68</p> <p>1 into this community at the age of 10 and I've watched</p> <p>2 it change over the years and everything, and I see the</p> <p>3 communities coming and, you know, everything's</p> <p>4 thriving. Things are working to our advantage.</p> <p>5 But this crematorium that they're asking for,</p> <p>6 it will pollute the area. We have so many schools in</p> <p>7 this area, you know. And not only that, I am an asthma</p> <p>8 person myself. I walk every day, every day. I can't go</p> <p>9 out my house without this nebulizer, I mean without this</p> <p>10 inhaler. I cannot go out of my house. And when my</p> <p>11 asthma really kicks up on me, I have to put on, you</p> <p>12 know, use my nebulizer. It's like an elephant sitting</p> <p>13 on my chest. I cannot breathe. So I'm asking you guys</p> <p>14 to please consider us. Not just me as a 64-year-old</p> <p>15 elderly lady in the community, think of like they said,</p> <p>16 the kids.</p> <p>17 It is a known fact that the brown and black</p> <p>18 communities have a high impact of asthma. So you're not</p> <p>19 looking at our kids. You're not looking at our future.</p> <p>20 They're the future. That's what we should be looking</p> <p>21 at. And Vaughn Greene, if you're still here, that's</p> <p>22 what you should be looking at.</p>

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1 You know, you have another place somewhere up
2 there in Randallstown. Maybe there's a place for it
3 there. Like the gentleman said, what about the water?
4 Maybe look into that. There are other avenues that you
5 can use instead of putting this on York Road where
6 there's numerous traffic up and down polluting our
7 community already. So I'm just asking you guys to
8 please look out for us. Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 MS. HEAFEY: Okay. The next five people I
11 would like to call up, Yvonne Williams, Genevieve
12 Yaeger, Bonita Cody -- forgive me if I'm messing up
13 everyone's names, I'm so sorry -- Zoe Friedman, and Dru
14 Schmidt-Perkins.

15 MS. YAEGER: All right. I'm fine, I've got
16 a loud voice. It's fine.

17 MS. HEAFEY: We just need you to say your
18 name and spell it for the court reporter.

19 MS. YAEGER: Yeah. Genevieve Yaeger,
20 G-E-N-E-V-I-E-V-E, Y-A-E-G-E-R. So I come here today
21 as a neighbor, but I'm also an educator and school
22 psychologist so I'm really here to advocate on this

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1 cause for educational and developmental regs.

2 What data do we have about the impact of the
3 toxic pollutants that are emitted from a crematorium in
4 underdeveloping children? I personally don't know that.
5 I'm asking that. Do we have accountable protocol
6 policies in place to be mindful of our children when
7 they commute from home to school or ensuring air quality
8 safety when these children go outside for any learning
9 opportunities or any recreational opportunities?

10 We have several schools located within a close
11 vicinity to the business. A majority of them that sit
12 in what we call the right wing of the owl and the
13 butterfly.

14 There's significant data out there confirming
15 that ingesting and being exposed to toxic chemicals as
16 we develop are detrimental not only to a child's
17 development but their physical development, their
18 cognition, and how they develop in the brain, and of
19 course their emotional development.

20 We also have data and first-hand experience
21 from just me as a teacher, but let's be real, we've got
22 the data everywhere to confirm that our communities in

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1 that butterfly wing are already disproportionately
2 impacted and disadvantaged by these chemicals, right.
3 We've got the data that we've been talking about.

4 I also know that as someone who wants to plan
5 and start my own family I have to consider this as well,
6 right, for my own body safety as well. If I'm wanting
7 to bring someone into this life, do I really want to
8 start a family where I know the air quality is not as
9 stellar?

10 I know that if these conditions get worse I'm
11 really lucky. I have the accessibility to leave and
12 relocate if needed. That's not what I want to do.
13 I want to invest in this community. That's why I'm here
14 tonight. I also know that other neighbors don't have
15 that same luxury nor do they want to even think that
16 way. This is our community. We want to preserve it and
17 make sure it can last for generations to come.

18 I respect the fact that Vaughn Greene is doing
19 what they can as a business to honor the dead but I'm
20 more concerned about its potential impact on those who
21 are living today.

22 (Applause.)

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1 MS. CODY: Good evening. My name is Bonita
2 Cody. My A's are terrible so that's why you said
3 Bonitt.

4 MS. HEAFEY: Sorry.

5 MS. CODY: B-O-N-I-T-A, C-O-D-Y. I've sat
6 through a number of these meetings. I'm not going to
7 go over any of those things or even read this. But I
8 just want to say that our community is vulnerable, very
9 much so, and I listen to everything.

10 I think a lot of the people who request
11 cremation don't really understand what they're doing to
12 the community. It's a financial issue. I understand
13 those things. But until I really started working with
14 the committee did I really understand the problems.
15 So I think that's one. You know, you can serve your
16 constituents but they really don't know what they're
17 doing.

18 I guess the other thing is MDE is a state
19 agency. I really think you're caught between a rock and
20 a hard place. And until -- and I'm going to wear my
21 shirt until we change the state law, okay, because it's
22 an incinerator.

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1 (Applause.)
 2 MS. CODY: It's an incinerator and there's
 3 nothing we really can do. That's what I've decided.
 4 Our community is just going to be impacted, and
 5 hopefully with these meetings we can lessen it as much
 6 as possible but we have to change the laws. Thank you.
 7 (Applause.)
 8 MS. WILLIAMS: Good evening, everyone. My
 9 name is Yvonne Williams. Y-V-O-N-N-E, Williams.
 10 That's easy to spell.
 11 I don't have anything written. In fact, on
 12 the sign-in sheet it said, do you have a comment, yes or
 13 no? I just put maybe because I wanted to see how things
 14 were going.
 15 I hear all the comments that everyone is
 16 making, and they're good comments because everyone in
 17 here is concerned about the community. And it seems
 18 like everything is done. You know, we're doing a lot of
 19 talking and MDE has already made the decision. It seems
 20 like Vaughn Greene could care less about this community.
 21 (Applause.)
 22 MS. WILLIAMS: You know, he doesn't live

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1 around here. How many hours does he spend at the
 2 funeral home on York Road? He has numerous funeral
 3 homes all over the Maryland area so he won't be
 4 breathing in what's coming out these exhaust pipes.
 5 A very short time.
 6 We live here. We will be breathing this 24/7.
 7 You know, it's not good. And I think when businesses
 8 have money, they get what they want. They get what they
 9 want no matter what the community says. He has a
 10 business in this community and he's saying, you know,
 11 he's concerned about community. No, you're not, because
 12 if you were concerned you wouldn't put this in our
 13 community.
 14 We have people with health issues. We have
 15 many elderly people in the area. And this is going to
 16 take place. It's going to take place no matter how much
 17 we talk about it because money, costs, money moves
 18 things. We don't have the money that Vaughn Greene has.
 19 Vaughn Greene lives way away from these smokestacks
 20 that's going to be up here.
 21 So that's all I have to say. I mean, we can
 22 talk until we are blue in the face but it's going to

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1 happen. People -- I don't know. People just don't --
 2 businesses just don't care. They just want to make the
 3 money. He can very well put these things out away from
 4 communities.
 5 He gets up here and he says people who want
 6 cremation, they don't like where you have to transport
 7 the body. They could care less. Hey, these people just
 8 want their loved ones cremated. You know, that's just
 9 an excuse. That's just an excuse. That's all I have to
 10 say. We can continue to talk. We can continue to talk
 11 but it's going to happen.
 12 MS. HEAFEY: Thank you.
 13 (Applause.)
 14 MS. FRIEDMAN: Hi, everyone. Good evening.
 15 My name is Zoe Friedman, Z-O-E, F-R-I-E-D-M-A-N. I
 16 live across the street from Vaughn Greene, across from
 17 York Road. I can see it from my dining room and my
 18 living room window.
 19 I'm just so deeply disappointed that this
 20 permit went through. I was really holding out hope for
 21 the past two years. I was just thinking there's no way
 22 they're going to be able to do this. I thought there's

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1 just no way. And it is, it's happening. So I really
 2 request that MDE puts as many restrictions on this as
 3 possible.
 4 I live in my house with my husband and my
 5 three-year-old son and I would like there to be
 6 scheduled times where I know that the incinerator is not
 7 running so that I can open my windows and have some
 8 fresh air come in or play outside with my son and know
 9 that we're breathing clean air at least one day a week,
 10 two days a week, a few hours a day.
 11 I think there have to be many more
 12 restrictions on this to make us all feel like we are
 13 happy to continue to live here. That's why I moved to
 14 that community so I can raise my son there. Thank you.
 15 (Applause.)
 16 MS. SCHMIDT-PERKINS: Good evening. Dru
 17 Schmidt-Perkins. I will spell that. D-R-U,
 18 S-C-H-M-I-D-T, hyphen, P-E-R-K-I-N-S. And that's the
 19 short version of my name.
 20 When I first heard about this proposal I was
 21 instantly appalled, but then I thought no, no, no, come
 22 on, you're smart, let's learn about this. Let's see

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1 what the real issues are.

2 People, I have changed my end-of-life
3 documents to forbid cremation. I had no idea. I also
4 learned that my car, my Subaru, has more pollution
5 control standards than this crematorium. My
6 son-in-law's beat up as hell 24-year-old truck has more
7 pollution controls than this crematorium. And I have to
8 get my car inspected regularly. I may not borrow my
9 neighbor's car for that inspection.

10 (Applause.)

11 MS. SCHMIDT-PERKINS: This is wild. This is
12 really wild, people. I do appreciate, MDE, the steps
13 that you have taken to try to do better on this. But
14 if this is how good it can get I'm now really freaked
15 out. And just think about all the other communities
16 out there with crematoriums that do not have these
17 benefits. So MDE, your next steps, your to-do list;

18 (1) Fix these standards. It is outrageous
19 that these standards are what this industry is being
20 based on. It's outrageous. Thirty years old? No.
21 Let's get together. Let's fix these standards, have
22 real protective standards.

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1 (2) Environmental justice can no longer be
2 just a score. MDE, you need to be working with the
3 environmental justice community on legislation to have
4 real environmental justice respect and changes to
5 regulation.

6 (3) Cumulative impacts matter. A single
7 pollution source cannot be the only determinant. If
8 there's 20 other pollution sources, we have to take that
9 into account.

10 Mr. Greene, my family used your services. We
11 didn't give a damn that my grandmother went somewhere
12 else to be cremated. It just was immaterial. How do
13 you think, if this is really so important, that all
14 those Baltimore County people would feel about being
15 cremated in Baltimore City? Sorry, that was a little
16 flippant and a little unfair, but that was just kind of
17 an appalling remark.

18 So MDE, you have work to do on this community.
19 We're going to keep working. Senator Washington, you're
20 going to keep working. We appreciate all your efforts
21 over the session. Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

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1 MS. HEAFEY: Okay. The next batch of folks
2 that have signed in saying that they would like to make
3 a statement. Lisa Polyak, Angela Pinaglia -- forgive
4 me, I'm so sorry -- Sandi McFadden, and Annick Barker.

5 MS. POLYAK: Hi. Good evening. My name is
6 Lisa Polyak. That's L-I-S-A, P-O-L-Y-A-K. I'm an
7 environmental engineer and a public health scientist,
8 and for the last 35 years I worked for the Army and DOD
9 curtailing environmental exposures for service members.
10 But today I'm here in a private capacity providing some
11 advice to the York Road Partnership.

12 I want to start by thanking the folks at MDE
13 for the effort that they put into making this draft
14 permit more comprehensive than any air permit that's
15 currently issued to any territory in Maryland, and I say
16 that as a person who's read nearly all of those permits.

17 We think it's a good start and it ushers into
18 new thinking about environmental justice and how it can
19 and should be a factor in achieving your mission to
20 protect the health of Marylanders. But we also believe
21 that improvements can be made because this permit
22 frankly is affecting vulnerable families who live, as

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1 you've heard, less than 200 feet from the emissions that
2 are going to be produced by this crematorium
3 incinerator. And make no mistake, it is an incinerator.

4 However, I want to address two issues that
5 relate to the state of the regulation of crematory
6 incinerators in Maryland right at this time, and these
7 remarks are specifically for MDE.

8 The first is that there's only one emission
9 limit right now for crematories in MDE regulations.
10 It's for total particulate matter and it hasn't been
11 updated in over 30 years. You heard someone mention
12 that earlier.

13 It was promulgated in 1991 and that was six
14 years before EPA published a single regulation on fine
15 particulate matter which is PM2.5. So this regulation
16 is significantly out of date. Not only that, but nearby
17 states and EPA themselves, when EPA issue permits to
18 tribal nations regulate crematory emissions at a
19 fraction of the level that Maryland does.

20 MDE needs to update the crematory emission
21 limit for particulate to reflect current science and
22 current medicine. The science is out there. Maryland

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1 just hasn't needed to address it because cremation
2 hasn't been a big industry until recently. But right
3 now we know that there's close to 116 air permits for
4 crematories in the state of Maryland at this time and
5 all of them have fewer restrictions than the permit that
6 we're potentially getting in the city right now.

7 The second thing that MDE needs to do is stop
8 allowing crematory operators to use those outdated
9 emission factors to demonstrate that they're meeting
10 regulatory limits. Notwithstanding that MDE has tried
11 to do a good job coordinating with MARAMA about best
12 practices, I've seen that document. That best practices
13 document is just recycling and recirculating those old
14 30 year emission factors. They are 30-years-old. They
15 were done on one crematory incinerator back in New
16 Jersey in 1992.

17 The reason that they haven't been updated is
18 there hasn't been a groundswell of need. EPA hasn't put
19 the money into it. The states might not have the money
20 into it. But something needs to be done to update the
21 emission factors. They're irrelevant. They bear no
22 resemblance, especially since most crematories today,

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1 they're managing human remains that include medical
2 devices, that include many, many metals that are not
3 reflected in those current emission factors.

4 And I'm going to ask for an extra minute of
5 indulgence. Can I have that?

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Please.

7 MS. HEAFEY: Okay.

8 MS. POLYAK: Okay. You need to know that
9 right now there's a whole industry called crematory
10 recycling where crematories give up the ash that's
11 produced in their crematoriums to recyclers and scrap
12 metalist where they extract the metals that are in that
13 ash for money.

14 And by their own estimates sometimes as much
15 as \$100,000 a year can be made by recycling the ash and
16 extracting the metals that are in it, things like cobalt
17 and titanium and nickel and silver and gold and platinum
18 and palladium.

19 I asked some reps from MDE earlier, do you
20 know, is anybody in Maryland doing this practice?
21 Because the takeaway here is that if these metals are in
22 the crematory ash and you can make money for them, they

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1 are most certainly going up the stack. And those
2 emission factors that are in that best practices
3 documents bear no resemblance to all of those things
4 that are going up the stack.

5 So I'm asking you, MDE, you need to find out
6 if crematories in Maryland at this time are recycling
7 their ash to make money off of the metals that are in
8 that ash. Because those folks, when they do that, in
9 addition to the check that they get they get a lab
10 analysis that tells them exactly the chemical elements
11 that are in there and the amounts. So there is
12 scientific evidence of the amount of metals that are in
13 the ash and that are going up the stack. I thank you
14 for the extra time.

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. PINAGLIA: Hi. Good evening. My name is
17 Angela Pinaglia, A-N-G-E-L-A, P-I-N-A-G-L-I-A. I live
18 about a thousand feet from Vaughn Greene in the
19 Radnor-Winston neighborhood. I found my version of the
20 "American dream" here in Baltimore. I'm actually from
21 Florida but my spouse and I moved here back in 2016 and
22 in 2021, at the age of 40, we were finally able to

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1 become homeowners in Radnor-Winston.

2 Like most of the housing here in Baltimore
3 it's old. We found mold, asbestos, chipping lead paint
4 after we bought the place. But we did what we had to do
5 to make our home safe on the inside. We fixed what we
6 could control. Because a few months after moving in our
7 child was born. Our dream complete.

8 I remember driving around the neighborhood
9 back then seeing random lawn signs about crematoriums
10 and thought there must be a lot of activists in this
11 neighborhood, and this would be a really far away
12 problem. Because frankly, the idea of a crematorium
13 being built so close to where we just had moved into was
14 like simply preposterous. The idea of a crematorium
15 right off of busy York Road surrounded by neighborhoods
16 with children and families is preposterous.

17 Now, I'm not opposed to cremation. My own
18 father was cremated back in Florida. But I am opposed
19 to cremation happening right next to where people live.
20 Now, as you fine tune this permit and do the math,
21 please remember your mission, MDE's mission to protect
22 and restore the environment for the health and

<p style="text-align: right;">85</p> <p>1 well-being of all Marylanders.</p> <p>2 I want you to imagine yourself, and I don't</p> <p>3 know who I'm speaking to because I can't really see MDE</p> <p>4 people except for you, Shannon, I want you to imagine</p> <p>5 yourself living next door to the crematorium. Imagine</p> <p>6 your young children or grandchildren playing outside,</p> <p>7 your elderly parents gardening, yourself barbecuing</p> <p>8 after a long work week. Imagine yourself dreaming up</p> <p>9 the rest of your life in a home you never even thought</p> <p>10 you would own.</p> <p>11 We fix the things we can control but this is</p> <p>12 beyond me and my neighbors. This is where MDE has to</p> <p>13 step up and protect us. Remember that you serve the</p> <p>14 living. Thank you.</p> <p>15 (Applause.)</p> <p>16 MS. MCFADDEN: Good evening, everyone. My</p> <p>17 name is Sandi McFadden, S-A-N-D-I, not Y, and last name</p> <p>18 McFadden, M-C-F-A-D-D-E-N.</p> <p>19 I have been a resident of the Govans community</p> <p>20 for about 30 years or so, and I have been involved in</p> <p>21 the leadership of the York Road Partnership where I</p> <p>22 serve now on the board of directors. I am also the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">87</p> <p>1 And we are very proud to say that we have two brand new</p> <p>2 21st century schools in our neighborhood. We have</p> <p>3 secured millions of dollars in state funding for</p> <p>4 neighborhood improvements. We have led initiatives with</p> <p>5 partners to receive down payment assistance to encourage</p> <p>6 renters to become homeowners in our neighborhood.</p> <p>7 Several blocks from the crematorium site have</p> <p>8 been designated as part of the Healthy Neighborhoods</p> <p>9 Program to help build home ownership and attract new</p> <p>10 families. What is at risk? Well, all of this. All of</p> <p>11 this is at risk.</p> <p>12 Young families may not want to live in a</p> <p>13 community that they think is environmentally unsafe for</p> <p>14 their children and their families all together. And</p> <p>15 they are concerned that what they are hearing about air</p> <p>16 pollution control and all of the things that we have</p> <p>17 been discussing may be very potentially damaging to</p> <p>18 their family and to the health of the family.</p> <p>19 All of the investments that I just talked</p> <p>20 about, and there are so many more, they are all catching</p> <p>21 up on decades of disinvestment from redlining and</p> <p>22 structural racism in our neighborhood. Your own</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">86</p> <p>1 vice-president of the Mid-Govans Community Association,</p> <p>2 and I have been the community school coordinator for</p> <p>3 Govans Elementary School for almost the last nine years.</p> <p>4 And I am recently retired, three weeks ago.</p> <p>5 (Applause.)</p> <p>6 MS. MCFADDEN: Thank you. I want to ask a</p> <p>7 question tonight. As I was thinking about this,</p> <p>8 because I actually didn't want to do this. I've been</p> <p>9 testifying about this crematorium now for, I guess,</p> <p>10 almost four years now. We have been to Annapolis.</p> <p>11 And thank you very much, Senator. You have been</p> <p>12 amazing. Thank you for your support to our community.</p> <p>13 (Applause.)</p> <p>14 MS. MCFADDEN: We have testified in the</p> <p>15 Senate. We have testified in the House of Delegates.</p> <p>16 And we continue to say the same thing.</p> <p>17 The question that I would raise is this. What</p> <p>18 is the risk with the installation of a crematorium in</p> <p>19 the heart of our community?</p> <p>20 And I, along with many of my neighbors and</p> <p>21 partner organizations, have spent thousands of volunteer</p> <p>22 hours working to bring investment to this community.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">88</p> <p>1 environmental justice score says that this is one of</p> <p>2 the worst communities to locate a new pollution source.</p> <p>3 We've heard that over and over this evening.</p> <p>4 If MDE will not deny this permit request, then</p> <p>5 it has to place conditions in the permit that makes it</p> <p>6 strong and clear, possible that the health and</p> <p>7 well-being of our neighborhoods and our community will</p> <p>8 be a priority concern for you. You need to know that</p> <p>9 in the midst of all that we are doing and all that is</p> <p>10 being proposed, we will be watching for accountability</p> <p>11 and compliance.</p> <p>12 (Applause.)</p> <p>13 MS. HEAFEY: Thank you.</p> <p>14 MS. BARKER: So my name is Annick Barker,</p> <p>15 A-N-N-I-C-K, B-A-R-K-E-R, and I want to address the</p> <p>16 reluctance I see in the permit as it's written right</p> <p>17 now, and it's puzzling to me. Because what I see is a</p> <p>18 nod to yes, there should be some limits on a crematory</p> <p>19 placed within a densely populated community of which I</p> <p>20 am a part, but then it stops short.</p> <p>21 And there is this profound reluctance and</p> <p>22 fear, I would almost say, to do the right thing, to do</p>

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1 the common sense thing, and say yes, of course we will
 2 monitor the stack on a regular basis, and of course we
 3 will make that data publicly available to the community
 4 that is affected by the emissions of that stack, of
 5 course we will spell out exactly which emissions we are
 6 monitoring and what their levels are, and we will do our
 7 darndest to make sure that the permitted levels are as
 8 stringent as possible. Because we know, and we fully
 9 understand that this is an enormous imposition on this
 10 community. Frankly, it should not exist, period. There
 11 are limits to our power but we will use our power to the
 12 fullest extent.

13 And MDE, this is your responsibility and your
 14 reluctance to impose these very common sense measures is
 15 frankly baffling. And I hope that you will find the
 16 wisdom, the courage, and the will to do the right thing.
 17 Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 MS. HEAFEY: That was the last of the group
 20 of people who had signed in asking or intending to make
 21 a comment. If other folks would like to make a
 22 statement for the record, you are welcome to come up

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1 here and we will do the same three minutes for each
 2 person. And whoever is going to do it, again, I need
 3 you guys to state and spell your name since I don't
 4 have you marked here. Thank you.

5 MS. WEISSER: I'm Terry Weisser. That's
 6 T-E-R-R-Y, W-E-I-S-S-E-R. I have heard a lot of really
 7 quite important questions and recommendations that I
 8 really support here.

9 There's one thing that hasn't been mentioned
 10 that I just wanted to bring up, and that is that I feel
 11 that the Maryland Department of Environment and Vaughn
 12 Greene both are putting a great deal of faith in an
 13 equipment company. I have one thing to say about that.
 14 They seem to feel that this company has been vetted and
 15 important and special. One thing to say, Boeing.

16 (Applause.)

17 MS. NEWMAN: Good evening. My name is Myrna
 18 Newman and I live in the Wilson Park community, York
 19 Road corridor. And my concern is that, I want to point
 20 out that MDE, Vaughn Greene, you all don't live in this
 21 community. But if you did, would you want this
 22 crematorium in your backyard?

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1 I have rolled around the community and other
 2 counties and I see those people in Harford County, they
 3 don't want crematoriums in their backyards. So why
 4 would you all want to allow a crematorium here on this
 5 York Road Corridor in these people's backyards? I live
 6 here. I don't want it. It needs to be moved. The
 7 permit needs to be denied. I thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. SMITH: Hello. My name is Franklin
 10 Smith, F-R-A-N-K-L-I-N, S-M-I-T-H. I'm 70-years-old
 11 and I've lived in the Govan's community for 68 years.
 12 I've seen a lot of things come and a lot of things go.

13 I understood when you were saying it's about
 14 the families and not taking the bodies somewhere else to
 15 be done and all of that. I was listening to all that
 16 and it showed a lot of concern.

17 But like I said, I've lived here a long time
 18 and I remember not long ago you had drug dealers sitting
 19 right there on your property selling drugs 24/7. That
 20 wasn't important. That's our community. That's what I
 21 have a problem with. Because you say you're doing one
 22 thing, but I've seen something totally different.

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1 Anybody who ever turned their corner, they know what I'm
 2 talking about. And there's still some activity going on
 3 there.

4 So like I said, you know, I understand why all
 5 of a sudden here it cleaned up a little bit, most likely
 6 because of this. Let's get the crematorium there. But
 7 I know what I saw. I know how it stayed there. And now
 8 all of a sudden since all this talk, it's lightened up a
 9 little bit. And you care for the community? Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. GAYLIN: My name is Jed Gaylin. J-E-D,
 12 G-A-Y-L-I-N. So I live in Radnor-Winston and I just
 13 want to speak directly to Mr. Greene. I want to thank
 14 you. I didn't see you at the other meetings. I want
 15 to thank you for having the courage to come out here
 16 and listen to what we have to say.

17 I want to say something a little different to
 18 you, which is that you've heard the tip of the iceberg,
 19 the fraction of the tip of the iceberg of our community
 20 coming and saying we don't like this. We're concerned.
 21 People who have used your services, our senator who has
 22 served this community, you know, all of us with such

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1 dedication and they're saying they don't like this.

2 I'm saying, imagine something else. It's not
3 too late, Mr. Greene. You could come up right now and
4 say I've been not sleeping over this. Work with us.
5 Imagine, if you were to say I'm pulling off this, I'm
6 going to explore -- I don't know anything about water
7 crematoriums. This is the first I heard of it, but I'm
8 interested. How can I work with this community so that
9 I can meet the business needs that I want? Do you know
10 what you would get from this community if you pull off
11 this right now? Gratitude, PR, business like you could
12 not imagine. Come to us. Please, I'm begging you.
13 Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. LALL: How do I do this?

16 MS. HEAFEY: You can just take it, yeah.

17 MS. LALL: It worked really well when the
18 previous gentleman picked up the microphone so I'll try
19 that.

20 My name is Jean, J-E-A-N, Lall, L-A-L-L and I
21 live south of Radnor-Winston In the northeast corner of
22 Guilford. I think I'm the only Guilford person that's

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1 spoken tonight but I just wanted to say that I'm in deep
2 sympathy with folks just a little north of us. But I
3 started also from a position of sympathy with Vaughn
4 Greene because I attended a service there and I found
5 their services to be admirable and worthwhile. But I've
6 had -- I'm having real trouble with the pollution issue.

7 I've lived in -- this month marks 50 years
8 since I moved to Baltimore. I'm a Rocky Mountain girl
9 so I grew up with presumably clean air, though there was
10 a lot of petroleum refining going on out there. But I
11 moved to Baltimore 50 years ago. I brought up my little
12 girl in Lakeside near Northwood and Ednor Gardens, and
13 we dug in the backyard and got dirty and never worried.

14 When she went off to college we bought our
15 house in Guilford. We wanted to be closer to the train
16 station so my husband could commute to D.C. And we
17 took -- we were going to get the trim on our house
18 painted so they asked us to test and see if there was
19 any lead in the paint, and the test showed that the
20 paint was seven percent lead. I don't think anybody
21 ever made paint that was seven percent lead. That was
22 how I became aware that we were living four doors away

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1 from York Road and that we had half a century or more of
2 vehicular travel going up and down York Road and
3 depositing vast amounts of lead and other pollutants on
4 our house and our land.

5 So consequently, I never tried to grow
6 tomatoes and vegetables in my lovely yard. I grow a lot
7 of flowers. I've learned to call it, because I'm now a
8 Baltimorean now, I call them flares. So I grow a lot of
9 flares in my yard. I've become a real Baltimorean over
10 the years. But I still remember what fresh air smelled
11 like.

12 My 92-year-old husband every night wants to
13 leave the windows open so we can have fresh air. And I
14 can't quite explain to him that that's not a realistic
15 expectation. And even though we wouldn't live as close
16 to the crematorium, I'm just already so aware.

17 We're actually quite close, but I'm just so
18 aware of the depth of the pollution that's already --
19 the children, if I had little children now I couldn't
20 allow them to make mud pies in my backyard. It would
21 not be safe. The ground is not safe.

22 So I just want to say -- I'm not trying to

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1 create so much of a scene here. I just want to say that
2 I'm really sympathetic to the business desire to serve
3 the customers. But I'm also deeply sympathetic to my
4 fellow citizens who are living with even more pollution
5 than I'm living with.

6 And I do want to ask a question, just for
7 information purposes. How many crematoria are there in
8 Baltimore City? Twenty years ago, 18 years ago, I
9 carried the body of a close friend to be cremated in the
10 Greenmount Cemetery. As far as I know, that crematorium
11 is there. But I'm just very curious to know as we're
12 going through these deliberations how many crematoria
13 are there in Baltimore City, and how are they being
14 regulated? So that's a question for the future. Thank
15 you, everybody.

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. JORDAN: I'll try to speak this way.
18 This is off the cuff because I heard about this meeting
19 last night on I believe Channel 45.

20 My name is Reginald Jordan. I live in the
21 Kenilworth Park community. And before I start off, it's
22 my personal feeling that cremation is increasing because

<p style="text-align: right;">97</p> <p>1 the price of traditional funerals is off the chain now.</p> <p>2 Right now most people can't afford it. Most people</p> <p>3 don't want cremation but that's what they only can</p> <p>4 afford</p> <p>5 We have, in this immediate area we have two</p> <p>6 dialysis centers, two large senior citizen communities</p> <p>7 within walking distance of Vaughn Greene, and we're</p> <p>8 talking about doing this, and the traffic up and down</p> <p>9 York Road corridor.</p> <p>10 Then the next thing I wanted to bring up is</p> <p>11 I belong to Otha Spriggs Memorial Post 294. The post</p> <p>12 was named after Otha Spriggs who was killed in Vietnam</p> <p>13 and it's the only African American post in the state of</p> <p>14 Maryland today. And one of the things that the people</p> <p>15 in here are familiar with is the PACT Act.</p> <p>16 The PACT Act is dealing with the same thing</p> <p>17 that we're dealing with here today. For the service</p> <p>18 members that served in our country and was exposed to</p> <p>19 pollutants, exposed to environmental things like</p> <p>20 asbestos since World War II, and it just happened to</p> <p>21 start today. I'm speaking on behalf of Otha Spriggs but</p> <p>22 at the same time I am chairman of the Maryland</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">99</p> <p>1 to update and make sure that they are monitoring what's</p> <p>2 going on. Because this is 2024, the 21st century, and</p> <p>3 you're using 30-year-old data. That does not compute in</p> <p>4 my mind and it should not be computing in yours.</p> <p>5 As everyone has stated before, we are here</p> <p>6 for our future. This is the living that we're concerned</p> <p>7 about. If we don't do nothing now, what's going to</p> <p>8 happen to our children's, children's, children? So it</p> <p>9 behooves all of us in this room, especially MDE, to</p> <p>10 update their regulations and their monitoring practices.</p> <p>11 And I also want to throw out to my community, we need to</p> <p>12 start looking for green burials.</p> <p>13 (Applause.)</p> <p>14 MS. BLACKWELL: We need to direct where we're</p> <p>15 putting our money at. If Vaughn Greene wants to</p> <p>16 cremate and they found a need, an economic need, then</p> <p>17 dammit, let's go ahead and do water cremation. If</p> <p>18 everybody makes it in their will, we're going to do</p> <p>19 water cremation, we want a green burial, what the hell</p> <p>20 are they going to do? They're going to go ahead and do</p> <p>21 it.</p> <p>22 MS. HEAFEY: Thank you.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">98</p> <p>1 Department of Veterans Affairs And Rehabilitation</p> <p>2 Commission.</p> <p>3 And one of the things I can tell you I will</p> <p>4 do, because I tried to get those statistics of how many</p> <p>5 veterans living within our specific area that basically</p> <p>6 is involved with the PACT Act and the impact that a</p> <p>7 crematory can have as far as their health and the</p> <p>8 psychological experiences of breathing bad air and the</p> <p>9 smell of death. I'm talking from a veteran standpoint.</p> <p>10 I will go back to the veteran community and</p> <p>11 foster some help as far as how the veterans feel about a</p> <p>12 crematory in the middle of the city when you've got</p> <p>13 places all outside but you want to be in the middle of</p> <p>14 the city. I'm not going to go on from that. Thank you.</p> <p>15 (Applause.)</p> <p>16 MS. BLACKWELL: Hello, my name is Donna</p> <p>17 Blackwell and I'm a resident of Winston-Govans</p> <p>18 Improvement Association. I'm also the Vice President</p> <p>19 of the York Road Partnership.</p> <p>20 So I've listened to the comments and I know</p> <p>21 everything is everything. But one of the things I</p> <p>22 wanted to point out to everyone is that it behooves MDE</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">100</p> <p>1 (Applause.)</p> <p>2 MS. HEMPHILL: Hi, everyone. My name is</p> <p>3 Chelsea.</p> <p>4 MS. HEAFEY: Can you just speak your full</p> <p>5 name?</p> <p>6 MS. HEMPHILL: Hi, my name is Chelsea</p> <p>7 Hemphill. I live on Rossiter Avenue, so right down the</p> <p>8 street from Vaughn Green.</p> <p>9 When I first moved here a couple of years ago</p> <p>10 I was like, oh, that's a beautiful funeral home service,</p> <p>11 or it looked like a beautiful place. What I recently</p> <p>12 found out was that the reason why they're pushing for</p> <p>13 this project in our backyards is to better serve our</p> <p>14 community and the people who have died in our community.</p> <p>15 I completely understand that.</p> <p>16 But what I don't understand is why they're</p> <p>17 not acknowledging the implications for the people that</p> <p>18 are still alive today. I live with a bunch of</p> <p>19 individuals who are way older than me. They've been</p> <p>20 breathing this air a lot longer than me and they have</p> <p>21 a lot of health complications. I want to look out for</p> <p>22 them. I want to be the voice for them.</p>

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1 But also, my neighbors have a bunch of kids.
 2 I mean, I don't understand what we're doing. And I
 3 understand that when these pollutants are put up into
 4 the air, this goes everywhere. But I just get really
 5 upset when I look at my neighbors that I see every day
 6 who are already struggling with their health issues.

7 So, you know, I understand that this is
 8 pushing full steam ahead, but I think karma is a real
 9 thing and I am excited to see what transpires in the
 10 future.

11 (Applause.)

12 MS. MAHER: Hi, everyone. My name is Kelly
 13 Maher. I live in the Guilford community. I have been
 14 sitting here tonight and I've really learned a lot even
 15 though I've been, you know, involved somewhat in the
 16 opposition of this.

17 First of all, I just want to acknowledge the
 18 passion and the courage of the neighbors and community
 19 organizers who have been having a consistent drumbeat of
 20 opposition for four years on this topic.

21 (Applause.)

22 MS. MAHER: So I'm a data person too. Two

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1 pieces of data that stood out to me tonight were that
 2 this MDE has assigned a 95 rating. So many people have
 3 referenced it tonight. And we're using 30-year-old
 4 data to create regulations.

5 Why are we not using the data that we have and
 6 we're putting all of our emphasis around the data that
 7 we don't? It doesn't make any sense. I'm asking you
 8 all to do better.

9 (Applause.)

10 MR. FLANAGAN: Good evening. My name is Ed
 11 Flanagan and I've been a member of the community, if
 12 you will, of old Homeland and Govans since after the
 13 Army in 1972. We are parishioners at St. Mary's
 14 Catholic Church on York Road.

15 I lived in Florida for about 10 years and then
 16 I came back to Baltimore because I had to have
 17 operations, et cetera, through the VA. And then we
 18 bought a home, Wyman Avenue, if you all know where that
 19 was or is. By the little firehouse, or the big
 20 firehouse, and the little library there and so forth.
 21 So we really love the community, and Spring Lake Way and
 22 the Cathedral Church as well and so forth.

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1 And we just really do not believe that Vaughn
 2 Greene, that there is any place for a crematorium in a
 3 residential neighborhood. Now, I know that there are
 4 businesses there for many years, many, many years.
 5 However, when a crematorium comes in, it just seems to
 6 be that it is a bit of a difference indeed with a
 7 funeral home, et cetera, and would be taking on more
 8 people.

9 I understand that rules have been set, et
 10 cetera and so forth. But one thing in the walk of life
 11 I have learned is change, that word change. And things
 12 can change. And the next thing you know there are more
 13 cases coming in, if you will, more bodies, et cetera.

14 I do not think that is particularly attractive
 15 in a residential area like Guilford or Homeland or Old
 16 Homeland, or that area right there. And so I am
 17 totally, as I say, 153 percent against it. Thank you.

18 MS. HEAFEY: Thank you, sir.

19 MS. YAEGER: Hi. I promise I am not trying
 20 to take up the mic but I had a brain blast. My name is
 21 Genevieve Yeager again and one of the thoughts I had
 22 was the fact that I, as a school psychologist, also

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1 operate under COMAR.

2 What I find really silly again and again and
 3 again, we have had many people come up here and ridicule
 4 the fact that they are doing decisions based off of
 5 30-year-old data. I am locked using assessment tools
 6 that are older than 10-years-old and I can't report off
 7 data that is older than three-years-old, and this is a
 8 school-based standard.

9 So I am curious to know why this branch of
 10 COMAR is allowing themselves and holding themselves
 11 accountable to using 30-year-data when I, as a public
 12 educator, am held to a much higher standard. I mean,
 13 this is how it is in most parts of life, right.

14 But I just find it so interesting when we are
 15 talking about an environment that is impacting everyone
 16 in all facets of life, right, that is one of the big
 17 things that I know is a point of contention with the
 18 upcoming election. I know it is a point of contention
 19 in ensuring a safe community here in Baltimore, right.

20 For me, I am just wondering why are we using
 21 this old data, right, from an MDE perspective,
 22 especially when we know we've had the two hottest

<p style="text-align: right;">105</p> <p>1 summers on record in the past few years, right. And</p> <p>2 that is not even talking about the other things in the</p> <p>3 air as it is hot and sticky and muggy.</p> <p>4 But I am also wondering from a sense of, we</p> <p>5 call it fidelity in education, how am I ensuring that</p> <p>6 this crematorium is running the way it is supposed to?</p> <p>7 What are we doing to ensure accountability? How are we</p> <p>8 making sure they are doing things correctly? We just</p> <p>9 had an environmental engineer come up here earlier</p> <p>10 saying listen, money is money. I love money. If I can</p> <p>11 sell metals and make extra money on the side, why</p> <p>12 wouldn't I if there is nothing regulating me to do so?</p> <p>13 What are the consequences if I don't follow fidelity,</p> <p>14 right?</p> <p>15 And unfortunately, even if we put in some</p> <p>16 monetary consequences, that doesn't stop a child</p> <p>17 ingesting or taking in those fumes, or an adult, or</p> <p>18 marginalized communities. We can try to put a monetary</p> <p>19 slap on the wrist but that doesn't stop me ingesting it</p> <p>20 or other community members. So I would be curious to</p> <p>21 know what are we doing to ensure that fidelity of</p> <p>22 implementation of using the crematorium?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">107</p> <p>1 This is not over. I just wanted to clarify that a</p> <p>2 permit has not been issued, that this is considered</p> <p>3 just a sample, right. So therefore, I just wanted to</p> <p>4 clarify.</p> <p>5 So therefore, the applicant should not assume</p> <p>6 based on this preliminary approval that they can move</p> <p>7 forward, that they will necessarily get an approval. Is</p> <p>8 that correct, that this is not --</p> <p>9 MS. HEAFEY: Right.</p> <p>10 SENATOR WASHINGTON: The two are not related.</p> <p>11 In other words, if one gets this conditional -- well,</p> <p>12 not conditional, just this temporary draft.</p> <p>13 MS. HEAFEY: This is a draft. They're going</p> <p>14 to review everything. I don't know if you guys can</p> <p>15 hear me. And at the end of the comment period, all the</p> <p>16 comments you guys have put in --</p> <p>17 (Audience interruption.)</p> <p>18 MS. HEAFEY: So at the end of the comment</p> <p>19 period all of the written comments we receive and all</p> <p>20 of the comments placed here tonight will be reviewed</p> <p>21 and a final determination will be made after that.</p> <p>22 So this is not the final determination. This is just</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">106</p> <p>1 And also, when does MDE plan to update their</p> <p>2 data to make data-based decision-making, because the</p> <p>3 last time I checked I get a pretty big slap on the wrist</p> <p>4 if I use 30-year-old data --</p> <p>5 MS. HEAFEY: Okay.</p> <p>6 MS. YAEGER: -- population changes,</p> <p>7 environment changes. So what are we doing to move</p> <p>8 forward?</p> <p>9 (Applause.)</p> <p>10 MS. HEAFEY: Okay, folks. Are there more</p> <p>11 people that would like to make a statement for the</p> <p>12 record tonight? You certainly can.</p> <p>13 SENATOR WASHINGTON: Not a statement. I have</p> <p>14 just a question. Some people have said that the</p> <p>15 decision is made. Sorry, I wanted to clarify. A</p> <p>16 permit has not been issued.</p> <p>17 MS. HEAFEY: Correct, it has not.</p> <p>18 SENATOR WASHINGTON: So the permit still has</p> <p>19 not been issued. We are of the position that it should</p> <p>20 not be. So we've worked at it. You've worked hard for</p> <p>21 four more years and I know it gets hard. But, you</p> <p>22 know, it takes time, but continue. This is not over.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">108</p> <p>1 a public hearing at this point.</p> <p>2 SENATOR WASHINGTON: Again, there has been no</p> <p>3 final determination. Information that was -- I just</p> <p>4 wanted to clarify.</p> <p>5 MR. FLANAGAN: When will that be, a final</p> <p>6 determination?</p> <p>7 MS. HEAFEY: It could be months because</p> <p>8 there's so much to review.</p> <p>9 MR. FLANAGAN: One?</p> <p>10 MS. HEAFEY: Easily more because there's so</p> <p>11 much.</p> <p>12 SENATOR WASHINGTON: Just to clarify, a final</p> <p>13 determination has not been made. As part of the review</p> <p>14 any information, new information that is coming to you</p> <p>15 has to be considered as a part of that final</p> <p>16 determination?</p> <p>17 MS. HEAFEY: Correct.</p> <p>18 SENATOR WASHINGTON: Correct. And just</p> <p>19 again, clarifying that there should not be any</p> <p>20 construction or assumption on the part of the applicant</p> <p>21 that they, by virtue of this temporary determination,</p> <p>22 should move forward. So they should not move forward</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">109</p> <p>1 with any acquisition or any additional building or</p> <p>2 construction, or incur any costs during this period</p> <p>3 until the final determination is made, would that be</p> <p>4 correct?</p> <p>5 MS. HEAFEY: I don't know what you mean by</p> <p>6 costs.</p> <p>7 SENATOR WASHINGTON: Well, in other words,</p> <p>8 what I've heard in some of these hearings is a concern</p> <p>9 about the applicant having made some expenditures and</p> <p>10 therefore it would be not fair to the applicant to then</p> <p>11 not give them -- to not make the final approval.</p> <p>12 I just wanted to clarify that in this</p> <p>13 instance, that we're putting on notice that no</p> <p>14 expenditures or anything should be made until a final</p> <p>15 determination, would that be correct?</p> <p>16 MS. HEAFEY: Yeah. If the applicant chooses</p> <p>17 to purchase equipment or whatever before they have a</p> <p>18 permit, then that's on them. They are not allowed to</p> <p>19 install or operate unless they have a permit.</p> <p>20 SENATOR WASHINGTON: And the fact of a</p> <p>21 purchase of equipment or expenditure on consultants</p> <p>22 or plans or anything is incumbent on the applicant, and</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">111</p> <p>1 there's plenty of land. The parking lot is not that big</p> <p>2 right there. You know, sometimes you have to wait for</p> <p>3 someone to leave so you can get in. He's a nice man. I</p> <p>4 just don't want -- I live on Winston Avenue. I can walk</p> <p>5 to his establishment but I don't want one in my</p> <p>6 neighborhood where I can smell it.</p> <p>7 (Applause.)</p> <p>8 MS. SAUNDERS: It may not smell, but it's</p> <p>9 still there. Whether I smell it or not, it's there.</p> <p>10 And I'm still thinking about having my son take care of</p> <p>11 me. Thank you.</p> <p>12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I just have a question.</p> <p>13 MS. HEAFEY: Okay. I'll try to answer it.</p> <p>14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: As far as like written</p> <p>15 comments, when those go in is there going to be like a</p> <p>16 receipt of that back to the public?</p> <p>17 MS. HEAFEY: So the question was, if you are</p> <p>18 sending in comments as part of the formal record will</p> <p>19 you get an acknowledgment? I will be sending an</p> <p>20 acknowledgment back out saying thank you for your</p> <p>21 comments. You'll have a record of when they're in.</p> <p>22 And again, we have until August 29th --</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">110</p> <p>1 again is not to be considered as a part of the</p> <p>2 deliberation of whether or not to approve the final</p> <p>3 permit?</p> <p>4 MS. HEAFEY: Correct.</p> <p>5 SENATOR WASHINGTON: Okay. Thank you. Thank</p> <p>6 you very much.</p> <p>7 (Applause.)</p> <p>8 MS. SAUNDERS: Good evening. My name is</p> <p>9 Pauline Saunders. P-A-U-L-I-N-E, S-A-U-N-D-E-R-S.</p> <p>10 This is so unlike me. I do not speak out like this but</p> <p>11 I had to say something.</p> <p>12 Now, Mr. Vaughn Greene, he is not a monster.</p> <p>13 He's a nice man from what I understand. I've been to</p> <p>14 many services at his establishment. I haven't had to</p> <p>15 use it, but I told my son, when something happens to me</p> <p>16 that's where I want to go. I can walk to his</p> <p>17 establishment from where I live. But I do not want a</p> <p>18 crematory in the neighborhood where houses are adjacent.</p> <p>19 They're right there.</p> <p>20 I asked my pastor, would you want one right</p> <p>21 next door to you? I mean, think about it. I mean,</p> <p>22 he's got one place on Route 40, Liberty Road, and</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">112</p> <p>1 Excuse me, let me try that one again, October 22nd to</p> <p>2 send in comments to me. And if you've already sent in</p> <p>3 comments you can amend them and add more, no problem at</p> <p>4 all. And if anyone would like to come up tonight and</p> <p>5 add their comments to the record here, we have time.</p> <p>6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Can we also get like a full</p> <p>7 record of how many people have comments, for</p> <p>8 transparency to see everyone's comments?</p> <p>9 MS. HEAFEY: I can probably put something</p> <p>10 together at the end when I've received everything and</p> <p>11 make it available, sure.</p> <p>12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: And that can be on the</p> <p>13 website?</p> <p>14 MS. HEAFEY: Or I'll email it out to</p> <p>15 everybody. I'm not sure what we'll do yet but I'll</p> <p>16 make sure people get it, sure.</p> <p>17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: It would just be nice to</p> <p>18 know how many people have submitted comments. We've</p> <p>19 heard some comments --</p> <p>20 MS. SARISCAK: There will be a response to</p> <p>21 comment that summarizes all the comments.</p> <p>22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Every comment that's been</p>

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1 put together?

2 MS. HEAFEY: Yeah. I mean, they may be
3 grouped in. It may not be every specific comment but
4 if there's somebody that asked about the EJ score, we
5 would have a general answer for that one to take care
6 of everybody's concern, or I guess it was the year for
7 the emissions data and that would be in there. So it
8 may not be very specific, like 122 people's different
9 comments, but it could be this was the discussion,
10 these were the concerns, and our answer all the way
11 through.

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yeah, and the tabulation Of
13 how many people commented and came and all of that
14 showing.

15 MS. HEAFEY: Yep. This is all public record
16 so, yes, we can do that. Okay. And again, if anyone
17 else would like to make a statement tonight to put into
18 the record you're welcome to come up.

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I have a question. Can we
20 ask questions or do we have to wait?

21 MS. HEAFEY: You can ask questions as part of
22 your testimony but they won't be answered directly

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1 CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER

2
3 I, Karen Willoughby, do hereby certify that the
4 foregoing transcription was reduced to typewriting via
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12
13
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15 s/Karen Willoughby
16 KAREN WILLOUGHBY, CER
17 Court Reporter
18
19
20
21
22

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1 tonight. That's what goes into that response to
2 comments document so that --

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Can I get an answer to my
4 question?

5 MS. HEAFEY: Well, if you want, let me back
6 up really quick. The people who asked questions as
7 part of their testimony, we will address that so that
8 everybody who is interested gets to hear what that
9 question was and what the answer is to it. So that's
10 why we don't answer them during the testimony part
11 tonight. But if you have a question that's not related
12 to testimony, if you want, we'll be here. I can talk
13 to you afterward, sure. Anybody else want to come up?

