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February 12, 2025

Environmental Cleanup & Brownfields Program
Northcentral Region, Department of Environmental Protection
208 W. 3rd Street, Suite 101
Williamsport, PA 17701-6448

Subject: Public Comment on Proposed Consent Order and Agreement Entered into on November 13, 2024 by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Environmental Protection and the Penn State University; Benner Township PFAS Investigation Site, Centre County

Dear Mr. Randy Farmerie,

On behalf of Nittany Express, the following comments are offered on the proposed Consent Order and Agreement (CO&A) between the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Pennsylvania State University (PSU) concerning the Benner Township PFAS Investigation Site.

These comments are submitted on behalf of Nittany Express, Inc. a small, woman-owned, minority business enterprise, duly incorporated and located at 2190 High Tech Road in State College, PA—just 1,400 feet west and downstream of the State College Regional Airport. Nittany Express, Inc. is engaged in a range of operations, including providing public transportation services such as taxi and airport shuttle services, which are licensed and regulated by the Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission.

The car wash facility operates using a well properly permitted by the Benner Township Centre County Planning Commission and approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

The final approval for the site plan, including the well, was granted by the Centre County Planning Commission, as documented in Exhibit 5. A copy of this approval document will be furnished upon request.

We have carefully reviewed the information provided by PADEP in the proposed consent order and agreement and we find it to be incomplete. The lack of complete information has

resulted in a dilemma for us prohibiting us from making well informed management decisions. After reviewing the material provided several questions remain:

- What is the Pennsylvania ground water standard for PFOA and PFAS?
- What is the Pennsylvania drinking water standard for PFOA and PFAS?
- What is the Pennsylvania approved testing methods for PFOA and PFAS?
- What are the treatment options that will protect public health and the environment given the levels of PFAS PFOA found by PADEP in the drinking water well on my property?
- What standard based on the need to protect public health was used to determine that our small business was excluded from the remedy offered to homeowners with similar levels of PFOA PFOS in their water supply?
- What data was used to determine that providing limited drinking water was sufficient to protect given the operations of this small business?
- What data was reviewed during the approval process for the well owned and operated by Nittany Express that DEP approved in 2020?
- Why was this well permitted if PFOA PFAS was suspected?

We remain concerned about the health and financial impacts that we may experience based on the gaps in the information provided for our review. We are looking forward to PADEP providing answers to the questions above so we can make the strategic decisions necessary to protect health and our financial interests regarding our business and property. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Samantha Phillips Beers

Samantha Phillips Beers
Counsel on behalf of Nittany Express, Inc., Owners

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