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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CITY OF PHILADELPHIA AIR POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD</p> <p>IN RE: Public Hearing - proposed Synthetic Minor Operating Permit for Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) - Roberts Complex</p> <p>DATE: Thursday, July 27, 2023</p> <p>LOCATION: Zoom Teleconference</p> <p>REPORTED BY: John Kelly, Court Reporter</p> <p>HELD BEFORE: DR. PALAK RAVAL-NELSON, Deputy Health Commissioner for Philadelphia DPH DR. EDWARD WIENER, Chief of Source Registration for AMS DR. CHERYL BETTIGOLE, Health Commissioner for Philadelphia DPH DR. KASSAHUN SELLASSIE, Director of AMS JIAZHENG LI, Board Staff</p> <p>ALSO PRESENT:</p> <p>TAMMY MURPHY, M.A., LL.M., Physicians for Social Responsibility - Pennsylvania LYNN ROBINSON, Neighbors Against the Gas Plants MARTA GUTTENBERG, Resident, City of Philadelphia FLORA CARDONI, PennEnvironment KARENA JACKSON LUNDY, Resident, City of Philadelphia WALTER TSOU, MD, MPH STATE REPRESENTATIVE DARISHA K PARKER PETER WINSLOW, A SMART Collaboration LLC (ASC) CHRISTINA DIGIULIO, Resident, City of Philadelphia SHEILA TRIPATHY, Resident, City of Philadelphia MITCH CHANIN, Resident, City of Philadelphia HOPE FELDMAN, Resident, City of Philadelphia PETER FURCHT, Resident, City of Philadelphia TAYLOR BAKER, Resident, City of Philadelphia HOPE PRIMAS, Resident, City of Philadelphia MIKE EWALL, Energy Justice Network RUSSELL ZERBO, Clean Air Council MUSA WILSON, Student, Imhotep Charter School JEREMIAH WHITE, Student, Imhotep Charter School LISA HASTINGS, Resident, City of Philadelphia</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pages 1 through 69</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">P R O C E E D I N G S</p> <p>1 MR. WIENER: My name is Edward Wiener, Chief of Source 2 Registration for Air Management Services of the Philadelphia 3 Department of Public Health. Please note that this public 4 hearing is being recorded. 5 6 We are here to accept testimony on a proposed 7 Synthetic Minor Operating Permit for Southeastern 8 Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) - Roberts 9 Complex, located at 4301 Wissahickon Avenue, Philadelphia, 10 PA 19129. 11 This hearing was published in the notices section of 12 the Pennsylvania Bulletin on Saturday, June 10, 2023. This 13 hearing was also published in the Philadelphia Inquirer and 14 the Philadelphia Tribune on May 31, 2023, June 1, 2023, and 15 June 2, 2023. 16 The proposed Synthetic Minor Operating Permit, Number 17 OP17-000024, is a renewal of the existing Synthetic Minor 18 Operating Permit for the facility. All the sources in the 19 proposed renewal Synthetic Minor Operating Permit are also 20 in the existing Synthetic Minor Operating Permit except for 21 the two (2) natural-gas fired 4.6 megawatt combined heat and 22 power units. 23 AMS approved installation of the combined heat and 24 power units by issuing a construction permit, AMS Plan</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LIST OF SPEAKERS</p> <p style="text-align: right;">PAGE</p> <p>Tammy Murphy, M.A., LL.M. 5</p> <p>Lynn Robinson 10</p> <p>Marta Guttenberg 15</p> <p>Flora Cardoni 17</p> <p>Karena Jackson Lundy 20</p> <p>Walter Tsou, MD, MPHNB 21</p> <p>State Representative Darisha K Parker 25</p> <p>Peter Winslow 26</p> <p>Christina DiGiulio 31</p> <p>Sheila Tripathy 35</p> <p>Mitch Chanin 37</p> <p>Hope Feldman 41</p> <p>Peter Furcht 44</p> <p>Taylor Baker 47</p> <p>Hope Primas 49</p> <p>Mike Ewall 51</p> <p>Russell Zerbo 54</p> <p>Musa Wilson 56</p> <p>Jeremiah White 60</p> <p>Lisa Hastings 62</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 4</p> <p>1 Approval No. IP17-000009, on November 29, 2017. The 2 combined heat and power units are included in the proposed 3 renewal Synthetic Minor Operating Permit. 4 The facility is not a major stationary source as 5 defined in Title I, Part D of the Clean Air Act Amendments. 6 The facility is subject to the operating permit requirements 7 adopted in 25 Pa Code Section 127, Subchapter F but is not 8 subject to the Title V operating permit requirements adopted 9 in 25 Pa Code Section 127, Subchapter G. 10 The Department is holding this hearing to allow all 11 interested parties to testify with comments on this 12 Synthetic Minor Operating Permit application. 13 This hearing is being recorded and transcribed. 14 Please state and spell your name and any organization you 15 represent for the record before you begin. Each person's 16 testimony is limited to five minutes so everyone who wishes 17 to testify can testify. We will notify you when you have 18 one minute remaining. Each organization should designate 19 one witness to present testimony. Following your testimony, 20 we may need to ask for additional information. 21 This hearing will not be a question-and-answer 22 session. However, I can assure you that we will address all 23 comments and questions concerning this Synthetic Minor 24 Operating Permit before any determination is made to issue</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 5</p> <p>1 it. All oral or written comments received will become part 2 of the public record. We will prepare a response document 3 prior to final action on this operating permit. It will be 4 sent to attendees and commenters who we have an address for. 5 If anyone has written comments to submit, please 6 e-mail them to the AMS Service Requests e-mail address, 7 which you can find in the chat. That's the 8 DPHAMS_Service_Requests@Phila.Gov address. Please put SEPTA 9 Roberts Complex SMOP in the subject line. 10 We will start the oral comments now. 11 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Excellent. Thank you very much, 12 Ed. All right. Good evening. Our first commenter will be 13 Tammy Murphy. Please un-mute Ms. Murphy's mic, and Ms. 14 Murphy, please share yourself on the screen if you would 15 like, and when you start speaking, I will start the timer. 16 Thank you in advance for testifying. 17 MS. MURPHY: Okay. I can't, I don't have access to 18 showing myself on the screen. 19 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: That's fine. 20 MS. MURPHY: I do have a slide deck, if you would let 21 me share it. 22 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: We're going to keep it to verbal 23 testimony. 24 MS. MURPHY: Okay. All right.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 7</p> <p>1 in here despite the other gas plants that do exist in the 2 city, I think that the placement of this here was done to 3 appease policy makers that wanted the natural gas industry 4 to use power plants as they have in other places to allow 5 themselves to take eminent domain for their for-profit 6 industry, which is mostly exports, but they have to have a 7 couple locations where the residents are technically using 8 them, whether we want them here or not. 9 They have to have that in order for them to get 10 eminent domain to pipe their product through the state and 11 out to, you know, to the ports for export, which is the 12 majority of the fossil fuel business. 13 They went through this iteration in the past with 14 trying to get the bus lines, and when SEPTA didn't it to 15 them, they were punished and the bus lines were reduced in 16 Philadelphia because our financial support was reduced by 17 policy makers that wanted to appease the industry. 18 I want to point out that one out of three children in 19 this area already have asthma. That's an extremely high 20 rate for the city, and actually an extremely high rate of 21 asthma anywhere in the world, so it's standing out. 22 This particular area stands out on a global scale. 23 It's a massive number, to have one out of three children in 24 the area already having asthma.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 6</p> <p>1 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: But Ms. Murphy, if I could, I 2 apologize for interrupting you, we will keep it to verbal 3 testimony but if you want to email the slide deck, we will 4 make sure it becomes a matter of public record and will 5 review and provide any feedback associated. 6 MS. MURPHY: Okay. That would be great. Thank you so 7 much. 8 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Thank you. Please begin and I will 9 start the timer. 10 MS. MURPHY: Sure. Okay. So my name is Tammy Murphy, 11 and do I have to spell that? It's up on the screen. T-A-M- 12 M-Y, M-U-R-P-H-Y. I am a resident of East Falls. I live in 13 walking distance of the facility and I am also a parent 14 living here with a child who has asthma. 15 Learning that my child has asthma, I have two kids, 16 and the first one was not born here and didn't live here the 17 first couple years of his life, but the second child who was 18 raised here just recently last year started having issues 19 with asthma. 20 So this area that we live in in Philadelphia is pretty 21 complicated, and I want to talk a little bit about that 22 before I talk about those things that I'd like to see happen 23 here. 24 I think that the situation of putting this gas plant</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 8</p> <p>1 Now, combine it with the next couple of facts that I'm 2 going to talk out. You're going to see why it's 3 environmental racism and I will share the slides with you as 4 I have done with City Council and others. 5 The majority of the people in this community are 6 black. If you look just adjacent, when you see the slides, 7 you're going to see that the majority in East Falls is 8 white. There's a stark difference in the border lines 9 between the neighborhood, but it's black in the area smack 10 dab where the actual power plant is, and then on the other 11 side of that, it's majority Latino. So we're talking about 12 people of color and having these kinds of facilities put 13 into their community. 14 The other major thing about Nicetown that stands out 15 strong is the fact that the wealth in the community is 16 decreasing. It's decreasing at a rate that is far faster 17 than any other community in the city, and the wealth has 18 gone down to, in most of the area, it's gone down to the 19 bottom level, which is public assistance and up to like 20 \$28,000 per household per year. 21 So a community like this is not the kind of community 22 where we should be adding extra burdens. Obviously they 23 have existing burdens. 24 A couple of things, four things I'd like to demand in</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 9</p> <p>1 general, and I'll more specific stuff in written testimony. 2 We need and demand that the health consequences of emissions 3 violations need to be put on public record in real time from 4 the current time dating back to when the plant was started 5 operating. 6 We need and demand transparent, real time, accessible, 7 continuous air quality monitoring of the site and 8 surrounding community in at least a one-mile radius. 9 We need and demand remediation of air quality by 10 reducing the amount of fossil fuels burned on site to reduce 11 emissions. 12 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: You have one minute left. 13 MS. MURPHY: Okay. They should add solar and plant 14 thousands of trees in the area to protect the residents' 15 health, and we demand a just transition immediately away 16 from gas to protect the community, union workers' 17 livelihood, and environment. 