

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

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IN RE: PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE MEDRECYCLER-RI, INC.  
MEDICAL WASTE TREATMENT FACILITY PERMIT VIA ZOOM  
\*\*\*\*\*

Date: March 15, 2021  
Time: 4:00 p.m.  
Place: Via Zoom

STAFF PRESENT

Mark Dennen, Supervising Environmental Scientist  
Yan Li, Principal Engineer  
Susan Forcier, RIDEM Legal Counsel  
Elizabeth Stone, Facilitator

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1 Monday, March 15, 2021

2 (Commencing at 4:00 p.m.)

3 MR. DENNEN: Welcome to the meeting. Let me just  
4 start my presentation. I have a few opening remarks. I  
5 know that there are some very important meetings taking  
6 place, and so I will try to be as brief as possible. I  
7 know, especially Senators Burke and Valderde, Mr. Budris  
8 are anxious to go -- to go to another meeting.

9 So, welcome to the public hearing for the  
10 MedRecycler, Inc. application. My name is Mark Dennen.  
11 Excuse me for a moment.

12 My name is Mark Dennen. I'm a supervising  
13 environmental scientist with the Department of  
14 Environmental Management in the Office of Land  
15 Revitalization and Sustainable Materials Management.  
16 Among the staff with me this afternoon is Yan Li and Sue  
17 Forcier from the team that's evaluating the application.

18 This hearing is being held in accordance with the  
19 Rhode Island General Law 23-19.12 and 23.18.9-9 and the  
20 Department's Medical Waste Rules and Regulations  
21 250-RICR-140-15-1.

22 The Department of Environmental Management issued a  
23 Notice of Intent to issue a license to MedRecycler,  
24 located on 1600 Division Road in West Warwick, on January

1 11, 2021 -- excuse me for a moment while I let a few more  
2 people in. Sorry about that -- 1600 Division Road in  
3 West Warwick, on January 11, 2021. The application is  
4 for a facility to treat a maximum of 70 tons per day of  
5 regulated medical waste by pyrolysis. The license, if  
6 approved, will be issued for three years of operation, as  
7 required by law.

8 A public notice regarding this proposed license was  
9 placed in the Kent County Daily Times, the Warwick  
10 Beacon, the East Greenwich Pendulum on January 21, 2012.  
11 It was also placed in the Providence Journal on January  
12 22, 2021. Copies of the Notice, Fact Sheet, and  
13 application were placed on the Department's website. A  
14 public informational workshop was conducted by Zoom on  
15 January 25th, 2021.

16 Today's formal hearing is not a question-and-answer  
17 session, but rather an opportunity for the public to  
18 place their comments on the official record. Written  
19 comments on this application will continue to be accepted  
20 by the Office of Land Revitalization and Sustainable  
21 Materials Management for 30 days following the close of  
22 the hearing.

23 Written comments may be submitted to the Department  
24 to the attention of Ms. Yan Li at the Office of Land

1 Revitalization and Sustainable Materials Management, at  
2 235 Promenade Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02908, or  
3 by e-mail to yan.li.@dem.ri.gov, or Mark Dennen, at  
4 mark.dennen@dem.ri.gov.

5 After the close of the public comment period, we'll  
6 compile all written comments submitted to the department,  
7 as well as any verbal comments placed on the record  
8 today, and will respond to those comments within 90 days  
9 of the close of the public comment period in writing.  
10 The Department will make a decision within 90 days to  
11 either issue or deny the license.

12 As there are a number of participants in today's  
13 hearing, we will use the following procedures to help us  
14 to allow everyone to be able to offer their comments and  
15 be heard.

16 The hearing will be from 4:00 to 7:30 tonight.  
17 Attendees who have called by phone in this hearing will  
18 be given the opportunity to comment after all the  
19 attendees who are online have signed up and spoken on the  
20 record.

21 While commenters are welcome to comment on any  
22 concerns, the subject of today's hearing and our review  
23 will be only issues related to the medical waste license  
24 application. If you wish to offer comments, please put

1 your name, and if you wish, you can also put your title,  
2 organization or e-mail in the chat box if you have not  
3 already done.

4 The meeting is being recorded and a stenographer is  
5 also present. This will help us have an accurate record.

6 Elected officials offering comments on behalf of  
7 communities that they represent will be given priority.  
8 Otherwise, we will go in the order that people have  
9 signed up in the chat box.

10 In order for all interested parties to be able to  
11 comment, each commenter will be allowed five minutes. I  
12 will have a five-minute timer that will display -- and  
13 I'll display the time, show the time at the four-minute  
14 mark.

15 All commenters are urged to also submit their  
16 comments in writing for clarity and completeness via  
17 e-mail to [yan.li@dem.ri.gov](mailto:yan.li@dem.ri.gov) or by mail to our office,  
18 Land Revitalization, at RIDEM, 235 Promenade Street,  
19 Providence Rhode Island 02908. Also put those to the  
20 attention of Ms. Yan Li.

