

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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IN RE: TESTIMONY IN THE MATTER OF: 32-00457A: HOMER  
CITY GENERATION LP AIR QUALITY PLAN APPROVAL

\* \* \* \* \*

BEFORE: ELSPETH KOEHLE, Regional Coordinator

DAVE BALOG, PE

LORI MCNABB, Environmental Program Manager

JUSTIN DULA, Senior Advisor

HEARING: Wednesday September 17, 2025

7:42 p.m.

LOCATION: Kovalchick Convention and Athletic Complex  
711 Pratt Drive  
Indiana, PA 15705

WITNESSES: None

Reporter: Lacey C. Scott

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## A P P E A R A N C E S

ALSO PRESENT:

STATE REPRESENTATIVE JIM STRUZZI, Representing Indiana  
County and Homer City Redevelopment

ANNIE REGAN, on behalf of Citizens for Pennsylvania's  
Future, Standing in for Jessica O'Neil

JAY TANG WALKER, Southwest Pennsylvania Community  
Organizer of Clean Air Council

SUSAN COMFORT

KURT LIMBACH, Environmental Officer for Tubmill Trout  
Club Unlimited-Nonprofit Explorer

NATE RICKETTS, Community Organizer with Mountain  
Watershed Association

TRAVIS HIBBS

RUTH THOMAS, Leader of First Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Indiana

LIZ COOK

WILDE SCHWIRKING

ERIC BARKER

SHAWN STEFFEE, President of South Central Building  
Trades, Boilermaker at Boilermaker 18

DANIEL MORRIS

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REGIONAL COORDINATOR KOEHLE: I'm going to begin by calling the first three testifiers to approach the microphone. We're only going to be using this one. So if you are testifying, please be prepared to come up to this microphone over here.

I'm going to call Nate Eachus, Jessica O'Neil and Jay Walker as our first three testifiers. I would ask that when approach the microphone, you state your name and spell it for our stenographer because she will be recording all of your testimony.

Once again, please silence your cellphones. Do not clap or boo, hoo-ha anyone who is speaking, everyone please be polite and courteous to each other. You cannot transfer any remaining time to another testifier, just so you know. And then we're also encouraging any organizations to designate one witness to present testimony on behalf of your organizations.

In addition to oral testimony, written testimony in length may also be provided to DEP today, whether it's sent via email or mail to Lori McNabb no later than Monday, September 29th contact information is at the bottom of our fact sheets but they're also in

1 the library - or the library, the lobby.

2 Please be reminded that DEP will not be  
3 responding to your testimony during the public hearing,  
4 but we will respond in writing to all testimony  
5 pertinent to the air permitting process that is  
6 presented this evening or provided in writing before  
7 September 29th.

8 After everyone is registered and has an  
9 opportunity to testify, if time permits we will ask if  
10 anyone else wishes to testify. Please note that the  
11 hearing will end at 9:00 p.m.

12 And now I would like to call our first  
13 individual to testify. Is Nate Eachus present.

14 My apologies, is Representative Struzzi  
15 here, first testifier?

16 Go ahead, sir. Can you state your name  
17 and spell it, please?

18 REPRESENTATIVE STRUZZI: Yes, thank you.

19 ---

20 (WHEREUPON, THERE WAS A BRIEF INTERRUPTION IN THE  
21 PROCEEDINGS.)

22 ---

23 REPRESENTATIVE STRUZZI: Hello. Okay.

24 All right.

25 Good evening. State representative Jim

19:45:21 1 Struzzi. I represent Indiana County, including the  
19:45:23 2 area where the Homer City Redevelopment project is  
19:45:26 3 occurring.

19:45:27 4 I appreciate the DEP being here tonight.  
19:45:30 5 I appreciate Homer City Redevelopment being here to  
19:45:33 6 answer questions related to the air quality permit for  
19:45:36 7 this project. I appreciate all of the questions that  
19:45:38 8 were asked this evening. I think the air quality is  
19:45:40 9 very important. And I think it's pertinent that those  
19:45:44 10 questions are asked and that they are answered in their  
19:45:47 11 fullest capacity.

19:45:49 12 However, what I heard tonight was that  
19:45:51 13 Homer City Redevelopment is complying with the  
19:45:54 14 permitting requirements. They are being a good steward  
19:45:58 15 to the environment. They are doing everything that's  
19:46:00 16 asked of them. I support this project for many reason,  
19:46:02 17 including all of the great jobs it's going to create,  
19:46:05 18 the economic impact not only on Indiana County, but on  
19:46:08 19 Western Pennsylvania and this Commonwealth, the much  
19:46:10 20 needed energy that will put back into the power grid  
19:46:14 21 and really, the sustainable future it creates for this  
19:46:17 22 Commonwealth.