14 (No response.)

15 MS. HEAFEY: Okay. Well, I want to thank
16 everyone for your time tonight. I appreciate you
17 coming out. Take my business card on the tables out
18 front. Feel free to give me a call or send me an
19 email. Thank you very much.

20 (Whereupon, at 8:05 p.m., the hearing was
21 concluded.)
22

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Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Crematorium on York Road

1 message

Ada Terrill <adaterrill@gmail.com>
To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

Tue, Oct 22, 2024 at 10:51 AM

Hi Shannon,

I am a life long resident of Baltimore city and have lived along the York Rd Corridor, less than .2 miles from Vaughn Greene Funeral Home, since 2019.

I appreciate their presence in our community, but am very concerned about them adding a crematorium to this location, so close to residences, and especially, so close to people who have historically lived in an area with worse pollution than other neighborhoods. This is an issue of environmental and health equity.

Please consider blocking this pollution and preserving the lungs of the children and elderly who live nearby.

Thank you,

Ada Terrill



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Vaughn Greene Crematorium

1 message

Angela Pinaglia <apinaglia9@gmail.com>
To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

Tue, Oct 22, 2024 at 2:03 PM

MDE - on behalf of myself, my family, my neighbors, Baltimore citizens and all things living, I urge you to please deny the permit for the Vaughn Greene crematorium. As you know, the area surrounding the proposed site is already heavily polluted. This crematorium would be extremely close to homes with families. And the fact that it's additional pollution in a predominantly black working class neighborhood is inexcusable. Would MDE even consider a permit like this in a wealthier part of town?

It's plainly absurd that in 2024 this is even being considered. It's not the industrial age. It's not the 1950s before the Environmental Protection Agency and environmental safeguards were put in place with regulation. This is precisely why your agency exists - for instances like this. There is a place for crematoriums in Maryland, but it does not belong at the proposed site.

Do not feel compelled to issue a permit simply because a business submitted an application. You are our last safeguard. Your mission is to protect and restore the environment for the health and well-being of all Marylanders. Please remember that.

If the permit is issued, please use the most up to date federal and state standards in limiting emissions. Please require that adequate pollution controls are installed. And please also require independent emissions monitoring throughout the life of the permit.

Thank you,
Angela Pinaglia



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Comment on Air Pollution permit for Vaughn Greene (Permit No. 510-3791-1-0478)

1 message

Annick Barker <annick.barker@gmail.com>

Sun, Oct 20, 2024 at 12:53 PM

To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

Cc: mary.washington@senate.state.md.us, mark.conway@baltimorecity.gov, elizabeth.embry@house.state.md.us, "Boyce, Regina T. Delegate" <regina.boyce@house.state.md.us>

Dear Ms. Heafey,

I am writing regarding proposed Permit No. 510-3791-1-0478, the air pollution permit proposed for the installation of a crematorium on the site of the funeral home. I live in very close proximity to the Vaughn Greene Funeral Home located at [4905 York Road, Baltimore, MD 21212](#).

I ask that Maryland Department of the Environment **DENY and WITHDRAW** this permit on the following grounds:

1. Data on the *cumulative* emissions from crematorium incinerators over the course of their operations and their *impact* on the health of people living in surrounding communities are extremely limited. History has taught us repeatedly about the destructive consequences that resulted from moving forward with such projects despite acknowledged ignorance about their environmental and health effects. **Given the absence of adequate data available about crematory incinerators, MDE should apply a high level of caution with regard to the proposed site**, which is situated immediately adjacent to a very densely populated urban neighborhood.

2. The COMAR *fine particulate matter emission* limits used by MDE for crematory incinerators is more than 30 years old! These limits are out of sync with national EPA standards, which have been updated FIVE times since the last COMAR updates were issued. **The state standard for fine particulate matter MUST be brought into line with federal standards BEFORE a permit is issued.** It is simply wrong to use such outdated fine PM emissions standards in permitting a crematory given how much more is understood about the detrimental impact of fine PM emissions on residential communities.

3. The methods MDE uses in estimating other crematory emissions are likewise over 30 years old. **Factors used in estimating toxic emissions do not sufficiently account for the incineration of modern medical or cosmetic devices that contain toxic metals, synthetic materials and chemicals (including radioactive chemicals).** In short, current estimates simply do not adequately assure the safety of crematory emissions.

4. **MDE itself has found that the communities adjacent to the proposed crematorium have the highest Environmental Justice (EJ) score of 95+.** This permitting process presents an ideal opportunity for MDE to demonstrate the real life and on the ground application of the EJ score. The EJ is otherwise a meaningless number. **MDE must take a leadership role and communicate through its permitting decisions that communities with the highest EJ scores will simply no longer be burdened with additional sources of pollution.** Businesses that request air pollution permits for activities whose emissions are inadequately studied and whose safety is not well established (in this case human crematorium incinerators), must look elsewhere.

I am extremely concerned about the impact of this new source of pollution on myself, my family and my community. We are already contending with respiratory and other illnesses that are caused and/or exacerbated by air pollution. We can already smell that our air is infiltrated with car, truck and bus exhaust from one the most traveled residential corridors in Baltimore City as well as existing businesses that pollute our air. Please, please, *please* use your power to protect us from even worse conditions.

Thank you for your consideration,

Annick Barker

[342 Rossiter Ave](#)[Baltimore, MD 21212](#)

410-627-2683



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Vaughn Greene (No. 510-3791-1-0478)

1 message

Rauwerda, Antje <antje.rauwerda@goucher.edu>

Mon, Oct 21, 2024 at 2:38 PM

To: "shannon.heafey@maryland.gov" <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Dear Ms Heafey,

Radnor-Winston, and Govans, are surprisingly functional Baltimore neighborhoods: People live here, there are businesses that thrive here too. Is it perfect? No. Is it a sea of boarded up row houses? NO: it's actually pretty good.

I set my first novel in the Govans neighborhood, praising the place for its people and what nature exists here.
<https://www.spuytenduyvil.net/slow-time.html>; <https://www.wypr.org/show/midday/2024-05-07/midday-on-books-the-deceived-one-and-slow-time>

Don't poison this place? I think you could influence a choice NOT to poison this place.

1. MDE should deny Vaughn Greene's permit request (No. 510-3791-1-0478) because communities along York Rd **already have MDE's highest possible Environmental Justice (EJ) score of 95+**, meaning that MDE knows that residents here already experience a worse pollution burden and health status than 95% of Marylanders.

2. If MDE decides to issue the permit against the community's will:

- **MDE must use the most up-to-date federal and state standards in limiting emissions**
- **MDE must require adequate pollution controls to be installed**
- **MDE must require independent emissions monitoring throughout the life of the permit**

Sincerely,

Antje M. Rauwerda

Faculty Chair

Professor of British and Postcolonial Literatures, Literary Studies

Affiliate Faculty Professional and Creative Writing

Goucher College

1021 Dulaney Valley Road

Baltimore MD 21204

The Writer and the Overseas Childhood: The Third Culture Literature of Kingsolver, McEwan and Others

Slow Time (novel)



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

(no subject)

1 message

Audrey Oneal <audreyoneal43@gmail.com>
To: Shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

Mon, Jul 15, 2024 at 6:24 PM

Good evening, I've heard of the public meeting Aug 6 th
What else is needed to prevent the creation of this creamatorium in this 21239 community. Thank You for your attention.



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Vaughn Greene's permit request (No. 510-3791-1-0478)

1 message

Barbara Snead <barbara.snead@gmail.com>
To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

Mon, Oct 21, 2024 at 11:04 PM

Dear Ms. Heafey:

As a resident of the Radnor-Winston neighborhood since 1996, I am writing to urge you to deny the request of the Vaughn Greene funeral company to operate a human crematorium at their [4905 York Road](#) facility. From my home at 4909 Crowson Avenue, I actually can see the Vaughn Greene building from my upstairs window.

Vaughn Greene's desire to add a human crematorium in a densely populated urban community is motivated by their desire to increase profit while ignoring the detrimental effects on the health of the residents. While little can be done to alter existing deleterious conditions, it is possible to prevent exacerbating the situation by stopping the construction of a crematorium. Please keep the human health needs in mind as you weigh this important decision.

Thank you for considering my input,

Barbara Snead
[4909 Crowson Ave.](#)
[Baltimore 21212](#)



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Re: Vaughn Greene Crematorium input

1 message

Barbara Tunstall <barbaratunstall2024@gmail.com>
To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

One thing more, Ms. Heaney: Please see the attached screenshot from Nextdoor.

A Rodgers Forge fast food restaurant's parking violations, which are NOT creating the level of harm as the potential approval of the human crematorium at the Vaughn Greene Funeral Home

◀ Mail 9:35 PM Tue Oct 22

nextdoor.com

Q Search for **House Cleaning**

Posts

**Bri Martin**

Rodgers Forge Apartments • 1 hr ago •

Hi neighbors,

A while back, I posted about the parking issues near Raising Cane's where people regularly park illegally to access the restaurant. I've shared several ways to improve the situation, and here's what I've learned:

Raising Cane's:

I reached out to both the management and corporate offices. They've been on top of the issue and have attempted several solutions, including posting signs, partnering with parking authorities, and offering parking spots. I've also attached their official response to this post for your reference.

Local Law Enforcement:

I've had multiple conversations with Captain Schroeder, who confirmed that law enforcement is aware of the problem. They do patrol the area, but resources are limited, so constant monitoring isn't possible. Captain Schroeder encouraged residents to report illegal parking by calling the non-emergency number when we see it happening. I will share that I have seen the police's presence in this area and I have seen officers ticket offenders. When they leave, more people park there.

Local Representatives:

Unfortunately, I was disappointed with the response from John's office. I raised my concerns, but it felt like my email wasn't taken seriously. I received a generic response and was directed back to law enforcement. They explained that I had already contacted law enforcement, there

also reached out to the state's attorney's office, but their brief don't handle such matters, and I received no further response request.

While I'm just one person trying to address this, it's clear that impact, we need more voices. If you're as frustrated as I am by situation, I recommend calling the non-emergency line to report more people email Johnny O's office, we might get the attention it deserves. It's concerning that a single complaint doesn't seem to work together, we may be heard.



Case ID: 5F69BM

Hello Brianna, thank you for reaching out to Raising Cane's.

We understand your concern and want to share a summary of the actions we have taken to address this issue:

1. We've arranged for and now offer parking
2. We've ensured there are significant and
3. At times we have stationed crew outside

Chats

Parking is a very visible nuisance.

Can MDE provide assurances that this incinerator of human remains will have the independent monitoring be in REAL TIME with real time reporting to the community upon demand?

Thanks again for your indulgence.

On Oct 22, 2567 BE, at 4:33 PM, Barbara Tunstall <barbaratunstall2024@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Ms. Heaney, MDE, et al:

My name is Barbara Tunstall and I live in the Cameron Village neighborhood, a little less than two miles from the proposed Vaughn Greene Funeral Home approved (by the BMZA,) now in phase.

I am vehemently opposed to your Agency's continuation of this process and I am reaching out to you and your decision makers as not only servants of the citizens of Baltimore, and also

I am attaching the initial letter I wrote to the Appellate Court as this travesty progresses with the hope, which I realize is not a strategy, that reason will prevail.

This area has been determined to **"already have MDE's highest possible Environmental Justice (EJ) score of 95+,** meaning that MDE **knows** that residents here already experience **95% of Marylanders.** That means higher rates of diseases exacerbated by air pollution (asthma, COPD, heart disease), AND lower life expectancy. And MDE wants east side neighborhood is NOT Environmental Justice."

I received this information from my Community Association, York Road Partnership. If anything is incorrect, by all means, please set us straight because if true, not only is it not an environmental charge of service to the citizens of Maryland. The further consideration of this human incinerator in this location prevents the sustenance quality of life for me AND my neighbors.

HELP, WE CAN'T BREATHE ALREADY!

As I stated in my letter to the Appellate Court, (attached,) Mr. Greene has other locations where this human incinerator could be built that has a far greater distance from congested, residential areas than the Howard County home area as if it is appropriate to house this and it's so safe then surely he and his neighbors would be willing to do their share. We're all in this together, and

And we're NOT all together. I suspect that Mr. Greene has chosen this particular location due in part to the corrupt history of the Black Butterfly affected city.

The assault seems to continue with the consideration of your Agency to entertain that this human incinerator with all its bells and whistles for being clean and green meets all the federal

No more with the gaslighting where the BMZA approves it and your Agency does a perfunctory once over. This is NOT AN ACCEPTABLE LOCATION FOR A HUMAN CREMATORIUM

This location does not have the capacity to support this business venture and the expansion of this is a violation of my right to breathe.

Attached is a recent medical report from Kaiser Permanente, results from blood work requested by my doctor. I am 62, on SSDI due to chronic pain. I have asthma and am a non-smoker in a low-income community.

The attached doctor's report notes that my IgE level is 1,508. Here is one website's information regarding IgE levels. I have severe dust allergies. In fact, the City recently repaved our streets, and the dust generated by two days of work.

I do my best to keep the dust mites and dog dander to a minimum. (<https://redcliffelabs.com/myhealth/allergy/is-high-ige-level-dangerous-understanding-the-risks/>.)

Unfortunately, they're winning as with my disability and limited income I am unable to afford help to do this. This also means I, like my neighbors, don't have the resources to move. Even if I could, the distance from the proposed site. Unfortunately, one of Mr. Greene's competitors is closer to my home, which I find troubling for several reasons, not least of all that I am not looking to be a part of March's etc., etc. for many, many years. Unfortunately for me; however, if this entrepreneurial venture succeeds, opening the door for more pollutants in an already OVER SATURATED area much for my desire to live as long and as healthy as possible.

Unfortunately, the City of Baltimore is NOT helping. I have been denied assistance for help which would allow me to at the very least close my windows in the summer to keep out the heat from a HUMAN CREMATORIUM LESS THAN 250 FEET FROM MY NEIGHBOR'S FRONT DOORS.

Would YOU want that?

Would Mr. Greene's Howard County neighbors want that?

Can the State of Maryland GUARANTEE:

- **That MDE will require adequate pollution controls to be installed?**
- **That MDE will require independent emissions monitoring throughout the life of the permit, not just at start up?**
- **That MDE will ban importation of bodies from other crematorium sites?**
- **That MDE will use the most up-to-date federal and state standards in limiting emissions?**
- **That MDE will IMMEDIATELY HALT ALL body burning at the FIRST INDICATION OF VIOLATION and IMMEDIATELY notify the neighborhood (within 12 hours) to monitor the health, noting any anomalies?**

Of course your Agency cannot as there are NO guarantees except death and taxes. The expectation is unreasonable. Less reasonable is to approve the installation of a human crematorium in an area with a current POLLUTANT LOAD in the area.

I apologize for the rant; however warranted by the gravity of this issue.

Thank you for your indulgence. Please feel free to outreach me should you have any questions or need additional information from me.

Kind regards,

Barbara Tunstall
5616 Northwood Drive, 21212
443.530.7169
<Letters - Kaiser Permanente.pdf>
<Crematorium appeal support 4-8-2022.docx>



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Vaughn Greene Crematorium input

1 message

Barbara Tunstall <barbaratunstall2024@gmail.com>
To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

Tue, Oct 22, 2024 at 4:33 PM

Dear Ms. Heaney, MDE, et al:

My name is Barbara Tunstall and I live in the Cameron Village neighborhood, a little less than two miles from the proposed Vaughn Greene Funeral Home approved (by the BMZA,) now in your office's jurisdiction for approval for the next phase.

I am vehemently opposed to your Agency's continuation of this process and I am reaching out to you and your decision makers as not only servants of the citizens of Baltimore, and also as a fellow, **reasonable** human being.

I am attaching the initial letter I wrote to the Appellate Court as this travesty progresses with the hope, which I realize is not a strategy, that reason will prevail.

This area has been determined to **"already have MDE's highest possible Environmental Justice (EJ) score of 95+, meaning that MDE knows that residents here already experience a worse pollution burden and health status than 95% of Marylanders.** That means higher rates of diseases exacerbated by air pollution (asthma, COPD, heart disease), AND lower life expectancy. And MDE wants east side neighborhoods to absorb an additional pollution source? That is NOT Environmental Justice."

I received this information from my Community Association, York Road Partnership. If anything is incorrect, by all means, please set us straight because if true, not only is it not environmental justice, it is the antithesis of your Agency's charge of service to the citizens of Maryland. The further consideration of this human incinerator in this location prevents the sustenance quality of life for me AND my neighbors.

HELP, WE CAN'T BREATHE ALREADY!

As I stated in my letter to the Appellate Court, (attached,) Mr. Greene has other locations where this human incinerator could be built that has a far greater distance from congested, residential neighborhoods. Mr. Greene could perhaps explore his Howard County home area as if it is appropriate to house this and it's so safe then surely he and his neighbors would be willing to do their share. We're all in this together, after all, right?

And we're NOT all together. I suspect that Mr. Greene has chosen this particular location due in part to the corrupt history of the Black Butterfly affected city.

The assault seems to continue with the consideration of your Agency to entertain that this human incinerator with all its bells and whistles for being clean and green meets all the federal guidelines, blah, blah, blah, blah. I have heard it.

No more with the gaslighting where the BMZA approves it and your Agency does a perfunctory once over. This is NOT AN ACCEPTABLE LOCATION FOR A HUMAN CREMATORIUM.

This location does not have the capacity to support this business venture and the expansion of this is a violation of my right to breathe.

Attached is a recent medical report from Kaiser Permanente, results from blood work requested by my doctor. I am 62, on SSDI due to chronic pain. I have asthma and am a non-smoker. I take yoga, Tai Chi and am active in my community.

The attached doctor's report notes that my IgE level is 1,508. Here is one website's information regarding IgE levels. I have severe dust allergies. In fact, the City recently repaved our street and I am still recovering from the after effects of the dust generated by two days of work.

I do my best to keep the dust mites and dog dander to a minimum. (<https://redcliffelabs.com/myhealth/allergy/is-high-ige-level-dangerous-understanding-the-risks/>.)

Unfortunately, they're winning as with my disability and limited income I am unable to afford help to do this. This also means I, like my neighbors, don't have the resources to move. Even if we wanted to do so. I have the luxury of some distance from the proposed site. Unfortunately, one of Mr. Greene's competition is closer to my home, which I find troubling for several reasons, not least of all that I am not looking to be a customer of Mr. Greene nor any of the Wylie's, March's etc., etc. for many, many years. Unfortunately for me; however, if this entrepreneurial venture succeeds, opening the door for more pollutants in an already OVER SATURATED area it will do much for his business model, not so much for my desire to live as long and as healthy as possible.

Unfortunately, the City of Baltimore is NOT helping. I have been denied assistance for help which would allow me to at the very least close my windows in the summer to keep out the heat, allergens and now, with your Agency's approval a HUMAN CREMATORIUM LESS THAN 250 FEET FROM MY NEIGHBOR'S FRONT DOORS.

Would YOU want that?

Would Mr. Greene's Howard County neighbors want that?

Can the State of Maryland GUARANTEE:

- **That MDE will require adequate pollution controls to be installed?**
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- **That MDE will ban importation of bodies from other crematorium sites?**
- **That MDE will use the most up-to-date federal and state standards in limiting emissions?**
- **That MDE will IMMEDIATELY HALT ALL body burning at the FIRST INDICATION OF VIOLATION and IMMEDIATELY notify the neighborhood (within 12 hours of emission violation) AND pay for STUDIES to monitor the health, noting any anomalies?**

Of course your Agency cannot as there are NO guarantees except death and taxes. The expectation is unreasonable. Less reasonable is to approve the installation of a human crematorium in THIS location, given the DOCUMENTED current POLLUTANT LOAD in the area.

I apologize for the rant; however warranted by the gravity of this issue.

Thank you for your indulgence. Please feel free to outreach me should you have any questions or need additional information from me.

Kind regards.

Barbara Tunstall
[5616 Northwood Drive, 21212](#)
443.530.7169

2 attachments



Letters - Kaiser Permanente.pdf
67K



Crematorium appeal support 4-8-2022.docx
15K



Mid-Atlantic Permanente Medical Group, P.C.
Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of
the Mid-Atlantic States, Inc.
2101 E Jefferson St, Rockville, MD 20852

Barbara A Tunstall

5616 Northwood Dr
Baltimore MD 21212

5/13/2024

Dr. Meller recently sent you a message on Kp.org.

Please disregard this notification if you have already read her message.

Below is the message she sent to you in **bold** font.

Hi Ms. Tunstall,

Your allergy testing is very positive - your overall IgE level is 1,508 (normal is up to about 100) and you have sensitivities to dust mite, dog and cat dander, trees, grasses, weeds, molds and cockroach.

I've asked my team to contact you to schedule the telephone visit we had planned on to discuss your results and asthma control

Thanks,

Fiona Meller Azrieli MD

If you have any questions or concerns, please call me at 410-737-5520.

Thanks,

Richard Trentler

Clinical Assistant to Dr. Meller

This letter was originally viewed by Barbara A Tunstall on 5/13/2024 7:31 PM.

April 8, 2022

Circuit Court for Baltimore City
111 N. Calvert Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

Re: Civil Action No. 24 C-22-000610

Please accept this letter in full support of the above reference Civil Action, request for Judicial Review of the Baltimore Board of Municipal Zoning Appeals (BMZA,) that approved a human crematorium for Vaughn Greene Funeral Home's Baltimore City location (4905 York Road, 21212)

I was born and raised primarily in the Baltimore area, except for about 4 years living in the Houston, TX area and time in Washington, DC attending school in the 1980's.

I purchased my home at 5616 Northwood Drive, 21212, in Cameron Village across from Chinquapin Park in September of 2019. My home is less than 2 miles from the proposed human crematorium site. I am also one of 50 million Americans with chronic pain, age 59, with a comorbid condition of asthma, receiving SSDI due to the chronic pain diagnosis. My goal is to age in my home with my two dogs.

This issue is one that is important to me, a Black woman whose own health advocacy journey has been peppered with misdiagnoses and disregard and doubt as well as my community and my neighbors. I am incredulous that, after two years of a very long and frightening pandemic (COVID19) and the blatant health disparities/inequities and policies that would even entertain adding another microparticle of airborne who-knows-what into this already air pollution saturated area further poisoning an area whose health statistics show this is an ill-advised move.

The approval for this venture appeared to completely disregard the neighbors. My understanding is that Mr. Greene's own residence is in Howard County, I doubt seriously if his neighbors would want this state-of-the-art human crematorium within eyeshot of their front door. I certainly don't want this, my lungs cannot take it and as we've witnessed in the last two years, air-borne pathogens spread quickly, quietly and without warning. The neighbors surrounding this have been very clear as to their opposition, which appeared to have been ignored when this decision was rendered along with the data. I am attaching a link to a Washington Post article, which I believe to be relevant to my request (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2021/04/28/environmental-justice-pollution/>)

Further, this decision has now opened the door to Mr. Greene's enterprise to ship bodies in from his 3 other locations, which are housed in far less populated areas than the currently proposed one. Baltimore City and its residents have for too long borne the brunt of commercial expansion and capitalism. This is another example of a booming business opportunity for Mr. Greene having all the benefits while feeding on the health and rights of his business' neighborhood.

I am aware that Mr. Greene provides a very necessary service to the community. However, Mr. Greene's vision for the York Road community is one, from this writer's perspective, that is based on an old vision of Baltimore as the murder capital of the world, which supports Mr. Greene's business model. The York Road Partnership of which I am a member has a NEW vision of life, of human dignity and the right to clean breathable air for all, not just those who have the financial means to employ predatory capitalism. He has 3 other properties upon which to build his empire. Baltimore City 21212 is already struggling to breathe. I respectfully demand he be ordered to place his enterprise elsewhere.

Thank you for your consideration.

Barbara A. Tunstall
5616 Northwood Drive, 21212-4015
443.869.2789



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Please Do Not Allow This Creamatorium

1 message

Ben Herrmann <herrmabh@gmail.com>
To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

Mon, Oct 21, 2024 at 10:36 PM

Good Evening,

My name is Ben Herrmann. My family and our two small children (2 and 7 years old respectively) live across the street from the Vaughn Greene Funeral Home. Honestly I'm flabbergasted that the will of one business owner to increase his profits has been put above the health and well being of multiple residential neighborhoods. I am yet to speak of one Baltimore City resident that is not completely shocked that this plan has been allowed to move forward. The below text is from the MDE Website:

"We must ensure that communities of every culture, race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic background get fair protection from environmental and health hazards, as well as equal access to the decision-making process for environmental policies."

The very purpose of a Government entity like the MDE is to protect us from harms like the one being considered. If the MDE can not protect us - WHO CAN? I cannot believe there is a reasonable person either in Baltimore City or Maryland State Government that believes it is a good idea to place a crematorium (what we all know is an incinerator) within arms reach of residential neighborhoods on every side.

Baltimore City has numerous industrial neighborhoods where this facility could be placed. Again - the owner of Vaughn Green does not want to incur the additional cost of placing their incinerator in an industrial neighborhood - so the nearby residents are being asked to bear the cost. The completely contradicts the MDE's stated goals on their "Environmental Justice" page. How can anyone at the MDE allow this to stand?

- 1. MDE should deny Vaughn Greene's permit request (No. 510-3791-1-0478)** because communities along York Rd **already have MDE's highest possible Environmental Justice (EJ) score of 95+**, meaning that MDE knows that residents here already experience a worse pollution burden and health status than 95% of Marylanders.

Respectfully,

Ben Herrmann
[340 Rossiter Ave](#)
[Baltimore MD 21212](#)



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

deny permit

1 message

Carol Rice <crice445@gmail.com>
To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

Tue, Oct 22, 2024 at 1:02 PM

Hello Ms Heafey--I am asking you to deny Vaughan Greene Funeral Home's request for a permit to construct a crematorium in a densely populated residential area on York Rd. **MDE should scrap the draft permit and deny Vaughn Greene's permit request (No. 510-3791-1-0478)** because communities along York Rd **already have MDE's highest possible Environmental Justice (EJ) score of 95+**, meaning that MDE knows that residents here already experience a worse pollution burden and health status than 95% of Marylanders. That means higher rates of diseases exacerbated by air pollution (asthma, COPD, heart disease), AND lower life expectancy. And MDE wants east side neighborhoods to absorb an additional pollution source? That is NOT Environmental Justice.

Please let me know of your final decision.

Thank you.

Carol Rice
301-589-5250



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

proposed crematorium

1 message

Ceil Millar <ceilmillar@gmail.com>
To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

Tue, Oct 22, 2024 at 5:42 PM

Dear Ms. Heafey,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed crematorium at the Vaughn Greene Funeral Home on York Road in Baltimore. I believe that the permit should be denied on the basis of the density of population in the area, the high level of pollutants already existing in the community and the potential for long term adverse effects to the people who live and work in that area. Environmental Justice is a major issue for MDE. Allowing the crematorium at the York Road site is in direct violation of Environmental Justice standards and goals for that area. I am disturbed that MDE has allowed the process to reach the current stage, and I am not confident that granting the permit would ensure proper monitoring of emissions in the future. Please add my voice to many others who oppose this expansion of services at the Vaughn Greene site on York Road.

Thank you for considering my opinions.

Cecilia Millar

[5912 Bellona Ave\](#)
[Baltimore, MD 21212](#)

To: Ms Shannon.Heafey@ maryland.gov

Dear Ms Heafey and MDE associates;

I am a retired psychotherapist and have lived for 34 years in Baltimore City zip code 21212, approximately one mile from the Vaughn Greene Funeral Services where Mr. Greene has requested a permit to add a new crematory. As you know, this is a densely populated, residential, urban community, which has already earned an environmental justice score of 95. I regularly use the Govans post office, CVS and Farmers Market, and travel that stretch of York Road. It is overwhelmed by air quality and environmental stresses, including mass transit and automobile fumes, gas stations, and many fast food restaurants. Theft and staffing appear to be significant problems for that CVS and Dollar Tree right there.

As I will most certainly be affected by any air quality changes in my community, I am opposed to the MDE granting a permit for this new incinerator, especially since Mr Greene appears to have access to other locations in far less populated areas. I have learned of numerous problems associated with the granting of the permit, including the lack of studies of emissions involving densely populated residential communities, the lack of up-to-date data being used to measure and analyze emissions and the lack of ongoing accountability, monitoring and reporting with respect to emissions and possible accidental spewing.

As we all know, environmental pollution and poor air quality affect child development, physical health, mental health, housing values, community spirit, growth and change, and family strength, livelihood and socioeconomic advancement. Do the right thing, MDE and Mr. Greene; find alternatives to permitting and placing a human incinerator in the close proximity of our homes, schools and gathering spots. We all deserve fresh and healthy air quality. Let's restore trust in MDE, as the protector of Maryland's living citizens' health and rights to breathe the freshest of air possible.

Cheryl L. Taylor
434 Rosebank Ave
BMORE, 21212



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Vaughn Greene Crematorium

1 message

cindy camp <campcindyr@yahoo.com>

Mon, Oct 21, 2024 at 12:03 PM

To: Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Hello Ms. Heaney. I have written several comments expressing my disappointment with Vaughn Green's proposed crematoriums. My mom has been in this community for over 40 years. I have lived in this community for more than half my life. We don't have the luxury of being able to relocate, this is heartbreaking. As a community of black and brown people, this continues to victimize us. I am asking MDE to protect our community from the dangerous toxins that will emit from this incinerator.

As you know our community is already overburdened by pollution. We have one of the busiest bus routes in the City. So once again this is the wrong location for an incinerator!

Sincerely,
Cindy Camp

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Hi Mr. Goldman,

Please see this link for the bill ([24-0502](#) (Building, Fire, and Related Codes - 2021 Edition)) that included the amendment Councilman Conway referenced related to crematoriums. Linked is the amendment language, as proposed and as adopted.

Best,

David Pontious



David Pontious | he/him
Chief of Staff

Office of Councilman Mark Conway

100 N. Holliday Street, Room 551
Baltimore, MD 21202

(o): (410) 396-4830

(c): (410) 207-4458



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37K



Councilman Mark Conway
Baltimore City Council *Fourth District*

100 N. Holliday Street, Suite 550 • Baltimore, Maryland 21202
(410) 396-4830 • mark.conway@baltimorecity.gov

October 22, 2024

As a Baltimore City Councilperson, I would like to express my deep concerns regarding the proposed permit 510-3791-1-0478 for the construction of a crematorium at Vaughn Green Funeral home located at 4905 York Road, Baltimore, MD 21212. While I understand the growing demand for cremation services, it is imperative that we carefully consider the potential environmental and health impacts on our community should a crematorium incinerator be introduced.

First, numerous peer-reviewed studies have highlighted the environmental risks associated with crematorium emissions. For instance, crematoriums release pollutants such as mercury, dioxins, and fine particulate matter, which can have significant adverse effects on air quality and public health. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), exposure to particulate matter is linked to respiratory and cardiovascular diseases and can exacerbate conditions like asthma, which is already prevalent in this area. The current methods used by Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to estimate crematory emissions as well as the define limits are outdated. Proceeding with this permit, without also updating methods and limits to be in alignment with national EPA would have destructive consequences for residents in the area.

Second, the proposed location of the crematorium is problematic given its proximity to residential areas, schools, and daycare centers. Moreover, the community of the proposed crematorium location has an EJ score of 95%, the highest in the state. The community is already battling respiratory and other health issues that would be exacerbated by adding a new source of pollution. To that end, I have introduced legislation, separating the definition of crematoriums from funeral homes, preventing crematorium incinerators from operating in densely populated residential areas. I implore you to use your authority to safeguard the health and environment for this community by denying the permit. At the very least, MDE should consider strengthening the permit by requiring:

- Recurring stack test during the five-year term of the permit. Incinerators can burn dirtier the older they get, and periodic stack tests are the only way to know if regulatory limits are being met
- Recurring opacity tests during the five-year term of the permit.
- Removal of medical implants before cremation that is not limited to just mercury fillings.
- Only bodies from the currently owned facilities be permitted to be cremated, no importation of bodies from other facilities or operations.

This presents an opportunity for MDE to demonstrate its commitment to environmental equity and justice by protecting the community and its residents.

Given these concerns, it is crucial that we prioritize the health and well-being of our residents. We must ensure that any development in our district adheres to the highest environmental and health standards. Again, I urge MDE to conduct a thorough review of the permit application and consider the potential long-term impacts on the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mark S. Conway, Jr." in a cursive script.

Mark S. Conway, Jr.



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Comment on proposed human crematorium, Permit No. 510-3791-1-04781 message

Darlene Townsend <ddtownsend@mac.com>

Tue, Oct 22, 2024 at 3:56 PM

To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

Cc: Karen DeCamp <kmdecamp@gmail.com>, Mark Conway <Mark.Conway@baltimorecity.gov>

Bellona-Gittings is part of the greater York Road community. We join with our neighbors in the York Road Partnership in opposition to Vaughan Greene's request to operate a human crematorium in close proximity to homes, schools, and local businesses.

We are concerned about the potential for adverse health effects, particularly since the neighborhoods closest to the proposed incinerator already suffer from elevated rates of asthma, COPD, and other diseases linked to air pollution. We have many elderly residents in our community, as well as neighbors with compromised health statuses. Adding pollutants and toxins to the air we all breathe would be an additional burden to those least able to afford quality medical care.

We ask you to protect the most vulnerable among us, for the good of all.

Sincerely,

Darlene Townsend
President, Bellona-Gittings Community Association (BGCA)



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

York road crematorium

1 message

Dave LaSalle <davroom@gmail.com>
To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

Thu, Oct 17, 2024 at 6:37 AM

Good morning,

As a residence of a neighborhood directly adjacent to the planned crematorium, I am writing to ask that

1. **This permit should be denied**, because the communities surrounding Vaughn Greene Funeral Home on York Rd **already have the EPA's highest possible Environmental Justice (EJ) score***, meaning that residents here already experience a worse pollution burden and health status than 95% of Marylanders. (*The higher the EJ score the worse the burden.)
2. If MDE decides to issue the permit against the community's will, **MDE must require emissions monitoring throughout the life of the permit**
3. If MDE decides against the community's will to issue the permit, **MDE must require pollution controls to be installed.**

I appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Dave LaSalle
333 Rossiter Avenue



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

MDE Crematorium Permit

1 message

Deborah Givens <deborah.givens52@gmail.com>

Tue, Oct 22, 2024 at 9:19 PM

To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

Cc: Karen DeCamp <kmdecamp@gmail.com>

Dear Ms. Heafey,

I have been a resident of the Govans (Wilson Park) Community for 68 years. I deeply care about my community and am troubled by the MDE Crematorium Permit granted to Vaughn Greene Funeral Services.

I have raised my children in this community and now have grandchildren and great grandchildren. I babysit my great grandchildren and love to entertain them in the backyard and even sit on the front porch. My husband suffers from asthma and has respiratory health issues.

Vaughn Greene has always voiced their opinion that they are helping the families of the dead, but they need to care about the living and the health issues they would be confronted with. If they cared about the community, they would not allow this crematorium to be placed.

I beg you please to fight on behalf of this community.

Deborah S. Givens
[717 Radnor Avenue](#)
[Baltimore, MD 21212](#)



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Please Deny Vaughn Greene's permit request for a crematorium!

2 messages

Deborah Green <debgreen44@gmail.com>
To: Shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

Tue, Oct 22, 2024 at 9:03 AM

Dear Shannon,

I am writing to request that the permit request by Vaughn Greene **be rejected** or at the very least include STRICT limits on emissions and have specific plans for regular monitoring of those emissions - but what i really want is not have it here AT ALL!

My family and I just moved to this area from NYC - one of the reasons we moved was to have a better quality of life - including less polluted air. My son and I both have very sensitive lungs and asthma. We literally live right down the street from this proposed crematorium! If this crematorium is approved, I imagine we will have serious health issues!

Please, please **deny their request**. Please put more importance on your city dwellers health and happiness than on a business' expansion.

Thank you,
Deborah Green

--

Deborah Green

Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>
Draft To: Deborah Green <debgreen44@gmail.com>

Tue, Oct 22, 2024 at 10:03 AM

Shannon Heafey Public Participation Coordinator
Air Quality Permits Program, Air and Radiation Administration
Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21230
shannon.heafey@maryland.gov
410-537-4433

[Quoted text hidden]



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Halt the Vaughn Green Funeral Home crematorium permit

1 message

Deven Lyon <lyondeven@gmail.com>
To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

Sun, Oct 13, 2024 at 4:02 PM

Dear MDE and Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of my family and our community regarding the draft permit for the Vaughn Greene Funeral Home human crematorium on York Rd. As a mother of a 4-year-old and a 2-year-old, and an elementary teacher in the Baltimore City School District, I am deeply concerned about the health impacts this permit could have on our community, especially on young children and families.

Our neighborhood already holds the EPA's highest possible Environmental Justice (EJ) score, indicating that we experience a pollution burden and health disparities worse than 95% of Marylanders. Approving this permit would only increase the pollution in an area that is already disproportionately affected, worsening the health risks for vulnerable populations like children.

Should MDE choose to issue the permit against the community's wishes, I request that the following conditions be imposed:

1. **Ongoing Emissions Monitoring:** MDE must require continuous emissions monitoring throughout the life of the permit to ensure compliance with safety standards and protect the health of residents.

2. **Pollution Controls:** If the permit is issued, MDE must mandate the installation of state-of-the-art pollution controls to reduce any harmful emissions.

The health and safety of our neighborhood must be the priority, especially for the children and families who live here. I urge MDE to carefully consider the environmental justice implications of this permit and take the necessary steps to protect our community.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,
Deven Lyon
Radnor-Winston Neighborhood Resident



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Comments Regarding Vaughn Greene Crematorium Permit

1 message

Nancy Dodson Sacci <nds5012@gmail.com>

Wed, Aug 21, 2024 at 2:26 PM

To: "shannon.heafey@maryland.gov" <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Dear Ms. Heafey,

Attached please find my written comments regarding the application by Vaughn Greene Funeral Services, PA for the operation of a crematorium at its facility located at [4905 York Road](#) in the Govans neighborhood of Baltimore City.

Thank you for participating in the August 7th hearing on this matter, and for welcoming comments from neighbors who may be adversely affected by pollutants emitted by the crematorium.

Sincerely,

Nancy Dodson Sacci



Crematory Permit Comments.pdf

31K

Having attended the public hearing regarding Vaughn Greene's application for a permit to operate a crematorium at 4905 York Road, I have a few additional comments.

1. I saw nothing in the draft permit that provided for consequences in the event that the conditions of the permit are not met or sustained. At some point MDE needs to have the authority to shut down the crematorium if the operator does not meet all of the requirements set forth in the permit.
2. The permit requires the operator to "take corrective actions" to bring the facility into compliance if visible emissions are observed. What happens if the operator fails to clean up the visible emissions? What about hazardous emissions that are not visible to the naked eye, such as carbon monoxide?
3. Why does the permit require that stack tests be done only prior to the start of operation of the crematorium? At a minimum, a stack test needs to be done every time the permit is renewed, and preferably more frequently. The tests need to be done on Vaughn Greene's unit, not on an "identical unit".
4. It appears that virtually all testing (eg: certification of emissions) is to be done by Vaughn Greene. The testing should be done by MDE with all costs to be paid by Vaughn Greene. Operating a crematorium is a privilege, not a right, and Maryland taxpayers should not have to bear any costs relating to such operation.

Rather than reiterate points made by others at the hearing, I will simply say that I agree with virtually all of them. The environmental impact of a crematorium within a densely populated residential community is far too significant to be addressed with weak conditions with no provision for enforcement.

Nancy Dodson Sacci
5012 Broadmoor Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21212
Email: nds5012@gmail.com



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

(no subject)

1 message

Dominique Frueh <dfrueh0@gmail.com>
To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

Sun, Oct 20, 2024 at 2:06 PM

Dear Ms. Heafey,

I am writing to ask that you help prevent serious harms to the community at Radnor Winston in Baltimore, MD, and prevent the opening of a human crematorium.

The situation is clear: the neighborhood is already exposed to a high level of pollution and there is no justifiable rational for authorizing this operation in a densely populated area in the first place. Thus, I am supporting the following action:

MDE should deny Vaughn Greene's permit request (No. 510-3791-1-0478) because communities along York Rd **already have MDE's highest possible Environmental Justice (EJ) score of 95+**, meaning that MDE knows that residents here already experience a worse pollution burden and health status than 95% of Marylanders

Regardless of any rethoric or argument about the safety levels at the operation's emissions, these emissions will compound with existing pollution. Further, there is no reason to expose the population to this risk as there is no need to establish this service in such a populated area.

I thank you for your attention to this matter and urge you to make the right decision: human health should always come first.

Best wishes,

Dominique Frueh



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Please deny permit for Vaughn Green Crematorium

1 message

Dru Schmidt-Perkins <dschmidtperkins@gmail.com>
To: Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Mon, Oct 21, 2024 at 1:22 PM

I could write volumes on this issue but you all are busy and the York Road Partnership has covered the details. Few key points:

1. The August public hearing approach was totally inadequate.
 - a. Short notice in prime vacation period
 - b. 5:30 start time when people are trying to get home from work
 - c. Location almost seemed designed to make it hard to get to hearing. Multiple bus rides would be required and the offer of tokens required people to take time off to go to the library to get these. These are all thoughtless and not us to the standards that MDE has set for yourself.
2. Permitting a polluting facility based on 30 plus year old standards that ignore **ALL** health standards we have today is really frightening and again beneath the standards MDE should set for protecting our communities, our air and our water.
3. My car has more pollution controls than a crematorium and how is that ok?
4. Remove the permission for a crematorium to submit pollution information from another location - I mean really - what the heck? That is simply wrong and must be removed from this permit and while you are about it banish from any other pollution permit. I don't get to use my neighbor's car for emission inspection or someone else's home for a lead test!
5. Please upgrade pollution standards for ALL existing crematoriums in the state . No neighborhoods should have this pollution impacting them.
6. Cumulative impacts are real. Pollution standards must recognize that endless small permits equal large amounts of pollution. It is like drinking. One beer may not be a problem but 5, 6, 7 beers have a huge impact and would lead to a drunk driving arrest. MDE must support efforts in Annapolis to recognize cumulative impacts and protect already overburdened communities and prevent others from reaching this status.
7. MDE may not take into consideration the amount of money Vaughn Greene has spent so far on this flawed plan. That is on them. The neighborhood should not bear the burden from a bad business decision.

MDE please stand up for effective pollution standards that will protect our communities and protect us from further harm. This draft permit is indeed drafty and you should let the wind take it away to the recycling bin. Please deny this permit. Set appropriate standards and then write a permit that is not permission to pollute but a standard that protects. That is supposedly the mission of MDE - show us.

Dru Schmidt-Perkins
410-258-8601
[400 Winston Ave](#)
[Baltimore, MD 21212](#)



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Additional comment on York Road crematorium

1 message

Dru Schmidt-Perkins <dschmidtperkins@gmail.com>
To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

Tue, Oct 22, 2024 at 11:51 AM

One additional point I wish to make.

It is important to note that in all the hearings on this the crematorium there has been NO EVIDENCE of any support. Mr Green has had some letters from pastors saying they think he is a swell guy. This is not support for this facility.

In Annapolis the only voices were from the industry saying - predictably "Don't regulate us"

Again no support for this facility. None.

Thank you

Dru Schmidt-Perkins

410-258-8601



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Deny MDE Permit for Crematorium

1 message

Gail Sunderman <glsunderman@yahoo.com>

Tue, Oct 22, 2024 at 3:17 PM

To: "shannon.heafey@maryland.gov" <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Dear Ms. Heafey,

There are so many problems with the Vanghn Greene permit process that MDE needs to deny the request and update MDE permit standards.

1. **MDE should scrap the draft permit and deny Vaughn Greene's permit request (No. 510-3791-1-0478) because communities along York Rd already have MDE's highest possible Environmental Justice (EJ) score of 95+, meaning that MDE knows that residents here already experience a worse pollution burden and health status than 95% of Marylanders. That means higher rates of diseases exacerbated by air pollution (asthma, COPD, heart disease), AND lower life expectancy. And MDE wants east side neighborhoods to absorb an additional pollution source? That is NOT Environmental Justice.**

2. **York Road** Partnership is working hard with neighbors to improve conditions stemming from years of redlining. This includes efforts to build Black homeownership and Black wealth. It is NOT Environmental Justice for MDE to permit a human crematorium close to densely packed homes in a majority Black community.

MDE is using 30 year old emissions factors in deciding this permit is allowable. This is not acceptable.

2. If MDE decides to issue the permit against the community's will:

- **MDE must require adequate pollution controls to be installed**
- **MDE must require independent emissions monitoring throughout the life of the permit, not just at start up**
- **MDE must limit or ban importation of bodies from other crematorium sites**
- **MDE must use the most up-to-date federal and state standards in limiting emissions**

As a resident in this community, this affects my health and quality of life. Please, be responsive to the needs and concerns of the community.

Gail Sunderman
418 Rosebank Ave
Baltimore, MD 21212



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Please Deny Permit for Crematorium

1 message

Grace Brown <gbrown7@loyola.edu>

Tue, Oct 22, 2024 at 2:06 PM

To: "shannon.heafey@maryland.gov" <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Ms. Shannon Heafey,

I am writing as to ask that the Maryland Department of the Environment to please deny the permit for the construction of a crematorium at Vaughn Greene Funeral Home. As a staff member at Loyola University, not originally from Baltimore, I have loved getting to know the Govans community and am discouraged to hear of its potential harm. I have economic concerns: the crematorium's negative externalities (not only environmental but visual) have a high likelihood of degrading the value of the surrounding area, including businesses and institutions like Loyola. Allowing the crematorium to be built would set the already disadvantaged York Rd community back and serve as another barrier to sustainable development. The location of the crematorium makes neither ethical nor economic sense. The compounding costs clearly outweigh the benefit (private and public) of this project.

For these reasons, please deny the permit or at minimum plan to strictly minimize negative externalities.

Sincerely and firmly,
Grace Brown



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Crematorium

1 message

hannah pickworth <hannahpickworth@hotmail.com>

Tue, Oct 22, 2024 at 3:27 PM

To: "shannon.heafey@maryland.gov" <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

I am opposed to a crematorium on York Road in the Radnor Winston area. . This is a residential area and the crematorium will adversely affect the health of the people of his area.

Hannah Pickworth



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Deny Vaughn Greene's Crematoruim permit

1 message

Helen Hardesty <hel_clay@hotmail.com>

Mon, Oct 21, 2024 at 6:53 PM

To: "shannon.heafey@maryland.gov" <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Dear Ms. Shannon Heafey,

I'm writing to you as a resident of Radnor-Winston to ask that you deny Vaughn Greene's crematorium permit request. A crematorium along York Road would have devastating effects on the communities along York Road, that already has the EPA's highest possible Environmental Justice score. Residents along York Road have already experience a worse pollution burden and health status than 95% of Marylanders. Please deny this permit for the health of the York Road communities. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Helen Hardesty



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

MDE Must Deny Permit Request for New Human Crematorium in Baltimore Residential Neighborhood

1 message

Jonathan Roach <jonnyroach@gmail.com>
To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

Tue, Oct 22, 2024 at 12:51 PM

Hello,

I am writing to express my deep concern with the approval of a new human crematorium in a location surrounded by residential neighborhoods in Baltimore city, where we already suffer from high levels of air pollution, which negatively affects all residents in many parts of our city. Like many people, I already deal with health issues related to air quality, as do a large portion of Baltimoreans both young and old.

It is well known that the permit request by Vaughn Green (No. 510-3791-1-0478) is seeking an exemption from existing code restrictions against any new installation of an incinerator. It is appalling that the city, state, and Maryland department of the environment has even considered this permit, given the condition of the city's air pollution problems, and the city's already low quality of life. As the population of Baltimore city continues to decline decade after decade, how can there be any realistic consideration to approve the new installation of a human crematorium in this location surrounded by hard working lower- and middle-class families? That we have even had to spend as much energy as we have fighting this terrible proposal is an insult to the citizens of Baltimore city.

I am adding my voice to the calls to DENY the proposal by Vaugh Green. We must not allow this new, disturbing source of pollution to be added to this neighborhood.

In case this terrible proposal is granted, MDE MUST closely monitor and limit the pollution created by this installation.

1. **MDE should deny Vaughn Greene's permit request (No. 510-3791-1-0478)** because communities along York Rd **already have MDE's highest possible Environmental Justice (EJ) score of 95+**, meaning that MDE knows that residents here already experience a worse pollution burden and health status than 95% of Marylanders.