21 Items in the chat box are not considered official  
22 record or part of the public -- or part -- official  
23 comments or part of the public record and will therefore  
24 now be included in the response to comments. Please

1 reserve chat box for signing up to speak and for  
2 technical issues, that will help us to allow the  
3 maximum -- to be as expeditious as possible.

4 All attendees for this hearing will be kept on mute  
5 in order to preserve bandwidth. Please turn off your  
6 video cameras except when you're speaking, should you so  
7 choose.

8 When the moderator calls your name, I will be the  
9 moderator, you will be unmuted by the facilitator, and  
10 you will also need to unmute yourself on your end. So  
11 we'll unmute you, then you can unmute yourself.

12 As this is not meant to be a back-and-forth  
13 dialogue, we will not be calling on people to rebut or  
14 add to any comments that have been made.

15 A recording of the meeting will be made publicly  
16 available on our website.

17 Our facilitator will begin calling out the first  
18 commenter, asking them to unmute themselves, and we will  
19 notify the next commenter in line. I believe the first  
20 commenter is scheduled to be Senator Burke. We'll do  
21 this throughout the meeting.

22 I'll now hand over the meeting to our facilitator,  
23 and I have to unmute her, so give me one moment, please.  
24 I apologize. Got a lot of -- a lot of names to scroll



1 through. Appreciate your patience. Okay. I have  
2 unmuted our moderator, and if you can just unmute  
3 yourself, Liz.

4 MS. STONE: Thank you, Mark. Can you hear me?

5 MR. DENNEN: And I'll hand it over to you.

6 MS. STONE: Okay. Can you hear me okay, Mark?  
7 Mark, can you hear me?

8 (Technical difficulties)

9 MS. STONE: Sorry about that inconvenience. I  
10 believe I am currently unmuted.

11 The first I'd like to call, is Senator Burke  
12 available and would like to make comments? Senator, I  
13 would invite you to make your comments at this time.

14 MR. DENNEN: I'm sorry. Let me unmute Senator  
15 Burke.

16 MS. STONE: Mark, you might be best actually  
17 unmuting everybody and then please asking everybody to  
18 please put themselves on mute. That's one way we could  
19 do that. If that is easier. It's up to you.

20 MR. DENNEN: I don't see Senator Burke here. I  
21 don't see Senator Burke. I don't see Senator Burke.

22 Why don't we --

23 MS. STONE: Move on to Senator Caldwell, who I know  
24 is here. She is commenting in the chat that she's here.

1 MR. DENNEN: I will unmute her.

2 MS. STONE: Senator Caldwell, the floors is yours  
3 for five minutes.

4 REPRESENTATIVE CALDWELL: Okay. It was saying I  
5 wasn't allowed to unmute myself.

6 MS. STONE: What it was, I was unmuting the wrong --  
7 there was another Miss Caldwell there.

8 REPRESENTATIVE CALDWELL: Thank you. So it's  
9 Representative Caldwell, not Senator, but thank you so  
10 much. Should I start my video or do you want us to  
11 always keep our videos off?

12 MR. DENNEN: You can start your video.

13 REPRESENTATIVE CALDWELL: Thank you. I'm sorry  
14 about my confusion with the chat. I am still not used to  
15 Zoom, even after all of these months.

16 So thank you, everyone. I'm Justine Caldwell, the  
17 State Representative for Rhode Island House District 30,  
18 which encompasses all of East Greenwich and part of West  
19 Greenwich. I'm testifying today in opposition to a  
20 medical waste license application before DEM for  
21 MedRecycler.

22 Over the past few months I have heard countless  
23 reasons why this application should be approved from  
24 attorneys, doctors, scientists and environmental

1 advocates, but more importantly from my constituents. I  
2 represent the Town of East Greenwich, and because this  
3 facility is technically in West Warwick, our neighbors,  
4 businesses, children and schools have had no formal say  
5 or vote in this approval process.

6 As a rep, when I knock on doors or residents reach  
7 out to me I hear from a lot of people with different  
8 opinions on many issues, but on the issue of MedRecycler,  
9 there has been no difference of opinion.

10 So many constituents have reached out to me, and  
11 regardless of political meetings, regardless  
12 indifferences of opinions on any other issue, they are  
13 united in their extreme opposition to this facility being  
14 built in our backyard or built anywhere here in our  
15 state.

16 So today I'm representing my town, from the folks  
17 who have made it on to this call, to the countless  
18 residents who have called and e-mailed me asking me to  
19 advocate for them on this issue. I'm representing their  
20 position, and their position has become my own position  
21 as well.

22 It's a part of my job to vote on issues where I  
23 can't always be an expert; rather, I have to gather  
24 information from experts, ask the right questions, hear

1 from the community and come to my decision, and that is  
2 exactly what I have done in regard to MedRecycler. It is  
3 my hope that DEM, after a similar decision-making  
4 process, will come to the same conclusion that I have  
5 regarding this project.

6 Under Rhode Island law, DEM must promulgate  
7 standards, giving greater weight to the detriment of the  
8 community as it relates to the placement of such a  
9 facility and the impact it will have on its surrounding  
10 communities, here most notably East Greenwich and West  
11 Warwick.