19:46:17 23 Natural gas is clean burning energy.  
19:46:20 24 And so I hope that it will be heard today, given the  
19:46:23 25 fact that Homer City is doing everything they can to be

19:46:26 1 good environmental stewards - stewards, following the  
19:46:29 2 proper requirements and procedures that this permit  
19:46:31 3 will be expeditiously approved. And I state  
19:46:34 4 unequivocally, that I 100 percent support this project.  
19:46:38 5 Thank you.

19:46:39 6 REGIONAL COORDINATOR KOEHLE: Once  
19:46:41 7 again, reminder you have three minutes to give your  
19:46:44 8 testimony. I will hold up signs when you're getting  
19:46:48 9 close to your three minutes.

19:46:50 10 Nate Eachus? Is Nate present? Going  
19:46:56 11 once, going twice. No Nate Eachus?

19:47:01 12 Okay.

19:47:02 13 Jessica O'Neil?

19:47:10 14 MS. REGAN: Hi. I am standing in for  
19:47:12 15 Jessica O'Neil. My she Annie Regan. She couldn't be  
19:47:17 16 here tonight.

19:47:17 17 REGIONAL COORDINATOR KOEHLE: Can you  
19:47:18 18 spell your name for the stenographer, please?

19:47:18 19 MS. REGAN: Sure.

19:47:20 20 Annie, A-N-N-I-E, Regan, R-E-G-A-N.

19:47:25 21 Thank you.

19:47:26 22 I am here on behalf of Citizens for  
19:47:30 23 Pennsylvania's Future or PennFuture, and over 1,000  
19:47:34 24 members across the Commonwealth.

19:47:35 25 PennFuture is a member-supported



1 nonprofit environmental organizations fighting for  
2 clean air, pure water and climate change solutions  
3 through legal advocacy, policy and civic engagement.

4 Indiana County is an energy community  
5 that has long powered our nation. Talking to community  
6 members and leaders, you can feel the pride that comes  
7 from the great dedication that comes from this work.  
8 Work that has been able to provide for their families.  
9 We have the utmost respect for the workers, and people  
10 in this community and it's up to our elected officials  
11 to ensure we invest and provide the resources, they and  
12 community needs to prosper and provide for years to  
13 come.

14 This proposed fracked gas power plant is  
15 not the solution. Developers love to tout jobs, it's  
16 the biggest benefit of construction, While dismissing  
17 or downplaying the impacts.

18 Our local economy sees these jobs but  
19 this is not long-term economic solution. And numerous  
20 studies demonstrate how fracking contributes to a boom  
21 and bust economic cycle. Just look at the history of  
22 Pennsylvania and where this may have led to energy  
23 communities.

24 The permit application that you are  
25 considering for this fracked gas power plant that will

1 be one of, if not the largest fracked gas power plant  
2 in the country.

3 If the DEP issues this permit there will  
4 also be devastating environmental impacts and health  
5 impacts allowing the plants to omit over 17 million  
6 tons of greenhouse gas emissions each year, along with  
7 toxic air pollutants like mercury and ammonia. Indiana  
8 County deserves more innovative approaches to create  
9 long-term family-sustaining jobs that do not harm our  
10 health and environment.

11 The DEP is required by the legislature  
12 and the Climate Change Act to compile an annual  
13 inventory of greenhouse gas emissions omitted in  
14 Pennsylvania. The most recent data available to the  
15 2022. And in that year, Pennsylvania sources emitted  
16 approximately 253 million tons of these greenhouse gas  
17 submissions. Seventeen (17) million additional tons is  
18 the increase of 6 percent in our greenhouse gas  
19 emissions from just this one facility.

20 From one facility that presently has no  
21 pending applications to interconnect with the grid that  
22 provides Pennsylvanians with electricity. One facility  
23 that may power a data center about which we have zero  
24 information. One data center facility that may or may  
25 not even employ any Pennsylvanians.

19:50:07 1 You have a duty to review this  
19:50:08 2 application and see if it meets the letter of the Air  
19:50:13 3 Pollution Control Act and the air quality regulations.  
19:50:15 4 You also have a constitutional obligation to conserve  
19:50:18 5 and maintain Pennsylvania's public natural resources,  
19:50:21 6 including clean air for the benefit of all people -

19:50:21 7 REGIONAL COORDINATOR KOEHLE: One  
19:50:21 8 minute.

19:50:24 9 MS. REGAN: - including generations to  
19:50:25 10 come.

19:50:26 11 REGIONAL COORDINATOR KOEHLE: If you  
19:50:27 12 have enough time, you can finish your comment after  
19:50:30 13 everyone else, your time is up I'm sorry.

19:50:32 14 MS. REGAN: No, thank you.

19:50:33 15 REGIONAL COORDINATOR KOEHLE: All right.

19:50:34 16 Can I call Jay Walker, please? And then  
19:50:37 17 I would like to call Susan Comfort and Kurt Limbach to  
19:50:41 18 get in line behind Jay.

19:50:41 19 Go ahead.

