



**Maryland**  
Department of  
the Environment

Wes Moore, Governor  
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor

Serena McIlwain, Secretary  
Suzanne E. Dorsey, Deputy Secretary

The Honorable Chao Wu  
Lowe House Office Building, Room 217  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Delegate Wu:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the Department has scheduled a virtual public hearing concerning an air quality Permit to Construct application submitted by a company to be located near your jurisdiction. The Department has completed its evaluation of the permit application and has made a tentative determination that the Permit to Construct can be issued.

The Department has required the applicant to publish the enclosed notice at least once a week for two consecutive weeks in the legal section of a daily or weekly newspaper of general circulation in the geographical area in which the proposed installation will be located. The notice provides the following information about the permit application:

Applicant:	WR Grace & Company 7500 Grace Drive Columbia MD 21044
Proposal:	Installation of a new research-scale pilot plant including small, R&D-scale reactors, chillers, separators, feeders, and samplers with an exhaust gas stream, cleaned by an electric, flameless thermal oxidizer.
Date and Time of Virtual Hearing:	April 29, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

The public hearing will be held virtually. Please see the enclosed notice for information on how to register to attend the hearing. Interested persons may submit written or oral comments at the hearing. An extension to the comment period was requested and granted. Written comments may be submitted to the Department no later than **July 29, 2024**. Your participation in this proceeding is welcome.

Sincerely,  
/s/

Angelo Bianca, Deputy Director  
Air and Radiation Administration

AB/sh  
Enclosure

**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT  
AIR AND RADIATION ADMINISTRATION**

**NOTICE OF TENTATIVE DETERMINATION, PUBLIC HEARING, AND  
OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS**

**FIRST NOTICE**

The Department of the Environment, Air and Radiation Administration (ARA) has completed its review of an application for a Permit to Construct submitted by W.R. Grace & Company on September 21, 2023 for one (1) pilot plant line. The proposed installation will be located at 7500 Grace Drive, Columbia, MD 21044.

The issuance of the Permit-to-Construct for this facility will be the subject of a Virtual Public Hearing to be held on April 29, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

To attend the hearing, please register using the following link no later than April 26, 2024:

<https://forms.gle/rp2FbG77LWTBtz7F9>

Registered attendees will receive instructions on how to join the virtual hearing using a computer and internet connection or telephone on the day of the hearing.

Pursuant to Section 1-604, of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, the Department has made a tentative determination that the Permit to Construct can be issued and is now ready to receive public comment on the application. Copies of the Department's tentative determination, the application, the draft permit to construct with conditions, and other supporting documents are available for public inspection on the Department's website. Look for Docket #16-23 at the following link:

<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Permits/AirManagementPermits/Pages/index.aspx>

In accordance with HB 1200/Ch. 588 of 2022, the applicant provided an environmental justice (EJ) Score for the census tract in which the project is located using the Maryland EJ Screening Tool. The EJ Score, expressed as a statewide percentile, was shown to be 29, which the Department has verified. This score considers three demographic indicators, minority population above 50%, poverty rate above 25% and limited English proficiency above 15%, to identify underserved communities. Multiple environmental health indicators are used to identify overburdened communities. The Department's review of the environmental and socioeconomic indicators contributing to that EJ score is included in the tentative determination that is available for public inspection.

Persons who wish to make a statement concerning this application at the hearing are requested to provide the Department with a copy of their statement. A public request for a 60-day extension to the 30-day comment period has been granted. In lieu of oral statements at the hearing, written comments may be submitted at the time of the hearing or to the Department no later than 90 days from the date of this notice.

All written comments should be directed to the attention of Ms. Shannon Heafey by email to [shannon.heafey@maryland.gov](mailto:shannon.heafey@maryland.gov) or by mail to the Air Quality Permits Program, Air and Radiation Administration, 1800 Washington Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21230.

The Department will provide an interpreter for deaf and hearing-impaired persons provided that a request is made for such service at least ten (10) days prior to the hearing. Further information may be obtained by calling Ms. Shannon Heafey at 410-537-4433.

Christopher R. Hoagland, Director  
Air and Radiation Administration