12 It is my understanding that DEM has not promulgated  
13 these standards as of yet. But if the voice of all the  
14 people concerned about this project are indeed given  
15 great weight, it's hard to imagine the applicants can  
16 meet this burden of overcoming the detriment to our  
17 communities.

18 Further, in Rhode Island we are moving away from the  
19 process of burning medical waste. One question I hear  
20 from constituents over and over again is why would we  
21 bring in out-of-state medical waste, to the tune of ten  
22 truckloads a day, to burn here in Rhode Island, behind a  
23 daycare center, when our own state is working to become  
24 safer and more renewable? I stand with my constituents

1 as totally appalled by that idea. It is not progress.  
2 It is a set backwards.

3 Pyrolysis is an untested technology. As it stands,  
4 the only way we will know if MedRecycler lives up to its  
5 claims is to approve their license and hope for the best.  
6 One of the most shocking things brought to my attention  
7 regarding the oddities of MedRecycler's process, that  
8 they haven't agreed to spot check their boxes of waste  
9 coming into the facility to be burned. Meaning there is  
10 no way to truly know what is inside them.

11 Just earlier this week we all saw the fire in the  
12 scrapyard on Allens Avenue in Providence. Now, imagine  
13 that same accident in a residential neighborhood, near a  
14 school and a daycare, with unchecked medical waste, who  
15 knows what would be floating through our air, into our  
16 homes and for how long? That is unacceptable to me and  
17 it is unacceptable to my community.

18 So thank you to DEM for listening to my testimony.  
19 My written comments will be forthcoming after this  
20 hearing. And once again, I would strongly urge the  
21 denial of this application based on my testimony and the  
22 wealth of testimony you will hear tonight from experts  
23 and residents. Thank you.

24 MS. STONE: Thank you, Representative.

1           At this point I'd like to open up to if either  
2 Senator Burke, Senator Valverde or Representative Serpa  
3 are on the line. I'm not sure if any of them --

4           MR. DENNEN: Let me just unmute them. I do not see  
5 them. Bridget Valverde -- oh, she is here. I will  
6 unmute her.

7           Okay. Senator Valverde.

8           SENATOR VALVERDE: Hi there. Thank you.

9           Can you hear me?

10          MS. STONE: We can hear you loud and clear.

11          SENATOR VALVERDE: Great. Thank you for taking my  
12 comments today on the application by MedRecycler to  
13 operate a medical waste treatment facility at 1600  
14 Division Road in West Warwick. I am offering my comments  
15 today in my capacity as Rhode Island State Senator  
16 representing my constituents in the abutting Town of East  
17 Greenwich.

18          So just like Representative Caldwell, I, too, have  
19 received dozens of e-mails and phone calls over the past  
20 few months from residents of East Greenwich who are  
21 deeply concerned at the prospect of this facility opening  
22 up just over the townline in West Warwick, and I share  
23 their concerns.

24          I am hearing from parents that they don't want a

1 medical waste treatment plant right next to their child's  
2 day care. I'm hearing from abutting residents that they  
3 are concerned about the harmful greenhouse gas emissions  
4 and the proximity to wetlands, lowered property values,  
5 increased traffic congestion. I am hearing from doctors  
6 and others that they are concerned about the risks of  
7 accidents associated with the transport and treatment of  
8 medical waste containing pathogens.

9 As an abutting community, my constituents have no  
10 authority over West Warwick, but seeing as this facility  
11 is to be located literally feet from the East Greenwich  
12 line, they will bear much of the risk.

13 The out-of-state developers pushing for this  
14 facility want us to believe that there are no risks.  
15 They want us to believe that pyrolysis is the answer to  
16 our trash woes, but the truth is their plan is to set up  
17 shop in a populated area, truck in medical waste from all  
18 over New England, and super heat it, producing toxic tar  
19 and ash and potentially emitting harmful compounds like  
20 dioxins into the environment.

21 This technology has not been adequately tested on  
22 mixed materials as proposed by MedRecycler and there is  
23 no comparable facility operating in the United States.

24 It's bad enough to want to bring an untested medical

1 waste treatment facility to our state, but to put it in a  
2 populated area is outrageous. Rhode Islanders are not  
3 interested in being guinea pigs for this kind of  
4 technology.

5 My constituents in East Greenwich are also  
6 rightfully concerned about the lack of certain  
7 information being provided in the application. For  
8 example, the submission of a plan detailing the critical  
9 safety protocols that will be undertaken by MedRecycler  
10 is incorrectly being required by RIDEM only after the  
11 license has been granted. That order of operation means  
12 the public will be denied the chance to review and  
13 comment on those plans before this facility gets the go  
14 ahead from the Department of Environmental Management.

15 To grant this facility and license to operate  
16 without a fully vetted safety plan is irresponsible and  
17 it may also be a violation of the Administrative  
18 Procedures Act.

