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**From:** Kurt Schwarz <krschwa1@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 27, 2024 9:39 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** WR Grace Pilot Plant in Columbia  
**Attachments:** Docket 16-23 MDE.docx

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Dear members of the Howard County Council:

Please see the comment I have just filed with MDE regarding the proposed pilot plastic recycling plant at WR Grace in Columbia.

I hope you can do something about this.

TO: Shannon Heafey  
Public Permits Program  
Air and Radiation Administration  
Maryland Department of Environment  
1800 Washington Boulevard  
Baltimore, MD 210230  
[Shannon.heafey@maryland.gov](mailto:Shannon.heafey@maryland.gov)

Re: WR Grace Plastic Recycling Pilot Project, Docket #16-23

Dear Ms. Heafey:

I have concerns and many questions about the proposed plastic recycling project at the WR Grace compound in Columbia, Maryland.

I have viewed the hearing that was held on April 29, 2024 and posted to YouTube by Maryland Delegate Wu, and have also looked through the permit application submitted by WR Grace. I only learned of this project application on August 15. From my inquiries, I have learned that much of public has also just learned of this, even though the hearing was back on April 29.<sup>i</sup> At the very least, the public comment period should be extended beyond the current one of August 29 to October 29, as the wider public is only just becoming aware of this.

I have just learned that you are denying an extension because two have already been granted. If so, you have failed, as I am a publicly aware citizen and only learned of this last week. I spoke with a Howard County Councilmember last night, and she likewise only just heard of this. This is totally unacceptable.

At the hearing, the WR Grace representatives claimed that air emissions would be very low, with the daily emission of carbon dioxide of 73 pounds per day, and .0002 pounds per day of carbon monoxide. The daily rate of emission of volatile organic compounds (VOC) would half a pound per day. While these amounts may, indeed, be very low, they would still be added to atmosphere, increasing levels of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide, and photo-reactive potentially low-level ozone-creating VOCs. Carbon monoxide, of course, is toxic. The additional daily amounts would not occur if the pilot plant was not built. These amounts may or may not be significant, and are certainly within the actionable limits set by MDE.

Nevertheless, they constitute additional inputs into the atmosphere.

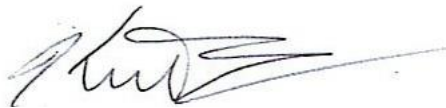
The permit application<sup>ii</sup> has several tables that are very concerning and/or confusing to me. Indeed, some seem at variance with the figures given at the April 29<sup>th</sup> hearing. For example, the Estimated Emissions from the Emission Point given on Form 5EP of application states the project will emit 68.9 pounds of carbon dioxide per day, 136.61 tons per year. That math does not add up. 68.9 pounds per day should yield 12.6 tons. At the hearing the daily carbon dioxide emission level was stated to be 73 pounds per day, while this table gives 68.9, a difference of 4.1 pounds. The hearing said .5 pounds of VOC would be emitted per day. The table puts the daily rate at .218. Again, a significant variance.

Attachment 5, Emissions—Calculations, Engineering Estimates and Assumptions, contains several tables of concern to me. Table 2, Additional Thermal Oxidizer CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions From Controlling Hydrocarbons is opaque to me, but at the bottom indicates that 4.26 pounds per hour, 68.26 pounds per day, and a total 270,067.9 pounds per year would be apparently emitted of the pollutants methane, ethane, ethylene, propane, propylene, butane, isobutane, 1-butene, 2-2-butene, c-2-butene, and 1,3-butadiene. The amounts of individual pollutants is apparently not broken down.

Nevertheless, methane is a potent greenhouse gas, significantly more potent and long-lasting than carbon dioxide. Assuming the entire amount was Methane, according to the EPA, the amount of Methane would be equal to the carbon dioxide emitted by almost 2 million gasoline-powered passenger vehicles in one year, or the energy use of over 1 million homes per year. It would be equivalent of 7,9993,751 metric tons of carbon dioxide.<sup>iii</sup>

Ethane, ethylene, butane, t-2-butene, c-2-butene are all flammable and are asphyxiation hazards. Isobutene is highly flammable and toxic. 1-butene is a highly flammable asphyxiant and eye irritant. 1,3-butadiene is an irritant of the eyes, nose, throat and lungs, and with chronic exposure may cause cardiovascular disease or cancers. Are we to understand that the pilot project will release over 270,000 pounds of these gases into the air per year? Attachment 5, Tap Compliance Demonstration specifically exempts these emissions, as they are less than half a pound per hour. Nevertheless, what is the long-term effect, if any, for emitting 270,000 pounds of these gases into the atmosphere? If a large component of the emissions are of methane, the impact on climate change would be significant.

In conclusion, I have significant concerns about this project, and would like explanations and reassurances that they present no hazard to me, my neighbors, the wider public, and the environment. Also, as noted above, there are apparently errors, and inconsistencies in the permit application that need correction. The public comment period should be extended. We live just two short exits east/south of the proposed project, and the prevailing winds are west to east.



Kurt R. Schwarz  
7329 Wildwood Court  
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[Krschwa1@verizon.net](mailto:Krschwa1@verizon.net)

CC: Governor Wes Moore via webform  
Secretary for Department of Environment via webmaster address.  
Howard County Executive, [CalvinBall@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:CalvinBall@howardcountymd.gov)  
Howard County Council, [councilmail@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:councilmail@howardcountymd.gov)  
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Maryland Delegate Pamela Guzzone, [pam.guzzone@house.state.md.us](mailto:pam.guzzone@house.state.md.us)

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<sup>i</sup> Dr. Chao Wu, Maryland State Delegate, D9A, Recording of Virtual Public hearing related to W. R. Grace's installation of a new research-scale pilot plant, 30 April 2024, <https://chaowu.org/2024/04/recording-of-virtual-public-hearing-related-to-w-r-graces-installation-of-a-new-research-scale-pilot-plant/>

<sup>ii</sup> Maryland Department of the Environment, Air and Radiation Administration Application for a Permit to Construct, Docket #16, 23,

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<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/permits/AirManagementPermits/Documents/Public-Review/new%20public%20review%20documents/WR%20Grace%20Combined%20init%20and%20Sub%20201%20and%202%2016-23.pdf>

<sup>iii</sup> EPA, Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator, <https://www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator#results>



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**From:** Savita Jain <savita@savitajain.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 28, 2024 7:44 AM

**To:** shannon.heafey@maryland.gov; mde.secretary@maryland.gov; suzanne.dorsey1@maryland.gov; susan.nash@maryland.gov; chris.hoagland@maryland.gov; suna.sariscak@maryland.gov; governor.wesmoore@maryland.gov; guy.guzzone@senate.state.md.us; pam.guzzone@house.state.md.us; CouncilDistrict4@howardcountymd.gov; jen.terrasa@house.state.md.us; vanessa.atterbeary@house.state.md.us; KBrueningRHCA@villageofriverhill.org

**Subject:** W.R. Grace Air Permit

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hello, I do not support the approval of the air permit for W.R. Grace. I have concerns for the health and safety of the community. I would like an extension for the public commenting period and access to a public meeting with an ample Q & A period.

If the permit is approved: I request that the MDE and other appropriate parties require the most stringent testing measuring the output of chemicals/emissions both acutely and over time by a neutral party on at least a quarterly basis.

That these reports are made publicly available on a website with access to all.

That there are safeguard plans (i.e. accidents) established before the commencement of the project.

That W.R. Grace notified the public of an end date to the pilot program before commencement of the project.

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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Savita & Rahul Jain

Cell: (240) 784-0140

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**From:** Jennifer Kulik <jennifer.robin.kulik@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 29, 2024 4:58 PM  
**To:** katiefry.hester@senate.state.md.us; natalie.ziegler@house.state.md.us; chao.wu@house.state.md.us; Ball, Calvin; CouncilDistrict2@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict3@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict5@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilMail; oag@oag.state.md.us; Itgovernor@maryland.gov; MCombsRHCA@villageofriverhill.org; MImranRHCA@villageofriverhill.org; BLakhanpalRHCA@villageofriverhill.org; Eric.Greenberg@ca-board.org; sao; bmacfarlane@registers.maryland.gov; wayne.robey@mdcourts.gov; brooke@comp.state.md.us; It.governor@maryland.gov; clarence.lam@senate.state.md.us; jessica.feldmark@house.state.md.us; terri.hill@house.state.md.us  
**Subject:** A unique perspective W.R. Grace Air Permit  
**Attachments:** Dr. Maldonado's Assessment of Grace Permit pdf.pdf; Independent Chemical Engineer Assessment Grace Permit pdf.pdf

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Government and Elected Officials:

(Please read in entirety, likely different from other emails on this issue).

I am a resident of Clarksville Maryland and recently learned of the air permit request submitted by W.R. Grace to the MDE which involves the burning of plastics. I do oppose this project and I do not feel that residents were properly notified by any elected official, organization, or company as most that I have spoken to have no knowledge of this proposal (despite this being a project underway for over a year). As you may know, W.R. Grace's predecessors and subsidiaries were sued for 129,000 personal injury lawsuits and are currently being sued by the city of Baltimore in a plastics related case. I am also a patient advocate who works with patients that will directly be affected by chemical/by-product exposure (through potential anaphylaxis and other life-threatening reactions). They already monitor the air quality regularly and keep a regular (often daily) log of their symptoms (which provides a baseline pre-project). I founded/manage groups that have over 6000 local patients with this condition alone. I am also the sole Administrator of the Facebook group 'Clarksville Happenings' that has 14,600 members. This group encompasses ALL residents within the Grace location and adjacent communities. Again, most of these members have not heard about this project until very recently. I feel very strongly about this cause and will garner the support of our Facebook group and other local officials to prevent this activity at Grace and advocate for the utmost stringent monitoring (if approved).

While I do not support the approval of the permit, if it is passed,

- I request that the MDE and other appropriate parties require the most stringent testing/monitoring recommended by an independent neutral party expert (not appointed by W.R. Grace).
- That these reports are made publicly available on a website with access to all.
- That there are safeguard plans (i.e. accidents) established before the commencement of the project and that accidents be immediately reported to the public.
- That W.R. Grace notify the public of an end date to the pilot program before commencement of the project.

In addition, I hope that you will seriously consider (and address) the concerns outlined by Dr. Maldonado who has a PhD in Physical Chemistry and has 30 years of experience as a researcher and technical manager and an independent Chemical Engineer engaged by an elected official (attached with their permission). It would be helpful that all parties notified (in this email) could make a press release that is widely publicized and could have a community meeting with a Q & A to address the uproar of concerns and questions. I am happy to assist in sharing your statements to our community group. Please note, an online petition and grassroots movement has recently emerged. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Kulik

Attachments:

Dr. Maldonado's (Industry Expert) assessment of permit

Independent Chemical Engineer Analysis

Grace Permit <https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/permits/AirManagementPermits/Documents/Public-Review/new%20public%20review%20documents/WR%20Grace%20Combined%20init%20and%20Sub%201%20and%202%2016-23.pdf>

W.R. Grace History [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/W. R. Grace and Company](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/W._R._Grace_and_Company) (incidents)

Baltimore Lawsuit Against Grace <https://resource-recycling.com/recycling/2024/07/01/pepsico-coca-cola-sued-by-baltimore-for-cleanup-costs/>

<https://insideclimatenews.org/news/24062024/baltimore-lawsuit-targets-plastic-maker/>

Dear Government Officials:

My name is René Maldonado and I am a resident of Cedar Creek at 7320 Sanborn Way, Columbia, MD 21044. I have a Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry and worked in the chemical industry for over 30 years as a researcher and technical manager.

I am opposed to W.R. Grace's pilot plant project at their location in Grace Drive in Columbia and believe their air-permit application to Maryland Department of the Environment (docket # 16-23) should not be approved. My residence is next door to the Grace location and only a few meters away from the proposed pilot plant. We will be directly impacted by chemical emissions or the outcome of any accident that may occur at the site.

I want to share with you a list of questions and concerns I have, some of which I shared earlier with MDE officials. Please give serious consideration to these concerns and feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or suggestions on the best way to address this.

Here is the list:

1. MDE's recommendation to Grace encouraging early public outreach was not followed by Grace. We, their next-door neighbors, were not alerted on a timely and direct way of their intended plans. This significantly shorted the time we had available to review and respond to the proposal before the public hearing on April 29th of this year.
2. Grace's permit application describes the handling of thousands of kilograms of plastic materials arriving at the facility each year and waste products shipped out for disposal. The amounts listed are not trivial. Also, the plant will operate for 16 hours a day, 5 days a week, all year around. This, in practice, is more than just a "small" pilot plant. In fact, it approaches what may occur in some commercial operations. The conclusions by the Department of Planning and Zoning indicating in their letter that the pilot plant falls under the existing permit for the lab operation is flawed and should be reconsidered.
3. The handling of materials and the associated traffic increase would be significant. The risks for spills and other accidents are real and are a major concern for our residents.
4. In terms of the pilot plant gas emissions, several aspects are of concern to us:
  - No clear control devices are listed for the regenerator flue gas stream, and no information on the composition of that stream is provided. However, some pollutants are still listed, this needs clarification.

- How would the emissions change if the plastic feedstock is changed from polypropylene to polyvinyl chloride or other polymers? Also, what are the effects of changes in the process conditions?
- No mention anywhere in the permit application is the potential emission of dioxins and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), both of which are well-known hazardous chemicals emitted in the catalytic processing of plastics (reference available).

5. The terms "assume" and "estimate" are used by Grace throughout the application when describing emissions. We are left to conclude the actual emission numbers would not be known until the pilot plant is operational, which has the potential of causing irreversible damage to the health of our families.

6. Need clarification on the potential increase of noises and smells.

7. At the MDE hearing we asked for the possibility of periodic air sampling and the sharing of findings with the community. No clear answer was provided by anyone.

8. Asked at the hearing, but not answered: for how many years would the pilot facility operate?

9. We asked Grace to comment on how their emissions would compare to that of regular traffic. They chose to use school buses for comparison, which are notoriously high pollutants because of their diesel engines, and this made Grace's emissions look less questionable by comparison. The question still remains: how does it compare to modern gasoline-powered automobiles in traffic?

10. Grace talks on page 16 of their application of "burning off the spent catalyst coke." What happens to the gases and the solid waste products that are generated?

11. With the Cedar Creek residences just meters away from the proposed plant, what are Grace's plans to eliminate the possibility of any accident, which could result in fires, explosions and/or the release of pollutants to the neighborhood and will have a catastrophic impact in our community?

12. The table on page 42 discloses the release of 27 kg of VOC every year, out of 4,000 kg of polymer used. This translates to a 99.33% efficiency, not the 99.99% claimed elsewhere. Why?

13. What are the plans to eliminate the emissions contribution from leaks, fugitive emissions, and operation outside of steady-state which may occur during startups and shutdowns?

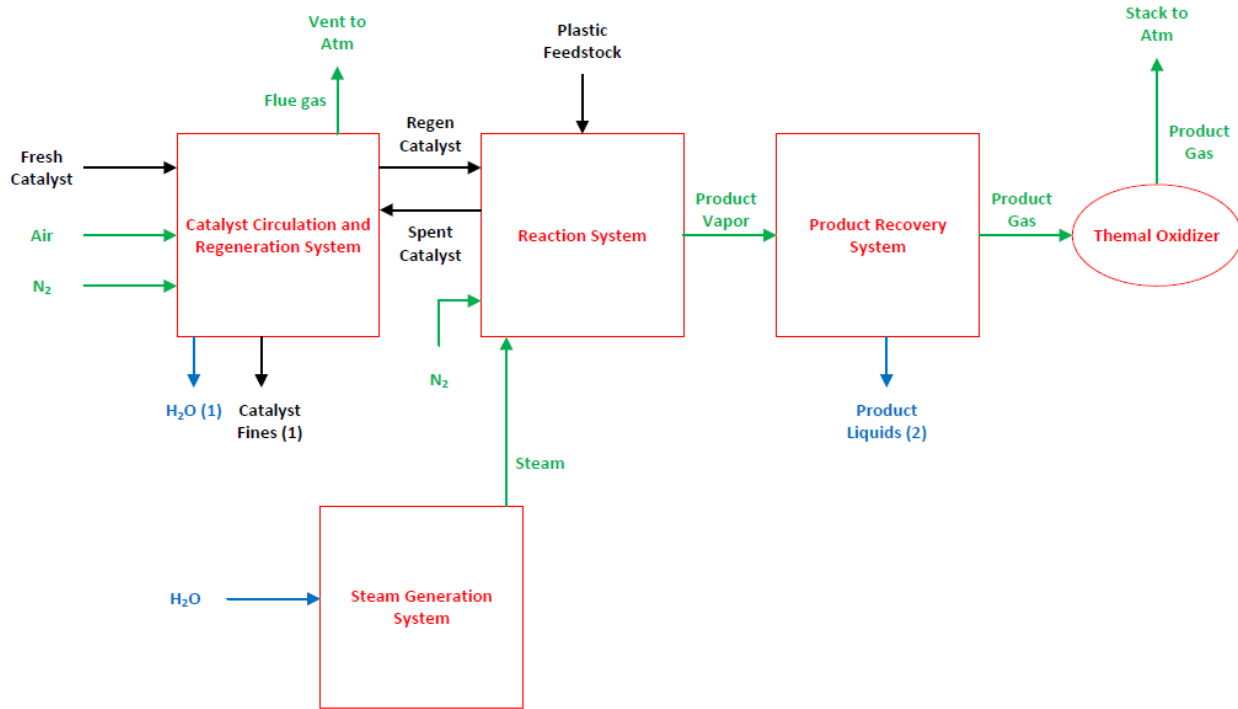
14. What are the contingency plans in case of power outages, fluctuations in VOC flow rates and composition, and any other process deviation?

15. Grace discloses their intention to use: low density polyethylene (LDPE), high density polyethylene (HDPE), polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polystyrene (PS), polyvinyl chloride (PVC, and “other” polymers in addition to polypropylene (PP). What are the emissions expected from these polymers? Also, what is the nature of “Others?”

Thanks a lot for your time and support.

René Maldonado  
314-223-3117

### Simplified Process Flow Diagram for Proposed Research Pilot Scale Test Catalytic Chemical Conversion Process



I have several issue and comments that need to be addressed with this application.

#### 1. The operation of the Flameless Thermal Oxidizer

By definition a Flameless Thermal Oxidizer is an [incinerator](#). It performs the same task whether a flame is present or not. Basically, this is a combustion process. Combustion typically requires the presence of a source of carbon, the oxidant, and the presence of sufficient energy. A flame is not necessary for combustion because, if the temperature of a material is raised significantly it can “autoignite” and there is no need for a separate ignition source. And we know oxygen is present because of the emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O.

[Flameless Thermal Oxidation](#) is a destructive technology for [off-gas](#) treatment of [volatile organic compounds \(VOCs\)](#) and [semi-volatile organic compounds \(SVOCs\)](#). The process converts [aromatic](#) and chlorinated VOCs to carbon dioxide, water, and hydrogen chloride without exposing the vapors to a flame. The technology achieves uniform thermal oxidation of VOCs using a heated packed-bed reactor filled with ceramic pieces. The [vapors](#) are oxidized when they come into contact with the heated bed of ceramic pieces. Temperatures are typically maintained at 1600°-1850° Fahrenheit.

At this time, the EPA requires a special permit for installing an incinerator and I see no evidence of this being obtained. Since this incinerator is used for the disposal of solid waste(plastic), Maryland code requires that a permit be obtain for its use at the WR Grace site.

### **Limitations and Concerns for this incinerator**

Products of incomplete combustion (PICs), which could be emitted to the atmosphere, are a major concern with this technology. Oxidations vary in temperature. The flameless oxidizer provides a controllable uniform heating zone to control this variable. However, temperature variation is only one culprit in the formation of PICs.

