

Sandra H. Smithers

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Angela D. Marconi, P.E., BCEE
Engineering & Compliance Branch Manager
DNREC - Division of Air Quality
715 Grantham Lane
New Castle, DE 19720

Dear Ms. Marconi,

I am writing to you to request a public hearing for the application by Walan Specialty Construction Products LLC, to open a processing facility at 501 Christiana Ave. in Wilmington, DE.

Research shows that residents of the communities situated along the Route 9 Corridor face higher risks of cancer and other diseases as a result of exposure to environmental pollution. A 2017 study conducted by the Union of Concerned Scientists found that as compared to the community of Greenville, communities along the Route 9 Corridor “face substantial cumulative health risks from exposure to toxic air pollution, much greater than those faced by wealthy White neighborhoods”. The health disparities that exist between these communities and more affluent communities, such as higher rates of cancers, coronary disease, diabetes and respiratory disease, would be exacerbated by permitting such an environmentally polluting establishment to operate less than 3 miles from these communities.

In addition to the more than 2.5 tons/year of particulate matter, this establishment proposes to release a number of compounds that, individually, carry their own set of health effects, even in small doses - from eye, nose and throat irritation and inflammation, to nausea, nervous system damage, and respiratory problems. In combination, the negative impact on health would be far greater.

A public hearing would allow us, the residents, the opportunity to more thoroughly assess the risks associated with permitting such an establishment to open.

I thank you in advance for your consideration and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Sandra H. Smithers