18 I'm going to ask before I end if, for myself and for 19 others, if you can please share in the chat where we can 20 send written testimony and when the deadline is for that. 21 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Absolutely. Thank you very much. 22 The written comments, that period has been extended to 23 August 31st, so folks will have to August 31st to provide 24 additional written comments including, if you want to submit</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 11</p> <p>1 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Thank you. That's perfect. And I 2 will start your timer now. 3 MS. ROBINSON: Great. Good evening. My name is Lynn 4 Robinson. I'm representing Neighbors Against the Gas 5 Plants. I live in southwest Germantown, 9/10ths of a mile 6 from SEPTA's power plant at Roberts Yard. 7 Thank you for holding a public hearing in response to 8 our request during the written comment period back in 9 January. These remarks are addressed to AMS and Health 10 Commissioner Bettigole and Deputy Commissioner Raval-Nelson 11 within the context that your stated mission is to protect 12 local public health within the City of Philadelphia. 13 I'm shocked that AMS and SEPTA are still repeating the 14 misguided refrain that the CHP reduces greenhouse gases 15 regionally by 41 percent. 16 The claim is based on an EPA CHP calculator with 17 SEPTA's inputs for grid energy from before two coal plants 18 were closed. The calculation is not certified by the EPA, 19 and we have never accepted the claim. Even Mayor Kenny 20 stopped saying it. 21 The other refrain is that toxic emissions would be 22 undetectable at the fenceline. We're here today with a 23 lived experience of being outside of SEPTA's fenceline for 24 over two and a half years during the operation of SEPTA's</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 10</p> <p>1 slides. 2 And the email address that they can be sent to was 3 shared in the chat, but I will ask the team to re-share it 4 so that it's written in the chat for everybody. 5 It is DPHAMS_Service_Requests@Phila.Gov. That's a 6 little bit complicated, but it's being re-shared, thank you, 7 Ed, with everybody. 8 MS. MURPHY: Do they need to have a specific headline 9 or something like that? Can you put all the information in 10 the chat, please? 11 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Yes. Ed Wiener will go ahead and 12 enter that in the chat. Okay? So thank you very much, Ms. 13 Murphy. 14 Our next speaker for the evening will be Ms. Lynn 15 Robinson. Again, Ms. Robinson, when you're ready, I will 16 start the timer, and you may feel free to un-mute your 17 camera and Jason will un-mute you. 18 (Pause.) 19 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Ms. Robinson? 20 MS. ROBINSON: Yes. Can you hear me? 21 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Yes. Now we can. Thank you very 22 much. Might I ask if you could speak up just a little bit 23 louder? 24 MS. ROBINSON: Okay.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 12</p> <p>1 gas plant and we collectively refute the nonsense about 2 being undetectable. 3 What you can't see can still hurt you, and your body 4 doesn't lie. I've noticed a decline in air quality in 5 Nicetown and southwest Germantown where I live since 2021. 6 Bad air days used to be a problem in hot weather, but now 7 air quality on my block is detectably polluted on some 8 winter days, and generally the air is simply not as fresh. 9 My neighbors with allergies and asthma have reported 10 worse symptoms, and I get headaches. My job here today is 11 to make realistic, practical recommendations. 12 Here's the big kicker. Total potential NOx emissions 13 for the facility is 24.7 tons per year, just 0.29 tons below 14 the 25 ton limit for Synthetic Minor permit. 15 An equipment malfunction or a worker making a mistake, 16 both of which have happened, could again put the facility in 17 violation. It could take AMS up to three years to detect 18 the violation because a performance stack test only runs 19 every three years. 20 We are sitting ducks, knowing we are unprotected for 21 almost three years at a time. Even if no violations ever 22 occur again, our health is affected by the stress of the 23 threat. 24 Here is what we want: install continuous emission</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 13</p> <p>1 monitors in the two CHP stacks. SEPTA's mentions CEM 2 monitors for NOx as an option during ozone season. We say 3 use them year-round and add VOCs and carbon dioxide and HAPS 4 monitoring. 5 Stack tests should occur quarterly. Portable analyzer 6 tests should be conducted at least monthly and include 7 additional pollutants. 8 AMS should install at least one EPA quality ambient 9 air monitoring station in the residential community that 10 measures ozone, ozone precursors and other toxics. North 11 Philadelphia is an air monitoring desert. 12 SEPTA should report emissions data to the public as it 13 is collected on the Health Department web site. To protect 14 health, AMS should require SEPTA to turn the CHP down to 15 minimal operation during Code Orange and worse air quality 16 days. 17 Disallow the new de minimis emissions increases in 18 SEPTA's 2023 permit. These forgive extra emissions within a 19 five-year period, altogether 21 tons. Unpredictable high 20 spikes of pollution could kill more of the neighbors 21 prematurely. 22 If the reality is that it's not about short-term 23 dumping but that daily operations would allow more gas 24 burning, this permit could be a plan to encourage violations</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 15</p> <p>1 The Health Department should strongly encourage SEPTA 2 to apply for federal infrastructure act and other grants for 3 the installation of solar on rooftops including the Midvale 4 Bus Barn, Wayne Junction, Wayne Junction Maintenance 5 Facility. 6 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Ms. Robinson, your time is up. May 7 I ask that you submit the rest of your testimony, I don't 8 mean to be rude, if you could submit the rest of it in 9 writing. 10 MS. ROBINSON: Great. Thank you. 11 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Thank you very much, Ms. Robinson. 12 Our next speaker will be Marta Guttenberg, and if I 13 mispronounce anybody's name, I apologize in advance. Ms. 14 Guttenberg, when you are ready, Jason will un-mute you. You 15 can feel free to be on camera. When you get started, I will 16 start the timer. 17 (Pause.) 18 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Please feel free to start. 19 MS. GUTTENBERG: Am I audible? 20 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: We can hear you. 21 MS. GUTTENBERG: Thank you. 22 We're in a very special moment right now, as everyone 23 is aware, the hottest day of the hottest month of the 24 hottest year all over the world, and here in Philadelphia.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 14</p> <p>1 and move towards a major permit. The EPA calls that type of 2 plan a sham permit, and it's not allowed. 3 Address Philadelphia's lack of compliance with the 4 national ambient air quality standard for ozone and the fact 5 that the facility releases an excess of waste heat in a heat 6 island neighborhood. Very little of the waste heat is 7 actually used by the bus depot, and in the summer absolutely 8 none of it. 9 We ask that during ozone season, SEPTA measures NOx 10 hourly as stated in the permit as an option, instead of 11 looking at one-year averages. Decrease levels of NOx, 12 carbon monoxide and VOCs by reducing gas burning -- 13 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: You have one minute, Ms. Robinson. 14 MS. ROBINSON: Great -- and cancel the need for the 15 facility to ever purchase allowances from other facilities 16 to compensate for emission overages. 17 Be prohibited from buying allowances. The allowance 18 system perpetuates dangerous levels of ozone production in 19 our region. 20 Reduce the risk of emissions violations by reducing 21 annual gas usage by the CHP. Electric power from gas can be 22 replaced by the grid or installing solar panels without 23 negatively impacting train service at Wayne Junction. SEPTA 24 knows this.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 16</p> <p>1 We've been asking SEPTA to please not build this plant 2 since they proposed it. We've urged them not to run it 3 since they built it, even before it was approved. And now 4 they're asking us to permit them to run it some more. 5 The plant has never been in compliance. The whole 6 area has never been in compliance. I can't believe that 7 with all the evidence available to all of us right now, 8 telling us that this plant and this plan is the wrong thing 9 to do, that people are persisting. And I'm going to persist 10 in demanding that it be stopped. Thank you. 11 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Thank you very much. 12 Our next speaker will be Mike Ewall. Once you get on 13 the screen and you get started, I will start your timer. 14 (Pause.) 15 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Mr. Ewall? 16 (No response.) 17 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Okay. Last call for Mr. Ewall, Mr. 18 Mike Ewall from Energy Justice Network. Are you here? 19 (No response.) 20 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Okay. I will mark the sheet that 21 you had registered to testify but were not available, so we 22 will come back to you. 23 Our next person will be Flora Cardoni from Penn 24 Environment. Flora, when you're ready, please come on the</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 17</p> <p>1 screen. You will be un-muted.</p> <p>2 MS. CARDONI: Hi. Can you hear me?</p> <p>3 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Yes, we can, and I will start your</p> <p>4 timer, ma'am.</p> <p>5 MS. CARDONI: Thank you. My name is Flora Cardoni, F-</p> <p>6 L-O-R-A C-A-R-D-O-N-I, and I'm testifying on behalf of Penn</p> <p>7 Environment, the statewide citizen-based environmental</p> <p>8 advocacy non-profit.</p> <p>9 Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on</p> <p>10 behalf of thousands of our members across the state and here</p> <p>11 in Philadelphia who are clamoring for real action to lower</p> <p>12 harmful air pollution and tackle the climate crisis.</p> <p>13 Of course, as Marta just expressed as well, the threat</p> <p>14 posed by climate change has never been more apparent. All</p> <p>15 you had to do is walk outside today as we experienced yet</p> <p>16 another excessive heat watch here in Philly after a string</p> <p>17 of record-breaking summer temperatures, or breathe the air a</p> <p>18 few weeks ago as much of the East Coast was shrouded in</p> <p>19 smoke from the Canadian wildfires, to feel firsthand that</p> <p>20 climate change is here.</p> <p>21 And unfortunately, the heat waves, fires, tragic</p> <p>22 floods and other impacts will only get worse without real</p> <p>23 action, and the time to act is now.</p> <p>24 The science is clear that to stop the worst impacts of</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 19</p> <p>1 compliance with its pollution permit limits at all times.</p> <p>2 There are mountains of data that show that air</p> <p>3 pollution has a litany of negative effects on our health</p> <p>4 like respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, increased risk</p> <p>5 of dementia and even premature death, and certain residents</p> <p>6 of the neighborhood have experienced those things firsthand.</p> <p>7 While we can't choose whether or not to breathe the</p> <p>8 air, we can choose to work to make the air cleaner, and AMS</p> <p>9 can help by lowering levels of allowable pollution at the</p> <p>10 plant, mandating more frequent air monitoring and testing</p> <p>11 and strictly enforcing air permits to make sure that</p> <p>12 facilities never exceed the legal limit, which is too high</p> <p>13 as it is.