[Dioxins](#) and [furans](#) are unavoidably created in the oxidation process. Unless they are further captured, they are emitted to the environment. Some dioxins and furans are [toxic](#) in the parts per trillion range. There are no regulatory limits for dioxin and furan emissions, except for municipal and medical waste incinerators. These are technology-based, not health-based.

WR Grace has stated that the materials that they are going to feed into their reactor are “hard to recycle” plastics, resin identification code 1-7. These [plastics](#) have been found to include the following items which have been documented to be released in [incineration emissions](#):

PFAS, Bisphenols, Phthalates, Chlorine, Florine, Lead, Cadmium, Selenium, Benzene, 1,2-dichloroethane, Chromium, Vinyl chloride, Barium, Styrene, Benzene, Toluene, Mercury, Arsenic, Dioxins, Ethyl benzene, Xylenes, Naphthalene, Acetaldehyde, Formaldehyde, Hydrochloric acid, Methanol, Hexane and PM2.5. Please note that this is not an all-inclusive list, there may be other compounds released depending on the plastic feedstock being used.

WR Grace only presents that 0.218 lb of VOCs will be emitted daily, however that don't give the chemical make up of the VOCs being emitted. Some VOCs are highly carcinogenic and even at that volume should not be release to the public.

There are a lot of estimation for emission by WR Grace in their application, however there is very limited monitoring. And since this is a pilot operation that WR Grace is going to learn from, emissions need to be monitored at all times. Items to be monitored for are all the contaminates I listed previously in this document. Plus, WR Grace need to proactively report daily emissions rates to the public and have documented shut down procedures that need to go into effect when emissions surpass the limits allowed by Maryland law.

## **2. The catalyst cleaning operation with vent to outside**

The catalyst cleaning operation with vent to outside has very little documentation and WR Grace needs to provide further information. We know that WR Grace will be cleaning deposits off of the catalyst via combustions however they do not document what the deposits are made of. So here again, by definition, they are using an incinerator without an EPA permit or a MDE permit to operate. Plus, since the only description we have is “Regenerator hot combustion flue gas will be treated prior to venting to the atmosphere. The flue gas will go through a knock-out filter pot”, we have to assume it is composed of the same plastic material that goes through the Thermal oxidizer, therefore it needs all of the same monitoring, reporting and shut down procedures as recommended for the thermal oxidizer.



### **3. Liquid Product Disposal**

WR Grace gives no description of the makeup of their liquid product which is described as potentially usable energy-containing liquids. This itself must be assumed to be a highly toxic/carcogenic mixture that needs to be highly monitored and reported on. Basically, WR Grace states that the collected liquid will be transferred, daily, to 55-gal drums in the warehouse, and ultimately shipped to a 3rd party waste treatment facility. This is not adequate reporting. Every drop needs to be accounted for, plus shipment dates and times, method of shipment and name of the treatment facility must be documented. Therefore, a hazardous liquid permit must also be obtained before operations can begin.

### **4. More information needs to be presented on their lab-bench prototype**

WR Grace has stated that this Research Pilot Scale is based off of lab experiments, however they have not given any details of these lab experiments. For example, how long did it operate, how did they monitor the emissions, did they use virgin plastics or plastics found in the real world. Unfortunately, we have found that self-regulation does not work and this type of information is essential to see if their design is trustworthy.

### **5. We need a MDE test plan**

Since there are so many unknowns about the emissions and disposal of waste, we need a MDE test plan to monitor and inspect the operations. This should include a once-a-year scheduled inspection and a once-a-year unscheduled inspection. The test plan also needs to include reporting on usage volumes and emissions and a community notification plan. Finally, it needs to include stringent shutdown requirements and penalties for non-compliance.

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**From:** L. Krausz <stopgraceplasticpermit@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 29, 2024 9:51 AM  
**To:** CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilDistrict2@howardcountymd.gov; Rigby, Christiana; CouncilDistrict4@howardcountymd.gov; Yungmann, David; CouncilMail  
**Cc:** L. Krausz; ourrevolutionhowardcounty@gmail.com; padma.swamy@gmail.com; Aisha Hasan; Rene Maldonado; Aidan Morrell; Christopher J. Alleva; anwer hasan; Lily Weiss-Lora; Rene Maldonado; Sara Noonan; Zain Qazi; hadguhiruy@gmail.com; Jake Burdett; shawmd5@comcast.net; patel210@yahoo.com; Teryn.thomas@yahoo.com; aamir084@gmail.com; nsiddiq910@gmail.com  
**Subject:** EMERGENCY REQUEST FOR TODAY—Howard County Community in Danger – Need Officials’ Help!  
**Attachments:** Final\_ Council Members Letter to MDE re Docket 16-23 W R Grace Project - County Council.docx

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Good morning County Councilmembers,

We are writing to you with an urgent request on behalf of the hundreds of Howard County residents who would be in serious danger if W.R. Grace’s recently proposed “recycling plant,” where they would incinerate plastics and give surrounding communities like the recently-built Cedar Creek neighborhood (about 70 meters from W R Grace) and Village of River Hill (about 300 meters from W R Grace) exposure to harmful chemicals and forever chemicals, were allowed to be permitted. Cedar Creek has about 200 homes with half of the population (about 150) being babies, toddlers, and kids. The majority of the neighborhood comprises minorities.

W.R. Grace itself has a very bad reputation and track record when it comes to other environmental projects that they’ve been engaged in around the country and world in the past (see below links for some of the lawsuits against W R Grace – not an inclusive list). For example, the 1995 and 1998 John Trovolta film, A Civil Action, are based on the mass water contamination that a W.R. Grace subsidiary was largely responsible for in Woburn, Massachusetts (<https://caselaw.findlaw.com/court/us-1st-circuit/1973087.html>).

Even outside of W.R. Grace’s alarming history, the specific reasons of why many Howard County residents should be and are concerned have been well-publicized (<https://www.thebaltimorebanner.com/community/climate-environment/wr-grace-columbia-plastics-KTPKEKG3PBBQBBLIH767CNBX6U/>) and hundreds of residents have expressed their opposition to this project being approved. Still, though, the project has not been denied, despite the mass community pushback (our petition has 400+ signatures and counting – we will be sharing that petition with you soon so you can see the number of Howard County members deeply concerned with this proposed plastic incinerating project), and so we are now asking you all, our elected representatives, for urgently-needed help.

The Maryland Department of Environment has a Public Comment period for this proposed project, which ends **THURSDAY, AUGUST 29!** Having substantive critical comments from different stakeholders during this Public Comment period can be crucial in the process in terms of getting any objections on the record, and also forcing the Public Agencies, and W.R. Grace itself, to address the well-founded concerns before and if the process can move forward. While 200 community residents have already submitted such Public Comments, we

believe that Public Comments from our legislators themselves would really go a long way with our grassroots effort here.

**To that end, we have drafted such a Public Comment letter which encapsulates the community's concerns around the project, intended to be sent into the MDE by you, our legislators – either individually or as a group. Our request to you is to please jointly sign the letter, and then submit it to Shannon Heafey ([shannon.heafey@maryland.gov](mailto:shannon.heafey@maryland.gov)) at the MDE by Thursday, August 29, 2024 which is the public comment deadline to MDE.**

We understand you all signed onto a similar joint statement regarding concerns that many community members had around a controversial proposed “stream restoration” project in Lake Elkhorn a few years ago—a project which was later pulled out of because of the widespread community pushback to it. We hope that you all may be willing to sign onto a similar statement for our community and for this dangerous project!

We apologize that this is such a last-second ask, but we do hope that you do understand the need for this, given the stakes and level of danger that our community's health, safety, wellbeing (for humans and the environment) faces from this project by a company with a track record that does not inspire confidence.

**And while we would prefer a group letter to be submitted that is signed by all of the legislators, we will also gladly take Public Comments from individual legislators as you see fit.**

We should also be clear that this process does not end on August 29, 2024 and we are happy to meet with any or all of the legislators to discuss in more detail about the concerns that we as a community have with this project, and how you all, as our elected officials, may be able to help us in this fight.

One last ask: you, the legislators, are not the only group who may want more time to make Public Comments. It is possible that MDE could extend the Public Comment period, if asked by enough stakeholders, and so in addition to submitting Public Comments yourself, it would also be great if you could also request that the Public Comment period be extended, as many residents do not feel that the notice given for the project was adequate, and so many people are just finding out about the plans now.

Thanks in advance for your time and help, and again, please let us know if you are willing to at least submit a Public Comment as an individual legislator, even if the entire legislative body is not on-board with a joint letter! And let us know if you'd like to meet with us to discuss more!

Signed,

Stop the Grace Plastic Burning Project  
Our Revolution Howard County

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**Lawsuits against W. R. Grace (not an exhaustive list) for harming the safety, well-being, and health of humans and the environment**

<https://www.hbs.edu/faculty/Pages/item.aspx?num=43246>

Grace had lawsuits alleging that its products contained asbestos, and had caused hundreds of thousands of people to contract asbestos-related diseases such as mesothelioma and lung cancer. Grace's expert argues the liability is worth between \$83 million and \$173 million, while the plaintiff's expert argues the liability could be as high as \$6.2 billion.

<https://www.epa.gov/enforcement/case-summary-w-r-grace-co-bankruptcy-settlement>

In December 20, 2007, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Justice announced that W.R. Grace agreed to a \$34 million bankruptcy settlement for cleanup costs at 32 Superfund sites across the country.

<https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/wr-grace-pays-over-63-million-toward-cleanup-and-restoration-hazardous-waste-sites>

On February 5, 2014, W.R. Grace paid the U.S. government over \$63 million to resolve environmental liability claims pursuant to the company's bankruptcy plan of reorganization. EPA received a payment totaling over \$52 million for administrative costs and claims, plus interest to address the company's liability at sites addressed in this settlement.

<https://www.asbestos.com/companies/wr-grace/>

The WRG Asbestos PI Trust handles personal injury claims filed by people diagnosed with asbestos-related diseases such as [mesothelioma](#). In 2015, the trust paid \$353 million to resolve more than 50,000 claims.

<https://apnews.com/article/health-business-montana-public-greg-gianforte-3533fb7fb90e366ec0e8c99868ed0545>

More than 2,000 Montana residents reached settlements with the state totaling \$68 million in 2011 and 2017 for failing to warn them about the dangers of asbestos exposure.

In February 2022, a jury awarded an Oregon man \$36.5 million in a lawsuit against W.R. Grace's workers' compensation insurer from 1963-1973 because the company did not warn workers of those dangers. Hundreds of others have filed lawsuits and claims.

<https://mesothelioma.net/w-r-grace/>

Jun 23, 2024 — **W.R. Grace caused asbestos exposure and resulting illness in thousands of people**, including the residents near the Libby, Montana mine.

After facing over 250,000 claims and lawsuits over asbestos exposure, W.R. Grace filed for bankruptcy protection in 2001. Just before filing, the company transferred a few billion dollars to subsidiaries to protect money from asbestos claims.

The Department of Justice declared the action fraudulent and ordered \$1 billion be returned to the company and considered assets in the bankruptcy process. In 2008 the company agreed to set aside \$1.8 billion for settling asbestos cases.<sup>[5]</sup>

W.R. Grace didn't emerge from bankruptcy until 2014, ending one of the longest bankruptcy periods in history. As part of the reorganization, the company created an asbestos trust to fund future asbestos-related claims.

<https://www.baltimoresun.com/2024/06/20/city-plastic-lawsuit/>

<https://insideclimatenews.org/news/24062024/baltimore-lawsuit-targets-plastic-maker/>

June 20, 2024

Baltimore is suing W.R. Grace, a Maryland-based company that [makes](#) chemicals used in plastics manufacturing, and Frito-Lay, a Texas-based subsidiary of PepsiCo. W.R. Grace also did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

# Letter for Council Members to Sign on to and send to MDE Individually or as a Group on Behalf of Constituents

August 29, 2024

**Secretary Serena McIlwain**  
Maryland Department of the Environment  
1800 Washington Boulevard  
Baltimore, MD 21230  
[Mde.secretary@maryland.gov](mailto:Mde.secretary@maryland.gov)

Dear Secretary McIlwain,

As elected officials representing the people of Howard, we write to express our firm opposition to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) approving W.R. Grace's docket 16-23 permit to incinerate plastics at their facility in Columbia, Maryland. We strongly urge MDE to deny this permit, considering the substantial risks it poses to the health, safety, and wellbeing of the residents and environment next to and around the facility. Additionally, this project would emit toxins into the air that could harm the environment. W.R. Grace did not provide an air dispersion model which was verified by an independent, third party so we don't know how far the spread is.

The W.R. Grace facility is located mere meters from residential communities, including the Cedar Creek neighborhood, which is approximately 70 meters away, and the Village of River Hill, which is about 300 meters away. The proximity of these communities to the proposed incineration site is gravely concerning to us, given the proposed release of harmful toxins into the air.

It is important to note that, by definition, a Flameless Thermal Oxidizer is an incinerator.<sup>1</sup> This technology involves the combustion of materials at high temperatures, resulting in the production of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), carbon monoxide (CO), increased carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), and other harmful substances. Although W.R. Grace claims they will filter out 99.99% of these toxins, the independent, third-party scientists have revealed the actual filtration rate is 99.33%. This seemingly small difference has significant implications. For example, 0.67% of 100 toxins is a lot different than 0.67% of 1 million toxins, posing serious health, safety, and wellbeing risks to next door and nearby residents and the environment.

Moreover, W.R. Grace has failed to provide crucial data on the total amount of toxins they plan to release into the air, including "forever chemicals" such as PFAS. Heating up plastic releases these forever chemicals, which are known to persist in the environment and accumulate in the

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<sup>1</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thermal\\_oxidizer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thermal_oxidizer)

human body resulting in health issues such as cancer. As highlighted in documents such as the Maryland PFAS Action Plan<sup>2</sup>, there are currently no safe levels of air emissions for these chemicals, neither at the federal nor state levels, further exacerbating the risks associated with this incineration project. If there is no data that exists on what is a poor, ok, or good levels of forever chemicals, then we cannot support a plastic incineration project that will emit these toxins in the air as they will tremendously negatively impact Marylanders and the environment.

W.R. Grace has assured the public they will keep the surrounding communities and environment safe, but without providing specific data on the amount of all toxins released, their assurances are insufficient. Additionally, it is unclear whether W.R. Grace has obtained the required special permit from the EPA, which is necessary for the installation of an incinerator used for the disposal of solid waste, including plastic. We request that MDE provide evidence of W.R. Grace obtaining this permit.

It is also important to recognize W.R. Grace's history of causing harm to communities, including negative health impacts such as cancer, as a result of their industrial activities. Their track record (see some of the lawsuits against W.R. Grace) raises serious concerns about their ability to operate this incinerator safely and responsibly. This company has been sued multiple times in the past and is currently being sued by the City of Baltimore, MD.

The public has expressed significant concern and dismay over this proposal, as evidenced by recent coverage in the Baltimore Banner regarding W.R. Grace's docket 16-23. We stand with our constituents in opposing this project and urge MDE to prioritize the health and safety of the people of Howard County and Maryland.

We appreciate your attention to this critical matter and look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

Liz Walsh  
County Councilmember  
District 1

Opel Jones  
County Councilmember  
District 2

Christiana Rigby  
County Councilmember  
District 3

Deb Jung

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<sup>2</sup> <https://mde.maryland.gov/PublicHealth/SiteAssets/Pages/PFAS-Landing-Page/Maryland%20PFAS%20Action%20Plan%20December%202023.pdf>

County Councilmember  
District 4

David Yungmann  
County Councilmember  
District 5

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**From:** Vicki Burns <jasonvburns1@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 29, 2024 12:09 PM  
**To:** guerdy\_angela@hotmail.com; Shannon.heafey@maryland.gov; CouncilMail  
**Cc:** Braeburn; Angela Volcy  
**Subject:** Re: [Braeburn] Re: Opposition to WR Grace's Permit to Expand Plastics Research/Recycling Using Known Air Borne Cancer Causing Agents (Part 2)

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Angela thank you for your hard work. We appreciate it.

[Sent from AOL on Android](#)

On Fri, Aug 23, 2024 at 4:55 PM, Angela Volcy <guerdy\_angela@hotmail.com> wrote:

Aug 23, 2024

Request Original Expert Findings on Pros/Cons For Suggested Use & Remediation WR Grace Permit Request at Cedar Lane

Dear Ms. Heafey and Howard County Council Members,

Given WR Grace's track record of being found liable for 1. the clean up of 32 Superfund sites, 2. contaminating the ground water at it Cedar Lane site, and 3. paying \$250 million in one settlement and 4. paying \$63 million in another settlement, 5. Grace's lead role in groundwater contamination of Woburn Mass, and 6. Grace's filing for bankruptcy, I believe verification of original expert testimony findings about the safety of any remedial plan for the Grace's Howard County Cedar Lane site are warranted.

Specifically during an earlier Grace presentation, the Grace engineers indicated that there should no public concerns about environmental pollution or contamination from any of the byproducts resulting from the chemical process they propose. When asked if Grace would release the unedited reports of any independent expert contractors they retained, and the reports to management of any Grace technical employees that discussed the pros and cons of the project including any possible negative consequences, Grace indicated that such reports were "complicated" and they were unwilling to release the original expert report findings.



Considering the testimony of their engineers that the public has no reason to worry about negative consequences, and their past extensive track record (highlighted above) of being found financially liable for polluting multiple communities; verification from the original document showing the pros and the cons of the permit request should be mandatory. If there is nothing to hide, why not have full disclosure?

We have seen many instances where companies have not been forthright in their public statements even when administrative agencies such as MDE are relying on those statements. Issues such as the tobacco industry's failure to acknowledge the existence of data proving the link between smoking and cancer, General Motors failure to reveal defects that caused deaths from the gas tank design of their Corvair, or more recently issues associated with Three Mile Island, the Boeing 737 Max design, Flint Michigan's drinking water lead contamination and \$600 million dollar pay out by the State of Michigan, and Exxon Valdez (where prior safety protocols were not followed) are each examples where full disclosure was/is vitally important.

I believe that the MDE should have full access to the original reports of Grace's independent contractors and the Grace employee technical expert reports and analyses. Access to the original source documents would allow the MDE to see if any undisclosed issues need to be specifically addressed and researched further before the application is fully evaluated.... The fox should not guard the hen house when so many hens have been eaten by said fox! I urge MDE to persist in asking and reviewing original expert findings of the pros and cons. Indeed, if damage to the public were to someday be before a court, such disclosure would be mandatory.

I am confident that the MDE, the Howard County Executive and Maryland's Governor never want to learn after the fact that data showing harm to the public was concealed during the hearing process. This would negatively impacts Howard County's excellent reputation and future legacy as a great place to work and live. Specifically I am speaking of disclosure of the original unedited reports themselves. This is what I would have asked to review when I worked for Congress as a senior auditor of EPA programs. Thanks again for the opportunity to weigh in.

Angela Crump-Volcy  
10865 Braeburn Road  
Columbia Md 21044

On Aug 23, 2024, at 13:30, Angela Volcy <guerdy\_angela@hotmail.com> wrote:

August 23, 2024

Shannon Heafey

[Shannon.heafey@maryland.gov](mailto:Shannon.heafey@maryland.gov)

410.537.4433

Air Quality Permits Program  
Air and Radiation Administration  
1800 Washington Blvd.  
Baltimore, MD 21230

RE:  
Docket 16-23

Opposition to W.R. Grace application for a permit to construct at  
7500 Grace Drive, Columbia MD 21044

Dear Ms. Heafey:

I'm a long time resident of Columbia, MD and am writing on behalf of my family, as well as my neighbors and friends from the Braeburn Community Association ("Braeburn"). We live in an unincorporated neighborhood in Hickory Ridge, off of Cedar Lane between Grace Drive and Freetown road that pre dates Columbia.

We love our neighborhood. It is quiet, residential, and serene. My home backs to the Middle Patuxent River. The air is clean. The river water and our well water which is used daily for drinking are also clean. The ground is safe. I very much value the environment and do my part to be a good citizen.

