

Maryjoy Ulatowski

From: AC Jayne [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 30, 2023 8:00 PM
To: DPHAMS_Service_Requests
Subject: Comment on SEPTA Robert's Complex SMOP

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for your time in reading my email around the Synthetic Minor Operating Permit for the Septa Roberts Complex in Nicetown. My family and I live on Copley Rd in SW Germantown, just a mile or so away from the Robert's Complex, so we have a vested interest in what happens there.

I would ask that you reconsider renewing the permit that include's Septa's gas plant at the complex. It astounds me that we are still building and renewing plants that burn fossil fuels, despite all we know and the rhetoric around "going green." I don't think it is right to say, well, this plant already exists, so we might as well use it and we'll think about greener options next time. We've been doing that for too long already. It will never get done at the rate it needs to get done this way. We need to force the issue.

Please do not renew this permit and work with Septa to secure state, federal and non-profit grant funds to build green alternatives (solar, geothermal, etc.) to their gas plant.

We can't keep pushing this down the road - we have to do something today - what we have done so far is not enough. Please step outside the box and make a change.

Thank you,
~AC Jayne

Maryjoy Ulatowski

From: Alicia Clifton [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 31, 2023 9:34 AM
To: DPHAMS_Service_Requests
Subject: SEPTA Roberts Complex OP17-000024

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Dear DPHAMS_Service_Requests@Phila.Gov,

Please increase the frequency of stack testing requirements for combined heat and power (CHP) units G-01 and G-02 at the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority's (SEPTA) Roberts Complex in the Nicetown neighborhood of Philadelphia. Over 35,000 Philadelphians live within a mile of the Roberts Complex, 51% of which live under the federal poverty line and 83% of which are people of color. This is an environmental justice community that has the right to increased environmental protections.

In January 2022, during a required test of emissions from the facility's largest pollution source, CHP G-01, it was determined that one of the heat and power generation units was emitting pollution above the levels allowed under the facility's permit. The malfunction was repaired and the facility paid a fine. It is unknown how long this equipment was malfunctioning for and how much unpermitted air pollution was released over time.

This malfunction could have easily caused this facility to surpass the 25 tons per year (TPY) pollution limits for nitrogen oxide (NOx) and volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions. The City of Philadelphia currently does not meet federal ground-level-ozone (smog) standards and in its 2021 Air Quality Report, the City's Air Management Services concluded that smog is increasing in the city, raising the risk of respiratory damage and other health effects.

SEPTA is now seeking to renew this air pollution permit and the current stack testing frequency requirements are not adequate to ensure that the facility's NOx and VOC emissions are kept below permitted limits. The current air permit and proposed renewal only requires that the two heat and power generation units at the site be tested every 8,760 hours of operation or every 3 years, whichever comes first. That is not an adequate frequency to ensure that the facility complies with its emission limitations at all times.

Please increase air pollution monitoring and testing at SEPTA's CHP plant in Nicetown to at least quarterly.

Sincerely,
Alicia Clifton
[REDACTED]
Philadelphia, PA 19130
[REDACTED]

Maryjoy Ulatowski

From: Allison Hackman [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 31, 2023 10:58 PM
To: DPHAMS_Service_Requests
Subject: Comment -SEPTA Roberts Complex SMOP

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Dear Heath Commissioner Dr. Cheryl Bettigole, Deputy Health Commissioner Palak Raval-Nelson, and Dr. Kassahun Sellassie,

I am writing to protest the renewal of the permit for the SEPTA gas power plant in Nicetown.

All people have a right to clean air. This gas power plant infringes upon human rights and disproportionately impacts historically underserved communities. Gas power plants like SEPTA's have been proven to cause increased rates of cancer, asthma, cardiovascular disease, and mental illness. The World Health Organization has ample research proving these negative effects stem from particulate matter, nitrogen oxide, volatile organic compounds, carbon monoxide, and sulfur oxides—all of which are emitted by gas power plants like this one. My family and friends deserve protection against increased air pollutants and the effects of climate change.

As we continue to address environmental concerns, it is crucial to protect people and create policies that keep people safe. SEPTA's gas power plant causes more harm than good to our communities in both the short and long term. Furthermore, with the reality of climate change growing more evident by the day, it is vital to invest in alternatives to fossil fuels. PECO's electrical supply is a clear, safer alternative to a gas power plant.