</p> <p>14 No one should have to breathe polluted air just</p> <p>15 because of where they live, and none of us deserve to</p> <p>16 experience the devastation that the climate crisis is</p> <p>17 already causing.</p> <p>18 So we call on AMS and SEPTA to do everything in their</p> <p>19 power to move away from fossil fuels towards a cleaner</p> <p>20 energy future, clean up our air and protect our health and</p> <p>21 our planet for generations to come. Thank you.</p> <p>22 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Thank you very much.</p> <p>23 Our next presenter will be Karena Jackson Lundy. When</p> <p>24 you are ready and on the screen, I will start your timer.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 18</p> <p>1 climate change, we need to stop burning fossil fuels</p> <p>2 including so-called natural gas as quickly as possible, not</p> <p>3 extend their life any further.</p> <p>4 Ending our reliance on dirty, dangerous fossil fuels</p> <p>5 and moving towards a future powered with 100 percent clean</p> <p>6 renewable energy will help us lower global warming</p> <p>7 emissions, clean up our air and protect our health.</p> <p>8 SEPTA has an opportunity to meet the moment of the</p> <p>9 climate crisis and protect community health at the same</p> <p>10 time. SEPTA should prioritize electrifying its facilities</p> <p>11 and powering its operations with clean renewable energy like</p> <p>12 solar power instead of digging deeper into these dirty,</p> <p>13 dangerous fossil fuels.</p> <p>14 At Penn Environment, we echo residents' calls to</p> <p>15 invest in solar arrays at the Nicetown plant and throughout</p> <p>16 the SEPTA service area, taking advantage of new federal</p> <p>17 funded opportunities, and this of course should be part of a</p> <p>18 larger transition away from all fossil fuels again like</p> <p>19 fracked gas towards an operation powered by 100 percent</p> <p>20 clean renewable energy.</p> <p>21 In the meantime, if and as the facility continues to</p> <p>22 burn fossil fuels, we join the calls for increased air</p> <p>23 monitoring and testing requirements at the facility to</p> <p>24 ensure that air pollution emitted from the facility is in</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 20</p> <p>1 (Pause.)</p> <p>2 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Ms. Lundy?</p> <p>3 (No response.)</p> <p>4 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Are you still available to speak,</p> <p>5 Ms. Lundy?</p> <p>6 MS. JACKSON: Can you hear me?</p> <p>7 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Yes, now we can. Thank you very</p> <p>8 much. I will start your timer.</p> <p>9 MS. JACKSON: One second before you start my timer.</p> <p>10 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Sure.</p> <p>11 MS. JACKSON: Just one question. Is there a way to</p> <p>12 split time with another person on the call, or are we --</p> <p>13 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: No. Thank you.</p> <p>14 MS. JACKSON: Okay.</p> <p>15 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Get started.</p> <p>16 MS. JACKSON: Okay. My name is Karena Jackson. I</p> <p>17 live up on the hill on Fern Hill, basically, the top of the</p> <p>18 hill. I just have a few statements. I'm not going to take</p> <p>19 very long. Sorry, I'm not a public speaker, but I'm going</p> <p>20 to try.</p> <p>21 SEPTA has talked about numbers on the low level of</p> <p>22 pollution that they, you know, release in the air over the</p> <p>23 years. They stated many ways how it's low and how much is</p> <p>24 being released, but they never really stated anything about,</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 21</p> <p>1 you know, how they're cleaning the air at the same time. 2 It's more of, you know, the minimum that's being released. 3 I recommend that trees be planted in the surrounding 4 areas because they're natural air cleaners. SEPTA owns a 5 lot of property around the City, so it shouldn't be an issue 6 to plant these trees. 7 I recommend 15 to 20 trees in the surrounding area 8 since pollution is going to be released and we're probably 9 not going to be able to prevent it. That's my end. 10 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Thank you very much for your 11 testimony. 12 Our next speaker will be Walter Tsou. Dr. Tsou? 13 DR. TSOU: Hi. 14 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Hi. 15 DR. TSOU: Can you hear me? 16 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Yes, we can. I will start the 17 timer. 18 DR. TSOU: It's so great to see you, Palak, and also 19 Dr. Bettigole and my old friends from the Health Department. 20 Anyway, I'm Dr. Walter Tsou. I want to speak today as an 21 individual about the permit for the SEPTA gas plant. 22 As Marta stated earlier, that today is a bitter 23 reminder of the price that we pay as a nation as we continue 24 to burn fossil fuels, of which SEPTA gas plant is an</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 23</p> <p>1 publish the current data on how many emissions actually came 2 out of the gas plant, because it's hard for us to comment 3 otherwise. 4 It's also interesting that you now have a mobile van 5 that can do air monitoring. That is something that we 6 requested at the time of the original SEPTA gas plant 7 permit. You were relying on the Lycoming site four miles 8 away from the SEPTA gas plant rather than actually having a 9 mobile site actually at the Nicetown plant so that we could 10 have actually known what the true baseline was, because the 11 baseline was an essential part of granting the original 12 SEPTA permit. 13 And finally, you know, I personally think that you 14 have to have, as Lynn Robinson said earlier, some type of 15 monitoring system that's available, that's published on a 16 web site, that the public can use to view what exactly is 17 going on with the various gas plants, not just SEPTA's gas 18 plant but all the power plants that we have in our city, so 19 that we have an idea of how much NOx and VOCs are actually 20 being emitted. 21 So in sort, I think that the lack of data and 22 transparency is a serious problem that AMS needs to correct 23 in future permits that they grant. 24 It's hard for me to know whether this is truly a</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 22</p> <p>1 example, just one of many power plants that we have in our 2 city. 3 We have a climate crisis and there's no question about 4 that, and the more rapidly we can move toward renewable 5 energy, the better off we will be. 6 Unfortunately, the new AMS air pollution rules do not 7 envision a renewable future, which makes it a requirement 8 that no power plant permit would be allowed unless they can 9 demonstrate why a renewable energy source like wind, solar 10 and battery storage, was not the first option and/or somehow 11 integrated into the energy plan. 12 SEPTA states that they need the CHP because they are 13 unable to develop enough power with solar panels at the 14 Midvale site, but SEPTA actually reaches over 450 miles of 15 track, hundreds of buildings, and they could all be, with 16 time, covered with solar panels and battery storage, and 17 once installed, it would have a permanent, low-maintenance 18 energy source for all its trains and transportation needs. 19 Now, it is true that that's the future, but right now, 20 until tonight, I could not find any data about the emissions 21 that came from the SEPTA gas plant. 22 And my criticism to you, maybe I'm just not perceptive 23 enough, is that you cannot ask people to give public 24 testimony about the emissions for a gas plant unless you</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 24</p> <p>1 Synthetic Minor. The permit said they only operate 8,060 2 hours a year, but there are actually -- that means that's 29 3 days short of a full year of operation. 4 It's hard for me to believe that the SEPTA gas plant 5 is actually closed for almost a month out of the year. And 6 if it were actually operated 365 hours (sic), I think the 7 number of emissions actually would go up and it would 8 actually -- 9 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: You have one minute, sir. Sorry. 10 You have one minute left. 11 DR. TSOU: -- not be allowed as a Synthetic Minor 12 facility. So in conclusion, let me say that we need better 13 transparency of the data. We need better rules for AMS that 14 favor renewable energy. 15 We should realize that the baseline should not be coal 16 burning as a 41 percent reduction of greenhouse gases, but 17 rather how much more you're emitting because we're not using 18 renewable energy. Thank you. 19 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Thank you very much. 20 Our next speaker will be State Representative Darisha 21 K. Parker. I apologize if I did not pronounce the name 22 correctly. Representative Parker? 23 (No response.) 24 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Representative Parker?</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 25</p> <p>1 (No response.)</p> <p>2 REPRESENTATIVE PARKER: Hey, good afternoon. You hear</p> <p>3 me? Can you hear me?</p> <p>4 DR. BETTIGOLE: Yes. I apologize. Deputy Raval-</p> <p>5 Nelson's computer just crashed. I can serve as your timer,</p> <p>6 though. Let me just get a timer up for you. I'm sorry.</p> <p>7 REPRESENTATIVE PARKER: Thank you.</p> <p>8 DR. BETTIGOLE: No problem. I'm so sorry.</p> <p>9 REPRESENTATIVE PARKER: That's okay.</p> <p>10 DR. BETTIGOLE: Whenever you're ready, you can begin.</p> <p>11 REPRESENTATIVE PARKER: Okay. Thank you so kindly.</p> <p>12 Again, as you heard, for the record, my name is State</p> <p>13 Representative Darisha Parker of 198th District, and I do</p> <p>14 represent Nicetown. Actually, where I'm sitting, I am 0.9</p> <p>15 miles away from the power plant.</p> <p>16 As one of the over 500,000 Pennsylvanians who suffer</p> <p>17 from asthma, I believe we need to do everything we can to</p> <p>18 reduce the air pollution that poisons us daily.</p> <p>19 I know that sometimes when I walk around my</p> <p>20 neighborhood, I feel that itch in my throat and shortness of</p> <p>21 breath that indicates an oncoming asthma attack. If we have</p> <p>22 an opportunity to reduce air pollution by any means, we</p> <p>23 should absolutely take advantage of that.</p> <p>24 Philadelphia is already surrounded by six incinerators</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 27</p> <p>1 My name is Peter Winslow. I'm a Philadelphia resident</p> <p>2 and a SEPTA rider. I'm speaking today as president of A</p> <p>3 SMART Collaboration LLC and as a member and supporter of</p> <p>4 many of the environmental justice organizations providing</p> <p>5 testimony today.</p> <p>6 We are disappointed that the application for renewal</p> <p>7 of SEPTA's Roberts Complex operating permit does not include</p> <p>8 provisions that improve the permit's protection of our</p> <p>9 friends and neighbors.</p> <p>10 In fact, the proposed permit would increase the amount</p> <p>11 of toxic emissions that SEPTA would be allowed. Inasmuch as</p> <p>12 SEPTA has violated the current permit, this permit is moving</p> <p>13 in the wrong direction.</p> <p>14 Although the operating permit applies to the entire</p> <p>15 Roberts Complex, our primary concern is with the electricity</p> <p>16 generation facility located behind the Midvale bus depot</p> <p>17 that was originally permitted in 2017.