WR Grace, our neighbor, in contrast does not have a great reputation for integrity nor care for the environment. In short I don't trust them at all based on their past documented behaviors which polluted communities. Concurrently I value and appreciate the government as it fulfills its crucial role in protecting our natural resources from permanent harm. Plastics are a proven "permanent toxins" that harm present and future generations.

Thus I am in strong opposition to the State of Maryland, Department of the Environment, Air and Radiation Administration, granting permission to WR Grace to build or expand existing structures at 7500 Grace Drive or to acquire new properties adjacent the Grace campus for a research and development operation that requires chemicals, heat, or force to collect, sort, process or remanufacture physical materials in the process of recycling. Permission for this type of work should only be considered for areas zoned for heavy industrial use as well as having ample physical space, as a buffer, between an applicant and any existing residential zones or residential neighborhoods.

WR Grace's proximity to thriving residential areas should make this proposal a strong no go. I worked for the General Accounting Office doing reviews of EPA and it was always much more difficult for EPA to recommend and attempt clean up after the fact than to implement prevention via set backs, strong zoning rules, science, and the use of common sense.

**Columbia is a special place with green space and relatively clean air. Your office plays a vital role to preserve this priceless gem for future generations. I am 100 percent opposed to the installation of equipment and/or a facility to operate fifty (50) weeks per year to pump into the air Green House Gasses AND nearly ten (10) pounds per year of 1,3-Butadiene, a known cancer causing agent and known federal Hazardous Air Pollutant, (See permit, page 32, Emission Point Data, Form 5EP and Attachment 6 page 45 - 50).**

Along with my husband, my children, and my awesome neighbors, we're in opposition because we're know the risks and negative outcomes including various cancers and death whether known or unforeseeable. The applicant's plan includes the introduction of known carcinogens into our community. The danger of the key Toxic Air Pollutant (TAP) indicated on the permit, 1,3 Butadiene, is well established. See Department of Labor, [OSHA health disclaimers of 1,3-Butadiene](#). Even with the remediation contemplated, it's a non-starter.

No one from these thriving and livable communities—Braeburn, Cedar Creek, Robinson Overlook, or the greater Hickory Ridge including Simpsonville and Freetown, River Hill, or the invaluable Hopkins Applied Physics Labs that employs over 8,700, or the pristine reserve of Robinson Nature Center—should be put into potential jeopardy by way of permitting the contemplated pilot project recycling plant sought by WR Grace, a known environmental offender. Innovative development of recycling solutions is important work, and it can and should be done in an appropriate industrial setting—that is not a stone's throw from where children, adults and wildlife play or wade in the river.

Frankly, outside of due process, it's hard to understand the basis for consideration by officials to entertain the application. The extensive chemical processes detailed in it clearly fall outside of the scope of any reasonable reading of the applicable zoning regulation for the address of record, See Zone PEC, Section 116, B 27, page 120.

Research and development establishments or professional and business offices which may include manufacturing, fabrication, production, testing, repair, storage, sale or resale of materials, goods and products incidental to the principal use and located on the same lot as the principal use. Manufacturing uses permitted only in the M-2 district are prohibited.

While most in this locale supports recycling with full blue bins on Tuesdays for collection, none of us can understand nor endorse a fully functional chemical research facility with air borne particles combined with potential ground water contamination amidst a robust residential community and a vital river in the immediate surrounding areas.

Grace seeks to operate two shifts per day, fifty weeks per year, processing mixed plastics, researching new technologies to melt and breakdown plastics with heavy equipment that includes heat furnaces, smokestacks, and liquid waste held in drum barrels. Under any common sense reading, industrial facilities do not align with the culture, the values, the interests, the community standards, or the schedules of residential neighborhoods.

I sincerely appreciate the State's acknowledgement of community input and eagerly await its decision of denying Grace's request. Ahead of any formal disposition, I am available for testimony should the opportunity arise.

Respectfully submitted with hard copy letter to follow,

Angela Crump-Volcy  
10865 Braeburn's Road  
Columbia Md, 21044

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "Braeburn Community" group.

To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to [braeburn-community+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com](mailto:braeburn-community+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com).

To view this discussion on the web visit <https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/braeburn-community/DS0PR10MB617304FDCE97D9A38F48C44488882%40DS0PR10MB6173.namprd10.prod.oulook.com>.

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**From:** Kishor Sigdel <kishor\_sigdel@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 11, 2024 11:40 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** About grace  
**Attachments:** Video.mov

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hello,

I have been trying to know what is the smoke that smells weird on my backyard but no luck . I am very scared of the smell . I am also scared about if any toxin products from same. Cancer is not good as I lost my father of cancer in April 2024.

Please understand the consequences stop permits on the plastic burning pilot start up at Grace.

Attached is video.

Thanks,  
Arundati kharel sigdel.

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**From:** Eisenberg, Lynda  
**Sent:** Friday, September 13, 2024 6:10 PM  
**To:** tfwinc; Shepter, Brian; Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail  
**Cc:** Bellah, Jessica; Goins, Geoffrey; Thompson, Paul  
**Subject:** RE: Stop Grace Plastics Burning Project  
**Attachments:** Building 30 History Letter from Grace 9.9.2024.pdf; CE-24-107 7500 Grace Drive Close Out Letter.pdf

In September of 2023, WR Grace requested a Zoning Compliance Certificate associated with an application for a research-scale pilot plant for development purposes only at the request of Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). The zoning compliance certificate was limited to whether this use is permitted at 7500 Grace Drive (Building 30 Lab 120).

A letter was issued to WR Grace and MDE in September of 2023 confirming R&D as an allowable use according to the following:

The property was zoned Residential in the first zoning regulations adopted in 1948 and rezoned as follows:

- 1961: R-40 (Residential, One and Two-Family Detached)
- 1977: R (Rural )
- 1986: PEC (Planned Employment Center) Zoning Board Case No. 814

The research and development laboratory land use was permitted as a matter of right in the PEC zoning district in 1991. This use was legally established in Building 30, as approved through SDP-91-090 in 1991.

The research and development establishments land use was removed as a matter of right use from the PEC zoning district during the 2013 Comprehensive Zoning.

Section 129.0.A of the Howard County Zoning Regulations, states that a nonconforming use is “any lawful existing use, whether of a structure or a tract of land, which does not conform to the use regulations of the zoning district in which it is located, either on the effective date of these Regulations or as a result of any subsequent amendment thereto. Therefore, the research and development activity on the Property is a nonconforming use.

A nonconforming use may be continued subject to the requirements of Section 129.0.B. The proposed research and development lab complies with these requirements.

More recently on August 19, 2024, because of numerous zoning inquiries regarding this site, the Maryland Department of the Environment requested DPZ to again verify the allowance of this use. The Department of Planning and Zoning received a zoning complaint on August 8, 2024, alleging that Engineering and Scientific Research is occurring at the property and is not in conformance with the PEC district. On Monday September 9, 2024, the Chief of Public Service and Zoning Administration along with representatives from the Maryland Department of the Environment and WR Grace visited the site and toured the inside of the facility to investigate possible zoning violations. During this inspection there were no zoning violations observed and no unapproved exterior development evident. WR Grace further supported their nonconforming use status by providing a letter indicating that the building has been used for research and development without cessation since 2013.

Attached is the close out letter indicating no zoning violations found at 7500 Grace Drive (Building 30 Lab 120) along with the WR Grace letter mentioned above.

The Department of Planning and Zoning only has the authority to inspect and validate the zoning and site conditions of the property and is not the issuer of the Air Quality Permit. The Maryland Department of Environment issues the permit and has previously conducted public meetings to receive comments and questions. Further concerns and questions may be directed to MDE's Shannon Heafey. Her contact information is below.

Shannon Heafey, Public Participation Coordinator Air Quality Permits Program, Air and Radiation Administration  
Maryland Department of the Environment  
1800 Washington Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21230 [shannon.heafey@maryland.gov](mailto:shannon.heafey@maryland.gov)  
410-537-4433

Sincerely,

## Lynda D. Eisenberg, AICP

Director | Planning and Zoning  
410.313.2350 | [leisenberg@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:leisenberg@howardcountymd.gov)  
3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043 | [website](#)



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**From:** tfwinc <tfwinc@yahoo.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, September 5, 2024 10:09 PM

**To:** Eisenberg, Lynda <leisenberg@howardcountymd.gov>; Shepter, Brian <bshepter@howardcountymd.gov>; Ball, Calvin <cball@howardcountymd.gov>; CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

**Subject:** Stop Grace Plastics Burning Project

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Good evening. I oppose the Grace plastics burning project and want to make you aware of the following:

1. W.R. Grace's proposed microplastics project currently falls under a Planned Employment Center (PEC) zoning use and that the uses of rights permitted under this category do not allow for Research and Development. This info comes from Section 116 of the Planning and Zoning regulations.
2. W.R. Grace is, in fact, not extending the use of their current permitting as they claim; instead this proposed plastic research facility represents an "expansion" of their current permitted uses.
3. Further, W.R. Grace is in fact using an incinerator, which requires additional and more stringent permitting requirements. I am asking the DPZ to revoke the permit letter that W.R. Grace submitted to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) as part of their application to MDE for their proposed microplastic research facility.

Thank you for your consideration.

Tally Frenkel



Talent | Technology | Trust™

**Scott K. Purnell**

Vice President, R&D  
Refining Technologies

T +1 410.531.8203  
M +1 443.280.1265  
Scott.Purnell@grace.com

W. R. Grace & Co.  
7500 Grace Drive  
Columbia, MD, USA 21044

September 9, 2024

### W. R. Grace Building 30: Use

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to confirm that Building 30 on our property at 7500 Grace Drive, Columbia, MD has been in continuous use for research and development (R&D) activities since 2013 without cessation.

Examples of R&D work conducted in this building includes:

- Catalytic performance testing of Grace methanol-to-olefins (MTO) catalysts whereby methanol is reacted with our catalysts at high temperatures and converted to ethylene, propylene and other products. Catalysts are tested for activity, selectivity, and stability and compared against each other and over a range operating conditions.
- Catalytic performance testing of Grace RANEY® hydrogenation catalysts. RANEY catalysts are used in a range of hydrogenation reactions from nitro compounds to amines, carbonyls to alcohols, nitriles to amines, olefins, and acetylenes to saturates. Also, they are widely used in reductive alkylations, reductive aminations and ammonolysis of alcohols. Catalysts are tested for activity, selectivity, and stability and compared against each other and over a range operating conditions.
- Drying and high-temperature heat treatment of Grace Fluid Cracking Catalysts (FCC) and Additives as well as zeolites such as USY and ZSM-5.
- Studies whereby fluidizable catalysts with different particle size distributions and morphologies are studied over a range of air flow rates to compare their fluidization properties.
- Bench-scale sample handling including sample collection, separation, screening, preparation and submission to in-house and third-party analytical laboratories, etc.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Scott K. Purnell  
Vice President, R&D





HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ZONING  
3430 Courthouse Drive ■ Ellicott City, Maryland 21043 ■ 410-313-2350

Lynda D. Eisenberg, AICP, Director

[www.howardcountymd.gov](http://www.howardcountymd.gov)

FAX 410-313-3391

TDD 410-313-2323

September 13, 2024

Nana Adadey  
7252 Mainstream Way  
Columbia, MD 21044

RE: Alleged Zoning Violation  
7500 Grace Drive  
CE-24-107

Ms. Adadey,

In response to your request regarding the above-mentioned property a representative of the Zoning Division inspected the property on September 9, 2024. There were no violations of the Howard County Zoning Regulations or Subdivision and Land Development Regulations found for this property. Since there are no violations, the case is closed.

If you are interested in reviewing the case file for more details, please submit a written request to me at 3430 Court House Drive Ellicott City, MD 21043 or via email to [ggoins@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:ggoins@howardcountymd.gov).

Thank you for referring this matter to the Division of Public Service and Zoning Administration. If you have any questions concerning this case, please contact Geoff Goins at (410) 313-4350.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynda Eisenberg".

Lynda D. Eisenberg, AICP, Director  
Department of Planning and Zoning

*Any person aggrieved by a decision of the Department of Planning and Zoning **may file an appeal to the Board of Appeals.** An appeal to this notice must be filed within 30 days of the date of the notice and must state the alleged error or other grounds for the appeal. Instructions and forms for filing an appeal may be obtained from the Department of Planning and Zoning.*

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**From:** Atayee 1 <atayee1@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 10, 2025 12:24 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Testimony for Agenda: CB11-2025  
**Attachments:** Mubasher Atayee.docx; Mudaser Atayee.docx

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Good morning,

I hope all is well. My children will present the attached testimonies at the Legislative Public Hearing on February 18, 2025, at 7 p.m. Agenda: CB11-2025

Thank you,  
Cedar Creek Resident

Hello, and thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Mubasher, and I live at **Cedar Creek, Cross Creek Drive**, a place my family and I proudly call home.

Home is more than just a place to live. It's where we rest after a long day, feel safe, and be with the people we love. It is where we seek comfort, peace, and safety. As the saying goes, "There's no place like home." But imagine how it would feel and what happens when home is no longer a safe haven.

I am speaking today not only for myself but also on behalf of my two siblings and the hundreds of children in our community who may not be here tonight, children whose health and well-being are directly impacted by W.R. Grace's plastic-burning project.

I have often seen smoke rising from the W.R. Grace facility, polluting the air around us. As a child, I found this alarming and unsafe. It makes me wonder, is the air I'm breathing safe? My lungs are still growing, and like those of other children, they are sensitive to air pollution, making us particularly vulnerable to its harmful effects.

My family moved from Towson to Columbia, hoping to find a quiet, safe, and healthy community. Unfortunately, that hope has not been fully realized. My parents, neighbors, and I worry about the long-term health consequences of breathing in this polluted air daily.

At my age, I should not have to think about pollution, health risks, or environmental hazards. I should be able to enjoy my childhood—playing outside with friends without the fear of inhaling harmful air. I want to play, run, and laugh with my friends without being afraid of what's in the air.

**I am here to ask you to help protect our community, our health, and our future. We need clean air, peace of mind, and action. Please help us clean our air and feel safe in our homes.**

**Thank you**

Hello, and thank you for letting me speak today. My name is **Mudaser**. I am 10 years old and live at **Cedar Creek, Cross Creek Drive**.

When I see the smoke rising from W.R. Grace's plastic-burning project spreading through our neighborhood, I wonder: **What is it doing to my lungs? To my friends? To my family? We all deserve to grow up without worrying if the air we breathe will make us sick.**

I don't know what chemicals are in that smoke, but I do know this—I cough more when I play outside. Sometimes, the air smells different. Sometimes, my mom tells me to stay inside when she sees the smoke. **No child should have to stay inside because the air is too dangerous to breathe.**

**I'm just a kid. I shouldn't have to stand here, asking adults to protect me from pollution. I shouldn't have to worry about what this air is doing to my body.**

I don't want to spend my childhood thinking about smoke and sickness. **I want to play, run, and breathe freely—without fear.**

I may be young, but I know this: **Clean air is not a luxury; it's a right. And I need the adults in charge to protect that right for me, my friends, and all the kids who live here.**

**Please, don't let pollution take away our rights to a safe home. Don't let the air that fills our lungs also fill us with worry. We are just kids—we need you to protect us.**

Thank you.

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**From:** S VanWey <svanwey444@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 10, 2025 8:29 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Cc:** S VanWey  
**Subject:** Alarm PFAs and PFOs Pollution

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council Member,

Your alarm clock should be going off when it comes to PFAs and PFOs in Maryland's environment, (water, air, and soil) by 13 Gortex companies from Japan producing deadly, toxic chemicals that will affect all of our lives in Maryland. Some people will die too soon from cancer, others will acquire serious medical conditions.

A second alarm clock should be telling you that our state and federal EPA did not do their job in protecting Marylanders by checking water, air, and soil and promptly shutting them down.

A third alarm clock should tell you that our state government is not vetting the businesses and companies it allows into Maryland for safety. This vetting process should include the EPA (state and federal) the governor, the county executives, county council members, the Maryland Assembly, and Senate and Congress representatives. Please see your role in this important process and do not let a further debacle occur!

Regards,

Suzanne

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**From:** Aamir Chowdhury <aamir084@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:04 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of ZRA CB11-2025

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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**Testimony of Aamir Chowdhury  
Resident of Cedar Creek Neighborhood, Columbia, MD**

My name is Aamir Chowdhury, and I reside at 7220 Mainstream Way in the Cedar Creek neighborhood of Columbia, MD. My home is just 120 yards from the W.R. Grace R&D facility, where plastics are burned as part of their operations. Grace has recently filed a permit for installation of a new research-scale pilot plant including small, R&Dscale reactors, chillers, separators, feeders, and samplers with an exhaust gas stream, cleaned by an electric, flameless thermal oxidizer.

I am a father of two young children, ages 4 and 7, and I fear for their safety every day.

With such a minimal buffer, if a fire or explosion were to occur at the Grace facility, debris, flames, and toxic smoke could easily reach my home—where my children play every day. The sparse tree line between my house and Grace provides little protection. Additionally, we are deeply concerned about the risks of fire, leaks, and toxic emissions to our community. The equipment proposed for use in this facility is prone to fires, and even small amounts of hazardous chemicals can have long-term health impacts on our children and neighbors.

Adding to this concern, Cedar Creek is located 4.5 miles—or approximately 12 minutes—away from the nearest fire station on Banneker Road. According to National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 1710, fire departments should ideally reach incidents within four minutes of travel time. Our neighborhood is three times beyond that recommended response time.

This fact, combined with Grace’s troubling safety record—including a nitric acid leak at their Baltimore City location in 2023—makes me deeply concerned for my family’s safety. W.R. Grace has a terrible track record of safeguarding public health and safety. We are not reassured by their reassurances, as history has shown that their promises do not always translate to real safety measures.

Facilities handling plastics and emitting carcinogens must adhere to strict protocols to prevent leaks, fires, accidents, and explosions. This is especially critical for pilot projects like Grace’s plastic recycling operation, where unproven methods are being tested, and appropriate safeguards may not yet be fully understood.

Moreover, Grace has a history of safety-related lawsuits involving deaths and injuries to residents in adjacent neighborhoods—neighborhoods just like Cedar Creek. Their past negligence, combined with our distance from the nearest fire station and the lack of a proper buffer zone, creates a dire and unacceptable risk for my family and my community.

This facility does not belong next to or near residential communities. Columbia is a place I love and have chosen to raise my family because of its vibrant, safe, and welcoming environment. I want to ensure that it remains free from unnecessary risks to our health and safety.

I urge you to approve the Zoning Regulation Amendment (ZRA), which is coded as CB11-2025. This bill amends the Howard County Zoning Regulations to add the Research and Development Laboratory use to the Planned Employment Center (PEC) zoning district while prohibiting research and development uses that involve commercial plastic pellets or feedstock producing flue gas and requiring a permit from the state of Maryland. This bill is essential in ensuring that hazardous facilities do not endanger residential communities.

If a fire or explosion were to occur at Grace, I need time to get my family to safety. The passing of this bill is essential to protecting lives.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please act to ensure the safety of Howard County residents like my family and prevent future tragedies.

Sincerely,

Aamir Chowdhury.

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**From:** Nusrat Siddique <nsiddiq910@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 9:28 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** ZRA Testimony

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

**Good evening members of the committee,**

My name is Nusrat Siddique, and I'm writing to you as a concerned mother of two young children who deserve to grow up in a safe, healthy environment. My family moved to the Cedar Creek community in Howard County in 2021. During our due diligence before purchasing our home, we specifically asked NV Homes about the large facility approximately 50 yards from our property line. We were explicitly told that it was merely the administrative or accounting offices of a chemical company.