19 In addition to the many health and environmental  
20 concerns associated with this project, I believe that it  
21 is inappropriate for RIDEM to even consider  
22 MedRecycler -- MedRecycler's application for a waste  
23 permit at this time.

24 The application process thus far has been



1 inconsistent with Rhode Island General Law. Rhode Island  
2 General Law clearly states that before RIDEM may consider  
3 an application for a solid waste license, the host  
4 community, in this case West Warwick, must issue a final  
5 plan determination. The applicant must also receive a  
6 certificate of approval from the State Planning Council  
7 for the siting of the facility. Neither of those things  
8 have happened yet.

9 So I ask you to seriously consider the impacts on  
10 the health, safety and welfare of surrounding residents  
11 and businesses when it comes to siting a medical waste  
12 treatment facility in a densely populated area and  
13 directly adjacent to other places.

14 Let's be transparent in the licensing process and  
15 follow the procedures outlined in our state law. This  
16 untested technology being brought in by an out-of-state  
17 developer to treat medical waste that will not even all  
18 originate in Rhode Island is simply put, "a bad idea."  
19 And I urge you to deny this application.

20 So thank you for hearing my comments today. And I  
21 will also be submitting these comments in writing later  
22 today. Thank you.

23 MS. STONE: Thank you, Senator.

24 Before we move on to any other comments, I would ask

1 Mark Dennen if there is anybody else sitting in the  
2 waiting room to come in, if you want to let them in. I  
3 believe here may be a few people.

4 MR. DENNEN: I am trying to allow people in as space  
5 is available.

6 I want to please ask everyone to keep the comment  
7 box free. I'm trying to allow the comment box for people  
8 to sign it and for people who may not be able to unmute  
9 themselves and have a technical problem. Please keep the  
10 comment box free of commentary.

11 MS. STONE: Mark, do you see Representative Serpa or  
12 Senator Burke on? They indicated they would like to  
13 speak. If not, we can move on to some of the other town  
14 officials that we believe may want to speak.

15 MR. DENNEN: Please, Liz, move on to town officials,  
16 elected officials that may want to speak.

17 MS. STONE: Okay. The next on the list would be, if  
18 you can find Mark Schwager, president of the East  
19 Greenwich Town Council, and unmute him.

20 MR. SCHWAGER: Hello. This is Mark Schwager. Can  
21 you hear me?

22 MS. STONE: Hi, Mark. We can hear you.

23 MR. SCHWAGER: Yes. Good afternoon, and good  
24 afternoon to representatives from DEM, my fellow elected

1 officials, members of the public, and all the other  
2 participants at this public hearing. My name is Mark  
3 Schwager, and I'm president of the East Greenwich Town  
4 Council.

5 Our council has been aware of the MedRecycler  
6 project since its initial appearance before the West  
7 Warwick Planning Board back in May of 2019. The  
8 MedRecycler project in West Warwick abuts our community,  
9 and from the beginning we've had concerns about the  
10 health, safety and environmental impacts of this project  
11 on our town.

12 Early on, East Greenwich engaged a consultant's  
13 service of GZA, experts in environmental and geotechnical  
14 engineering, and we asked our town solicitor to review  
15 the permit and records of the process from MedRecycler.

16 As we have learned more about this project, our  
17 concerns about potential adverse impact on our community  
18 continues to grow. We have submitted in writing to DEM  
19 as part of this public comment process an extensive list  
20 of materials not included in this draft application,  
21 which should be supplied before this application is in  
22 order for public review.

23 These materials include emergency response and  
24 evacuation plans, spill control plans, contingencies for

1 unexpected facility shutdown, facility safety testing  
2 plans, bonding for facility decommissioning, and a host  
3 of other concerns. Without this additional information,  
4 this application is incomplete. It is premature for DEM  
5 to grant a solid waste permit to MRI before these  
6 materials have been added to this application and brought  
7 before the public for review and comment. Without this  
8 action many substantive issues related to operations,  
9 health and safety will be entirely removed from public  
10 scrutiny. The public has a clear interest in reviewing,  
11 evaluating and challenging any such protocols submitted  
12 by MedRecycler.

13 In addition, a number of other requirements for  
14 license approval are still missing. These include a  
15 letter of approval from the State Planning Council,  
16 determination from the West Warwick Planning Board that  
17 the project has received final board approval. We also  
18 are waiting for DEM's demonstration under Rhode Island  
19 General Law 23-18 that it has independently fulfilled its  
20 obligation to afford great weight to the potential  
21 detrimental impact that the placement of MRI's proposed  
22 facility would have on the surrounded community, and to  
23 consider site placement in making its decision on this  
24 license.

1           We are also waiting for MedRecycler to comply with  
2 its conditional approval of pyrolysis as an alternative  
3 technology for disposal of regulated medical waste.  
4 MedRecycler is supposed to be submitting its testing  
5 protocols to ensure bacterial, fungal and viruses are  
6 destroyed prior to starting its operation.

7           The Town of East Greenwich submits that the  
8 appropriate course of action now is either for  
9 MedRecycler to withdraw its application or for DEM to  
10 deny the application without prejudice so that MRI may  
11 reapply if and when these issues are fully addressed.