</p> <p>18 We object to this power plant because it burns fracked</p> <p>19 gas to run two Jenbacher engines, thereby increasing</p> <p>20 emissions of nitrogen oxide, carbon monoxide, volatile</p> <p>21 organic compounds and particulate matter at the site and in</p> <p>22 the adjacent neighborhoods.</p> <p>23 Those neighborhoods, specifically Nicetown, are in</p> <p>24 census tracts designated environmental justice communities</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 26</p> <p>1 which have led our city to be graded an F by the American</p> <p>2 Lung Association for our ozone quality.</p> <p>3 Nicetown specifically has a higher air pollution level</p> <p>4 than 78 percent of the neighborhoods across the nation.</p> <p>5 There are 22,000 cases of pediatric asthma in Philadelphia.</p> <p>6 Thirty-three percent of children living in the 19140 ZIP</p> <p>7 Code have asthma. That is 22,000 children whose lives are</p> <p>8 impacted daily by their environment.</p> <p>9 It's clear that we need continuous air quality</p> <p>10 monitoring on the SEPTA plant and the surrounding</p> <p>11 communities. There are options to help this ongoing climate</p> <p>12 crisis, little things we can all do to protect our planet,</p> <p>13 but SEPTA has a chance to do something big and prevent the</p> <p>14 thousands of Philadelphians from more health problems, and</p> <p>15 they need to act now. Thank you so kindly.</p> <p>16 DR. BETTIGOLE: Thank you very much, Rep. Parker.</p> <p>17 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: And I apologize. Thank you very</p> <p>18 much. My computer crashed here, but I am joining from</p> <p>19 another device. Our next speaker will be Mr. Peter Winslow,</p> <p>20 and Mr. Winslow, when you're on, I will go ahead and start</p> <p>21 your timer.</p> <p>22 (Pause.)</p> <p>23 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Mr. Winslow?</p> <p>24 MR. WINSLOW: Yes. Thank you, Deputy Commissioner.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 28</p> <p>1 by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection</p> <p>2 and the Environmental Protection Agency.</p> <p>3 Permitting affected environmental justice communities</p> <p>4 should be subject to enhanced scrutiny. Because enhanced</p> <p>5 scrutiny was not applied to the satisfaction of the</p> <p>6 community, POWER -- Pennsylvanians Organized to Witness,</p> <p>7 Empower, and Rebuild -- requested an investigation by the</p> <p>8 Environmental Protection Agency's External Civil Rights</p> <p>9 Compliance Office for the violation of the Civil Rights Act</p> <p>10 of 1964, Title VI. The ECRCO opened a case in 2021 and the</p> <p>11 case is ongoing.</p> <p>12 The current permit renewal provides a do-over</p> <p>13 opportunity for SEPTA and the City to correct the violation</p> <p>14 and avoid a similar investigation by the United States</p> <p>15 Department of Transportation.</p> <p>16 The Civil Rights Act prohibits any action by a</p> <p>17 recipient of federal funds that results in an adverse and</p> <p>18 disparate impact on an environmental justice community.</p> <p>19 The City violates the Civil Rights Act by providing</p> <p>20 the permit. SEPTA violates the Civil Rights Act by</p> <p>21 operating the power plant.</p> <p>22 The power plant is particularly offensive because it</p> <p>23 is unnecessary. The primary function of the power plant is</p> <p>24 to provide electricity to the SEPTA substation at Wayne</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 29</p> <p>1 Junction that delivers power for the regional rail system.</p> <p>2 However, the Wayne Junction substation is already</p> <p>3 supplied by two transmission lines provided by PECO, either</p> <p>4 of which is capable of powering the system.</p> <p>5 This third transmission line provides redundancy that</p> <p>6 would be useful only in the event that the entire electrical</p> <p>7 power grid fails, but SEPTA has never in its history</p> <p>8 experienced service interruptions due to lack of power at</p> <p>9 the Wayne Junction substation.</p> <p>10 The vulnerability of the rail system is in the</p> <p>11 overhead catenary wires that deliver electricity to trains</p> <p>12 after transmission from Wayne Junction, not in supplying</p> <p>13 power to the substation.</p> <p>14 SEPTA never demonstrated a need for the power plant</p> <p>15 because there isn't any need. Why then did SEPTA want to</p> <p>16 in-source its electricity production? Political pressure</p> <p>17 from legislators in Harrisburg acting in the interests of</p> <p>18 the fossil fuel industry insisted that SEPTA be a customer</p> <p>19 for fracked gas.</p> <p>20 When SEPTA concluded that establishing a fleet of</p> <p>21 compressed natural gas buses was impractical, Republican</p> <p>22 legislators threatened to withhold funding for SEPTA. So to</p> <p>23 consume more gas somewhere, SEPTA --</p> <p>24 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Mr. Winslow, you have one minute.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 31</p> <p>1 MS. DiGIULIO: Can you hear me?</p> <p>2 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Yes, we can. I will start your</p> <p>3 timer as soon as you start speaking.</p> <p>4 MS. DiGIULIO: Very well. Thank you. My name is</p> <p>5 Christina DiGiulio, C-H-R-I-S-T-I-N-A, D-I-G-I-U-L-I-O, and</p> <p>6 I am here representing Physicians for Social Responsibility</p> <p>7 of Pennsylvania.</p> <p>8 I am actually a certified thermographer in optical gas</p> <p>9 imaging, and there was a link shared in chat if people want</p> <p>10 to look at, which I did go to the facility we are speaking</p> <p>11 about and image it using my optical gas imaging camera,</p> <p>12 which is a GFX320 from Teledyne FLIR.</p> <p>13 And so I'm also an analytical chemist, and I want to</p> <p>14 talk about something that I saw in your presentation that</p> <p>15 was actually neglecting to say anything about methane, which</p> <p>16 this is a power plant using fracked gas or methane.</p> <p>17 And I did see you mentioned VOCs. So volatile organic</p> <p>18 compounds are organic molecules, specifically hydrocarbons,</p> <p>19 that are classified as a pollutant as they produce</p> <p>20 undesirable effects in the atmosphere, and they are defined</p> <p>21 as volatile because they evaporate quickly and easily into</p> <p>22 the air.</p> <p>23 However, when we are having these really bad air</p> <p>24 quality days, it can be held into the air and the cumulative</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 30</p> <p>1 MR. WINSLOW: -- the power plant instead. Now SEPTA</p> <p>2 is pressed to operate the power plant in order to pay for</p> <p>3 the investment that was made to build it, an arrangement of</p> <p>4 dubious economic justification that by shifting costs from</p> <p>5 the capital budget to the operating budget had the effect of</p> <p>6 making Philadelphians pay more for the services used</p> <p>7 primarily by residents of other counties.</p> <p>8 As a result, poor black residents of Nicetown are</p> <p>9 breathing in more toxic air for the benefit of rich white</p> <p>10 commuters from the suburbs and the profit of the fossil fuel</p> <p>11 industry. Can anybody think this is fair?</p> <p>12 We're experiencing increasingly frequent air quality</p> <p>13 action days, heat records being broken. The sky is darkened</p> <p>14 by smoke from forest fires in Canada. Shouldn't SEPTA</p> <p>15 curtail power plant operations when people are suffering</p> <p>16 from conditions contributed to by the power plant?</p> <p>17 For example, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental</p> <p>18 Protection has declared tomorrow an air quality action day</p> <p>19 for the Philadelphia --</p> <p>20 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Sir, your time is up. Please</p> <p>21 submit the rest of your comments, Mr. Winslow, as well as</p> <p>22 the suggested slides to the email address in the chat.</p> <p>23 Thank you, Mr. Winslow.</p> <p>24 Our next speaker will be Christina DiGiulio.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 32</p> <p>1 aspect for people in that community is a problem. And this</p> <p>2 is what we're talking about. There is no need for this.</p> <p>3 The primary criteria for a natural gas fired engines,</p> <p>4 which you guys have here, are oxides and nitrogen, carbon</p> <p>5 monoxide and volatile organic compounds.</p> <p>6 The formation of nitric oxides is exponentially</p> <p>7 related to the combustion temperature in the engine</p> <p>8 cylinder, and the other pollutants, CO and VOCs are</p> <p>9 primarily the result of incomplete combustion.</p> <p>10 Now, I know you guys had a violation that we talked</p> <p>11 about, and it should be emphasized that the actual emissions</p> <p>12 may vary considerably from the published emission factors</p> <p>13 due to variations in the engine operating conditions, the</p> <p>14 variations due to engines operating at different conditions</p> <p>15 including air to fuel ratio, ignition timing, torque speed,</p> <p>16 ambient temperature, humidity and other factors.</p> <p>17 It is not unusual to test emissions in two identical</p> <p>18 engines in the same plant operated by the same personnel</p> <p>19 using the same fuel and have test results show significant</p> <p>20 differences. So there's a lot of variability in these</p> <p>21 tests.</p> <p>22 Carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide are referred</p> <p>23 to as greenhouse gases, and this is all according to an EPA</p> <p>24 document that I'm stating. Such gases are largely</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 33</p> <p>1 transparent incoming solar radiation. However, they absorb 2 infrared radiation emitted by the earth. 3 So there is a chart in this document and I provided 4 the link in your chat and I will provide it to you also via 5 email, that we're talking about -- the video that I'm 6 showing is actually showing, this camera only can see, can 7 see hydrocarbons which are emitting at a 3.2 micron to 3.4 8 microns. It's looking for hydrocarbons. 9 And so what we're seeing in my video is actually the 10 emittance of hydrocarbons. I cannot specifically say what 11 those hydrocarbons are, and necessarily doesn't matter 12 because it's terrible. 13 With climate change and, you know, the climate crisis 14 that we're having right now, it's almost irresponsible to be 15 supporting such a project when we have so many other options 16 as several other speakers have said. 17 So in regards to our health, we're looking at, you 18 know, climate change being, you know, exacerbated by such 19 facilities. And what my video is showing is that exact 20 thing going out into the atmosphere. 21 Sure it goes up, but it can also be held down and 22 accumulate in a community along with all the other toxins 23 being released. So there's no need for an organization 24 supposedly so behind in supporting the City of Philadelphia</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 35</p> <p>1 (No response.) 2 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Sue Graf? 3 (No response.) 4 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Okay. We will, if Sue is 5 available, we will get her at the end. In the meantime, 6 after Sue, our next speaker is Sheila Tripathy. 7 DR. TRIPATHY: Hi. Can you hear me? 8 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Yes, we can. Wonderful. I will 9 start your timer as soon as you start. 10 DR. TRIPATHY: Thank you. I am Dr. Sheila Tripathy 11 and I'm a member of POWER and an environmental exposure 12 scientist, and I'm calling on Air Management Services not to 13 renew the Synthetic Minor operating permit for the SEPTA 14 Roberts Complex. 