19:50:47 20 MR. WALKER: My name is Jay Ting Walker.  
19:50:49 21 And I'm the Southwest Pennsylvania Community Organizer  
19:50:52 22 of Clean Air Council. The Council is a nonprofit and  
19:50:54 23 environmental health organization that has been working  
19:50:56 24 to protect everyone's rights to breath clean air for  
19:50:58 25 over 50 years. Our thousands of members include

19:51:01 1 frontline Indiana residents.

19:51:03 2                   DEP needs to stop fast-tracking the  
19:51:06 3 Homer City Generation Power Plant permitting and take  
19:51:09 4 the necessary time to fulfill all of its legal duties,  
19:51:11 5 including those under the Pennsylvania Constitution's  
19:51:16 6 Environmental Rights Amendments. If built, the Homer  
19:51:18 7 City plant will be the nation's largest gas power  
19:51:21 8 plant.

19:51:21 9                   Although the plant will produce enough  
19:51:22 10 electricity to power over 3 million homes, it would  
19:51:26 11 mostly feed its massive data center campus, local  
19:51:29 12 residents, including many in environmental justice  
19:51:31 13 community would suffer from increased air pollution,  
19:51:35 14 noise, odor and compromised drinking water.

19:51:38 15                   Homer City Generation's plant could emit  
19:51:40 16 more than 17 million tons of carbon dioxide annually,  
19:51:44 17 tripled the highest emissions of any existing  
19:51:46 18 Pennsylvania facility. Increased carbon dioxide  
19:51:50 19 emissions lead to rising global temperatures which  
19:51:52 20 means more frequent and severe natural disasters at  
19:51:55 21 home.

19:51:55 22                   DEP already predicts Pennsylvania to  
19:51:57 23 keep another 5.9 degrees Fahrenheit 2050 with some  
19:52:01 24 areas is even a sweltering 95 degrees for nearly 40  
19:52:03 25 days each year.

1                   Additionally, the plants hazardous air  
2 emissions would substantially risk local residents  
3 health and well-being. Unlike the historic coal plant,  
4 this much larger fracked gas power plant could emit 910  
5 tons of ammonia annually. Ammonia smells like cat  
6 urine and it can form fine particular matter when  
7 reacted with other gases in the air, which may increase  
8 rates of respiratory illness and premature death.

9                   The facility also get high levels of  
10 volatile organic compounds, nitrogen oxides, carbon  
11 monoxide, particulate matter and cancer-causing  
12 hazardous air pollution like formaldehyde. These  
13 pollutants all endanger human health. Many of them  
14 will be emitted in large quantities than the form -  
15 well, in larger quantities in the form coal land. This  
16 community deserves more deliberate and transparent  
17 process with increased opportunities that have their  
18 voices heard and their questions answered.

19                   We as a community need not accept  
20 polluted air contaminated water so that Homer City  
21 Generation owner and New York Hedge Fund can create  
22 even bigger profits. The developer states that this  
23 project can create only 1,000 direct and indirect  
24 permitted jobs. And there is reason about that number.  
25 AI data centers will not bring meaningful economic

opportunities to local residents, and not worth the cost to our and our children's health and future.

In sum, DEP should not issue a proposed permit as written because the permit itself has major medical and legal deficiencies. At minimum, DEP should lower the permits to legally high emission limits for ammonia, VOCs and carbon monoxide, require continuous emissions monitoring systems for VOC particular matter and require the facility to perform annual stack testing for multiple hazardous air pollutants.

The harm for the Homer City fracked gas power plant would far outweigh the potential benefits for Pennsylvanians. Thank you.

REGIONAL COORDINATOR KOEHLE: Thank you.

MR. WALKER: Sorry, who do I give the copies to?

REGIONAL COORDINATOR KOEHLE: Can I remind testifiers to spell your name after you state your name, please.

MR. WALKER: Thank you.

MS. COMFORT: Hi. My name is Susan Comfort. That's C-O-M-F-O-R-T.

So thank you for this opportunity for public input. I am here tonight to urge DEP to deny this air quality permit that is planned.

1 As a residents of the Indiana County for  
2 over 30 years, I am keenly aware of the dire need for  
3 investment and jobs here. However, there are just too  
4 many unanswered questions and serious risks surrounding  
5 this plan for me to support it.

6 Let me start with the economy. What are  
7 the economic risks for us here in this county? I am  
8 skeptical about the promise of jobs because those  
9 promises have been broken time and again. Look at the  
10 promises - broken promises after the recent fracking  
11 boom. Look at the shell cracker plant and what a  
12 failure that has been.

13 For this plant, most jobs won't come -  
14 will come from the initial construction as I understand  
15 it. Many of which will be filled by workers from out  
16 of state. Also, my - another economic concern. What  
17 about possible increases to our electricity prices as  
18 the proposed plant will come with electricity handling  
19 data center, the profits for which will go to yet an -  
20 yet again, an unidentified big tech company.