2. If MDE decides to issue the permit against the community's will:

- **MDE must use the most up-to-date federal and state standards in limiting emissions**
- **MDE must require adequate pollution controls to be installed**
- **MDE must require independent emissions monitoring throughout the life of the permit**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Roach



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

York Road Crematorium Comments

1 message

Janeé Franklin <jfranklin@healthyneighborhoods.org>
To: "shannon.heafey@maryland.gov" <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>
Cc: Bob Pipik <bpipik@healthyneighborhoods.org>

Tue, Oct 22, 2024 at 12:29 PM

Dear Ms. Heafey,

On behalf of Healthy Neighborhoods, Inc., I am submitting our organization's public comment concerning MDE's draft permit for the proposed Vaughn Greene human crematorium on York Road. Please see the attached for further information.

Thank you,

Janeé Franklin

Neighborhood Team Leader

Healthy Neighborhoods, Inc.

11 E. Mt. Royal Avenue, Suite 302

Baltimore, MD 21202

410-332-0387 x1004



HNI Crematorium Comments_10.22.2024.pdf
264K



October 22, 2024
Maryland Department of the Environment
Air and Radiation Administration
1800 Washington Blvd
Baltimore, MD 21230

Re: Proposed York Road Crematorium

Healthy Neighborhoods, Inc. (HNI) is writing to express our concerns and suggestions regarding the potential impacts of the proposed crematorium at the Govans location of Vaughn Greene Funeral Homes on the surrounding housing market and residential quality of life.

HNI is a 20+ year old Baltimore-based nonprofit that helps strong but undervalued neighborhoods increase home values, market their communities, create high standards for property improvement, and forge strong connections among neighbors. The City of Baltimore awarded HNI \$1.325M to lead the community engagement component of the Department of Planning's Middle Neighborhoods strategy, aimed at **"stabilizing and growing [Baltimore's] middle neighborhoods in hopes of strengthening housing markets and improving quality of life for residents"** ([Baltimore City Department of Planning](#)). One of the focus areas is a cluster York Road Corridor identified as most vulnerable to negative environmental impacts in general and in relation to the proposed crematorium: Mid-Govans, Winston-Govans, Radnor Winston, Woodbourne-McCabe, Richnor Springs, and Wilson Park.

In addition to the anticipated impacts on neighborhood air quality, **HNI encourages MDE to consider the potential impacts of the crematory stack on housing values** in the surrounding area. At least two national studies over the last 25 years have indicated correlations between air pollution and home values:

- In a 1998 study by the National Bureau of Economic Research concluded that "total suspended particulates (TSPs) regulations are causally related **to both pollution reductions and housing price increases** in impacted counties during the 1970s and 1980s" ([National Bureau of Economic Research, Chay & Greenstone, 1998](#)).
- More recently, a 2023 study from Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy concluded that the resulting air quality improvements from the Clean Air Act "are also reflected in higher house prices...that **houses in cleaner air environments were bought and sold at higher prices** than houses in less-regulated, more polluted geographic regions" ("[The cost of air pollution on your health...and the housing market](#)", [McCourt School of Public Policy, Georgetown University, 2023](#)).

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Andrews Samuel

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Thomas Sychuk

11 E. Mt. Royal Avenue, Suite 302
Baltimore, MD 21202
410-332-0387
www.healthyneighborhoods.org

Moreover, a 2016 analysis by Realtor.com found that across 100 of the largest U.S. metropolitan areas, **the presence of power plants and funeral homes depreciated nearby housing values between 5.3-6.5%** when compared to the median prices for all homes in the same county ([Realtor.com, Pan, 2016](#)). While the Vaughn Greene Funeral Home provides important services to the surrounding community and is responding to market demands, adding an emissions-producing crematorium stack could tip that same market downward for home prices in the surrounding communities.

Ultimately, HNI worries that **the operation of a new crematorium stack on this site would directly counteract the \$9.7M in Middle Neighborhood investments that Mayor Scott and Baltimore City have made to stabilize middle neighborhoods in the York Road corridor** for the benefit of existing residents and to attract new residents. This in turn would disrupt the building of intergenerational wealth for the majority Black communities on the east side of York Road who, as the draft permit shows, already shoulders an extremely high environmental justice burden.

As such, we have **five recommendations** that we ask the MDE to consider while making its final decision on the crematorium that we believe would minimize additional negative environmental impacts on nearby residents and housing markets:

- Specific conditions to add to the existing draft permit:
 - Recurring stack tests for particulate matter and metals on the actual crematorium at regular intervals over the course of the 5-year permit
 - Retrofitting a scrubber to the crematorium to reduce emissions
 - Recurring opacity tests throughout the life of the permit
 - Limit body processing to other Vaughn Greene owned or operated facilities only
- Support Vaughn Green homes to pilot green alternatives to traditional fire cremation at its Govans location (i.e., human composting and water cremation), which as of the latest General Assembly are now legal in Maryland
 - Both processes are believed to use less energy and release less pollution into the environment than traditional fire cremation
 - This approach could also serve as a pilot for more sustainable ways to honor the dead and their loved ones statewide as well as promote community cohesion in the Greater Govans area

HNI thanks MDE for accepting and considering our submitted statement on this matter

Sincerely,



Bob Pipik
President & CEO



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

RE: Upcoming Crematorium Meeting

1 message

Janee Franklin <janee.franklin@yahoo.com>

Thu, Aug 1, 2024 at 3:08 PM

Reply-To: Janee Franklin <janee.franklin@yahoo.com>

To: "shannon.heafey@maryland.gov" <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Hello Ms. Heafey,

My name is Janeé and I both work and socialize in the York Road Corridor. I recently heard about MDE's upcoming community hearing on the proposed crematorium in the area and would like to request the following changes:

- a) a postponement of the hearing until **early September, AFTER the Labor Day holiday;**
- b) a **location change to somewhere central on the York Road Corridor**, closer to the residents who will be most affected by this project; and
- c) increased community comment time and ability for business, MDE, and residents to dialogue during the hearing to allow for meaningful discussion.

Having the hearing on August 6th conflicts with annual National Night Out Against Crime events around the city, including those in the York Road area. Furthermore, over 1/3 of York Rd residents do not have access to cars (see BNIA Vital Signs 2023 report), meaning that the chosen location is not accessible to a sizeable number of people most likely to bear the brunt of this decision. August is also a well known vacation month where many people are away. Finally, this project's environmental score is appalling (95/100) and is likely to significantly affect the quality of life of residents, particularly the mostly Black residents living on the East side of York Road in already fragile middle neighborhoods. Altogether, the current meeting plans creates a inequitable opportunity for residents to understand the process and have meaningful input and suggestions, something in direct conflict with MDE's own stated language about Environmental Justice.

I ask that you could take these factors into consideration in your planning so that the York Road residents have a more equitable opportunity to voice their concerns and make suggestions that could help meet both their needs and that of the Vaughn Greene Funeral Home. As a community working hard to revitalize their housing stock and commercial corridor (especially so east side residents can benefit), they are pro-business and admire the important work that Vaughn Greene does in walking families through difficult periods. However, worse air quality and another deterring factor prevents people from moving in or inheriting property, attending the local schools (including two new 21st century schools and two prominent Maryland universities), and patronizing the popular businesses such as Belvedere Square, Heritage Smokehouse, or the Govans Farmers Market. There has to be a better solution. In my opinion, respect for the dead should not come at the expense of the living. I hope that MDE will do their part to find a better path and work with the York Road neighbors in good faith to do so.

Thank you for your time,

Janeé F., a concerned citizen and friend of York Road



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

PLEASE refuse VG crematorium permit No. 510-3791-1-04781 message

Jed Gaylin <jedgaylin@gmail.com>

Tue, Oct 22, 2024 at 2:16 PM

To: Shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

Dear Shannon Heafey,

I urge you to deny Vaughn Greene's permit request (No. 510-3791-1-0478). I have lived in Radnor Winston since 1992.

In my 32 years here, I had never written to protest any action by the City or State, until this ill-advised crematorium notion. Those of us who live in this neighborhood feel abandoned by the very organization that is supposed to protect our health.

How are we to believe MDE is an honest broker for the citizens of Baltimore if it approves a currently successful business's expanding its polluting capabilities in a dense residential area that already scores in the highest bracket for environmental injustice?

Is MDE there to simply to rubber stamp an influential business, or is its mandate to protect citizens from excessive pollution? Please fulfill your function and look after a portion of the city and its citizens that are already in the worst of environmental and health dangers.

The citizens of the neighborhood are against it, and our representatives (Conway, Washington) stand with us. If MDE permits a business based upon outdated criteria that are known to be inadequate, it will be enabling the ill health and premature death of the citizens it is supposed to protect.

Those tragedies will morally lie at your feet.

PLEASE, do the right thing, and deny this permit. Full stop.

Jed Gaylin



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Please DENY Permit No. 510-3791-1-0478

1 message

Jeffrey Tompkins <jeffro.tompkins@gmail.com>
To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

Mon, Oct 21, 2024 at 9:22 PM

Dear Ms. Heafy,

I am writing to add my voice to those of my community, who have been fighting, resolutely and consistently for several years, the proposal to install a crematorium at the Vaughn Greene Funeral Services property on York Road. I live on Rossiter Avenue and can see the grounds of Vaughn Greene Funeral Services from my front porch. I have a history of asthma, my daughter actively suffers from asthma, and I know of families who live even closer to the site of the proposed crematorium, whose lives are seriously impacted by asthma. This neighborhood is our home, and we don't want to see the air quality get worse. My understanding is that the Environmental Justice score for the area impacted by the proposed crematorium is 95%+ - which desperately cries out for IMPROVING air quality in this community. Instead, a crematorium would inherently, and undeniably WORSEN the air quality of the surrounding area. Vaughn Greene's counsel's testimony during hearings with the BMZA amounted essentially to "the addition of a crematorium would only make the air quality in our neighborhood a LITTLE worse." That claim is subject to scrutiny, but it still leaves us with "how much worse is it OK to make, for a locale with an EJ score of 95%?"

It is also my understanding that this proposal has gotten as far as it has thanks to an odd distinction between the word "incinerator" and "crematorium", because incinerators are not allowed in densely populated residential areas (like where Vaughn Greene Funeral Services is located). Vaughn Greene's counsel made an emotional objection at the BMZA hearings to the characterization of the crematorium as an "incinerator of human remains" - but that is simply what it is. Presumably the zoning laws prohibit incinerators being located near residential areas because they are detrimental to the health of the people who live there. Would that general, and patently intuitive principle not apply whether what was being combusted was human remains or otherwise?

It was with great frustration that we saw this application proceed through the BMZA in spite of strong opposition from the affected neighboring community. We felt the BMZA had shirked its responsibility to the community, and it is to MDE we now look for protection. Please, DENY this permit. The interest of a private business does not trump the well being of the residents of this community.

I recognize that there is a chance that this permit still gets approved. IF that happens, then PLEASE make the conditions for approval MEANINGFUL and ENFORCEABLE.

- **MDE must use the most up-to-date federal and state standards in limiting emissions**
- **MDE must require adequate pollution controls to be installed**
- **MDE must require independent emissions monitoring throughout the life of the permit**

Specifically, the conditions for approval need to adhere to updated, modern standards. They need to be based on actual measurements - not estimates or inferences based on some "comparable scenario." And finally, the measurements need to be taken on an ongoing, regular basis. Zero or one data point is meaningless. If the terms state that emissions measurements remain within standards - we need to PROVE IT. With science. With data. If Vaughn Greene gets conditional approval to pollute within whatever is determined to be "acceptable limits" - then this business needs to be held accountable, to take responsibility.

I sincerely and respectfully implore MDE to stand up for the well-being and environmental justice that this community has a right to. I am encouraged that [MDE's mission, vision, and values](#) are aligned with this entreaty, and that your commitment to [Environmental Justice](#) is front and center.

Best regards,
Jeff Tompkins
[342 Rossiter Ave](#)
[Baltimore, MD, 21212](#)



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Vaughn Greene Crematorium Permit Proposal

1 message

Jessica Derreth <derrethj@gmail.com>

Tue, Oct 22, 2024 at 10:25 PM

To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

Dear Ms. Heafey,

I'm writing to you to address the requested permit for a crematorium along the York Road corridor and ask you to **deny Vaughn Greene's permit request (No. 510-3791-1-0478)**. My family and I have lived in this neighborhood for the last 6 years and my husband and I have called Baltimore home for the last 13. This is the only home my oldest remembers, the birthplace of my youngest son, and a community where we have grown deep roots. A vibrant community which is filled with young children like mine, who deserve to play outside without fear of exposure to pollutants from a crematory incinerator lurking just across the street. Who deserve to breathe air without each breath bringing them closer to chronic health conditions that will plague them for the rest of their life. Or cut their life short. Children who are already subjected to a worse pollution burden than almost anywhere else in the state.

I know the community is grateful to the Vaughn Greene Funeral services and the needs they serve within the corridor but the decision to move forward with a crematorium is not in line with the community's needs nor wants. Every single person I have spoken to about the crematorium is AGAINST it, which begs the question, who is the crematorium truly serving? It certainly seems like it is a business proposal, proposed by a business who profits from the demise of community members, and not actually serving the community itself. The state however, should be beholden to its constituents, and it is abhorrent to me that the installation of a crematorium in a residentially zoned area is considered legal or ethical. It is my hope that the MDE would consider the significant implications this proposal has for the community it is claiming to serve - for all, but especially our most vulnerable populations. My family and I love the home that we have built here, but as a mom to young children, I question whether or not we can subject them to the worsened impact on our air quality this crematorium will inflict, in an area of the city that already has significantly deleterious air quality. Adding yet another substantial source of pollutants to this region, our home, is immoral. It is putting a business before living, breathing people.

There was mention of justice on the MDE website - specifically a commitment to addressing injustices because "everyone deserves clean land, clean water, and clean air". As a healthcare provider downtown, I see firsthand the impact social determinants of health have on my patients. Social determinants like chronic exposure to toxic pollutants and poor air quality. Patients in my community. The health implications of these exposures are vast - asthma, heart and lung disease, cancer, mental illness, the list goes on and on.... The health implications for my family, my friends, my neighbors. It is easy to talk about justice but acting to ensure justice is much harder. Please hold true to the mission of your agency. Fight against the injustice this proposal presents. I implore you - for the health of this community I love, and the future generations to come, please **deny Vaughn Greene's permit request (No. 510-3791-1-0478)**.

Thank you for your time,
Jessica Derreth



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Permit Request No. 510-3791-1-0478 (Crematorium)

1 message

joanna_wilson@verizon.net <joanna_wilson@verizon.net>
To: "shannon.heafey@maryland.gov" <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Tue, Oct 22, 2024 at 11:24 PM

Dear Ms. Shannon Heafey,

I am writing to ask you to deny permit request No. 510-3791-1-0478 for installation of a crematorium at Vaughn Greene Funeral Home. There are several reasons I believe that this is not an appropriate location for such an incinerator. Meanwhile, there are other locations in less populated areas that this business owns that could be used to install a crematorium lessening the impact of potential emissions. It is understandable that the funeral home would like to reduce the cost of cremation for its customers but at what cost to their health?

First of all, the community of concern is already burdened with an Environmental Justice (EJ) score of 95+ and should not shoulder any additional pollutants. The emissions factors being used to assess the impact of this permit are 30 years old and most likely are not accurate.

Secondly, the MDE admitted during a community meeting that they do not have the funds to monitor the current emissions in the area on a regular basis required to ensure that the systems are operating properly to prevent the escape of emissions. Adding another source of emissions does not make sense when the existing systems are going without regular surveillance.

Thirdly, there is no existing emissions monitoring equipment in the area of concern and no plans to install one.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Very respectfully,
JoAnna Wilson

351 Rosebank Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21212
(301) 752-1002



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Vaughn Greene Funeral Home crematorium

1 message

linksfamily@aol.com <linksfamily@aol.com>

Sun, Oct 13, 2024 at 5:21 PM

To: "shannon.heafey@maryland.gov" <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Dear Ms Heafey:

I am a Radnor-Winston resident, since 1980. I am also a tenured professor of environmental health at Johns Hopkins. I am stunned by MDE's choices regarding the proposed crematorium. I do not understand the rush to approve a crematorium in a highly-urbanized area along a corridor that is already dealing with significant air pollution, respiratory disease, and environmental injustice. i am particularly shocked by the lack of requirements for stack scrubbers or other pollutant-mitigating engineering approaches or limits on when and for how many hours a day the crematorium can operate. Count me among those who think MDE is really, really falling down on the job here.

Regards,
Jon Links



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Greene Funeral Home Crematorium/Incinerator

1 message

Julie Bolster <juliebolster@yahoo.com>

Sun, Oct 20, 2024 at 2:01 PM

To: "shannon.heafey@maryland.gov" <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Good afternoon, Ms. Heafey,

I am writing to voice my opposition to the approved permit for a crematorium/Incinerator at the Vaughn Greene Funeral Home located on York Rd in Govans/Radnor Winston.

This neighborhood already lies within a high pollution, poor air quality area. The MDE Environmental Justice score for this area is 95+, meaning the air quality here is already worse than 95% of the air in MD. Having an incinerator there is not going to exacerbate the health burdens residents are currently experiencing.

The information MDE used to approve a permit is more than 30 years old and does not reflect the current pollution contributors as of 2024. Air quality has worsened considerable in the 30 years since monitoring standards were establish and it seems pretty unrealistic to sue those decades old standards to measure current pollution levels.

If MDE insists on issuing this permit, it will come at cost to the surrounding neighborhoods. I believe having a incinerator burning human bodies within feet of homes, yards and community members will decrease the health (physically, financially and mentally) of already marginalized neighborhoods. It will decrease property values in a neighborhoods that have, for generations, already been subjected to property devaluation and disregarded as lower class, less worthy citizens.

If MDE moves forward with this permit, MDE needs to commit to continuous monitor of the site and establish clear, transparent policies surrounding monitoring the pollution levels and ceasing operations if they exceed clearly defined standards.

Additionally, NO other funeral homes should be permitted use of the incinerator. It's completely unreasonable to expect the York Road Partnership neighborhoods to tolerate and absorb the highly toxic emissions of bodies from one funeral home let alone multiples homes.

I ask the members of MDE's decision making panel to please honestly ask themselves, would they vote to approve this permit if it were within their own neighborhood? Would the vote to allow their own families, children, parents, grandparents to continuously breathe air fouled with the emissions and human ashes that they are asking the Govans/Radnor Winston neighborhood to accept? My guest is that would not approve this for their own neighborhood and families.

Thank you for reconsidering this permit. Please do the right thing - make the right decision. Please do not allow a Crematorium/Incinerator in a heavily residential neighborhood..

Sincerely,
Julie Bolster

**Crematorium - MDE Permit - YRP Comments.pdf**

354K



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Re: CORRECT ATTACHMENT: Comment Vaughn Greene Funeral Services, P.A. Permit-to-Construct, Permit No. 510-3791-1-0478

1 message

Karen DeCamp <kmdecamp@gmail.com>

Tue, Oct 22, 2024 at 9:57 AM

To: Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Sure -- thank you!

On Tue, Oct 22, 2024 at 9:46 AM Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov> wrote:

Good Morning Karen,

Shall I delete the first email you sent, and retain your corrected second email?

Thanks,

Shannon

Shannon Heafey Public Participation Coordinator
Air Quality Permits Program, Air and Radiation Administration
Maryland Department of the Environment
[1800 Washington Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21230](https://www.maryland.gov/government/Departments/Department-of-the-Environment/Air-and-Radiation-Administration/Air-Quality-Permits-Program/)
shannon.heafey@maryland.gov
410-537-4433

On Mon, Oct 21, 2024 at 11:54 PM Karen DeCamp <kmdecamp@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Ms. Heafey - Apologies - I am attaching and putting in the body of the email my CORRECTED comments:

Comments from Karen DeCamp to Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)
[406 Woodford Rd, Baltimore, MD 21212](https://www.maryland.gov/government/Departments/Department-of-the-Environment/Air-and-Radiation-Administration/Air-Quality-Permits-Program/)

Re: Vaughn Greene Funeral Services, P.A. Permit-to-Construct, Permit No. 510-3791-1-0478

My name is Karen DeCamp and I have lived in the Radnor Winston neighborhood for 26 years, 3 blocks from the Vaughn Greene Funeral Home. I have raised my family here. I have volunteered for 20 years with my neighborhood association and with the York Road Partnership (YRP). YRP has a strong history of bringing neighbors together across the stark racial divide of York Road to improve the community. We have created well-vetted, detailed community vision plans, addressed clusters of vacant homes, reduced the number of problem liquor establishments, planted trees and improved green spaces, and successfully advocated for funding for two new public school buildings.

In line with our plans to support York Road neighborhoods and especially to build Black homeownership, YRP was recently successful in gaining "Healthy Neighborhoods" designation for 5 adjacent neighborhoods, including the one that the Vaughn Greene Funeral Home sits in. In addition, these neighborhoods were designated for Buy Back the Block downpayment assistance to aid first-time homebuyers.

NONE of our York Road community or commercial vision plans called for a human crematorium or similar pollution source. This is because the east-side communities of York Road – majority Black – are ALREADY BURDENED by the effects of systemic racism: lower incomes, lower property values, lower life expectancy, higher rates of asthma, COPD, heart disease, diabetes and other diseases which are exacerbated by air pollution. MDE's own Environmental Justice (EJ) score for this permit location is shockingly, 95/100 – but somehow MDE is issuing a draft permit. This is wrong.

Permitting a human crematorium at this site is an Environmental IN-Justice, and works against the decades of volunteer efforts of neighbors to improve their community and the investments of millions of dollars the City, State and private entities like Loyola University have made in the community. I would

argue that allowing a permit for a human crematorium at this site is a waste of state and local funds invested in neighborhood revitalization.

I urge you to deny this permit. This Environmental Justice score says to us that this community should not have an additional burden to bear – one that will add particulates, toxics and heavy metals to this densely packed neighborhood of homes. There is no excuse for this permit to be issued. It will have a negative effect on the health, life expectancy and value of homes and Black wealth around the crematorium incinerator.

While I understand that MDE has placed a few conditions on the permit to measure start up emissions, and require record keeping, this is wholly inadequate to protect the people in this community. A more adequate permit would add more conditions, including:

- Stack testing throughout the life of the permit (on the actual machine to be installed at Vaughn Green, not a similar model elsewhere)
- Installation of actual pollution control devices on the crematorium
- Requiring NO importation of bodies from any other funeral homes including those owned by Vaughn Green Funeral Services
- Limiting hours of cremation to weekdays only to give residents a break on the weekends

Lastly, I urge MDE to overhaul the way it carries out its public process for informational meetings and hearings. Equating the interests of the ONE applicant for a permit to the interests and safety of THOUSANDS of community members is wrong, so the applicants' voice in picking meeting and hearing date/time/location should be taken into account, but not be the dominant voice. Vaughn Greene has not produced a single – NOT ONE community member that supports this human crematorium at any of the meetings or hearings. Why did he get to choose the date/time/location of the hearing, then get unlimited time to speak? This while neighbors were limited to 2 minutes to speak.

Allowing the applicant, in this case, Vaughn Greene to select the date/time and location of the permit hearing resulted in additional burdens to the community members who will be the most affected by the operation of this human crematorium – limiting their meaningful involvement, a goal that MDE itself lays out.

Public hearing location/date/time should not be determined by the applicant, rather MDE staff should consult local communities and elected officials to determine these logistics so that the most affected community members can be meaningfully involved. Applicants should be given the same 2 minutes to speak at a hearing that the community is given to speak.

On Mon, Oct 21, 2024 at 11:46 PM Karen DeCamp <kmdecamp@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Ms. Heafey,
Please find my comment on MDE's draft permit.
Thank you.

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Karen DeCamp
[406 Woodford Rd, Baltimore, MD 21212](#)

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Karen DeCamp

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Karen DeCamp



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

MDE should deny the crematorium permit!

1 message

karen meyers <karencmeyers@gmail.com>
To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

Tue, Oct 22, 2024 at 1:08 PM

Ms Heafey,

I am writing to request that MDE deny Vaughn Greene's request for a permit to build a crematorium in the Radnor Winston area of Baltimore City. This area of the city has already been assigned the highest possible Environmental Justice score of 95+, so a crematorium would exacerbate the already unhealthy environment suffered by the many residents of the neighborhood. Vaughn Green owns other facilities in less densely populated areas where they could build a crematorium.

If, against overwhelming community opposition to it, the MDE decides to issue the permit, they must require adequate pollution controls to be installed, independent emissions monitoring throughout the life of the permit, limit or ban the importation of bodies from other sites, and use the most up-to-date federal and state standards in limiting emissions.

MDE has an opportunity to make a statement in favor of environmental justice and they should take it by denying this permit.

Sincerely,

Karen Meyers
Baltimore



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Concerned voter

1 message

Karl Schillinger <karlpschillinger@gmail.com>
To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

Mon, Oct 21, 2024 at 12:23 PM

Hello Ms. Heafey,

I am writing to express my opposition to the installation of a crematorium adjacent to my neighborhood within the York Rd corridor. I am asking the MDE to deny Vaughn Greene's permit request (No. 510-3791-1-0478) because communities along York Rd already have MDE's highest possible Environmental Justice (EJ) score of 95+, meaning that MDE knows that residents here already experience a worse pollution burden and health status than 95% of Marylanders.

Thank you,
Karl Schillinger



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Health Equity Issue- Deny Vaughn Greene's Permit Request

1 message

Katarina Carlin <katarina.carlin@gmail.com>
To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

Tue, Oct 22, 2024 at 10:00 AM

Dear Ms. Heafey -

I am a resident along the York Road Corridor between Coldspring and Northern Parkway. For now I am a committed Baltimore City Resident. **Please deny Vaughn Greene's permit request (No. 510-3791-1-0478)**

The community along York Road deserves to have clean air to breath. There is no need to have any incineration near homes. This area already struggles with pollution and this will only worsen the issue. If we are committed to growing Baltimore City's population we must make it a livable place. Please prioritize the living. There are many ways to honor our dead, but in this case no one would be served by letting this permit to occur.

MDE already knows that residents along York road already experience substantially higher pollution and health burdens than 95% of Marylanders. This affects our bottom dollar through taxes.

I am concerned and doubt that any emission limitations and pollution controls will not be enforced due to lack of staff. Even with independent emissions monitoring through the life of the permit I do not trust this will continue to be funded.

There is no reason for there to be a crematorium in this location. The owner does not live here, he lives in another county. I doubt he would want this crematorium in his neighborhood.

Hoping you have the moral courage to do right by us.

Thank you.
Katarina Carlin



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

No to the crematorium

1 message

Kate Scott <nicakate@yahoo.com>

Tue, Oct 22, 2024 at 1:09 PM

To: "shannon.heafey@maryland.gov" <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Dear MDE,

I live in Radnor Winston neighborhood and I ask you to deny the permit (No. 510-3791-1-0478) to allow Von Green Funeral Home to build a crematorium right across from our neighborhood.

I ask that you deny the permit request because the York Road corridor already has high levels of air pollution and that the Environmental Justice score is 95+. Residents in this area already experience worse pollution burden and poorer health than 95% of other Marylanders.

If you decide to issue the permit against the community's will then please use the most up-to-date federal and state standards in limiting emissions. Please require scrubbers/pollution controls to be installed and require independent emissions monitoring throughout the life of the permit.

Sincerely,

Kate Scott
340 Winston Ave
Baltimore, MD 21212



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Deny Vaughn Greene's Permit

1 message

Kiahna Washington <kwash822@gmail.com>
To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

Tue, Oct 22, 2024 at 12:05 PM

Greetings Shannon,

My name is Kiahna Washington. I'm 31 years old, a registered ICU nurse, licensed realtor, real estate investor, and bartender here locally. I became a homeowner at 27 in the Radnor Winston neighborhood. I love my home and my neighbors. I am also a runner! I ran in the most recent Baltimore Running Festival and I frequently run up York rd passing Greene's funeral home. Running is so special to me because I've had asthma since I was a child and I've recently been able to overcome this condition to be able to do what I love.

I'm writing to you among many diverse members of this wonderful community to request that you deny Vaughn Greene's permit request to allow a crematorium. I want to continue to live here, continue to run here, and continue to invest in the 21212.

Please consider the following.

1. **MDE should deny Vaughn Greene's permit request (No. 510-3791-1-0478) because communities along York Rd already have MDE's highest possible Environmental Justice (EJ) score of 95+, meaning that MDE knows that residents here already experience a worse pollution burden and health status than 95% of Marylanders.**
2. If MDE decides to issue the permit against the community's will:
 - **MDE must use the most up-to-date federal and state standards in limiting emissions**
 - **MDE must require adequate pollution controls to be installed**
 - **MDE must require independent emissions monitoring throughout the life of the permit**

Thank you,

Kiahna Washington



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Vaughn Greene Funeral Home permit request (No. 510-3791-1-0478) Comment

1 message

Kourtnee Turner <kourtnee.turner@gmail.com>
To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

Tue, Oct 22, 2024 at 5:59 PM

Dear Ms. Shannon Heafey,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed permit for the installation of a crematorium at Vaughn Greene Funeral Home permit request (No. 510-3791-1-0478). As a resident of the York Road Corridor, I am deeply concerned about the potential negative impacts this project would have on our health, quality of life, and the environment.

My primary concerns include:

- **Air Quality:** The operation of a crematorium can emit various pollutants, including particulate matter, volatile organic compounds, and greenhouse gases. These emissions can pose health risks to residents, especially those with respiratory conditions.
- **Odor Issues:** Crematoriums can produce unpleasant odors that may negatively impact the quality of life for nearby residents.
- **Property Values:** The presence of a crematorium in a residential area can have a detrimental effect on property values.
- **Environmental Justice:** It is important to consider the potential disproportionate impacts this project may have on marginalized communities.

MDE should deny or, at the very least, impose strict up-to-date limits on emissions and specific plans for regular monitoring of those emissions. The proposed crematorium would be located in a community that already experiences a disproportionate burden of pollution and health disparities. This is evident from the community's Environmental Justice (EJ) score of 95+, which indicates that residents here already suffer from higher rates of pollution-related illnesses and lower life expectancy.

The addition of a crematorium would further exacerbate these existing health burdens, making it difficult for residents to enjoy the same quality of life as those in other parts of the state. This is particularly concerning given the efforts being made by the York Road Partnership to improve conditions in our community, including building Black homeownership and Black wealth.

Furthermore, MDE's reliance on outdated emissions factors is unacceptable. The agency must use the most current federal and state standards to ensure that the crematorium operates in a safe and environmentally responsible manner.

If MDE decides to proceed with issuing the permit, I urge the agency to impose the following conditions:

- **Adequate pollution controls:** Require the installation of state-of-the-art pollution control equipment to minimize emissions.
- **Independent emissions monitoring:** Mandate ongoing independent monitoring of emissions throughout the life of the permit, not just during startup.

- **Restrictions on body importation:** Limit or ban the importation of bodies from other crematorium sites.
- **Use of up-to-date standards:** Ensure that emissions limits are based on the most recent federal and state standards.

I believe that it is essential for MDE to prioritize the health and well-being of the community in making a decision on this permit. I urge you to deny the permit or impose strict conditions to protect the public health and environment.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Kourtnee Turner

Pen Lucy Resident



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Comments on the proposed human crematory at 4905 York Road

1 message

strakool@verizon.net <strakool@verizon.net>
To: Shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

Tue, Jul 16, 2024 at 11:14 AM

Hello,

I am writing today to express my opposition to the proposed human crematory at Vaughn Greene Funeral Services, PA, [4905 York Road](#)

[Baltimore MD 21212](#). The installation of this crematory should not be allowed so near to a heavily populated, mostly residential neighborhood. The residents of the neighborhood already suffer disproportionately from poverty, environmental degradation, air pollution, and other social ills. Surely their health and prosperity are more important than the business plans of Vaugh Green Funeral Services. The company in question can certainly find another site for their business which is more in keeping with industrial uses. The residents of the affected neighborhood have no such options.

Thank you,

Kristina Strakna

[313 Tunbridge Road](#)

[Baltimore MD 21212](#)



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Crematorium

1 message

Kyle Engler <kyle.engler@gmail.com>
To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

Tue, Oct 22, 2024 at 1:32 PM

Dear Ms Heafey,

I would like you to register my absolute disgust in allowing a facility to burn bodies and pollute the air amongst families. We will be on the wrong side of history if we allow this to happen.

Sincerely,
Kyle Engler
507 Walker Ave
Baltimore, Md 21212
Sent from my iPhone



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Vaughn Greene Crematorium - please DENY

1 message

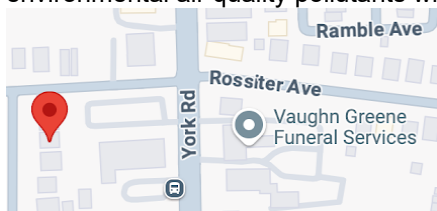
Laine Scott-Nelson <doubleosquirrel@gmail.com>
To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

Sun, Oct 20, 2024 at 9:41 PM

Dear Ms. Shannon Heafey and Associates at the MDE,

I write to request that the Maryland Department of the Environment **deny** a permit request for a human crematorium by Vaughn Greene (**No. 510-3791-1-0478**).

I moved from an adjacent property to Vaughn Greene funeral home in 2021 after the BMZA authorized the zoning. (My home was [4907 Crowson Ave, Baltimore, MD 21212](#)). I had great concerns about my children's exposure to MORE environmental air quality pollutants with their developing brains in an area where we already accepted some risk.



Our (former) neighborhood along York Rd, Radnor Winston, is already designated as having the highest possible Environmental Justice score of 95+. The residents who aren't able to move like we did need to be protected by our government. The neighborhood should be preserved; it is filled with energetic, generous, diverse Baltimoreans who love their community, their city, and their state.

Please deny this permit. It is the right and just thing to do.

If a permit is granted, despite resident appeals at every step of the process to stop the crematorium, please provide safeguards including:

- limit emissions based on the most up to date federal and state standards
- require adequate pollution controls to be installed
- require independent emissions monitoring throughout the life of the permit

Most Sincerely,

Laine Scott-Nelson
[4804 Wilmslow Rd, Baltimore MD 21210](#)



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Re: Vaughn Green permit request (510-3791-1-0478)

1 message

Leila Kohler-Frueh <leila.kohler@gmail.com>
To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

Mon, Oct 21, 2024 at 8:07 PM

Dear Ms. Heafey and the Maryland Department of the Environment,

When I mention that there is an intent to build a crematorium to people who live elsewhere in Baltimore, or Maryland, or in the country, or even in other countries, no one can believe it. That's because it defies belief; it's an extraordinarily bad idea that is obvious to anyone who hears it. No one wants a crematorium in their backyard. When issues of environmental justice that are play in the area is added to the conversation, it looks more sinister than just plain ridiculous. Why add more difficulty to a community already struggling with issues?

I will say again what I have said before in one of the public meetings: Vaughn Greene is a respected business, and I doubt that anyone living near it would disagree. I've heard the funeral home argue that they need to be able to meet the increasing demand for cremation, hence why they went ahead with these plans before consulting the community. I want nothing but the best for the funeral home, and I deeply understand the need for cost-effective burial like cremation. I had my mother cremated last October. I understand.

What I don't understand is the continued attempt to keep the cremation facility on York Road, and I wish that the permit granting agency would see it as an ill-conceived idea, too. I'd ask that you deny the permit. If that does not occur, then I'd ask that the permit include the most rigorous and strict set of guidelines regarding emissions possible, and that the site be monitored as frequently as it is meant to be by law.

I genuinely wish that I did not have to write about this, and that the circumstance was stopped while a seed of an idea. It's been an enormous time-drain for both community residents and the funeral home leadership, too (I imagine), and it would have been wonderful to have put all of that energy toward something to better the community. Instead, we've had a years long battle, and no hope of a solution that prioritizes community well-being in sight. If nothing else, I suppose we residents have learned more about the science behind emissions, and about the limitations within the law to address a situation like this. I fervently hope for something better for us in Maryland, and for reasonable means to make sure that we can take care of our dead without compromising the living.

In the season of Halloween, and with a certain sense that the community has not been fully respected in this issue,

Leila Kohler-Frueh



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Please Deny Permit Request No. 510-3791-1-0478 (crematorium on York Road)1 message

Leo Horrigan <lhorriga@jhu.edu>

Mon, Oct 21, 2024 at 4:34 PM

To: "shannon.heafey@maryland.gov" <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Dear Ms. Heafey,

I am writing as a concerned citizen and close neighbor to the proposed crematorium on York Road (a couple hundred yards from my home). I ask that you deny the permit request (No. 510-3791-1-0478) from Vaughn Greene's business because the neighborhoods in proximity to this proposed crematorium already experience a larger pollution burden than almost all communities in Maryland. It would be irresponsible for the state to allow another such burden to be heaped upon them when this information is well known.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Best regards,

Leo Horrigan

[306 Radnor Road; Baltimore MD 21212](#)



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Vaughn Greene Funeral Home crematorium

1 message

linksfamily@aol.com <linksfamily@aol.com>

Sun, Oct 13, 2024 at 5:21 PM

To: "shannon.heafey@maryland.gov" <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Dear Ms Heafey:

I am a Radnor-Winston resident, since 1980. I am also a tenured professor of environmental health at Johns Hopkins. I am stunned by MDE's choices regarding the proposed crematorium. I do not understand the rush to approve a crematorium in a highly-urbanized area along a corridor that is already dealing with significant air pollution, respiratory disease, and environmental injustice. i am particularly shocked by the lack of requirements for stack scrubbers or other pollutant-mitigating engineering approaches or limits on when and for how many hours a day the crematorium can operate. Count me among those who think MDE is really, really falling down on the job here.

Regards,
Jon Links



Suna Sariscak -MDE- <suna.sariscak@maryland.gov>

Comments on the Draft Air Permit for the Vaughn Greene Funeral Services Crematory Incinerator

Lisa Polyak <lisa.polyak@gmail.com>

Tue, Oct 15, 2024 at 1:43 PM

To: Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>, Suna Yi Sariscak <suna.sariscak@maryland.gov>, Angelo Bianca -MDE- <angelo.bianca@maryland.gov>

Ms. Heafey, Ms. Sariscak, Mr. Bianca,

Please see attached for comments pertaining to the draft air permit prepared for the Vaughn Greene Funeral Services crematory incinerator. I am also enclosing 2 additional documents that are referred in the comments as Attachments 1 & 2.

I would be grateful if one of you could ping me back to acknowledge receipt of the comments.

Most sincerely,

Lisa M. Polyak

3 attachments

**Comments on Draft Permit-to-Construct No. 510-3791-1-0478.pdf**

1277K

**USEPA_EJScreen Community Report for 4905 York Road_Baltimore_MD_0.25mi radius.pdf**

1751K

**MDE FAQ Sheet - Crematories.pdf**

253K

1. Page/Paragraph: The Applicant's Guide to Environmental Justice and Permitting, What is Environmental Justice? paragraph 2; What Does the Application Require? paragraph 3

Comment: Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) announced the public hearing via email on July 15, 2024 to be held at 5:30pm on August 6, 2024 at the Huber Memorial Church. The time, date and location of the public hearing substantially impaired the ability of the affected community to participate. The time (5:30pm) was during or near the completion of the typical workday making it difficult for workers to arrive in a timely manner. The hearing date – less than 30 days from notification – made it difficult to rally community members with sufficient time to read and understand the draft permit; and during the height of summer vacations - made it impossible for many community members to attend who were out of town. The location - nearly 2 miles from emission source and away from the affected residents made it difficult for affected community members to attend. Multiple community members contacted MDE with these concerns, including elected representatives from the 43rd State legislative district, but MDE was unwilling to change the time, date or location of the hearing to accommodate the access concerns of the affected community. When it was pointed out that the hearing date conflicted with the long planned National Night Out event, MDE was willing to change the hearing date by one day to August 7, 2024. On the day of the hearing, citizens arrived to find that air conditioning in the venue had been out of order since midweek, and the hearing room was overheated. Staff from the venue handed out paper fans to citizens to manage air flow during the hearing. Further, less than half the number of community members who attended the December 2023 meeting were in attendance at the August 7, 2024 hearing demonstrating the unsuitability of the time, date and venue. MDE's **Applicant's Guide to Environmental Justice and Permitting** states:

"It is important that residents who may be adversely affected by a proposed source be aware of the current environmental issues in their community in order to have *meaningful involvement* in the permitting process." [emphasis added]

"Residents of a community with a high indicator score and a high degree of environmental exposure *should be afforded broader opportunities to participate in the permit process* and understand the impacts a project seeking permit approval may have on them." [emphasis added]

Suggested resolution:

The minimum threshold for "meaningful involvement" should obligate that important events related to a proposed pollution source are held at a time and location that favor participation by the affected communities. MDE was asked multiple times to defer the public hearing to a later date and a venue in the York Road corridor, and these requests were denied. The Final Environmental Justice (EJ) Score Percentile for the location where the crematory will be situated is 95.28, meaning that the population living adjacent to the proposed crematory already experiences a pollution burden that is worse than 95.28% of the people in Maryland. If Environmental Justice is to be more than a slogan, it has to start with amending standard practices in order to serve the community that is burdened. If existing regulations do not provide for community input to such basic decision-making, then the regulations need to be amended to effectuate the promise of "meaningful involvement".

2. Page/Paragraph: MDE Screening Report; MDE Final EJ Score (%ile score)

Comment: According to the MDE Screening Report, the Final EJ Score percentile for the census tract where the crematory will be situated is 95.28, meaning that the population living adjacent to the proposed crematory

experiences ongoing pollution burdens and possesses health and demographic characteristics that make it more vulnerable than 95.28% of the people in Maryland. MDE's own assessment of the impact of this score states,

"An EJ Score of 95% indicates that the proposed installation would be located in an area that is disproportionately impacted by environmental and public health hazards resulting in a higher risk of health problems from environmental exposures."

These families are literally the most vulnerable families in Maryland. Taking a step back and reviewing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) EJScreen Community Report¹ for the same community (see Attachment 1) not only are the adjacent families the most vulnerable in Maryland, they are also among the most vulnerable in the United States. Subvariables in the EPA report show that national EJ rankings for Diesel Particulate Matter, Traffic Proximity, and Lead Paint exposure are in the 85-94th percentiles; with existing Asthma burden at the 95th percentile. Figure 1. shows the EPA EJScreen heat map for asthma prevalence among adults aged 18 or older in the U.S., along with the location of EPA-regulated air pollution sources (blue square icons) and public housing units (green circle icons) in the crematory census tract and in Baltimore. It is no surprise that census tracts with the worst asthma scores in the U.S. (>95th percentile) are saturated with both regulated air pollution sources and public housing units, especially in comparison to census tracts with low Asthma burdens.

In combination, the state and federal EJ assessments for the area where the proposed crematory will be sited reveal that it will be situated in literally one of the worst locations in the United States with respect to pre-existing environmental hazards and health burdens. While it is not clear that there is ever a good place to situate an incinerator with respect to human health impact, the value of EJ Scoring is that reveals that some locations are worse than others, and should be deprioritized for new sources of hazard because of the presence of multiple existing harms and vulnerabilities. What does MDE imagine the purpose of the EJ Score to be? Is it merely informational, or is it intended to guide action that MDE takes when making decisions about the location of additional environmental burdens? Once made aware of the disproportionate allocation of environmental harm and health status through the EJ Score, how does MDE integrate this knowledge into the execution of its mission: *To protect and restore the environment for the health and well-being of all Marylanders*. The obligation to use EJ scoring in the administration of environmental permits has been a law for nearly 2 years, and yet MDE appears to have issued no interpretive guidance or meaningful effectuation of that mandate in decision-making related to new or existing pollution sources.

Suggested Resolution: Both State and Federal EJ scoring should be foundational criteria in the execution of MDE administrative decisions on how and where to issue environmental permits, and the conditions imposed in such permits. The utilization of EJ scoring should not be informational, ad hoc or subjective. Communities that are demonstrably overburdened as conveyed by EJ scoring should not be subjected to additional environmental burdens. In this instance, it is not clear how MDE can justify issuing an environmental permit for an additional source of air pollution in a community that already experiences the worst environmental burdens related to air quality, and the poorest respiratory health status in Maryland and the United States. In New Source Review permitting under the Clean Air Act, when a qualifying air pollution source wishes to situate in an area that fails to meet ambient air quality standards, it must offset all of the new pollution that it will create plus an additional amount in order to help the area regain compliance with health-based air quality standards. A similar paradigm should exist for Environmental Justice scoring: there should be no new environmental burdens introduced into a community that already is experiencing the highest valuation of existing environmental hazard and health

¹ EPA EJScreen EPA's Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool (Version 2.3), <https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/>

burden, without controlling or limiting new exposures that contribute to the hazard and the burden. Based on the Maryland and EPA EJ scores for the census tract where the proposed crematory will be situated, MDE should not be issuing an air permit for a crematory incinerator in this location.

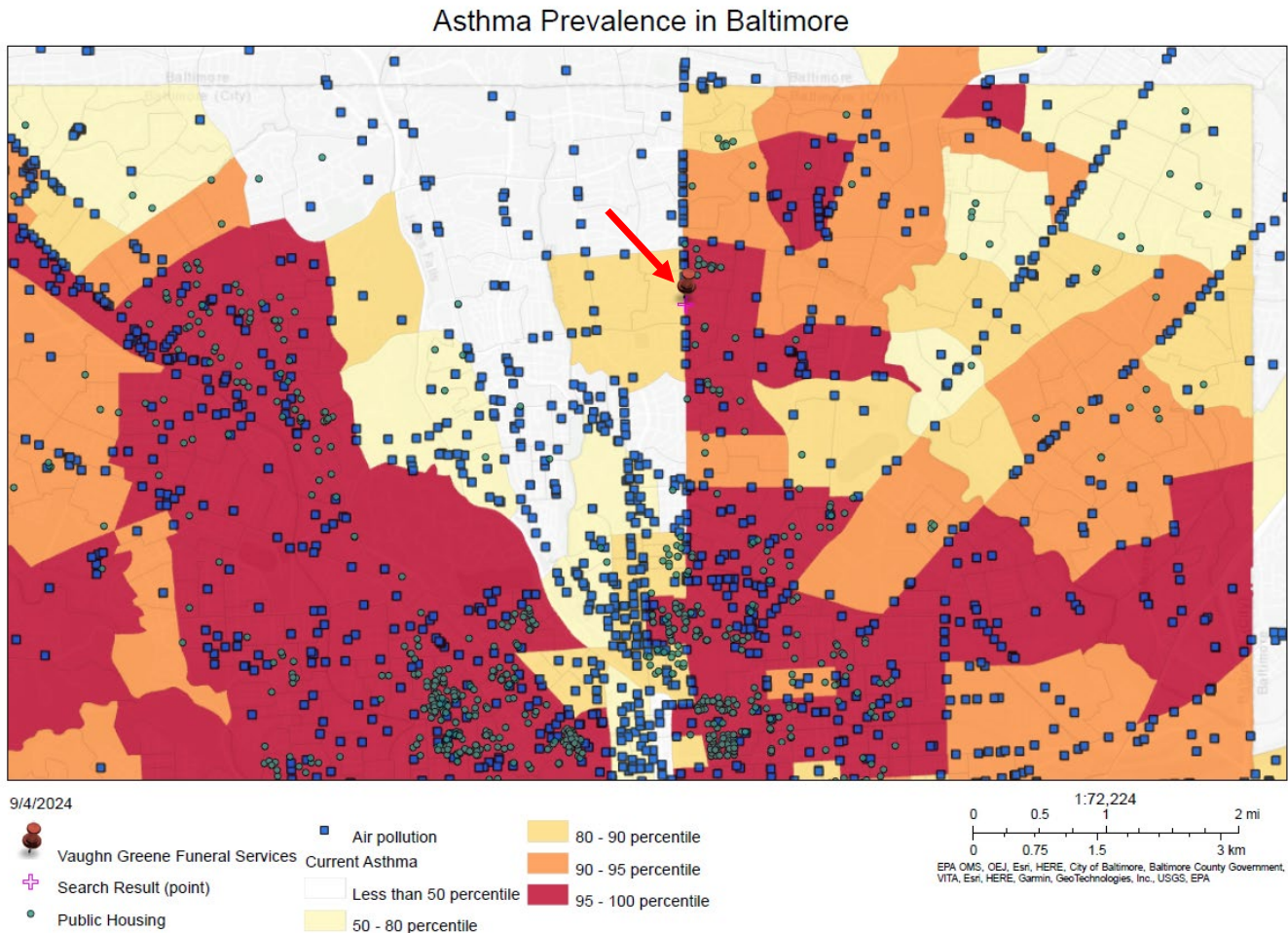


Figure 1. U.S. EPA EJScreen Map of Health Disparities: Asthma Prevalence Among Adults Aged 18 or Older in Baltimore City, Maryland

3. Page/Paragraph: Fact Sheet and Tentative Determination; Vaughn Greene Funeral Services, P.A.;
V. Environmental Justice Analysis

Comment: In its Environmental Justice Analysis MDE states that because of the magnitude of the EJ Score for the community surrounding the proposed crematory, it is imposing "additional protective measures" to the draft air permit. These measures include:

- a mandate for the crematory to be equipped with an opacity monitor,
- development of an Operations and Maintenance plan
- limiting human remains processed in the crematory to only those remains, "owned, operated or controlled by Vaughn Greene Funeral Services, P.A."