15 I'm concerned about nearby residents' cumulative 16 exposure to both pollution from the SEPTA complex and 17 outside pollutant sources. The total burden of exposures 18 needs to be considered. 19 There are currently no permitted EPA air quality 20 system monitors located near the SEPTA complex. We need air 21 monitoring to be conducted both on site and in the 22 surrounding residential areas where community members live 23 and work. 24 Continuous emissions monitors should be placed on site</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 34</p> <p>1 to be actually placing these people at harm. 2 And my request is that you also have air monitoring, 3 more than, you know, whatever, a mobile van. I know mobile 4 labs, and I'm going to tell you that you need to have what's 5 called continuous air monitoring -- 6 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: You have one minute left. 7 MS. DiGIULIO: Thank you -- and as well passive air 8 monitoring, PAMS and CAMs. And they should be spread out 9 throughout the community as I believe Tammy Murphy said, at 10 least a mile away so that we're seeing the cumulative aspect 11 and where the plumes and where it's actually going, you 12 know. It's not that simple just to do fence line monitoring 13 and it's not sufficient in this community. 14 So I thank you for your time, and that's pretty much 15 all I have. 16 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Thank you very much for your 17 testimony. Please refer to the Q&A. There is additional 18 information provided regarding how to submit additional 19 questions and comments. 20 MS. DiGIULIO: Not a problem. 21 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: The next speaker will be Sue Graf. 22 Sue? 23 (No response.) 24 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Sue Graf, going twice?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 36</p> <p>1 and EPA AQS monitors should be placed in the adjacent 2 community to continuously monitor pollutants including NOx, 3 VOCs, ozone, fine and ultra-fine particulate matter. 4 Once adequate monitoring is conducted, results need to 5 be compared to models to ensure that they accurately reflect 6 current conditions. In this way, modeling will be backed by 7 monitoring. 8 There also needs to be a process where less gas is 9 burned on unhealthy air quality days like we have seen 10 recently with the impacts from the Canadian wildfires on air 11 pollution in Philadelphia. 12 In addition to increasing air monitoring around the 13 gas plant, we need an on-line platform where air monitoring 14 data is accessible, as others previously mentioned. 15 This web site needs to include current, up-to-date 16 information on all monitors across the City where data and 17 past trends can be viewed and data can be downloaded. It 18 should be easy to determine the current conditions in 19 Nicetown and to be able to compare data to other locations 20 in the City at the same time. 21 There is a page on Air Management's web site dedicated 22 to Nicetown. However, this page needs to include more 23 information other than the results from the PAQS study which 24 was more relevant for looking at seasonal and annual data</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 37</p> <p>1 compared to real-time pollutant concentrations, and doing 2 more passive data as others have mentioned. Thank you for 3 your time. 4 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Thank you very much, doctor, and I 5 apologize for mispronouncing your last name. 6 Our next speaker will be Mitch Chanin. Mitch? Once 7 you are on the screen and we can hear you, I'll start your 8 timer. 9 MR. CHANIN: All right. Can you hear me now? 10 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Yes. And I will start your timer. 11 MR. CHANIN: Great. Thank you so much for the 12 opportunity to testify today and thanks so much to everyone 13 who has already testified. It's great to be here with all 14 of you. 15 My name is Mitch Chanin. I'm not representing any 16 group today, although I am part of a number of organizations 17 around the City and I was involved in organizing back from 18 2015 for the next few years in opposition to the power 19 plant. I do not live in the Nicetown community. I live in 20 the northeast, but I'm a regular regional rail rider using 21 routes that pass through Wayne Junction. 22 I echo most of the comments that were already made, 23 but I do want to share a couple of other points. Before I 24 talk about the air quality, this is more a comment for</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 39</p> <p>1 Ultra-fine particles are the smallest kind of 2 particulate matter. Whereas fine particulate matter which 3 was referenced earlier in the monitoring reports is smaller 4 than 2.5 microns, ultra-fine particulate matter is smaller 5 than 1/10th of one micron. 6 And there's growing concern about the health impacts 7 of ultra-fine particulate matter and growing evidence that 8 natural gas combustion is a very significant source of 9 ultra-fine particulate matter. 10 I'm very aware that there are sort of lots of 11 misinformation that circulates about, you know, health 12 scares that aren't really, you know, in particular over the 13 past couple years, a lot of misinformation about vaccines, 14 saying that they're dangerous. 15 And so I understand the reluctance of policymakers to 16 listen when people are calling attention to pollutants that 17 aren't yet regulated. But this is not a case where the 18 preponderance of evidence is that ultra-fine particulate 19 matter is safe. There's growing evidence that it is 20 extremely dangerous and likely more dangerous than the 21 larger particles. 22 I'm not sure how much time I have left. I do have 23 some sources that I can -- 24 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Just to let you know, you have one</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 38</p> <p>1 SEPTA, but a key justification for this project was to 2 ensure reliability for the railroad. 3 And as Mr. Winslow stated, there's really no evidence 4 that it's needed for that purpose. The thing that has made 5 regional rail really unreliable, especially over the past 6 couple years, is just the crew shortage. 7 Trains are just routinely canceled without, you know, 8 without any warning because there's no one to run them, and 9 it's been really horrible as a regional rail rider. 10 So I agree that we need much more air monitoring and 11 that AMS should require a reduction in the amount of gas 12 that's burned at the site, at this facility for all the 13 reasons that people have stated. 14 I wanted to call attention in particular to an issue 15 that hasn't gotten as much attention today, which is ultra- 16 fine particulate matter. 17 This is a pollutant that appears to be emitted in very 18 significant quantities from the combustion of natural gas. 19 However, there are not yet any standards, no regulation for 20 ultra-fine particulate matter from the federal or state 21 government. 22 Nevertheless, I think AMS has a responsibility to 23 respond to concern from the public about this pollutant in 24 Philadelphia and in particular from this plant.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 40</p> <p>1 minute and 31 seconds. 2 MR. CHANIN: Okay. I can share some sources in 3 writing, but what I want to say is that ultra-fine 4 particulate matter needs to be measured by the number of 5 particles and/or the surface area, and that measuring fine 6 particulate matter, PM 2.5, according to the mass of the 7 particles, does not tell you what number of ultra-fine 8 particles are present or being emitted or what the health 9 impact is. Each pollutant needs to be addressed separately. 10 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: You have one minute left, sir. 11 MR. CHANIN: Great. I'm aware, as I said, that 12 there's not a regulation for this, but I really would like 13 to see AMS measure ultra-fine particulate matter and respond 14 in a serious way to this concern. 15 I was very disappointed in the appeal hearings in 16 2018, I believe, when we were challenging the permit, when 17 Mr. Wiener was asked if they had looked at ultra-fine 18 particulate matter and his response is that he had looked at 19 a couple of articles. 20 That's not a sufficient response to legitimate 21 concerns about a pollutant that is likely emitted in 22 significant quantities from this facility, and I hope that 23 AMS will take it much more seriously going forward. Thank 24 you.</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 41</p> <p>1 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Thank you very much. Our next 2 speaker -- and for those folks such as Mr. Ewall, if you're 3 still on, we will get to you when we get to the end. 4 Our next speaker will be Beverly Gunn. Once Ms. Gunn 5 is on camera or on the cube, I will go ahead and start the 6 timer. 7 (Pause.) 8 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Ms. Beverly -- 9 (Pause.) 10 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Okay, last call for Beverly Gunn. 11 (No response.) 12 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: All right. We will move to Charles 13 Best. Charles Best? 14 (No response.) 15 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Okay. Charles Best? 16 (No response.) 17 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: All right. We will move to the 18 next person, Hope Feldman. Hope? 19 MS. FELDMAN: Can you hear me? 20 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Yes, we can. 21 MS. FELDMAN: Wonderful. 22 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Hi. Once you get started, I'll 23 start your timer. Thank you. 24 MS. FELDMAN: Thank you. Thank you for having me. My</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 43</p> <p>1 And I say that because locality matters. What we do 2 in our environment matters. So I am asking for local 3 neighborhood monitoring. If we don't monitor in the area 4 where the emissions are being produced, we're not really 5 getting a sense of what risk we putting for our communities 6 and in our neighborhoods. 7 We know that since we've had some qualitative poor air 8 quality days, we have felt the burden in our environment in 9 the ways our kids can engage outside, in the number of 10 asthma attacks. 11 I have seen an increase not only in asthma but also 12 headaches, dizziness, upper respiratory infections, sinus 13 congestion, skin dermatitis on areas that have been exposed 14 to, you know, to the air, like to the arms or to the legs, 15 the face. 16 I do not have asthma, and I noticed that at times when 17 the air quality is poor, wearing a mask outside to walk to 18 and from my house to work does make a difference. 19 The amount of burden that we hold in our air and in 20 our bodies are affected, you know, affect our total health. 21 And so I'm also asking that we reduce burden, that the plant 22 reduces their burden of emissions when there's high ozone 23 and unhealthy air quality days. 24 This is not something that we can wait for the effects</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 42</p> <p>1 name is Hope Feldman. I both live in the neighborhood at 2 4700 block of Pulaski and I work close to the gas plant at 3 4700 Wissahickon. 4 And I work as a family nurse practitioner, and my job 5 is very supportive about, sort of, and has been engaged in 6 this for several years about trying to reduce the burden on 7 our community from a health standpoint, but I am not 8 speaking in an official capacity from them. I'm speaking on 9 my own behalf. 