Fast forward three years, and we've now learned that W.R. Grace has submitted a permit to build a plastic "recycling" plant just 50 yards from our community. In researching this facility, I discovered that the entire property around Cedar Creek was originally owned by W.R. Grace, zoned for commercial purposes, and then rezoned for residential development. The developer and builder knew all along that this was not just an office space but an active chemical facility where plastics and chemicals were already being processed and burned. Yet, they misrepresented this information to homebuyers, waited until the all the homesites were sold, and then applied for a permit to expand operations to burn plastics. Now they have the audacity to mislead the public by calling this an "advanced recycling" facility when, in reality, it is an incineration plant that will release dangerous toxins into the air we breathe.

As a physician, I have serious concerns about the health risks this facility poses to my children and our entire community. Decades of scientific research show that living near facilities that burn or chemically process plastics leads to serious medical conditions, including:

- **Cancer** – The *International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)* classifies benzene, a byproduct of plastic burning, as a known human carcinogen. Communities near facilities that emit benzene and formaldehyde have reported increased rates of leukemia and other cancers.
- **Respiratory Issues** – Studies published in *Environmental Health Perspectives* link volatile organic compounds (VOCs) emitted from such facilities to increased asthma prevalence, especially among children.
- **Lung Disease** – The *American Lung Association* has documented higher rates of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and other lung conditions in communities near incineration facilities.
- **Endocrine Disruption & Early Puberty** – Plastics release chemicals like phthalates and bisphenol A (BPA), which interfere with hormones, leading to early puberty and developmental



issues. Studies from *The Endocrine Society* have linked exposure to these chemicals with significant health concerns in children.

- **Reproductive Disorders & Immune System Damage** – The *National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences* and *Toxicological Sciences* have reported increased fertility problems and weakened immune responses in populations exposed to dioxins and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) from burning plastics.

Additionally, I want to emphasize that **we are FOR the Zoning Regulation Amendment (ZRA), which is coded as CB11-2025**. This bill states:

**AN ACT amending the Howard County Zoning Regulations to add the Research and Development Laboratory use to the Planned Employment Center (PEC) zoning district and prohibiting such research and development uses that involve commercial plastic pellets or feedstock which produces flue gas and requires a permit from the state of Maryland; and generally relating to research and development laboratory uses in the PEC zoning district.**

This legislation is **critical** to ensuring that toxic plastic-burning facilities like the one W.R. Grace proposes are not allowed to operate under misleading definitions like “advanced recycling.” We **must** ensure that research and development involving plastics and chemical burning **does not** occur near residential communities and that companies seeking permits to incinerate plastic waste are not reclassified under deceptive terms to evade strict environmental oversight.

Furthermore, I **urge you to reject any exemptions for "chemical recycling" from air pollution regulations**. These facilities must be held accountable under the **Clean Air Act** and treated as **solid waste incineration**, not disguised as manufacturing or traditional recycling. Changing definitions to fit corporate interests will only put our community at greater risk.

We should be moving toward solutions that **reduce plastic production and waste**, not burning plastics near homes and schools. W.R. Grace’s facility is a step in the wrong direction, and I ask this committee to stand with the people—not corporate polluters—by enforcing strong zoning laws that keep dangerous industries away from our families.

**Please support CB11-2025. Protect our right to clean air, a safe environment, and a healthier future for our children.**

Thank you for your consideration,

Nusrat Siddique

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**From:** Sudhangi Suthrave <asudhangi@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2025 5:23 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Testimony for Feb 18th-CB11-2025  
**Attachments:** Testimony-Arn timer And Ashwin Suthrave.docx

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hello  
This is in regards to the CB11-2025  
Legislative Public Hearing - February on 02/18/2025 7:00 PM

Attached please find the testimonies for 2 speakers who will speak:  
Arnav Suthrave (Age 12)  
Ashwin Suthrave (Age 49)

Thank you,

**Sudhangi Suthrave**  
Email: asudhangi@yahoo.com  
Cell#: 208-7241719

**Testimony: Arnav Suthrave**

**Age: 12 years**

"Thank you for letting me speak today. My name is Arnav Suthrave, and I live in Cedar Creek. I've lived here with my family for the past 2 years, and our home was built in 2022. I'm 12 years old and represent over 300 children from Cedar Creek community. Me and my friends go to school just a couple of miles from where the proposed facility would be built—less than 100 feet from my community. I'm really worried about what this facility could do to my family, friends, and neighbors.

I care a lot about this issue because this neighborhood is my home, and Columbia is where I want to grow up safe and healthy. I want to be able to ride my bike, play soccer with my friends, and enjoy being outside without worrying about the air I breathe. My parents tell me that this new "advanced recycling" plant could release harmful chemicals into the air, and those chemicals could make people sick. They say things like "carcinogens," which cause cancer, and other pollutants that could hurt our lungs and affect kids more than adults because we're still growing. It makes me really scared to think this might be happening right by where I live.

Columbia is supposed to be one of the best places to grow up in Maryland, but now it doesn't feel like that anymore. Just knowing this facility could be so close has already made me and my family worried. Sometimes, I feel stressed just thinking about it. I wish I could grow up here without worrying about dangerous chemicals, explosions, or accidents happening nearby. I hope you'll make sure the people planning this project follow the rules and keep us safe.

Once again, thank you for listening to my concerns. I really hope you'll make sure that if this project goes forward, there's at least a safe 1,800-foot distance from our neighborhood. Please help keep my family and friends safe, and let me grow up in a healthy place. Thank you."

**Testimony: Ashwin Suthrave**

**Age: 49 yrs**

"Thank you for the opportunity to speak. My name is Ashwin Suthrave, and I've lived in Cedar Creek for 2 years, in a home built in 2022. I'm a parent to a 17 year old and a 12 year old and I'm here today because the proposed "advanced recycling" facility would be built less than 100 feet from my community. I want to ensure that our county establishes a safe buffer to protect families like mine from the air pollution and potential dangers this facility would bring.

I moved to Columbia to give my family a safe, healthy place to live. Columbia is known for being one of the best places to raise a family in Maryland, but that's no longer how I feel. This proposal has already impacted us: my children and I worry about the potential risks of living close to a facility emitting carcinogens and other toxic chemicals. Just knowing it could happen so close has added stress and anxiety to our lives. As a parent, I shouldn't have to raise my kids with the constant worry of exposure to carcinogens or the fear of explosions, fires, or leaks right near our home.

In addition to pollution risks, the dangers of explosions and leaks are real. As a pilot plant, this facility is still in the testing phase, meaning accidents are more common and could have serious consequences. A chemical explosion or toxic leak would not only put nearby families in harm's way but could also result in severe long-term contamination. The thought of this happening so close to home is something no family should have to live with.

The truth is, "advanced recycling" is not recycling at all. Facilities like this are built by chemical companies trying to bypass environmental protections, and these operations are known to emit particulate matter, volatile organic compounds, PFAS, and even dioxins. These pollutants cause cancer, worsen asthma, impact neurological development, and increase risks during pregnancy. And it's children who are especially vulnerable—breathing more air per pound than adults means they also breathe in more pollution per pound, increasing their risk.

It's not only our health at risk. Chemical facilities like this one also contribute to climate change, emitting climate-warming pollution that worsens extreme weather, threatening not just our community but the planet. History shows this company has disregarded community safety before—W.R. Grace has been sued by Baltimore City and has a long record of evading environmental regulations. This is a company that prioritizes profits over people, and we need to protect our families and future by making sure they respect a buffer of at least 1,800 feet between their facility and our homes.

In closing, I urge you to support this zoning regulation amendment. Let's ensure that if this project proceeds, it follows strict safety standards and a sufficient buffer zone. Columbia deserves to stay a safe, healthy, and livable place for families. Thank you for your time and commitment to our community's well-being."



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**From:** abirome2@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Abigail Rome <abirome2@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2025 1:45 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support CB11-2025 for a safe buffer between WR Grace and surrounding neighborhoods

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council,

As a Marylander, I'm deeply concerned by W.R. Grace's proposed "advanced recycling" pilot plant. This plant would spew carcinogenic air pollution just 70 meters from local homes in the Cedar Creek neighborhood of Columbia, Maryland.

Let's be clear. "Advanced recycling" is neither advanced nor recycling. This is just a misleading term for burning plastic waste and turning our plastic pollution problem into an air pollution problem. Read more about this harmful practice here:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.momscleanairforce.org%2Fresources%2Fchemical-recycling-101%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cianderson%40howardcountymd.gov%7Cf8811f4ba58249a90cb508dd4d279efd%7C0538130803664bb7a95b95304bd11a58%7C1%7C0%7C638751554759953318%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMmllsIkFOljoiTWFpbCIsIlIdUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=2KC3P27Tm0FABYII7hyHm9fIQK2Nz9zSfRnwCUT%2BXYE%3D&reserved=0>

I urge you to support CB11-2025 to ensure a safe buffer between corporations like W.R. Grace conducting research and development (R&D) and residential neighborhoods.

This proposed facility not only will spew cancerous air pollution, but also is susceptible to fires, explosions, accidents, leaks, and more due to its experimental nature. Residents must be protected from these potential catastrophes by ensuring a safe buffer.

It is crucial that the Howard County Council listens to concerned community members and holds W.R. Grace accountable to public health standards. Please do not set the precedent that chemical companies and serial polluters like W.R. Grace can freely pollute and harm our communities. If this can happen in Cedar Creek, it can happen anywhere. Please protect Maryland families and keep our state safe.

Sincerely,  
Abigail Rome  
605 Ray Dr Silver Spring, MD 20910-5222 abirome2@gmail.com

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**From:** arichman27@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Andrew R. <arichman27@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2025 11:47 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support CB11-2025 for a safe buffer between WR Grace and surrounding neighborhoods

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council,

As a Marylander, I'm deeply concerned by W.R. Grace's proposed "advanced recycling" pilot plant. This plant would spew carcinogenic air pollution just 70 meters from local homes in the Cedar Creek neighborhood of Columbia, Maryland. This is insane to even consider this. STOP it.

Let's be clear. "Advanced recycling" is neither advanced nor recycling. This is just a misleading term for burning plastic waste and turning our plastic pollution problem into an air pollution problem. Read more about this harmful practice here:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.momscleanairforce.org%2Fresources%2Fchemical-recycling-101%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cianderson%40howardcountymd.gov%7C9dab05e41eeb41ca804808dd4d7bce1b%7C0538130803664bb7a95b95304bd11a58%7C1%7C0%7C638751916355370475%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIlwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilskFOIjoiTWfPbClslldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=vKESwBWDourgCNh%2FKvjVyURY0hDH2WQKGq5nFelcLLw%3D&reserved=0>

I demand you to support CB11-2025 to ensure a safe buffer between corporations like W.R. Grace conducting research and development (R&D) and residential neighborhoods.

This proposed facility not only will spew cancerous air pollution, but also is susceptible to fires, explosions, accidents, leaks, and more due to its experimental nature. Residents must be protected from these potential catastrophes by ensuring a safe buffer.

It is crucial that the Howard County Council listens to concerned community members and holds W.R. Grace accountable to public health standards. Please do not set the precedent that chemical companies and serial polluters like W.R. Grace can freely pollute and harm our communities. If this can happen in Cedar Creek, it can happen anywhere. Please protect Maryland families and keep our state safe.

Sincerely,  
Andrew R.  
7 Washington St Cumberland, MD 21502-2974 arichman27@yahoo.com



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**From:** aplace04@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Anne Pearson <aplace04@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2025 4:35 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support CB11-2025 for a safe buffer between WR Grace and surrounding neighborhoods

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council,

As a Marylander, I'm deeply concerned by W.R. Grace's proposed "advanced recycling" pilot plant. This plant would spew carcinogenic air pollution just 70 meters from local homes in the Cedar Creek neighborhood of Columbia, Maryland.

Let's be clear. "Advanced recycling" is neither advanced nor recycling. This is just a misleading term for burning plastic waste and turning our plastic pollution problem into an air pollution problem. Read more about this harmful practice here:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.momscleanairforce.org%2Fresources%2Fchemical-recycling-101%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cianderson%40howardcountymd.gov%7C3e61d2d173a94a7df37908dd4d3f79d4%7C0538130803664bb7a95b95304bd11a58%7C1%7C0%7C638751657216582999%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIlwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMmIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=qC1icP9fgqPVsP8yLsJsHGSRB1G%2BISR%2FfxwsTofBk9fU%3D&reserved=0>

I urge you to support CB11-2025 to ensure a safe buffer between corporations like W.R. Grace conducting research and development (R&D) and residential neighborhoods.

This proposed facility not only will spew cancerous air pollution, but also is susceptible to fires, explosions, accidents, leaks, and more due to its experimental nature. Residents must be protected from these potential catastrophes by ensuring a safe buffer.

It is crucial that the Howard County Council listens to concerned community members and holds W.R. Grace accountable to public health standards. Please do not set the precedent that chemical companies and serial polluters like W.R. Grace can freely pollute and harm our communities. If this can happen in Cedar Creek, it can happen anywhere. Please protect Maryland families and keep our state safe.

Sincerely,  
Anne Pearson  
2041 Shore Dr Edgewater, MD 21037-2937  
aplace04@gmail.com

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**From:** leegirl.326@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Annette Chandler <leegirl.326@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2025 5:39 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support CB11-2025 for a safe buffer between WR Grace and surrounding neighborhoods

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council,

As a Marylander, I'm deeply concerned by W.R. Grace's proposed "advanced recycling" pilot plant. This plant would spew carcinogenic air pollution just 70 meters from local homes in the Cedar Creek neighborhood of Columbia, Maryland.

Let's be clear. "Advanced recycling" is neither advanced nor recycling. This is just a misleading term for burning plastic waste and turning our plastic pollution problem into an air pollution problem. Read more about this harmful practice here:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.momscleanairforce.org%2Fresources%2Fchemical-recycling-101%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cianderson%40howardcountymd.gov%7C09b7e9f5d6d144de23ca08dd4d487185%7C0538130803664bb7a95b95304bd11a58%7C1%7C0%7C638751695724156752%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiJlZjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMlIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=iyscln%2FdjprnzHwfnZJNaGdf%2FoeTUjSs25QAQE7D5mY%3D&reserved=0>

I urge you to support CB11-2025 to ensure a safe buffer between corporations like W.R. Grace conducting research and development (R&D) and residential neighborhoods.

This proposed facility not only will spew cancerous air pollution, but also is susceptible to fires, explosions, accidents, leaks, and more due to its experimental nature. Residents must be protected from these potential catastrophes by ensuring a safe buffer.

It is crucial that the Howard County Council listens to concerned community members and holds W.R. Grace accountable to public health standards. Please do not set the precedent that chemical companies and serial polluters like W.R. Grace can freely pollute and harm our communities. If this can happen in Cedar Creek, it can happen anywhere. Please protect Maryland families and keep our state safe.

Sincerely,  
Annette Chandler  
5515 Rosecroft Village Dr Oxon Hill, MD 20745-3646 leegirl.326@gmail.com

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**From:** fruitcakes101@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Bonnie Svec <fruitcakes101@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2025 3:45 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support CB11-2025 for a safe buffer between WR Grace and surrounding neighborhoods

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council,

As a Marylander, I'm deeply concerned by W.R. Grace's proposed "advanced recycling" pilot plant. This plant would spew carcinogenic air pollution just 70 meters from local homes in the Cedar Creek neighborhood of Columbia, Maryland.

Let's be clear. "Advanced recycling" is neither advanced nor recycling. This is just a misleading term for burning plastic waste and turning our plastic pollution problem into an air pollution problem. Read more about this harmful practice here:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.momscleanairforce.org%2Fresources%2Fchemical-recycling-101%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cianderson%40howardcountymd.gov%7C6100ea10b3d54715170408dd4d387c87%7C0538130803664bb7a95b95304bd11a58%7C1%7C0%7C638751627196576830%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiilwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilskFOIjoiTWfPbClslldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=pgPcPpB3iF9bIFwqNcbNiVn126OB0Dm1xZeX%2BUH2yZ0%3D&reserved=0>

I urge you to support CB11-2025 to ensure a safe buffer between corporations like W.R. Grace conducting research and development (R&D) and residential neighborhoods.

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It is crucial that the Howard County Council listens to concerned community members and holds W.R. Grace accountable to public health standards. Please do not set the precedent that chemical companies and serial polluters like W.R. Grace can freely pollute and harm our communities. If this can happen in Cedar Creek, it can happen anywhere. Please protect Maryland families and keep our state safe.

Sincerely,  
Bonnie Svec  
4511 Woodlark Pl Rockville, MD 20853-2753 fruitcakes101@aol.com

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**From:** ptrseldr@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Carol Elder <ptrseldr@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2025 3:53 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support CB11-2025 for a safe buffer between WR Grace and surrounding neighborhoods

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council,

As a Marylander, I'm deeply concerned by W.R. Grace's proposed "advanced recycling" pilot plant. This plant would spew carcinogenic air pollution just 70 meters from local homes in the Cedar Creek neighborhood of Columbia, Maryland.

Let's be clear. "Advanced recycling" is neither advanced nor recycling. This is just a misleading term for burning plastic waste and turning our plastic pollution problem into an air pollution problem. Read more about this harmful practice here:

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Sincerely,  
Carol Elder  
8801 Bosley Rd Unit 208 Ellicott City, MD 21043-6119 ptrseldr@yahoo.com

---

**From:** clfmeisje@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Carol lee Ford <clfmeisje@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2025 4:17 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support CB11-2025 for a safe buffer between WR Grace and surrounding neighborhoods

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council,

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<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.momscleanairforce.org%2Fresources%2Fchemical-recycling-101%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cianderson%40howardcountymd.gov%7C7df11e4517484da5664408dd4d3cf4d5%7C0538130803664bb7a95b95304bd11a58%7C1%7C0%7C638751646405810802%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIlwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoiTWFpbCIsIlIdUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2FmDmvRg967nX3tvBzUvwMTgi5wgkeTgU36hEAY9ZwPg%3D&reserved=0>

I urge you to support CB11-2025 to ensure a safe buffer between corporations like W.R. Grace conducting research and development (R&D) and residential neighborhoods.

This proposed facility not only will spew cancerous air pollution, but also is susceptible to fires, explosions, accidents, leaks, and more due to its experimental nature. Residents must be protected from these potential catastrophes by ensuring a safe buffer.

It is crucial that the Howard County Council listens to concerned community members and holds W.R. Grace accountable to public health standards. Please do not set the precedent that chemical companies and serial polluters like W.R. Grace can freely pollute and harm our communities. If this can happen in Cedar Creek, it can happen anywhere. Please protect Maryland families and keep our state safe.

Sincerely,  
Carol lee Ford  
7 Flintridge Ct Nottingham, MD 21236-1615 clfmeisje@gmail.com

---

**From:** cawilliams66@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Cynthia Williams <cawilliams66@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2025 1:17 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support CB11-2025 for a safe buffer between WR Grace and surrounding neighborhoods

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council,

As a Marylander, I'm deeply concerned by W.R. Grace's proposed "advanced recycling" pilot plant. This plant would spew carcinogenic air pollution just 70 meters from local homes in the Cedar Creek neighborhood of Columbia, Maryland.

Let's be clear. "Advanced recycling" is neither advanced nor recycling. This is just a misleading term for burning plastic waste and turning our plastic pollution problem into an air pollution problem. Read more about this harmful practice here:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.momscleanairforce.org%2Fresources%2Fchemical-recycling-101%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cianderson%40howardcountymd.gov%7C25fa726e2af9406bef0208dd4d23c20c%7C0538130803664bb7a95b95304bd11a58%7C1%7C0%7C638751538157071967%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIlwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMmliSklFOIjoiTWVpbiIsIlIdUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C60000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=bjahq0xalaIpN6I4gbR17kt90f2VqneOH%2FWCmTUPkTU%3D&reserved=0>

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Sincerely,  
Cynthia Williams  
15754 Union Chapel Rd Woodbine, MD 21797-7710 cawilliams66@hotmail.com

---

**From:** nataliesdaughter@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of DEBRA LEE  
<nataliesdaughter@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2025 7:32 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support CB11-2025 for a safe buffer between WR Grace and surrounding neighborhoods

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council,

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Sincerely,  
DEBRA LEE  
3172 Guilford Dr Waldorf, MD 20602-2588 nataliesdaughter@gmail.com



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**From:** tdatswanson@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Diane Swanson  
<tdatswanson@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2025 3:22 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support CB11-2025 for a safe buffer between WR Grace and surrounding neighborhoods

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council,

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Sincerely,  
Diane Swanson  
10085 Windstream Dr Columbia, MD 21044-2549 tdatswanson@hotmail.com



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**From:** dedmondson@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Dominique Edmondson  
<dedmondson@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2025 1:17 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support CB11-2025 for a safe buffer between WR Grace and surrounding neighborhoods

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council,

As a Marylander, I'm deeply concerned by W.R. Grace's proposed "advanced recycling" pilot plant. This plant would spew carcinogenic air pollution just 70 meters from local homes in the Cedar Creek neighborhood of Columbia, Maryland.