- a one-time requirement to conduct an EPA Method 9 opacity test to ensure compliance with visible emission standards
- a one-time requirement to conduct a stack emission test for particulate matter (PM) and metal toxic air pollutants (TAPs), although this obligation can be waived if the Applicant can provide recent stack test results from an identical crematory

Although these items are described as "additional protective measures", they amount only to operational surveillance and do not actually control or limit air pollution produced by the crematory incinerator. They are indeed "additional" from the perspective that these measures do not appear in any other crematory permit-to-operate that MDE has issued. Despite having literally no quantitative information on what is actually emitted from a crematory incinerator, MDE has never required any crematory in Maryland to perform a stack test to measure the type and amount of air pollution it produces. There are at least seven crematory incinerators with a current MDE air permit that were installed over 40 years ago, and have never been required to test or quantify stack emissions to determine compliance with applicable regulations.² There are very few pieces of mechanical equipment that operate as designed after 40 years of use. How can MDE continue to assert that crematories that are 20, 30, and 40 years old are still meeting applicable requirements and emission limits if the only assessment of their emissions comes from a thought experiment using emission factors?

Suggested Resolution: In order to ensure that the "additional protective measures" actually provide meaningful ongoing protection to the residents whose homes and families will be downwind of the crematory emissions, request that the permit language be amended as follows:

(a) There should be continuous opacity monitoring while the crematory is operating to ensure that visible emissions do not exceed the COMAR limit of 0% opacity, and that the opacity reading should be used in automated feedback to adjust crematory operations to prevent visible emissions. However, if visible emissions persist, there should be an automated shutdown of the crematory, or an obligation to manually shut down the crematory if visible emissions persist past 6 minutes.

(b) The requirement limiting the origin of human remains that can be processed in the crematory to only those remains owned, operated, or controlled by Vaughn Greene Funeral Services (VGFS), P.A. is vague since the terms "owned", "operated" and "controlled" are not defined in the permit and could be interpreted in ways that allow VGFS to operate as a third-party cremation service for businesses other than the four locations specified on the VGFS website. In order to remove any uncertainty about the scope on intake of human remains at VGFS, request that language be added to the permit identifying the following locations as the only VGFS entities which may divert cremation business to the VGFS York Road location, and only for business originating at those locations:

- 8728 Liberty Road, Randallstown, Maryland 21133
- 5151 Baltimore National Pike, Baltimore, Maryland 21229
- 4101 Edmondson Avenue Baltimore, Maryland 21229

² Fort Lincoln Funeral Home & Crematory, Permit-to-Operate No. 033-0478, one human crematory installed June 1973; Smithsburg Crematory, Permit-to-Operate No. 043-0224, one human crematory installed June 1978; Baltimore-Washington Crematory LLC, Permit-to-Operate No. 033-1359, one human crematory installed 1983; Chambers Funeral Home & Crematorium, P.A., Permit-to-Operate No. 033-1338, two human crematories installed June 1983; Hunt Crematory, Permit-to-Operate No. 017-0059, one human crematory installed July 1983; Carroll Cremations, Inc., Permit-to-Operate No. 013-0126, one human crematory installed April 1984

- (c) Request that the requirement to conduct an EPA Method 9 opacity observation be expanded to once per calendar quarter during normal crematory operations to ensure that there is ongoing assurance that the crematory is operating according to regulatory requirements. This routine surveillance is needed because all mechanical devices wear over time and periodic Method 9 observations can track and document any potential degradation.
- (d) Request that the requirement to conduct stack emissions testing to demonstrate compliance with applicable PM and TAP requirements be a recurring requirement to occur once at startup, and then at least once during the 5-year term of the air permit. This routine surveillance is needed because all mechanical devices wear over time and periodic stack tests are needed to ensure compliance with applicable regulatory requirements throughout the operating lifetime of the equipment.
- (e) There should be no option to submit surrogate stack tests as representative of stack emissions produced by the VGFS crematory incinerator. There is no evidence in scientific literature demonstrating that emission tests for one crematory incinerator are representative of another crematory incinerator. This would not be an acceptable regulatory practice for any other type of incinerator - it is not even an acceptable practice for vehicle emission inspections required in Maryland.

4. Page/Paragraph: Fact Sheet and Tentative Determination; Vaughn Greene Funeral Services, P.A.;
VI. Compliance Demonstration and Analysis

Comment: The opening paragraph of the Compliance Demonstration and Analysis states:

“The ***proposed installation must comply with all State imposed emissions limitations*** and screening levels, as well as the NAAQS. The Department has conducted an engineering and air quality review of the application. A detailed summary of methods used in analysis is included in the attached Appendix.”
[emphasis added]

The section then proceeds to review regulatory applicability or compliance for three topics, but fails to review whether the proposed crematory incinerator would be compliant the lone emission limit in COMAR governing PM emissions from crematory incinerators. This emission limit appears in COMAR 26.11.08.05.B.(2)(a) [Control of Incinerators]:

B. Requirements for Areas III and IV.

(2) Except as provided in Regulations .07, .08, and .08-2 of this chapter, a person may not cause or permit the discharge of particulate matter into the outdoor atmosphere from any incinerator, hazardous waste incinerator, or crematory to exceed the following limitations:

(a) Special medical waste incinerators burning less than 1 ton of refuse per hour and less than 8 tons of refuse per day and ***crematories, 0.10 grains per standard cubic foot dry 0.10 gr/SCFD*** (229mg/dscm);
[emphasis added]

Earlier in the first section of the Fact Sheet and Tentative Determination (I. Introduction), MDE asserted:

“Based on the above information, ***the Department has concluded that the proposed installation will comply with all applicable Federal and State air quality control requirements.*** In accordance with

Section 1-604 of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, the Department has made a tentative determination to issue the Permit to Construct.” [emphasis added]

It is unclear how MDE could have arrived at its determination that the proposed crematory incinerator will comply with all applicable State air quality control requirements when it failed to include an analysis of compliance with the PM emission limit for crematory incinerators found in COMAR 26.11.08.05.B.(2)(a).

Suggested Resolution: Conduct an analysis of whether the proposed crematory incinerator will comply with all applicable requirements for the proposed source, including the PM emission limit for crematory incinerators that appears in COMAR 26.11.08.05.B.(2)(a). Since this regulation limits the concentration of PM in stack exhaust, the only way to determine compliance is with a quantitative evaluation of crematory stack emissions. Accordingly, MDE must obligate an U.S. EPA Method 5 stack test for the proposed crematory incinerator before it can render a determination on whether the equipment complies “with all State imposed emissions limitations”.

5. Page/Paragraph: Fact Sheet and Tentative Determination; Vaughn Greene Funeral Services, P.A.; Table I

Comment: As shown in Table I, MDE and the permit applicant use emission factors to estimate the annual weight of criteria air pollutants emitted by the crematory incinerator in order to determine whether those emissions meet regulatory thresholds. These criteria air pollutant emission factors are over 30 years old, and reflect air pollution produced by medical waste incinerators rather than human crematory incinerators. These factors are both unrepresentative and outdated. The factors are unrepresentative because they were obtained from stack emission tests for medical waste incinerators which are different in design, capacity and operation from crematory incinerators. In the reference for the emission factors (AP-42)³, the EPA describes medical waste incineration:

“Medical waste incineration involves the burning of wastes produced by hospitals, veterinary facilities, and medical research facilities. These wastes include both infectious (“red bag”) medical wastes as well as non-infectious, general housekeeping wastes. The emission factors presented here represent emissions when both types of these wastes are combusted rather than just infectious wastes.”

In contrast to the description of what goes into a medical waste incinerator, the only waste that should be submitted to a crematory is human remains and possibly a container holding the human remains. The emission factors are outdated based on the fact that the technology available during the late 1980's and early 1990's when stack tests occurred bears no resemblance to either current medical waste incinerator technology or crematory incinerator technology.

The fact that the EPA has not produced emission factors specifically for crematory incinerators, or recommends non-representative emission factors to characterize crematory incinerators does not absolve MDE of its regulatory responsibility to accurately assess whether a pollution source complies with the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR). At the time that EPA promulgated federal regulations and published emission estimating tools for a variety of incinerator classes, they declined to do so for crematory incinerators in part because they constituted a relatively small portion of the air pollution produced by incinerators in the U.S., and because cremation was not widely employed in the early 1990's when the regulations and emission factors were published. In 1990, less than 20% of Americans who died were cremated. However in 2022, 52% of

³ AP 42, Fifth Edition, Volume I Chapter 2: Solid Waste Disposal, Section 2.3 Medical Waste Disposal, July 1993

Marylanders chose cremation rather than burial according to the Maryland State Funeral Directors Association.⁴ This rise in demand is reflected in the proliferation of crematories, with air permits issued to over 80 human crematories in Maryland. To date, the regulatory compliance of air pollution emissions from all crematories in Maryland has been evaluated only with unrepresentative and outdated EPA emission factors which fail to properly characterize either the type or amount of air pollutants produced by a modern crematory incinerator.

Suggested Resolution: In the absence of up-to-date and representative emissions factors for crematory incinerators, MDE must obligate measurement of criteria air pollutants in crematory stack exhaust to determine compliance with applicable air quality regulations in COMAR. This measurement should be conducted using EPA-approved stack testing methods or continuous emission monitors. Further, due to the non-uniformity of human remains committed to cremation, differences in after death care prior to cremation, and variations in maintenance and operating practices, no substitution of stack test results from other crematories should be allowed.

Maryland does not allow emissions from a single make and model of automobile to represent the class for the Maryland Vehicle Emission Inspection Program. It requires every eligible vehicle to take an emission test every 2 years. Unlike crematory incinerators, vehicles sold in the U.S. must be equipped with a catalytic converter to reduce combustion emissions and still there is no surrogate testing allowed for motor vehicles. Further, human remains can contain imbedded cosmetic implants, medical devices, chemotherapeutic and cytotoxic drugs, and embalming chemicals which can produce combustion emissions with far greater toxicity than automobile exhaust. In the absence of any evidence-based foundation on the emissions associated with modern cremation practices, MDE must require periodic stack tests for crematory incinerators in order to ensure compliance with applicable regulatory requirements.

6. Page/Paragraph: Fact Sheet and Tentative Determination; Vaughn Greene Funeral Services, P.A.; Table III

Comment: The list of TAPs shown in Table III that MDE associates with the operation of a crematory incinerator is based on outdated crematory stack test reports of equipment that bears no resemblance to the model of the proposed crematory (Matthews Environmental Solutions Power-Pak II Plus). MDE uses this list along with associated emission factors to estimate TAP emissions from the proposed crematory incinerator. The reference MDE cites for most of the crematory TAP emission factors is a California Air Resources Board (CARB) report published in 1999.⁵ This report indicates that the emission factors were taken from a single stack test of a crematory, sometime prior to 1999, and rates the quality of the emission factors:

"Test was performed using a new or old CARB methodology and insufficient documentation was provided to validate the results."

This indicates that CARB has low confidence in these emission factors due the absence of sufficient reference material to verify the integrity of the stack test. Two other emission factors in Table III (acetaldehyde and formaldehyde) were taken from a separate reference where the crematory stack test was performed in 1992.⁶

⁴ Maryland State Funeral Directors Association, Inc. in testimony to the Maryland Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee on Senate Bill 893, February 27, 2024

⁵ California Air Resources Board. 1999. Development of Toxic Emissions Factors from Source Test Data Collected Under the Air Toxics Hot Spots Program, Part II, Volume I. Prepared by GE Energy and Environmental Research Corporation.

⁶ Emissions Testing of a Propane Fired Incinerator at a Crematorium. October 29, 1992. (Confidential Report No. ERC-39)

Interestingly, the only emission factor MDE cites with a recent derivation (2021) is for mercury, in which the value of the emission factor has been reduced to less than half the value of crematory mercury emission factors recommended by the EPA and the California Toxics Emission Factor Database.⁷

The Table III list of TAPs that MDE relies on fails to address metal emissions that are known to exist in present-day crematory incinerator emissions due to the presence of medical devices and cosmetic implants in human remains. Given the age of the Table III emission factors, it is unlikely that stack tests conducted 30 and 40 years ago were performed on human remains with imbedded medical devices or cosmetic implants which were not used widely at the time the stack tests were conducted. Examples of typical present-day imbedded medical or cosmetic devices are shown in the Table 1. These items contain plastics, metals, chemicals and drugs that would not have been present in human remains used in the crematory incinerator emission characterizations performed in the 1990's. The U.S. Geological Service has compiled a list of metals and minerals present in modern medical devices (see Table 2),⁸ many of which do not appear on MDE's Table III list of TAPs associated with crematory emissions.

Table 1. Medical Devices and Synthetic Materials Implanted in the Human Body

Aneurysm clip	Intraocular lenses	Prosthetic device
Body piercing jewelry	Infusion pump	Radiation seeds
Bone/joint pin screw, nail, wire, plate	Internal electrodes or wires	Silicone implant
Bone growth/bone fusion stimulator	IUD, diaphragm or pessary	Spinal cord stimulator
Cardiac pacemaker	Joint replacement	Stent, filter or coil
Cardioverter	Left ventricular assist device	Spinal or intraventricular shunt
Cerebral shunt	Magnetic eyelashes	Surgical staples, clips or metallic sutures
Cochlear implant	Magnetically activated implant	Thermodilution catheter
Dental implant	Mechanical heart valve	Tissue expander
Dentures or partial plates	Mediport	Vascular access port or catheter
Dermal piercings	Medication patch (nitroglycerin, nicotine)	Wire mesh implant
Defibrillator	Metallic fragments from an accident	
Drug infusion device	Neurostimulator	

Table 2. Metals and Minerals Present in Medical Implants

Aluminum	Gold	Lithium	Nickel	Tantalum
Chromium	Iridium	Magnesium	Platinum	Titanium
Cobalt	Iron	Molybdenite	Silver	Zirconium

The presence of metals in crematory incinerator ash has led to the creation of an industry known as "cremation metal recycling", whereby crematory operators turn over post-cremation material to scrap recyclers who extract metals from it and pay a fee back to the operators. These metals include cobalt, nickel, titanium, silver, gold,

⁷ Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Engineering Division – Addendum to Mercury Emissions from Cremation of Human Remains, August 3, 2021

⁸ U.S. Geological Service, Metals and Minerals in Medical Implants, March 15, 2021, <https://www.usgs.gov/media/images/metals-and-minerals-medical-implants>

platinum, palladium – all originating from bodily implants. Crematory operators who participate in cremation recycling get a laboratory analysis of the type and quantity of metals in their post-cremation material that is used to determine compensation. Metal recyclers report that [hundreds of crematories in North America recycle post-cremation metals](#) and earn thousands of dollars. As an example, [Garfield Refining](#) reports that a single collection barrel containing post-cremation remains yielded metals worth more than \$13,000 (see Figure 2). The important takeaway is that if there are metals in the post-cremation remains – metals are also present in the crematory incinerator combustion exhaust released to the outdoor air – and historic emission factors used by MDE do not reflect any of these toxic emissions.

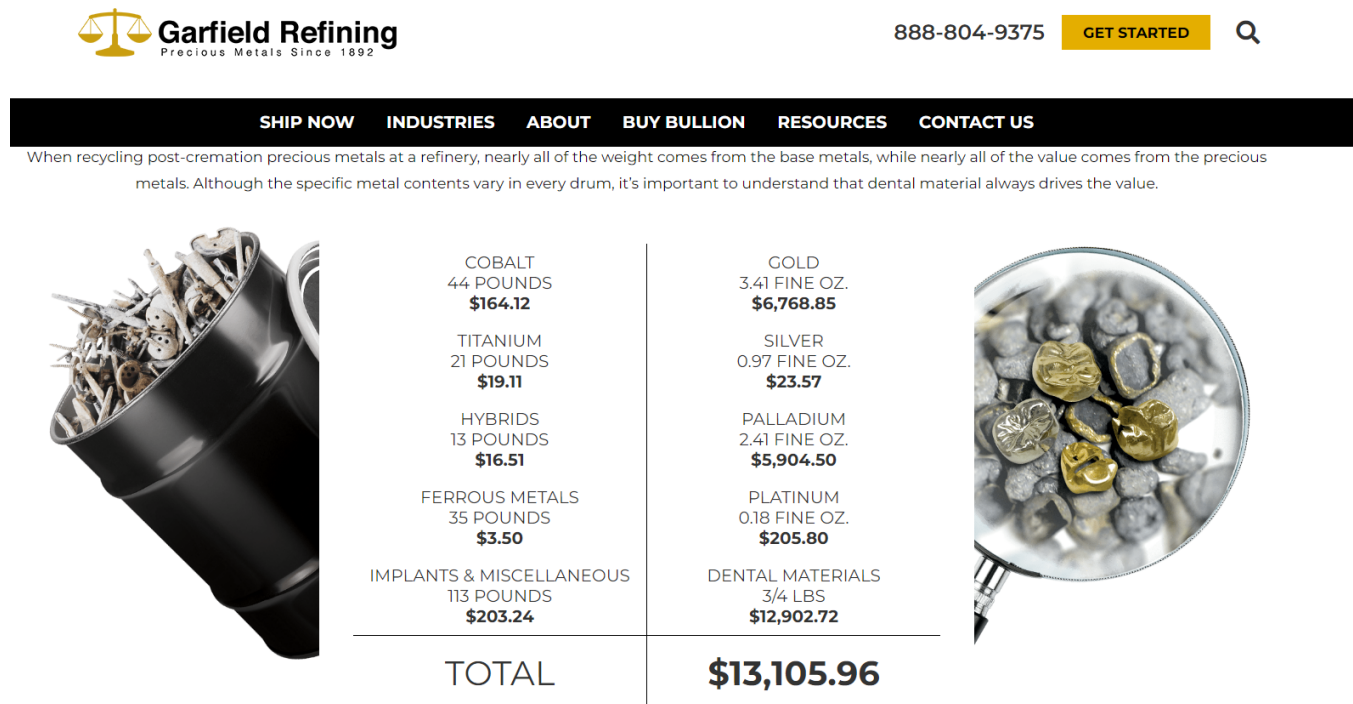


Figure 2. Value of Metal Recovered from Recycling of Post-Cremation Materials

Discussions with MDE representatives in August 2024 revealed that they were unaware of the “cremation metal recycling” industry, and had no visibility on whether crematory incinerator owners in Maryland were engaging in this practice. Crematories that do engage in this practice will have scientific evidence (via the laboratory analyses used to determine compensation) of the presence of metals in post-cremation remains. These analyses will show the type of metals present and can inform whether the MDE-preferred emission factors are accurately accounting for the metals released in crematory emissions. Although the draft Permit-to-Construct contains a requirement to perform a stack test for metal emissions, the target analytes of the test method (Method 29) do not include many of the metals known to be present in implanted medical devices such as aluminum, gold, iridium, iron, lithium, magnesium, molybdenite, platinum, palladium, tantalum, titanium, and zirconium.⁹ One

⁹ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Air Emission Measurement Center, Method 29 – Metal Emissions from Stationary Sources. Standard analytes include: Antimony, Arsenic, Barium, Beryllium, Cadmium, Chromium, Cobalt, Copper, Lead, Manganese, Mercury, Nickel, Phosphorus, Selenium, Silver, Thallium, and Zinc

way to know if such metals are present in the human remains provided for cremation is through the analysis of the post-cremation remains.

The fact that EPA has not produced TAP emission factors specifically for crematory incinerators, or recommends non-representative emission factors to characterize crematory incinerators does not absolve MDE of its regulatory responsibility to accurately assess whether TAP emissions comply with COMAR. To date, the regulatory compliance of TAP emissions from crematories operating in Maryland has been evaluated only with an arithmetic calculation using the unrepresentative and outdated emission factors described above.

Suggested Resolution:

- a. In the absence of up-to-date and representative TAP emissions factors for crematory incinerators, MDE must obligate measurement of TAPs in crematory stack exhaust to determine compliance with applicable air quality regulations in COMAR. This measurement should be conducted using EPA-approved stack testing methods and include all of the metals identified in Table 2. Further, due to the non-uniformity of human remains committed to cremation, differences in after death care prior to cremation, and variations in maintenance and operating practices, no substitution of stack test results from other crematories should be allowed. Maryland does not allow emissions from a single make and model of automobile to represent the class for the Maryland Vehicle Emission Inspection Program. It requires every eligible vehicle to take an emission test every two years. In the absence of any evidence-based foundation on the emissions associated with modern cremation practices, MDE must require periodic stack tests for crematory incinerators in order to ensure compliance with applicable regulatory requirements.
- b. Crematory incinerator owners operating in Maryland with an MDE-issued air permit-to-operate should be formally queried by MDE about whether they send post-cremation remains for metal recycling. Owners who participate in this practice should provide MDE with copies of the chemical analyses of post-cremation remains in order to identify metals that are released in the cremation process. The presence of metals in the post-cremation remains should be compared to MDE-recommended air pollutant emission factors in order to determine whether these factors properly reflect the type and magnitude of metals present in crematory incinerator exhaust. Chemical analyses of post-cremation remains should be submitted with the annual emission certifications required of crematory owners with an MDE air permit-to-operate to the extent that they constitute regulated emissions.

7. Page/Paragraph: Fact Sheet and Tentative Determination; Vaughn Greene Funeral Services, P.A.; Table III

Comment: In March 2024 testimony to the Maryland Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee regarding Senate Bill 893, a Maryland funeral home owner cited a report prepared by the Cremation Association of North America (CANA) describing materials that are found in post-cremation remains (see Figure 3).¹⁰ This report validated that metal objects are present in post-cremation remains such as: joint replacements, dental fillings, casket handles, and jewelry.

¹⁰ Robert A. Pumphrey Funeral Home, in testimony to the Maryland Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee on Senate Bill 893, February 23, 2024

WHAT IS IN THE CREMATED REMAINS?

The bone fragments that remain in the primary chamber are mostly calcium phosphates, with some other minor minerals. Cremated remains are generally white to gray in color. Additionally, there may be pieces of metal in the cremated remains – this metal may come from surgical implants like hip replacements, dental fillings, casket handles, or jewelry that was not removed prior to cremation. The metal is separated from the cremated remains before they are processed (pulverized). The metal is typically recycled

Figure 3. Cremation Association of North America report on “What is in the Cremated Remains?”

Responding to testimony on Senate Bill 893, MDE published and circulated a set of replies to testimony offered to the Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee (see Attachment 2).¹¹ One of the topics MDE addressed was the American Medical Association estimate that 10% of U.S. adults will have an implanted medical device in their lifetime,¹² and the CANA report asserting that metal objects are present in post-cremation remains.⁹ MDE contested the presence of metal objects in post-cremation remains citing Maryland Department of Labor (DOL) and Department of Health (DOH) regulatory prohibitions as evidence that metal devices such as those described in the CANA report could not be present in human remains cremated in Maryland. The DOL regulations of interest appear at COMAR 09.34.08.02; the DOH regulations of interest appear in COMAR 10.29.19.02 and are reproduced below. It appears that MDE has misinterpreted the DOH and DOL regulations. According to COMAR, the only implanted devices that are prohibited from being present during cremation of human remains are devices with a battery. Removal of other types of implanted devices is not mandatory, and is entirely at the discretion of the individual managing the cremation (see emphasis below). Given the discretion that both the DOH and DOL regulations provide to individual crematory operators about what constitutes a hazardous object and whether it should be removed prior to cremation, there is no certainty about whether implanted medical or cosmetic devices are removed prior to cremation.

COMAR 10.29.19 Crematories — Cremation Procedures

.02.A.(2) [Upon receipt of human remains, a permit holder in the presence of the authorizing agent or representative of the funeral establishment engaging crematory services shall:] **Use a metal detector wand to inspect for the presence of any battery operated, implanted devices including pacemakers, defibrillators, or pain relief devices**

.02.A.(3) [Upon receipt of human remains, a permit holder in the presence of the authorizing agent or representative of the funeral establishment engaging crematory services shall:] **Refuse to accept human remains for cremation if an inspection of the human remains indicates the presence of any battery operated, implanted device**

.02.A.(4) [Upon receipt of human remains, a permit holder in the presence of the authorizing agent or representative of the funeral establishment engaging crematory services shall:] **Remove and properly dispose of any hazardous object or any other materials that the individual authorized under this**

¹¹ Maryland Department of the Environment, *MDE FAQ Sheet – Crematories*, sent to Senator Mary Washington on March 10, 2024

¹² American Medical Association Journal of Ethics, *Implantable Material and Device Regulation*, Volume 23, Number 9: E667-756, September 2021. <https://journalofethics.ama-assn.org/issue/implantable-material-and-device-regulation>

subtitle deems should be removed from the human remains or cremation container in order to prevent harm to the public health or damage to the cremator

.02.A.(5) [Upon receipt of human remains, a permit holder in the presence of the authorizing agent or representative of the funeral establishment engaging crematory services shall:] Remove any jewelry on the human remains or in the cremation container

- c. Suggested Resolution: Given the financial incentives to extract metal from post-cremation remains, and the discretion afforded to crematory operators in the DOL and DOH regulations, crematory owners/operators in Maryland are eligible to conduct cremation metal recycling. Those owners/operators in Maryland with an MDE-issued air permit-to-operate should be formally queried by MDE about whether they send post-cremation remains for metal recycling. Owners who participate in this practice should provide MDE with copies of the chemical analyses of post-cremation remains in order to identify metals that are released in the cremation process. The presence of metals in the post-cremation remains should be compared to MDE-recommended air pollutant emission factors in order to determine whether these factors properly reflect the type and magnitude of metals present in crematory incinerator exhaust. Chemical analyses of post-cremation remains should be submitted with the annual emission certifications required of crematory owners with an MDE air permit-to-operate to the extent that they constitute regulated emissions.

8. Page/Paragraph: Fact Sheet and Tentative Determination, Table I, Table III, Appendix

Comment:

- a. I was not able to reproduce the daily or annual emission rates for criteria pollutants shown in Table I, or the hourly emission rates for TAPs shown in Table III.
- b. As shown in the *Emissions Methodology for Table I*, the total maximum heat input rate used to estimate criteria pollutant emissions for the crematory burners was reported as 2.2 million Btu per hour. However, the specification sheet and design schematic for the proposed crematory incinerator (as shown in the permit application) reported the Gross Gas Input, Natural or LP Gas = 3,000,000 BTU/hr. See *SPECIFICATIONS-Model Power-Pak II Plus*, and *POWER-PAK II PLU.S.-Stack Details, Clearances, & Installation Instructions. Refractory Stack Detail*. It appears that the higher heat input (3,000,000 BTU/hr) rate should have been used to estimate criteria pollutant emissions from the crematory incinerator natural gas burners

Suggested Resolution:

- a. Provide example calculations for how the criteria and TAP emission rates were derived. Include all relevant units and conversion factors used in the calculation.
- b. Resolve and explain the discrepancy in the crematory heat input. Revise emission estimates as necessary if the higher heat input is correct. If the specification and design schematic submitted in the permit application are out-of-date, obtain an up-to-date specification sheet and design schematic from the manufacturer. Provide all updated specification sheets and schematics in the public record.

9. Page/Paragraph: Permit-to-Construct Conditions, Permit No. 510-3791-1-0478, Part B – Applicable Regulations

Comment: Part B enumerates certain federal and state regulations that constitute “Applicable Requirements” for the proposed crematory incinerator. The regulations cited in this section are COMAR Title 26 environmental regulations only, and do not include Maryland DOH regulations which also pertain to the operation of

crematories in Maryland. Several COMAR Title 10 health regulations have direct bearing on the management of air pollutant emissions created by a crematory incinerator, and should be identified in the air permit-to-operate as applicable requirements to ensure awareness and compliance for the crematory owner and operators.

Suggested Resolution: Incorporate by reference, with summarization similar to the COMAR Title 26 regulations that appear in Part B, all DOH regulations that may affect the operation or pollution output of the crematory incinerator. These regulations include (but are not limited to):

COMAR 10.29.18 Crematories — Inspections, Complaints, Investigations, Grounds for Discipline, and Penalties

.02.D.(21) All individuals who operate the cremator in a crematory shall be certified by the Cremation Association of North America (CANA), International Cemetery, Cremation and Funeral Association (ICCF), or other equivalent certification recognized jointly by the Board and the Office. Individuals receiving training toward certification to operate a cremator shall be allowed to work under the supervision of a registered crematory operator who has the required certification for a period not to exceed 6 months.

COMAR 10.29.19 Crematories — Cremation Procedures

.02.A.(2) [Upon receipt of human remains, a permit holder in the presence of the authorizing agent or representative of the funeral establishment engaging crematory services shall:] Use a metal detector wand to inspect for the presence of any battery operated, implanted devices including pacemakers, defibrillators, or pain relief devices

.02.A.(3) [Upon receipt of human remains, a permit holder in the presence of the authorizing agent or representative of the funeral establishment engaging crematory services shall:] Refuse to accept human remains for cremation if an inspection of the human remains indicates the presence of any battery operated, implanted device

.02.A.(4) [Upon receipt of human remains, a permit holder in the presence of the authorizing agent or representative of the funeral establishment engaging crematory services shall:] Remove and properly dispose of any hazardous object or any other materials that the individual authorized under this subtitle deems should be removed from the human remains or cremation container in order to prevent harm to the public health or damage to the cremator

.02.A.(5) [Upon receipt of human remains, a permit holder in the presence of the authorizing agent or representative of the funeral establishment engaging crematory services shall:] Remove any jewelry on the human remains or in the cremation container

.03.A. [A cremation container:] Shall be a readily combustible, rigid container suitable for cremation

.03.G. [A cremation container:] May not be composed of metal or polyethylene material

10. Page/Paragraph: Permit-to-Construct Conditions, Permit No. 510-3791-1-0478, Part C – Construction Conditions, paragraph (2)

Comment: This paragraph recites the lone emission limit pertaining to crematory incinerators in Maryland. This regulation limits PM emissions and appears in COMAR 26.11.08.05.B.(2)(a) **[Control of Incinerators]:**

B. Requirements for Areas III and IV.

(2) Except as provided in Regulations .07, .08, and .08-2 of this chapter, a person may not cause or permit the discharge of particulate matter into the outdoor atmosphere from any incinerator, hazardous waste incinerator, or crematory to exceed the following limitations:

(a) Special medical waste incinerators burning less than 1 ton of refuse per hour and less than 8 tons of refuse per day and crematories, 0.10 grains per standard cubic foot dry 0.10 gr/SCFD (229mg/dscm);

This regulation appears to have been promulgated in 1991 (or possibly earlier) and regulates only total PM. By 1991, the U.S. EPA realized that the federal ambient air quality standard for PM was insufficiently protective of human health and began to promulgate [new standards for PM](#) that reflected a smaller respirable fraction of PM known to be most deleterious to human health.¹³ In 1987, the U.S. EPA changed the existing PM standard to a standard for particles with an aerodynamic diameter of 10 micrometers or less, known as PM₁₀, and abandoned the standard for total PM. In 1997, the U.S. EPA again adjusted the national ambient air quality standard for particles to control for even smaller particles with an aerodynamic diameter of 2.5 micrometers or less, known as PM_{2.5}. In 2006, 2012, 2020, and 2024, the U.S. EPA revised (lowered) the PM_{2.5} standard based on scientific and medical evidence finding that the magnitude of the standard was insufficiently protective of human health.

In the 30+ years that MDE has had a PM emission limit for crematory incinerators – it has never been updated to reflect the current state of scientific and medical knowledge recognizing that PM_{2.5} is the respirable fraction of total PM that is casually implicated in respiratory disease, cardiovascular disease, neurodegeneration and cognitive decline, lung cancer and early mortality.¹⁴ Further, the magnitude of the crematory incinerator emission limit has never changed. Based on changes to scientific and medical evidence since 1991, the COMAR particulate matter emission limit for crematory incinerators is out of date and insufficiently protective of the human health.

Suggested Resolution: Revise and update the existing COMAR particulate matter emission limit for crematory incinerators to reflect the current state of scientific and medical evidence pertaining to the thresholds and subfractions of airborne particulate matter impacting human health. Ensure that an updated particulate matter emission limit is cited in all MDE permits-to-operate for crematories operating in Maryland.

11. Page/Paragraph: Permit-to-Construct Conditions, Permit No. 510-3791-1-0478, Part C – Construction Conditions, paragraph (5)

Comment: The intent of this condition is unclear. Will the “control system” associated with the crematory opacity sensor be able to terminate crematory operation if stack gas opacity exceeds the MDE emission limit, or does the “control system” merely adjust the air/fuel ratio in the refractory to optimize combustion? The paragraph states:

“The crematory shall be equipped with an opacity sensor interlocked with a control system that continuously monitors the stack gases for visible emissions during operation and adjusts cremation operations to prevent visible emissions from exiting the crematory stack.”

¹³ U.S. EPA, Timeline of Particulate Matter (PM) National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), History of the NAAQS for Particulate Matter from 1971 to 2024. <https://www.epa.gov/pm-pollution/timeline-particulate-matter-pm-national-ambient-air-quality-standards-naaqs>

¹⁴ EPA/600/R-22/028, Supplement to the 2019 Integrated Science Assessment for Particulate Matter, May 2022

Suggested Resolution: Clarify language of this paragraph to reflect the exactly how the opacity sensor is expected to affects crematory operation, and whether there will be an automated shutdown if opacity of stack exhaust exceeds the regulatory limit.

12. Page/Paragraph: Permit-to-Construct Conditions, Permit No. 510-3791-1-0478, Part D – Operating and Monitoring Conditions, paragraph (2)(b)

Comment: This condition defines the operating schedule for the crematory and states:

“The Permittee shall not cremate more than 2 human remains during any 8-hour period.”

As written, this permit condition allows for the cremation of up to 6 human remains in a 24-hour period (or up to 2,190 human cremations/year), with no limits on the timing of the cremation during a day or during a week. Under this scenario, nearby residents could be exposed to crematory exhaust at all hours of the day and night, with no respite, and with no interval of time in which they could feel safe from crematory exhaust wafting into their open windows, front porches or backyards.

In contrast, the crematory operating schedule proposed by the crematory owner in the permit application was for 12 hours/day, and 6 days/week. This operating schedule appears to meet the needs of the applicant and with slight modifications could provide some protection and certainty to the families living within 200 feet of the crematory regarding when the outdoor air would be free from cremation combustion exhaust and associated toxic air pollutants.

Suggested Resolution: Define the crematory operating schedule as shown below in order to provide nearby residents with fixed intervals of respite from crematory exhaust:

Crematory operations shall be permitted up to 12 hours/day between the hours of 6:00AM to 6:00PM, and up to 5 days/week between Monday through Friday. During this interval, the Permittee shall not cremate more than 3 human remains during any 12-hour period.

13. Page/Paragraph: Permit-to-Construct Conditions, Permit No. 510-3791-1-0478, Part D – Operating and Monitoring Conditions, paragraph (2)(d)

Comment: This condition defines waste materials that are prohibited from being processed in the crematory incinerator and states:

“The Permittee shall not combust any hazardous waste, or hospital, medical, and infectious waste as defined in COMAR 26.11.08.01B(18).”

However, the regulatory citation provided does not define hazardous waste, or hospital, medical, and infectious waste. There is a definition for hospital waste at COMAR 26.11.08.01B(19), but there are no definitions for hazardous waste, medical waste or infectious waste in the MDE **Control of Incinerators** regulation (COMAR 26.11.08). Further, municipal waste (Incinerator Institute of America - Type 0 waste)¹⁵ should be added to the

¹⁵ Industrial Waste Incinerator, Waste classifications defined. <https://www.pcc-group.com/products/industrial-waste-incinerator/>

list of materials prohibited from being processed in the crematory, along with a relevant COMAR regulatory citation to define the term.

Suggested Resolution: Determine proper COMAR regulatory citations defining hazardous waste, hospital waste, medical waste, infectious waste and municipal waste. Revise the permit condition to cite each of these wastes as prohibited from being processed in the crematory incinerator and provide a regulatory citation to define each term.

14. Page/Paragraph: Permit-to-Construct Conditions, Permit No. 510-3791-1-0478, Part D – Operating and Monitoring Conditions, paragraph (6)

Comment: This paragraph is intended to capture the obligations imposed on the crematory incinerator as directed by the Baltimore City Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals. The condition specified in paragraph (6)(a) pertains to limits on the source of human remains that may be processed in the crematory incinerator at 4905 York Road. As described in earlier comments, the language in this paragraph is insufficient to limit intake to only those facilities currently owned and operated or controlled by VGFS since the terms "owned", "operated" and "controlled" are not defined in the permit and could be interpreted in ways that allow VGFS to operate as a third-party cremation service for businesses other than the four locations specified on the VGFS website.

Additional concerns regarding specificity of business entities that may divert cremation demand to the York Road crematory pertain to the recent uptick in private equity firms purchasing and consolidating funeral homes throughout the United States, including in Maryland. There are several former independently-owned funeral homes with crematories in Maryland that have been sold to out-of-state investor groups.¹⁶ If VGFS were to sell part or all of their business to such an entity, then potentially any funeral home within the legal ambit of the ownership group might be able to claim a right to divert cremation business to the crematory incinerator at 4905 York Road.

Suggested Resolution: In order to remove any uncertainty about the scope on origin of human remains processed at VGFS 4905 York Road location, request that language be added to the permit identifying the following locations as the only VGFS entities which may divert cremation business to the VGFS York Road location, and only for business originating at those locations:

- 8728 Liberty Road, Randallstown, Maryland 21133
- 5151 Baltimore National Pike, Baltimore, Maryland 21229
- 4101 Edmondson Avenue Baltimore, Maryland 21229

15. Page/Paragraph: Permit-to-Construct Conditions, Permit No. 510-3791-1-0478, Part E – Notification and Testing Requirements, paragraph (2)

Comment: This condition obligates the Permittee to conduct a U.S. EPA Method 9 opacity observation of the crematory incinerator at start-up. It is important to have some formal quantitation of the crematory stack exhaust to ensure that it meets the MDE opacity limit for Baltimore city (0%). However, due to the mechanical wear and fatigue that high temperature incinerators experience over time, it is essential to have ongoing,

¹⁶ Chesapeake Crematory, Beltsville MD; Simplicity Crematory LLC, Glen Burnie, MD;

periodic Method 9 observations that track and document any potential degradation to the crematory incinerator performance throughout its operating lifetime.

Suggested Resolution: Request that the requirement to conduct an EPA Method 9 opacity observation be expanded to once per calendar quarter during normal crematory operations to ensure that there is ongoing assurance that the crematory is operating according to regulatory requirements.

16. Page/Paragraph: Permit-to-Construct Conditions, Permit No. 510-3791-1-0478, Part E – Notification and Testing Requirements, paragraph (3)

Comment:

- a. This condition obligates the Permittee to conduct a U.S. EPA Method 5 (Particulate Matter) and a Method 29 (Metals) stack test on the crematory incinerator at start-up. It is important to have formal quantitation of the stack exhaust since there would be no other way to know whether the emissions meet the MDE PM limit for crematories, or the type and magnitude of TAPs emitted from the crematory incinerator. However, due to the mechanical wear and fatigue that high temperature incinerators experience over time, it is essential to have periodic stack tests to track and document any potential degradation to the crematory incinerator performance throughout its operating lifetime, and to ensure ongoing compliance with the MDE PM emission limit and TAP regulations.
- b. Paragraph (3) states:

“Within 120 days after initial startup, the Permittee shall conduct performance tests on the crematory stack to determine emissions of particulate matter (as PM-10) using EPA Method 5 and emissions of metals using EPA Method 29.”

It appears that this condition is asking the for the stack test to report (only) the PM10 fraction of particulate matter – when the MDE emission limit for crematory incinerators is for total PM. The language of this condition should be revised and clarified to ensure that stack test results are comparable to the MDE PM emission limit for crematory incinerators. It would also be instructive to have speciation of the stack exhaust for both PM10 and PM2.5 since there is a paucity of quantitative data on crematory incinerator emissions in scientific literature, and this would also enable a quantitative assessment of annual emissions of PM pollutants for the annual emissions certification.

Suggested Resolution:

- a. Revise the requirement to conduct stack emissions testing to demonstrate compliance with applicable PM and TAP regulations be a recurring requirement occurring once at startup, and then at least once during the 5-year term of the permit-to-operate.
- b. Clarify the reportable fractions of the Method 5 stack test to include total PM, PM10 and PM2.5.

17. Page/Paragraph: Permit-to-Construct Conditions, Permit No. 510-3791-1-0478, Part E - Notification and Testing Requirements, paragraph (3)(c)

Comment: This condition allows the requirement to conduct a stack emission test for PM and metal TAPs to be waived if the Applicant can provide recent stack test results from an identical crematory. There should be no

option to submit surrogate stack tests as representative of stack emissions produced by the VGFS crematory incinerator. There is no evidence in scientific literature demonstrating that emission tests for one crematory incinerator are representative of another crematory incinerator. This would not be an acceptable regulatory practice for any other type of incinerator - it is not even an acceptable practice for vehicle emission inspections required in Maryland.

Suggested Resolution: Delete Part E - Notification and Testing Requirements, paragraph (3)(c), and do not allow substitution of stack test results from other crematories to demonstrate compliance with applicable regulations for the VGFS crematory incinerator.

18. Page/Paragraph: Permit-to-Construct Conditions, Permit No. 510-3791-1-0478, Part F – Recordkeeping and Reporting, Paragraph (1)(b)(v)

Comment: This paragraph obligates recordkeeping to identify materials removed prior to cremation in compliance with BMZA conditions. This paragraph should also require similar documentation of materials removed to demonstrate compliance with DOH regulations: COMAR 10.29.19.02.A.(2), (3), (4) and (5).

Suggested Resolution: Modify permit language to obligate documentation and recordkeeping of materials removed prior to cremation for those materials regulated by COMAR 10.29.19.02.A.(2), (3), (4) and (5).



EJScreen Community Report

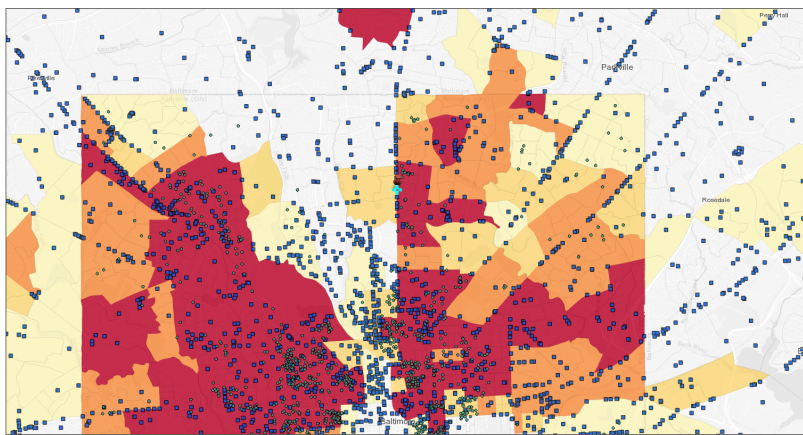
This report provides environmental and socioeconomic information for user-defined areas, and combines that data into environmental justice and supplemental indexes.

Vaughn Greene Funeral Services

0.25 miles Ring Centered at 39.348211,-76.609585

Population: 2,196

Area in square miles: 0.20

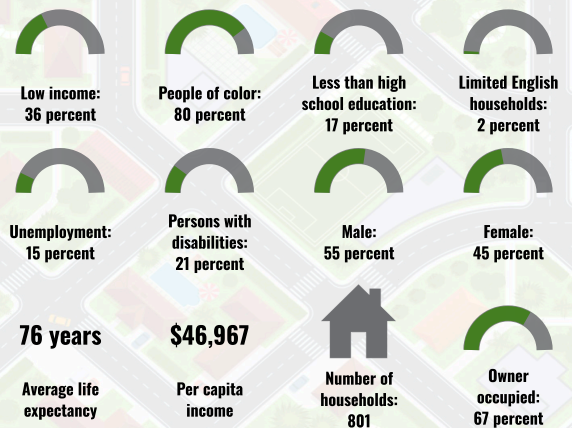


September 2, 2024
Vaughn Greene Funeral Services
Search Result (point)
Public Housing
Air pollution
Current Asthma
Less than 50 percentile
50 - 80 percentile
80 - 90 percentile
90 - 95 percentile
95 - 100 percentile
EPA GIS, DEU, ERI, HHS, City of Baltimore, Baltimore County Government, VTA, Ben, HHS, Baltimore, GeoTechnologies, Inc., USDO, EPA

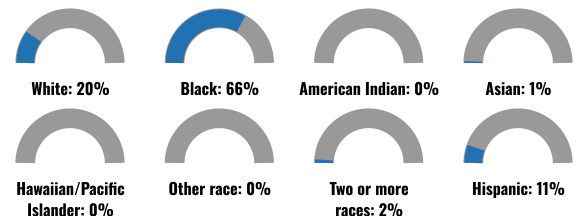
LANGUAGES SPOKEN AT HOME

LANGUAGE	PERCENT
English	89%
Spanish	5%
Russian, Polish, or Other Slavic	1%
Other Indo-European	1%
Other Asian and Pacific Island	1%
Other and Unspecified	2%
Total Non-English	11%

COMMUNITY INFORMATION



BREAKDOWN BY RACE



BREAKDOWN BY AGE



LIMITED ENGLISH SPEAKING BREAKDOWN



Notes: Numbers may not sum to totals due to rounding. Hispanic population can be of any race. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2018-2022. Life expectancy data comes from the Centers for Disease Control.

Report for 0.25 miles Ring Centered at 39.348211,-76.609585

Report produced September 2, 2024 using EJScreen Version 2.3

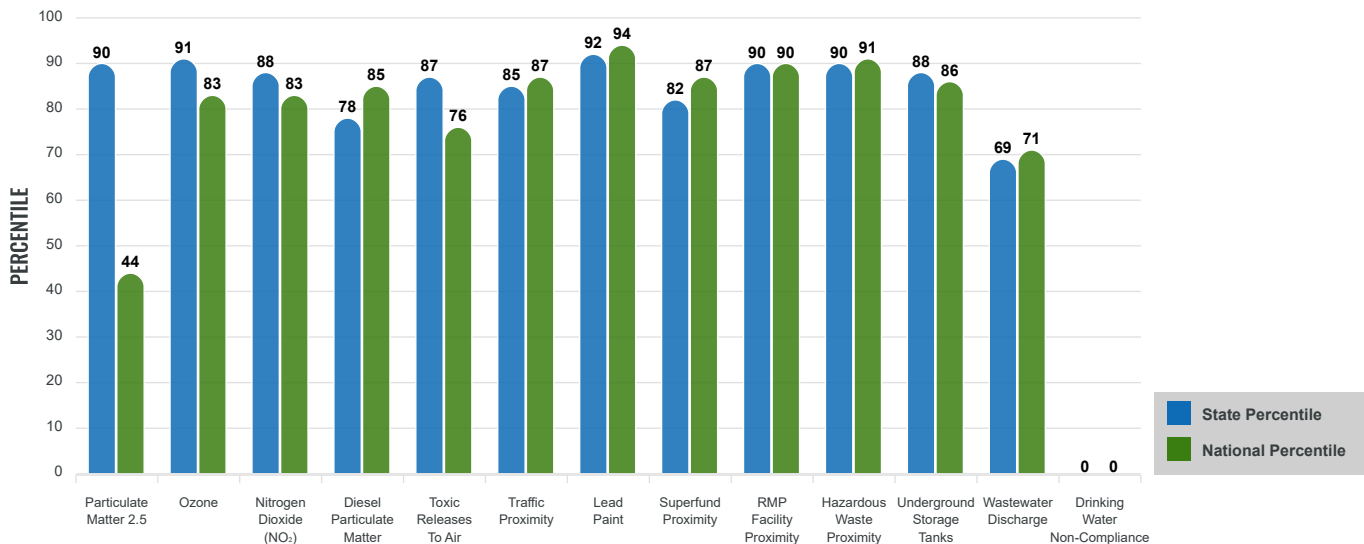
Environmental Justice & Supplemental Indexes

The environmental justice and supplemental indexes are a combination of environmental and socioeconomic information. There are thirteen EJ indexes and supplemental indexes in EJScreen reflecting the 13 environmental indicators. The indexes for a selected area are compared to those for all other locations in the state or nation. For more information and calculation details on the EJ and supplemental indexes, please visit the [EJScreen website](#).

EJ INDEXES

The EJ indexes help users screen for potential EJ concerns. To do this, the EJ index combines data on low income and people of color populations with a single environmental indicator.