I appreciate your time and hope you will take this perspective into consideration when deciding whether to renew the Nicetown Gas Plant. Thank you for your time and service.

Respectfully,

--

Allison Hackman
(she/her/hers)

[REDACTED]
Writer & Editor

Maryjoy Ulatowski

From: Allan Neider [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 31, 2023 8:50 AM
To: DPHAMS_Service_Requests
Subject: SEPTA Roberts Complex OP17-000024

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Dear DPHAMS_Service_Requests@Phila.Gov,

To those who won't read this, and the deaf ears our messages fall upon. This particular petition is a good one and a just one of the thousands I'm sure you see every day. Septa and those large employers like it are taking advantage of our ignorance. When opportunities to increase our understanding and oversight of potentially harmful operations we must act. Please increase the frequency of stack testing requirements for combined heat and power (CHP) units G-01 and G-02 at the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority's (SEPTA) Roberts Complex in the Nicetown neighborhood of Philadelphia. Over 35,000 Philadelphians live within a mile of the Roberts Complex, 51% of which live under the federal poverty line and 83% of which are people of color. This is an environmental justice community that has the right to increased environmental protections.

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SEPTA is now seeking to renew this air pollution permit and the current stack testing frequency requirements are not adequate to ensure that the facility's NOx and VOC emissions are kept below permitted limits. The current air permit and proposed renewal only requires that the two heat and power generation units at the site be tested every 8,760 hours of operation or every 3 years, whichever comes first. That is not an adequate frequency to ensure that the facility complies with its emission limitations at all times.

Please increase air pollution monitoring and testing at SEPTA's CHP plant in Nicetown to at least quarterly.

Sincerely,

Allan Neider

[REDACTED]
Philadelphia, PA 19137
[REDACTED]

Maryjoy Ulatowski

From: Allan Freedman [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 29, 2023 11:35 AM
To: DPHAMS_Service_Requests
Subject: SEPTA Roberts Complex OP17-000024

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Dear DPHAMS_Service_Requests@Phila.Gov,

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Please increase air pollution monitoring and testing at SEPTA's CHP plant in Nicetown to at least quarterly.

Sincerely,
Allan Freedman
7821
Elkins Park, PA 19027

Maryjoy Ulatowski

From: Amanda Kreiss [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 29, 2023 7:12 PM
To: DPHAMS_Service_Requests
Subject: SEPTA Roberts Complex OP17-000024

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Dear DPHAMS_Service_Requests@Phila.Gov,

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Please increase air pollution monitoring and testing at SEPTA's CHP plant in Nicetown to at least quarterly.

Sincerely,
Amanda Kreiss
[REDACTED]
Philadelphia, PA 19144
[REDACTED]

Maryjoy Ulatowski

From: anabel shafia [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 31, 2023 9:04 AM
To: DPHAMS_Service_Requests
Subject: SEPTA Roberts Complex OP17-000024

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Dear DPHAMS_Service_Requests@Phila.Gov,

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Please increase air pollution monitoring and testing at SEPTA's CHP plant in Nicetown to at least quarterly.

Sincerely,
anabel shafia

[REDACTED]
Bala cynwyd, PA 19004
[REDACTED]

Maryjoy Ulatowski

From: Ann Dixon [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 31, 2023 2:21 PM
To: DPHAMS_Service_Requests
Subject: Comment -SEPTA Roberts Complex SMOP

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Dear Health Department,

The permit for renewing the gas plant should be denied! The combined heat and power plant (CHP) should not receive its own permit. And before the rest of Roberts Complex receives an operating permit, a "Complex Source Review" should be done which measures mobile emissions from buses, trains, trucks, cars, and any other vehicles on the property, not just the standing equipment.

Before the permit was first issued, citizens were told that the gas plant would only be used as a back up plan to run trains in case other power sources failed. I understand that now it actually powers 70% of six train lines. This is unacceptable in this age of climate chaos, which is caused by extracting and burning fossil fuels.

It is also unacceptable that neighbors have to endure inhaling more dangerous pollution. The area already has a huge amount of diesel exhaust.