Let's be clear. "Advanced recycling" is neither advanced nor recycling. This is just a misleading term for burning plastic waste and turning our plastic pollution problem into an air pollution problem. Read more about this harmful practice here:

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Sincerely,  
Dominique Edmondson  
10706 Wyld Dr Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-4662 dedmondson@cwa-union.org

---

**From:** sedond@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Douglas Sedon <sedond@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2025 9:20 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support CB11-2025 for a safe buffer between WR Grace and surrounding neighborhoods

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council,

As a Marylander, I'm deeply concerned by W.R. Grace's proposed "advanced recycling" pilot plant. This plant would spew carcinogenic air pollution just 70 meters from local homes in the Cedar Creek neighborhood of Columbia, Maryland.

Let's be clear. "Advanced recycling" is neither advanced nor recycling. This is just a misleading term for burning plastic waste and turning our plastic pollution problem into an air pollution problem. Read more about this harmful practice here:

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Sincerely,  
Douglas Sedon  
2815 Fry Rd Jefferson, MD 21755-7424  
sedond@yahoo.com

---

**From:** emaibach@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Ed Maibach <emaibach@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2025 1:24 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support CB11-2025 for a safe buffer between WR Grace and surrounding neighborhoods

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council,

As a health professional in Maryland, I'm deeply concerned by W.R. Grace's proposed "advanced recycling" pilot plant. This plant would spew carcinogenic air pollution just 70 meters from local homes in the Cedar Creek neighborhood of Columbia, Maryland.

Let's be clear. "Advanced recycling" is neither advanced nor recycling. This is just a misleading term for burning plastic waste and turning our plastic pollution problem into an air pollution problem. Read more about this harmful practice here:

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Sincerely,  
Ed Maibach  
11828 Beekman Pl Potomac, MD 20854-2177 emaibach@gmu.edu

---

**From:** f.friedman@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Faye Friedman  
<f.friedman@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2025 4:27 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support CB11-2025 for a safe buffer between WR Grace and surrounding neighborhoods

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council,

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Sincerely,  
Faye Friedman  
10 Redmile Ct Reisterstown, MD 21136-3538 f.friedman@comcast.net

---

**From:** francisbgilbert@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Francis Gilbert  
<francisbgilbert@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2025 1:33 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support CB11-2025 for a safe buffer between WR Grace and surrounding neighborhoods

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Dear Howard County Council,

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Sincerely,  
Francis Gilbert  
10529 Pennydog Ln Silver Spring, MD 20902-4161 francisbgilbert@yahoo.com

---

**From:** fwilsey@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Frank Wilsey <fwilsey@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 15, 2025 12:09 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support CB11-2025 for a safe buffer between WR Grace and surrounding neighborhoods

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Dear Howard County Council,

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Sincerely,  
Frank Wilsey  
2702 Whitney Ave Baltimore, MD 21215-4149 fwilsey@verizon.net

---

**From:** gaylelcm@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of G. Countryman-Mills  
<gaylelcm@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2025 9:11 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support CB11-2025 for a safe buffer between WR Grace and surrounding neighborhoods

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Sincerely,  
G. Countryman-Mills  
11906 Oden Ct Rockville, MD 20852-4341  
gaylelcm@gmail.com



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**From:** gafyfe@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Glenn Fyfe <gafyfe@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2025 4:14 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support CB11-2025 for a safe buffer between WR Grace and surrounding neighborhoods

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Dear Howard County Council,

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<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.momscleanairforce.org%2Fresources%2Fchemical-recycling-101%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cianderson%40howardcountymd.gov%7C95388f39792b4b85656e08dd4d3c7e22%7C0538130803664bb7a95b95304bd11a58%7C1%7C0%7C638751644410042478%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIlwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMmIsIkFOIjoiTWFPbCIsIlldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=LMEbhehcrAv8DQkqckXNKbJWGiuSu2HC5Ntybt85W%2Fk%3D&reserved=0>

I urge you to support CB11-2025 to ensure a safe buffer between corporations like W.R. Grace conducting research and development (R&D) and residential neighborhoods.

This proposed facility not only will spew cancerous air pollution, but also is susceptible to fires, explosions, accidents, leaks, and more due to its experimental nature. Residents must be protected from these potential catastrophes by ensuring a safe buffer.

It is crucial that the Howard County Council listens to concerned community members and holds W.R. Grace accountable to public health standards. Please do not set the precedent that chemical companies and serial polluters like W.R. Grace can freely pollute and harm our communities. If this can happen in Cedar Creek, it can happen anywhere. Please protect Maryland families and keep our state safe.

Sincerely,  
Glenn Fyfe  
3207 Castleleigh Rd Beltsville, MD 20705-1005 gafyfe@hotmail.com



---

**From:** fanfareman@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of James Beeler  
<fanfareman@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2025 2:29 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support CB11-2025 for a safe buffer between WR Grace and surrounding neighborhoods

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council,

As a Marylander, I'm deeply concerned by W.R. Grace's proposed "advanced recycling" pilot plant. This plant would spew carcinogenic air pollution just 70 meters from local homes in the Cedar Creek neighborhood of Columbia, Maryland.

Let's be clear. "Advanced recycling" is neither advanced nor recycling. This is just a misleading term for burning plastic waste and turning our plastic pollution problem into an air pollution problem. Read more about this harmful practice here:

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Sincerely,  
James Beeler  
20653 Benevola Church Rd Boonsboro, MD 21713-1711 fanfareman@hotmail.com

---

**From:** redmilesjean@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Jean Redmiles  
<redmilesjean@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2025 6:54 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support CB11-2025 for a safe buffer between WR Grace and surrounding neighborhoods

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council,

As a Marylander, I'm deeply concerned by W.R. Grace's proposed "advanced recycling" pilot plant. This plant would spew carcinogenic air pollution just 70 meters from local homes in the Cedar Creek neighborhood of Columbia, Maryland.

Let's be clear. "Advanced recycling" is neither advanced nor recycling. This is just a misleading term for burning plastic waste and turning our plastic pollution problem into an air pollution problem. Read more about this harmful practice here:

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It is crucial that the Howard County Council listens to concerned community members and holds W.R. Grace accountable to public health standards. Please do not set the precedent that chemical companies and serial polluters like W.R. Grace can freely pollute and harm our communities. If this can happen in Cedar Creek, it can happen anywhere. Please protect Maryland families and keep our state safe.

Sincerely,  
Jean Redmiles  
4840 Ilchester Rd Ellicott City, MD 21043-6824 redmilesjean@gmail.com



---

**From:** jdaven4553@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Joan Davenport <jdaven4553@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2025 2:12 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support CB11-2025 for a safe buffer between WR Grace and surrounding neighborhoods

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council,

As a Marylander, I'm deeply concerned by W.R. Grace's proposed "advanced recycling" pilot plant. This plant would spew carcinogenic air pollution just 70 meters from local homes in the Cedar Creek neighborhood of Columbia, Maryland.

Let's be clear. "Advanced recycling" is neither advanced nor recycling. This is just a misleading term for burning plastic waste and turning our plastic pollution problem into an air pollution problem. Read more about this harmful practice here:

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Sincerely,  
Joan Davenport  
1373 Long Corner Rd Mount Airy, MD 21771-3846 jdaven4553@aol.com

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**From:** jsjaleo1@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Joanne Leo <jsjaleo1@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2025 1:52 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support CB11-2025 for a safe buffer between WR Grace and surrounding neighborhoods

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council,

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Sincerely,  
Joanne Leo  
3923 Millner Rd Nottingham, MD 21236-1425 jsjaleo1@gmail.com

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**From:** jjdimaggio@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Joseph DiMaggio  
<jjdimaggio@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2025 3:35 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support CB11-2025 for a safe buffer between WR Grace and surrounding neighborhoods

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council,

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Let's be clear. "Advanced recycling" is neither advanced nor recycling. This is just a misleading term for burning plastic waste and turning our plastic pollution problem into an air pollution problem. Read more about this harmful practice here:

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Sincerely,  
Joseph DiMaggio  
PO Box 3632 Baltimore, MD 21214-0632  
jjdimaggio@yahoo.com

---

**From:** Rkacl@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Katherine Leonard <Rkacl@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2025 4:38 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support CB11-2025 for a safe buffer between WR Grace and surrounding neighborhoods

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council,

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Sincerely,  
Katherine Leonard  
10109 Windstream Dr Apt 5 Columbia, MD 21044-2530 Rkacl@ol.com



---

**From:** broskykeith@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Keith Brosky  
<broskykeith@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2025 1:22 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support CB11-2025 for a safe buffer between WR Grace and surrounding neighborhoods

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council,

As a Marylander, I'm deeply concerned by W.R. Grace's proposed "advanced recycling" pilot plant. This plant would spew carcinogenic air pollution just 70 meters from local homes in the Cedar Creek neighborhood of Columbia, Maryland.

Let's be clear. "Advanced recycling" is neither advanced nor recycling. This is just a misleading term for burning plastic waste and turning our plastic pollution problem into an air pollution problem. Read more about this harmful practice here:

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Sincerely,  
Keith Brosky  
8104 Walter Martz Rd Frederick, MD 21702-2583 broskykeith@gmail.com



---

**From:** wede1993@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Kris Wedemeyer <wede1993@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2025 1:24 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support CB11-2025 for a safe buffer between WR Grace and surrounding neighborhoods

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council,

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Let's be clear. "Advanced recycling" is neither advanced nor recycling. This is just a misleading term for burning plastic waste and turning our plastic pollution problem into an air pollution problem. Read more about this harmful practice here:

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Sincerely,  
Kris Wedemeyer  
173 Roland Rd Pasadena, MD 21122-2875  
wede1993@gmail.com

---

**From:** lesliew@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Leslie Wharton <lesliew@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2025 1:19 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support CB11-2025 for a safe buffer between WR Grace and surrounding neighborhoods

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council,

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Sincerely,

Leslie Wharton

4978 Sentinel Dr Apt 501 Bethesda, MD 20816-3575 [lesliew@eldersclimateaction.org](mailto:lesliew@eldersclimateaction.org)

---

**From:** radchic05@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Madeline Amalphy <radchic05@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2025 6:24 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support CB11-2025 for a safe buffer between WR Grace and surrounding neighborhoods

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council,

As a Gaithersburg resident who is extremely concerned about the climate crisis and pollution, I strongly oppose W.R. Grace's proposed "advanced recycling" pilot plant. This plant would spew carcinogenic air pollution just 70 meters from local homes in the Cedar Creek neighborhood of Columbia, Maryland.

Let's be clear. "Advanced recycling" is neither advanced nor recycling. This is just a misleading term for burning plastic waste and turning our plastic pollution problem into an air pollution problem. Read more about this harmful practice here:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.momscleanairforce.org%2Fresources%2Fchemical-recycling-101%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cianderson%40howardcountymd.gov%7Cae00508cf5a8425c9dc308dd4d4eb2dd%7C0538130803664bb7a95b95304bd11a58%7C1%7C0%7C638751722653993339%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMmliLkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=5StCPdyspuzSMekXZcMtm7P3DI7zOrdf9DbH%2B%2Bey4qE%3D&reserved=0>

I strongly urge you to support CB11-2025 to ensure a safe buffer between corporations like W.R. Grace conducting research and development (R&D) and residential neighborhoods.

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Sincerely,  
Madeline Amalphy  
651 Saybrooke Oaks Blvd Gaithersburg, MD 20877-3488 radchic05@gmail.com

---

**From:** Maher Akremi <makremi@cleanwater.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2025 6:10 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** CB 11-2025 Written Testimony from Clean Water Action, For  
**Attachments:** CB11-2025 Testimony.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hello,

Please find attached written testimony in support of the passage of CB 11-2025 from Clean Water Action.

Best,

Maher Akremi

(he/him),

DC Program Coordinator

(202)-989-8675

makremi@cleanwater.org

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)



This message (including any attachments) is intended only for the use of the person(s) to whom it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you receive this message in error, please notify me immediately by email or telephone.

Dear Howard County Council Members,

Clean Water Action supports CB 11- 2025: Addition of certain research and development laboratories as a permitted use in the Planned Employment Center (PEC) zoning district. Passage of this amendment to PEC zoning district regulation is vital to protecting the health of Howard County Residents now and in the future.

At the most fundamental level research and development laboratories located within PEC zoned districts should be regulated within conforming use. Those existing in the gray area if non-conforming use is problematic given the impacts these facilities can have on surrounding communities. CB 11-2025 is especially relevant because of the proposed research and development at the W.R. Grace & Company site in Columbia, Maryland. Under current Howard County PEC regulations, the facility may operate an experimental chemical recycling project within 70 meters of residences. This facility would incinerate plastic pellets and expose residents of the Cedar Creek neighborhood and surrounding communities to toxic emissions and waste endangering their health, and to direct physical hazards such as fire and explosions. CB 11-2025 would prevent this dangerous project and forestall similar activities in the county.

### **What is chemical recycling and how does it connect to CB 11-2025**

Chemical recycling is a category of different processes used to convert plastic pellets, both virgin plastic and waste plastic, into low-grade fossil fuels or other chemicals. They are classified as incineration by the EPA.

### **Health concerns**

According to analysis by Natural Resources Defense Council chemical recycling facilities across the US release toxic chemicals into the air including [benzene, dioxins, and heavy metals like arsenic and mercury](#) that can lead to cancer, respiratory conditions, early puberty, and nervous system damage.

**TABLE 3: HEALTH HAZARDS OF CHEMICALS GENERATED BY "CHEMICAL RECYCLING" FACILITIES**  
 (1) Health hazards of chemicals sent off site as hazardous waste by Agilyx and (2) hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) listed in Agilyx's Air Toxics Emissions Inventory and in air permits for Agilyx, Alterra Energy, Braven Environmental, Brightmark, Nexus Fuels, and PureCycle Technologies.<sup>32</sup> Data on hazard traits from California Safer Consumer Products Candidate Chemicals list.<sup>33</sup>

Chemical	Carcinogen	Reproductive toxicant	Developmental toxicant	Neurotoxicant	Persistent	Bioaccumulative	Liver toxicant	Cardiovascular toxicant	Respiratory toxicant	Kidney toxicant	Skin toxicant	Eye toxicant
<b>(1) Hazardous waste sent offsite by Agilyx</b>												
Lead	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Cadmium	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X		
Selenium			X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
Benzene	X	X	X	X			X	X	X			
1,2-dichloroethane	X			X			X	X		X	X	
Chromium	X											
Vinyl chloride	X			X					X			
Barium				X			X	X				
<b>(2) Hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) associated with multiple facilities</b>												
Styrene	X	X	X	X			X					X
Benzene	X	X	X	X			X	X	X			
Toluene			X	X			X	X	X	X		X
Mercury	X			X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
Arsenic	X		X	X			X	X	X		X	
Dioxins	X	X			X	X	X				X	
Ethyl benzene	X		X	X			X		X	X		X
Xylenes			X	X			X		X	X		X
Naphthalene	X			X	X	X	X		X			X
Acetaldehyde	X								X		X	X
Formaldehyde	X						X		X			X
Hydrochloric acid									X		X	X
Methanol			X	X								
Hexane		X		X								

Source: RECYCLING LIES: "CHEMICAL RECYCLING" OF PLASTIC IS JUST GREENWASHING INCINERATION, NRDC, <https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/chemical-recycling-greenwashing-incineration-ib.pdf>

These toxics being released are of particular concern given the vulnerable populations present in Ceder Creek. This is all assuming a facility is functioning properly. In the event of system failure, the results could be catastrophic. Such failures could include spills of toxic waste, which will be stored in a 55-gallon drum inside the warehouse itself according to the permit application, fire, and explosions.

### Safety concerns

Fires are a common problem at chemical recycling facilities, and any facility where plastic waste is stockpiled. A key reason chemical recycling is so dangerous is because the processes produce

flammable gases under heat and pressure, which can lead to fire and explosion. An analysis from Beyond Plastics in 2023 reported fires at the not yet fully operational facility in [Brightmark, Indiana in July 2020 and May 2021](#) and [four different fires at the New Hope pyrolysis plant in Tyler, Texas since 2020](#).

Figure 7 Fires at U.S. Plastic Recycling Facilities



Source: The Last Beach Cleanups

Fires and explosions would not only directly endanger the homes 70 meters away, but also produce toxic smoke and debris that would carry unmitigated amounts of the toxic chemicals produced by the facility into the homes of Ceder Creek residents. Given the high heat procedures involved in their proposed process these are possibilities that must be accounted for when considering zoning.

### **Environmental/climate concerns**

Chemical recycling processes generate toxic waste that contaminates the air, land, and water, poisoning the resources we depend on. Beyond these harms there are wider environmental and climate concerns as well. Even in a best-case scenario [chemical recycling produces more greenhouse gas emissions](#) than the production of virgin plastic. Even the emission estimates Grace provided for this research facility, 136.61 tons CO<sub>2</sub>/year and .0001825 tons Methane/year which according to the EPA would be equivalent to the greenhouse gas emissions from powering more than [24 homes for an entire year or 13,946 gallons of gas burned](#). The output of the process is generally low-grade fossil fuel that will itself produce greenhouse gas emissions when burned.

### **Buffers as a best practice**

Development of research facilities like the one W.R. Grace is proposing near communities is not the norm. Other chemical companies are promoting the maintenance of buffers as a best practice to minimize their impact on surrounding communities. In particular, the Dow Chemical Company has implemented a Greenbelt Standard, which maintains a buffer zone to protect communities located near their operations. In March 2023, Dow staff published a report on their



Greenbelt Policy in the American Institute of Chemical Engineers' CEP, "Site Selection and Buffer Zone Maintenance."

Dow started creating the buffer zone policy in 2011, and it was strengthened in 2014 in response to a 2013 explosion. The purpose of the buffer zone is to prevent sensitive areas, like homes and schools, from encroaching on plants where accidents could occur. They cite examples from Texas and Massachusetts, among others, to illustrate problems when homes are built near chemical facilities or when the processes used at a facility change. In one case, in Danvers, MA, the authors note that an explosion happened at 2:40 AM, when most home occupants were in their beds covered by blankets, which protected them from flying glass and other debris. At a different time the result (10 injured, no fatalities) could have been tragic.

<https://www.aiche.org/sites/default/files/cep/20230352.pdf>

Incidents like these highlight the risks of activities such as those proposed so near residential communities. W.R. Grace had a forested buffer between their operation and the next closest neighborhoods, but when they sold the land to create the Cedar Creek development, they reduced their buffer from 330 meters to 70 meters. This reduced buffer may have been appropriate for their previous operations, but by adding research and development of chemical recycling, they have drastically increased the risk their operation poses to the surrounding neighborhood. Given the purpose of PEC district zoning to "provide for open areas to act as buffers between incompatible uses" CB 11-2025 is key to ensuring that a buffer is enforced, and the safety of families and homes is preserved.

For these reasons, we support the passage of CB 11-2025.