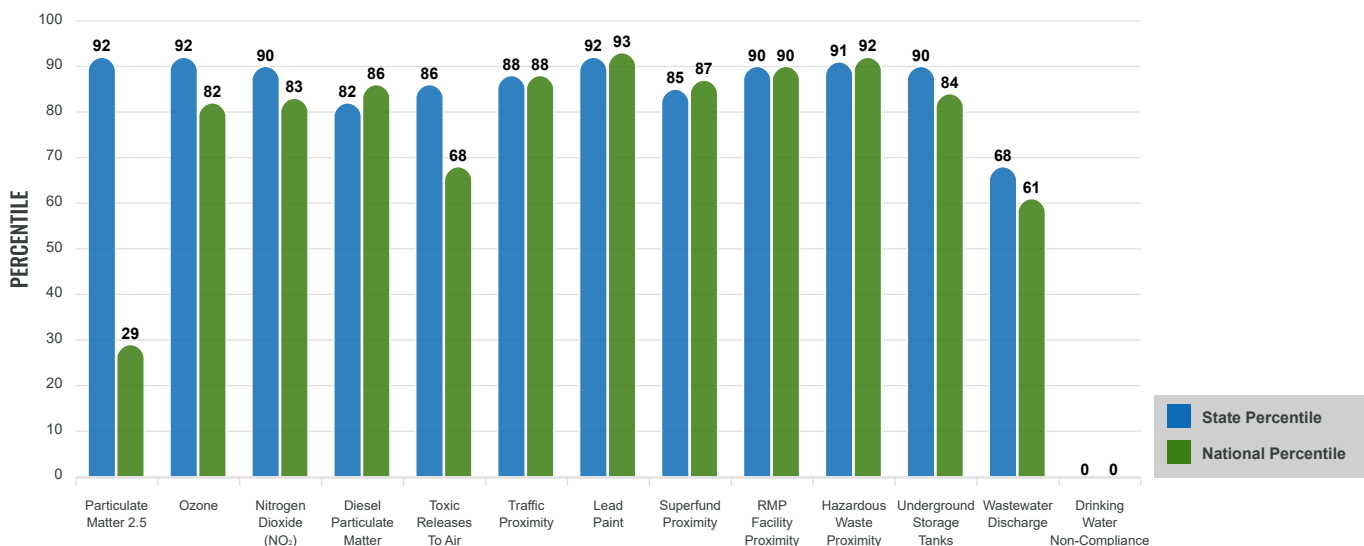
EJ INDEXES FOR THE SELECTED LOCATION



SUPPLEMENTAL INDEXES

The supplemental indexes offer a different perspective on community-level vulnerability. They combine data on percent low income, percent persons with disabilities, percent less than high school education, percent limited English speaking, and percent low life expectancy with a single environmental indicator.

SUPPLEMENTAL INDEXES FOR THE SELECTED LOCATION



Report for 0.25 miles Ring Centered at 39.348211,-76.609585

Report produced September 2, 2024 using EJScreen Version 2.3

EJScreen Environmental and Socioeconomic Indicators Data

SELECTED VARIABLES	VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	PERCENTILE IN STATE	USA AVERAGE	PERCENTILE IN USA
ENVIRONMENTAL BURDEN INDICATORS					
Particulate Matter 2.5 ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	7.04	6.81	73	8.45	19
Ozone (ppb)	62.9	60.3	89	61.8	62
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2) (ppbv)	9.7	7.3	84	7.8	71
Diesel Particulate Matter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	0.241	0.208	61	0.191	74
Toxic Releases to Air (toxicity-weighted concentration)	540	430	72	4,600	47
Traffic Proximity (daily traffic count/distance to road)	2,600,000	1,500,000	77	1,700,000	78
Lead Paint (% Pre-1960 Housing)	0.9	0.32	94	0.3	96
Superfund Proximity (site count/km distance)	0.24	0.28	67	0.39	73
RMP Facility Proximity (facility count/km distance)	1.5	0.52	87	0.57	89
Hazardous Waste Proximity (facility count/km distance)	11	4.4	89	3.5	91
Underground Storage Tanks (count/ km^2)	3.8	1.9	82	3.6	74
Wastewater Discharge (toxicity-weighted concentration/m distance)	22	140000	40	700000	42
Drinking Water Non-Compliance (points)	0	0.045	0	2.2	0
SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS					
Demographic Index USA	2.11	N/A	N/A	1.34	80
Supplemental Demographic Index USA	2.08	N/A	N/A	1.64	76
Demographic Index State	2.17	1.36	82	N/A	N/A
Supplemental Demographic Index State	2.01	1.33	85	N/A	N/A
People of Color	80%	50%	74	40%	83
Low Income	36%	22%	79	30%	64
Unemployment Rate	16%	5%	94	6%	92
Limited English Speaking Households	2%	3%	66	5%	64
Less Than High School Education	17%	9%	83	11%	76
Under Age 5	9%	6%	83	5%	83
Over Age 64	18%	17%	59	18%	56

*Diesel particulate matter index is from the EPA's Air Toxics Data Update, which is the Agency's ongoing, comprehensive evaluation of air toxics in the United States. This effort aims to prioritize air toxics, emission sources, and locations of interest for further study. It is important to remember that the air toxics data presented here provide broad estimates of health risks over geographic areas of the country, not definitive risks to specific individuals or locations. More information on the Air Toxics Data Update can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/haps/air-toxics-data-update>.

Sites reporting to EPA within defined area:

Superfund	0
Hazardous Waste, Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities	1
Water Dischargers	0
Air Pollution	4
Brownfields	0
Toxic Release Inventory	0

Other community features within defined area:

Schools	0
Hospitals	0
Places of Worship	3

Other environmental data:

Air Non-attainment	Yes
Impaired Waters	No

Selected location contains American Indian Reservation Lands*	No
Selected location contains a "Justice40 (CEJST)" disadvantaged community	Yes
Selected location contains an EPA IRA disadvantaged community	Yes

Report for 0.25 miles Ring Centered at 39.348211,-76.609585

Report produced September 2, 2024 using EJScreen Version 2.3

EJScreen Environmental and Socioeconomic Indicators Data

HEALTH INDICATORS

INDICATOR	VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	STATE PERCENTILE	US AVERAGE	US PERCENTILE
Low Life Expectancy	22%	19%	75	20%	71
Heart Disease	6	5	79	5.8	58
Asthma	13.2	10.3	93	10.3	95
Cancer	5.6	6.3	37	6.4	33
Persons with Disabilities	21.4%	12.1%	93	13.7%	89

CLIMATE INDICATORS

INDICATOR	VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	STATE PERCENTILE	US AVERAGE	US PERCENTILE
Flood Risk	3%	7%	43	12%	30
Wildfire Risk	0%	1%	0	14%	0

CRITICAL SERVICE GAPS

INDICATOR	VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	STATE PERCENTILE	US AVERAGE	US PERCENTILE
Broadband Internet	19%	10%	84	13%	76
Lack of Health Insurance	4%	6%	42	9%	25
Housing Burden	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Transportation Access Burden	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Food Desert	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Report for 0.25 miles Ring Centered at 39.348211,-76.609585

Report produced September 2, 2024 using EJScreen Version 2.3



Comment #1: There are no federal air quality guidelines for crematories. Maryland Department of Environment's regulations haven't been updated since 1991.

Crematories are subject to stringent regulation of a variety of air pollutants. There are no source-specific federal air quality regulations that apply to only crematory emissions and the federal Clean Air Act does not require more stringent particulate matter emission standards for crematories than the standards that are currently imposed under Maryland regulations ([COMAR 26.11.08.05](#)), as crematories emit very small amounts of particulate matter.

However, crematory emissions are also subject to the State-only toxic air pollutant regulations under [COMAR 26.11.15.05](#) and [15.06](#), and the screening levels established for each toxic air pollutant are evaluated annually based on current toxicological data published by the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) and the U.S. EPA. In 2020, the U.S. EPA issued a [National Emissions Inventory Technical Support Document for Cremation](#) that has been used by many states as the basis for estimating particulate matter and toxic air pollutant emissions.

In our current toxic air pollutant regulations, Maryland applies a safety factor of 1/100 of the allowable concentration that the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists considers safe to protect worker health. The safety factor accounts for sensitive populations, like children, and for the existence of multiple sources of the same pollutant. For carcinogenic compounds, an additional annual based screening level is set at the limit where continuous exposure to a toxic air pollutant for a period of 70 years is expected to cause an increase in lifetime cancer risk of no more than 1 in 100,000.

Comment #2: There are no permit obligations to perform a stack test or to measure crematory emissions to identify what kind of pollutants are emitted from the exhaust stack.

Correct; however, MDE uses emissions factors that provide a margin of safety beyond what recent stack emissions tests show in order to conservatively overestimate emissions of regulated pollutants from crematories. This methodology is another means to ensure crematory emissions are not injurious to public health. If there is an issue at a crematory, MDE, under [COMAR 26.11.01.04](#), has the authority to require stack emissions testing.

There is a new Mid-Atlantic Regional Air Management Association workgroup, which Maryland has been participating in where we have been sharing resources with other States to ensure consistency. Crematory emissions information is available to estimate emissions from crematory operations. Stack emissions test results from tests conducted in other states between 2004 and 2023 show particulate matter emissions well below the

standards regulated in Maryland and negligible emissions of toxic air pollutants. The test results also show that emissions of oxides of nitrogen, carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds, and sulfur dioxide confirm that crematories are minor sources of these pollutants. Additionally, this workgroup has been tasked to develop a "best management practices" document that all of the participating states can use. It is still in the stages of development but from what we've seen so far, it would not be much different than what Maryland was already doing and is based on more recent data than Maryland previously had access to.

Finally, there is the sensitive nature of testing as well. Many families are opposed to stack testing companies conducting emissions based testing during the human cremation of their loved ones. The testing typically requires three, one-hour testing runs for each type of pollutant with personnel monitoring operations both inside the crematory and outside at the stack. It is difficult to schedule this testing for a process that is sensitive in nature and not routine.

Comment #3: Crematory incinerators have no emission controls. There are no monitors that measure the pollution out of the exhaust stacks.

This is simply not correct. In order to comply with Maryland's particulate matter and toxic air pollutant emissions standards, crematories are required to be equipped with a secondary combustion chamber capable of achieving a retention time of at least 1.0 second, and an operating temperature of at least 1600 °F. The secondary chamber is considered an emissions control strategy that ensures complete combustion of cremation gasses prior to discharge to the atmosphere. In addition, a minimum stack height for discharge of emissions is required for all crematories in Maryland and is specific to the location of each crematory. Other States, such as Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina, currently do not require any additional emissions controls for crematories other than secondary chamber requirements.

As with stack emissions testing, operation of continuous emissions monitors (CEMs) to measure pollution concentrations at the stack of a crematory would be cost-prohibitive for a source that is not subject to any federal air pollution standards and a minor source of air pollution emissions overall. CEMs must be installed, calibrated, and tested regularly in accordance with U.S. EPA and MDE specifications and include an initial capital cost of \$50,000 or more, with annual operating costs of \$10,000 or more per CEMs. In lieu of using CEMs, MDE requires the use of continuous parametric monitoring systems (CPMS) to monitor operating parameters such as the secondary combustion temperature and opacity monitors that alert the operator when the opacity is reaching a level that requires an adjustment to crematory operations. Monitoring these parameters ensure that the crematory is operating properly. Should a violation of permit or regulatory requirements occur, MDE has adequate authority to compel compliance through legal measures using its administrative, civil or criminal authority found in statute.

Comment #4: American Medical Association - 10% of Americans have devices in them. Not removed before cremation.

This statement is incorrect. Both the Maryland Department of Health and the Maryland Department of Labor strictly regulate crematory operations under [COMAR 09.34.08.02](#) and [COMAR 10.29.19.02](#) that include the following requirements:

- A. Upon receipt of human remains, a permit holder in the presence of the authorizing agent or representative of the funeral establishment engaging crematory services shall:
- (1) Verify that the information on the wrist tag is consistent with the:
 - (a) Documentation accompanying the deceased; and
 - (b) Visual observation of the remains themselves;
 - (2) Use a metal detector wand to inspect for the presence of any battery operated, implanted devices including pacemakers, defibrillators, or pain relief devices;
 - (3) Refuse to accept human remains for cremation if an inspection of the human remains indicates the presence of any battery operated, implanted device;
 - (4) Remove and properly dispose of any hazardous object or any other materials that the individual authorized under this subtitle deems should be removed from the human remains or cremation container in order to prevent harm to the public health or damage to the cremator;
 - (5) Remove any jewelry on the human remains or in the cremation container;
 - (6) Return any removed jewelry to the authorizing agent or representative of the funeral establishment engaging crematory services; and
 - (7) Obtain a signed, itemized receipt from the authorizing agent or representative of the funeral establishment engaging crematory services for the removed jewelry and retain the receipt as a permanent record.
- B. Foreign objects removed from the human remains:
- (1) Shall be treated as medical waste and disposed of accordingly; and
 - (2) May not be donated until a sterilization process through a third party recognized by the Board to dispose properly of medical waste has been performed.

Comment #5: Crematories can be placed within 200 feet of a home in MD. Disincentive to prospective home buyers. “No one wants an incinerator in their backyard”. Demand for crematories have doubled in the last ten years in MD. 116 air permits for crematory incinerators.

MDE cannot speak to the statement that “No one wants an incinerator in their backyard.” It is not a determining factor for any permit decision needing to be made by the Department. Currently, every human crematory facility permitted in Maryland is located within 1000 feet

of a residential area. They are often located at funeral homes that are family owned and operated in order to provide local residents with cremation services on property instead of outsourcing the cremation services to other facilities in Maryland or other states. Local zoning authorities determine where a crematory can be placed in their area. Some local governments may have restrictions, such as ensuring the business only processes human remains from funeral services provided at the location so that the facility is not a commercial cremation operation, but most have determined that they are suitable to be located in or near residential areas. Impact on property values is not a factor that has a bearing on permit decisions.

The commenter is mixing cremation units with cremation facilities. In Maryland, there are 62 facilities that are permitted to conduct animal and/or human cremations. At those facilities, there are a total of approximately 115 permitted human and animal cremation units (some cremation facilities have more than one unit). All cremation units are reviewed by MDE to ensure they meet applicable requirements to protect public health and air quality.

Comment #6: MDE has determined that Areas III and IV should have special controls on incinerators. Section of COMAR - control of incinerators - we permit crematories in it. 2/3rd of crematories are concentrated in these areas.

This is not correct. For some background, the State previously established Areas III and IV in regulation to reflect that Baltimore and District of Columbia metropolitan areas were classified, at the time, as severe nonattainment areas for ozone. As such, those two areas needed to adequately control emission sources in order to bring them both into attainment with federal Clean Air Act ambient air quality standards.

The regulations referencing Areas III and IV do not prohibit new sources of pollution from being approved, including large pollution sources. They are not intended to limit the number of crematories that can be located in Baltimore City nor do they create the need to impose special (extraordinary) controls on crematories.

Comment #7: It was alluded that MDE does not have the authority to address these factors when giving an air quality permit and there are no monitoring of these facilities once permits are granted. . Is there a way to verify if the machines and monitors are operating correctly, and do we have enough funds to hire more inspectors to enforce these permit requirements? In MDE's 2022 report - out of all the current air quality permits from 2017-2022, MDE has only reviewed 7% of those.

This is simply not correct. Following the issuance of an air quality Permit to Construct for a crematory and the installation of the unit, a facility is required to apply for and obtain an air quality State Operating Permit from MDE. Upon notification of final installation, post-construction inspections by the Air Quality Compliance Program are conducted to ensure that the crematory was installed in accordance with the requirements of the air quality permit to construct. After a State Permit to Operate is issued, the facility is required to certify all air pollution emissions annually and pay an emissions-based annual fee to

MDE.

MDE does conduct yearly onsite inspections at crematories (in addition to record reviews) and at hundreds of other emission sources throughout Maryland. Given MDE's limited resources, inspections across all source categories are conducted on a priority basis, priorities that are driven by several factors - size and nature of emissions, complexity of the source, noncompliance or complaint history, location, etc. MDE has stated publicly that we have and will provide an increased compliance presence at crematories moving forward. We will do that by shifting current resources as much as possible unless and until additional staff can be provided.

Comment #8: In 2022, zero findings for any air quality permits issued.

This is also not correct. Please see the attached excel document on the number of inspections conducted on crematories in 2023 and the results of those inspections.

Comment #9: There may be metals in the crematory process of bodies. Caskets are going into the incinerator.

This statement is incorrect. Both the Maryland Department of Health and the Maryland Department of Labor strictly regulate crematory operations under [COMAR 09.34.08.03](#) and [COMAR 10.29.19.03](#) that include the following cremation container requirements (emphasis added):

A cremation container:

- A. Shall be a readily combustible, rigid container suitable for cremation;
- B. Shall provide a completely enclosed covering for the human remains;
- C. Shall be resistant to leakage or spillage;
- D. Shall be of sufficient strength and rigidity for ease of handling;
- E. Shall provide protection to the health and safety of crematory establishment personnel and the public;
- F. Shall comply with all local, State, and federal governmental emissions regulations;
- G. May not be composed of metal or polyethylene material; and**
- H. If it appears to be heavily coated with varnish, lacquer, or any other highly combustible substance, shall be:
 - (1) Placed in a cold cremator; or
 - (2) Coated completely with water before being placed in the cremator.

In addition, MDE also prohibits the cremation of any halogenated plastics, including polyvinyl chloride (PVC) body bags or PVC pipes, and any hazardous waste, or hospital, medical, and infectious waste as defined in [COMAR 26.11.08.01B\(18\)](#) in the air quality permit to construct for a human crematory.



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

NO! to Vaughn Greene

1 message

Lia Purpura <liapurpura1@gmail.com>
To: Shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

Fri, Oct 18, 2024 at 6:09 PM

Dear Ms Heafy,

I'm writing to express my strong opposition to the MDE's draft permit for the Vaughn Greene crematorium. I've been fighting this toxic addition to our neighborhood for years now and I'm astonished at the careless treatment the greater Govan's area has received. A crematorium represents a new pollution source in an area that MDE itself calculates is one of the most overburdened areas in the country. MDE's own Environmental Justice (EJ) Score alone cannot justify adding another burden to this community. In fact, the permit should be denied based on the Environmental Justice Score.

The draft permit's requirement of some initial monitoring of the smokestack of this incinerator is wholly inadequate in protecting the neighbors who live near it — some as close as (not eve) 200 feet away. To protect neighbors, MDE should either deny the permit or require ongoing emissions measurements AND require pollution control devices to be installed on the crematorium incinerator.

Our environment cannot wait — we're approaching dire levels of warming. At some point, decisions must be made with concern for human and other than human life — and not in response to the needs of business, or according to inadequate, out of date zoning codes.

I urge you to take our ongoing community crisis seriously and do the right thing.

Sincerely,
Lia Purpura
Resident of Radnor Winston



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Comments on Vaughn Crematorium!

1 message

Lisa Van Riper <lisav5802@gmail.com>
To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

Tue, Oct 22, 2024 at 8:18 PM

Dear Miss Heafy,

I am writing you today out of grave concern for Vaughn funeral home possibly building a crematorium in our neighborhood. It is an environmental hazard, and I am completely against it. My family, my pets, my neighbors, and those farther out from my neighborhood are all at risk from this irresponsible proposal.

Please deny or if you must, include strict up-to-date limits on emissions AND specific plans for regular monitoring of those emissions.

I beg you to **scrap the draft permit and deny Vaughn Greene's permit request (No. 510-3791-1-0478)** because communities along York Rd **already have MDE's highest possible Environmental Justice (EJ) score of 95+**, meaning that the MDE knows that residents here already experience a worse pollution burden and health status than 95% of Marylanders. That means higher rates of diseases exacerbated by air pollution (asthma, COPD, heart disease), AND lower life expectancy. MDE wants east side neighborhoods to absorb an additional pollution source? That is NOT Environmental Justice in any way, shape or form!!

The York Road Partnership is working hard with neighbors to improve conditions stemming from years of redlining. This includes efforts to build Black homeownership and Black wealth.

It is NOT Environmental Justice for the MDE to permit a human crematorium close to densely packed homes in a majority Black community.

The MDE is using 30 year old emissions factors in deciding this permit is allowable. This is not acceptable.

If the MDE decides to issue the permit against the community's will, then the **MDE must require adequate pollution controls to be installed. It also must require independent emissions monitoring throughout the life of the permit, not just at start up.**

Also the MDE must limit or ban importation of bodies from other crematorium sites! That is just an awful way to make a buck on the backs of polluting our neighborhood.

The MDE must use the most up-to-date federal and state standards in limiting emissions.

Please, please do not allow the construction of the crematorium. Please!

Thank you!

•
Regards,

Lisa Van Riper
[5840 Bellona Ave](#)

Sent from my iPhone



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Proposted Vaughn Greene Crematorium

1 message

Lori Rawle <lorirawle@gmail.com>
To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

Tue, Oct 22, 2024 at 11:57 PM

I would just like to add my voice to the chorus of people who are opposed to the crematorium.

The area already has one of the worst measures of pollution in the State **under the State's own defintion**. It is just wrong to subject these residents to more. And I live close enough that I am not only in solidarity with them but also personally deeply concerned about its presence.

If you cannot find it in your heart to save this neighborhood from further degradation, then at minimum the requirements placed on the business must include

- Annual **independent**, on-site monitoring of the emissions **from this facility** with reports available to the neighborhood.
- Procedures to ensure removal of all implanted materials and devices, including fillings, metal rods and pins, pacemakers, stim machines, etc.
- Performance standards set at **current scientific standards**, not ones drafted in the 90's.
- Not allow VG to contract with any other funeral home or the like to process bodies. Bodies should be processed only from those hiring the VG on York Rd.

Thank you for your consideration of these concerns.
Lorraine Rawle
Southfield PI



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Vaughn Greene crematorium

1 message

Lou Joseph <lou.joseph@gmail.com>
To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

Tue, Oct 22, 2024 at 1:12 PM

Hello Ms. Heafey-

I'm writing to express my deep concern about the Vaughn Greene Funeral Home's plans for building a crematorium right in the middle of a densely populated area in Baltimore City. For this to happen in 2024, with all the knowledge we have about the effects of air pollution, boggles the mind and makes me reconsider if I should move my family from the state of Maryland entirely if this is how the state regards the safety and well being of its residents.

I am requesting that MDE should deny Vaughn Greene's permit (# 510-3791-1-0478) along York Road, as we already have MDE's highest possible Environmental Justice (EJ) score of 95+. If MDE decides to issue the permit against the community's will, MDE must use the most up-to-date federal and state standards in limiting emissions, MDE must require adequate pollution controls to be installed, MDE must require independent emissions monitoring throughout the life of the permit

I hope MDE will consider the deeply negative effects of allowing Vaughn Greene to put profit over the health and safety of thousands of Maryland residents.

Sincerely,

Lou Joseph
326 Radnor Road
Baltimore, MD 21212

--

Lou Joseph
www.loujoseph.com



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

crematorium on York Rd In Radnor Winston neighborhood

1 message

MARGARET CROWTHER <margaretcrowther@yahoo.com>

Mon, Oct 21, 2024 at 6:17 PM

To: "shannon.heafey@maryland.gov" <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Vaughn Green Funeral home intends to install a human crematorium in our residential neighborhood. (within feet of certain houses) The crematorium can affect the breathing air for these houses as well as the adjoining neighborhoods. I feel that it has not been fairly evaluated by MDE, because my understanding is that the air testing equipment is at Montebello far from this source. I also understand that once installed it is not properly monitored.

I do not think that this installation should not go forward for the above reasons, but if it unfortunately does, it needs to have monitoring devices on the equipment. Also MDE needs to frequently monitor for health safety for the surrounding neighborhoods.

Please honor and pay attention to the needs of many people that deserve clean air in their communities.

Sincerely,
Margaret Crowther
Radnor Winston Resident



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

feedback on Vaughn Greene

1 message

Marian Crotty <mgcrotty@gmail.com>
To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

Tue, Oct 22, 2024 at 1:40 PM

Dear Ms. Heafey,

As a resident of Radnor Winston, I'm urging you to deny Vaughn Greene's application for a crematorium in our neighborhood (permit request No. 510-3791-1-0478). The communities along York Rd. already have MDE's highest possible Environmental Justice score and can't handle any more pollution. While the current plan may include more restrictions than any other crematorium in the state, the standards, which allow self-regulation and use decades old data and procedures, simply aren't acceptable. Our neighbors are already vulnerable.

If you decide to issue the permit despite the community's opposition, pollution controls need to be installed and independently monitored.

Thank you,

Marian Crotty (321 Rossiter Ave.)



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Vaughn Greene crematorium permit

1 message

Marlena Weiss <marlena.weiss@gmail.com>

Tue, Oct 22, 2024 at 1:50 PM

To: "shannon.heafey@maryland.gov" <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Good afternoon,

This email is in regard to the permit proposal for installation of a crematorium at Vaughn Greene Funeral Home (permit no. 510-3791-1-0478). **As a member of the community, I am not in favor of this permit being approved.** Communities along York Rd already have MDE's highest possible Environmental Justice (EJ) score of 95+. Residents here already experience a worse pollution burden and health status than 95% of Marylanders. Installation of a crematorium would have devastating effects on the surrounding community, particularly on its most vulnerable members (children and individuals with disabilities). I am not in favor of this permit being approved.

Thank you for considering my input.

Marlena Weiss
Radnor-Winston Community Member



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Comments on Vaughn Greene Permit No. 510-3791-1-0478

1 message

Miles Maguire <miles.maguire@yahoo.com>

Tue, Oct 22, 2024 at 11:10 AM

To: "Shannon.heafey@maryland.gov" <Shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Cc: Mary Washington <mary.washington@senate.state.md.us>, "Del. Regina T. Boyce"

<regina.boyce@house.state.md.us>, Elizabeth Embry <Elizabeth.Embry@house.state.md.us>, Mark Conway

<mark.conway@baltimorecity.gov>

Ms. Shannon Heafey
Maryland Department of the Environment
Air and Radiation Administration
[1800 Washington Boulevard](#)
[Baltimore, MD 21230](#)

By email: Shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

Dear Ms. Heafey,

I am a resident of Baltimore City who lives less than 1 mile from the planned Vaughn Greene crematorium on York Road, and I am writing to call on the Maryland Department of the Environment to fulfill its mission “to protect and restore the environment for the health and well-being of all Marylanders” by denying an air quality permit for the proposed operation.

As you know the location of the site is in one of the most environmentally damaged parts of the state, as reflected in the 95% environmental justice score developed for the nearby neighborhoods.

There are several, community-based initiatives to “protect and restore” the York Road corridor from a commercial and economic standpoint, and this permit will directly undermine those projects, setting back these efforts to improve the health and social well-being of the surrounding neighborhoods.

Further I urge you to more carefully scrutinize the arguments advanced by the applicant for the necessity of siting his crematorium in this particular residential neighborhood. I have recently gone through the cremations of two family members, and I can assure you that the location of the crematoriums was the very least of our concerns. In one case, the death occurred in one Maryland county, the cremation occurred in a second Maryland county, and the cremains were received by the family in a third Maryland county.

In the scheme of things, this process, though inconvenient, was not a major issue. Greene’s contention that Baltimore County, which surrounds Baltimore City and seamlessly blends with it, is a distant, disconnected place for city residents is simply not credible and raises questions about the credibility of other parts of the applicant’s arguments.

Please act to protect the health of the community and deny this permit.

Sincerely,

Miles Maguire
[342 Homeland Southway](#)
[Baltimore, MD 21212](#)



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Deny Vaughn Greene permit

1 message

Miriam <mdesharn@gmail.com>

Tue, Oct 22, 2024 at 1:18 PM

To: Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Hi,

I live near the proposed site of a new crematorium. I have a primary immune deficiency that makes me prone to respiratory symptoms and infection. I am writing to ask MDE **to deny or** (at the very least) **include strict up-to-date limits on emissions AND specific plans for regular monitoring** of those emissions. **MDE should deny Vaughn Greene's permit request (No. 510-3791-1-0478)** because communities along York Rd **already have MDE's highest possible Environmental Justice (EJ) score of 95+**, meaning that MDE knows that residents here already experience a worse pollution burden and health status than 95% of Marylanders. The proposed crematorium would be unethical to approve. Your own stated values as an agency include "improve environmental protection"; "foster better solutions through broader stakeholder involvement in environmental challenges" and to "manage for cleaner air, water, and land and to reduce risks from pollution, climate change, environmental emergencies, and other threats."

If MDE decides to issue the permit against the community's will, which you should NOT do, then:

- **MDE must use the most up-to-date federal and state standards in limiting emissions**
- **MDE must require adequate pollution controls to be installed**
- **MDE must require independent emissions monitoring throughout the life of the permit**

Miriam DesHarnais
326 Radnor Rd
Baltimore MD 21212



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Vaughn Green Funeral Home

1 message

Moir Goldie Horowitz <maursipan@gmail.com>
To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

Tue, Oct 22, 2024 at 12:59 PM

Greetings,

I am writing to urge you not to permit the Vaghn Green Funeral Home to build a Crematorium at the end of my street. I live on Rossiter Ave, approximately 500 feet from where the proposed crematorium would be. I can't believe we are even having this conversation and I urge you to think about what you would do if someone wanted to build a human crematorium in your backyard. This area already has poor air quality.

1. MDE should scrap the draft permit and deny Vaughn Greene's permit request (No. 510-3791-1-0478) because communities along York Rd **already have MDE's highest possible Environmental Justice (EJ) score of 95+, meaning that MDE knows that residents here already experience a worse pollution burden and health status than 95% of Marylanders. That means higher rates of diseases exacerbated by air pollution (asthma, COPD, heart disease), AND lower life expectancy. And MDE wants east side neighborhoods to absorb an additional pollution source? That is NOT Environmental Justice.**

2. York Road Partnership is working hard with neighbors to improve conditions stemming from years of redlining. This includes efforts to build Black homeownership and Black wealth. It is NOT Environmental Justice for MDE to permit a human crematorium close to densely packed homes in a majority Black community.

MDE is using 30 year old emissions factors in deciding this permit is allowable. This is not acceptable.

2. If MDE decides to issue the permit against the community's will:

- **MDE must require adequate pollution controls to be installed**
- **MDE must require independent emissions monitoring throughout the life of the permit, not just at start up**
- **MDE must limit or ban importation of bodies from other crematorium sites**
- **MDE must use the most up-to-date federal and state standards in limiting emissions**

Please pay attention to this community and our environmental needs.

Best,
Moir Horowitz
525 Rossiter Ave



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Comments Regarding York Road Crematorium Permit

1 message

Pat Cassidy <pjcassidy@loyola.edu>

Tue, Oct 22, 2024 at 2:59 PM

To: "shannon.heafey@maryland.gov" <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Good afternoon, Ms. Heafey,

I hope this finds you doing well! I am writing to ask that the Maryland Department of the Environment **deny Vaughn Greene's permit request (No. 510-3791-1-0478)**.

York Road already has MDE's highest possible Environmental Justice score of 95+ meaning that MDE is already well aware of the fact that residents in our area already experience a worse pollution burden and health status than 95% of Marylanders. As I'm sure you and your colleagues are aware, means higher rates of diseases exacerbated by air pollution (asthma, COPD, heart disease), and lower life expectancy. Additionally, this results in east side neighborhoods to absorb an additional pollution source. This is not environmental justice.

Please consider deeply the impact that the approval of this permit would have for our community. As someone who works and socializes along the York Road Corridor, I care deeply about this matter both for my personal health and that of my community.

If MDE were to issue the permit *against the community's will*:

- MDE *must require* adequate pollution controls to be installed
- MDE *must require* independent emissions monitoring throughout the life of the permit, not just at start up
- MDE *must limit or ban* importation of bodies from other crematorium sites
- MDE *must use* the most up-to-date federal and state standards in limiting emissions

Thank you so much for considering the prioritization of community over business!

All the best,

Pat

Pat Cassidy, M.A. '19 (*he/him*)
Director, LGBTQIA+ Student Services

**LOYOLA**
UNIVERSITY MARYLAND

4501 North Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21210
410-617-2112 \ pjcassidy@loyola.edu \ loyola.edu/ccsj



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Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Comments regarding Vaughn Green Permit Request (No. 510-3791-1-0478)

1 message

Pim and Dorris Valkenberg - van Gaal <valkengaal@hotmail.com>
To: "shannon.heafey@maryland.gov" <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Mon, Oct 21, 2024 at 4:49 PM

Good afternoon, Ms. Heafey,

I hereby submit the following comments and concerns to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) regarding the Vaughn Greene Funeral Services, P.A. Permit-to-Construct, Permit No. 510- 3791-1-0478.

Me and my family reside in a house that is just across from the location where Vaughn Greene is planning to build a crematorium. Scientific evidence shows a causal relationship between incinerator exhaust and acute and chronic health issues like asthma and COPD. Since my husband is a (non-smoking related) long cancer survivor, clean air or at least preventing further air pollution is very important to us. Having crematory emissions near our home would, however, jeopardize our health as well as the sanctuary of the place where we grow our family.

Therefore, I, again, plead with the MDE to deny Vaughn Greene's permit request (No. 510-3791-1-0478) because communities along York Rd already have MDE's highest possible Environmental (In)Justice (EJ) score of 95+, meaning that MDE knows that residents here already experience a worse pollution burden and health status than 95% of Marylanders. The communities to which we belong (RWIA and YRP) have been trying to raise this issue from the beginning of the permitting process.

MDE states that Environmental Justice is a top priority of the Department and proudly touts the EJ screening tool that appears on its website. However, to date MDE still has not developed specific guidance to translate its intentions into policy and procedure. This gap revealed itself in the time, date and location of the permit hearing which favored the preference of the permit applicant over the citizens affected by the proposed emission source. Further, the magnitude of the EJ score did not alter the outcome of the permit, as it should have.

If the MDE does not deny the permit to Vaughn Greene and issues the permit, and so disregards the health and voice of the communities involved, then the MDE must require emissions monitoring throughout the life of the permit.

The emissions monitored should comply with updated standards for the particulate matter emission limit for crematories. The U.S Environmental Protection Agency has revised the size and magnitude of the national air quality standard for particulate matter five times since MDE published its particulate matter emission limit for crematory incinerators. The crematory particulate matter emission limit that appears in COMAR, however, was published over 30 years ago and has never been revised or updated to reflect the current state of scientific and medical knowledge. Therefore the:

1. MDE must use the most up-to-date federal and state standards in limiting emissions
2. MDE must require adequate pollution controls to be installed
3. MDE must require independent emissions monitoring throughout the life of the permit

I hope that these comments may lead the MDE to reconsider issuing a permit to Vaughn Greene's Funeral Services in this area. I have heard Mr. Vaughn Greene's presentation during the hearing and I appreciate his Christian call to serve his communities in their times of grief. I also understand that it is more convenient for both the funeral home and the families it serves to be able to conduct cremations themselves. However,

I am convinced that if Mr. Vaughn Greene is as concerned for our communities as he claims to be, then I am sure that he can find a better place to build a crematorium and if not, then Vaughn Greene could consider more environmentally friendly options to cremation.

I thank you for prioritizing the health of my husband, my family, and all of our neighborhoods' families.

Sincerely,

Dr. Theodora J. M. van Gaal
[4911 Crowson Avenue](#)
Baltimore, MD 21212



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

regarding Vaughn Greene application to build a HUMAN Crematorium

1 message

Randy Barker <lbarker3@jhmi.edu>

Sun, Oct 20, 2024 at 6:56 PM

To: "shannon.heafey@maryland.gov" <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Cc: Randy Barker <lbarker3@jhmi.edu>

To MDE

As a resident in the immediately adjacent neighborhood, I urge MDE to deny Vaughn Greene's permit request for authorization to build a Human Crematorium (request No. 510-3791-1-0478). I urge this action knowing that the communities adjacent to Vaughn Greene along York Rd already have MDE's highest possible Environmental Justice (EJ) score of 95+, meaning that MDE knows that residents here already experience a worse pollution burden and health status than 95% of Marylanders.

If Vaughn Green is not denied authorization, I urge that at the very least that the authorization include strict up-to-date limits on emissions and specific plans for regular monitoring of those emissions.

Sincerely

Lee Randol Barker

5000 Springlake Way

Email lbarker3@jhmi.edu



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Letter Regarding Permit for York Road Crematorium

1 message

Roberta Maguire <roberta.maguire@yahoo.com>

Tue, Oct 22, 2024 at 3:15 PM

To: "shannon.heafey@maryland.gov" <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Cc: Mary Washington <mary.washington@senate.state.md.us>, "Del. Regina T. Boyce" <regina.boyce@house.state.md.us>, Elizabeth Embry <elizabeth.embry@house.state.md.us>, Mark Conway <mark.conway@baltimorecity.gov>

Dear Ms. Heafey,

Attached is a letter that the Steering Committee for Invest York Road is submitting to request that the Maryland Department of the Environment reconsider its decision to issue a draft permit for a crematorium to be installed at the Vaughn Greene Funeral Home on York Road.

Should you have any questions about the attached, please contact me at this email: roberta.maguire@yahoo.com.

Many thanks,
Roberta Maguire (on behalf of the Invest York Road Steering Committee)

**Crematorium Letter for MDE.FINAL.docx**

35K



To: Maryland Department of the Environment
From: Invest York Road
Re: Vaughn Greene Human Crematorium
Date: October 22, 2024

The Steering Committee of Invest York Road (IYR), a 501(c)(3) organization based in Baltimore City (mailing address: 401 Woodbourne Ave., 21212), is respectfully requesting that the Maryland Department of the Environment reconsider its decision to issue a draft permit for the Vaughn Greene crematorium to be installed at 4905 York Road.

IYR is a community-based initiative dedicated to working with local residents to restore and redevelop commercial properties along the York Road corridor, including the 4900 block, that align with the needs and desires of the community. The crematorium permit undermines our collective efforts to improve the health and well-being of the residents on and immediately adjacent to the corridor: As the environmental justice score of 95% indicates, these neighborhoods are already overburdened with pollution sources. To install a crematorium in this situation therefore is in full contradiction of the MDE's mission "to protect and restore the environment for the health and well-being of all Marylanders." It will further degrade the area, discouraging community-focused businesses from considering locating along the corridor and impeding IYR's efforts to support the MDE's mission.

On behalf of all who are working to improve the daily living conditions of those who call this community home, we ask that you continue your efforts to support environmental justice and deny this permit.



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Crematorium

1 message

Scott Graham <ottograham@gmail.com>
To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

Tue, Oct 22, 2024 at 1:16 PM

Ms Heafey,

I would like to add my voice to the many local residents that are opposed to the crematorium.

I am asking MDE to stop the crematorium **or** (at the very least) **include strict up-to-date limits on emissions AND specific plans for regular monitoring** of those emissions.

I have a community garden on Bellona Ave, not far from the proposed site. I don't particularly want any particulate dropping in uninvited. I know the residents don't want it and I can't imagine anyone without some financial benefit favoring this.

I'm no lawyer but I do have a TvD in the law after watching 20 seasons of Law and Order. If I remember correctly, the judge ruled that a crematorium is not an incinerator. Well, what would you call something where human remains are burnt up into ashes? if it looks like a duck, quacks like a duck... it's a duck!

If the information below is correct, it should provide even more incentive for you to stop this injustice.

1. MDE should scrap the draft permit and deny Vaughn Greene's permit request (No. 510-3791-1-0478) because communities along York Rd **already have MDE's highest possible Environmental Justice (EJ) score of 95+, meaning that MDE knows that residents here already experience a worse pollution burden and health status than 95% of Marylanders. That means higher rates of diseases exacerbated by air pollution (asthma, COPD, heart disease), AND lower life expectancy. And MDE wants east side neighborhoods to absorb an additional pollution source? That is NOT Environmental Justice.**

2. York Road Partnership is working hard with neighbors to improve conditions stemming from years of redlining. This includes efforts to build Black homeownership and Black wealth. It is NOT Environmental Justice for MDE to permit a human crematorium close to densely packed homes in a majority Black community.

MDE is using 30 year old emissions factors in deciding this permit is allowable. This is not acceptable.

2. If MDE decides to issue the permit against the community's will:
- **MDE must require adequate pollution controls to be installed**
 - **MDE must require independent emissions monitoring throughout the life of the permit, not just at start up**
 - **MDE must limit or ban importation of bodies from other crematorium sites**
 - **MDE must use the most up-to-date federal and state standards in limiting emissions**

Thank you for your consideration.

Scott Graham

"The Farmette"
5813 Bellona Ave Baltimore MD 21212

10/22/24, 2:15 PM

State of Maryland Mail - Crematorium

ottograham@gmail.com

443 672 8194



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

STRONG OPPOSITION to MDE's draft permit for the Vaughn Greene crematorium

1 message

Stephanie Geller <stephaniegeller@hotmail.com>

Fri, Oct 18, 2024 at 6:18 PM

To: "shannon.heafey@maryland.gov" <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Stephanie Geller
5110 St. Albans Way
October 18, 2024

Subject: **STRONG OPPOSITION** to MDE's draft permit for the Vaughn Greene crematorium

To Whom It May Concern:

As a resident of Baltimore's Homeland neighborhood, I urge you to deny the draft permit for the Vaughn Greene crematorium. I am especially concerned because there has been no quantitative evaluation of the actual air pollution emissions produced by the proposed crematory incinerator. Moreover, there is already an extremely high Environmental Justice score for the location where the crematory will be situated—how can we in good conscience allow a use that will cause even more harm to a community already suffering?

If you cannot deny it, I urge you to at least require ongoing emissions measurements and ensure that pollution control devices will be installed on the crematorium incinerator.

I cannot emphasize enough how strongly I oppose this permit. I hope you will recognize the devastating impacts this will have on the community and deny the permit.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Geller
[5110 St. Albans Way](#)
Baltimore, MD 21212
stephaniegeller@hotmail.com

Dear Ms. Heafey:

I am a resident in a part of Homeland that is close to the Vaughn Greene Funeral Home. I am writing today to oppose any form of crematorium being implemented and constructed at Vaughn Greene's York Road facility. I have attended both the December 13th and the recent August 7th Public Hearings on this matter. I am but one voice; however, it was clear during these hearings that many voices are opposed to any approval of a crematorium. There are already air quality issues in this part of Baltimore City, not to mention Baltimore City in its entirety. Frankly, I am shocked that this matter continues to be under consideration. No permit should be granted from your offices of the Maryland Department of the Environment. On August 7, 2024, you heard from concerned mothers, concerned elderly citizens, concerned neighborhood association representatives, and our own State Senator, Mary Washington, imploring the Department of the Environment to deny a permit to Vaughn Greene Funeral Services to construct a crematorium at their York Road facility. Why won't you do this? There is no question that a crematorium is an unsound practice for the environment. Therefore, you should take the appropriate and morally sound action and deny the permit. I pray that you have not been "bought" for a permit. The only sensible and correct action is to deny this permit. Please take the right action. Thank you.

Stephen Sutton
5009 Broadmoor Road
Baltimore City



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Letter from constituent opposing Vaughn Green's crematorium

1 message

Tad DeLay <taddelay@gmail.com>
To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

Mon, Oct 21, 2024 at 10:23 AM

Dear Ms. Shannon Heafey,

I am an environmental researcher with deep concerns about the environmental and racial justice problems posed by the proposed crematorium. I am a resident of the Radnor Winston neighborhood on the York corridor, and I am writing to ask that you to everything that you can to prevent the permitting request for a human crematorium by Vaughn Greene Funeral Home. Everyone in our neighborhood opposes this, and it will have detrimental environmental impacts. One business's profit motive should not outweigh the environment and safety of thousands of neighbors.

If the permit is issued against our wishes and against the best interests of the community, please required that MDE use upt-to-date federal and stat standards in limiting emissions, required pollution consoles, and require independent emissions monitoring.

Thank you for your consideration,
Tad DeLay, PhD

Tad DeLay, PhD[Taddelay.com](https://taddelay.com)

February 28, 2024

Maryland Department of the Environment
Air and Radiation Management

RE: Permit-to-construct application from Vaughn Greene Funeral Services (Docket 09-20)

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the permit-to-construct application from Vaughn Greene Funeral Services for the installation of a Matthews Environmental Solutions Power-Pak II Plus human crematory.

The Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN) has carefully reviewed the permit application and attended a meeting on December 13th, 2023, on the proposal. Before addressing specific technical complaints, we would like to highlight several factors that weigh heavily into our concerns about the proposal:

1. MDE has not sufficiently taken into account the strong community opposition to the project,
2. MDE's permitting system for crematoria is not designed for a source of this kind with population density,
3. The area chosen for this project is already overburdened with other environmental pollutants, and is a hotspot for asthma and other conditions, making the proposed facility an extraordinary burden on an already suffering community. MDE should apply increased scrutiny to permit applications for air pollution sources in and near zip codes with high scores on the Environmental Justice Scorecard as rated by the EPA

As the permitting process moves forward, MDE should take these factors into account and require the best available technology to reduce the risk to human health in the community. The United Nations' Environment Programme has laid out best practices for crematoria operations in the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (UN Standards).¹ Based on these UN Standards, we have several concerns with the permit as written:

1. The equipment listed in the permit (Incinerator Model: Power-Pak II Plus - IE43-PPII Plus) does not contain monitoring tools to measure carbon monoxide, only smoke opacity.² Carbon monoxide monitoring is a best practice because monitoring for this colorless gas

¹ U.N. Environment Programme, Guidelines on Best Available Techniques and Provisional Guidance On Best Environmental Practices, 2007, Page 12, available at https://toolkit.pops.int/publish/Downloads/ENG_12-Crematoria.pdf.

² Matthews Environmental Solutions, PowerPak II Plus Brochure, 2022, available at https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MMUjDPZhla22lfenVSMaaAIEwm2_Ct9Y/view?usp=sharing

can be an early indicator that some part of the process has gone wrong in a way that could harm human health. Carbon monoxide is sometimes used by EPA as a proxy pollutant for hazardous air pollutants (HAP)³ generally because both can be byproducts of incomplete combustion. Therefore, MDE should pay particular attention to this.

2. The equipment listed in the permit is intended to run automatically for long periods of time, without staff on site.⁴ A key component of crematorium safety is the ability to react when equipment malfunctions. A polluting facility of this size in a densely populated area should have staff on site to reduce response times when equipment fails.
3. The standard process for reviewing crematorium permits is, as MDE conceded at its public meeting on December 13th, 2023, insufficient for the current application due to the proposed crematorium's location in a densely populated neighborhood. One key best practice to minimize equipment failures and risks to human health is to regularly inspect equipment. Although MDE currently only inspects most crematoria in the event of a complaint, MDE should not allow Vaughn Greene to operate without inspections on a schedule recommended by the UN Standards.
4. Similarly, the current application does not contain a robust monitoring system procedure despite regular monitoring being considered a best practice for crematorium facilities of this size.⁵

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on this permit. We urge MDE to revise the Draft Permit to adhere to the UN Standards and protect human health in this densely populated area.

Sincerely,

Tzipporah Horowitz

Baltimore Organizer

Chesapeake Climate Action Network

tzippy@chesapeakeclimate.org

802-233-7354

³ U.S Environmental Protection Agency, National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Major Sources: Industrial, Commercial, Institutional Boilers and Process Heaters, 2022, available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2022-19612>.

⁴ Matthews Environmental Solutions, PowerPak II Plus Brochure, 2022, available at https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MMUjDPZhla22lfenVSMaaAlFwm2_Ct9Y/view?usp=sharing

⁵ U.N. Environment Programme, Guidelines on Best Available Techniques and Provisional Guidance On Best Environmental Practices, 2007, Page 16, available at https://toolkit.pops.int/publish/Downloads/ENG_12-Crematoria.pdf.



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Deny Vaughn Greene's permit request (No. 510-3791-1-0478)

1 message

tyler derreth <rtderreth@gmail.com>
To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

Tue, Oct 22, 2024 at 5:34 PM

Dear Ms. Heafey,

I am a resident of the Govans Neighborhood, and **I am writing to urge MDE to deny the permit for emissions of the Vaughn Greene crematorium.** Our neighborhood is already scored, by MDE's own metric, as the very worst in environmental justice. Our residents are already suffering under unjust circumstances. Approving the permit would only make this injustice worse. Every decision for a healthier neighborhood, every permit, every policy, every new source of pollution is of the utmost importance if we are going to make our neighborhood truly livable. I urge MDE to consider the intention of ensuring an equitable and just state—one in which everyone has the chance to live a healthy life in their own home. We are working to make strides to ensure that in our community, but there will be little hope of improvement if this permit is approved.