The previous CHP permit only requires the CHP to have performance testing using Stack Tests once every 3 years, for each of its 2 generators. It requires Portable Analyzer tests every 3 months which only measure NOx and CO. This means that SEPTA's CHP could violate emissions limits for up to 3 years, especially for pollutants not included in the portable tests. Stack tests in 2021 showed that non-methane non-ethane hydrocarbon levels were exceeded. My understanding is that the new permit that SEPTA is applying for has the same requirements.

If the CHP permit is granted, install Continuous Emission Monitors in the two CHP stacks. Air Management Services should require year-round CEM measurements for NOx, VOCs, CO, and HAPs. Ultra fine particulate matter should also be monitored.

Sincerely,
Ann Dixon, Philadelphia citizen

Maryjoy Ulatowski

From: Anne Brennan [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 29, 2023 12:56 PM
To: DPHAMS_Service_Requests
Subject: SEPTA Roberts Complex OP17-000024

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Dear DPHAMS_Service_Requests@Phila.Gov,

Please increase the frequency of stack testing requirements for combined heat and power (CHP) units G-01 and G-02 at the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority's (SEPTA) Roberts Complex in the Nicetown neighborhood of Philadelphia. Over 35,000 Philadelphians live within a mile of the Roberts Complex, 51% of which live under the federal poverty line and 83% of which are people of color. This is an environmental justice community that has the right to increased environmental protections.

In January 2022, during a required test of emissions from the facility's largest pollution source, CHP G-01, it was determined that one of the heat and power generation units was emitting pollution above the levels allowed under the facility's permit. The malfunction was repaired and the facility paid a fine. It is unknown how long this equipment was malfunctioning for and how much unpermitted air pollution was released over time.

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SEPTA is now seeking to renew this air pollution permit and the current stack testing frequency requirements are not adequate to ensure that the facility's NOx and VOC emissions are kept below permitted limits. The current air permit and proposed renewal only requires that the two heat and power generation units at the site be tested every 8,760 hours of operation or every 3 years, whichever comes first. That is not an adequate frequency to ensure that the facility complies with its emission limitations at all times.

Please increase air pollution monitoring and testing at SEPTA's CHP plant in Nicetown to at least quarterly.

Sincerely,
Anne Brennan

[REDACTED]
Philadelphia, PA 19103
[REDACTED]

Maryjoy Ulatowski

From: Arden Sawyer [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 24, 2023 11:21 AM
To: DPHAMS_Service_Requests
Subject: Comment on SEPTA Roberts complex SMOP

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To whom it may concern,

As a neighbor of the residents of Nicetown I feel that it is the Philadelphia Health Department's responsibility to the Nicetown community to deny the renewal permit for the Roberts Complex if it includes the CHP Gas Plant. It is unjust and inhumane to build a power plant in a densely populated neighborhood, and to do so is an act of environmental racism against a majority black zip code.

-Arden Sawyer
School House Lane
19144

Maryjoy Ulatowski

From: Austin Hackman [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 31, 2023 1:15 PM
To: DPHAMS_Service_Requests
Subject: Comment -SEPTA Roberts Complex SMOP.

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Dear Dr. Cheryl Bettegole, Palak Raval-Nelson, and Dr. Kassahun Sellassie,

I hope this email finds you doing well.

I am contacting you to voice my support, as a Philadelphia resident, for the following actions that are proposed by the Neighbors Against the Gas Plants organization:

In the power vested in your position, you should deny the Synthetic Minor Operating Permit (SMOP) for Roberts Complex, as long as the CHP (gas plant) is included. The CHP should not receive its own permit. And before the rest of Roberts Complex receives an operating permit, a "Complex Source Review" should be done which measures mobile emissions from buses, trains, trucks, cars, and any other vehicles on the property, not just the standing equipment emissions.

I fully support their recommendations to eliminate or at the least reduce pollution from gas plant operations put forward by NGAP..