Thank you,

Maher Akremi

D.C. Program Coordinator,

Clean Water Action

[Makremi@cleanwater.org](mailto:Makremi@cleanwater.org)

202-989-8675



---

**From:** mgshutterbug@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Maria Grande  
<mgshutterbug@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2025 1:30 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support CB11-2025 for a safe buffer between WR Grace and surrounding neighborhoods

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council,

Plastics are poisonous pollutants whether they are buried in landfills, dumped into waterways, or their microplastics and toxic chemicals inhaled from burning their chemical ingredients. As a Marylander, I'm deeply concerned by W.R. Grace's proposed "advanced recycling" pilot plant. This plant would spew carcinogenic air pollution just 70 meters from local homes in the Cedar Creek neighborhood of Columbia, Maryland.

Let's be clear. "Advanced recycling" is neither advanced nor recycling. This is just a misleading term for burning plastic waste and turning our plastic pollution problem into an air pollution problem. Read more about this harmful practice here:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.momscleanairforce.org%2Fresources%2Fchemical-recycling-101%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cianderson%40howardcountymd.gov%7C78c5cbde81a74bd9a19b08dd4d258a98%7C0538130803664bb7a95b95304bd11a58%7C1%7C0%7C638751545817412178%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOilwLjAuMDAwMCIslAIiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C60000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=TtUGSotY17Ag9S1%2FmPqSpyjTLB5SBemHL%2FpGt5yh82U%3D&reserved=0>

I urge you to support CB11-2025 to ensure a safe buffer between corporations like W.R. Grace conducting research and development (R&D) and residential neighborhoods.

This proposed facility not only will spew cancerous air pollution, but also is susceptible to fires, explosions, accidents, leaks, and more due to its experimental nature. Residents must be protected from these potential catastrophes by ensuring a safe buffer.

It is crucial that the Howard County Council listens to concerned community members and holds W.R. Grace accountable to public health standards. Please do not set the precedent that chemical companies and serial polluters like W.R. Grace can freely pollute and harm our communities. If this can happen in Cedar Creek, it can happen anywhere. Please protect Maryland families and keep our state safe.

Sincerely,

Maria Grande

306 Cantata Ct Apt 124 Reisterstown, MD 21136-6473 mgshutterbug@gmail.com

---

**From:** matthumphrey12@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Matthew Humphrey <matthumphrey12@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2025 2:25 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support CB11-2025 for a safe buffer between WR Grace and surrounding neighborhoods

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council,

As a Marylander, I'm deeply concerned by W.R. Grace's proposed "advanced recycling" pilot plant. This plant would spew carcinogenic air pollution just 70 meters from local homes in the Cedar Creek neighborhood of Columbia, Maryland.

Let's be clear. "Advanced recycling" is neither advanced nor recycling. This is just a misleading term for burning plastic waste and turning our plastic pollution problem into an air pollution problem. Read more about this harmful practice here:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.momscleanairforce.org%2Fresources%2Fchemical-recycling-101%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cianderson%40howardcountymd.gov%7Cd85782ce9f304eb123ca08dd4d2d584d%7C0538130803664bb7a95b95304bd11a58%7C1%7C0%7C638751579492824743%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIlwLjAuMDAwMCIiIAiOiJXaW4zMmilsIkFOljoiTWFpbCIsIlIdUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C60000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=rzbhcyiGOs4OG3oapV259L6bMnjePXLA10RJc92NNVA%3D&reserved=0>

I urge you to support CB11-2025 to ensure a safe buffer between corporations like W.R. Grace conducting research and development (R&D) and residential neighborhoods.

This proposed facility not only will spew cancerous air pollution, but also is susceptible to fires, explosions, accidents, leaks, and more due to its experimental nature. Residents must be protected from these potential catastrophes by ensuring a safe buffer.

It is crucial that the Howard County Council listens to concerned community members and holds W.R. Grace accountable to public health standards. Please do not set the precedent that chemical companies and serial polluters like W.R. Grace can freely pollute and harm our communities. If this can happen in Cedar Creek, it can happen anywhere. Please protect Maryland families and keep our state safe.

Sincerely,  
Matthew Humphrey  
3045 Saint Paul St Baltimore, MD 21218-3968 matthumphrey12@gmail.com

---

**From:** pdwaterworth@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Mrs. P. D. Waterworth  
<pdwaterworth@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2025 3:18 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support CB11-2025 for a safe buffer between WR Grace and surrounding neighborhoods

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council,

As a Marylander, I'm deeply concerned by W.R. Grace's proposed "advanced recycling" pilot plant. This plant would spew carcinogenic air pollution just 70 meters from local homes in the Cedar Creek neighborhood of Columbia, Maryland.

Let's be clear. "Advanced recycling" is neither advanced nor recycling. This is just a misleading term for burning plastic waste and turning our plastic pollution problem into an air pollution problem. Read more about this harmful practice here:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.momscleanairforce.org%2Fresources%2Fchemical-recycling-101%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cianderson%40howardcountymd.gov%7Cf22604ee9d6b42447d6e08dd4d34b503%7C0538130803664bb7a95b95304bd11a58%7C1%7C0%7C638751610978559158%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiilwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilskFOIjoiTWfPbClslldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=FVcQXEtplnA4%2B1fpUe892ae438w1bbHFqKXrzJhfb1k%3D&reserved=0>

I urge you to support CB11-2025 to ensure a safe buffer between corporations like W.R. Grace conducting research and development (R&D) and residential neighborhoods.

This proposed facility not only will spew cancerous air pollution, but also is susceptible to fires, explosions, accidents, leaks, and more due to its experimental nature. Residents must be protected from these potential catastrophes by ensuring a safe buffer.

It is crucial that the Howard County Council listens to concerned community members and holds W.R. Grace accountable to public health standards. Please do not set the precedent that chemical companies and serial polluters like W.R. Grace can freely pollute and harm our communities. If this can happen in Cedar Creek, it can happen anywhere. Please protect Maryland families and keep our state safe.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. P. D. Waterworth  
10001 Old Franklin Ave Lanham, MD 20706-2319 pdwaterworth@gmail.com

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**From:** shannonbshea@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Shannon Shea  
<shannonbshea@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2025 2:12 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support CB11-2025 for a safe buffer between WR Grace and surrounding neighborhoods

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council,

As a Marylander, I'm deeply concerned by W.R. Grace's proposed "advanced recycling" pilot plant. This plant would spew carcinogenic air pollution just 70 meters from local homes in the Cedar Creek neighborhood of Columbia, Maryland.

Let's be clear. "Advanced recycling" is neither advanced nor recycling. This is just a misleading term for burning plastic waste and turning our plastic pollution problem into an air pollution problem. Read more about this harmful practice here:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.momscleanairforce.org%2Fresources%2Fchemical-recycling-101%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cianderson%40howardcountymd.gov%7C77608b25b0a44867584e08dd4d2b7f72%7C0538130803664bb7a95b95304bd11a58%7C1%7C0%7C638751571392088849%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=nwfYTNrQrQ2Em%2FCkWuxxN98vN0Pv1c9a14AyF0UiuZM%3D&reserved=0>

I urge you to support CB11-2025 to ensure a safe buffer between corporations like W.R. Grace conducting research and development (R&D) and residential neighborhoods.

This proposed facility not only will spew cancerous air pollution, but also is susceptible to fires, explosions, accidents, leaks, and more due to its experimental nature. Residents must be protected from these potential catastrophes by ensuring a safe buffer.

Although I live in Montgomery County, I am frequently in that area for a volunteer activity. Neither residents of that county or adjoining ones deserve To be exposed to that pollution.

It is crucial that the Howard County Council listens to concerned community members and holds W.R. Grace accountable to public health standards. Please do not set the precedent that chemical companies and serial polluters like W.R. Grace can freely pollute and harm our communities. If this can happen in Cedar Creek, it can happen anywhere. Please protect Maryland families and keep our state safe.

Sincerely,  
Shannon Shea  
70 Moore Dr Rockville, MD 20850-1230  
shannonbshea@gmail.com

---

**From:** Nerenberg, Sharyn <Sharyn.Nerenberg@grace.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2025 11:12 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Letter from Grace Executives  
**Attachments:** Grace Leadership Team Letter to HoCo Council Feb 2025.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

Please find attached for your consideration a letter from the executive leadership of W. R. Grace & Co., proudly headquartered in Howard County, regarding CB11/Zoning Regulation Amendment 211.

**Sharyn B. Nerenberg** | Vice President, Global Communications & Government Affairs  
**W. R. Grace & Co.**, 7500 Grace Drive, Columbia MD, 21044, USA | T +1 410.531.8770 | M +1 667.261.1054  
[sharyn.nerenberg@grace.com](mailto:sharyn.nerenberg@grace.com)

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W. R. Grace & Co.  
7500 Grace Drive  
Columbia, MD 21044

February 13, 2025

Howard County Council  
George Howard Building  
3430 Court House Drive  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear Members of the Howard County Council:

As the executive leadership team of W. R. Grace & Co. (Grace), we are writing to express our concern about CB11 (Zoning Regulation Amendment 211 or ZRA-211) and to urge you to vote “no” to this misguided attempt to disrupt innovation and lawful commerce in Howard County. CB11 singularly targets Grace and undermines the zoning stability necessary for businesses to invest in Howard County.

First and foremost, CB11 is unnecessary to protect the health and safety of the residents of Howard County. Maryland has a well-established permitting process managed by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and specifically directed at safeguarding the environmental health of residents. To that end, MDE is conducting a thorough fact-based review of our project and has engaged the community throughout the process. This bill, however, seeks to override that fact-based process and the authority and expertise of MDE. And it seeks to do so without any justification based in science, fact or law.

Usurping MDE’s authority, moreover, would have the unintended consequence of dissuading forward-thinking companies from investing locally. The ZRA would force businesses to think twice before investing in Howard County -- and to ask themselves if the next change in zoning laws could target them.

For more than 60 years, Grace has been a valuable corporate citizen in Maryland, investing in our campus in Columbia, operating safely, attracting employees to live and work in Howard County, and giving back to the community as a taxpayer and community leader. We contribute over \$1M in property taxes annually and have contributed millions more over our decades of operation; our employees also contribute to the tax base in the County. Through the Grace Foundation, we proudly support organizations like the Howard County Public Schools’ Bright Minds Foundation, the Howard Hospital Foundation, and United Way of Central Maryland to help improve health, education, and quality of life of our fellow residents.

For decades, Grace has chosen to invest continually in maintaining our global headquarters in Columbia. We value the local talent pool and recognize the vibrant community as a great place for our employees to live. We are proud that the Howard County Economic Development Authority celebrates Grace as a major manufacturing company and one of the top 16 “major Howard County employers...[that] illuminate the region’s boundless economic vitality.” CB11 –

with its singular, laser-like aim at Grace – flies in the face of Howard County’s agenda, which purports to celebrate and invite businesses like ours to relocate to and invest in this community, just as we are attempting to do.

We echo the passion of our employees, who in their own letter forcefully argue against this proposed ZRA. We respectfully urge you to vote “no” on CB11.

Sincerely,

The Undersigned Leadership Team of W. R. Grace & Co., at 7500 Grace Drive



Ed Sparks  
Chief Executive Officer



Ed Baiden  
SVP, Strategy, Planning and Sustainability



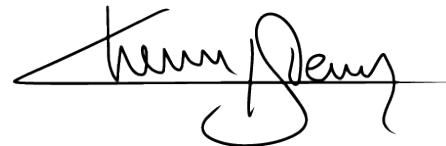
Michael Brown  
Chief Financial Officer



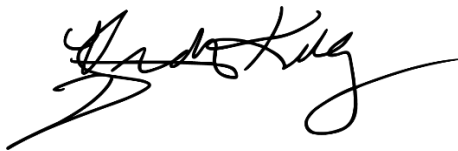
Luis Ciriha  
President, Refining Technologies



Mark Cluff  
President, Global Operations and Environmental,  
Health, Safety, Security & Quality



Thomas Deman  
President, Specialty Catalysts,  
Supply Chain & Procurement



Brenda Kelly  
President, Materials Technologies



Dan Pate  
SVP, Strategic Initiatives





Jeff Sherman  
Chief Information Officer



Kerrie L. Wolfe  
SVP HR, Chief Human Resources Officer  
& Communications



Anthony Yoo  
SVP, General Counsel and Secretary

---

**From:** Smrithi Raman <s2raman@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2025 8:32 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** CR11-2025 Grace testimony on Feb 18, 2025

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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Hello, please see the written testimony that I will read out loud at the county meeting on February 18. Thank you.

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Hi,

My name is Sim Raman, and I'm testifying today in support of CR11-2025. I've lived in the Cedar Creek community for 3 years. My partner and I have two young children, a 3 year old and a 7 month old. We left California to move to Columbia, and specifically to this neighborhood because of how safe and family-friendly it has always been.

I strongly oppose WR Grace's proposal to build a pilot recycling plant just yards from our homes, and I urge you to reject this project in order to protect our community's health, safety, and quality of life. While WR Grace may present this facility as an innovation in recycling, the reality is that placing an industrial chemical operation so close to our homes poses significant risks. We are talking about potential air pollution, hazardous chemical exposure, and increased risk of on-site accidents—all of which will impact the health and well-being of families who have built their lives here.

This is not just about inconvenience; this is about our right to breathe clean air, to live in a safe environment, and to protect our children from potential long-term health effects. Furthermore, this facility sets a dangerous precedent. If this pilot plant is approved, what stops Grace from expanding into a full-scale operation with even greater environmental and public health risks? Our community should not be treated as a testing ground for industrial experiments. There are safer, more appropriate locations for this type of facility—ones that don't put families directly in harm's way. I urge you to stand with your constituents and reject Grace's proposal. We hope that our elected officials and leaders will prioritize public health over corporate interests. Thank you.

---

**From:** natureloversus@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Susannah Phillips  
<natureloversus@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2025 5:25 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support CB11-2025 for a safe buffer between WR Grace and surrounding neighborhoods

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Dear Howard County Council,

As a Marylander, I'm deeply concerned by W.R. Grace's proposed "advanced recycling" pilot plant. This plant would spew carcinogenic air pollution just 70 meters from local homes in the Cedar Creek neighborhood of Columbia, Maryland.

Let's be clear. "Advanced recycling" is neither advanced nor recycling. This is just a misleading term for burning plastic waste and turning our plastic pollution problem into an air pollution problem. Read more about this harmful practice here:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.momscleanairforce.org%2Fresources%2Fchemical-recycling-101%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cianderson%40howardcountymd.gov%7C98696485033a4662bd6b08dd4d4664d9%7C0538130803664bb7a95b95304bd11a58%7C1%7C0%7C638751686935797238%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiilwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilskFOIjoiTWfPbClslldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=4EK3PBX53H%2FjovJilhX0nD3XIQN7PC8UPxAM%2BiF%2BbHk%3D&reserved=0>

I urge you to support CB11-2025 to ensure a safe buffer between corporations like W.R. Grace conducting research and development (R&D) and residential neighborhoods.

This proposed facility not only will spew cancerous air pollution, but also is susceptible to fires, explosions, accidents, leaks, and more due to its experimental nature. Residents must be protected from these potential catastrophes by ensuring a safe buffer.

It is crucial that the Howard County Council listens to concerned community members and holds W.R. Grace accountable to public health standards. Please do not set the precedent that chemical companies and serial polluters like W.R. Grace can freely pollute and harm our communities. If this can happen in Cedar Creek, it can happen anywhere. Please protect Maryland families and keep our state safe.

Sincerely,  
Susannah Phillips  
688 Carlisle Dr Arnold, MD 21012-1606  
natureloversus@gmail.com

---

**From:** terrys21@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Terry Scoggins <terrys21@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2025 8:34 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support CB11-2025 for a safe buffer between WR Grace and surrounding neighborhoods

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

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<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.momscleanairforce.org%2Fresources%2Fchemical-recycling-101%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cianderson%40howardcountymd.gov%7C7e6cfae9d2444a5bb6b708dd4d60d3bd%7C0538130803664bb7a95b95304bd11a58%7C1%7C0%7C638751800458243571%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIlwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoitWFBpbCIsIlIdUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=lyQVEM8L0H%2FFZdsU%2BoxCHwXZAN5F9luYZkU7ucgf1u8%3D&reserved=0>

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Sincerely,  
Terry Scoggins  
200 Clifford Ln Unit K Forest Hill, MD 21050-3154 terrys21@hotmail.com

---

**From:** h2owalker@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Tom Thayer  
<h2owalker@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2025 8:31 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support CB11-2025 for a safe buffer between WR Grace and surrounding neighborhoods

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Dear Howard County Council,

As a Marylander, I'm deeply concerned by W.R. Grace's proposed "advanced recycling" pilot plant. This plant would spew carcinogenic air pollution just 70 meters from local homes in the Cedar Creek neighborhood of Columbia, Maryland.

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Sincerely,  
Tom Thayer  
398 S River Landing Rd Edgewater, MD 21037-1549 h2owalker@hotmail.com

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**From:** traceycsmallwood@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Tracey katsouros  
<traceycsmallwood@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2025 1:15 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support CB11-2025 for a safe buffer between WR Grace and surrounding neighborhoods

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Dear Howard County Council,

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Sincerely,  
Tracey katsouros  
1322 Harwich Dr Waldorf, MD 20601-3322  
traceycsmallwood@gmail.com

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**From:** v1wittmann@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Victor Wittmann  
<v1wittmann@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2025 4:59 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support CB11-2025 for a safe buffer between WR Grace and surrounding neighborhoods

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

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Sincerely,  
Victor Wittmann  
4027 Log Trail Way Reisterstown, MD 21136-1841 v1wittmann@comcast.net

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**From:** vickyblooston@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Victoria Blooston  
<vickyblooston@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2025 1:18 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support CB11-2025 for a safe buffer between WR Grace and surrounding neighborhoods

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Sincerely,  
Victoria Blooston  
4821 Cumberland Ave Chevy Chase, MD 20815-5455 vickyblooston@gmail.com



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**From:** anettestauske.care2@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Anette Stauske <anettestauske.care2@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 15, 2025 8:16 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support CB11-2025 for a safe buffer between WR Grace and surrounding neighborhoods

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Sincerely,  
Anette Stauske  
1087 Wayson Way Davidsonville, MD 21035-2202 anettestauske.care2@gmail.com

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**From:** Hasan, Anwer <anwer.hasan@wsp.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 15, 2025 4:53 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** CB11-2025 my testimony for the approval of the bill and how Dow Chemical establish buffer and EPA determination of the W R Grace project as Incineration  
**Attachments:** AnwerhasanCB11testimony.docx; BufferDowresponse.pdf; Enclosure- WR Grace Reg. Interpretation Signed.pdf  
**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council Members

I am sending my testimony related to the W R Grace Plastic project at 7500 Grace Drive. I am for the CB-11 bill. This project should not go forward as it will be harmful to the residents of the Cedar Creek, Robinson, and Village of River Hill communities. I have attached as to how responsibly Dow Chemical operate when they take into consideration projects which could have harmful impact on the communities. Also, I have included the EPA interpretation of the W R Grace project as an incinerator.

**Please protect the children who are the future of the County**

Regards  
Anwer Hasan  
Member Board of Regents University System of Maryland  
Senior Vice President II | Program and Construction Management  
Maryland, DC , Virginia and West Virginia  
WSP USA Inc.



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-LAEHhHHzdJzBITWfa4Hgs7pbK1

My name is Anwer Hasan, I am an Engineer, Environmentalist and has been living in Howard County for past 27 years and a resident of Cedar Creek Development

Good evening, council members and especially the children and their parents who have shown up in the support of CB-11 2025.

CB11-2025 allows the Planned Employment Center to perform research and development but prohibits research involving plastic. Focusing on growth but responsibly by protecting the health and safety of Howard County residents.

The Cedar Creek, Robinson and the Village of River Hill family's nightmare started on April 29, 2023, when they heard for the first time about the W R Grace plastic project during the MDE public meeting.