12           Thank you for your attention.

13           MS. STONE: Thank you, Councilor President Schwager.

14           At this point we'd like to move on. I know  
15 Representative Serpa was not able to join us due to an  
16 emergency.

17           At this point, Mark, can we unmute Mr. -- East  
18 Greenwich Town Council member Englehart? Renu Englehart,  
19 if you would like to speak.

20           MR. DENNEN: Council member Englehart, I believe  
21 you're unmuted.

22           COUNCILMAN ENGLEHART: Thank you.

23           Good afternoon. My name is Renu Englehart. I am  
24 the town councilor for the Town of East Greenwich, and

1 I'm also a neighbor of this project on Division Road.  
2 I'd like to thank DEM for holding this meeting. And I'd  
3 like to also acknowledge that there's so many people who  
4 wished to attend, but aren't able to due to the limits on  
5 the size.

6 I also am asking that DEM keeps note of who is  
7 speaking and where they live, whether they are instate or  
8 out of state, and I would like to register my comment in  
9 opposition to the permit for MedRecycler.

10 For the record, to correct some misconception, this  
11 is only the second formal hearing that has taken place  
12 regarding MedRecycler. The meeting on May 6, 2019 at the  
13 West Warwick Planning Board, the January meeting for DEM  
14 was informational only. So this will only be the second  
15 one.

16 The building in West Warwick -- the building is in  
17 West Warwick, but everything else about this building  
18 affects other towns. The access points to this project  
19 are off Exit 7 off Route 95, which is Coventry/West  
20 Warwick, or Exit 8 off of Route 95, which is Warwick, or  
21 Exit 6, which is off Route 4, which is East Greenwich.  
22 These access points were at the last comprehensive  
23 service RIDOT study considered to be among the highest  
24 accident rates in Rhode Island -- excuse me -- due to

1 their congestion.

2 While these are state roads, the state does not  
3 respond in case of an accident or other emergency. Local  
4 agencies respond, such as the West Warwick Police and  
5 Fire Department, the East Greenwich Police and Fire  
6 Department, and the Warwick Fire and Police Department,  
7 and so.

8 I would like to point out that even the driveway of  
9 this property is in East Greenwich. The only way to  
10 access this property is to pass by East Greenwich  
11 residents or commercial areas or West Greenwich residents  
12 or commercial areas. And residences are across the road  
13 from this property and not hundreds of feet away.

14 From the access point of this driveway going west on  
15 Division, the residents in East Greenwich are served by  
16 well water. The building that MedRecycler is leasing  
17 literally sits on a pond and wetland served by Fry Brook,  
18 something that is not noted in any of the corresponding  
19 documents from MedRecycler or DEM. At 70 tons of medical  
20 waste per day, that is far more waste in this area that  
21 has ever been seen before and could affect the only  
22 drinking water for several towns.

23 At this time I can find no other mixed waste medical  
24 pyrolysis plans anywhere in the United States.

1           During the January meeting, Mr. Dennen admitted they  
2 were new to the technology, they did not have enough  
3 information regarding it. He also admitted, as far as  
4 compliance goes with state and local regulations, DEM was  
5 going to allow MedRecycler to self-police at a certain  
6 point, due to lack of personnel. Yet even on the letter  
7 of notice of intent to approve, DEM has many questions  
8 that still need to be answered by this company, and so  
9 far we have not been able to find out if they have been  
10 answered.

11           The comparison plans cited in the application  
12 process, such as Monarch Waste, which was closed by the  
13 EPA, or an unnamed plant in Southern California, none of  
14 which a match could truly be found, or even our  
15 international plants, several which are still being built  
16 do not lend an air of credibility.

17           Mixed waste in regards to pyrolysis is not something  
18 that appears physically or financially viable at this  
19 time, something that both the EPA noted on February 17 of  
20 2021 during their PITT Findings on Pfas Construction  
21 or -- (technical difficulties) and the Department of  
22 Energy entitled Waste Energy from (technical  
23 difficulties).

24           This building in West Warwick has been zoned



1 commercial for a long time and the Town of East  
2 Greenwich, to my knowledge, has never objected. This  
3 would be the first time and should show the seriousness  
4 of which we take this project.

5 Looking at the amount of participants who are  
6 present and also those who still cannot attend and are  
7 waiting to be admitted, it appears the residents are  
8 taking this very seriously. I urge DEM to deny this  
9 permit. Thank you.

10 MS. STONE: Thank you, Councilwoman.

11 At this point I'm going to -- there are a long list  
12 of people here. Mike Donegan from the East Greenwich  
13 Town Council.

14 Mark, if you would unmute him.

15 MR. DENNEN: Sorry. I unmuted Peter Skwirz.

16 MS. STONE: Okay. Go right ahead.

17 Peter, the table is yours.

18 MR. SKWIRZ: Peter Skwirz, assistant solicitor for  
19 the Town of East Greenwich.

20 Our office reviewed this application with GZA  
21 Geoenvironmental Engineering. East Greenwich's interest  
22 is prompted by the siting of the project. While the  
23 proposed facility is in an industrial zone in West  
24 Warwick, it is directly across the street from a

1 residential zone in East Greenwich.

