



NEWS RELEASE

State of Maryland Department
of Health and Mental Hygiene

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STATE CONSIDERS POLLUTION OFFSET

For immediate release:

A public hearing is scheduled to consider the application of the Atlantic Cement Company of Stamford, Conn., to construct a slag processing facility at Sparrows Point, Md., according to William M. Eichbaum, Assistant Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Office of Environmental Programs.

The hearing is set for 7 p.m., September 23, in the Cafetorium of the General John Stricker Junior High School, 7855 Trappe Road, in Baltimore.

The proposed new facility would process slag (the refuse separated from metal in the process of smelting) generated by Bethlehem Steel so that it can be used in cement and other products.

Currently, this slag is processed by the Maryland Slag Company at Sparrows Point. In a unique business agreement, Atlantic Cement has proposed to buy additional pollution control equipment for Maryland Slag to reduce its particulate emissions by 1,260 pounds a day. Once that reduction is realized, Atlantic Cement will be allowed to emit 1,044 pounds of particulate emissions a day.

Additionally, Atlantic Cement will be required to install the best pollution control devices available on its slag processing facility.

Without this emissions reduction, Atlantic Cement would not receive construction approval from the Office of Environmental Programs because the Sparrows Point area is one in which the pollution levels are already higher

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than allowed.

If the agreement receives final approval, it will be the first time this type of arrangement regarding an external pollution offset (one company trading or buying emissions with another company) has been made in Maryland. If accepted by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the agreement will be sent to the United States Environmental Protection Agency as a revision to Maryland's State Implementation Plan.

It has been determined by State Health officials that there will be a net reduction in particulate emissions, resulting in an ambient air quality benefit as a result of this agreement.

A public informational meeting will be held two weeks before the hearing at 7 p.m. on September 9, also in the Cafetorium of the General John Stricker Junior High School. Technical staff will be available from the Department and the Company to answer questions about this proposed new facility.

Formal comments or data may be submitted orally or in writing at the hearing, or in writing prior to the hearing to Sharon Baylin, Air Quality Programs, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, 201 West Preston Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201.

Copies of materials applicable to this request will be available for public review thirty days prior to the hearing in the offices of Air Quality Programs, 201 West Preston Street, 2nd Floor, and the Eastern Regional Office of the Baltimore County Health Department, 9100 Franklin Square Drive.

The materials will also be available for review at the following branches of the Baltimore County Public Library: Dundalk, Center and Shipping Place; Essex Area, 1110 Eastern Boulevard; North Point Area, 1716 Merritt Boulevard; and Turner Station, 411 New Pittsburg Avenue.

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