



REGION 3 ADMINISTRATOR

PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103

February 12, 2025

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Shamieka Preston
Cedar Creek Resident
snixon2993@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Preston:

Thank you for your December 23, 2024, electronic correspondence to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) concerning W.R. Grace's proposed research and development pilot project in Columbia, Maryland. The authority to issue Clean Air Act permits in Maryland, including the W.R. Grace draft permit, has been delegated to Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), and MDE will make a final determination regarding the issuance of a permit modification for the facility. The EPA and MDE are coordinating regarding questions related to Clean Air Act applicable requirements for the W.R. Grace pilot project. This coordination includes determining the applicability of Solid Waste Incineration Rules under Clean Air Act Section 129.

On December 13, 2024, MDE submitted an applicability determination request to the EPA regarding the applicability of the 40 CFR Part 60, Subpart EEEE Standards of Performance for Other Solid Waste Incineration Units (OSWI Rule) to the project. The EPA issued a determination on January 8, 2025 that the proposed project meets an exemption in the OSWI Rule for units operated for the sole purpose of research. These letters are attached to this correspondence.

The EPA reviewed the draft permit, and the EPA is working with MDE throughout the state permitting process to ensure comprehensive oversight and effective action. The EPA is aware of your concerns regarding the W.R. Grace pilot project permit. The EPA intends to review the final permit once MDE makes a final permit determination. MDE maintains an email list of interested parties, and MDE will notify anyone who signs up for the email list of the final permit decision.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, or have your staff contact Cristina

Fernández, Director, Air and Radiation Division, Four Penn Center, 1600 John F. Kennedy Boulevard, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103 at 215-814-2178 or Fernandez.Cristina@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Catherine A. Libertz
Acting Regional Administrator

ENCLOSURES

1. OSWI Applicability Determination Request Letter
2. WR Grace Reg. Interpretation Signed

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