As a professor at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, I've dedicated my professional work to community-based interventions for improving health. As an expert in this field, I know that decisions like this permit approval create barriers to community health that will take generations to recover from. Denying the permit would be a major step in state government working with community efforts to create healthier environments for our residents. A denial would be an important example of government care and attention to the constituents it serves. Without state support from MDE, we will be left to breathe polluted air without recourse. This is a moment to reject the next falling domino in a growing health crisis.

Finally, as a father of two young children, I am pleading with MDE to deny this permit request. I am filled with fear and anger when I think about my young children breathing even further polluted air, knowing that there is a very clear direct causative line between the air they breathe and chronic health issues like asthma. I am fighting with my every breath to ensure that they can breathe easy as long as they live here. As MDE weighs the decision to deny this permit, I'm sure you are listening to statistics, testimonies, legal guidance, and expert perspectives. Please also take a moment to listen to the breath of my sons—their future health, and the health of the hundreds of children who live in this neighborhood, hinges on this decision.

Tyler Derreth
Govans resident
Assistant Professor of Health, Behavior, and Society; Johns Hopkins University



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

York Road Partnership comments on Vaughn Greene Permit No. 510-3791-1-0478

1 message

Dan Pontious <dan.pontious@icloud.com>

Tue, Oct 22, 2024 at 12:13 AM

To: Shannon Heafey -MDE- <Shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

Cc: Donna Blackwell <satnamt21@gmail.com>, Cindy Camp <campcindy@yahoo.com>, Karen DeCamp <kmdecamp@gmail.com>, Mary Washington <mary.washington@senate.state.md.us>, "Del. Regina T. Boyce" <regina.boyce@house.state.md.us>, Elizabeth Embry <Elizabeth.Embry@house.state.md.us>, Mark Conway <mark.conway@baltimorecity.gov>, Lisa Polyak <lisa.polyak@gmail.com>

Ms. Heafey,

On behalf of the York Road Partnership, attached please find the following four documents, which together make up our comments on the Vaughn Greene Funeral Services, P.A. Permit-to-Construct, No. 510-3791-1-0478:

1. Cover letter and summary
2. Full detailed comments
3. Attachment 1: EPA EJSscreen Community Report
4. Attachment 2: MDE FAQ Sheet - Crematories

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions.

Dan Pontious, President
York Road Partnership
(410) 340-9912

4 attachments**YRP Cover Letter Crematorium Comments 21Oct2024.pdf**

170K

**YRP Comments on Draft Permit-to-Construct No. 510-3791-1-0478.pdf**

641K

**Attachment 1 USEPA_EJSscreen Community Report for 4905 York Road_Baltimore_MD_0.25mi radius.pdf**

1740K

**Attachment 2 MDE FAQ Sheet - Crematories.pdf**

259K



York Road Partnership is membership network of 30+ neighborhoods and affiliates promoting the vitality of Baltimore City's York Road community as a desirable urban environment in which to live, shop, work and worship.

President
Dan Pontious
Radnor Winston

Vice President
Donna Blackwell
Winston Govans

Treasurer
Kaye Gooch
Govans Presbyterian Church

Corresponding Secretary
Yuki Clark
Woodbourne-McCabe

At-Large Board Members

Sandi McFadden
Mid-Govans

Nichole Battle
GEDCO

Carol Rice
Guilford

Committee Chairs

Public Space and Greening
Helene Perry & Marie M. Anderson

Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization
Donna Blackwell & Dan Pontious

Organizational Development
Cindy Camp & Karen DeCamp

Youth Development
Cindy Camp

401 Woodbourne Avenue
Baltimore MD 21212
410-617-1171
yorkroadpartnership@gmail.com

October 21, 2024

Ms. Shannon Heafey
Maryland Department of the Environment
Air and Radiation Administration
1800 Washington Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21230

Dear Ms. Heafey,

The York Road Partnership (YRP) submits the following comments and concerns to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) regarding the Vaughn Greene Funeral Services, P.A. Permit-to-Construct, Permit No. 510-3791-1-0478. YRP is a coalition of more than 30 neighborhood associations, nonprofit organizations, institutions, businesses, churches, and schools along both sides of the York Road commercial corridor in northern Baltimore City. Since our founding in 1995, we have been committed to joint action to improve the vitality and shared prosperity of the corridor as a desirable place to live, shop, work, and worship.

This letter is a summary of our concerns, followed by detailed comments. Community concerns center around the fact that there has been no quantitative evaluation of the actual air pollution emissions produced by the proposed crematory incinerator, even as MDE has rendered a determination that this source complies with all applicable Federal and State air quality control requirements. Further, despite the extremely high Environmental Justice score for the location where the crematory will be situated, indicating that residents of this neighborhood already experience pollution burden and health status worse than 95% of the residents of Maryland, MDE fails to use this information to prevent or control additional hazard from yet another source of toxic pollution that will be introduced into the neighborhood.

MDE has added some new surveillance tools to the draft permit that are unlike any that appear in permits issued to crematory incinerators currently operating in Maryland. We applaud these initiatives and appreciate that MDE recognizes that the existing crop of air permits

provides little to no surveillance of the actual emission produced by this class of incinerators. However, these administrative tools are no substitute for actual measurement of the type and amount of pollutants released from the exhaust stack and enter the breathing zone of families living less than 200 feet from the crematory incinerator.

Additional concerns about the draft permit including the following:

1. MDE states that Environmental Justice is a top priority of the Department and proudly touts the EJ screening tool that appears on its website. However, to date MDE still has not developed specific guidance to translate its intentions into policy and procedure. This gap revealed itself in the time, date and location of the permit hearing which favored the preference of the permit applicant over the citizens affected by the proposed emission source. Further, the magnitude of the EJ score did not alter the outcome of the permit – which has exactly as much emission control as every other permit issued to a crematory incinerator operating in Maryland: none.
2. MDE asserts that the crematory incinerator will comply with applicable regulations, but failed to cite or consider whether it will comply with the particulate matter emission limit for crematories that appears in the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR).
3. The only assessment of air pollution emissions in the permit application and draft permit is conducted with estimating factors that are over 30 years old, reflecting technology and practices that bear no resemblance to the proposed equipment.
4. Many U.S. adults have an implanted medical device or cosmetic enhancement at some point in their lifetime. These devices contain metals, synthetic materials and chemicals which release toxic emissions when subject to cremation. Current emission estimating tools do not account for the presence of these materials and Maryland regulations governing cremation in the Departments of Environment, Health and Labor do not obligate the removal of any of these materials except for batteries and jewelry.
5. MDE proposes a one-time stack test to measure particles and metals emitted from the crematory incinerator at start-up. This is an important first step in determining crematory emissions, but this test must be repeated at periodic intervals to ensure that the equipment complies with applicable regulations throughout its operating life. The proposed waiver from this obligation if the applicant submits test results from another similar crematory is not acceptable.
6. There should be limits on the hours and days that the crematory operates so that nearby residents have occasional respite from the crematory stack emissions that will be impacting their homes and neighborhoods.

7. Funeral homes that are permitted to divert their cremation business to the York Road crematory incinerator should be identified by name and limited to only clients originating at their place of business.
8. The crematory particulate matter emission limit that appears in COMAR was published over 30 years ago and has never been revised or updated to reflect the current state of scientific and medical knowledge. The U.S Environmental Protection Agency has revised the size and magnitude of the national air quality standard for particulate matter five times since MDE published its particulate matter emission limit for crematory incinerators.

As noted above, our detailed comments and attachments follow. Please feel free to reach out to me at dan.pontious@icloud.com with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan Pontious", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Dan Pontious
President

1. Page/Paragraph: The Applicant's Guide to Environmental Justice and Permitting, What is Environmental Justice? paragraph 2; What Does the Application Require? paragraph 3

Comment: Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) announced the public hearing via email on July 15, 2024 to be held at 5:30pm on August 6, 2024 at the Huber Memorial Church. The time, date and location of the public hearing substantially impaired the ability of the affected community to participate. The time (5:30pm) was during or near the completion of the typical workday making it difficult for workers to arrive in a timely manner. The hearing date – less than 30 days from notification – made it difficult to inform community members with sufficient time to read and understand the draft permit; and during the height of summer vacations - made it impossible for many community members to attend who were out of town. The location - nearly 2 miles from emission source and away from the affected residents made it difficult for affected community members to attend. Multiple community members contacted MDE with these concerns, including elected representatives from the 43rd State legislative district, but MDE was unwilling to change the time, date or location of the hearing to accommodate the access concerns of the affected community. When it was pointed out that the hearing date conflicted with the long planned National Night Out event, MDE was willing to change the hearing date by one day to August 7, 2024. On the day of the hearing, we arrived to find that air conditioning in the venue had been out of order since midweek, and the hearing room was overheated. Staff from the venue handed out paper fans to citizens to manage air flow during the hearing. Further, less than half the number of community members who attended the December 2023 meeting were in attendance at the August 7, 2024 hearing demonstrating the unsuitability of the time, date and venue. MDE's **Applicant's Guide to Environmental Justice and Permitting** states:

"It is important that residents who may be adversely affected by a proposed source be aware of the current environmental issues in their community in order to have *meaningful involvement* in the permitting process." [emphasis added]

"Residents of a community with a high indicator score and a high degree of environmental exposure *should be afforded broader opportunities to participate in the permit process* and understand the impacts a project seeking permit approval may have on them." [emphasis added]

Suggested resolution:

The minimum threshold for "meaningful involvement" should obligate that important events related to a proposed pollution source are held at a time and location that favor participation by the affected communities. MDE was asked multiple times to defer the public hearing to a later date and a venue in the York Road corridor, and these requests were denied. The Final Environmental Justice (EJ) Score Percentile for the location where the crematory will be situated is 95.28, meaning that the population living adjacent to the proposed crematory already experiences a pollution burden that is worse than 95.28% of the people in Maryland. If Environmental Justice is to be more than a slogan, it has to start with amending standard practices in order to serve the community that is burdened. If existing regulations do not provide for community input to such basic decision-making, then the regulations need to be amended to effectuate the promise of "meaningful involvement".

2. Page/Paragraph: MDE Screening Report; MDE Final EJ Score (%ile score)

Comment: According to the MDE Screening Report, the Final EJ Score percentile for the census tract where the crematory will be situated is 95.28, meaning that the population living adjacent to the proposed crematory

experiences ongoing pollution burdens and possesses health and demographic characteristics that make it more vulnerable than 95.28% of the people in Maryland. MDE's own assessment of the impact of this score states,

"An EJ Score of 95% indicates that the proposed installation would be located in an area that is disproportionately impacted by environmental and public health hazards resulting in a higher risk of health problems from environmental exposures."

These families are literally the most vulnerable families in Maryland. Taking a step back and reviewing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) EJScreen Community Report¹ for the same community (see Attachment 1) we find that not only are the adjacent families the most vulnerable in Maryland, they are also among the most vulnerable in the United States. Subvariables in the EPA report show that national EJ rankings for Diesel Particulate Matter, Traffic Proximity, and Lead Paint exposure are in the 85-94th percentiles; with existing Asthma burden at the 95th percentile. Figure 1. shows the EPA EJScreen heat map for asthma prevalence among adults aged 18 or older in the U.S., along with the location of EPA-regulated air pollution sources (blue square icons) and public housing units (green circle icons) in the crematory census tract and in Baltimore. It is no surprise that census tracts with the worst asthma scores in the U.S. (>95th percentile) are saturated with both regulated air pollution sources and public housing units, especially in comparison to census tracts with low Asthma burdens.

In combination, the state and federal EJ assessments for the area where the proposed crematory will be sited reveal that it will be situated in literally one of the worst locations in the United States with respect to pre-existing environmental hazards and health burdens. While it is not clear that there is ever a good place to situate an incinerator with respect to human health impact, the value of EJ Scoring is that reveals that some locations are worse than others, and should be deprioritized for new sources of hazard because of the presence of multiple existing harms and vulnerabilities. What does MDE imagine the purpose of the EJ Score to be? Is it merely informational, or is it intended to guide action that MDE takes when making decisions about the location of additional environmental burdens? Once made aware of the disproportionate allocation of environmental harm and health status through the EJ Score, how does MDE integrate this knowledge into the execution of its mission: *To protect and restore the environment for the health and well-being of all Marylanders*. The obligation to use EJ scoring in the administration of environmental permits has been a law for nearly 2 years, and yet MDE appears to have issued no interpretive guidance or meaningful effectuation of that mandate in decision-making related to new or existing pollution sources.

Suggested Resolution: Both State and Federal EJ scoring should be foundational criteria in the execution of MDE administrative decisions on how and where to issue environmental permits, and the conditions imposed in such permits. The utilization of EJ scoring should not be informational, ad hoc or subjective. Communities that are demonstrably overburdened as conveyed by EJ scoring should not be subjected to additional environmental burdens. In this instance, it is not clear how MDE can justify issuing an environmental permit for an additional source of air pollution in a community that already experiences the worst environmental burdens related to air quality, and the poorest respiratory health status in Maryland and the United States. In New Source Review permitting under the Clean Air Act, when a qualifying air pollution source wishes to situate in an area that fails to meet ambient air quality standards, it must offset all of the new pollution that it will create plus an additional amount in order to help the area regain compliance with health-based air quality standards. A similar paradigm should exist for Environmental Justice scoring: there should be no new environmental burdens introduced into a community that already is experiencing the highest valuation of existing environmental hazard and health

¹ EPA EJScreen EPA's Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool (Version 2.3), <https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/>

burden, without controlling or limiting new exposures that contribute to the hazard and the burden. Based on the Maryland and EPA EJ scores for the census tract where the proposed crematory will be situated, we believe that MDE should not be issuing an air permit for a crematory incinerator in this location.

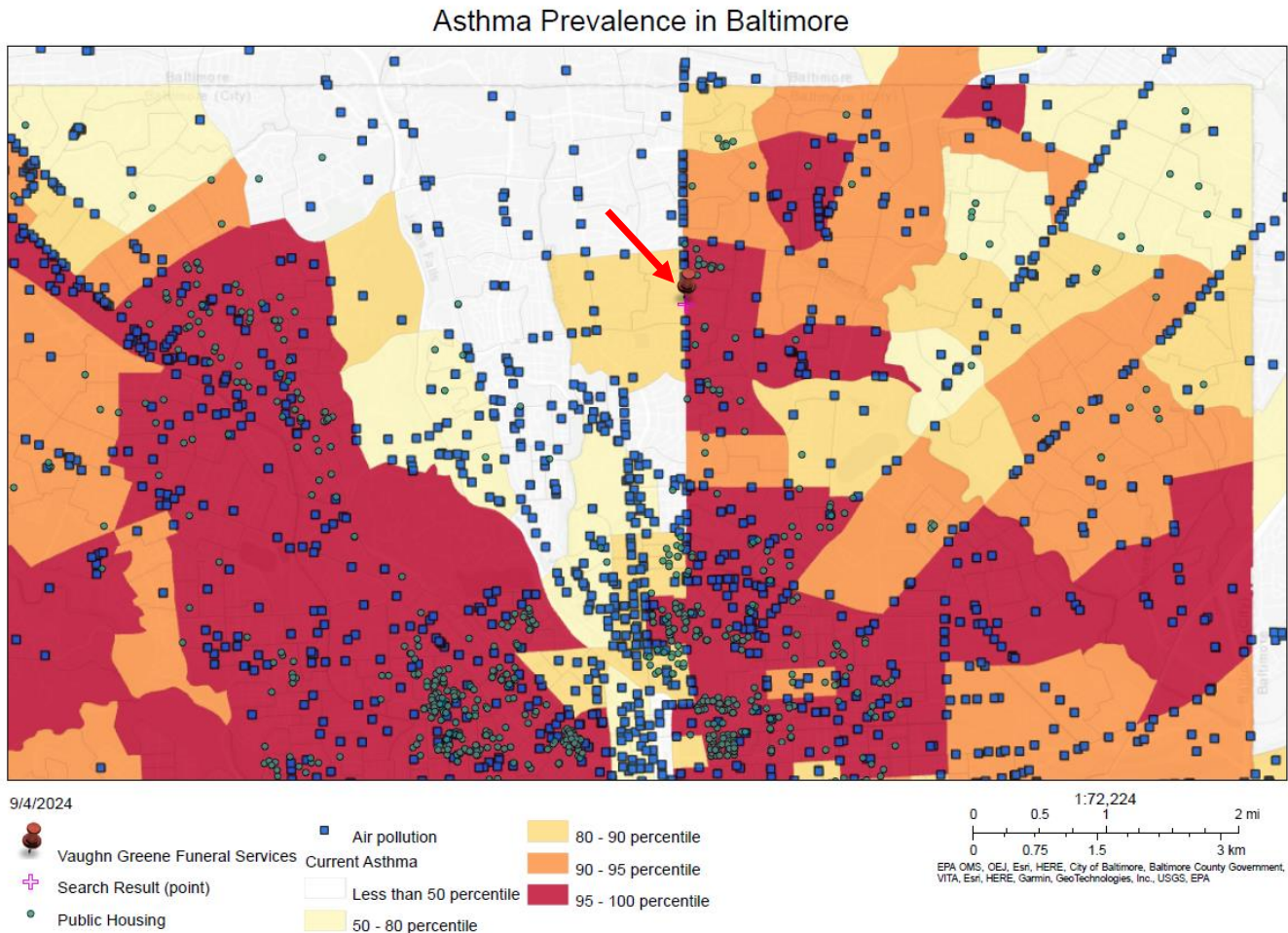


Figure 1. U.S. EPA EJScreen Map of Health Disparities: Asthma Prevalence Among Adults Aged 18 or Older in Baltimore City, Maryland

3. Page/Paragraph: Fact Sheet and Tentative Determination; Vaughn Greene Funeral Services, P.A.;
V. Environmental Justice Analysis

Comment: In its Environmental Justice Analysis MDE states that because of the magnitude of the EJ Score for the community surrounding the proposed crematory, it is imposing "additional protective measures" to the draft air permit. These measures include:

- a mandate for the crematory to be equipped with an opacity monitor,
- development of an Operations and Maintenance plan
- limiting human remains processed in the crematory to only those remains, "owned, operated or controlled by Vaughn Greene Funeral Services, P.A."

Comments by York Road Partnership on the Vaughn Greene Funeral Services, P.A. Permit-to-Construct,
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- a one-time requirement to conduct an EPA Method 9 opacity test to ensure compliance with visible emission standards
- a one-time requirement to conduct a stack emission test for particulate matter (PM) and metal toxic air pollutants (TAPs), although this obligation can be waived if the Applicant can provide recent stack test results from an identical crematory

Although these items are described as "additional protective measures", they amount only to operational surveillance and do not actually control or limit air pollution produced by the crematory incinerator. They are indeed "additional" from the perspective that these measures do not appear in any other crematory permit-to-operate that MDE has issued. Despite having literally no quantitative information on what is actually emitted from a crematory incinerator, MDE has never required any crematory in Maryland to perform a stack test to measure the type and amount of air pollution it produces. There are at least seven crematory incinerators with a current MDE air permit that were installed over 40 years ago, and have never been required to test or quantify stack emissions to determine compliance with applicable regulations.² There are very few pieces of mechanical equipment that operate as designed after 40 years of use. How can MDE continue to assert that crematories that are 20, 30, and 40 years old are still meeting applicable requirements and emission limits if the only assessment of their emissions comes from a thought experiment using emission factors?

Suggested Resolution: In order to ensure that the "additional protective measures" actually provide meaningful ongoing protection to the residents whose homes and families will be downwind of the crematory emissions, we request that the permit language be amended as follows:

(a) We agree that there should be continuous opacity monitoring while the crematory is operating to ensure that visible emissions do not exceed the COMAR limit of 0% opacity, and that the opacity reading should be used in automated feedback to adjust crematory operations to prevent visible emissions. However, if visible emissions persist, there should be an automated shutdown of the crematory, or an obligation to manually shut down the crematory if visible emissions persist past 6 minutes.

(b) The requirement limiting the origin of human remains that can be processed in the crematory to only those remains owned, operated, or controlled by Vaughn Greene Funeral Services (VGFS), P.A. is vague since the terms "owned", "operated" and "controlled" are not defined in the permit and could be interpreted in ways that allow VGFS to operate as a third-party cremation service for businesses other than the four locations specified on the VGFS website. In order to remove any uncertainty about the scope on intake of human remains at VGFS, we request that language be added to the permit identifying the following locations as the only VGFS entities which may divert cremation business to the VGFS York Road location, and only for business originating at those locations:

- 8728 Liberty Road, Randallstown, Maryland 21133
- 5151 Baltimore National Pike, Baltimore, Maryland 21229

² Fort Lincoln Funeral Home & Crematory, Permit-to-Operate No. 033-0478, one human crematory installed June 1973; Smithsburg Crematory, Permit-to-Operate No. 043-0224, one human crematory installed June 1978; Baltimore-Washington Crematory LLC, Permit-to-Operate No. 033-1359, one human crematory installed 1983; Chambers Funeral Home & Crematorium, P.A., Permit-to-Operate No. 033-1338, two human crematories installed June 1983; Hunt Crematory, Permit-to-Operate No. 017-0059, one human crematory installed July 1983; Carroll Cremations, Inc., Permit-to-Operate No. 013-0126, one human crematory installed April 1984

- 4101 Edmondson Avenue Baltimore, Maryland 21229

(c) Request that the requirement to conduct an EPA Method 9 opacity observation be expanded to once per calendar quarter during normal crematory operations to ensure that there is ongoing assurance that the crematory is operating according to regulatory requirements. This routine surveillance is needed because all mechanical devices wear over time and periodic Method 9 observations can track and document any potential degradation.

(d) Request that the requirement to conduct stack emissions testing to demonstrate compliance with applicable PM and TAP requirements be a recurring requirement to occur once at startup, and then at least once during the 5-year term of the air permit. This routine surveillance is needed because all mechanical devices wear over time and periodic stack tests are needed to ensure compliance with applicable regulatory requirements throughout the operating lifetime of the equipment.

(e) There should be no option to submit surrogate stack tests as representative of stack emissions produced by the VGFS crematory incinerator. There is no evidence in scientific literature demonstrating that emission tests for one crematory incinerator are representative of another crematory incinerator. This would not be an acceptable regulatory practice for any other type of incinerator - it is not even an acceptable practice for vehicle emission inspections required in Maryland.

4. Page/Paragraph: Fact Sheet and Tentative Determination; Vaughn Greene Funeral Services, P.A.;
VI. Compliance Demonstration and Analysis

Comment: The opening paragraph of the Compliance Demonstration and Analysis states:

“The ***proposed installation must comply with all State imposed emissions limitations*** and screening levels, as well as the NAAQS. The Department has conducted an engineering and air quality review of the application. A detailed summary of methods used in analysis is included in the attached Appendix.”
[emphasis added]

The section then proceeds to review regulatory applicability or compliance for three topics, but fails to review whether the proposed crematory incinerator would be compliant the lone emission limit in COMAR governing PM emissions from crematory incinerators. This emission limit appears in COMAR 26.11.08.05.B.(2)(a) [Control of Incinerators]:

B. Requirements for Areas III and IV.

(2) Except as provided in Regulations .07, .08, and .08-2 of this chapter, a person may not cause or permit the discharge of particulate matter into the outdoor atmosphere from any incinerator, hazardous waste incinerator, or crematory to exceed the following limitations:

(a) Special medical waste incinerators burning less than 1 ton of refuse per hour and less than 8 tons of refuse per day and ***crematories, 0.10 grains per standard cubic foot dry 0.10 gr/SCFD*** (229mg/dscm);
[emphasis added]

Earlier in the first section of the Fact Sheet and Tentative Determination (I. Introduction), MDE asserted:

“Based on the above information, ***the Department has concluded that the proposed installation will comply with all applicable Federal and State air quality control requirements.*** In accordance with Section 1-604 of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, the Department has made a tentative determination to issue the Permit to Construct.” [emphasis added]

It is unclear how MDE could have arrived at its determination that the proposed crematory incinerator will comply with all applicable State air quality control requirements when it failed to include an analysis of compliance with the PM emission limit for crematory incinerators found in COMAR 26.11.08.05.B.(2)(a).

Suggested Resolution: Conduct an analysis of whether the proposed crematory incinerator will comply with all applicable requirements for the proposed source, including the PM emission limit for crematory incinerators that appears in COMAR 26.11.08.05.B.(2)(a). Since this regulation limits the concentration of PM in stack exhaust, the only way to determine compliance is with a quantitative evaluation of crematory stack emissions. Accordingly, MDE must obligate an U.S. EPA Method 5 stack test for the proposed crematory incinerator before it can render a determination on whether the equipment complies “with all State imposed emissions limitations”.

5. Page/Paragraph: Fact Sheet and Tentative Determination; Vaughn Greene Funeral Services, P.A.; Table I

Comment: As shown in Table I, MDE and the permit applicant use emission factors to estimate the annual weight of criteria air pollutants emitted by the crematory incinerator in order to determine whether those emissions meet regulatory thresholds. These criteria air pollutant emission factors are over 30 years old, and reflect air pollution produced by medical waste incinerators rather than human crematory incinerators. These factors are both unrepresentative and outdated. The factors are unrepresentative because they were obtained from stack emission tests for medical waste incinerators which are different in design, capacity and operation from crematory incinerators. In the reference for the emission factors (AP-42)³, the EPA describes medical waste incineration:

“Medical waste incineration involves the burning of wastes produced by hospitals, veterinary facilities, and medical research facilities. These wastes include both infectious (“red bag”) medical wastes as well as non-infectious, general housekeeping wastes. The emission factors presented here represent emissions when both types of these wastes are combusted rather than just infectious wastes.”

In contrast to the description of what goes into a medical waste incinerator, the only waste that should be submitted to a crematory is human remains and possibly a container holding the human remains. The emission factors are outdated based on the fact that the technology available during the late 1980's and early 1990's when stack tests occurred bears no resemblance to either current medical waste incinerator technology or crematory incinerator technology.

The fact that the EPA has not produced emission factors specifically for crematory incinerators, or recommends non-representative emission factors to characterize crematory incinerators does not absolve MDE of its regulatory responsibility to accurately assess whether a pollution source complies with the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR). At the time that EPA promulgated federal regulations and published emission estimating tools for a variety of incinerator classes, they declined to do so for crematory incinerators in part because they constituted a relatively small portion of the air pollution produced by incinerators in the U.S., and because

³ AP 42, Fifth Edition, Volume I Chapter 2: Solid Waste Disposal, Section 2.3 Medical Waste Disposal, July 1993

cremation was not widely employed in the early 1990's when the regulations and emission factors were published. In 1990, less than 20% of Americans who died were cremated. However in 2022, 52% of Marylanders chose cremation rather than burial according to the Maryland State Funeral Directors Association.⁴ This rise in demand is reflected in the proliferation of crematories, with air permits issued to over 80 human crematories in Maryland. To date, the regulatory compliance of air pollution emissions from all crematories in Maryland has been evaluated only with unrepresentative and outdated EPA emission factors which fail to properly characterize either the type or amount of air pollutants produced by a modern crematory incinerator.

Suggested Resolution: In the absence of up-to-date and representative emissions factors for crematory incinerators, MDE must obligate measurement of criteria air pollutants in crematory stack exhaust to determine compliance with applicable air quality regulations in COMAR. This measurement should be conducted using EPA-approved stack testing methods or continuous emission monitors. Further, due to the non-uniformity of human remains committed to cremation, differences in after death care prior to cremation, and variations in maintenance and operating practices, no substitution of stack test results from other crematories should be allowed.

Maryland does not allow emissions from a single make and model of automobile to represent the class for the Maryland Vehicle Emission Inspection Program. It requires every eligible vehicle to take an emission test every 2 years. Unlike crematory incinerators, vehicles sold in the U.S. must be equipped with a catalytic converter to reduce combustion emissions and still there is no surrogate testing allowed for motor vehicles. Further, human remains can contain imbedded cosmetic implants, medical devices, chemotherapeutic and cytotoxic drugs, and embalming chemicals which can produce combustion emissions with far greater toxicity than automobile exhaust. In the absence of any evidence-based foundation on the emissions associated with modern cremation practices, MDE must require periodic stack tests for crematory incinerators in order to ensure compliance with applicable regulatory requirements.

6. Page/Paragraph: Fact Sheet and Tentative Determination; Vaughn Greene Funeral Services, P.A.; Table III

Comment: The list of TAPs shown in Table III that MDE associates with the operation of a crematory incinerator is based on outdated crematory stack test reports of equipment that bears no resemblance to the model of the proposed crematory (Matthews Environmental Solutions Power-Pak II Plus). MDE uses this list along with associated emission factors to estimate TAP emissions from the proposed crematory incinerator. The reference MDE cites for most of the crematory TAP emission factors is a California Air Resources Board (CARB) report published in 1999.⁵ This report indicates that the emission factors were taken from a single stack test of a crematory, sometime prior to 1999, and rates the quality of the emission factors:

"Test was performed using a new or old CARB methodology and insufficient documentation was provided to validate the results."

This indicates that CARB has low confidence in these emission factors due the absence of sufficient reference material to verify the integrity of the stack test. Two other emission factors in Table III (acetaldehyde and

⁴ Maryland State Funeral Directors Association, Inc. in testimony to the Maryland Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee on Senate Bill 893, February 27, 2024

⁵ California Air Resources Board. 1999. Development of Toxic Emissions Factors from Source Test Data Collected Under the Air Toxics Hot Spots Program, Part II, Volume I. Prepared by GE Energy and Environmental Research Corporation.

formaldehyde) were taken from a separate reference where the crematory stack test was performed in 1992.⁶ Interestingly, the only emission factor MDE cites with a recent derivation (2021) is for mercury, in which the value of the emission factor has been reduced to less than half the value of crematory mercury emission factors recommended by the EPA and the California Toxics Emission Factor Database.⁷

The Table III list of TAPs that MDE relies on fails to address metal emissions that are known to exist in present-day crematory incinerator emissions due to the presence of medical devices and cosmetic implants in human remains. Given the age of the Table III emission factors, it is unlikely that stack tests conducted 30 and 40 years ago were performed on human remains with imbedded medical devices or cosmetic implants which were not used widely at the time the stack tests were conducted. Examples of typical present-day imbedded medical or cosmetic devices are shown in the Table 1. These items contain plastics, metals, chemicals and drugs that would not have been present in human remains used in the crematory incinerator emission characterizations performed in the 1990's. The U.S. Geological Service has compiled a list of metals and minerals present in modern medical devices (see Table 2),⁸ many of which do not appear on MDE's Table III list of TAPs associated with crematory emissions.

Table 1. Medical Devices and Synthetic Materials Implanted in the Human Body

Aneurysm clip	Intraocular lenses	Prosthetic device
Body piercing jewelry	Infusion pump	Radiation seeds
Bone/joint pin screw, nail, wire, plate	Internal electrodes or wires	Silicone implant
Bone growth/bone fusion stimulator	IUD, diaphragm or pessary	Spinal cord stimulator
Cardiac pacemaker	Joint replacement	Stent, filter or coil
Cardioverter	Left ventricular assist device	Spinal or intraventricular shunt
Cerebral shunt	Magnetic eyelashes	Surgical staples, clips or metallic sutures
Cochlear implant	Magnetically activated implant	Thermodilution catheter
Dental implant	Mechanical heart valve	Tissue expander
Dentures or partial plates	Mediport	Vascular access port or catheter
Dermal piercings	Medication patch (nitroglycerin, nicotine)	Wire mesh implant
Defibrillator	Metallic fragments from an accident	
Drug infusion device	Neurostimulator	

Table 2. Metals and Minerals Present in Medical Implants

Aluminum	Gold	Lithium	Nickel	Tantalum
Chromium	Iridium	Magnesium	Platinum	Titanium
Cobalt	Iron	Molybdenite	Silver	Zirconium

⁶ Emissions Testing of a Propane Fired Incinerator at a Crematorium. October 29, 1992. (Confidential Report No. ERC-39)

⁷ Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Engineering Division – Addendum to Mercury Emissions from Cremation of Human Remains, August 3, 2021

⁸ U.S. Geological Service, Metals and Minerals in Medical Implants, March 15, 2021, <https://www.usgs.gov/media/images/metals-and-minerals-medical-implants>

The presence of metals in crematory incinerator ash has led to the creation of an industry known as "cremation metal recycling", whereby crematory operators turn over post-cremation material to scrap recyclers who extract metals from it and pay a fee back to the operators. These metals include cobalt, nickel, titanium, silver, gold, platinum, palladium – all originating from bodily implants. Crematory operators who participate in cremation recycling get a laboratory analysis of the type and quantity of metals in their post-cremation material that is used to determine compensation. Metal recyclers report that [hundreds of crematories in North America recycle post-cremation metals](#) and earn thousands of dollars. As an example, [Garfield Refining](#) reports that a single collection barrel containing post-cremation remains yielded metals worth more than \$13,000 (see Figure 2). The important takeaway is that if there are metals in the post-cremation remains – metals are also present in the crematory incinerator combustion exhaust released to the outdoor air – and historic emission factors used by MDE do not reflect any of these toxic emissions.

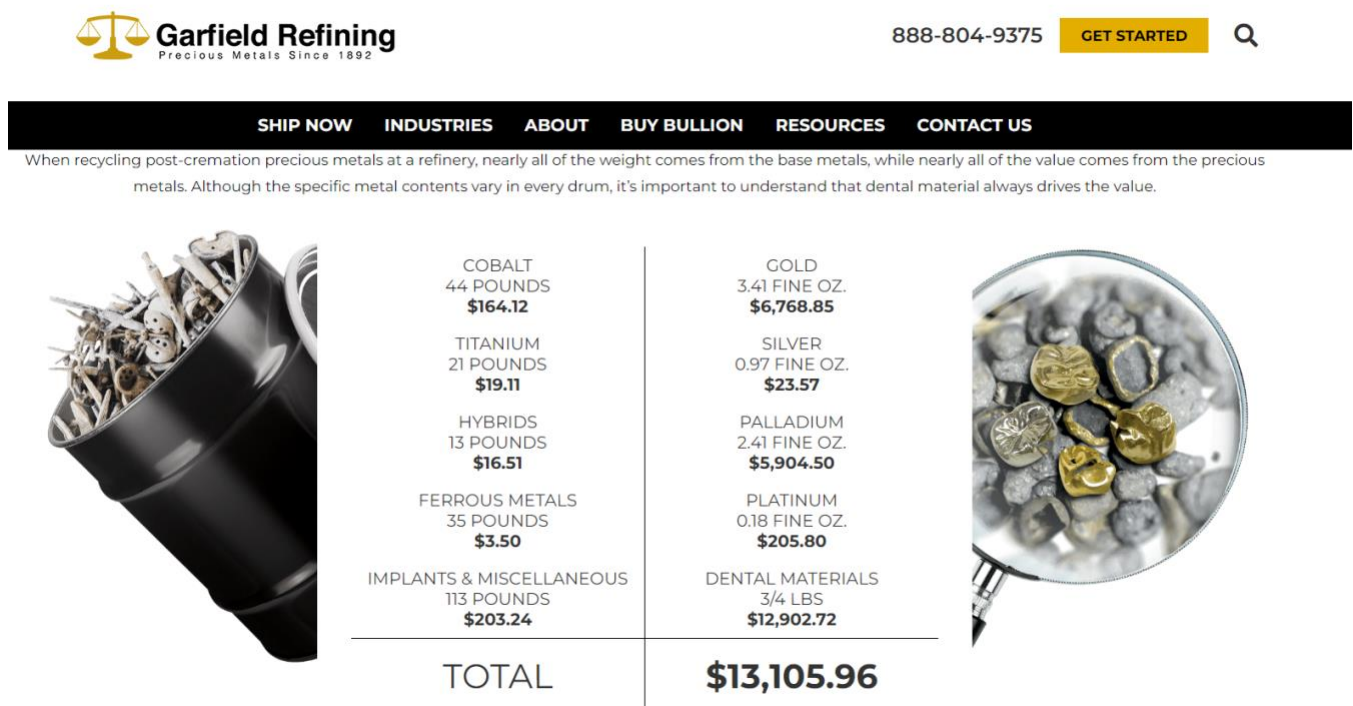


Figure 2. Value of Metal Recovered from Recycling of Post-Cremation Materials

Discussions with MDE representatives in August 2024 revealed that they were unaware of the "cremation metal recycling" industry, and had no visibility on whether crematory incinerator owners in Maryland were engaging in this practice. Crematories that do engage in this practice will have scientific evidence (via the laboratory analyses used to determine compensation) of the presence of metals in post-cremation remains. These analyses will show the type of metals present and can inform whether the MDE-preferred emission factors are accurately accounting for the metals released in crematory emissions. Although the draft Permit-to-Construct contains a requirement to perform a stack test for metal emissions, the target analytes of the test method (Method 29) do not include many of the metals known to be present in implanted medical devices such as aluminum, gold,

iridium, iron, lithium, magnesium, molybdenite, platinum, palladium, tantalum, titanium, and zirconium.⁹ One way to know if such metals are present in the human remains provided for cremation is through the analysis of the post-cremation remains.

The fact that EPA has not produced TAP emission factors specifically for crematory incinerators, or recommends non-representative emission factors to characterize crematory incinerators does not absolve MDE of its regulatory responsibility to accurately assess whether TAP emissions comply with COMAR. To date, the regulatory compliance of TAP emissions from crematories operating in Maryland has been evaluated only with an arithmetic calculation using the unrepresentative and outdated emission factors described above.

Suggested Resolution:

- a. In the absence of up-to-date and representative TAP emissions factors for crematory incinerators, MDE must obligate measurement of TAPs in crematory stack exhaust to determine compliance with applicable air quality regulations in COMAR. This measurement should be conducted using EPA-approved stack testing methods and include all of the metals identified in Table 2. Further, due to the non-uniformity of human remains committed to cremation, differences in after death care prior to cremation, and variations in maintenance and operating practices, no substitution of stack test results from other crematories should be allowed. Maryland does not allow emissions from a single make and model of automobile to represent the class for the Maryland Vehicle Emission Inspection Program. It requires every eligible vehicle to take an emission test every two years. In the absence of any evidence-based foundation on the emissions associated with modern cremation practices, MDE must require periodic stack tests for crematory incinerators in order to ensure compliance with applicable regulatory requirements.
- b. Crematory incinerator owners operating in Maryland with an MDE-issued air permit-to-operate should be formally queried by MDE about whether they send post-cremation remains for metal recycling. Owners who participate in this practice should provide MDE with copies of the chemical analyses of post-cremation remains in order to identify metals that are released in the cremation process. The presence of metals in the post-cremation remains should be compared to MDE-recommended air pollutant emission factors in order to determine whether these factors properly reflect the type and magnitude of metals present in crematory incinerator exhaust. Chemical analyses of post-cremation remains should be submitted with the annual emission certifications required of crematory owners with an MDE air permit-to-operate to the extent that they constitute regulated emissions.

7. Page/Paragraph: Fact Sheet and Tentative Determination; Vaughn Greene Funeral Services, P.A.; Table III

Comment: In March 2024 testimony to the Maryland Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee regarding Senate Bill 893, a Maryland funeral home owner cited a report prepared by the Cremation Association of North America (CANA) describing materials that are found in post-cremation remains (see Figure 3).¹⁰ This report validated that metal objects are present in post-cremation remains such as: joint replacements, dental fillings, casket handles, and jewelry.

⁹ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Air Emission Measurement Center, Method 29 – Metal Emissions from Stationary Sources. Standard analytes include: Antimony, Arsenic, Barium, Beryllium, Cadmium, Chromium, Cobalt, Copper, Lead, Manganese, Mercury, Nickel, Phosphorus, Selenium, Silver, Thallium, and Zinc

¹⁰ Robert A. Pumphrey Funeral Home, in testimony to the Maryland Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee on Senate Bill 893, February 23, 2024

WHAT IS IN THE CREMATED REMAINS?

The bone fragments that remain in the primary chamber are mostly calcium phosphates, with some other minor minerals. Cremated remains are generally white to gray in color. Additionally, there may be pieces of metal in the cremated remains – this metal may come from surgical implants like hip replacements, dental fillings, casket handles, or jewelry that was not removed prior to cremation. The metal is separated from the cremated remains before they are processed (pulverized). The metal is typically recycled

Figure 3. Cremation Association of North America report on “What is in the Cremated Remains?”

Responding to testimony on Senate Bill 893, MDE published and circulated a set of replies to testimony offered to the Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee (see Attachment 2).¹¹ One of the topics MDE addressed was the American Medical Association estimate that 10% of U.S. adults will have an implanted medical device in their lifetime,¹² and the CANA report asserting that metal objects are present in post-cremation remains.⁹ MDE contested the presence of metal objects in post-cremation remains citing Maryland Department of Labor (DOL) and Department of Health (DOH) regulatory prohibitions as evidence that metal devices such as those described in the CANA report could not be present in human remains cremated in Maryland. The DOL regulations of interest appear at COMAR 09.34.08.02; the DOH regulations of interest appear in COMAR 10.29.19.02 and are reproduced below. It appears that MDE has misinterpreted the DOH and DOL regulations. According to COMAR, the only implanted devices that are prohibited from being present during cremation of human remains are devices with a battery. Removal of other types of implanted devices is not mandatory, and is entirely at the discretion of the individual managing the cremation (see emphasis below). Given the discretion that both the DOH and DOL regulations provide to individual crematory operators about what constitutes a hazardous object and whether it should be removed prior to cremation, there is no certainty about whether implanted medical or cosmetic devices are removed prior to cremation.

COMAR 10.29.19 Crematories — Cremation Procedures

.02.A.(2) [Upon receipt of human remains, a permit holder in the presence of the authorizing agent or representative of the funeral establishment engaging crematory services shall:] **Use a metal detector wand to inspect for the presence of any battery operated, implanted devices including pacemakers, defibrillators, or pain relief devices**

.02.A.(3) [Upon receipt of human remains, a permit holder in the presence of the authorizing agent or representative of the funeral establishment engaging crematory services shall:] **Refuse to accept human remains for cremation if an inspection of the human remains indicates the presence of any battery operated, implanted device**

.02.A.(4) [Upon receipt of human remains, a permit holder in the presence of the authorizing agent or representative of the funeral establishment engaging crematory services shall:] **Remove and properly dispose of any hazardous object or any other materials that the individual authorized under this**

¹¹ Maryland Department of the Environment, *MDE FAQ Sheet – Crematories*, sent to Senator Mary Washington on March 10, 2024

¹² American Medical Association Journal of Ethics, *Implantable Material and Device Regulation*, Volume 23, Number 9: E667-756, September 2021. <https://journalofethics.ama-assn.org/issue/implantable-material-and-device-regulation>

subtitle deems should be removed from the human remains or cremation container in order to prevent harm to the public health or damage to the cremator

.02.A.(5) [Upon receipt of human remains, a permit holder in the presence of the authorizing agent or representative of the funeral establishment engaging crematory services shall:] Remove any jewelry on the human remains or in the cremation container

- c. Suggested Resolution: Given the financial incentives to extract metal from post-cremation remains, and the discretion afforded to crematory operators in the DOL and DOH regulations, crematory owners/operators in Maryland are eligible to conduct cremation metal recycling. Those owners/operators in Maryland with an MDE-issued air permit-to-operate should be formally queried by MDE about whether they send post-cremation remains for metal recycling. Owners who participate in this practice should provide MDE with copies of the chemical analyses of post-cremation remains in order to identify metals that are released in the cremation process. The presence of metals in the post-cremation remains should be compared to MDE-recommended air pollutant emission factors in order to determine whether these factors properly reflect the type and magnitude of metals present in crematory incinerator exhaust. Chemical analyses of post-cremation remains should be submitted with the annual emission certifications required of crematory owners with an MDE air permit-to-operate to the extent that they constitute regulated emissions.

8. Page/Paragraph: Fact Sheet and Tentative Determination, Table I, Table III, Appendix

Comment:

- a. We were not able to reproduce the daily or annual emission rates for criteria pollutants shown in Table I, or the hourly emission rates for TAPs shown in Table III.
- b. As shown in the *Emissions Methodology for Table I*, the total maximum heat input rate used to estimate criteria pollutant emissions for the crematory burners was reported as 2.2 million Btu per hour. However, the specification sheet and design schematic for the proposed crematory incinerator (as shown in the permit application) reported the Gross Gas Input, Natural or LP Gas = 3,000,000 BTU/hr. See *SPECIFICATIONS-Model Power-Pak II Plus*, and *POWER-PAK II PLU.S.-Stack Details, Clearances, & Installation Instructions. Refractory Stack Detail*. It appears that the higher heat input (3,000,000 BTU/hr) rate should have been used to estimate criteria pollutant emissions from the crematory incinerator natural gas burners

Suggested Resolution:

- a. Provide example calculations for how the criteria and TAP emission rates were derived. Include all relevant units and conversion factors used in the calculation.
- b. Resolve and explain the discrepancy in the crematory heat input. Revise emission estimates as necessary if the higher heat input is correct. If the specification and design schematic submitted in the permit application are out-of-date, obtain an up-to-date specification sheet and design schematic from the manufacturer. Provide all updated specification sheets and schematics in the public record.

9. Page/Paragraph: Permit-to-Construct Conditions, Permit No. 510-3791-1-0478, Part B – Applicable Regulations

Comment: Part B enumerates certain federal and state regulations that constitute “Applicable Requirements” for the proposed crematory incinerator. The regulations cited in this section are COMAR Title 26 environmental

regulations only, and do not include Maryland DOH regulations which also pertain to the operation of crematories in Maryland. Several COMAR Title 10 health regulations have direct bearing on the management of air pollutant emissions created by a crematory incinerator, and should be identified in the air permit-to-operate as applicable requirements to ensure awareness and compliance for the crematory owner and operators.

Suggested Resolution: Incorporate by reference, with summarization similar to the COMAR Title 26 regulations that appear in Part B, all DOH regulations that may affect the operation or pollution output of the crematory incinerator. These regulations include (but are not limited to):

COMAR 10.29.18 Crematories — Inspections, Complaints, Investigations, Grounds for Discipline, and Penalties

.02.D.(21) All individuals who operate the cremator in a crematory shall be certified by the Cremation Association of North America (CANA), International Cemetery, Cremation and Funeral Association (ICCF), or other equivalent certification recognized jointly by the Board and the Office. Individuals receiving training toward certification to operate a cremator shall be allowed to work under the supervision of a registered crematory operator who has the required certification for a period not to exceed 6 months.

COMAR 10.29.19 Crematories — Cremation Procedures

.02.A.(2) [Upon receipt of human remains, a permit holder in the presence of the authorizing agent or representative of the funeral establishment engaging crematory services shall:] Use a metal detector wand to inspect for the presence of any battery operated, implanted devices including pacemakers, defibrillators, or pain relief devices

.02.A.(3) [Upon receipt of human remains, a permit holder in the presence of the authorizing agent or representative of the funeral establishment engaging crematory services shall:] Refuse to accept human remains for cremation if an inspection of the human remains indicates the presence of any battery operated, implanted device

.02.A.(4) [Upon receipt of human remains, a permit holder in the presence of the authorizing agent or representative of the funeral establishment engaging crematory services shall:] Remove and properly dispose of any hazardous object or any other materials that the individual authorized under this subtitle deems should be removed from the human remains or cremation container in order to prevent harm to the public health or damage to the cremator

.02.A.(5) [Upon receipt of human remains, a permit holder in the presence of the authorizing agent or representative of the funeral establishment engaging crematory services shall:] Remove any jewelry on the human remains or in the cremation container

.03.A. [A cremation container:] Shall be a readily combustible, rigid container suitable for cremation

.03.G. [A cremation container:] May not be composed of metal or polyethylene material

Comment: This paragraph recites the lone emission limit pertaining to crematory incinerators in Maryland. This regulation limits PM emissions and appears in COMAR 26.11.08.05.B.(2)(a) [**Control of Incinerators**]:

B. Requirements for Areas III and IV.

(2) Except as provided in Regulations .07, .08, and .08-2 of this chapter, a person may not cause or permit the discharge of particulate matter into the outdoor atmosphere from any incinerator, hazardous waste incinerator, or crematory to exceed the following limitations:

(a) Special medical waste incinerators burning less than 1 ton of refuse per hour and less than 8 tons of refuse per day and crematories, 0.10 grains per standard cubic foot dry 0.10 gr/SCFD (229mg/dscm);

This regulation appears to have been promulgated in 1991 (or possibly earlier) and regulates only total PM. By 1991, the U.S. EPA realized that the federal ambient air quality standard for PM was insufficiently protective of human health and began to promulgate [new standards for PM](#) that reflected a smaller respirable fraction of PM known to be most deleterious to human health.¹³ In 1987, the U.S. EPA changed the existing PM standard to a standard for particles with an aerodynamic diameter of 10 micrometers or less, known as PM₁₀, and abandoned the standard for total PM. In 1997, the U.S. EPA again adjusted the national ambient air quality standard for particles to control for even smaller particles with an aerodynamic diameter of 2.5 micrometers or less, known as PM_{2.5}. In 2006, 2012, 2020, and 2024, the U.S. EPA revised (lowered) the PM_{2.5} standard based on scientific and medical evidence finding that the magnitude of the standard was insufficiently protective of human health.

