

November [DATE], 2024

Noor Nahar
Department of Environmental Protection
Southwest Regional Office 400 Waterfront Dr.
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Re: Westmoreland Sanitary Landfill Air Quality Title V Operating Permit Renewal
TVOP-65-00767

Dear Ms. Nahar,

I am writing on my behalf and the behalf of my community. Please consider this comment regarding the Westmoreland Sanitary Landfill (WSL) Air Quality Title V Operating Permit Renewal.

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) should deny the Air Quality Title V Operating Permit Renewal for WSL. WSL is located within Rostraver Township, the municipal regulation of the landfill by Rostraver's Board of Commissioners primarily impacts the residents of the nearby city of Monessen and the borough of Charleroi. Monessen and Charleroi suffer reduced life expectancies compared to Rostraver, with higher rates of heart disease, and higher rates of asthma even outside those areas immediately impacted by the nearby Monessen Coke Plant.¹ WSL and surrounding areas are in an environmental justice area, so the permit renewal process triggers environmental justice review by the DEP, including consideration of the enhanced public participation process.² The only way for the citizens of Monessen and Charleroi to protect their health and safety from the accelerating pollution of the WSL is to appeal to the DEP to recognize the harms of this pollution and deny the WSL's renewal application.

¹ This data is gathered by navigating to <https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/> and searching under "Health Disparities" for "Low Life Expectancy," "Heart Disease," and "Asthma." The areas immediately near the Monessen Coke Plant are seen in red when searching for "Asthma."

² Environmental Justice Policy, Department of Environmental Protection, No. 015-0501-002, Sept. 16, 2023, at 6.

WSL is a nuisance in many ways, including dispersing noxious landfill odors, which indicates that the WSL is still failing to properly cover waste at the landfill and allows reactive chemicals into the air; spreading dust across neighboring properties, which violates 25 Pa. Code § 123.2; tracking mud and dirt onto roads outside the boundaries of the landfill; and permitting uncontrolled dumpster fires on the property as recent as November 2024.

Additionally, because WSL has no present, viable plan for dealing with the radioactive leachate at the landfill, the DEP should not renew the Title V air permit for WSL. This radioactive leachate at WSL evaporates and releases toxic fugitive emissions when exposed to the open air, as has happened repeatedly in the past. At present, this leaves WSL not having proposed any viable plan for preventing the offgassing of radioactive leachate into the air, which spreads radiation and other fugitive air pollutants without proper authorization as required by 25 Pa. Code § 123.1. It is implausible to suggest that the WSL will comply with the permit renewal for which it has applied under these circumstances.

For these reasons and more, I please ask you to consider not issuing WSL their Title V permit in the name of public health and safety.

Thank you,

[Your name]

[Your phone number]

[Your address]