



Government of the District of Columbia
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3/4G

Chevy Chase, Barnaby Woods, Hawthorne

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ANC 3/4G Resolution
Supporting Closing and the Removal of the
National Engineering Products Chemical Facility Located in
Ivy City, Northeast, Washington, DC
January 08, 2024

BACKGROUND & RATIONALE:

1. Ivy City was founded as a predominantly African American post-Civil War subdivision in 1873. Development was slow and railroad and industrial activities moved in. Since the 1930s, this historically low-income community of color has been burdened with the social and environmental injustice and inequities from living near multiple polluting toxic facilities;
2. The National Engineering Products facility at 1950 Capitol Ave NE Washington DC 20002 (Ivy City) has been operating in the Ivy City Community since the 1930s and produces military-grade adhesives from harmful chemicals such as formaldehyde and cresol;
3. DOEE indicated that this facility has no Air Quality Permit because it has been operating before Air Quality Permits were created, and only has a certificate of occupancy since 1971;
4. This facility uses harmful chemicals such as formaldehyde, a carcinogen that is harmful to humans and animals in manufacturing a chemical adhesive (Copaltite)

which is a heat-resistant chemical compound used for sealing threads, flanges, etc, where very high temperatures and pressures are involved, for the military;

5. The chemicals that are being used are on EPA's Toxic Substances Control Act Inventory and are "extremely flammable, causes skin irritation, causes eye irritation and/or damage, "may" cause Cancer, allergy or asthma symptoms or breathing difficulties if inhaled, genetic defect, may damage fertility or the unborn child, may cause drowsiness or dizziness, and can damage organs through prolonged or repeated exposure, and included in the Safety Data Sheet for these materials, there's an Accidental Release Measure section that states, "Environmental Precautions; Avoid release to the environment, prevent entry into waterways, sewers, basements, or confined areas";
6. The burden of reporting nuisance odors emitting from the chemical plant into the air has been placed on the residents of Ivy City;
7. The nauseating smell of formaldehyde and burning tar has been and still is an ongoing nuisance;
8. The Ivy City neighborhood has submitted multiple complaints and demanded engagement with the Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Despite audits and problems flagged¹ the odor continues to be a nuisance to the point where residents say they are uncomfortable sitting outside due to the strong smell of burning tar coming from the chemicals²;
9. The odor is causing the surrounding neighbors health issues; historically low income and communities of color who have been redlined seem to live near toxic industries;
10. There has been local media coverage on the plants effect on Ivy City and the resident's efforts to prevent continued community harm³;
11. The District, DOEE, and EPA should acknowledge the rights of our communities to have access to clean air, land, water, and food;

¹ **Tetra Tech, Inc.'s evaluation of a completed air survey at the NEP facility:** https://doee.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/ddoe/release_content/attachments/National%20Engineering%20Products%20Nepseal%20Air%20Survey%20Re-port2_20_23.pdf

² **Safety data for copaltite:** <https://www.copaltite.com/pub/media/amasty/amfile/attach/9kzCrcIK82OFAI8JdODRp7X8scpBtmSi.pdf>

³ <https://dcist.com/story/23/07/27/ivy-city-shut-down-chemical-plant/> and <https://www.washingtoninformer.com/they-need-to-go-ivy-city-neighbors-demand-chemical-plant-shut-down/>

12. On November 13, 2023, the ANC’s Racial and Social Equity (RASE) Standing Committee submitted a memorandum⁴ to the ANC outlining this issue and their concerns for the Ivy City community. In its communication, RASE recommended:

- 1. The ANC 3/4G prepare a resolution recommending the immediate closure and removal of National Chemical Products, Inc.; and
- 2. The ANC to consider advocating for the facility’s closure during FY24 Budget Oversight hearings.

RESOLVED:

- 1. ANC 3/4G acknowledges and stands with ANC 5D in their fight for environmental justice and request the District, DDOE, and EPA ensure that our neighbors in Ivy City are not subjected to hazardous ecological conditions; and
- 2. ANC 3/4G concurs with RASE’s recommendation and requests the plant cease use of toxic chemicals, and adds further, until it can prove without a reasonable doubt that there is an ability to manufacture without any harmful effects to the adjacent community and environment; and
- 3. ANC 3/4G requests National Engineering Products, the District, DDOE, and EPA take appropriate measure to make communities whole if harmful effects from plant materials or operations are discovered;
- 4. Commissioner Gore is authorized to represent the Commission on this matter.

APPROVED at a regular public meeting, notice of which was properly given and at which a quorum of four (4) or seven (7) members was present on January 08, 2024 by a vote of X yes, X no, X abstentions.

Lisa R. Gore, Chair

Jim Nash, Secretary

⁴ <https://anc3g.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/2023-11-13-RASE-to-ANC-Ivy-City-Ltr.pdf>