2 The General Assembly created a mechanism for  
3 addressing this type of interlocal planning concern.  
4 Unfortunately, that mechanism has not been followed in  
5 this case. As stated in RIDEM'S Notice of Intent to  
6 approve the license, review is governed by Title 23  
7 Chapter 18.9 Section 9 of the Rhode Island General Laws.  
8 The first part of that statute, subsection (a)(1) lists a  
9 number of items that an applicant for a solid waste  
10 management facility must submit with its application to  
11 RIDEM. That part of the statute says, quote, The  
12 applicant shall also submit simultaneously with the  
13 application a certificate of approval of the proposed  
14 site issued by the State Planning Council, end quote.

15 The State Planning Council, quote, Shall only  
16 approve a site after great weight has been afforded for  
17 the detrimental impact that the placement of such a  
18 facility shall have on its surrounding communities and  
19 only after evaluation of alternative sites, end quote.

20 Also by statute the State Planning Council, quote,  
21 Shall not issue its certificate prior to publication of  
22 public notice and the expiration of the public comment  
23 period regarding the proposed site, end quote.

24 We confirm that an e-mail from Meredith Brady, the

1 secretary of the State Planning Council, that the State  
2 Planning Council never approved this site and was never  
3 asked to approve this site. It did issue an internal  
4 letter to the Rhode Island Industrial Facilities  
5 Corporation on state guide plan consistency, but that  
6 letter wasn't issued after a public notice and comment  
7 process, and Miss Brady stated unequivocally that that  
8 letter was not approval for the site. Therefore, under  
9 the statute RIDEM should not be considering this  
10 application.

11 Prior to the hearing today, they brought this to the  
12 attention of RIDEM and MedRecycler. We were told that  
13 even though we all agree the statute governs  
14 MedRecycler's application process, that the language I  
15 just quoted only applies to landfills.

16 I'd encourage anyone attending to read the section  
17 of the statute I quoted and you won't see the word  
18 "landfill" anywhere. What makes that interpretation  
19 particularly strange, if you go to the next two statutes  
20 in that chapter, Rhode Island General Laws 23-18.9-9.1,  
21 and Rhode Island General Laws 23-18.9-9.2, those statutes  
22 do place additional requirements on landfills and those  
23 statutes use the word "landfill" repeatedly.

24 So the General Assembly knew how to say a landfill,

1 when it wanted to say a landfill. The General Assembly  
2 didn't say that State Planning Council approval is  
3 limited to landfills. The executive branch of the  
4 government doesn't get to rewrite the statute that the  
5 General Assembly wrote.

6 In Civics 101, the legislature writes the law and  
7 the executive branch carries it out. The public, justly,  
8 has significant siting concerns regarding this proposal.  
9 It doesn't engender public confidence in the review  
10 process or in the government generally, if the reviewing  
11 agency is willing to tie itself in knots to avoid the  
12 review that the people's elected representative in the  
13 General Assembly require. The jettisoning of State  
14 Planning Council site approval is just one in a number of  
15 ways that the review of this proposal has been unusual.  
16 We explain in further detail in our written comments we  
17 have submitted, which are on the Town website, but this  
18 issue, in particular, is illustrated of the fast-track  
19 results-oriented process that MedRecycler has received up  
20 to this point.

21 I would request that -- the Town would request that  
22 RIDEM proceed no further with its review until all of the  
23 concerns outlined in our comments are addressed with the  
24 statutorily-remanded review process.

1 Thank you.

2 MS. STONE: At this point, I believe, Mark, should  
3 we turn to Michael Donegan from -- the Vice President of  
4 the East Greenwich Town Council.

5 MR. DENNEN: I have just unmuted him.

6 MS. STONE: Great. The floor is yours.

7 MR. DONEGAN: Good afternoon, and thank you for the  
8 opportunity to speak on this important matter. I am the  
9 Vice President of the East Greenwich Town Council. You  
10 have heard from our president and Council Englehart about  
11 this, and our attorneys. I'd like to note that we hired  
12 Goldberg (inaudible) and Associates to issue our written  
13 comment, in conjunction with New England Institute of  
14 Technology, which as you probably know, houses a very  
15 large number of students directly across the street.  
16 They have a grave concern here and have joined us in the  
17 submission that we provided.

18 Our residents have a lot of concern to the council  
19 with this project. We're going to have, you know, trucks  
20 driving through our neighborhoods with body parts,  
21 viruses and pathogens, and we're going to have the risk  
22 that these viruses and pathogens will be released through  
23 accident, through improper operation of the facility,  
24 poor design. This is unproven technology.

1           And it's also important to note that the applicant  
2 has absolutely zero-demonstrated experience running any  
3 medical waste facility, let alone this particular type of  
4 equipment, which is experimental. It is so experimental  
5 that it's not actually in operation anywhere in the US  
6 used on medical waste. I don't know if they searched the  
7 country to find the one state agency that would allow  
8 their residents to become the guinea pig for this kind of  
9 an operation, but they landed here, and that's what's  
10 happening.