21 Finally, I am gravely worried about the  
22 economic costs left for Indiana residents to bear, such  
23 as higher taxes that go along with environmental  
24 impacts. And what about those environmental impacts?  
25 I understand that the plant will emit 210 by 910 tons

1 pneumonia every year. Who is going to clean that up?  
2 Are taxpayers and community volunteers going to be left  
3 holding the bag yet again? What about greenhouse gas  
4 emissions? The plant will produce a whopping 17  
5 million tons of CO2 a year.

6 Carbon dioxide is not called a  
7 greenhouse gas for nothing. Like a hot, hot  
8 greenhouse, our planet is becoming unbearably heated,  
9 aggravating deadly droughts, fires and storms. Who is  
10 going to pay to remediate all that carbon? Whether -  
11 who is going to pay for all of the clean up after  
12 storms, the people of Indiana County?

13 But my big question is why renewable  
14 energy alternatives not considered, especially since  
15 renewables have proven to be to be so much cheaper?  
16 Why wasn't more community input sought? Why is there  
17 little so - so little transparency? Why are the plans  
18 presented to us in a piecemeal fashion?

19 You know, my dream, along with that of  
20 many other - many others in Indiana County has become a  
21 renewable energy leader. We have so much skill, talent  
22 and knowledge here. We could create a renewable energy  
23 industries with long-term union jobs and rewarding  
24 enriched lives that we all deserve. Thank you.

25 REGIONAL COORDINATOR KOEHLE: Thank you.



19:57:05 1 MR. LIMBACH: Hello. My name is Kurt  
19:57:07 2 Limbach. I'm an Environmental Officer of the Tubmill  
19:57:11 3 Trout Club Unlimited, a nonprofit that is dedicated to  
19:57:12 4 improve trout fishing habitat and child - children's  
19:57:16 5 fishing opportunities.

19:57:18 6 First thing I want to -.

19:57:20 7 REGIONAL COORDINATOR KOEHLE: Kurt, can  
19:57:20 8 you spell your last name?

19:57:21 9 MR. LIMBACH: Limbach, L-I-M-B-A-C-H.

19:57:21 10 REGIONAL COORDINATOR KOEHLE: Thank you.

19:57:25 11 MR. LIMBACH: Okay.

19:57:25 12 My first problem with the whole permit  
19:57:27 13 application is to keep referring to a modification. It  
19:57:31 14 is not a modification of existing plant. The old plant  
19:57:34 15 was blowing up, this is a new plant bringing in fuel.  
19:57:37 16 So it's not a modification, it's - that's a slight of  
19:57:40 17 hand. There's major health impacts that are going to  
19:57:45 18 come from this.

19:57:45 19 Now, they talk about jobs. This 1,000  
19:57:47 20 people number is so ridiculous. And the AI centers  
19:57:50 21 typically employ 15 to 30 people to complete. Now,  
19:57:56 22 there was a lot of folk jobs in the one year of  
19:57:58 23 construction. And after that, there will be hardly any  
19:58:01 24 health impact the jobs for the local community. But we  
19:58:04 25 will get massive environmental destruction.

1 I live 10 miles east downwind of this  
2 monstrosity that's being proposed. I have heart  
3 condition that's exasperated by air pollution and my  
4 wife is a cancer survivor. We do not need this coming  
5 our way so 30 people can be employed so billionaires  
6 can make money on crypto and AI.

7 DEP stands for Environmental Protection,  
8 not Department of Environmental Prostitution or Do Not  
9 Expect Protection, they have to weigh and balance this.  
10 This plant is not in the best interest of vast majority  
11 of Pennsylvanians, it's going to be the major polluter  
12 in the United States and state-owned as unhealthy air  
13 quality. This is ridiculous thing to approve.

14 And also, it's going to have water  
15 impacts which we're not talking about today, which is  
16 going to be enormis as well. DEP should do its duty  
17 and shut this thing down. I don't want to - I would  
18 remember here we talked about the - they admitted  
19 there's major carcinogens that are emitted from this  
20 plant.

21 And we should not have to suffer cancer  
22 and lung disease because 30 people they're going to  
23 getting deployed in an AI, and frackers are going to  
24 make money and drive the price point up. This - these  
25 kind of operations are going to make it very hard for

1 the average Pennsylvanian to keep their home and heat  
2 their water. Most people rely on natural gas in  
3 Pennsylvania for heat and this is going to drive the  
4 price to the roof. Because all your gas is going to  
5 flow to facilities like this. This is beyond stupid.  
6 Protect the public, and do the right thing and deny the  
7 plant.

8 REGIONAL COORDINATOR KOEHLE: Thank you.  
9 All right.

10 We have Nate Ricketts, and then we have  
11 Travis Hibb and Ruth Thomas lined up behind Nate,  
12 please.

13 MR. RICKETTS: Hi. My name is Nate  
14 Ricketts. That's N-A-T-E R-I-C-K-E-T-T-S. I'm a  
15 community organizer with the Mountain Watershed  
16 Association whose mission is to protect, preserve and  
17 restore the Youghiogheny River Watershed.

