



Shell Chemical Appalachia, LLC. Application for Plan Approval Permit Application No. 1500641, Permit No. PA-04-00740D

Air Quality Permitting Background

Shell Chemical Appalachia LLC (“Shell”) operates the Shell Polymers Monaca facility, located in Potter Township, Beaver County at a site that has historically been used for industrial purposes. This facility is currently authorized to operate under the authority of three (3) Air Quality plan approvals:

- PA-04-00740A authorizing initial construction and temporary operation of the facility.
- PA-04-00740B and PA-04-00740C authorized the installation of additional equipment, reconciliation of as-built equipment, continued temporary operation, and documented the removal of equipment.

Shell is a Title V facility under the Clean Air Act because the potential to emit (PTE) of multiple air contaminants is greater than the major source thresholds. Primary air contaminants of permitting concern from this facility are oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), carbon monoxide (CO), particulate matter (PM₁₀ & PM_{2.5}), volatile organic compounds (VOC), hazardous air pollutants (HAP), and greenhouse gases (GHG). To achieve the permitted emission rates, Shell is required to use a variety of air cleaning devices, equipment, methods, or techniques throughout the entire process in order to minimize emissions of air contaminants to the atmosphere. The facility is subject to stack testing, continuous emission monitoring, periodic monitoring, record keeping, reporting, maintenance, work practice, and reporting requirements.

What Does the Facility Do?

This Shell facility is a plastics manufacturing facility which produces low- and high-density polyethylene pellets. An electric and steam cogeneration plant is also located at this facility, which provides all of the steam and electricity necessary for the production process. Excess electricity generated at this facility is sold to the utility grid.

Why is a Plan Approval Necessary?

On September 13, 2024, Shell’s application for plan approval, PA-04-00740D, was received by DEP. Primary purposes of the application are:

- Reconciling the facility authorizations to operate to include newly applicable federal regulations.
- Reconciling discrepancies from the original proposed project to account for as-built changes and evaluate other proposed changes to various aspects of the current authorizations.
- Evaluating the proposed permanent emission control strategy for the previously constructed wastewater treatment plant.

The project will trigger regulatory requirements for state Best Available Technology, state Non-Attainment New Source Review, federal Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD), federal New Source Performance Standards (NSPS), and federal National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP). The application includes PSD air-dispersion modeling and an inhalation risk assessment for air toxics, which have been reviewed independently by the Bureau of Air Quality. Technical staff at the DEP Southwest Regional Office have reviewed the application for PA-04-00740D to determine if it complies with Pennsylvania’s laws and regulations.

What is the Plan Approval Review Process?

PA DEP published a notice of intent to issue PA-04-00740D in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on February 14, 2026. There is an opportunity for the public, the United States EPA, the Federal Land Managers, and nearby states within 50 miles, to comment on the proposed Plan Approval. The methods to comment on the proposed plan approval include a public meeting, a public hearing, by U.S. mail, or email during the public comment period. As required by regulation, Shell also notified the public of the proposed plan approval through publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the area of the project on three separate dates. Once all feedback has been addressed, DEP will decide to either deny or issue the Plan Approval. The U.S. EPA will also be provided the opportunity to review how DEP has addressed any public comments. A notice of any action by DEP will be sent to any member of the public who submitted a comment during the comment period along with the notice being published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.



What is an Environmental Justice Area?

Environmental Justice (EJ) Areas are identified as communities facing environmental justice issues using more than 30 environmental, health, and socioeconomic indicators. Census Tract 42007605500 (Potter Township, Beaver County) is an EJ Area due to a variety of social and economic factors. DEP is working to facilitate enhanced public participation to ensure that the public is informed and can be involved in the public comment and response process.

Under the EJ Policy, major modifications of a major source subject to Prevention of Significant Deterioration applications are designated as Public Participation Trigger Permits. Further enhanced public participation for this facility's Plan Approval application include a public meeting and a public hearing. At public meetings, the public may ask questions that DEP's technical team can review and answer. At public hearings, the public may provide testimony for DEP's technical team to respond and consider when drafting the final permit.

More information on Environmental Justice can be found on DEP's website at:

<http://dep.pa.gov/environmentaljustice>.

Where can I Review the Application?

The application, DEP's Review Memorandum, and the proposed application are available for public review on DEP's community information webpage, www.dep.pa.gov/Shell or during normal business hours at DEP's Southwest Regional Office at 400 Waterfront Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15222.

A file review can be scheduled through the DEP's website at: <https://www.dep.pa.gov/Citizens/PublicRecords/Pages/Informal-File-Review.aspx>.

Will there be a Public Meeting and How can Public Comments be Submitted?

The DEP will hold a public meeting on Thursday, March 19, 2026, from 6-8 PM at the Penn State Beaver Auditorium, 100 University Drive, Monaca, PA 15061, where the public will have an opportunity to learn about the proposed Air Quality Plan Approval and ask questions.

DEP will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, April 7, 2026, from 6-8 PM at the Penn State Beaver Auditorium, 100 University Drive, Monaca, PA 15061, where the public will have an opportunity to present oral & written testimony regarding the proposed Air Quality Plan Approval.

Those who wish to provide DEP with additional written information that they believe should be considered before DEP takes action on the application may submit the information to Sheri Guerrieri, Environmental Engineering Manager, Department of Environmental Protection, Southwest Regional Office, 400 Waterfront Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15222. Written comments must contain the name, address and telephone number of the person submitting the comments, identification of the proposed Plan Approval and concise statements regarding the relevancy of the information or objections to issuance of the Plan Approval. Comments will be accepted through April 17, 2026.

What will Happen if the Plan Approval is Issued?

If DEP issues the plan approval, Shell will be authorized to make changes at the facility and operate for a temporary period in accordance with the conditions of the Plan Approval. The issuance or denial of any Plan Approval may be appealed by affected persons who think that DEP erred in its decision. Appeals are heard by the Environmental Hearing Board, a specialized quasi-judicial administrative court that has jurisdiction over appeals of DEP actions.

Who can I Contact with Questions or Comments?

- Sheri Guerrieri, P.E., Environmental Engineering Manager
Telephone: 412-442-4174 Email: shguerrier@pa.gov
- Emily Green, MS, Office of Environmental Justice
Telephone: 412-442-4042 Email: emgreen@pa.gov