W R Grace did no outreach with their immediate neighbors Cedar Creek and Robinson. The EJ Index was prepared on 2020 Census knowingly that the Cedar Creek was 100% built in April of 2023 prior to applying for the MDE air emission permit. **These are huge red flags.**

The area on which Cedar Creek Development is built was a buffer between W R Grace and Village of River Hill. It was sold for a financial gain by W R Grace to build their Headquarter.

Now the families with small children are living seventy meters from the W R Grace facility at their 7500 Grace Drive. When the houses on the mainstream way open their windows especially in Winter, they can see through the tree lines Buildings 16 and 30 where research are conducted.

EPA at the request of MDE has defined W R Grace process of converting plastic into fuel as pyrolysis which is incineration and regulated under the Clean Air Act (See attached letter). The incinerator requires stringent Air Monitoring

Considering what is happening in Washington DC with EPA and the freezing of \$13.7M MDE funds related to air monitoring are of a higher concern to the Cedar Creek, Village of River Hill, and Robinson. The residents are looking towards the local council to protect them from toxic air pollutants leaks, explosion, and fire.

We all recognize that jobs are important but if you do not have the health then nothing seems important in one's life. Currently 66% of American has one or

multiple diseases, this project will increase it more. Health is a gift from the god and human being should not attempt to take it away.

Corporate Stewardship is important. Dow Chemical Company has developed a Greenbelt standard for citing their facilities which could be harmful. There are five requirements of the greenbelt standard which if applied keep the community safe. I hope and pray that other companies involved in chemical research become more responsible including W R Grace.

I humbly request that please pass this CB-11 2025 bill for these children who are the future of Howard County.

Thank you and God Bless you.

# Site Selection and Buffer Zone Maintenance

Karen Study, P.E. • John Currie • The Dow Chemical Company

Establishing and maintaining buffer zones as additional space between the community and hazardous operations or chemical storage is an essential consideration for risk management.

Incidents such as the 2013 West Fertilizer Company and the 2015 Tianjin, China explosions demonstrate why it is crucial to maintain adequate buffer zones between hazardous chemicals and the community. A buffer zone is an expanse of land that separates hazardous operations and chemicals from public receptors (*e.g.*, homes, schools, and hospitals).

As part of a set of risk mitigation measures, it is vital that manufacturers site new operations with adequate buffer zones between industry and the community, as well as maintain and improve buffer zones at existing facilities. Additionally, it is critical that the chemical industry partners with government agencies to ensure that existing buffer zones are not compromised due to local development.

This article discusses why buffer zones are important to establish and maintain around chemical processing facilities. It introduces the buffer zone requirements that one chemical company has implemented to protect local communities around operational sites.

## Past incidents necessitate buffer zones

Many incidents involving chemical processing facilities and storage sites have confirmed the importance of land use planning. One such incident is the 2013 West Fertilizer Company (WFC) fire and explosion that resulted in 15 fatalities and over 260 injured (1). When the fertilizer facility was first built in 1962, primarily open fields surrounded the facility. Over the years, the city of West, TX, encroached closer and closer to the WFC facility. This encroachment ultimately led to the significant amount of destruction associated with the 2013 explosion.

The blast caused the complete destruction of a 22-unit apartment complex (450 ft from the explosion), a 145-bed nursing home (500 ft from the explosion), an intermediate school (552 ft from the explosion), and a high school (1,263 ft from the explosion). The explosion destroyed around 70 residential homes and damaged approximately 60 more.

In 2006, an explosion fueled by vapor released from a



2,000-gal tank of highly flammable liquid at the CAI/Arnel manufacturing facility rocked the town of Danvers, MA (2). The explosion and subsequent fire heavily damaged dozens of nearby homes and businesses; 24 homes and six businesses were damaged beyond repair. Fortunately, since the incident occurred at 2:40 AM, most of the home occupants were in their beds covered with blankets, which protected them from flying glass and other debris. In total, only ten people were injured. It is likely that fatalities could have resulted had the explosion occurred during the daytime.

Much like the WFC incident, the population gradually encroached closer to the CAI/Arnel facility in the years leading up to the explosion. Over several decades, the peninsula where the CAI/Arnel facility was located transitioned from a sparse population to one with many residential homes. Some homes were only 150 ft away from the facility. During the same period, the facility transitioned from handling a few hundred gallons of flammable liquids to thousands of gallons.

Another catastrophic incident occurred in August 2015 at the Port of Tianjin, China (3, 4). A series of explosions at a container storage station resulted in 173 fatalities, and hundreds of people were injured. The explosion forced several thousand people living near the port to leave their homes and seek refuge elsewhere.

All three incidents are similar in that there was a lack of proper land use planning. In West, TX, there were no zoning regulations requiring residential areas to be separated from the fertilizer facility. In Tianjin, there was a requirement that prohibited public buildings and facilities within 3,300 ft of the container station. However, the requirements for separation in Tianjin were not followed, and at least three major residential communities were located within this perimeter. In Danvers, MA, property licensing laws and regulations did not address storing or using toxic chemicals.

A more recent explosion which speaks to the dangers of allowing dense populations near hazardous chemicals occurred in August 2020 at the Port of Beirut, Lebanon (5). A series of explosions, caused by ammonium nitrate that had been stored for six years at a warehouse in the port, resulted in 220 fatalities and injured more than 6,500 people. The nearby dense residential and commercial areas were severely damaged, leaving ~300,000 people homeless. Additionally, this disaster damaged nine of the capital's hospitals and hampered access to healthcare for nearly 160,000 patients.

### The Dow Chemical Company Greenbelt Standard

The Dow Chemical Company (Dow) has implemented a standard set of buffer zone (*i.e.*, greenbelt land) requirements to protect the communities located near our operating facilities. The five requirements of the Greenbelt Standard are:

- *Review projects and new facilities.* Projects (*e.g.*, construction of a new facility or expansion of an existing facility) that result in off-site impacts are reviewed by upper-level leadership.

- *Maintain land around existing facilities.* Greenbelt land around the site must be maintained to minimize the risk to the community and to limit community exposure to hazardous chemicals, in addition to other protection layers to manage hazards.

- *Develop site-specific land use strategies.* Sites with potential off-site impact scenarios should develop and maintain a land use strategy for land within the impacted area. The land use strategy summarizes the potential offsite impacts that a site can pose and details the land owned by the company. In addition, it lists potential areas of acquisition so that the buffer zone can be expanded if desired. The land use strategy also places restrictions on the use of the buffer zone land itself to prevent increasing the risk to the community.

- *Conduct land transaction reviews.* Transactions involving land impacted by Dow operations are reviewed and approved by process safety and upper-level leadership.

- *Evaluate new owners or tenants.* Prior to selling or leasing land to other chemical or petrochemical operators, the proposed company is evaluated to determine if they meet fundamental process safety management principles. The proposed owner/tenant is expected to identify any potential impacts from their operations beyond their facility boundaries. If their operations can impact Dow facilities, or if our hazards can impact their operations, the proposal is reviewed and approved by upper-level leadership.

### History of the Greenbelt Standard

In 2011, senior leadership within Dow requested a formal protocol for managing buffer zones around our operations. Dow issued the protocol in 2012 as a company guidance document. After the WFC explosion in 2013, Dow leadership decided to strengthen the protocol by making the Greenbelt Standard a mandatory standard for all Dow operations. The guidance was re-issued as a formal standard in 2014. Prior to the Greenbelt Standard, land use for capital projects and changes to our greenbelt areas were managed at the site level using the management of change work process. The Greenbelt Standard required higher-level reviews and approvals as well as the standardization of the key considerations used to evaluate potential land transactions and facility changes with potential off-site impacts.

When the Greenbelt Standard was implemented in 2014, broad training was offered within Dow to communicate the new requirements. Land use strategies were developed for



## ■ SAFETY

all sites with the potential to have off-site impacts. These strategies included plans for existing greenbelt land and any potential expansion of the buffer zone.

### Drive for continuous improvement

Since implementing the 2014 Greenbelt Standard, we have learned a great deal. As a result, in 2019, the standard was updated and re-issued.

The need for clarification and consistency was the first main driver for updating the standard. Changes related to clarification and consistency included:

- Consistent criteria for calculating extent distances for potential off-site impacts were established.
- Expectations for leaders of Dow facilities operating within a non-Dow owned industrial park (iPark) were established; leaders are now expected to notify iPark leadership of any hazards from Dow operations that may extend beyond the iPark site perimeter.
- A minimum revalidation/update frequency for each site's land use strategy was determined.

The need for greater transparency in documentation and required representation was the second key driver for updating and re-issuing the Greenbelt Standard. Changes were made to the standard such that each site's land use strategy must now include required documentation of the maximum extent distances for potential hazard impacts from the site and the potential off-site population that could be impacted. In addition, when developing or revalidating land use strategies, process safety, emergency services, and security personnel must be represented.

Although we wanted to ensure consistency in endpoint distance calculations, we allow facility safety managers to use the process safety tools they prefer to estimate those distances (in an effort to reduce non-value-added work). With this approach, most facilities were able to refer to existing process hazard analysis studies and did not have to perform new calculations. Some of the typical modeling tools we use include DNV's PHAST software, Baker Risk's SafeSite3G software, and the Risk Analysis Screening Tool (RAST) originally created by Dow, which is now publicly available via the Center for Chemical Process Safety (CCPS).

After the Greenbelt Standard was updated, a broad communication was sent to impacted leaders and supplemental training opportunities were offered. Additionally, all site leaders received an action to report progress on achieving compliance with the standard such that progress could be monitored at a corporate level.

### Program results

The land use strategy documentation requirement proved to be an effective way to ensure thoughtful consideration of hazards and the potential impact those hazards could have on

the surrounding community. Since the original 2012 issue of guidance on greenbelt management, some notable achievements include:

- Off-site impacts were estimated for more than 100 sites and land use strategies were developed as needed.
- Leadership at many of our sites began advocating for land use planning within local forums. For example, Dow successfully advocated against a charter school development that was proposed to be located near our operations. As a result, the school permit was denied.
- Additional land has been acquired to improve buffer zones at 16 of our sites.
- Conservation sales or donations have occurred for land near four of our sites. This allows the land to serve as an open space and preserves the space as a natural habitat.
- Well over 130 proposed land transactions have received process safety reviews. In some cases, otherwise economically advantageous transactions were rejected due to process safety concerns.

### Program partnership

As part of Dow's 2025 sustainability goals, Dow committed to a business decision process that values nature (6). This commitment delivers business value and natural capital value through projects that are good for business and ecosystems. Specialized tools were developed with The Nature Conservancy nonprofit for this purpose; these tools provide the data needed to assess the value provided by the ecosystem and compare it with alternatives. This allows us to make business decisions that take nature into account.

In 2017, the team responsible for the Greenbelt Standard formed a partnership with Dow's "Valuing Nature" team. As a result, we use the valuing nature evaluation protocol to screen all greenbelt real estate acquisitions to identify opportunities for engineered solutions that provide co-benefits for the environment. Some examples where we have benefited the environment through our use of our buffer zones include:

- *constructed wetlands (Figure 1)*. To meet suspended solids requirements for wastewater treatment, a constructed wetland was installed instead of a more traditional sequencing batch reactor (7). The lifecycle assessment of both options indicated that the lower energy and material inputs to the constructed wetland would yield lower potential environmental impacts. These include fossil fuel use, acidification, smog formation, and ozone depletion that likely lead to lower potential impacts for global warming and marine eutrophication.
- *drying ponds*. To allow recycling of filtered water, drying ponds were installed within a buffer zone. The drying ponds increased water supply resiliency for the site and reduced freshwater intensity and demand on the nearby river basin.



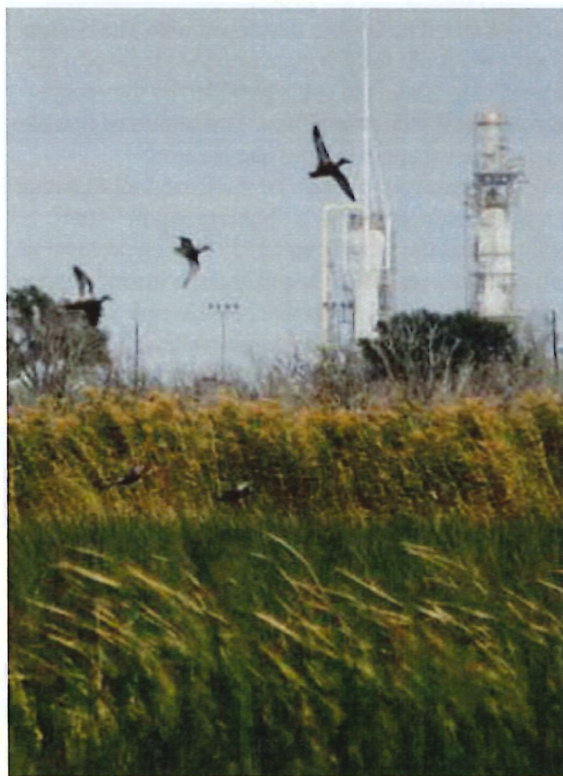
- *sustainable land management.* To enhance biodiversity while also lowering operating and maintenance costs, land intervention, such as mowing, was scheduled based on safety and access needs. Land that did not require periodic access was used for habitat creation and installation of native species.

- *land conservation.* To prevent settlement of buffer zone land, some land was divested and placed in conservation through sale or lease.

### Effective greenbelt management case studies

To illustrate greenbelt management practices, three case studies are detailed. The specific case studies utilize generic names but reflect true accounts of how the work process has been applied to effectively manage greenbelt areas.

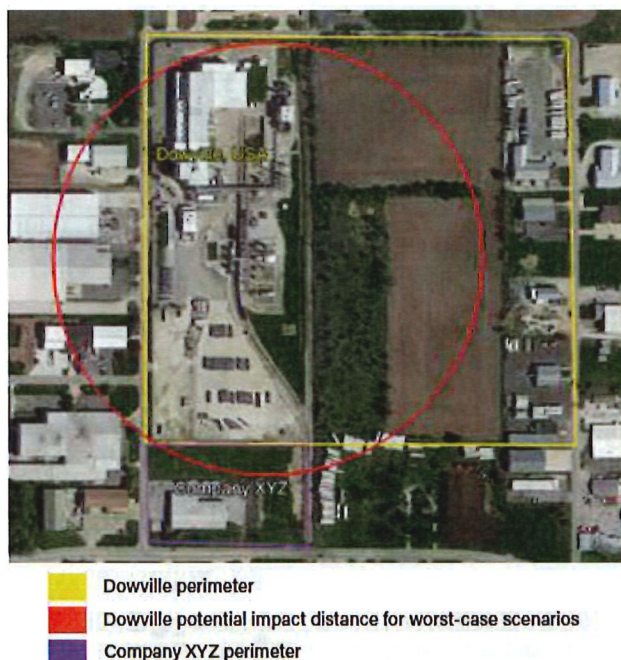
**Study 1. Dowville.** The Dowville site handles flammable and toxic chemicals, and multiple protection layers are in place to prevent inadvertent releases. However, in a worst-case scenario, the impact could extend up to 820 ft, as shown in Figure 2. There is adequate greenbelt space to the east of the facility to prevent community impact, but there is a potential to impact industrial neighbors to the west and south.



▲ **Figure 1.** The constructed wetlands within the buffer zone area of an operating facility were used to meet requirements for wastewater treatment instead of a more traditional sequencing batch reactor.

Following Dow's Corporate Greenbelt Standard, a land use strategy was developed for the site. As part of Dowville's land use strategy, a local real estate firm was engaged to monitor for purchase opportunities within the potential impact area. In 2017, the real estate firm notified site leadership of an opportunity; the industrial neighbor to the south, Company XYZ, was relocating operations and placed their property on the market. The property was approximately five acres and included a 25,000-ft<sup>2</sup> building. Although a local paint brush manufacturer was also interested in the property, Dowville managed to win the bid with a purchase price of \$500,000, thus increasing their greenbelt to the south. Properties to the west are still monitored for additional greenbelt expansion opportunities.

**Study 2. Dow-Crossing.** Dow-Crossing is a valve station that handles propane at 1,200 psig. Although this facility has multiple protection layers in place to prevent inadvertent releases, in a worst-case scenario, flammable impacts from Dow-Crossing could extend up to 700 ft (Figure 3). In 2018, Company Astro informed Dow that they were interested in purchasing a portion of the undeveloped land at Dow-Crossing. Company Astro wanted to buy the land indicated in the purple-shaded region in Figure 3 to build a warehouse. The potential impact area from a worst-case scenario, indicated in red, included a portion of the land being evaluated for divestiture. Based on a review of the potential flammable impacts



▲ **Figure 2.** The Dowville site managed to purchase land that falls within their potential impact area, further increasing their greenbelt buffer zone.



## SAFETY

on the land and consistent with Dow's Corporate Greenbelt Standard, a recommendation was made to not accept the offer. Upper management supported the decision, and the offer was declined.

**Study 3. Dow Green site.** The Dow Green facility purchased some land offsite with the objective of increasing their buffer zone from the community. They are work-



- Dow-Crossing perimeter
- Dow-Crossing potential impact distance for worst-case scenarios
- Proposed land divestiture

▲ **Figure 3.** An offer was received to purchase a portion of land within Dow-Crossing. Because the proposed land divestiture fell within the potential impact area, Dow declined the offer.



▲ **Figure 4.** The Dow Green site's pollinator garden highlights the ability to enhance nature within a site's buffer zone.

ing with a local partner to plant native grasses and trees, thereby creating a pollinator garden (Figure 4). This represented a good opportunity to widen the buffer zone while contributing to nature and creating an improved aesthetic for the community.

### Best practices and future improvements

Land use strategies are not static; they are influenced by operational changes on site as well as by changes to land use around the facility. Therefore, facilities are expected to review their strategies at least every four years. Several sites have established standing land use committees that monitor for changes within or outside of the facility that could impact the land use strategy and review and update the strategy more frequently. This is an approach that can be leveraged to increase the effectiveness of the greenbelt program.

A future extension of the greenbelt program will include similar types of reviews and approvals for land and building transactions (leases, property transfers, and sales) within our site boundaries to ensure the application of a consistent approach that adequately manages potential risks. Elements of the Greenbelt Standard are being incorporated within the mergers and acquisitions due diligence work process; this will ensure that a site buffer zone evaluation will occur prior to acquiring assets.

It is also important for the chemical industry — and the



surrounding communities — to lobby for land use regulations that enable economic growth while sensibly restricting zoning and limiting new construction close to operating chemical facilities. Dow has successfully lobbied against developments near some of our operations. As mentioned previously, a charter school with outdoor soccer fields was proposed to be built near one of our operating facilities. The proposed location was undeveloped land well within our operations' potential impact area. Site leadership met with local government officials and made a strong case to only allow industrial development in the area. Agreement was reached and the charter school permit was denied.

### Conclusion

It is clear from past incidents that it is vital to maintain adequate separation between industry and the community. Dow's formal protocol for greenbelt management has served to ensure that the areas around our operations are evaluated, and strategies are created to appropriately manage buffer zones. The requirements of the Greenbelt Standard are straightforward; however, strong support from corporate leadership is key to achieving success from any program of this nature.

While Dow's program for buffer zone management is a great step toward further limiting the consequences of potential hazard scenarios, more action is required. The approach described in this paper is highly leverageable, and other companies are urged to develop similar approaches to ensure that they maintain adequate separation between potential hazards and the community. It is vital that the

chemical industry seek to site new operations with adequate buffer zones between industry and the surrounding community and to proactively maintain and improve existing buffer zones. Additionally, it is critical that companies in the chemical process industries partner with local governments and regulators to ensure that buffer zones are not compromised due to local development and/or lack of regulation. **CEP**

**KAREN STUDY, P.E.**, is the Director of the Personal Safety and Industrial Hygiene Expertise Center at The Dow Chemical Company (Email: kstudy@dow.com). In this role, she provides oversight to ensure that global environmental, health, and safety (EHS) goals are met through the optimization of existing requirements, training, work processes, technology, and tools. She also represents to industry, government, and other external stakeholders the company's EHS standards, programs, work processes, and tools, to create a favorable framework for achieving the company EHS objectives. Study received her BS in chemical engineering from the Univ. of Texas.