10 I am asking AMS not to renew the SMO permit for the 11 SEPTA Roberts Complex. And what I'm seeing is, in the past 12 few years, it's a higher burden on our community. 13 As some of you may know, I work in a federally 14 qualified health center which are located in places of high 15 health burden and low resources. 16 So pre-COVID, I had a patient with asthma that came in 17 and she felt like she fine inside her house, she was fine at 18 work, that it was only a problem when she went outside. 19 And what she told me in the office is that it feels 20 like the air is trying to kill me. She took a trip to 21 Tennessee. Everything was better. She was great. She 22 didn't need her rescue inhaler. She felt like a lot more 23 energy, and then returned back to our community and felt 24 like the symptoms returned.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 44</p> <p>1 of what's happening. We know that this is affecting our 2 health. We know it's affecting the health of our kids, of 3 our pregnant women 4 Most of our mamas are already at high risk for 5 pregnancy complications, low birth weight and health 6 outcomes, and they are coming in for care just a block away 7 from the SEPTA plant. We are asking you not to renew the 8 permit, that it is putting us, putting our community in 9 risk. 10 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Thank you. 11 Our next speaker will be Peter Furcht, F-U-R-C-H-T. 12 Sorry for the mispronunciation. 13 MR. FURCHT: Not a problem. So good evening. My name 14 is Peter Furcht, P-E-T-E-R, F-U-R-C-H-T. I am a resident of 15 and a homeowner in Philadelphia and I am testifying as a 16 private citizen, and I thank you for this opportunity. 17 While I do not live in the immediate area of the SEPTA 18 Roberts Complex power plant, there shouldn't be any question 19 in anybody's mind just how far pollutants in the air can 20 travel. 21 How much smoke have we seen this summer in 22 Philadelphia from fires burning a thousand miles away? I 23 only live a handful of miles from the SEPTA power plant and 24 the wind blows from every directions, so I know some of the</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 45</p> <p>1 NOx's and VOCs and resulting ground level smog from these 2 power plants make its way not just to me but to every 3 resident of Philadelphia. We all have say in what AMS 4 should do regarding renewing SEPTA's operating permit. 5 So my little car that I rarely drive as a City 6 resident maybe will admit a few pounds of NOx's and VOCs 7 over its entire life, yet I'm required to conduct an annual 8 inspection to keep it on the road regardless of how many 9 hours I actually may drive it. 10 The SEPTA Roberts Complex power plant that can put out 11 25 tons annually is required to have an emissions inspection 12 once every one to three years. What's wrong with this 13 picture? 14 If malfunctioning, the power plant could emit in 15 minutes the amount of NOx and VOCs that my little car emits 16 in a lifetime, and that could go unchecked for up to three 17 years with the current permit. 18 Why is the power plant not required to be monitored 19 continuously for NOx emissions just like my car? If my car 20 emits too much NOx, the check in engine light comes on so I 21 know it needs to be repaired. 22 The technology for continuous monitoring is available. 23 Honestly, I don't care how expensive it might be. It's time 24 for the residents of Philadelphia to stop paying for the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 47</p> <p>1 MR. BAKER: Hi. Can you hear me all right? 2 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Yes. I will start your timer. 3 MR. BAKER: Hi. My name is Taylor Baker, T-A-Y-L-O-R, 4 B-A-K-E-R. The SEPTA gas plant which started operating in 5 2019 burns fracked natural gas. The plant's emissions, 6 particularly of volatile organic compounds, VOCs and other 7 pollutants poses significant health risks to the surrounding 8 communities. 9 This risk is exacerbated by insufficient emissions 10 testing and monitoring, resulting in potential unchecked 11 violations of emissions standards for up to three years. 12 Right now, solar power is cheaper per kilowatt-hour 13 than all other forms of energy, and the green transition is 14 happening all over the world. And it's an inevitability, 15 and it's necessary for our survival. The question is, will 16 it happen now while it can still save lives, or decades from 17 now when it's far too late? 18 The plant is not required to test its emissions more 19 than once every three years, and such infrequency does not 20 adequately safeguard our community from potential harm. 21 This lack of transparency and oversight is 22 unacceptable. We demand continuous air quality monitoring 23 at the site and the surrounding community. 24 The lack of data collection is a common tactic for</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 46</p> <p>1 cost of emitting pollutants, especially those above a 2 permitted amount, with their health and well-being. 3 It must be the responsibility of the polluter-emitter 4 to bear the cost of monitoring, maintaining and controlling 5 the pollutants they are permitted to exhaust. 6 The time of three-year free passes is over. Please 7 impose strict monitoring requirements like continuous 8 monitoring on the Roberts Complex power plant so real-time 9 actions can be taken to minimize emissions. 10 And since I have five minutes, allow me to follow up 11 on some comments made by an AMS and SEPTA presenter earlier. 12 First, by pointing out that Nicetown doesn't have the worst 13 air quality in the City, do you really think that makes it 14 okay to continue the bad practice of keeping the air not 15 quite the worst? 16 Second, SEPTA, you using today the same reasons you 17 used in 2017 to tout your environmental credibility and 18 justify burning natural gas today is, well, way out of 19 touch. You need to update your understanding of what 20 climate friendly power looks like today, and what you should 21 be aiming for in powering your facilities. Dr. Tsou in his 22 earlier testimony provided some good ideas. Thank you. 23 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Thank you, sir. 24 Our next speaker is Taylor Baker.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 48</p> <p>1 polluters who can then claim ignorance of the health 2 consequences and avoid legal and fiscal responsibility, 3 which is what happened at the Three Mile Island disaster 4 where a lack of radiation testing in the nearby community 5 allowed the nuclear plant to skirt true responsibility. The 6 fact that the City allows this to go on makes it clear we're 7 being sold out for profit's sake. 8 We are calling for remediation of air quality by 9 reducing the amount of fossil fuels burned on site. This 10 can be achieved by implementing sustainable energy solutions 11 like solar power and undertaking greening initiatives such 12 as planting thousands of trees in order to protect 13 residents' health. 14 In light of alarming data showing that Nicetown has a 15 higher fine particulate level than 78 percent of 16 neighborhoods across the nature and a higher exposure to 17 diesel exhaust than 90 to 95 percent of neighborhoods, we 18 must take immediate action. 19 The health consequences are severe. We're 20 experiencing a surge in respiratory conditions like asthma 21 and allergies, particularly in children. 22 According to a 2012 report, 31 percent of children in 23 the 19140 ZIP Code were diagnosed with asthma, significantly 24 higher than the local and national averages.</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 49</p> <p>1 A community also deserves full transparency about 2 HAPs, hazardous air pollutants, emitted from this facility. 3 The Health Department regulations must be enforced to 4 protect residents from exposure to harmful substances like 5 lead, formaldehyde, and benzene. The potential for these 6 toxins to cause cancer and central nervous system diseases 7 such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's is a serious concern. 8 The consequences of our reliance on fossil fuels are 9 far-reaching. The plant's emissions contribute to global 10 warming with methane from gas having 86 times the global 11 warming potential of carbon dioxide over the first 20 years 12 of its release. 13 The urgency to transition away from fossil fuels is 14 not just about climate change but also about public health, 15 particularly for communities situated near gas 16 infrastructure. Thank you, and I hope it does not get 17 approved. 18 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Thank you very much. 19 Our next speaker is Hope Primas. Hope Primas. 20 (Pause.) 21 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Hope? 22 MS. PRIMAS: Can you hear me? 23 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Yes. 24 DR. BETTIGOLE: Can you please speak a little louder?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 51</p> <p>1 DiGiacomo. 2 (No response.) 3 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: All right. Our next person then is 4 Marc Davies. Marc Davies? 5 (No response.) 6 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Marc Davies? 7 (No response.) 8 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Okay. Marc was our last -- 9 DR. BETTIGOLE: I think there are a few more in the 10 chance. I think Russell Zerbo is next. 11 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Yes. I have a couple more people 12 that we're adding, but Marc was our last pre-registered 13 person. And before we move to Russell Zerbo, I'd like to 14 see if Mike Ewall, who had pre-registered, is available to 15 speak now. Mike? 16 MR. EWALL: Yes. Can you hear me now? 17 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Yes, we can. I will start your 18 timer. Please feel free to start. 19 MR. EWALL: Thank you. So my name is Mike Ewall with 20 Energy Justice Network. I'm a Philadelphia resident, and I 21 would like to back the calls for not renewing this permit, 22 but with the likelihood that it will be renewed, I want to 23 urge, as others are calling for, for continuous emissions 24 monitors in stack at the facility to be used for all</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 50</p> <p>1 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: All right, great. I will set the 2 timer. 3 MS. PRIMAS: (Inaudible.) 4 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: You're not coming through clearly. 5 MS. PRIMAS: Can you hear me now? 6 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Yes. 7 MS. PRIMAS: Okay. I will do the best that I can. My 8 name is Hope Primas. I am a near neighbor -- (inaudible) -- 9 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: We lost your volume completely. We 10 cannot hear you. 11 DR. BETTIGOLE: May I suggest, Ms. Primas, sometimes 12 when this happens, if you log out and log back in, you can 13 solve the sound problem. 14 MS. PRIMAS: Okay. I will log out and log back in and 15 let you know when I do. Thank you. 16 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Perfect, and we'll add you to the 17 end of the list, okay? 18 MS. PRIMAS: Okay. Thank you. 19 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Thank you. Okay. So our next 20 person will be Tiffany DiGiacomo. Tiffany? 21 (No response.) 22 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Tiffany? 23 (No response.) 24 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Okay. Last call for Tiffany</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 52</p> <p>1 pollutants that are being regulated. 