18 The proposed redesign of Homer City  
19 Generating Station, which is purported to be the  
20 largest fracking - fracked gas power plant in the  
21 U.S.A. lies outside of our watershed, and it's well  
22 within airshed. Emissions from the power plant -  
23 emissions from the power plant don't disadvantage, they  
24 affect the atmosphere, the air we breathe and, yes, the  
25 water.

1                   When the original coal-fired power plant  
2 was decommissioned, that was a victory for air quality  
3 in the region. The permanent materials propose a net  
4 decrease in sulfur dioxide and nitric oxide. But let's  
5 not be confused, the coal-fired plant has been out of  
6 operation in over two years.

7                   Why are DEP and Homer City Redevelopment  
8 framing the proposed plant as bigger than the one which  
9 has been closed for two years? Based on air quality  
10 today and any day in the last few years, there will  
11 only be a net increase in pollutants.

12                   Effectively what you're saying Indiana  
13 County is, you live with the old plant what's so bad  
14 about this one? The plant is propose - the plant as  
15 proposed is slated to emit three times the highest  
16 level of pollutants of any power plant in Pennsylvania.  
17 Pollutants which cause public health concerns,  
18 greenhouse effects and acid rain which is a particular  
19 concern in our organizations for the risks it poses to  
20 our surface waters, soils and groundwater.

21                   With all of the tenant lined up for a  
22 data center, the change is clear, big tech will get  
23 sheet power and Western Pennsylvanians will get  
24 impaired air.

25                   Those eager to have the plan permitted

1 insists it will be economic boom for Homer City. But  
2 we know from examples that few long-term jobs exist at  
3 a gas power plants or data centers. The Tenaska Gas  
4 Power Plant in Westmoreland County employs under 30  
5 people. Many data centers have fewer than 30  
6 employees. Even upstream of the power plant itself,  
7 most fracking oil pads employ 15 to 30 workers for only  
8 a few short years.

9                   Most of whom are unaware of the toxic  
10 chemicals they repeatedly round themselves with. All  
11 the while, well pads frequently damage public, and  
12 private water supplies and always put public health at  
13 risk.

14                   Just over a week ago officials in  
15 Springhill and Freeport Townships in Greene County  
16 issued an emergency declaration after a three-year  
17 battle of EQT who contaminated the aquifer that  
18 supplies their water through their careless drilling  
19 practices.

20                   Even if we accept that the new Homer  
21 City plant would directly and incorrectly employ  
22 people, how can we raise temporary economic gains for  
23 the associated risks to air and water quality? How  
24 about we even know that local residents will be the  
25 ones working there?

1                   We're talking about a plant owned by a  
2 New York investment firm. Can we honestly say they  
3 have Homer City's interest at heart? Non-watershed  
4 announces that the air quality permit for Homer City  
5 Generating Station not be granted. Thank you  
6 everybody.

7                   REGIONAL COORDINATOR KOEHLE: Thank you.

8                   MR. HIBB: Hello my name is Travis Hibb.  
9 T-R-A-V-I-S H-I-B-B. And my address is 117 Schall Lane  
10 in Shelocta, PA. I'm here today to voice my opposition  
11 to this proposed power plant. While I acknowledge the  
12 desire for economic revitalization after the closure of  
13 the coal plant, this project is not the right path  
14 forward.

15                   If the DEP does decide to permit it, I  
16 demand a legally binding and robust Community Benefits  
17 Agreement be put in place.

18                   While the DEP focuses on air quality,  
19 this project has a much broader implication for our  
20 community and our planet. Building a new large scale  
21 natural gas plant is fundamentally at odds with the  
22 state and national climate codes. The IECC has made it  
23 clear that we must rapidly transition away from fossil  
24 fuels. The new plant would be significant source of  
25 greenhouse gas emissions, and would lock our region

1 into a fossil fuel dependent energy future for decades.

2 We shouldn't be building the energy  
3 infrastructure of the past when you should investing in  
4 the clean energy jobs of the future.

5 Beyond these big picture issues, we have  
6 serious concerns about the specifics of the company's  
7 land. The company claims that their plan uses best  
8 available technology, but our research shows that isn't  
9 true. Other similar facilities across the country have  
10 much lower emission rates per dangerous pollutants like  
11 carbon monoxide. The DEP should require them to use  
12 the best available technology not just what's  
13 convenient.

14 Furthermore, this plant allows the  
15 release of up to 900 tons of ammonia per year. That's  
16 a huge amount of chemical that can be smelled downwind  
17 and can contributes to the formation of particulate  
18 matter, which is a major health concern for our  
19 community.