In the 30+ years that MDE has had a PM emission limit for crematory incinerators – it has never been updated to reflect the current state of scientific and medical knowledge recognizing that PM_{2.5} is the respirable fraction of total PM that is casually implicated in respiratory disease, cardiovascular disease, neurodegeneration and cognitive decline, lung cancer and early mortality.¹⁴ Further, the magnitude of the crematory incinerator emission limit has never changed. Based on changes to scientific and medical evidence since 1991, the COMAR particulate matter emission limit for crematory incinerators is out of date and insufficiently protective of the human health.

Suggested Resolution: Revise and update the existing COMAR particulate matter emission limit for crematory incinerators to reflect the current state of scientific and medical evidence pertaining to the thresholds and subfractions of airborne particulate matter impacting human health. Ensure that an updated particulate matter emission limit is cited in all MDE permits-to-operate for crematories operating in Maryland.

11. Page/Paragraph: Permit-to-Construct Conditions, Permit No. 510-3791-1-0478, Part C – Construction Conditions, paragraph (5)

Comment: The intent of this condition is unclear. Will the “control system” associated with the crematory opacity sensor be able to terminate crematory operation if stack gas opacity exceeds the MDE emission limit, or does the “control system” merely adjust the air/fuel ratio in the refractory to optimize combustion? The paragraph states:

¹³ U.S. EPA, Timeline of Particulate Matter (PM) National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), History of the NAAQS for Particulate Matter from 1971 to 2024. <https://www.epa.gov/pm-pollution/timeline-particulate-matter-pm-national-ambient-air-quality-standards-naaqs>

¹⁴ EPA/600/R-22/028, Supplement to the 2019 Integrated Science Assessment for Particulate Matter, May 2022

“The crematory shall be equipped with an opacity sensor interlocked with a control system that continuously monitors the stack gases for visible emissions during operation and adjusts cremation operations to prevent visible emissions from exiting the crematory stack.”

Suggested Resolution: Clarify language of this paragraph to reflect the exactly how the opacity sensor is expected to affects crematory operation, and whether there will be an automated shutdown if opacity of stack exhaust exceeds the regulatory limit.

12. Page/Paragraph: Permit-to-Construct Conditions, Permit No. 510-3791-1-0478, Part D – Operating and Monitoring Conditions, paragraph (2)(b)

Comment: This condition defines the operating schedule for the crematory and states:

“The Permittee shall not cremate more than 2 human remains during any 8-hour period.”

As written, this permit condition allows for the cremation of up to 6 human remains in a 24-hour period (or up to 2,190 human cremations/year), with no limits on the timing of the cremation during a day or during a week. Under this scenario, nearby residents could be exposed to crematory exhaust at all hours of the day and night, with no respite, and with no interval of time in which they could feel safe from crematory exhaust wafting into their open windows, front porches or backyards.

In contrast, the crematory operating schedule proposed by the crematory owner in the permit application was for 12 hours/day, and 6 days/week. This operating schedule appears to meet the needs of the applicant and with slight modifications could provide some protection and certainty to the families living within 200 feet of the crematory regarding when the outdoor air would be free from cremation combustion exhaust and associated toxic air pollutants.

Suggested Resolution: Define the crematory operating schedule as shown below in order to provide nearby residents with fixed intervals of respite from crematory exhaust:

Crematory operations shall be permitted up to 12 hours/day between the hours of 6:00AM to 6:00PM, and up to 5 days/week between Monday through Friday. During this interval, the Permittee shall not cremate more than 3 human remains during any 12-hour period.

13. Page/Paragraph: Permit-to-Construct Conditions, Permit No. 510-3791-1-0478, Part D – Operating and Monitoring Conditions, paragraph (2)(d)

Comment: This condition defines waste materials that are prohibited from being processed in the crematory incinerator and states:

“The Permittee shall not combust any hazardous waste, or hospital, medical, and infectious waste as defined in COMAR 26.11.08.01B(18).”

However, the regulatory citation provided does not define hazardous waste, or hospital, medical, and infectious waste. There is a definition for hospital waste at COMAR 26.11.08.01B(19), but there are no definitions for hazardous waste, medical waste or infectious waste in the MDE **Control of Incinerators** regulation (COMAR

26.11.08). Further, we believe that municipal waste (Incinerator Institute of America - Type 0 waste)¹⁵ should be added to the list of materials prohibited from being processed in the crematory, along with a relevant COMAR regulatory citation to define the term.

Suggested Resolution: Determine proper COMAR regulatory citations defining hazardous waste, hospital waste, medical waste, infectious waste and municipal waste. Revise the permit condition to cite each of these wastes as prohibited from being processed in the crematory incinerator and provide a regulatory citation to define each term.

14. Page/Paragraph: Permit-to-Construct Conditions, Permit No. 510-3791-1-0478, Part D – Operating and Monitoring Conditions, paragraph (6)

Comment: This paragraph is intended to capture the obligations imposed on the crematory incinerator as directed by the Baltimore City Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals. The condition specified in paragraph (6)(a) pertains to limits on the source of human remains that may be processed in the crematory incinerator at 4905 York Road. As described earlier in our comments, we believe that the language in this paragraph is insufficient to limit intake to only those facilities currently owned and operated or controlled by VGFS since the terms "owned", "operated" and "controlled" are not defined in the permit and could be interpreted in ways that allow VGFS to operate as a third-party cremation service for businesses other than the four locations specified on the VGFS website.

Additional concerns regarding specificity of business entities that may divert cremation demand to the York Road crematory pertain to the recent uptick in private equity firms purchasing and consolidating funeral homes throughout the United States, including in Maryland. We are aware of several former independently-owned funeral homes with crematories in Maryland that have been sold to out-of-state investor groups.¹⁶ If VGFS were to sell part or all of their business to such an entity, then potentially any funeral home within the legal ambit of the ownership group might be able to claim a right to divert cremation business to the crematory incinerator at 4905 York Road.

Suggested Resolution: In order to remove any uncertainty about the scope on origin of human remains processed at VGFS 4905 York Road location, we request that language be added to the permit identifying the following locations as the only VGFS entities which may divert cremation business to the VGFS York Road location, and only for business originating at those locations:

- 8728 Liberty Road, Randallstown, Maryland 21133
- 5151 Baltimore National Pike, Baltimore, Maryland 21229
- 4101 Edmondson Avenue Baltimore, Maryland 21229

15. Page/Paragraph: Permit-to-Construct Conditions, Permit No. 510-3791-1-0478, Part E – Notification and Testing Requirements, paragraph (2)

¹⁵ Industrial Waste Incinerator, Waste classifications defined. <https://www.pcc-group.com/products/industrial-waste-incinerator/>

¹⁶ Chesapeake Crematory, Beltsville MD; Simplicity Crematory LLC, Glen Burnie, MD;

Comment: This condition obligates the Permittee to conduct a U.S. EPA Method 9 opacity observation of the crematory incinerator at start-up. We agree that it is important to have some formal quantitation of the crematory stack exhaust to ensure that it meets the MDE opacity limit for Baltimore City (0%). However, due to the mechanical wear and fatigue that high temperature incinerators experience over time, it is essential to have ongoing, periodic Method 9 observations that track and document any potential degradation to the crematory incinerator performance throughout its operating lifetime.

Suggested Resolution: We request that the requirement to conduct an EPA Method 9 opacity observation be expanded to once per calendar quarter during normal crematory operations to ensure that there is ongoing assurance that the crematory is operating according to regulatory requirements.

16. Page/Paragraph: Permit-to-Construct Conditions, Permit No. 510-3791-1-0478, Part E – Notification and Testing Requirements, paragraph (3)

Comment:

- a. This condition obligates the Permittee to conduct a U.S. EPA Method 5 (Particulate Matter) and a Method 29 (Metals) stack test on the crematory incinerator at start-up. We agree that it is important to have formal quantitation of the stack exhaust since there would be no other way to know whether the emissions meet the MDE PM limit for crematories, or the type and magnitude of TAPs emitted from the crematory incinerator. However, due to the mechanical wear and fatigue that high temperature incinerators experience over time, it is essential to have periodic stack tests to track and document any potential degradation to the crematory incinerator performance throughout its operating lifetime, and to ensure ongoing compliance with the MDE PM emission limit and TAP regulations.
- b. Paragraph (3) states:

“Within 120 days after initial startup, the Permittee shall conduct performance tests on the crematory stack to determine emissions of particulate matter (as PM-10) using EPA Method 5 and emissions of metals using EPA Method 29.”

It appears that this condition is asking the for the stack test to report (only) the PM10 fraction of particulate matter – when the MDE emission limit for crematory incinerators is for total PM. The language of this condition should be revised and clarified to ensure that stack test results are comparable to the MDE PM emission limit for crematory incinerators. It would also be instructive to have speciation of the stack exhaust for both PM10 and PM2.5 since there is a paucity of quantitative data on crematory incinerator emissions in scientific literature, and this would also enable a quantitative assessment of annual emissions of PM pollutants for the annual emissions certification.

Suggested Resolution:

- a. Revise the requirement to conduct stack emissions testing to demonstrate compliance with applicable PM and TAP regulations be a recurring requirement occurring once at startup, and then at least once during the 5-year term of the permit-to-operate.
- b. Clarify the reportable fractions of the Method 5 stack test to include total PM, PM10 and PM2.5.

Comments by York Road Partnership on the Vaughn Greene Funeral Services, P.A. Permit-to-Construct,
Permit No. 510-3791-1-0478

17. Page/Paragraph: Permit-to-Construct Conditions, Permit No. 510-3791-1-0478, Part E - Notification and Testing Requirements, paragraph (3)(c)

Comment: This condition allows the requirement to conduct a stack emission test for PM and metal TAPs to be waived if the Applicant can provide recent stack test results from an identical crematory. There should be no option to submit surrogate stack tests as representative of stack emissions produced by the VGFS crematory incinerator. There is no evidence in scientific literature demonstrating that emission tests for one crematory incinerator are representative of another crematory incinerator. This would not be an acceptable regulatory practice for any other type of incinerator - it is not even an acceptable practice for vehicle emission inspections required in Maryland.

Suggested Resolution: Delete Part E - Notification and Testing Requirements, paragraph (3)(c), and do not allow substitution of stack test results from other crematories to demonstrate compliance with applicable regulations for the VGFS crematory incinerator.

18. Page/Paragraph: Permit-to-Construct Conditions, Permit No. 510-3791-1-0478, Part F – Recordkeeping and Reporting, Paragraph (1)(b)(v)

Comment: This paragraph obligates recordkeeping to identify materials removed prior to cremation in compliance with BMZA conditions. This paragraph should also require similar documentation of materials removed to demonstrate compliance with DOH regulations: COMAR 10.29.19.02.A.(2), (3), (4) and (5).

Suggested Resolution: Modify permit language to obligate documentation and recordkeeping of materials removed prior to cremation for those materials regulated by COMAR 10.29.19.02.A.(2), (3), (4) and (5).



EJScreen Community Report

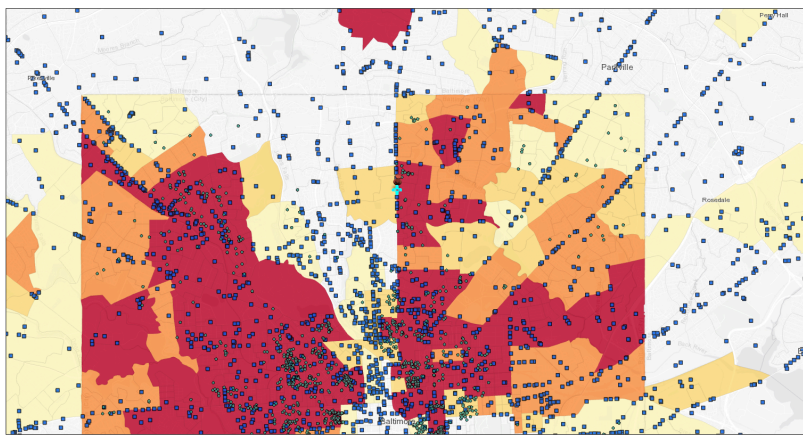
This report provides environmental and socioeconomic information for user-defined areas, and combines that data into environmental justice and supplemental indexes.

Vaughn Greene Funeral Services

0.25 miles Ring Centered at 39.348211,-76.609585

Population: 2,196

Area in square miles: 0.20

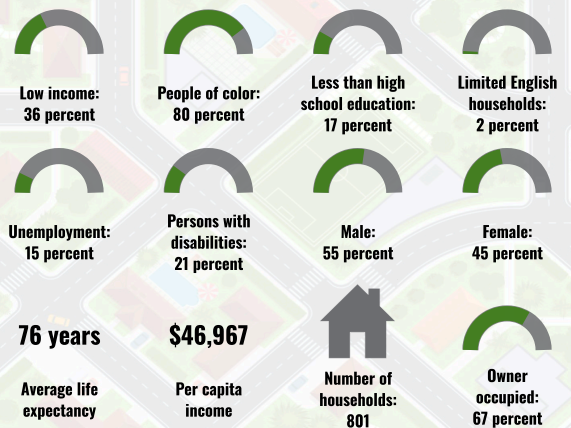


September 2, 2024
Vaughn Greene Funeral Services
Search Result (point)
Public Housing
Air pollution
Current Asthma
80 - 90 percentile
90 - 95 percentile
95 - 100 percentile
Less than 50 percentile
50 - 80 percentile
0 0.5 1 2 4 mi
1.72,224
EPA GIS, DEU, ERI, HHS, City of Baltimore, Baltimore County Government, VTA, Ben, HHS, DEU, EPA

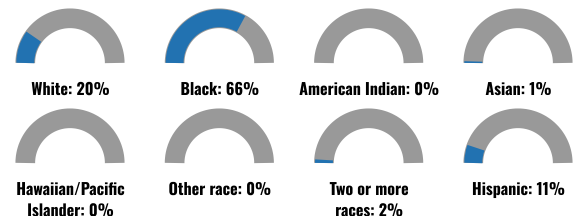
LANGUAGES SPOKEN AT HOME

LANGUAGE	PERCENT
English	89%
Spanish	5%
Russian, Polish, or Other Slavic	1%
Other Indo-European	1%
Other Asian and Pacific Island	1%
Other and Unspecified	2%
Total Non-English	11%

COMMUNITY INFORMATION



BREAKDOWN BY RACE



BREAKDOWN BY AGE



LIMITED ENGLISH SPEAKING BREAKDOWN



Notes: Numbers may not sum to totals due to rounding. Hispanic population can be of any race. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2018-2022. Life expectancy data comes from the Centers for Disease Control.

Report for 0.25 miles Ring Centered at 39.348211,-76.609585

Report produced September 2, 2024 using EJScreen Version 2.3

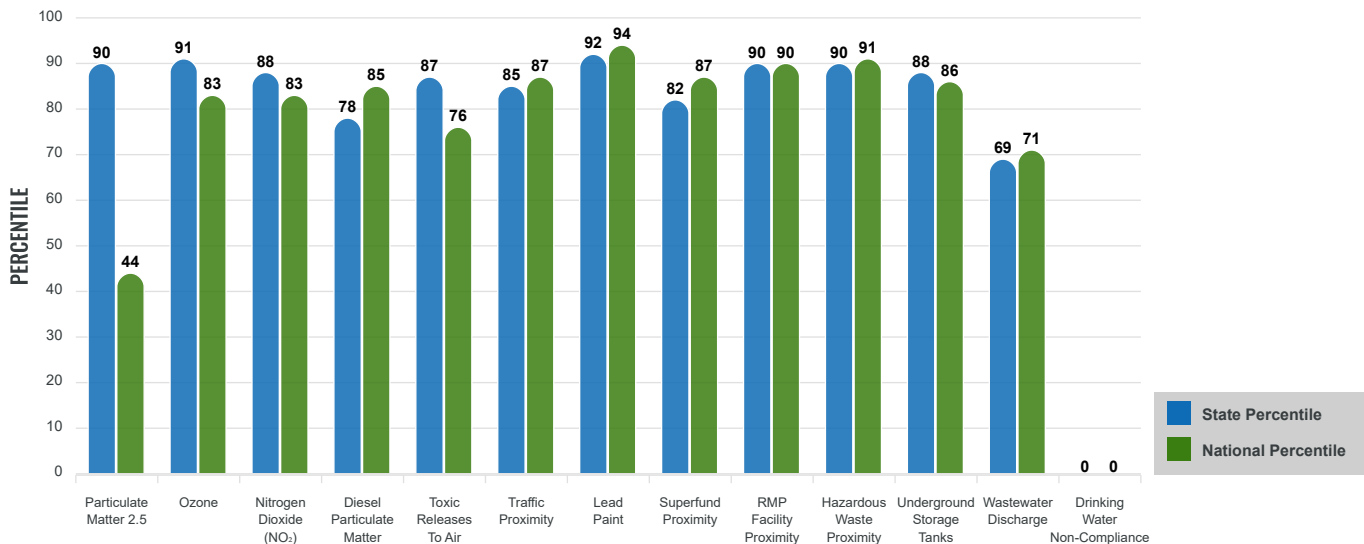
Environmental Justice & Supplemental Indexes

The environmental justice and supplemental indexes are a combination of environmental and socioeconomic information. There are thirteen EJ indexes and supplemental indexes in EJScreen reflecting the 13 environmental indicators. The indexes for a selected area are compared to those for all other locations in the state or nation. For more information and calculation details on the EJ and supplemental indexes, please visit the [EJScreen website](#).

EJ INDEXES

The EJ indexes help users screen for potential EJ concerns. To do this, the EJ index combines data on low income and people of color populations with a single environmental indicator.

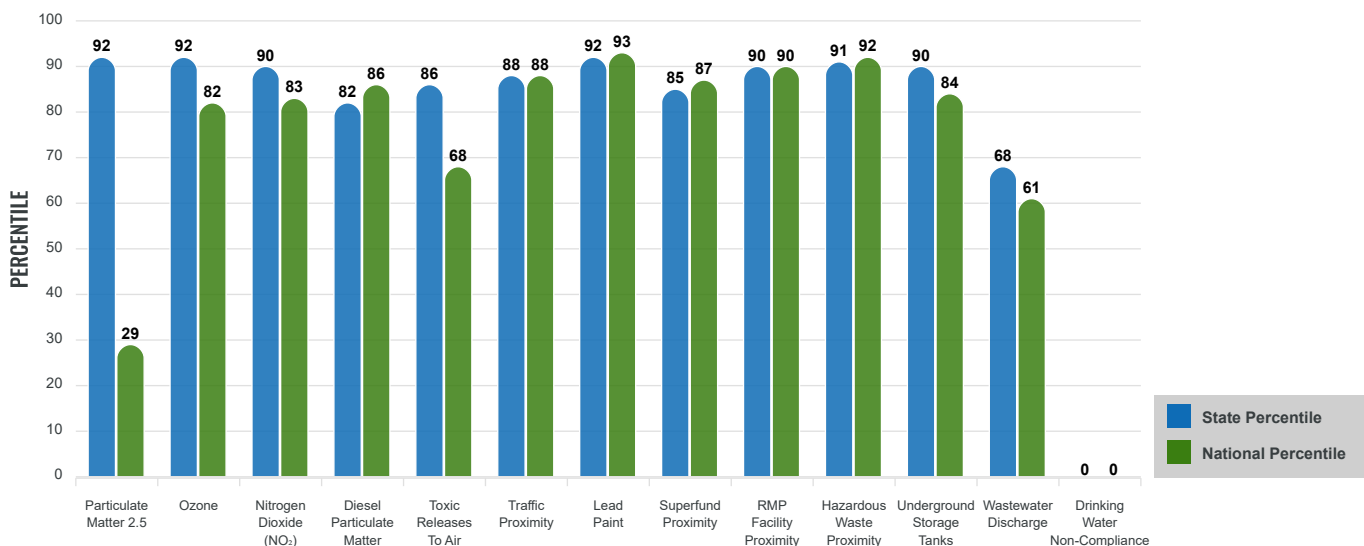
EJ INDEXES FOR THE SELECTED LOCATION



SUPPLEMENTAL INDEXES

The supplemental indexes offer a different perspective on community-level vulnerability. They combine data on percent low income, percent persons with disabilities, percent less than high school education, percent limited English speaking, and percent low life expectancy with a single environmental indicator.

SUPPLEMENTAL INDEXES FOR THE SELECTED LOCATION



Report for 0.25 miles Ring Centered at 39.348211,-76.609585

Report produced September 2, 2024 using EJScreen Version 2.3

EJScreen Environmental and Socioeconomic Indicators Data

SELECTED VARIABLES	VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	PERCENTILE IN STATE	USA AVERAGE	PERCENTILE IN USA
ENVIRONMENTAL BURDEN INDICATORS					
Particulate Matter 2.5 ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	7.04	6.81	73	8.45	19
Ozone (ppb)	62.9	60.3	89	61.8	62
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO ₂) (ppbv)	9.7	7.3	84	7.8	71
Diesel Particulate Matter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	0.241	0.208	61	0.191	74
Toxic Releases to Air (toxicity-weighted concentration)	540	430	72	4,600	47
Traffic Proximity (daily traffic count/distance to road)	2,600,000	1,500,000	77	1,700,000	78
Lead Paint (% Pre-1960 Housing)	0.9	0.32	94	0.3	96
Superfund Proximity (site count/km distance)	0.24	0.28	67	0.39	73
RMP Facility Proximity (facility count/km distance)	1.5	0.52	87	0.57	89
Hazardous Waste Proximity (facility count/km distance)	11	4.4	89	3.5	91
Underground Storage Tanks (count/km ²)	3.8	1.9	82	3.6	74
Wastewater Discharge (toxicity-weighted concentration/m distance)	22	140000	40	700000	42
Drinking Water Non-Compliance (points)	0	0.045	0	2.2	0
SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS					
Demographic Index USA	2.11	N/A	N/A	1.34	80
Supplemental Demographic Index USA	2.08	N/A	N/A	1.64	76
Demographic Index State	2.17	1.36	82	N/A	N/A
Supplemental Demographic Index State	2.01	1.33	85	N/A	N/A
People of Color	80%	50%	74	40%	83
Low Income	36%	22%	79	30%	64
Unemployment Rate	16%	5%	94	6%	92
Limited English Speaking Households	2%	3%	66	5%	64
Less Than High School Education	17%	9%	83	11%	76
Under Age 5	9%	6%	83	5%	83
Over Age 64	18%	17%	59	18%	56

*Diesel particulate matter index is from the EPA's Air Toxics Data Update, which is the Agency's ongoing, comprehensive evaluation of air toxics in the United States. This effort aims to prioritize air toxics, emission sources, and locations of interest for further study. It is important to remember that the air toxics data presented here provide broad estimates of health risks over geographic areas of the country, not definitive risks to specific individuals or locations. More information on the Air Toxics Data Update can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/haps/air-toxics-data-update>.

Sites reporting to EPA within defined area:

Superfund	0
Hazardous Waste, Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities	1
Water Dischargers	0
Air Pollution	4
Brownfields	0
Toxic Release Inventory	0

Other community features within defined area:

Schools	0
Hospitals	0
Places of Worship	3

Other environmental data:

Air Non-attainment	Yes
Impaired Waters	No

Selected location contains American Indian Reservation Lands*	No
Selected location contains a "Justice40 (CEJST)" disadvantaged community	Yes
Selected location contains an EPA IRA disadvantaged community	Yes

Report for 0.25 miles Ring Centered at 39.348211,-76.609585

Report produced September 2, 2024 using EJScreen Version 2.3

EJScreen Environmental and Socioeconomic Indicators Data

HEALTH INDICATORS

INDICATOR	VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	STATE PERCENTILE	US AVERAGE	US PERCENTILE
Low Life Expectancy	22%	19%	75	20%	71
Heart Disease	6	5	79	5.8	58
Asthma	13.2	10.3	93	10.3	95
Cancer	5.6	6.3	37	6.4	33
Persons with Disabilities	21.4%	12.1%	93	13.7%	89

CLIMATE INDICATORS

INDICATOR	VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	STATE PERCENTILE	US AVERAGE	US PERCENTILE
Flood Risk	3%	7%	43	12%	30
Wildfire Risk	0%	1%	0	14%	0

CRITICAL SERVICE GAPS

INDICATOR	VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	STATE PERCENTILE	US AVERAGE	US PERCENTILE
Broadband Internet	19%	10%	84	13%	76
Lack of Health Insurance	4%	6%	42	9%	25
Housing Burden	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Transportation Access Burden	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Food Desert	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Report for 0.25 miles Ring Centered at 39.348211,-76.609585

Report produced September 2, 2024 using EJScreen Version 2.3



Comment #1: There are no federal air quality guidelines for crematories. Maryland Department of Environment's regulations haven't been updated since 1991.

Crematories are subject to stringent regulation of a variety of air pollutants. There are no source-specific federal air quality regulations that apply to only crematory emissions and the federal Clean Air Act does not require more stringent particulate matter emission standards for crematories than the standards that are currently imposed under Maryland regulations ([COMAR 26.11.08.05](#)), as crematories emit very small amounts of particulate matter.

However, crematory emissions are also subject to the State-only toxic air pollutant regulations under [COMAR 26.11.15.05](#) and [15.06](#), and the screening levels established for each toxic air pollutant are evaluated annually based on current toxicological data published by the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) and the U.S. EPA. In 2020, the U.S. EPA issued a [National Emissions Inventory Technical Support Document for Cremation](#) that has been used by many states as the basis for estimating particulate matter and toxic air pollutant emissions.

In our current toxic air pollutant regulations, Maryland applies a safety factor of 1/100 of the allowable concentration that the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists considers safe to protect worker health. The safety factor accounts for sensitive populations, like children, and for the existence of multiple sources of the same pollutant. For carcinogenic compounds, an additional annual based screening level is set at the limit where continuous exposure to a toxic air pollutant for a period of 70 years is expected to cause an increase in lifetime cancer risk of no more than 1 in 100,000.

Comment #2: There are no permit obligations to perform a stack test or to measure crematory emissions to identify what kind of pollutants are emitted from the exhaust stack.

Correct; however, MDE uses emissions factors that provide a margin of safety beyond what recent stack emissions tests show in order to conservatively overestimate emissions of regulated pollutants from crematories. This methodology is another means to ensure crematory emissions are not injurious to public health. If there is an issue at a crematory, MDE, under [COMAR 26.11.01.04](#), has the authority to require stack emissions testing.

There is a new Mid-Atlantic Regional Air Management Association workgroup, which Maryland has been participating in where we have been sharing resources with other States to ensure consistency. Crematory emissions information is available to estimate emissions from crematory operations. Stack emissions test results from tests conducted in other states between 2004 and 2023 show particulate matter emissions well below the

standards regulated in Maryland and negligible emissions of toxic air pollutants. The test results also show that emissions of oxides of nitrogen, carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds, and sulfur dioxide confirm that crematories are minor sources of these pollutants. Additionally, this workgroup has been tasked to develop a "best management practices" document that all of the participating states can use. It is still in the stages of development but from what we've seen so far, it would not be much different than what Maryland was already doing and is based on more recent data than Maryland previously had access to.

Finally, there is the sensitive nature of testing as well. Many families are opposed to stack testing companies conducting emissions based testing during the human cremation of their loved ones. The testing typically requires three, one-hour testing runs for each type of pollutant with personnel monitoring operations both inside the crematory and outside at the stack. It is difficult to schedule this testing for a process that is sensitive in nature and not routine.

Comment #3: Crematory incinerators have no emission controls. There are no monitors that measure the pollution out of the exhaust stacks.

This is simply not correct. In order to comply with Maryland's particulate matter and toxic air pollutant emissions standards, crematories are required to be equipped with a secondary combustion chamber capable of achieving a retention time of at least 1.0 second, and an operating temperature of at least 1600 °F. The secondary chamber is considered an emissions control strategy that ensures complete combustion of cremation gasses prior to discharge to the atmosphere. In addition, a minimum stack height for discharge of emissions is required for all crematories in Maryland and is specific to the location of each crematory. Other States, such as Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina, currently do not require any additional emissions controls for crematories other than secondary chamber requirements.

As with stack emissions testing, operation of continuous emissions monitors (CEMs) to measure pollution concentrations at the stack of a crematory would be cost-prohibitive for a source that is not subject to any federal air pollution standards and a minor source of air pollution emissions overall. CEMs must be installed, calibrated, and tested regularly in accordance with U.S. EPA and MDE specifications and include an initial capital cost of \$50,000 or more, with annual operating costs of \$10,000 or more per CEMs. In lieu of using CEMs, MDE requires the use of continuous parametric monitoring systems (CPMS) to monitor operating parameters such as the secondary combustion temperature and opacity monitors that alert the operator when the opacity is reaching a level that requires an adjustment to crematory operations. Monitoring these parameters ensure that the crematory is operating properly. Should a violation of permit or regulatory requirements occur, MDE has adequate authority to compel compliance through legal measures using its administrative, civil or criminal authority found in statute.

Comment #4: American Medical Association - 10% of Americans have devices in them. Not removed before cremation.

This statement is incorrect. Both the Maryland Department of Health and the Maryland Department of Labor strictly regulate crematory operations under [COMAR 09.34.08.02](#) and [COMAR 10.29.19.02](#) that include the following requirements:

- A. Upon receipt of human remains, a permit holder in the presence of the authorizing agent or representative of the funeral establishment engaging crematory services shall:
- (1) Verify that the information on the wrist tag is consistent with the:
 - (a) Documentation accompanying the deceased; and
 - (b) Visual observation of the remains themselves;
 - (2) Use a metal detector wand to inspect for the presence of any battery operated, implanted devices including pacemakers, defibrillators, or pain relief devices;
 - (3) Refuse to accept human remains for cremation if an inspection of the human remains indicates the presence of any battery operated, implanted device;
 - (4) Remove and properly dispose of any hazardous object or any other materials that the individual authorized under this subtitle deems should be removed from the human remains or cremation container in order to prevent harm to the public health or damage to the cremator;
 - (5) Remove any jewelry on the human remains or in the cremation container;
 - (6) Return any removed jewelry to the authorizing agent or representative of the funeral establishment engaging crematory services; and
 - (7) Obtain a signed, itemized receipt from the authorizing agent or representative of the funeral establishment engaging crematory services for the removed jewelry and retain the receipt as a permanent record.
- B. Foreign objects removed from the human remains:
- (1) Shall be treated as medical waste and disposed of accordingly; and
 - (2) May not be donated until a sterilization process through a third party recognized by the Board to dispose properly of medical waste has been performed.

Comment #5: Crematories can be placed within 200 feet of a home in MD. Disincentive to prospective home buyers. “No one wants an incinerator in their backyard”. Demand for crematories have doubled in the last ten years in MD. 116 air permits for crematory incinerators.

MDE cannot speak to the statement that “No one wants an incinerator in their backyard.” It is not a determining factor for any permit decision needing to be made by the Department. Currently, every human crematory facility permitted in Maryland is located within 1000 feet

of a residential area. They are often located at funeral homes that are family owned and operated in order to provide local residents with cremation services on property instead of outsourcing the cremation services to other facilities in Maryland or other states. Local zoning authorities determine where a crematory can be placed in their area. Some local governments may have restrictions, such as ensuring the business only processes human remains from funeral services provided at the location so that the facility is not a commercial cremation operation, but most have determined that they are suitable to be located in or near residential areas. Impact on property values is not a factor that has a bearing on permit decisions.

The commenter is mixing cremation units with cremation facilities. In Maryland, there are 62 facilities that are permitted to conduct animal and/or human cremations. At those facilities, there are a total of approximately 115 permitted human and animal cremation units (some cremation facilities have more than one unit). All cremation units are reviewed by MDE to ensure they meet applicable requirements to protect public health and air quality.

Comment #6: MDE has determined that Areas III and IV should have special controls on incinerators. Section of COMAR - control of incinerators - we permit crematories in it. 2/3rd of crematories are concentrated in these areas.

This is not correct. For some background, the State previously established Areas III and IV in regulation to reflect that Baltimore and District of Columbia metropolitan areas were classified, at the time, as severe nonattainment areas for ozone. As such, those two areas needed to adequately control emission sources in order to bring them both into attainment with federal Clean Air Act ambient air quality standards.

The regulations referencing Areas III and IV do not prohibit new sources of pollution from being approved, including large pollution sources. They are not intended to limit the number of crematories that can be located in Baltimore City nor do they create the need to impose special (extraordinary) controls on crematories.

Comment #7: It was alluded that MDE does not have the authority to address these factors when giving an air quality permit and there are no monitoring of these facilities once permits are granted. . Is there a way to verify if the machines and monitors are operating correctly, and do we have enough funds to hire more inspectors to enforce these permit requirements? In MDE's 2022 report - out of all the current air quality permits from 2017-2022, MDE has only reviewed 7% of those.

This is simply not correct. Following the issuance of an air quality Permit to Construct for a crematory and the installation of the unit, a facility is required to apply for and obtain an air quality State Operating Permit from MDE. Upon notification of final installation, post-construction inspections by the Air Quality Compliance Program are conducted to ensure that the crematory was installed in accordance with the requirements of the air quality permit to construct. After a State Permit to Operate is issued, the facility is required to certify all air pollution emissions annually and pay an emissions-based annual fee to

MDE.

MDE does conduct yearly onsite inspections at crematories (in addition to record reviews) and at hundreds of other emission sources throughout Maryland. Given MDE's limited resources, inspections across all source categories are conducted on a priority basis, priorities that are driven by several factors - size and nature of emissions, complexity of the source, noncompliance or complaint history, location, etc. MDE has stated publicly that we have and will provide an increased compliance presence at crematories moving forward. We will do that by shifting current resources as much as possible unless and until additional staff can be provided.

Comment #8: In 2022, zero findings for any air quality permits issued.

This is also not correct. Please see the attached excel document on the number of inspections conducted on crematories in 2023 and the results of those inspections.

Comment #9: There may be metals in the crematory process of bodies. Caskets are going into the incinerator.

This statement is incorrect. Both the Maryland Department of Health and the Maryland Department of Labor strictly regulate crematory operations under [COMAR 09.34.08.03](#) and [COMAR 10.29.19.03](#) that include the following cremation container requirements (emphasis added):

A cremation container:

- A. Shall be a readily combustible, rigid container suitable for cremation;
- B. Shall provide a completely enclosed covering for the human remains;
- C. Shall be resistant to leakage or spillage;
- D. Shall be of sufficient strength and rigidity for ease of handling;
- E. Shall provide protection to the health and safety of crematory establishment personnel and the public;
- F. Shall comply with all local, State, and federal governmental emissions regulations;
- G. May not be composed of metal or polyethylene material; and**
- H. If it appears to be heavily coated with varnish, lacquer, or any other highly combustible substance, shall be:
 - (1) Placed in a cold cremator; or
 - (2) Coated completely with water before being placed in the cremator.

In addition, MDE also prohibits the cremation of any halogenated plastics, including polyvinyl chloride (PVC) body bags or PVC pipes, and any hazardous waste, or hospital, medical, and infectious waste as defined in [COMAR 26.11.08.01B\(18\)](#) in the air quality permit to construct for a human crematory.



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

New response for survey 'MDE Comment Form'

1 message

webmaster@maryland.gov <webmaster@maryland.gov>

Mon, Oct 21, 2024 at 9:43 AM

Reply-To: webmaster@maryland.gov

To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Respondent: Anonymous

Completed Survey: Yes

Response Start Time: 10/21/2024 09:41:36 Eastern Standard Time

Response End Time: 10/21/2024 09:43:40 Eastern Standard Time

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. First Name:

Abigail

2. Last Name:

Szypula

3. Email:

arszypula@loyola.edu

4. Mailing Address:(optional)

[No Answer Entered]

5. Affiliation:(optional)

[No Answer Entered]

6. Comments on the Department's Determination and Draft Air Quality Permit to Construct:

Approving this crematorium opens the door for many businesses to greatly exacerbate existing air pollution and environmental and social injustice in communities that are already experiencing these issues to a great extent. Everyone in these communities, from children wanting to play outside to adults with pre-existing health conditions, will be negatively impacted by this approval.



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

New response for survey 'MDE Comment Form'

1 message

webmaster@maryland.gov <webmaster@maryland.gov>

Mon, Oct 21, 2024 at 9:41 AM

Reply-To: webmaster@maryland.gov

To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Respondent: Anonymous

Completed Survey: Yes

Response Start Time: 10/21/2024 09:38:07 Eastern Standard Time

Response End Time: 10/21/2024 09:41:49 Eastern Standard Time

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. First Name:

Adaevia

2. Last Name:

Jones

3. Email:

ajon2744@gmail.com

4. Mailing Address:(optional)

[No Answer Entered]

5. Affiliation:(optional)

[No Answer Entered]

6. Comments on the Department's Determination and Draft Air Quality Permit to Construct:

I won't be saying what Hasn't already been said. Putting a crematorium so close to a university will negatively impact so many people's health. I don't agree with this



Suna Sariscak -MDE- <suna.sariscak@maryland.gov>

New response for survey 'MDE Comment Form'

webmaster@maryland.gov <webmaster@maryland.gov>

Sun, Oct 13, 2024 at 11:48 AM

Reply-To: webmaster@maryland.gov

To: suna.sariscak@maryland.gov

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Respondent: Anonymous

Completed Survey: Yes

Response Start Time: 10/13/2024 11:39:11 Eastern Standard Time

Response End Time: 10/13/2024 11:48:01 Eastern Standard Time

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. First Name:

Ajia

2. Last Name:

Morrison

3. Email:

ajia.poodles@gmail.com

4. Mailing Address:(optional)

[No Answer Entered]

5. Affiliation:(optional)

[No Answer Entered]

6. Comments on the Department's Determination and Draft Air Quality Permit to Construct:

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) itself sets EJ screen scores for the state and assigned the area where the proposed incinerator would be as a 92nd percentile (with 100th percentile being the area experiencing the most environmental injustice in the state). Furthermore, The Winstons-Govan neighborhood where the crematorium would be located is in the 91st vulnerability percentile for socioeconomic stressors according to the Climate Index Vulnerability Map. In addition to this score, there has been 4+ years of loud opposition to this project. What precedent would approving this crematorium set? If this gets approved, won't everything else, regardless of if it is in a residential area or not?

If you want to illustrate a meaningful action--rather than just attention--towards environmental justice, this cannot be approved.

Furthermore, if this gets approved, what is to stop a surge in applications of other funeral homes interested in installing a crematorium in a residential area? Since this process has been going on for so long, many businesses may be anxiously awaiting this decision and, depending on the result, eager to submit their own application--especially business that may be smaller than Vaughn Greene.

Approving this crematorium opens the door for many businesses to greatly exacerbate existing air pollution and environmental and social injustice in communities that are already experiencing these issues to a great extent. Everyone

in these communities, from children wanting to play outside to adults with pre-existing health conditions, will be negatively impacted by this approval.



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

New response for survey 'MDE Comment Form'

1 message

webmaster@maryland.gov <webmaster@maryland.gov>

Sun, Oct 20, 2024 at 5:15 PM

Reply-To: webmaster@maryland.gov

To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Respondent: Anonymous

Completed Survey: Yes

Response Start Time: 10/20/2024 17:14:36 Eastern Standard Time

Response End Time: 10/20/2024 17:15:51 Eastern Standard Time

SURVEY RESPONSES**SCORE: 0**

1. First Name:

Amy

2. Last Name:

Cedrone

3. Email:

amcedrone@loyola.edu

4. Mailing Address:(optional)

[No Answer Entered]

5. Affiliation:(optional)

Loyola University Maryland

6. Comments on the Department's Determination and Draft Air Quality Permit to Construct:

The proposed crematorium will spoil the quality of life in the surrounding residential area.



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

New response for survey 'MDE Comment Form'

1 message

webmaster@maryland.gov <webmaster@maryland.gov>

Thu, Oct 17, 2024 at 11:31 AM

Reply-To: webmaster@maryland.gov

To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Respondent: Anonymous

Completed Survey: Yes

Response Start Time: 10/17/2024 11:26:37 Eastern Standard Time

Response End Time: 10/17/2024 11:31:54 Eastern Standard Time

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. First Name:

Ariana

2. Last Name:

Pearson

3. Email:

apearson@loyola.edu

4. Mailing Address:(optional)

[No Answer Entered]

5. Affiliation:(optional)

[No Answer Entered]

6. Comments on the Department's Determination and Draft Air Quality Permit to Construct:

I am firmly opposed to you issuing a permit for the Vaughn Greene Crematorium located at [4905 York Road, Baltimore, MD](#).

MDE itself sets EJ screen scores for the state and assigned the area where the proposed incinerator would be as a 92nd percentile (with 100th percentile being the area experiencing the most environmental injustice in the state). Furthermore, the Winstons-Govan neighborhood where the crematorium would be located has several existing sources of pollution and a large percentage of people of color, which is why it is placed in the 91st vulnerability percentile for socioeconomic stressors by the Climate Index Vulnerability Map. In addition to this score, there has been 4+ years of loud opposition to this project from the York Road Partnership, which has been leading the opposition along with a coalition of scientists, climate activists, local and state elected officials.

What precedent would be approving this crematorium set? If this gets approved, won't everything else, regardless of it is in a residential area or not?

If you want to illustrate a meaningful action—rather than just attention--towards environmental justice, this cannot be approved. Approving this crematorium greatly exacerbate existing air pollution and environmental and social injustice in a community that is already experiencing these issues to a great extent. Everyone in twos communities, from children wanting to play outside to adults with pre-existing health conditions, will be negatively impacted by this approval.



Suna Sariscak -MDE- <suna.sariscak@maryland.gov>

New response for survey 'MDE Comment Form'

webmaster@maryland.gov <webmaster@maryland.gov>

Mon, Oct 14, 2024 at 4:55 AM

Reply-To: webmaster@maryland.gov

To: suna.sariscak@maryland.gov

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Respondent: Anonymous

Completed Survey: Yes

Response Start Time: 10/14/2024 04:53:24 Eastern Standard Time

Response End Time: 10/14/2024 04:55:25 Eastern Standard Time

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. First Name:

Baylor

2. Last Name:

Bartow

3. Email:

Baylor.bartow@gmail.com

4. Mailing Address:(optional)

[No Answer Entered]

5. Affiliation:(optional)

[No Answer Entered]

6. Comments on the Department's Determination and Draft Air Quality Permit to Construct:

Do not grant the permit.



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

New response for survey 'MDE Comment Form'

1 message

webmaster@maryland.gov <webmaster@maryland.gov>

Sun, Oct 13, 2024 at 9:36 PM

Reply-To: webmaster@maryland.gov

To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Respondent: Anonymous

Completed Survey: Yes

Response Start Time: 10/13/2024 21:35:34 Eastern Standard Time

Response End Time: 10/13/2024 21:36:51 Eastern Standard Time

SURVEY RESPONSES**SCORE: 0**

1. First Name:

Camille

2. Last Name:

Weber

3. Email:

Cjweber@loyola.edu

4. Mailing Address:(optional)

[No Answer Entered]

5. Affiliation:(optional)

[No Answer Entered]

6. Comments on the Department's Determination and Draft Air Quality Permit to Construct:

MDE itself sets EJ screen scores for the state and assigned the area where the proposed incinerator would be as a 92nd percentile (with 100th percentile being the area experiencing the most environmental injustice in the state). Furthermore, The Winstons-Govan neighborhood where the crematorium would be located is in the 91st vulnerability percentile for socioeconomic stressors according to the Climate Index Vulnerability Map. In addition to this score, there has been 4+ years of loud opposition to this project. What precedent would be approving this crematorium set? If this gets approved, won't everything else, regardless of it is in a residential area or not?

If you want to illustrate a meaningful action—rather than just attention--towards environmental justice, this cannot be approved.

Furthermore, if this gets approved, what is to stop a surge in applications of other funeral homes interested in installing a crematorium in a residential area? Since this process has been going on for so long, many businesses may be anxiously awaiting this decision and, depending on the result, eager to submit their own application—especially business that may be smaller than Vaughn Greene.

Approving this crematorium opens the door for many businesses to greatly exacerbate existing air pollution and environmental and social injustice in communities that are already experiencing these issues to a great extent. Everyone

in these communities, from children wanting to play outside to adults with pre-existing health conditions, will be negatively impacted by this approval.



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

New response for survey 'MDE Comment Form'

1 message

webmaster@maryland.gov <webmaster@maryland.gov>

Thu, Oct 17, 2024 at 11:05 AM

Reply-To: webmaster@maryland.gov

To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Respondent: Anonymous

Completed Survey: Yes

Response Start Time: 10/17/2024 10:55:29 Eastern Standard Time

Response End Time: 10/17/2024 11:05:28 Eastern Standard Time

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. First Name:

Claire

2. Last Name:

Fischer

3. Email:

cafischer@loyola.edu

4. Mailing Address:(optional)

[No Answer Entered]

5. Affiliation:(optional)

Loyola University

6. Comments on the Department's Determination and Draft Air Quality Permit to Construct:

I am firmly opposed to you issuing a permit for the Vaughn Greene Crematorium located at [4905 York Road, Baltimore, MD](#).

MDE itself sets EJ screen scores for the state and assigned the area where the proposed incinerator would be as a 92nd percentile (with 100th percentile being the area experiencing the most environmental injustice in the state). Furthermore, the Winstons-Govan neighborhood where the crematorium would be located has several existing sources of pollution and a large percentage of people of color, which is why it is placed in the 91st vulnerability percentile for socioeconomic stressors by the Climate Index Vulnerability Map. In addition to this score, there has been 4+ years of loud opposition to this project from the York Road Partnership, which has been leading the opposition along with a coalition of scientists, climate activists, local and state elected officials.

What precedent would be approving this crematorium set? If this gets approved, won't everything else, regardless of it is in a residential area or not?

If you want to illustrate a meaningful action—rather than just attention--towards environmental justice, this cannot be approved. Approving this crematorium greatly exacerbate existing air pollution and environmental and social injustice in a community that is already experiencing these issues to a great extent. Everyone in twos communities, from children wanting to play outside to adults with pre-existing health conditions, will be negatively impacted by this approval.



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

New response for survey 'MDE Comment Form'

1 message

webmaster@maryland.gov <webmaster@maryland.gov>

Fri, Oct 18, 2024 at 12:45 PM

Reply-To: webmaster@maryland.gov

To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Respondent: Anonymous

Completed Survey: Yes

Response Start Time: 10/18/2024 12:39:06 Eastern Standard Time

Response End Time: 10/18/2024 12:45:57 Eastern Standard Time

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. First Name:

David

2. Last Name:

Gordon

3. Email:

dhgordon@loyola.edu

4. Mailing Address:(optional)

[No Answer Entered]

5. Affiliation:(optional)

Loyola University Maryland faculty

6. Comments on the Department's Determination and Draft Air Quality Permit to Construct:

Air quality in this area is already bad enough. The state of Maryland should not allow a crematorium in a residential area next to schools, businesses, and homes. It's bad enough that we have to breathe air from Wheelabrator and Curtis Bay's medical waste incinerator. Please do not approve the crematorium on York Road. The state of Maryland already has terrible air quality due to all the highways and industry in and around the Baltimore/DC area. Please don't make it worse. They can always go to a rural area to burn bodies. They don't have to do it three blocks from a college campus.



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

New response for survey 'MDE Comment Form'

1 message

webmaster@maryland.gov <webmaster@maryland.gov>

Thu, Aug 8, 2024 at 5:04 PM

Reply-To: webmaster@maryland.gov

To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Respondent: Anonymous

Completed Survey: Yes

Response Start Time: 08/08/2024 16:54:51 Eastern Standard Time

Response End Time: 08/08/2024 17:04:26 Eastern Standard Time

SURVEY RESPONSES**SCORE: 0**

1. First Name:

Delores

2. Last Name:

Wilson

3. Email:

deewilson86@gmail.com

4. Mailing Address:(optional)

716 Radnor Avenue

5. Affiliation:(optional)

[No Answer Entered]

6. Comments on the Department's Determination and Draft Air Quality Permit to Construct:

Due to the density of population and already poor air quality, our family is requesting denial of this permit.