2 It's inadequate to be using modeling to guess what the 3 emissions are, and it's inadequate to be testing once a year 4 or once every three years for certain pollutants as many 5 other facilities do, although this is being regulated even 6 less than those that tend to test for a handful of things 7 about once a year. 8 The pollutants like carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, 9 hydrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, particulate 10 matter, even acid gases like hydrochloric acid, should be 11 tested on a continuous basis, and the technology has existed 12 to do this since at least when EPA tested and verified that 13 in 2006, and yet it's rare that they're being required to be 14 continuously monitored. 15 One example, though, that is encouraging that came 16 from comments I gave at a hearing years ago with the oil 17 refinery in Philadelphia where AMS required it to be the 18 first oil refinery in the country to have to use continuous 19 emissions monitors for particulate matter, at least with 20 that one part of the plant that was being considered in that 21 permit at the time. 22 And I would encourage the same thing here. The 23 technology exists, and obviously AMS knows about it and has 24 approved it, having looked at other examples that I provided</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 53</p> <p>1 at the time of it being put into different permits around 2 the state, around the country.</p> <p>3 The need for this is exemplified by the fact that 4 continuous monitors pick up a lot more information than you 5 get when you test once a year or even less, or God forbid, 6 not even test at all and just modeling it out.</p> <p>7 When I looked at the data on the Covanta trash 8 incinerator in Chester, Pennsylvania, for instance, they use 9 continuous monitors for hydrochloric acid as well as doing 10 annual stack tests.</p> <p>11 And as it turns out, the continuous monitors found 12 that the actual emissions are 80 percent higher than what 13 you would normally think it would be if you just rely on an 14 annual stack test as most facilities like that around the 15 country do.</p> <p>16 Similarly, studies from Europe of dioxins, the most 17 toxic chemicals known to science, when they use continuous 18 sampling in that case, they found in one study, the actual 19 emissions 30 to 50 times higher than what we think they are 20 in the U.S. when they test once a year, and in another 21 study, about 460 or almost 1,300 times higher than we think 22 they are when we test once a year under best behavior tests.</p> <p>23 So I encourage that this be used in stack for all 24 regulated pollutants, and that the data be put on a public</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 55</p> <p>1 from the facility's largest pollution source, CHP Unit G-1, 2 it was determined that one of the heat and power generation 3 units was emitting pollution above the levels allowed under 4 the facility's permit.</p> <p>5 The malfunction was repaired and the facility paid a 6 fine. It is unknown how long this equipment was 7 malfunctioning for, and how much unpermitted air pollution 8 was released over time.</p> <p>9 This malfunction could have easily caused the facility 10 to surpass the 25 tons per year pollution limits for 11 nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compound emissions.</p> <p>12 And I just want to note that both AMS and SEPTA have 13 presented about the actual emissions from this facility in 14 2022, and those numbers are inaccurate because this 15 pollution incident that was discovered in January 2022 was 16 not monitored, so you truly don't know how much air 17 pollution was released from this facility in 2022, because 18 of the lax stack testing requirements.</p> <p>19 The City of Philadelphia currently does not meet 20 federal ground level ozone standards, and in its 2021 air 21 quality report, the City's Air Management Services concluded 22 that smog is increasing in the City -- smog and ground level 23 ozone are the same thing -- raising the risk of respiratory 24 damage and other health effects.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 54</p> <p>1 web site in real time for the world to see, because people 2 have a right to know this information. That's all. Thank 3 you very much.</p> <p>4 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Thank you very much for your 5 testimony. The next speaker that has not pre-registered 6 will be Russell Zerbo. Russell?</p> <p>7 MR. ZERBO: Can you hear me? 8 (No response.)</p> <p>9 MR. ZERBO: Yes. Thank you, Chris. People can hear 10 me.</p> <p>11 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Okay.</p> <p>12 MR. ZERBO: My name is Russell Zerbo, R-U-S-S-E-L-L, 13 Z-E-R-B-O. I am an advocate at the non-profit Clean Air 14 Council. Please increase the frequency of stack testing 15 requirements for combined heat and power, CHP units G-1 and 16 G-2 at the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation 17 Authority's Roberts Complex in the Nicetown neighborhood of 18 Philadelphia.</p> <p>19 Over 35,000 Philadelphians live within a mile of the 20 Roberts Complex, 51 percent of which live under the federal 21 poverty line and 83 percent of which are people of color. 22 This is an environmental justice community that has a right 23 to increased environmental protection.</p> <p>24 In January 2022, during a required test of emissions</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 56</p> <p>1 SEPTA is now seeking to renew this air pollution 2 permit and the current stack testing requirements are not 3 adequate to ensure that the facility's nitrogen oxides and 4 volatile organic compound emissions are kept below permitted 5 limits.</p> <p>6 The current air permit and proposed renewal only 7 requires that the two combined heat and power generation 8 units at the site be tested every 8,760 hours of operation, 9 or every three years, whichever comes first.</p> <p>10 This is not an adequate frequency to ensure that the 11 facility complies with its emissions limitations at all 12 times. Please increase air pollution monitoring and testing 13 at SEPTA's Nicetown plant to at least quarterly. Thank you.</p> <p>14 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Thank you very much. Our next 15 speaker will be Musa Wilson. Musa?</p> <p>16 MR. WILSON: Hello?</p> <p>17 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Yes. We can hear you, and I'll 18 start your timer when you start speaking.</p> <p>19 MR. WILSON: Before I start, is there any way I can 20 turn my camera on, or -- I don't see the option.</p> <p>21 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: I believe you're looking for -- 22 (inaudible) --</p> <p>23 MR. WILSON: Okay. Well, I'll just start then.</p> <p>24 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: One of the other -- go ahead.</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 57</p> <p>1 MR. WILSON: My name is Musa Wilson. I'm a student at 2 Imhotep Institute Charter High School, and I'm one of the 3 STEM ambassadors for our new STEM program. 4 And I'm here to speak on behalf of the student body 5 that we have, largely across Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and 6 especially why these plants, these factories, or SEPTA 7 itself needs to be held accountable for some of the things 8 that they are doing. 9 I want to start off by saying, I do have a close 10 friend of mine who was recently hospitalized because he had 11 an asthma attack while going to work on a SEPTA bus, and 12 this should go to show that like we need to take initiative. 13 Air quality itself is inextricably linked to a whole 14 bunch of different other illnesses such as vitamin 15 deficiency because parents don't even want their kids going 16 outside to see the light of day, so they're not even getting 17 vitamins, like they are scared that if their children go 18 outside, that it will cause irreversible damages to their 19 lungs and stuff, especially the residents of Nicetown. 20 But that would be going to the factual things. I just 21 wanted to point out a couple of things that bothered me 22 during the presentation or some, I guess you could say 23 solutions or suggestions that I recommend. 24 CHP factories, I know that a lot of other</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 59</p> <p>1 school, and it's just overall not okay for them to feel as 2 though they don't have a say in the choices that SEPTA is 3 making. 4 I also should say that SEPTA itself should take charge 5 in finding healthier, sustainable, renewable energy sources 6 to apply to their franchise, especially because, like I said 7 previously, a large portion of citizens in Philadelphia use 8 their transportation systems. 9 But I just really want to highlight that. It's very 10 important because kid, young kids, they go outside for a 11 majority of their lifetime to either play or go to and from 12 school, to and from work, and they are the ones who are 13 directly in harm's way when it comes to this air pollution 14 and air quality. 15 They're young. They're not as developed as adults. 16 Their immune systems are not as strong as they could be, so 17 they can potentially be very sick. They could get very weak 18 from this air pollution, air quality. 19 I know that SEPTA definitely does or would be able to 20 have the technology to monitor air quality around the City 21 daily, because we do it at our school. We're a charter 22 school. We make sure that our air quality is good in our 23 schools, especially through the hallways -- 24 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Mr. Wilson, you have one minute.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 58</p> <p>1 organizations utilize them, but that does not mean that 2 everybody else should do it. Because somebody's doing one 3 thing bad, that does not give you a free pass and it doesn't 4 make it okay. You shouldn't do something that's bad to me 5 because everybody else is doing it. 6 And the facility itself is already in a bad 7 neighborhood that's struggling over air quality, and it 8 should have an even lower amount of a lot of emissions than 9 it does currently because even though they claim that they 10 emit natural gas which is healthy, it's actually not, nor is 11 it sustainable. 12 So even if they are, even if the numbers are lower 13 than what they have been, that doesn't mean it's still a 14 healthy practice that we should keep practicing or 15 upholding. 16 I think data needs to be easily and publicly 17 accessible to ensure that those who wish to stay informed 18 about SEPTA's policies and/or rebuttal upcoming policies or 19 advancements, they should have access to that data because 20 they're the main ones who are at cause when it comes to 21 these policies, like the decision that SEPTA makes is 22 affecting them directly. 23 A lot of people in Philadelphia use SEPTA. They rely 24 on their transit lines to go to and from work, to and from</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 60</p> <p>1 MR. WILSON: Okay. Thank you. But I know that if we 2 can do it, then SEPTA can do it too. And I just really feel 3 like we need to protect the youth, especially with these 4 policies that they're making. SEPTA should have more 5 consideration when making these bills and things of that 6 nature. Thank you for your time. 7 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Thank you very much. Our next 8 speaker is Mr. Jeremiah White. Jeremiah? 9 MR. WHITE: Yes. Can you hear me? 10 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Yes, we can. I will start your 11 timer. 12 MR. WHITE: How are you doing? My name is Jeremiah 13 White. I am also a STEM ambassador at Imhotep Institute 14 Charter High School. I am going into twelfth grade, and I 15 am also a student athlete. 