20 We also cannot just take their word for  
21 it. The plan only calls for the stack testing once  
22 every five years for some hazardous pollutes. That is  
23 not nearly frequent enough to protect our community.

24 The technology exists of continuous  
25 realtime monitoring for pollutants like particulate

1 matter and ammonia.

2                   The DEP must require the installation of  
3 these continuous monitors to ensure the company is in  
4 compliance at all times and that our air is safe to  
5 breathe. We're talking about chemicals like  
6 formaldehyde, a known cancer-causing agent, as well as  
7 toluene and xylenes. The people of Homer City deserve  
8 to know what health risks they are being asked to live  
9 with.

10                   In conclusion, this project is a bad  
11 idea for our planet, and our economy and the current  
12 plan is dangerous to the health of our community. I  
13 urge the DEP to reject this plan and to hold this  
14 company accountable to the highest possible standards.  
15 Thank you.

16                   REGIONAL COORDINATOR KOEHLE: Thank you.  
17 Before we start, can I have Daniel Morris lined up and  
18 then Liz Cook after him, please?

19                   Thank you. Go ahead.

20                   MS. THOMAS: Okay.

21                   My name is Ruth Thomas. R-U-T-H  
22 T-H-O-M-A-S. And I am the leader of the First  
23 Unitarian Universalist Church of Indiana. My church  
24 has held potluck events to discuss the Homer City  
25 Generation power plant. Sorry.



1                   Some people were concerned about air  
2 pollution from the facility, the impact of the lungs of  
3 the local residents. This is also a concern - sorry,  
4 can you hear any of it?

5                   REGIONAL COORDINATOR KOEHLE: I can, but  
6 - yeah, everyone needs to hear you.

7                   MS. THOMAS: This is also a concern of  
8 the elderly and people with conditions such as asthma  
9 and heart disease. Others were disturbed by the amount  
10 of ammonia that is being allowed to emit. Not only  
11 does this bank emit more of some pollutants than the  
12 former coal plant. And it also likely includes fewer  
13 presidents. That's all on top of their being nothing  
14 polluting there now. All of the pollution to be  
15 compared to the empty site that we have today, rather  
16 than to unsupported statics assumed for the pollution  
17 that was there years ago. That manipulation of  
18 pollution numbers is very clearly a major part of this  
19 proposed permit.

20                   Other potluck attendees talk about data  
21 centers will be a major nuisance while providing very  
22 few jobs. We discussed AI technology, including how  
23 the technology takes away more jobs than it provides  
24 while making profits from faraway tech giants.

25                   Nobody is excited about hosting asset

1 empty warehouses filled with noisy computers. People  
2 were very concerned about how data centers would impact  
3 local fresh water supplies. The gas plant is also  
4 going to lead to thousands of additional fracking wells  
5 that will pollute both air and water.

6 Another event our church has hosted  
7 recently was a visit from MarchOnHarrisburg, a group  
8 working to get money and corruption out of Pennsylvania  
9 politics. And it's very clear both on how fast this  
10 project is being forced through minimal scrutiny, and  
11 the revolving door between government and private  
12 corporations, that this is a prime example of the  
13 corruption in politics that MarchOnHarrisburg is  
14 fighting against.

15 Based on how poorly the devil's market  
16 that Beaver County made with Shell for their Cracker  
17 Barrel plant turned out maximum pollution with minimal  
18 jobs and how Shell is looking to sell the plant. We  
19 should avoid that fate here in Indiana by opposing the  
20 plant.

21 Having said all that, if this plant is  
22 going to be built whether we residents want it or not,  
23 the DEP should require improvements to the proposed  
24 permit. Better technology exists for controlling  
25 ammonia, VOCs and carbon monoxide. All of these

20:08:54 1 pollutions should have little meaning without having  
20:08:58 2 testing. The facilities should be required to conduct  
20:09:01 3 stack testing at least manually and there should be  
20:09:05 4 continuous monitoring of the VOCs particulate matter  
20:09:08 5 and ammonia. Thank you for listening.

20:09:10 6 REGIONAL COORDINATOR KOEHLE: Thank you.  
20:09:13 7 Go ahead.

20:09:18 8 MS. COOK: My name is Liz Cook, C-O-O-K.  
20:09:27 9 Hello. I was both a member of the Indiana community  
20:09:30 10 for 25 years more or less. We chose this place because  
20:09:34 11 of the schools, easy commute to the family near  
20:09:40 12 Pittsburgh and vibrant small town university outdoor  
20:09:44 13 community, with recreational opportunities.

20:09:48 14 Raising two sons here has been  
20:09:49 15 rewarding. But concerns over the upcoming gas power  
20:09:52 16 plant and data center have me concerned about the  
20:09:55 17 future. I'm not apposed to the progress. But at the  
20:10:00 18 same time, the health and welfare of the surrounding  
20:10:03 19 community should be a first priority.