Best regards,
Austin Hackman

Maryjoy Ulatowski

From: Babara Franck [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 29, 2023 4:45 PM
To: DPHAMS_Service_Requests
Subject: SEPTA Roberts Complex OP17-000024

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Dear DPHAMS_Service_Requests@Phila.Gov,

Please increase the frequency of stack testing requirements for combined heat and power (CHP) units G-01 and G-02 at the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority's (SEPTA) Roberts Complex in the Nicetown neighborhood of Philadelphia. Over 35,000 Philadelphians live within a mile of the Roberts Complex, 51% of which live under the federal poverty line and 83% of which are people of color. This is an environmental justice community that has the right to increased environmental protections.

In January 2022, during a required test of emissions from the facility's largest pollution source, CHP G-01, it was determined that one of the heat and power generation units was emitting pollution above the levels allowed under the facility's permit. The malfunction was repaired and the facility paid a fine. It is unknown how long this equipment was malfunctioning for and how much unpermitted air pollution was released over time.

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SEPTA is now seeking to renew this air pollution permit and the current stack testing frequency requirements are not adequate to ensure that the facility's NOx and VOC emissions are kept below permitted limits. The current air permit and proposed renewal only requires that the two heat and power generation units at the site be tested every 8,760 hours of operation or every 3 years, whichever comes first. That is not an adequate frequency to ensure that the facility complies with its emission limitations at all times.

Please increase air pollution monitoring and testing at SEPTA's CHP plant in Nicetown to at least quarterly.

Sincerely,
Babara Franck
[REDACTED]
Philadelphia, PA 19125
[REDACTED]

Maryjoy Ulatowski

From: Belinda Davis [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 31, 2023 1:37 PM
To: DPHAMS_Service_Requests
Subject: NO RENEWAL OF GAS PLANTS PERMITS!!!

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These plants are BAD for Philadelphians and everyone else, at the level of local toxic pollutants and in the creation of more greenhouse gases. They were not needed in the first place, only a sop to fracking profiteers, and this is the time to DECOMISSION THEM!!!

Belinda Davis, Chair, Green Party of Philadelphia; Member, Neighbors Against the Gas Plants

Maryjoy Ulatowski

From: Benjamin Bartley [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 31, 2023 8:00 AM
To: DPHAMS_Service_Requests
Subject: Comment on SEPTA Roberts Complex SMOP

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Benjamin Bartley
[REDACTED] 19129
[REDACTED]

To whom it may concern,

The Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Plant within the Roberts Complex poses a health risk to residents of Nicetown and the surrounding communities, of which I am a resident.

Nicetown in particular is recognized by the EPA as an Environmental Justice community, comprised of predominately minority and low-income residents who disproportionately suffer from higher rates of asthma, cancer, and cardiovascular disease, which are exacerbated by the continued operation of the CHP plant and its emissions as they linger in the area due to it being located in a topographical bowl.

The energy the CHP plant generates can be generated from cleaner sources (renewables) that are better sited (e.g., not in an Environmental Justice community).

I am asking that the Philadelphia Health Department deny the renewal permit for Roberts Complex as long as it includes the CHP plant. Short of this, I request that AMS improve the permit and provide more protection for our community's health.

Thanks for your consideration,

Benjamin Bartley (he/him)

Maryjoy Ulatowski

From: Bonnie Eisenfeld [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 29, 2023 10:50 AM
To: DPHAMS_Service_Requests
Subject: SEPTA Roberts Complex OP17-000024

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Dear DPHAMS_Service_Requests@Phila.Gov,

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In January 2022, during a required test of emissions from the facility's largest pollution source, CHP G-01, it was determined that one of the heat and power generation units was emitting pollution above the levels allowed under the facility's permit. The malfunction was repaired and the facility paid a fine. It is unknown how long this equipment was malfunctioning for and how much unpermitted air pollution was released over time.

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Please increase air pollution monitoring and testing at SEPTA's CHP plant in Nicetown to at least quarterly.

Sincerely,
Bonnie Eisenfeld
[REDACTED]
Philadelphia, PA 19103
[REDACTED]

Maryjoy Ulatowski

From: Brandon Robilotti [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 8, 2023 8:28 AM
To: DPHAMS_Service_Requests
Subject: SEPTA Roberts Complex OP17-000024

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Dear DPHAMS_Service_Requests@Phila.Gov,

PLEASE HEAR YOUR CITIZENS!! Please increase the frequency of stack testing requirements for combined heat and power (CHP) units G-01 and G-02 at the SEPTA Roberts Complex in Nicetown. Over 35,000 Philadelphians live within a mile of the Roberts Complex, 51% of which live under the federal poverty line and 83% of which are people of color. This is an EJ community that has the right to increased environmental protections!!!