16 Me and my STEM ambassador team, we have been working 17 on air quality issues for a while now, so we have a lot of 18 background information, and we've been working with U. Penn 19 in reference to the matter of our major causes of pollution 20 such as airports, trucks, cars, and factories. 21 And adding this factory to the mix is just going to 22 cause the same hurt and pain to the earth that has been 23 going on for generations and generations. 24 And as an athlete, I can say that athletes inhale much</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 61</p> <p>1 more air and use much more energy than a regular person as 2 we are being active, and we're outside more, and we work 3 out. It's deteriorating our health. And I'm sorry, yeah. 4 (Pause.) 5 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Thank you very much -- 6 MR. WHITE: Hello? 7 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: -- for your testimony. 8 MR. WHITE: Can you hear me? Can you hear me? I'm 9 sorry. 10 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Yes -- 11 MR. WHITE: My phone cut off for a second. 12 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: -- we can. No worries. You have 13 three minutes and 25 seconds. 14 MR. WHITE: Okay. So yes, I am here advocating for 15 the black community and for the youth of the black community 16 as well, because us as a community, we get the low, like the 17 bottom of the barrel. 18 So we go through a lot of health crises that not a lot 19 of people, or not a lot of other races go through. And I 20 really just want to see that change. It starts here. Like, 21 this one meeting can start a whole movement and change much 22 more than we can know. 23 Also, to add another fact to the matter, I found out 24 that around airports where residents live, there is more</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 63</p> <p>1 MS. HASTINGS: I was speaking. 2 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Oh. 3 MS. HASTINGS: Can I start over? 4 (No response.) 5 MS. HASTINGS: Hello? 6 DR. BETTIGOLE: I think there's something wrong with 7 Dr. Raval-Nelson's connection. I can restart the timer for 8 you if you want to go ahead and speak. I apologize. 9 MS. HASTINGS: Okay. I'll start over. 10 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Sorry about that. 11 MS. HASTINGS: Okay. This permits needs to be 12 seriously revised to reflect that ozone is increasing in 13 Philadelphia, not decreasing as it was acclaimed in 2019, to 14 reduce unnecessary pollutants including waste heat that this 15 facility emits directly into a federally recognized 16 environmental justice area, and to radically increase and 17 improve monitoring and public transparency. 18 The fact that there are other CHPs polluting 19 Philadelphia does not lessen the harm done. The only way to 20 reduce the harm to public health and the environment in 21 Nicetown is to reduce the amount of fossil fuel burned at 22 this facility. 23 If natural gas is burned, continuous emission 24 monitoring on the CHPs must be required. Also, AMS must</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 62</p> <p>1 likely to -- you're more likely to have a heart attack or to 2 experience lung cancer or any type of cancer, like Taylor 3 Baker was saying earlier in the meeting, and I really just 4 want to see a change. That's all. Thanks for having me. 5 THE REPORTER: Excuse me. This is the court reporter. 6 Mr. White, could you please state the school that you 7 attend? I did not catch it. Thank you. 8 MR. WHITE: I attend Imhotep Institute Charter High 9 School. We are an African culture based high school in the 10 City of Philadelphia. 11 THE REPORTER: Thank you very much. 12 MR. WHITE: Thank you. 13 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Thank you. Excellent. 14 Our next speaker will be Lisa Hastings, and then we 15 will be on the lookout for Hope Prima. So Lisa Hastings? 16 MS. HASTINGS: Yes. Hi. My name is Lisa Hastings and 17 I'm speaking as a concerned resident of Philadelphia. If 18 this permit goes through, it needs to at least be seriously 19 revised to reflect that ozone is increasing in Philadelphia, 20 not decreasing -- 21 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Okay. Ms. Hastings is not 22 available. We've hit everybody we had -- 23 MR. WIENER: She's -- 24 DR. BETTIGOLE: She's speaking.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 64</p> <p>1 install comprehensive permanent air quality monitoring near 2 the site. Mobile temporary monitoring is helpful but not 3 sufficient. 4 It is good in this version of the permit that SEPTA 5 included other stationary sources of air pollution from this 6 facility, but the permit still has serious limitations. 7 Given the air quality problems in Philadelphia and 8 SEPTA's violation of the previous permit, AMS should have 9 reduced the amount of natural gas that can be burned on site 10 to compensate for acknowledging other emissions and to 11 reduce potential problems in the future. 12 Instead, AMS increased the amount of pollution SEPTA 13 is allowed to emit, increasing the amount of NOx by almost 14 15 percent and the amount of VOCs allowed by over 50 percent 15 from the first permit, leaving SEPTA with no wiggle room 16 before crossing over to major source levels. This is unfair 17 and should be reversed. 18 The total amount of natural gas allowed to be burned 19 should be reduced, and these reductions should be taken 20 during the ozone season or at least during the high heat 21 ozone summer months. 22 They could alter the amount of natural gas and 23 electricity burned and change this radically to radically 24 reduce or eliminate what is burned during ozone season.</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 65</p> <p>1 This will reduce the greenhouse gases and the ozone 2 precursors emitted during the ozone season, which should be 3 routinely expected in an ozone nonattainment area.</p> <p>4 It will also decrease the amount of waste heat these 5 CHPs flood into already overheated environmental justice 6 neighborhoods. These are both serious problems that AMS and 7 SEPTA need to address.</p> <p>8 Burning less fossil fuel on site does not require a 9 reduction in SEPTA service, but rather an adjustment in how 10 much electricity and how much natural gas are used during 11 this month.</p> <p>12 Ideally, state and federal funds will be pursued to 13 help install solar at this facility and on other SEPTA 14 properties and used to offset burning natural gas. This is 15 an economic as well as an environmental necessity.</p> <p>16 Increasing the energy resilience of SEPTA's regional 17 rail was a reason that SEPTA used the first time this 18 facility was approved --</p> <p>19 DR. BETTIGOLE: Excuse me, Ms. Hastings. You have one 20 minute.</p> <p>21 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: You have one minute left.</p> <p>22 MS. HASTINGS: Okay, yes. Energy resiliency 23 supposedly of the CHPs was used as an argument to build this 24 plant. However, it is really a reason to install solar to</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 67</p> <p>1 testimony in a written form so that she can be included as a 2 part of the public record.</p> <p>3 Again, the written testimony comment has been extended 4 to August 31st of this year, and the information of where to 5 submit the written testimony as well as the subject 6 information was provided in both the chat and the Q&A.</p> <p>7 At this point, I am going to turn it over to our 8 health commissioner for a few closing words.</p> <p>9 DR. BETTIGOLE: I just wanted to take a moment to 10 thank everyone who has joined this call, who has given 11 comments, who has listened, for a really thoughtful and 12 solutions-focused process.</p> <p>13 I know there's a lot of strong feelings about this 14 permit and this facility. Really, in a time in which 15 there's so much screaming at people, I just have truly 16 appreciated this approach of thoughtful, science-based, 17 important comments.</p> <p>18 So we are listening. It's going to take us a while to 19 work through what I imagine will be copious public comments, 20 so we will do that, and we do take that process very 21 seriously.</p> <p>22 I also just want to say how impressed I was, I think 23 everybody on this call was, with our two young people who 24 called in, and grateful that they are engaged in this kind</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 66</p> <p>1 augment grid electricity and replace some natural gas.</p> <p>2 PJM Interconnect found that individual natural gas 3 generators were less reliable during polar vortexes in 4 Pennsylvania than grid electricity was. Additionally, since 5 then, the U.S. Department of Energy now maintains that solar 6 energy with battery storage increases the resiliency of 7 power sources, partially because a breakdown in fuel 8 delivery will not impact it. So for energy resiliency, for 9 environmental quality, climate change, public health --</p> <p>10 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Ms. Hastings, your time is up.</p> <p>11 MS. HASTINGS: Thank you.</p> <p>12 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Thank you very much. I am not sure 13 if Hope Primas has joined us back.</p> <p>14 (Pause.)</p> <p>15 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Great. Hope is back, and Hope, do 16 you want to go ahead and come on and provide your testimony?</p> <p>17 (No response.)</p> <p>18 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Hope?</p> <p>19 (No response.)</p> <p>20 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Hope, are you on?</p> <p>21 (No response.)</p> <p>22 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: It seems as though Hope is not on, 23 so at this point we've gone through all of the testimony. 24 We will reach out to Hope and ask her to provide her</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 68</p> <p>1 of thoughtful debate, and thinking deeply about how we can 2 make our environment safer and better for all of us to 3 breathe.</p> <p>4 So thank you all for being here. It will probably 5 take us several months to work through all of this, but we 6 will issue a written document.</p> <p>7 I'm going to turn things back over to Dr. Raval-Nelson 8 to wrap up. Thank you.</p> <p>9 DR. RAVAL-NELSON: Thank you -- (inaudible) --</p> <p>10 DR. BETTIGOLE: Palak, I think there's something wrong 11 with your sound, I'm afraid.</p> <p>12 (Pause.)</p> <p>13 DR. BETTIGOLE: All right. I just want to make sure 14 everybody sees the email Ed put in the chat in terms of 15 where to send public comments, again, open till August 31st, 16 to DPHAMS_Service_Requests@Phila.Gov. And please put "SEPTA 17 Roberts Complex SMOP" in the subject line. And all that is 18 in the chat.</p> <p>19 So with that, unless there's anything else that I'm 20 missing processwise, folks, I think we're going to give you 21 your evening back, and thank you so much for being part of 22 this process.</p> <p>23 (Whereupon, the public hearing was concluded.)</p>

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

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I hereby certify that the foregoing proceedings, the
Public Hearing - proposed Synthetic Minor Operating Permit
for Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority
(SEPTA) - Roberts Complex, were reported by me on July 27,
2023, and that I, John A. Kelly, read this transcript and
attest that this transcript is a true and accurate record of
the proceedings.

By:

John A. Kelly

Court Reporter

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