20:10:07 20 I've read reports of other towns that  
20:10:09 21 have these facilities and how the air, water, land and  
20:10:13 22 the lives of the people are affected in negative ways.  
20:10:17 23 I appreciate that monitoring of pollutants will be in  
20:10:21 24 effect. We don't want to wake up one day like our  
20:10:24 25 neighborhood unlivable due to the noise from the plant,

1 pollutants making us sick or property values reduced,  
2 not to mention our own electricity bills will skyrocket  
3 in order to pay for this progress.

4 I would like to see more consistent  
5 monitoring of the plant pollutants such as the stack  
6 testing every year instead of five years in order to  
7 better measure hazardous air pollutants. Continuous  
8 emissions and monitoring systems for ammonia are  
9 available and installed - should be installed to ensure  
10 compliance with the omission limits at all times.

11 This is important because the ammonia  
12 emissions permitted can be smelled. And you say it's  
13 not going to be smelly, but other places they say it  
14 smells. Ammonia also leads to formation of particulate  
15 matter which could lead to violations of PM standard.  
16 This is particularly important to ensure that Homer  
17 City and nearby towns avoid becoming a smelly place  
18 where nobody wants to live or to even visit. In  
19 addition to the health risks, if you don't have  
20 safeguards to avoid these emissions.

21 I would also like to see a community  
22 benefits agreement proposed that you will protect us.  
23 This is our town, our county and can't afford to see it  
24 diminish to an unhealthy, unattractive place to be.

25 Our son had asthma as a child, and

1 thankfully he outgrew it. My husband and I feel very  
2 lucky that both our sons do live nearby here and have  
3 children of their own now. We're concerned that their  
4 lives and health are on the table. Treat us the way  
5 you would want it done, you, your children and  
6 grandchildren lived here. Thank you.

7 REGIONAL COORDINATOR KOEHLE: Thank you.

8 Next up we have Wilde Schwirking.  
9 Wilde. And then after Wilde is Eric Barker. Please  
10 line up behind you.

11 MS. SCHWIRKING: Okay.

12 My name is Wilde Schwirking, W-I-L-D-E  
13 S-C-H-W-I-R-K-I-N-G. I am Indiana resident. And I am  
14 educator in Homer City.

15 I am worried about a plant that is going  
16 to be allowed to emit 900 tons of ammonia a year into  
17 the air the kids I teach breathe. I am worried about a  
18 plant that is only going to do stack tests for  
19 hazardous pollutants every five years. Five years  
20 where there could be secret air hazards in the air our  
21 children are breathing.

22 I am worried and I am upset. I am upset  
23 that they are building another power plant that is  
24 going to hurt my kids when we're being just fine  
25 without one. I am upset that they are doing this to

1 fuel an AI data center that is going to further damage  
2 our environment to create untrustworthy answers and  
3 mind-damaging privacy violating chat box.

4 I am upset that because this company is  
5 free there are going to be sick children who shouldn't  
6 have been sick, children who are going to have to watch  
7 their friends, and families and caretakers be sick.  
8 Children who are going to watch the earth we have  
9 brought them into fall into ruin at our hands because  
10 we let this happen. Children who may never know air  
11 that does not hurt them. This facility should not  
12 exist at all.

13 If they build this, every day that I  
14 have to watch the kids I teach hurting because they  
15 decide to damage our community for their benefit is a  
16 day my heart will ache. If it's going to exist and it  
17 shouldn't, they need to do better to mitigate harm.  
18 The maximum slip rate of nitrogen oxide needs to be  
19 lower. They need to stack test annually at least. And  
20 they need to install every continuous emissions  
21 monitoring system which is available to at least try to  
22 reduce the amount of poison they are putting in our  
23 children's air. Thank you.

24 REGIONAL COORDINATOR KOEHLE: Thank you.

25 MR. BARKER: Hi. My name is Eric

20:14:36 1 Barker, E-R-I-C B-A-R-K-E-R. As a long time Indiana  
20:14:41 2 County resident and a remember former Homer City  
20:14:43 3 resident, I am excited about the upcoming proposed  
20:14:49 4 power plant project. I was - having grown up in Homer  
20:14:54 5 City, I was deeply aware of the economic development  
20:14:56 6 that the previous power plant provider to our  
20:14:59 7 community, including about 17 percent of the revenue  
20:15:05 8 for my alma mater Home Center High School - Homer  
20:15:08 9 Center School District that is.

20:15:09 10 That being said, I am concerned about  
20:15:13 11 the environmental quality and environmental impact that  
20:15:17 12 a proposed power plant may bring. And I would love to  
20:15:20 13 encourage the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental  
20:15:24 14 Protection to take a very active role in making sure  
20:15:27 15 all of our community remains safe.

20:15:30 16 I think everybody here in the room can  
20:15:32 17 agree that we're in favor of clean water and clean air.  
20:15:38 18 Specifically, I think there is things that the DEP and  
20:15:41 19 other state agencies can do. Number one, I thing we're  
20:15:49 20 a community improvement that can receive community  
20:15:52 21 input on a regular basis.