In January 2022, during a required test of emissions from the facility's largest pollution source, CHP G-01, it was determined that one of the heat and power generation units was emitting pollution above the levels allowed under the facility's permit. The malfunction was repaired and the facility paid a fine. It is unknown how long this equipment was malfunctioning for and how much unpermitted air pollution was released over time.

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Please increase air pollution monitoring and testing at SEPTA's CHP plant in Nicetown to at least quarterly.

Sincerely,
Brandon Robilotti
[REDACTED]
Philadelphia, PA 19146
[REDACTED]

Maryjoy Ulatowski

From: the king of dark [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, August 26, 2023 12:37 PM
To: DPHAMS_Service_Requests
Subject: Comment on SEPTA Roberts Complex SMOP

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Hello my name is Brenda Sneed I am writing in regards to asking the health of my family. I want two things. Number one, I want the department of health to deny the permit for the gas plants. Number two, I demand that SEPTA and PGW fix the damage that they have caused our neighborhoods. And fix up some of this vacant properties

Brenda Sneed [REDACTED]
Philadelphia PA 19140
[REDACTED]

Maryjoy Ulatowski

From: Brian Monk [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 31, 2023 3:43 PM
To: DPHAMS_Service_Requests
Subject: Comment on SEPTA Roberts Complex SMOP

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Dear Health Commissioner Dr. Cheryl Bettegole,

My name is Brian Monk. I am a resident of East Falls, living at [REDACTED] My phone number should you need further contact is [REDACTED]

I am writing in concern regarding the gas plant in Nicetown. Please consider my email and thoughts to reject the renewal of the Roberts Complex contract, for as long as it includes the CHP. The air pollution from the CHP affects my neighborhood as well as our neighboring communities in Germantown and Nicetown. Every year the site dumps 73 TONS of toxic emissions into our neighborhoods. As a result, residents of Nicetown face some of the highest rates of asthma, cancer, and heart disease in the city

No city residents should incur such great health risks based solely on where they are able to live. Producing these outcomes is a matter of public health policy, and you now have the opportunity to change that!

Help change Philadelphia's reputation to a city that protects its citizens and fights for environmental justice!

I hope you consider this vote as it can greatly improve the lives of Philadelphians for generations.

Sincerely,

Brian Monk

Maryjoy Ulatowski

From: Bruce Marshall [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 30, 2023 2:02 PM
To: DPHAMS_Service_Requests
Subject: Favorable Comment on SEPTA Roberts Complex SMOP

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Dear Dr. Bettegole and others,

I am a close-by neighbor of the old Midvale plant / Roberts Complex. I wish to weigh in on the renewal of the SMOP, by being in favor of it.

I have lived here all my life, about two blocks away, since 1952. When I was young, there was extensive pollution from Midvale, the railroad yards, and the Budd Company, located approximately across the street from SMOP. Early on there was such emission from the trains and Midvale, I would have a coat of soot on my bedroom windowsill every morning when it was warm and the windows were open. Despite this, I know of no one of my childhood friends who ever had any illnesses related to this, such as cancer, emphysema, etc., and there sure weren't any cases of asthma.

This situation is the result of hysteria fomented by people with an agenda (or more than one). There is no logic behind any of this, and the gullible people have gotten into an emotional state based on fictitious talking points distributed by the activists. The gas plant increases efficiency of generation and distribution and reduces pollution from the alternatives, including the coal burned to generate the needed electricity that would have to be brought in from elsewhere. Gas burns clean and poses no safety hazard. Also, there are jobs involved, presumably at least some of which would be from the community.

I urge you to disregard the mob who are once again assailing this, and proceed with approval.

Respectfully,

Bruce Marshall

Co-Chair of Southwest Germantown Neighbors Association (SGNA) [my views are my own, and do not represent

SGNA]

[REDACTED] 19144

[REDACTED]