11           It's not a listed technology and so the director of  
12 DEM is required to make an initial determination this is  
13 an alternative technology, which is supposed to --  
14 according to the director's letter, they're going to do  
15 in two steps. There is no two-step process in the law.  
16 That determination is a threshold determination. It's  
17 not the determination made after you allow them to build  
18 it and then we see if it works. You could obviously  
19 pilot test, like we do with other equipment, and that  
20 simply isn't the way that the DEM has elected to go with  
21 this.

22           In addition, it violates all the statutory and  
23 regulatory opportunities for public participation,  
24 because if indeed a threshold determination were made,

1 the public could appeal it, participate, et cetera. The  
2 way it's currently constituted, if it's a conditional  
3 approval, and then only subsequent to the issuance of the  
4 permit, the applicant submits testing information and  
5 protocols, the public has no further role at that point.  
6 And how would we ever know about the determination that  
7 the director is making, whether it's sound and meets the  
8 requirements of an approvable alternative technology?

9 And I believe that violates the Administrative Procedures  
10 Act, and the director must make that determination now.

11 There are conditions listed in the NOI that are  
12 post-issuance. One is the surrogate virus testing  
13 protocol. There's no reason the applicant couldn't have  
14 submitted that protocol in advance of this public  
15 hearing, so that the public could vet it. The way it's  
16 currently constituted, both that protocol and the West  
17 Warwick Fire District Contingency Plans are mere  
18 submissions that only the DEM sees, not the public.

19 Since the surrogate testing protocol is critical to  
20 determine whether the pathogens escape or whether they're  
21 totally destroyed, as required from the air permit, it's  
22 critical we know that upfront.

23 And I note that Mark Dennen, at a public information  
24 meeting, said that this was -- he could design a protocol

1 that would basically make the equipment pass or fail.  
2 And so the public, even if DEM doesn't have that  
3 experience, we do. We can hire it, and we should have  
4 the opportunity to participate -- excuse me -- I just  
5 had -- your timer just totally -- okay. Here we go.

6 So what we're asking here is that DEM deny the  
7 permit without prejudice, to allow the applicant to  
8 reapply after the DEM first makes a ruling as to whether  
9 or not this is approvable alternative technology, which  
10 is required to be done under the Administrative  
11 Procedures act. The applicant can resubmit.  
12 Alternatively, you can continue it for that purpose.

13 East Greenwich, I would ask, should have an  
14 opportunity for our fire department to have a contingency  
15 plan review as well. We're first responders who are  
16 actually closer than West Warwick. If you choose to  
17 proceed, we ask that you deny the permit because the  
18 applicant clearly has not made the demonstrations  
19 required as an alternative technology, in that it's  
20 protected with respect to total impact on the  
21 environment, which is a finding noted as number two in  
22 the director's letter. Nor can it ensure that the  
23 health, safety and welfare of both facility employees and  
24 the general public will be protected. That's condition



1 four that must be found.

2 I submit that the record clearly demonstrates that  
3 the applicant has not met these burdens.

4 Thank you.

5 MS. STONE: Thank you, Councilman.

6 At this point we would like to turn the table over  
7 to -- we have a couple of West Warwick officials. Town  
8 council members signed up.

9 Mark, if you could unmute John D'Amico.

10 MR. DENNEN: Councilman D'Amico.

11 COUNCILMAN D'AMICO: Yes, thank you.

12 MS. STONE: Thank you.

13 COUNCILMAN D'AMICO: So, first of all, thank you for  
14 allowing me to speak. I am not actually going to speak  
15 to DEM, but I do want to just take a minute to point out  
16 a couple of things for those who are so concerned as far  
17 as our neighbors in East Greenwich, and as well as our  
18 citizens.

19 I just want people to know that the Town of West  
20 Warwick takes this application very, very seriously. We  
21 are watching the process extremely closely. We're trying  
22 to learn as much as we possibly can. As you know, this  
23 is currently in the hands of our planning board, so if  
24 this leaves DEM, it goes back to them. But it's also

1 important to note that as a body the town council  
2 appoints the planning board. So we have to be very  
3 careful we don't want to influence -- you know, it would  
4 be very illegally irresponsible and also ethically  
5 irresponsible as council to try to impact their decision,  
6 but I do want people to know that we are listening and we  
7 are hearing.

8 Thank you.

9 MS. STONE: Thank you very much for your remarks.

10 West Warwick Town Councilman Jay Messier.

11 Mark, if you haven't already unmuted, move on to  
12 him.

13 MR. DENNEN: Councilman, please speak. Oh, you're  
14 muted again. Please unmute yourself.

15 COUNCILMAN MESSIER: Thank you. I really -- there's  
16 nothing else for me to say other than what John said, but  
17 I just want to clarify that this has never come before  
18 the West Warwick Council. I know a lot of people have  
19 been messaging me and my fellow council members. I share  
20 all your concerns as well, and I'm in this information  
21 for the same reason a lot of you, to get some information  
22 and if it at any point it comes before us, that we'll  
23 cross that bridge, but right now I'm trusting the DEM to  
24 make the right decision, whatever that is. Thank you.