20:15:54 22 Number two, make sure that the emission  
20:16:00 23 sensors are monitored on a regular basis, and have  
20:16:03 24 physical protections so they're not relying upon the  
20:16:06 25 sensors being operated and maintained by the power

1 plant itself. Some people might think that's - that  
2 would be sort of like the fox work with watching of the  
3 hen house as an analogy.

4 Three, I would encourage transparency in  
5 the DEP recording and an annual, if not more frequent  
6 report comparable analysis between the Homer City power  
7 plant and others of similar nature around the  
8 Commonwealth. Some state agencies - so for example,  
9 the Pennsylvania State Higher Education report  
10 regularly on the performance and student enrollment of  
11 the state-run universities. Hopefully, the DEP can do  
12 something similar when it comes to the major power  
13 plants in the Commonwealth.

14 I'd also like to encourage the DEP to  
15 solicit feedback from environmental groups who may be  
16 engaged in volunteer community service monitoring of  
17 air quality. For example, Evergreen Conservancy is a  
18 local organization that regularly does stream  
19 monitoring about water quality. And there are local  
20 environmental groups that may want to do the same when  
21 it comes to the Homer City power plant.

22 So thank you for your opportunity for  
23 soliciting community input and encourage everybody.  
24 And I think this is going to be positive thing,  
25 especially if we can ensure clean air, clear water that



1 is afforded to the citizens of the Commonwealth and  
2 it's written into the Pennsylvania Constitution. Thank  
3 you.

4 REGIONAL COORDINATOR KOEHLE: Thank you.

5 I would like to invite the woman who was  
6 speaking on behalf of Jessica O'Neil to finish her  
7 comment if she would like to. If not, if there's  
8 anyone else who would like to give testimony you're  
9 welcome to approach the mic.

10 MR. MORRIS: I would.

11 REGIONAL COORDINATOR KOEHLE: Come on  
12 down, sir.

13 MS. REGAN: Yeah, the thing I didn't get  
14 to mention was on behalf of assurance members we are  
15 asking you to deny the permit. Thank you.

16 REGIONAL COORDINATOR KOEHLE: Thank you.  
17 Please state your name and spell it for  
18 us.

19 MR. STEFFEE: Shawn Steffee,  
20 S-T-E-F-F-E-E. I'm the President of South Central  
21 Building Trades. I'm also boilermaker at Boilermaker  
22 18. And everybody's thinking about jobs. There will  
23 be job and there will be little jobs. A lot of the  
24 guys are sitting right there, 3,500 of us right there  
25 will building this plant.

1 I've heard about renewables. If we were  
2 going to build out this much megawatts of renewables,  
3 we would need 230 square miles of 75 million solar  
4 panels, not possible. Seventy (70) acres home  
5 development is not good enough on that site. It is got  
6 to be this and need the power to - for baseload  
7 electricity and we needed the power of AI. We have a  
8 skilled workforce right here to motivate it, ready to  
9 build it and we will be local.

10 Okay?

11 Everyone of us are for the environment.  
12 I live here, I'm a lifelong resident. My family lives  
13 here. So let's do it, let's do it the right way. And  
14 I think it's going to be a good thing for the county,  
15 the community and the school district. Thank you.

16 REGIONAL COORDINATOR KOEHLE: Thank you.

17 MR. MORRIS: My name is Daniel Morris,  
18 M-O-R-R-I-S. I've been a Teamster at Local 110 union  
19 and I live within two miles of the Fairview up in  
20 Cambria County. That's a gas fired plant and they're  
21 very clean. The coal fire plants are very dirty, very  
22 messy and this power plant you'll hardly even know that  
23 it's there. You can hear it a little bit but not very  
24 much at all.

25 And we're same, there's a lot of local

20:20:12 1 union guys that are working on this from Indiana -  
20:20:15 2 Indiana, and Cambria and Somerset Counties, different  
20:20:19 3 areas. I'll say that Teamsters Local 110 supports the  
20:20:22 4 power plant. Thank you.

20:20:23 5 REGIONAL COORDINATOR KOEHLE: Thank you.  
20:20:31 6 All right.

20:20:31 7 Final call for testimony. Would anyone  
20:20:33 8 else like to give testimony?

20:20:35 9 Going once, going twice. All right.  
20:20:39 10 Thank you all for attending. Have a good evening.

11 \* \* \* \* \*

12 HEARING CONCLUDED AT 8:21 P.M.

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## CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify, as the stenographic reporter, that the foregoing proceedings were taken stenographically by me, and thereafter reduced to typewriting by me or under my direction; and that this transcript is a true and accurate record to the best of my ability.

Dated the 6th day of September, 2025

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lacey Scott", written over a horizontal line.

Lacey Scott, Court Reporter