Thank you



Suna Sariscak -MDE- <suna.sariscak@maryland.gov>

New response for survey 'MDE Comment Form'

webmaster@maryland.gov <webmaster@maryland.gov>

Fri, Sep 6, 2024 at 9:04 AM

Reply-To: webmaster@maryland.gov

To: suna.sariscak@maryland.gov

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Respondent: Anonymous

Completed Survey: Yes

Response Start Time: 09/06/2024 09:02:51 Eastern Standard Time

Response End Time: 09/06/2024 09:04:44 Eastern Standard Time

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. First Name:

Diane

2. Last Name:

Borgatti

3. Email:

dianeborgatti@gmail.com

4. Mailing Address:(optional)

564 Orchard Street

5. Affiliation:(optional)

[No Answer Entered]

6. Comments on the Department's Determination and Draft Air Quality Permit to Construct:

NO, the air quality is terrible, adding a crematorium will only worsen the air. Bodies are full of heavy metals that are released during cremation. You, I and our children do NOT need this.



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

New response for survey 'MDE Comment Form'

1 message

webmaster@maryland.gov <webmaster@maryland.gov>

Sun, Oct 13, 2024 at 6:51 PM

Reply-To: webmaster@maryland.gov

To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Respondent: Anonymous

Completed Survey: Yes

Response Start Time: 10/13/2024 18:50:11 Eastern Standard Time

Response End Time: 10/13/2024 18:51:13 Eastern Standard Time

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. First Name:

Dina

2. Last Name:

Quevedo

3. Email:

dequevedo@loyola.edu

4. Mailing Address:(optional)

[No Answer Entered]

5. Affiliation:(optional)

[No Answer Entered]

6. Comments on the Department's Determination and Draft Air Quality Permit to Construct:

MDE itself sets EJ screen scores for the state and assigned the area where the proposed incinerator would be as a 92nd percentile (with 100th percentile being the area experiencing the most environmental injustice in the state). Furthermore, The Winstons-Govan neighborhood where the crematorium would be located is in the 91st vulnerability percentile for socioeconomic stressors according to the Climate Index Vulnerability Map. In addition to this score, there has been 4+ years of loud opposition to this project. What precedent would be approving this crematorium set? If this gets approved, won't everything else, regardless of it is in a residential area or not?

If you want to illustrate a meaningful action—rather than just attention--towards environmental justice, this cannot be approved.

Furthermore, if this gets approved, what is to stop a surge in applications of other funeral homes interested in installing a crematorium in a residential area? Since this process has been going on for so long, many businesses may be anxiously awaiting this decision and, depending on the result, eager to submit their own application—especially business that may be smaller than Vaughn Greene.

Approving this crematorium opens the door for many businesses to greatly exacerbate existing air pollution and environmental and social injustice in communities that are already experiencing these issues to a great extent. Everyone

in these communities, from children wanting to play outside to adults with pre-existing health conditions, will be negatively impacted by this approval.



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

New response for survey 'MDE Comment Form'

1 message

webmaster@maryland.gov <webmaster@maryland.gov>

Mon, Oct 21, 2024 at 8:54 PM

Reply-To: webmaster@maryland.gov

To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Respondent: Anonymous

Completed Survey: Yes

Response Start Time: 10/21/2024 20:47:34 Eastern Standard Time

Response End Time: 10/21/2024 20:54:30 Eastern Standard Time

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. First Name:

Elizabeth

2. Last Name:

Leik

3. Email:

elizleik@gmail.com

4. Mailing Address:(optional)

[No Answer Entered]

5. Affiliation:(optional)

[No Answer Entered]

6. Comments on the Department's Determination and Draft Air Quality Permit to Construct:

Please require this to be built in a less congested area. A crematorium should not exist in a congested urban area that does not have sufficient air flow and is already at risk for increasing temperatures in the summer due to climate change. Moving this crematorium just 6-7 miles north would allow for more air flow and be in an area with summer temperatures lower than in this Baltimore City area.



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

New response for survey 'MDE Comment Form'

1 message

webmaster@maryland.gov <webmaster@maryland.gov>

Thu, Oct 17, 2024 at 10:55 AM

Reply-To: webmaster@maryland.gov

To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Respondent: Anonymous

Completed Survey: Yes

Response Start Time: 10/17/2024 10:53:30 Eastern Standard Time

Response End Time: 10/17/2024 10:55:53 Eastern Standard Time

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. First Name:

Eric

2. Last Name:

Jackson

3. Email:

Ericjackson913@gmail.com

4. Mailing Address:(optional)

[No Answer Entered]

5. Affiliation:(optional)

[No Answer Entered]

6. Comments on the Department's Determination and Draft Air Quality Permit to Construct:

I have serious concerns about the impact of this project on the air quality on York road. There are already significant issues in this area with air quality and I believe making them even worse them is the last thing we need at the moment



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

New response for survey 'MDE Comment Form'

1 message

webmaster@maryland.gov <webmaster@maryland.gov>

Sat, Oct 19, 2024 at 12:01 PM

Reply-To: webmaster@maryland.gov

To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Respondent: Anonymous

Completed Survey: Yes

Response Start Time: 10/19/2024 11:59:19 Eastern Standard Time

Response End Time: 10/19/2024 12:01:33 Eastern Standard Time

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. First Name:

Ernest

2. Last Name:

Huntzinger

3. Email:

enycail@yahoo.com

4. Mailing Address:(optional)

[No Answer Entered]

5. Affiliation:(optional)

[No Answer Entered]

6. Comments on the Department's Determination and Draft Air Quality Permit to Construct:

I very much disagree with this!!! It will diminish property values and this business should be considered a hazard ad be located outside of a residential community



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

New response for survey 'MDE Comment Form'

1 message

webmaster@maryland.gov <webmaster@maryland.gov>

Thu, Aug 8, 2024 at 7:58 AM

Reply-To: webmaster@maryland.gov

To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Respondent: Anonymous

Completed Survey: Yes

Response Start Time: 08/08/2024 07:55:13 Eastern Standard Time

Response End Time: 08/08/2024 07:58:07 Eastern Standard Time

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. First Name:

Gregory

2. Last Name:

Katz

3. Email:

greg.katzogby@gmail.com

4. Mailing Address:(optional)

357 Rosebank Avenue

5. Affiliation:(optional)

[No Answer Entered]

6. Comments on the Department's Determination and Draft Air Quality Permit to Construct:

I oppose the permit. I do not want a crematorium on the middle of the york road corridor for health reasons and environmental justice reasons. We have too much pollution as-is.



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

New response for survey 'MDE Comment Form'

1 message

webmaster@maryland.gov <webmaster@maryland.gov>

Wed, Aug 7, 2024 at 9:22 PM

Reply-To: webmaster@maryland.gov

To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Respondent: Anonymous

Completed Survey: Yes

Response Start Time: 08/07/2024 21:21:28 Eastern Standard Time

Response End Time: 08/07/2024 21:22:05 Eastern Standard Time

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. First Name:

Jennifer

2. Last Name:

Defensor

3. Email:

jen.defensor@gmail.com

4. Mailing Address:(optional)

349 Rosebank Ave

5. Affiliation:(optional)

[No Answer Entered]

6. Comments on the Department's Determination and Draft Air Quality Permit to Construct:

I would like to go on record that I oppose the placement of a crematorium at the Vaughn Greene York Road facility. I am a resident of Govans, I live one mile from the Vaughn Greene location and my physical health will be directly impacted by the emissions from the proposed crematorium. I am concerned about the issues raised at the 8/7/24 public hearing. I am concerned that the data used is from 1991 and 1992 and does not properly reflect updated knowledge about the effects of small particulate matter on respiratory and cardiac health. Please refrain from issuing a permit until current data sources can be utilized. I am concerned that the proposal states that 3rd party data from a similar smoke stack can be used. If a permit is issued, it should include a requirement for routine testing of the actual smokestack that is being issued the permit. I did not see anything indicated in the slide show this evening that discussed consequences if the facility does not comply with the permit requirements. Can you please detail what will happen if the permit holder does not follow the requirements? Also, if new data is found in coming decades shows that this facility is harmful to the community, will it be grandfathered in and allowed to continue operating or will it be required to meet new standards as they are issued? I am concerned about the cumulative effect of pollution sources at the proposed site. Many community members cited that the Environmental Justice rating in Govan is 95--which is a high rating. I would like to ask your department to work with our community to help reduce this number, not to contribute to it. Put the needs of the public ahead of the needs of commercial businesses.

Finally, I am concerned that the public hearing was not held on the York Road corridor that is directly affected by this issue. Was the location chosen on a bus route that allowed for access to the affected public?



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

New response for survey 'MDE Comment Form'

1 message

webmaster@maryland.gov <webmaster@maryland.gov>

Tue, Oct 15, 2024 at 6:13 AM

Reply-To: webmaster@maryland.gov

To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Respondent: Anonymous

Completed Survey: Yes

Response Start Time: 10/15/2024 06:01:50 Eastern Standard Time

Response End Time: 10/15/2024 06:13:52 Eastern Standard Time

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. First Name:

Jennifer

2. Last Name:

Halstead

3. Email:

jhalstea1@gmail.com

4. Mailing Address:(optional)

Baltimore, MD

5. Affiliation:(optional)

Evesham Park Neighborhood Association

6. Comments on the Department's Determination and Draft Air Quality Permit to Construct:

On behalf of the Evesham Park Neighborhood Association located at Northern Parkway and York Road in Baltimore City. We are expressing our

strong opposition to the permit for the proposed crematory by Vaughn Greene Funeral Services at [4905 York Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21212](#). Our concerns are rooted in the significant environmental and public health impacts that this the facility would bring to an already burdened community, citing the SUPPLEMENT B TO DOCKET #09-20, showing an Environmental Justice (EJ) Score of 95% was determined for the census tract where the project is located, using the Maryland EJ Screening Tool.

Baltimore faces significant public health challenges related to air quality.

"The asthma hospitalization rate in Baltimore is significantly higher than both the Maryland state and national averages. According to the Baltimore City Health Department, the city's rate of emergency department visits due to asthma is the highest in Maryland. Specifically, the hospitalization rate for asthma among adult residents (≥ 18 years) in Baltimore City is approximately 3.3 times higher than the hospitalization rate for Maryland adults as a whole (42.9 vs. 13.2 per 10,000)2" (Maryland and Baltimore City Health Department)

Likewise, pediatric asthma-related emergency room visits occur in Baltimore at more than double the statewide rate. These areas also suffer from higher average ozone levels, indicating poorer air quality overall. It is also concerning that there are more than three elementary/middle schools and two parks within walking distance from the site that our

residents trust to be a safe space for their children. How do you plan to ensure that residents, park patrons, and students will not experience adverse impacts?

The environmental impact of crematories is substantial. On average sites average 113 cremations per year, producing approximately 27.46 metric tons of CO2 annually. To put this into perspective, it would require about 1,248 mature trees each year just to offset the carbon emissions from one crematory. This potential environmental degradation conflicts with Baltimore's efforts to reduce carbon footprints as outlined in Baltimore City's Climate Action Plan, which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 25% by 2020 and 80% by 2050.

It is crucial to highlight the correlation between socioeconomic status and environmental health impacts. Lower-income areas, not only have higher asthma hospitalization rates but also suffer from poorer air quality. In contrast, higher-income areas tend to have better air quality and lower asthma rates. This underscores the urgent need for equitable policies that address these disparities and protect our most vulnerable communities, which MDE acknowledges through its own analysis providing a score of 95 Environmental Justice Score.

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) states that "no other crematory permit in Maryland at this time requires this level of testing to verify emissions." Could you clarify when the last permit was approved and what the standards were at that time? It is crucial to compare this with the last approved permit to understand the advancements in regulatory requirements.

We urge the board to consider these factors seriously. Approving this permit would not only counteract our city's climate goals but would also place additional health burdens on our community's most vulnerable populations.

Thank you for your attention, and I am available to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Jen Halstead, President

EPNA

Sources:

Asthma | Baltimore City Health Department

Industry Statistical Information - Cremation Association of North America (CANA)

Home - Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC) (maryland.gov) Climate Action Plan | Baltimore Office of Sustainability

(baltimoresustainability.org)



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

New response for survey 'MDE Comment Form'

1 message

webmaster@maryland.gov <webmaster@maryland.gov>

Sat, Aug 10, 2024 at 9:53 PM

Reply-To: webmaster@maryland.gov

To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Respondent: Anonymous

Completed Survey: Yes

Response Start Time: 08/10/2024 21:23:45 Eastern Standard Time

Response End Time: 08/10/2024 21:53:58 Eastern Standard Time

SURVEY RESPONSES**SCORE: 0**

1. First Name:

Jo-Ann

2. Last Name:

Pilardi

3. Email:

jpilardi@comcat.net

4. Mailing Address:(optional)

[729 E. Lake Ave., Baltimore MD 21212](#)

5. Affiliation:(optional)

Evesham Park Neighborhood Association

6. Comments on the Department's Determination and Draft Air Quality Permit to Construct:

I live north of the area where the crematorium would be situated; I am in the city but north of Northern Parkway, on Lake Ave., 1.5 miles from the Vaughn Greene Funeral Home. But I have been concerned about the environmental effects of this crematorium since the first time I read about it, back in 2020 and then did research on crematoria.

1) I attended a long Zoom session that first or second year, set up by the Baltimore Zoning Board, to hear comments from Mr. Greene and the community. During the meeting, the Zoning Board allowed Mr. Greene, and then his lawyer, to use nearly all of the time allotted. It was infuriating and disrespectful to the community.

2) I attended the April 2023 meeting called by MDE and the community at Govans Presbyterian Church.

3) I attended the recent (Aug. 2024) hearing set up by MDE at Huber Memorial Church.

During NONE of those events have I heard any legitimate reason why this facility should be located in that densely populated, seriously polluted, area, near schools and very close to homes. The only reason Mr. Greene gives is that his customers ask for cremation with more frequency these days than before. So what?

a) He presents no evidence or records of that; it's just "hearsay" from him, someone deeply invested in having this go his way.

b) Even if people are choosing cremation more often now, that does not refute the community's solid evidence and arguments about health concerns and about environmental justice (an official value of MDE and therefore the State). Clearly, the facility could be located elsewhere.

c) When Mr. Greene's customers choose burial at a cemetery, as most have over the years, they and their families and

friends drive--usually quite a way--to a cemetery for internment, after the service. That is what they can do for a cremation also, if they desire to be present at it.

d) Most importantly, the study by MDE of the area makes clear that it is already seriously burdened environmentally.

In conclusion: the argument for locating the facility where Vaughn Greene wants it is shallow. I find it strange and quite troubling that MDE hasn't thrown out his request long ago.



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

New response for survey 'MDE Comment Form'

1 message

webmaster@maryland.gov <webmaster@maryland.gov>

Sun, Oct 20, 2024 at 9:11 AM

Reply-To: webmaster@maryland.gov

To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Respondent: Anonymous

Completed Survey: Yes

Response Start Time: 10/18/2024 17:03:58 Eastern Standard Time

Response End Time: 10/20/2024 09:11:03 Eastern Standard Time

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. First Name:

Lauren

2. Last Name:

Tillage

3. Email:

lgillage@loyola.edu

4. Mailing Address:(optional)

[No Answer Entered]

5. Affiliation:(optional)

Loyola University Maryland

6. Comments on the Department's Determination and Draft Air Quality Permit to Construct:

As a Baltimore resident I do not approve of the plan for the crematory.



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

New response for survey 'MDE Comment Form'

1 message

webmaster@maryland.gov <webmaster@maryland.gov>

Sat, Sep 14, 2024 at 12:46 PM

Reply-To: webmaster@maryland.gov

To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Respondent: Anonymous

Completed Survey: Yes

Response Start Time: 09/14/2024 12:22:53 Eastern Standard Time

Response End Time: 09/14/2024 12:46:52 Eastern Standard Time

SURVEY RESPONSES**SCORE: 0**

1. First Name:

Leo

2. Last Name:

Fothergill

3. Email:

leofothergill@gmail.com

4. Mailing Address:(optional)

[346 Rosebank Ave](#)

5. Affiliation:(optional)

Rosebank Bellona Brackenridge Association, President

6. Comments on the Department's Determination and Draft Air Quality Permit to Construct:

I oppose the granting of the air quality permit to construct a human crematorium by Vaughn Greene in the middle of a residential neighborhood.

I request that MDE uses more recent data to make your recommendation. I feel that the permit is inadequate because it does not require emissions testing of the stack proposed at Vaughn Greene. Lastly, I have used MDE's EJ web mapping tool and note that your own agency's data shows that this is already an overburdened community with pollution and sensitivity and is amongst the 95th percentile of the state for EJ score. Please do not issue this permit and further burden this community.

Regards,

Leo Fothergill



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

New response for survey 'MDE Comment Form'

1 message

webmaster@maryland.gov <webmaster@maryland.gov>

Sun, Oct 20, 2024 at 5:37 PM

Reply-To: webmaster@maryland.gov

To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Respondent: Anonymous

Completed Survey: Yes

Response Start Time: 10/20/2024 17:35:04 Eastern Standard Time

Response End Time: 10/20/2024 17:37:25 Eastern Standard Time

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. First Name:

Lisa

2. Last Name:

Flaherty

3. Email:

Lflaherty@loyola.edu

4. Mailing Address:(optional)

[No Answer Entered]

5. Affiliation:(optional)

Loyola University Maryland

6. Comments on the Department's Determination and Draft Air Quality Permit to Construct:

I do not want a cremation near where I work.



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

New response for survey 'MDE Comment Form'

1 message

webmaster@maryland.gov <webmaster@maryland.gov>

Wed, Aug 7, 2024 at 9:07 PM

Reply-To: webmaster@maryland.gov

To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Respondent: Anonymous

Completed Survey: Yes

Response Start Time: 08/07/2024 21:02:55 Eastern Standard Time

Response End Time: 08/07/2024 21:07:04 Eastern Standard Time

SURVEY RESPONSES**SCORE: 0**

1. First Name:

Lisa

2. Last Name:

Van Riper

3. Email:

Lisav5802@gmail.com

4. Mailing Address:(optional)

[5840 Bellona Ave 21212](#)

5. Affiliation:(optional)

Neighbor

6. Comments on the Department's Determination and Draft Air Quality Permit to Construct:

As a neighbor to this proposal, I oppose it for EJ concerns, the lack of current air quality testing, the environmental danger of putting heavy metals into the air and the health hazards of a crematorium in a densely populated racially diverse neighborhood which largely opposes this health hazard.



Suna Sariscak -MDE- <suna.sariscak@maryland.gov>

New response for survey 'MDE Comment Form'

webmaster@maryland.gov <webmaster@maryland.gov>

Fri, Oct 11, 2024 at 3:11 PM

Reply-To: webmaster@maryland.gov

To: suna.sariscak@maryland.gov

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Respondent: Anonymous

Completed Survey: Yes

Response Start Time: 10/11/2024 15:08:31 Eastern Standard Time

Response End Time: 10/11/2024 15:11:24 Eastern Standard Time

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. First Name:

Luisa

2. Last Name:

Glass

3. Email:

imglass@loyola.edu

4. Mailing Address:(optional)

[No Answer Entered]

5. Affiliation:(optional)

Loyola University Maryland Student

6. Comments on the Department's Determination and Draft Air Quality Permit to Construct:

MDE itself sets EJ screen scores for the state and assigned the area where the proposed incinerator would be as a 92nd percentile (with 100th percentile being the area experiencing the most environmental injustice in the state). Furthermore, The Winstons-Govan neighborhood where the crematorium would be located is in the 91st vulnerability percentile for socioeconomic stressors according to the Climate Index Vulnerability Map. In addition to this score, there has been 4+ years of loud opposition to this project. What precedent would be approving this crematorium set? If this gets approved, won't everything else, regardless of it is in a residential area or not?

If you want to illustrate a meaningful action—rather than just attention--towards environmental justice, this cannot be approved.

Furthermore, if this gets approved, what is to stop a surge in applications of other funeral homes interested in installing a crematorium in a residential area? Since this process has been going on for so long, many businesses may be anxiously awaiting this decision and, depending on the result, eager to submit their own application—especially business that may be smaller than Vaughn Greene.

Approving this crematorium opens the door for many businesses to greatly exacerbate existing air pollution and environmental and social injustice in communities that are already experiencing these issues to a great extent. Everyone in these communities, from children wanting to play outside to adults with pre-existing health conditions, will be negatively impacted by this approval.



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

crematorium

1 message

LYNNE HARDESTY <lynn877@comcast.net>

Thu, Oct 17, 2024 at 12:25 PM

To: "shannon.heafey@maryland.gov" <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

MDE should deny Vaughn Greene's permit request, because communities along York Road already have the EPS's highest possible Environmental Justice {EJ} score, meaning that residents here already experience a worse pollution burden and health status than 95% of Marylanders.

If MDE decides to issue the permit against the community's will:

- MDE must require emissions monitoring throughout the life of the permit.

- MDE must require pollution controls to be installed.

Lynne Hardesty
[409 Woodford Rd.](#)
[21212](#)



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

New response for survey 'MDE Comment Form'

1 message

webmaster@maryland.gov <webmaster@maryland.gov>

Thu, Aug 8, 2024 at 6:44 AM

Reply-To: webmaster@maryland.gov

To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Respondent: Anonymous

Completed Survey: Yes

Response Start Time: 08/08/2024 06:42:13 Eastern Standard Time

Response End Time: 08/08/2024 06:44:04 Eastern Standard Time

SURVEY RESPONSES**SCORE: 0**

1. First Name:

Marcia

2. Last Name:

Pappas Devaney

3. Email:

Pappasdevaney@gmail.com

4. Mailing Address:(optional)

[358 Rosebank Ave 21212](#)

5. Affiliation:(optional)

[No Answer Entered]

6. Comments on the Department's Determination and Draft Air Quality Permit to Construct:

I vehemently oppose this project!



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

New response for survey 'MDE Comment Form'

1 message

webmaster@maryland.gov <webmaster@maryland.gov>

Mon, Aug 12, 2024 at 10:21 AM

Reply-To: webmaster@maryland.gov

To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Respondent: Anonymous

Completed Survey: Yes

Response Start Time: 08/12/2024 10:10:00 Eastern Standard Time

Response End Time: 08/12/2024 10:21:43 Eastern Standard Time

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. First Name:

Megan

2. Last Name:

Sappington

3. Email:

mkdoyle12@gmail.com

4. Mailing Address:(optional)

5904 Brackenridge Ave

5. Affiliation:(optional)

[No Answer Entered]

6. Comments on the Department's Determination and Draft Air Quality Permit to Construct:

Please reject this permit. We are a neighborhood with several children and older folks who would be particularly vulnerable to the ill effects of additional air pollution. While I can appreciate the business interests of the funeral home, I can't excuse externalizing the costs of air pollution from a crematorium to a densely populated residential neighborhood of working-class families trying to make a good and healthy life for their children. Our specific area is already burdened with a Environmental Justice score of 95, largely from transportation along York Road and we can't afford another source of pollution. I trust MDE will listen to the overwhelming majority of residents in the neighborhood that oppose this permit as they would be sickened and disabled by this environmental injustice. Thank you in advance for blocking this crematorium entirely.



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

New response for survey 'MDE Comment Form'

1 message

webmaster@maryland.gov <webmaster@maryland.gov>

Fri, Oct 18, 2024 at 12:52 PM

Reply-To: webmaster@maryland.gov

To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Respondent: Anonymous

Completed Survey: Yes

Response Start Time: 10/18/2024 12:51:23 Eastern Standard Time

Response End Time: 10/18/2024 12:52:59 Eastern Standard Time

SURVEY RESPONSES**SCORE: 0**

1. First Name:

Nicholas

2. Last Name:

Henderson

3. Email:

nickreaper24@gmail.com

4. Mailing Address:(optional)

[No Answer Entered]

5. Affiliation:(optional)

[No Answer Entered]

6. Comments on the Department's Determination and Draft Air Quality Permit to Construct:

No crematorium by the Loyola University Maryland, I don't want to smell or breathe dead people while at school.



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

New response for survey 'MDE Comment Form'

1 message

webmaster@maryland.gov <webmaster@maryland.gov>

Thu, Oct 17, 2024 at 11:48 AM

Reply-To: webmaster@maryland.gov

To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Respondent: Anonymous

Completed Survey: Yes

Response Start Time: 10/17/2024 11:47:21 Eastern Standard Time

Response End Time: 10/17/2024 11:48:29 Eastern Standard Time

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. First Name:

Oceana

2. Last Name:

Duffy

3. Email:

oeduffy@loyola.edu

4. Mailing Address:(optional)

[No Answer Entered]

5. Affiliation:(optional)

[No Answer Entered]

6. Comments on the Department's Determination and Draft Air Quality Permit to Construct:

I am firmly opposed to you issuing a permit for the Vaughn Greene Crematorium located at [4905 York Road, Baltimore, MD](#).

MDE itself sets EJ screen scores for the state and assigned the area where the proposed incinerator would be as a 92nd percentile (with 100th percentile being the area experiencing the most environmental injustice in the state). Furthermore, the Winstons-Govan neighborhood where the crematorium would be located has several existing sources of pollution and a large percentage of people of color, which is why it is placed in the 91st vulnerability percentile for socioeconomic stressors by the Climate Index Vulnerability Map. In addition to this score, there has been 4+ years of loud opposition to this project from the York Road Partnership, which has been leading the opposition along with a coalition of scientists, climate activists, local and state elected officials.

What precedent would be approving this crematorium set? If this gets approved, won't everything else, regardless of it is in a residential area or not?

If you want to illustrate a meaningful action—rather than just attention--towards environmental justice, this cannot be approved. Approving this crematorium greatly exacerbate existing air pollution and environmental and social injustice in a community that is already experiencing these issues to a great extent. Everyone in twos communities, from children wanting to play outside to adults with pre-existing health conditions, will be negatively impacted by this approval.



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

New response for survey 'MDE Comment Form'

1 message

webmaster@maryland.gov <webmaster@maryland.gov>

Thu, Aug 8, 2024 at 7:00 AM

Reply-To: webmaster@maryland.gov

To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Respondent: Anonymous

Completed Survey: Yes

Response Start Time: 08/08/2024 06:57:03 Eastern Standard Time

Response End Time: 08/08/2024 07:00:16 Eastern Standard Time

SURVEY RESPONSES**SCORE: 0**

1. First Name:

Paula

2. Last Name:

Simon

3. Email:

paulasimon2003@yahoo.com

4. Mailing Address:(optional)

4103 Westview Rd

5. Affiliation:(optional)

[No Answer Entered]

6. Comments on the Department's Determination and Draft Air Quality Permit to Construct:

Have great concerns about adding a crematorium to the VG funeral home due to heavy residential and commercial population in the area. It should be located in a less dense area. Thank you! I am a resident of Original Northwood, 1/2 mile from VG.



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

New response for survey 'MDE Comment Form'

1 message

webmaster@maryland.gov <webmaster@maryland.gov>

Thu, Oct 17, 2024 at 11:47 AM

Reply-To: webmaster@maryland.gov

To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Respondent: Anonymous

Completed Survey: Yes

Response Start Time: 10/17/2024 11:44:39 Eastern Standard Time

Response End Time: 10/17/2024 11:47:26 Eastern Standard Time

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. First Name:

Penelope

2. Last Name:

DeMartin

3. Email:

penelope@gmail.com

4. Mailing Address:(optional)

236 old west rd, ridgefield ct

5. Affiliation:(optional)

[No Answer Entered]

6. Comments on the Department's Determination and Draft Air Quality Permit to Construct:

I am firmly opposed to you issuing a permit for the Vaughn Greene Crematorium located at [4905 York Road, Baltimore, MD](#).

MDE itself sets EJ screen scores for the state and assigned the area where the proposed incinerator would be as a 92nd percentile (with 100th percentile being the area experiencing the most environmental injustice in the state). Furthermore, the Winstons-Govan neighborhood where the crematorium would be located has several existing sources of pollution and a large percentage of people of color, which is why it is placed in the 91st vulnerability percentile for socioeconomic stressors by the Climate Index Vulnerability Map. In addition to this score, there has been 4+ years of loud opposition to this project from the York Road Partnership, which has been leading the opposition along with a coalition of scientists, climate activists, local and state elected officials.

What precedent would be approving this crematorium set? If this gets approved, won't everything else, regardless of it is in a residential area or not?

If you want to illustrate a meaningful action—rather than just attention--towards environmental justice, this cannot be approved. Approving this crematorium greatly exacerbate existing air pollution and environmental and social injustice in a community that is already experiencing these issues to a great extent. Everyone in twos communities, from children wanting to play outside to adults with pre-existing health conditions, will be negatively impacted by this approval.



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

New response for survey 'MDE Comment Form'

1 message

webmaster@maryland.gov <webmaster@maryland.gov>

Mon, Oct 21, 2024 at 11:26 AM

Reply-To: webmaster@maryland.gov

To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Respondent: Anonymous

Completed Survey: Yes

Response Start Time: 10/21/2024 11:19:46 Eastern Standard Time

Response End Time: 10/21/2024 11:26:30 Eastern Standard Time

SURVEY RESPONSES**SCORE: 0**

1. First Name:

Robyn

2. Last Name:

Fielding-Jones

3. Email:

rmfielding-jones@loyola.edu

4. Mailing Address:(optional)

[No Answer Entered]

5. Affiliation:(optional)

[No Answer Entered]

6. Comments on the Department's Determination and Draft Air Quality Permit to Construct:

This crematorium is an overt display of environmental racism. Young black children will be forced to breathe in air polluted with human remains, which provides yet another obstacle disproportionately added by our society that these children are forced to overcome. We must care about the future of all young people, not just the ones that fit society's segregated ideals.



Shannon Heafey -MDE- <shannon.heafey@maryland.gov>

New response for survey 'MDE Comment Form'

1 message

webmaster@maryland.gov <webmaster@maryland.gov>

Thu, Aug 8, 2024 at 4:58 PM

Reply-To: webmaster@maryland.gov

To: shannon.heafey@maryland.gov

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Respondent: Anonymous

Completed Survey: Yes

Response Start Time: 08/08/2024 16:55:21 Eastern Standard Time

Response End Time: 08/08/2024 16:58:41 Eastern Standard Time

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. First Name:

Sue

2. Last Name:

Fothergill

3. Email:

fothergill.sue@gmail.com

4. Mailing Address:(optional)

346 Rosebank Ave

5. Affiliation:(optional)

[No Answer Entered]

6. Comments on the Department's Determination and Draft Air Quality Permit to Construct:

To Whom This May Concern: I oppose this permit being granted to the Vaughn Greene Funeral Services. The location of the business is extremely problematic, it currently has a pollution and justice score of 95 out of 100 meaning that this location would inundate an already very polluted area and a community already suffering from higher levels of asthma and the impact of pollution from the existing environment. There is currently an trash incinerator in Baltimore City under investigation for pollution and its impact to the local community, we do not need to add additional burden to an already burdened community. It is outrageous that this process has gotten as far as it has. It should have been denied awhile ago. Please protect the community that lives near the business, the school that is up the street from the business and all of the people and children. This is not an industrial area. This is a community.

Wes Moore
Governor

State of



Serena McIlwain
Secretary

Maryland

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Air and Radiation Administration
1800 Washington Boulevard, Suite 720
Baltimore, MD 21230

☒ Construction Permit

☐ Operating Permit

PERMIT NO. 510-3791-1-0478

DATE ISSUED

DEC 17 2024

PERMIT FEE \$1,500.00 (Paid)

EXPIRATION
DATE

In accordance with
COMAR 26.11.02.04B

LEGAL OWNER & ADDRESS

Vaughn Greene Funeral Services, P.A.
4905 York Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21212
Attn: Mr. Bill Miller, Managing Member

SITE

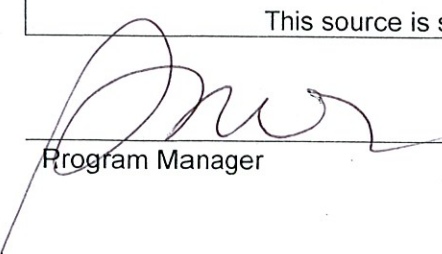
Vaughn Greene Funeral Services, P.A.
4905 York Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21212
AI # 1077

SOURCE DESCRIPTION

Installation of one (1) human crematory unit.

This source is subject to the conditions described on the attached pages.

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Program Manager


Director, Air and Radiation Administration

VAUGHN GREENE FUNERAL SERVICES, P.A.
PERMIT-TO-CONSTRUCT CONDITIONS
PERMIT No. 510-3791-1-0478

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Part A – General Provisions
Part B – Applicable Regulations
Part C – Construction Conditions
Part D – Operating and Monitoring Conditions
Part E – Notification and Testing Requirements
Part F – Record Keeping and Reporting Requirements
Part G – Temporary Permit-To-Operate Requirements

This permit covers the following registered installations:

ARA Registration No.	Description	Installation Date
510-3791-1-0478	Matthews Environmental Solutions PowerPak II Plus, 175 pounds per hour, human crematory, equipped with a natural gas fired burner with a maximum rated heat input of up to 3.0 million Btu per hour.	To be installed

Part A – General Provisions

- (1) The following Air and Radiation Administration (ARA) permit-to-construct applications and supplemental information are incorporated into this permit by reference:
- (a) Application for Processing or Manufacturing Equipment (Form 5) received June 8, 2020 and revised on November 11, 2020.
 - (b) Toxic Air Pollutant (TAP) Emissions Summary and Compliance Demonstration (Forms 5A and 5T) received June 8, 2020.
 - (c) Emission Point Data (Form 5EP) received June 8, 2020.
 - (d) Supplemental Information – Emissions calculations, screen modeling results, plot plan, and equipment specifications received June 8, 2020.

If there are any conflicts between representations in this permit and representations in the applications, the representations in the permit shall govern. Estimates of dimensions, volumes, emissions rates, operating rates, feed rates and hours of operation included in the applications do not constitute enforceable numeric limits beyond the extent necessary for compliance with applicable requirements.

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- (2) Upon presentation of credentials, representatives of the Maryland Department of the Environment ("MDE" or the "Department") and the Baltimore City Health Department shall at any reasonable time be granted, without delay and without prior notification, access to the Permittee's property and permitted to:
 - (a) inspect any construction authorized by this permit;
 - (b) sample, as necessary to determine compliance with requirements of this permit, any materials stored or processed on-site, any waste materials, and any discharge into the environment;
 - (c) inspect any monitoring equipment required by this permit;
 - (d) review and copy any records, including all documents required to be maintained by this permit, relevant to a determination of compliance with requirements of this permit; and
 - (e) obtain any photographic documentation or evidence necessary to determine compliance with the requirements of this permit.
- (3) The Permittee shall notify the Department prior to increasing quantities and/or changing the types of any materials referenced in the application or limited by this permit. If the Department determines that such increases or changes constitute a modification, the Permittee shall obtain a permit-to-construct prior to implementing the modification.
- (4) Nothing in this permit authorizes the violation of any rule or regulation or the creation of a nuisance or air pollution.
- (5) If any provision of this permit is declared by proper authority to be invalid, the remaining provisions of the permit shall remain in effect.
- (6) Subsequent to issuance of this permit, the Department may impose additional and modified requirements that are incorporated into a State permit-to-operate issued pursuant to COMAR 26.11.02.13.

Part B – Applicable Regulations

- (1) This source is subject to all applicable federal air pollution control requirements.
- (2) This source is subject to all applicable federally enforceable State air pollution control requirements including, but not limited to, the following regulations:

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- (a) COMAR 26.11.01.07C, which requires that the Permittee report to the Department occurrences of excess emissions.
- (b) COMAR 26.11.02.04B, which states that a permit to construct or an approval expires if, as determined by the Department:
 - (i) Substantial construction or modification is not commenced within 18 months after the date of issuance of the permit or approval, unless the Department specifies a longer period in the permit or approval;
 - (ii) Construction or modification is substantially discontinued for a period of 18 months after the construction or modification has commenced; or
 - (iii) The source for which the permit or approval was issued is not completed within a reasonable period after the date of issuance of the permit or approval.
- (c) COMAR 26.11.02.04D, which states that notwithstanding COMAR 26.11.02.04B and C, the Department may issue a temporary start-up State permit to operate for a source or emission unit within the source for a period not to exceed 90 days. In the case of a newly constructed or modified source, the Department may issue a temporary start-up State permit to operate for a period not to exceed 1 year.
- (d) COMAR 26.11.02.09A, which requires that the Permittee obtain a permit-to-construct if an installation is to be modified in a manner that would cause changes in the quantity, nature, or characteristics of emissions from the installation as referenced in this permit.
- (e) COMAR 26.11.08.01B(9-1) – a “Crematory” means a furnace where a human or animal corpse is burned with:
 - (i) The container or bag in which the human or animal corpse is placed or transported; and
 - (ii) The animal bedding, if applicable.
- (f) COMAR 26.11.08.04B, which prohibits visible emissions other than uncombined water in Areas III and IV. The Permittee is located in Area III as defined in COMAR 26.11.01.03C.

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Exceptions. The requirements do not apply to emissions during start-up, or adjustments or occasional cleaning of control equipment if:

- (1) The visible emissions are not greater than 40 percent opacity; and
 - (2) The visible emissions do not occur for more than 6 consecutive minutes in any 60-minute period.
- (g) COMAR 26.11.08.05B(2)(a), which limits the concentration of particulate matter in any exhaust gases to not more than 0.10 grains per standard cubic foot of dry exhaust gas.
- (3) This source is subject to all applicable State-only enforceable air pollution control requirements including, but not limited to, the following regulations:
- (a) COMAR 26.11.02.13A(1), which requires that the Permittee obtain from the Department, and maintain and renew as required, a valid State permit-to-operate.
 - (b) COMAR 26.11.02.19C & D, which require that the Permittee submit to the Department annual certifications of emissions, and that the Permittee maintain sufficient records to support the emissions information presented in such submittals.
 - (c) COMAR 26.11.06.08 and 26.11.06.09, which generally prohibit the discharge of emissions beyond the property line in such a manner that a nuisance or air pollution is created.
 - (d) COMAR 26.11.15.05, which requires that the Permittee implement "Best Available Control Technology for Toxics" (T – BACT) to control emissions of toxic air pollutants.
 - (e) COMAR 26.11.15.06, which prohibits the discharge of toxic air pollutants to the extent that such emissions would unreasonably endanger human health.

Part C – Construction Conditions

- (1) Except as otherwise provided in this part, the Matthews Environmental Solutions, PowerPak II Plus, 175 pounds per hour, human crematory shall be constructed in accordance with specifications included in the incorporated applications and in accordance with the specifications provided by the vendor and manufacturer.

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- (2) The crematory shall be designed to limit particulate matter emissions to no more than 0.10 grains per standard cubic foot dry, adjusted to 12 percent carbon dioxide.
- (3) The crematory shall be equipped with a secondary combustion chamber capable of achieving a retention time of at least 1.0 second, and an operating temperature of at least 1600 °F.
- (4) The crematory shall be equipped with temperature sensors and recorders to continuously monitor and record the temperature of the secondary combustion chamber during operation.
- (5) The crematory shall be equipped with an opacity sensor interlocked with a control system that continuously monitors the stack gases for visible emissions during operation and adjusts cremation operations to prevent visible emissions from exiting the crematory stack.
- (6) The stack height of the crematory stack shall be at least 40 feet above the ground.
- (7) The crematory stack shall be equipped with sampling ports designed to provide access to stack gases in order to perform EPA or other Department approved stack emissions testing methods.

Part D – Operating and Monitoring Conditions

- (1) Except as otherwise provided in this part, the Matthews Environmental Solutions, PowerPak II Plus, 175 pounds per hour, human crematory authorized by this permit shall be operated in accordance with specifications included in the application and any operating procedures recommended by equipment vendors unless the Permittee obtains from the Department written authorization for alternative operating procedures.
- (2) The Permittee shall comply with the following premises-wide operational limitations unless the Permittee can demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Department, that compliance with all applicable air quality regulations and standards can be achieved under other operational conditions:
 - (a) The Permittee shall only cremate human remains in the Matthews Environmental Solutions, PowerPak II Plus, 175 pounds per hour, crematory.

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- (b) The Permittee shall not cremate more than 2 human remains during any 8-hour period.
 - (c) The Permittee shall not combust any halogenated plastics, including polyvinyl chloride (PVC) body bags, PVC pipes, or perfluoroalkyl substance (PFAS) containing materials.
 - (d) The Permittee shall not combust any hazardous waste as defined in COMAR 26.13.02.03; hospital waste as defined in 40 CFR 60, Subpart Ec, medical/infectious waste as defined in 40 CFR 60, Subpart Ec; or municipal waste as defined in 40 CFR, Part 60, Subpart Eb.
 - (e) The Permittee shall comply with all crematory operation restrictions and requirements specified by the Maryland Department of Health in COMAR 10.29.18 and COMAR 10.29.19.
- (3) Prior to the initiation of cremation in the primary chamber, the secondary chamber shall be preheated until the gases leaving the secondary chamber attain a temperature of at least 1600 °F.
 - (4) While remains are being cremated, the secondary chamber temperature shall be maintained at 1600 °F or higher.
 - (5) While remains are cremated, the temperature of the flue gases at the outlet of the secondary combustion chamber shall be continuously monitored and recorded on a chart recorder or other continuous record keeping device. The records shall show the dates and times of all recorded temperature readings.
 - (6) The Permittee shall comply with the following local zoning conditions as specified by the Baltimore City Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals (BMZA) unless the Permittee obtains approval from the BMZA to operate at other conditions:
 - (a) Only human remains from funeral homes owned, operated, or controlled by Vaughn Greene Funeral Services at this location or one of the following locations may be cremated on the premises:
 - (i) 8728 Liberty Road, Randallstown, Maryland 21133
 - (ii) 5151 Baltimore National Pike, Baltimore, Maryland 21229
 - (iii) 4101 Edmondson Avenue Baltimore, Maryland 21229;
 - (b) Vaughn Greene Funeral Services will remove all teeth containing mercury amalgams prior to cremation; and

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- (c) Vaughn Greene Funeral Services will comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws.
- (7) The Permittee shall develop and maintain an Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Plan for the crematory, reviewed and approved by the Department, that incorporates all of the following:
 - (a) Information that is sufficient to demonstrate that air emissions from the crematory can be expected to comply with all applicable regulatory requirements during periods of normal operation. Examples of types of information that could be included to support the required demonstrations would be design criteria, vendor specifications and performance guarantees, approved computer modeling studies, and results of testing programs in which approved test methods and procedures were utilized.
 - (b) Procedures that provide for proper operation and maintenance of the crematory and associated operating and monitoring equipment.
 - (c) Provisions for periodic monitoring of operating parameters as necessary to determine that the crematory is functioning properly.
 - (d) Descriptions of procedures to be followed and corrective actions to be taken when monitoring information indicates that the crematory is not functioning properly.
 - (e) Provisions for developing written or printable electronic records that will show whether prescribed operating, maintenance and monitoring procedures are consistently followed, and whether timely and appropriate corrective actions are taken when malfunctions occur.

Part E – Notification and Testing Requirements

- (1) Within 15 calendar days following initial startup, the Permittee shall submit written or electronic notification to the Department of the initial startup date of the crematory.
- (2) Within 120 days after initial startup, the Permittee shall conduct a modified EPA Method 9 opacity observation of the crematory stack to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of COMAR 26.11.08.04B, to assess the effectiveness of the crematory's opacity sensor, and to determine when operations require adjustments to ensure compliance.

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- (a) The opacity observation shall be conducted for a one-hour period while human remains are cremated.
 - (b) During the opacity observation, the Permittee shall make adjustments to the opacity sensor equipment and crematory operations as needed to ensure that visible emissions do not occur during normal operation.
 - (c) If visible emissions are observed during the opacity observation, the Permittee shall take corrective actions to bring the crematory into compliance.
 - (d) At least 30 days prior to conducting the modified Method 9 opacity observation, the Permittee shall notify the Department of the intended date of the observation to allow for an inspector to be present.
 - (e) Within 30 days after conducting a modified Method 9 opacity observation, the Permittee shall submit the results and a description of adjustments or corrective actions made during the observations to the Department.
- (3) Within 120 days after initial startup, the Permittee shall conduct performance tests on the crematory stack to determine emissions of particulate matter using EPA Method 5 and emissions of metals using EPA Method 29.
- (a) At least 30 days prior to the performance tests, the Permittee shall submit to the Department a test protocol for review and approval.
 - (b) Within 45 days following the performance tests, the Permittee shall submit to the Department the performance test results.
 - (c) The performance test results shall include a demonstration of compliance with applicable particulate matter and metal toxic air pollutant requirements.

Part F – Record Keeping and Reporting

- (1) The Permittee shall maintain for at least five (5) years, and shall make available to the Department upon request, records of the following information for the crematory:

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- (a) Charts or other continuous records of the flue gas temperature at the outlet of the secondary combustion chamber. The records must show the date and start time of each cremation.
- (b) A log of the following information for each cremation performed:
 - (i) the date and start time of each cremation;
 - (ii) the approximate weight of each charge;
 - (iii) the duration of each cremation cycle;
 - (iv) description of remains, including place of origin and record of receipt demonstrating that only remains from funeral homes owned, operated, or controlled by Vaughn Greene Funeral Services, and accompanying materials to be cremated; and
 - (v) identification of materials removed from remains prior to cremation to comply with the requirements of Part D(2) and Part D(6) of this permit.
- (c) Records of all maintenance performed on the crematory including the date and description of the maintenance performed and actions taken.
- (d) A copy of the required Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Plan.
- (e) Records of the results of all modified Method 9 opacity observations and Method 5 and Method 29 performance tests.
- (2) The Permittee shall maintain at the facility for at least five (5) years, and shall make available to the Department upon request, records necessary to support annual certifications of emissions and demonstrations of compliance for toxic air pollutants. Such records shall include, if applicable, the following:
 - (a) mass emissions rates for each regulated pollutant, and the total mass emissions rate for all regulated pollutants for each registered source of emissions;
 - (b) accounts of the methods and assumptions used to quantify emissions;

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- (c) all operating data, including operating schedules and production data, that were used in determinations of emissions;
 - (d) amounts, types, and analyses of all fuels used;
 - (e) any records, the maintenance of which is required by this permit or by State or federal regulations, that pertain to the operation and maintenance of continuous emissions monitors, including:
 - (i) all emissions data generated by such monitors;
 - (ii) all monitor calibration data;
 - (iii) information regarding the percentage of time each monitor was available for service; and
 - (iv) information concerning any equipment malfunctions.
 - (f) information concerning operation, maintenance, and performance of air pollution control equipment and compliance monitoring equipment, including:
 - (i) identifications and descriptions of all such equipment;
 - (ii) operating schedules for each item of such equipment;
 - (iii) accounts of any significant maintenance performed;
 - (iv) accounts of all malfunctions and outages; and
 - (v) accounts of any episodes of reduced efficiency.
 - (g) limitations on source operation or any work practice standards that significantly affect emissions; and
 - (h) other relevant information as required by the Department.
- (3) The Permittee shall submit to the Department by April 1 of each year a certification of emissions for the previous calendar year. The certifications shall be prepared in accordance with requirements, as applicable, adopted under COMAR 26.11.01.05 – 1 and COMAR 26.11.02.19D.
- (a) Certifications of emissions shall be submitted on forms obtained from the Department.

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- (b) A certification of emissions shall include mass emissions rates for each regulated pollutant, and the total mass emissions rate for all regulated pollutants for each of the facility's registered sources of emissions.
- (c) The person responsible for a certification of emissions shall certify the submittal to the Department in the following manner:

“I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.”
- (4) The Permittee shall submit to the Department by April 1 of each year a written certification of the results of an analysis of emissions of toxic air pollutants from the Permittee's facility during the previous calendar year. Such analysis shall include either:
 - (a) a statement that previously submitted compliance demonstrations for emissions of toxic air pollutants remain valid; or
 - (b) a revised compliance demonstration, developed in accordance with requirements included under COMAR 26.11.15 & 16, that accounts for changes in operations, analytical methods, emissions determinations, or other factors that have invalidated previous demonstrations.
- (5) The Permittee shall report, in accordance with requirements under COMAR 26.11.01.07, occurrences of excess emissions to the Compliance Program of the Air and Radiation Administration.

Part G – Temporary Permit-to-Operate Requirements

- (1) This permit-to-construct shall also serve as a temporary permit-to-operate that confers upon the Permittee authorization to operate the Matthews Environmental Solutions, PowerPak II Plus, 175 pounds per hour, human crematory for a period of up to 180 days after initiating operation of the crematory.

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- (2) During the effective period of the temporary permit-to-operate the Permittee shall operate the new installation as required by the applicable terms and conditions of this permit-to-construct, and in accordance with operating procedures and recommendations provided by equipment vendors.
- (3) During the effective period of the temporary permit-to-operate the Permittee shall comply with all required notification, opacity observation, and performance test requirements as specified in Part E of this permit.
- (4) The Permittee shall submit to the Department an application for a State permit-to-operate no later than 60 days prior to expiration of the effective period of the temporary permit-to-operate. With the application for a State permit-to-operate, the Permittee shall submit a proposed Operations and Maintenance Plan required by Part D(7) of this permit for review and approval by the Department.