**JOHN CURRIE, PhD**, is a Senior Process Safety Manager at The Dow Chemical Company (Email: John.s.currie@dow.com). As part of this role, he is the owner of the Greenbelt Standard, which provides corporation-level support for sites and businesses in establishing and maintaining buffer zones. He also supports higher-level safety studies as part of the Process Safety Expertise Center through consequence modeling analysis. Currie received his BEng and PhD in chemical engineering from the Univ. of Edinburgh.

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2. **U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board**, "Confined Vapor Cloud Explosion," Investigation Report 2007-03-I-MA, CSB (May 2008).
3. **Calamur, K.**, "China's Response to the Tianjin Explosions," *The Atlantic*, [www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2015/08/chinas-response-tianjin-explosions/401426](http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2015/08/chinas-response-tianjin-explosions/401426) (Aug. 2015).
4. **Phillips, T., and F. Ryan**, "Tianjin Blasts: China Orders Nationwide Checks on Dangerous Chemicals," *The Guardian*, [www.theguardian.com/world/2015/aug/14/tianjin-explosions-china-orders-checks-chemicals](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/aug/14/tianjin-explosions-china-orders-checks-chemicals) (Aug. 2015).
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7. **DiMuro, J. L., et al.**, "A Financial Analysis of Constructed Wetlands for Industrial Wastewater Treatment," *Journal of Industrial Ecology*, **18** (5), pp. 631–640 (Apr. 2014).

## AICHE ACADEMY



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## REGION 3

PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103

January 8, 2025

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Ms. Suna Yi Sariscak  
Manager  
Maryland Department of the Environment  
Air Quality Permits Program  
Air and Radiation Administration  
1800 Washington Blvd,  
Baltimore, MD 21230

RE: Applicability Determination Request - OSWI Rule and Proposed Pilot Plant in Maryland

Dear Ms. Sariscak:

We have received your December 13th, 2024 letter requesting an Applicability Determination for W.R. Grace & Co.-Conn and applicability of 40 CFR Part 60, Subpart EEEE - Standards of Performance for Other Solid Waste Incineration (OSWI).

### Background

The December 13<sup>th</sup> letter and supplemental application describe a proposed Research and Development lab to be constructed by W.R. Grace & Co.-Conn ("Grace"). The proposed R&D facility intends to construct a catalytic pyrolysis unit, for the purposes of:

...researching the scaling up of an innovative process to convert 1kg/hr of plastics back to their original components. The reactor in this proposed process will use a catalyst and heat in the form of steam to carry out this reaction. The Product from the reactor is a vapor. The vapor is sent via pipe to a condenser. The vapor that is liquified in the condenser is the product, which is then stored in drums. The drums are sent off site for disposal once data is collected. Non condensables from the condenser are sent via pipe to an electric flameless thermal oxidizer to control any VOC that may be present in the gas stream.

Furthermore, two phases will occur in which phase 1 will utilized virgin plastic as feedstock and if the project is determined to be "technologically feasible" and "commercially viable" phase 2 will consist of

processing recycled plastics. It's stated that Grace "cannot directly process plastic waste" and will need to source cleaned, pelletized recycled plastics.

### Determination

Subpart EEEE has three applicability requirements, which are:

- (a) Your incineration unit is a new incineration unit as defined in § 60.2886.
- (b) Your incineration unit is an [Other Solid Waste Incinerator] OSWI unit as defined in § 60.2977 or an air curtain incinerator subject to this subpart as described in § 60.2888(b). Other solid waste incineration units are very small municipal waste combustion units and institutional waste incineration units as defined in § 60.2977.
- (c) Your incineration unit is not excluded under § 60.2887.

The proposed catalytic pyrolysis unit, when constructed would be "new" as defined in §60.2886, which is defined to mean having a construction date after December 9, 2004. Additionally, the unit would meet the definition of an Other Solid Waste Incinerator, as OSWI expressly includes pyrolysis units. Despite the first two applicability requirements being satiated, the proposed catalytic pyrolysis unit would meet an exemption under § 60.2887.

§ 60.2887 states that "Your unit is excluded if it burns samples of materials only for the purpose of chemical or physical analysis." If the catalytic pyrolysis unit is operated for the sole purpose of research, the unit would be exempted from other requirements promulgated in 40 CFR Part 60, Subpart EEEE - Standards of Performance for Other Solid Waste Incineration (OSWI). Please note that rules such as 40 CFR 60 – Standards of Performance for New Stationary Sources do change occasionally, and any future changes to Subpart EEEE should be evaluated.

The EPA's response hereinabove to the request for applicability determination was coordinated with EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) and EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS). EPA's applicability determination is specific to the facts provided in the December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 letter and supplemental application from W.R. Grace & Co.-Conn and any differences in the constructed facility or its operations may invalidate this response. If you have any questions regarding this response, please contact Steve Ott, of the Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division at (215) 814-2267 or ott.steven@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Karen Melvin  
Director  
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division

CC:

Cristina Fernandez, EPA Region 3, fernandez.cristina@epa.gov

Kristen Hall, EPA Region 3, hall.kristen@epa.gov

MaryCate Opila, EPA Region 3, opila.marycate@epa.gov

Steve Ott, EPA Region 3, ott.steven@epa.gov

---

**From:** Darryll Pines <darryll.pines@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 15, 2025 2:10 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Written Testimony for Tuesday (2/18/25) HC Council Meeting  
**Attachments:** HCC\_Written\_Testimony\_Pines.docx

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear HCC,

I am a resident of the River Hill Community, and I am submitting this written testimony for the Tuesday night council meeting focused on CB 11-2025.

Best,

Darryll



To Whom it May Concern,

I am a resident of the neighborhood of River Hill and I am submitting this written testimony in support of CB 11-2025 (ZRA-211). This Bill as I understand it will allow entities in a Planned Employment Center (PEC) to perform research and development but prohibit testing involving commercial plastic pellets or feedstock.

I have lived in the River Hill neighborhood for over 25 years. For the most part, W.R. Grace and the community have worked well together to ensure that environmental standards are upheld to ensure the safety and security of the Robinson Nature Preserve, and the surrounding residential communities including Cedar Creek. Before the Cedar Creek community was developed, the land that it currently sits on served as a buffer zone between W.R. Grace and the larger River Hill community. Because of this buffer zone, families felt safe from any potential negative environmental hazard that might have its origins at the W.R. Grace facility. Today, there are literally dwellings that are within 70 meters of the W.R. Grace facility located at 7500 Grace Drive. This close proximity puts families and especially children in harms way to any potential hazardous toxins or other environmental hazards that might be emitted from W.R. Grace.

As a scientist, engineer, researcher and administrator at a local university, I know firsthand the potential that any environmental accident can cause to the nearby community it shares. Often despite the best safety protocols, accidents happen and can put those that are in close proximity in harms way. While I realize that this new research and development capability will bring more jobs, the Howard County Council simply must err on the side of safety for its residents over any potential economic gain.

I respectfully request that you please pass this CB-11 2025 bill for these children who are the future of Howard County. Thank you for listening to the community.

Signed,

Darryll Pines

---

**From:** shawmd5@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 15, 2025 12:24 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Cc:** shawmd5@comcast.net  
**Subject:** WR Grace Lawsuits and Settlements  
**Attachments:** Grace Lawsuits and Settlements.docx

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

See attached that I will use for my testimony at the hearing (2/18/2025) regarding WR Grace, lawsuits filed and settlements.

The lawsuits over the past 20+ years illustrate that Grace has absolutely no concern for human life or the environment.

I hope that we can get WR Grace to NOT burn plastics and to move this R&D initiative to a different state.

Debbi Shaw  
7779 Cross Creek Dr  
Columbia, MD 21044  
Cedar Creek Development



When purchasing our home in Cedar Creek, we were told only the Administrative Offices were at WR Grace – just feet from our development. Obviously, that is not the case, Grace, a global supplier of specialty chemicals, has submitted a permit to Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) to burn plastic in Howard County just 70 meters from our neighborhood. This will result in harmful chemicals to be released in the air. WR Grace has had a history for decades of causing cancer in communities throughout the United States (including their own employees).

Cedar Creek is asking for a 600 yard buffer from WR Grace burning plastics R&D Project. Our goal is critical for protecting our children, families and our community from cancer and blood disorders from carcinogens and air pollution that the facility will be creating.

Grace **should NOT be permitted to burn plastics and must be stopped.** For decades they have had lawsuits brought against them and yet they continue to implement projects that cause cancer and are extremely harmful to people. This is a company that does not have regard for human life or the surrounding environment.

See just a few of the lawsuits below.

<https://www.hbs.edu/faculty/Pages/item.aspx?num=43246>

Since 2001, Grace had lawsuits alleging that its products contained asbestos, and had caused hundreds of thousands of people to contract asbestos-related diseases such as mesothelioma and lung cancer. Their liability due to lawsuits is between \$83 million and \$173 million.

<https://www.epa.gov/enforcement/case-summary-w-r-grace-co-bankruptcy-settlement>

In December 20, 2007, the EPA and the DOJ announced that W.R. Grace agreed to a \$34 million settlement for cleanup costs at 32 Superfund sites across the country where Grace disposed of hazardous substances and where cleanup is required. These sites are in MD, PA, CA, UT, NY, TX, CO, KY, to name a few.

<https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/wr-grace-pays-over-63-million-toward-cleanup-and-restoration-hazardous-waste-sites>

In 2014, W.R. Grace & Co paid over \$63 million to the U.S. government to resolve claims for environmental cleanups at approximately 39 sites in 21 states, according to the DOJ and EPA.

<https://www.asbestos.com/companies/wr-grace/>

In 2015, the WR Grace PI trust paid \$353 million to resolve more than 50,000 claims filed by people diagnosed with asbestos-related diseases such as [mesothelioma](#).

<https://apnews.com/article/health-business-montana-public-greg-gianforte-3533fb7fb90e366ec0e8c99868ed0545>

In 2011 and 2017, more than 2,000 Montana residents reached settlements with WR Grace totaling \$68 million for failing to warn them about the dangers of asbestos exposure.

In February 2022, a jury awarded an Oregon man \$36.5 million in a lawsuit against W.R. Grace's workers' compensation insurer because the company did not warn workers of those dangers. Hundreds of others have now filed lawsuits and claims.

<https://mesothelioma.net/w-r-grace/>

Jun 23, 2024 — W.R. Grace caused asbestos exposure and resulting illness in thousands of people, including the residents near the Libby, Montana mine. Over 250,000 claims and lawsuits over asbestos exposure were filed against W.R. Grace. WR Grace filed for bankruptcy protection in 2001. Just before filing, the company transferred a few billion dollars to subsidiaries to protect money from asbestos claims.

The Department of Justice declared the action fraudulent and ordered \$1 billion be returned to the company and considered assets in the bankruptcy process. In 2008 the company agreed to set aside \$1.8 billion for settling asbestos cases.<sup>[5]</sup>

<https://www.baltimoresun.com/2024/06/20/city-plastic-lawsuit/>

<https://insideclimatenews.org/news/24062024/baltimore-lawsuit-targets-plastic-maker/>

June 20, 2024

Baltimore City filed suit against WR Grace and several other companies that produce plastics, arguing they should foot the bill for cleaning up plastic pollution on city streets and in the city's bodies of water.

As previously mentioned, our goal is to provide a buffer from Grace to protect Cedar Creek and other Columbia MD residents with their R&D effort of burning plastics. Personally, I don't even understand how a company can burn plastics producing carcinogens so close to any residential area. If a fire was to occur at Grace as a result the company burning plastics, there is only one street that leads out of Cedar Creek neighborhood. Could families quickly evacuate? If a chemical explosion were to occur, like the chemical explosion that happened yesterday in Louisville (<https://www.cnn.com/2024/11/12/us/explosion-louisville-kentucky/index.html>), how many adults and children would be killed? How many houses would be destroyed? Could EMS and the Fire Department gain access to our neighborhood to help those injured and impacted by the explosion? What effect would the explosion have on our environment? As mentioned before, WR Grace has had a history for decades of causing cancer in communities throughout the United States (including their own employees). We are hoping you can help Cedar Creek and Columbia MD keep our residents, community and environment safe by approving the ZRA buffer of 600 yards.

Thank you

---

**From:** Niphururiya@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Jill Adams  
<Niphururiya@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 15, 2025 8:26 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support CB11-2025 for a safe buffer between WR Grace and surrounding neighborhoods

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council,

As a Marylander, I'm deeply concerned by W.R. Grace's proposed "advanced recycling" pilot plant. This plant would spew carcinogenic air pollution just 70 meters from local homes in the Cedar Creek neighborhood of Columbia, Maryland.

Let's be clear. "Advanced recycling" is neither advanced nor recycling. This is just a misleading term for burning plastic waste and turning our plastic pollution problem into an air pollution problem. Read more about this harmful practice here:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.momscleanairforce.org%2Fresources%2Fchemical-recycling-101%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cianderson%40howardcountymd.gov%7C3fe460049e1b43733a4508dd4dc44c3f%7C0538130803664bb7a95b95304bd11a58%7C1%7C0%7C638752227789618806%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMmllsIkFOljoiTWFpbCIsIlIdUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C60000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=zWwedzTkaj%2BgdX0aw82cjLHEkl6wzyjZSQySgIR776w%3D&reserved=0>

I urge you to support CB11-2025 to ensure a safe buffer between corporations like W.R. Grace conducting research and development (R&D) and residential neighborhoods.

This proposed facility not only will spew cancerous air pollution, but also is susceptible to fires, explosions, accidents, leaks, and more due to its experimental nature. Residents must be protected from these potential catastrophes by ensuring a safe buffer.

It is crucial that the Howard County Council listens to concerned community members and holds W.R. Grace accountable to public health standards. Please do not set the precedent that chemical companies and serial polluters like W.R. Grace can freely pollute and harm our communities. If this can happen in Cedar Creek, it can happen anywhere. Please protect Maryland families and keep our state safe.

Sincerely,  
Jill Adams  
8982 Wetbanks Ct Columbia, MD 21045-2536 Niphururiya@hotmail.com

---

**From:** a2z810@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Kathleen Zeminsky <a2z810@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 15, 2025 3:00 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support CB11-2025 for a safe buffer between WR Grace and surrounding neighborhoods

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<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.momscleanairforce.org%2Fresources%2Fchemical-recycling-101%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cianderson%40howardcountymd.gov%7Ca1df7c2d6f1d494236d508dd4d96c8f7%7C0538130803664bb7a95b95304bd11a58%7C1%7C0%7C638752032208517930%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMmliSklFOIjoiTWVpbiIsIlR5bGEiOiJ1bSIsImVudCI6IjE5MjAyNS02LTI0bnVudC0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=UCSQu%2FJkSJsF7Ft2I02bn%2BbpPxsRN8nMZUQrRBg9J70%3D&reserved=0>

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Sincerely,  
Kathleen Zeminsky  
9776 Riverside Cir Ellicott City, MD 21042-5712 a2z810@verizon.net

---

**From:** lisaboynton13@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Lisa Boynton <lisaboynton13@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 15, 2025 3:51 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support CB11-2025 for a safe buffer between WR Grace and surrounding neighborhoods

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Sincerely,  
Lisa Boynton  
1024 Forest Hills Ave Annapolis, MD 21403-1749 lisaboynton13@gmail.com

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**From:** pmcglander@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Patricia Glander  
<pmcglander@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 15, 2025 12:17 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support CB11-2025 for a safe buffer between WR Grace and surrounding neighborhoods

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.momscleanairforce.org%2Fresources%2Fchemical-recycling-101%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cianderson%40howardcountymd.gov%7C26fa854c537448f7122608dd4de49fba%7C0538130803664bb7a95b95304bd11a58%7C1%7C0%7C638752366510696293%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOilwLjAuMDAwMCIslIAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=yxks8593tggOs3E8Dt9kVzZHOSuAvJFwFINLFHmbYg0%3D&reserved=0>

I urge you to support CB11-2025 to ensure a safe buffer between corporations like W.R. Grace conducting research and development (R&D) and residential neighborhoods.

This proposed facility not only will spew cancerous air pollution, but also is susceptible to fires, explosions, accidents, leaks, and more due to its experimental nature. Residents must be protected from these potential catastrophes by ensuring a safe buffer.

It is crucial that the Howard County Council listens to concerned community members and holds W.R. Grace accountable to public health standards. Please do not set the precedent that chemical companies and serial polluters like W.R. Grace can freely pollute and harm our communities. If this can happen in Cedar Creek, it can happen anywhere. Please protect Maryland families and keep our state safe.

Sincerely,  
Patricia Glander  
1902 Everest St Silver Spring, MD 20902-4041 pmcglander@verizon.net

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**From:** llevine101@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Susan Levine <llevine101@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 15, 2025 1:51 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support CB11-2025 for a safe buffer between WR Grace and surrounding neighborhoods

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council,

As a Marylander, I'm deeply concerned by W.R. Grace's proposed "advanced recycling" pilot plant. This plant would spew carcinogenic air pollution just 70 meters from local homes in the Cedar Creek neighborhood of Columbia, Maryland.

Let's be clear. "Advanced recycling" is neither advanced nor recycling. This is just a misleading term for burning plastic waste and turning our plastic pollution problem into an air pollution problem. Read more about this harmful practice here:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.momscleanairforce.org%2Fresources%2Fchemical-recycling-101%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cianderson%40howardcountymd.gov%7C9bca1e6652604aed12bf08dd4d8d1a31%7C0538130803664bb7a95b95304bd11a58%7C1%7C0%7C638751990655875931%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMmllsIkFOljoiTWFpbGlldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ENZx4jTrOoYau9II6grbWYMnkychs0DsYIC8bQwrXSY%3D&reserved=0>

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Sincerely,  
Susan Levine  
15100 Interlachen Dr Apt 204 Silver Spring, MD 20906-5694 llevine101@aol.com



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**From:** vailanderson1004@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Vail Anderson <vailanderson1004@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 15, 2025 9:18 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support CB11-2025 for a safe buffer between WR Grace and surrounding neighborhoods

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council,

🌿 As a Marylander, I'm deeply concerned by W.R. Grace's proposed "advanced recycling" pilot plant. This plant would spew carcinogenic air pollution just 70 meters from local homes in the Cedar Creek neighborhood of Columbia, Maryland.

😞 Let's be clear. "Advanced recycling" is neither advanced nor recycling. This is just a misleading term for burning plastic waste and turning our plastic pollution problem into an air pollution problem. Read more about this harmful practice here:  
<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.momscleanairforce.org%2Fresources%2Fchemical-recycling-101%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cianderson%40howardcountymd.gov%7Cbf55222edae94cd33a3808dd4dcb7d90%7C0538130803664bb7a95b95304bd11a58%7C1%7C0%7C638752258583186294%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIlwLjAuMDAwMClslIAiOiJXaW4zMlslkFOljoiTWFpbCIsIlIdUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Z8UjwRN94JOqDJ4sEAaql%2Bays7CAz63EoohdRnm1KfQ%3D&reserved=0>

🙏 I urge you to support CB11-2025 to ensure a safe buffer between corporations like W.R. Grace conducting research and development (R&D) and residential neighborhoods.

🔥 This proposed facility not only will spew cancerous air pollution, but also is susceptible to fires, explosions, accidents, leaks, and more due to its experimental nature. Residents must be protected from these potential catastrophes by ensuring a safe buffer.

🔗 It is crucial that the Howard County Council listens to concerned community members and holds W.R. Grace accountable to public health standards.

PLEASE do not set the precedent that chemical companies and serial polluters like W.R. Grace can freely pollute and harm our communities. If this can happen in Cedar Creek, it can happen anywhere. Please protect Maryland families and keep our state safe.

Sincerely,  
Vail Anderson



27 N Rolling Rd Catonsville, MD 21228-4849 vailanderson1004@gmail.com