1 MS. STONE: Thank you, Mr. Messier.

2 Mark, I don't believe we have any other town council  
3 or elected officials, I'm not seeing on the list here, to  
4 speak at this time. So I believe at this point we'd move  
5 on to some of the other members of the public that have  
6 signed up. Would you like to unmute Kevin Budris from  
7 the Conservation Law Foundation.

8 MR. DENNEN: He is unmuted.

9 MS. STONE: There he is. Welcome, Kevin.

10 MR. BUDRIS: Thank you, Liz, and thank you, Mark.  
11 My name is Kevin Budris and I work with the Conservation  
12 Law Foundation or COF. We are a member supported  
13 nonprofit organization that works to protect New  
14 England's environment for all people.

15 So I oppose this proposed facility and we urge DEM  
16 to deny MedRecycler's medical waste treatment facility  
17 license application. The application fails to comply  
18 with several key Rhode Island medical waste and solid  
19 waste regulations. COF will also be submitting written  
20 comments.

21 Before I proceed, I would just urge DEM to listen to  
22 the outpouring of concern that you have already heard,  
23 and that you're going to continue to hear tonight from  
24 members of the West Warwick and East Greenwich

1 communities. There's significant shortcomings in this  
2 information and the people in these communities are right  
3 to be concerned here.

4 And just to be clear about what's being proposed  
5 here, according to MedRecycler's application, the company  
6 hopes to take in about 70 tons of medical waste per day,  
7 shred this waste, dry it, heat it to more than 1400  
8 degrees Fahrenheit, in the absence of oxygen, which will  
9 generate gaseous hydrocarbons or what they're referring  
10 to as sin gas, tars, oils and solid waste like ash and  
11 char. MedRecycler plans to burn both the sin gas and the  
12 tars and oils on-site at 1600 Division Road.

13 So some of the statements that have been made have  
14 been no burning will occur at this facility, just aren't  
15 true. And also, according to MedRecycler's application,  
16 it does not have a disposal plan for the ash and char  
17 that are going to be generated at this facility.

18 The documented history of waste gasification  
19 pyrolysis suggests that none of this is clean,  
20 environmentally friendly or renewable. In particular,  
21 waste-derived fuels, like the sin gas that MedRecycler is  
22 proposing to create at this site, has significant  
23 emissions profiles, that include heavy metals and  
24 persistent organic pollutants.

1 Gasification pyrolysis throughout the world have  
2 struggled to comply with environmental regulations. And  
3 many have closed within several years of coming online,  
4 even communities with legacies of pollution and financial  
5 failure.

6 Importantly, the equipment at issue here,  
7 MedRecycler's equipment has never been used on medical  
8 waste. Only one other facility in the country has  
9 attempted to pyrolysize medical waste, at a much smaller  
10 scale, and that reports that facility, Monarch Waste  
11 Technologies in Mexico is now closed.

12 With that background in mind, I'd like to point out  
13 just a few regulatory provisions with which the  
14 application here does not comply. First, Rhode Island  
15 Medical Waste Regulation Sections 1-15 at 4 and at 5,  
16 require that when an applicant proposes alternative  
17 technology, that DEM shall not approve the technology  
18 unless and until such technology is proven on the basis  
19 of thorough test to be protective with respect to total  
20 impact on the environment and to ensure that health,  
21 safety and welfare of the facility employees and the  
22 general public.

23 Nowhere does MedRecycler's application layout the  
24 results of thorough testing that would prove that this

1 technology, when used on medical waste, is protective of  
2 the environment or safe for facility employees or the  
3 public.

4 Also, according to Rhode Island's medical waste  
5 regulations, medical waste treatment facilities also  
6 subject to regulations for solid waste management  
7 facilities. Section 1.9P of those regulations requires  
8 that all solid waste facilities must maintain a buffer  
9 zone around them to mitigate nuisance impacts. A buffer  
10 zone needs to be in the area of undeveloped vegetative  
11 land that's retained in its natural, undisturbed  
12 condition or the equivalent. There's no such buffer zone  
13 around the space that MedRecycler is proposing to build  
14 at this site.

15 For these reasons, and for reasons that I'll set out  
16 in our written comments, CFO urges DEM to deny its  
17 application.

18 Thank you very much.

19 MS. STONE: Thank you, Kevin, very much.

20 Mark is probably in the process of unmuting Jim  
21 Mallowney. I see Jim, but he's still muted.

22 MR. DENNEN: I'm sorry. I'm -- oh, he's just on as  
23 Jim, that's why.

24 MS. STONE: He's just on as Jim, I believe.

1 MR. DENNEN: No last name. I apologize for that. I  
2 would now ask you to unmute.

3 MR. MALLOWNEY: I am unmuted.

4 MR. DENNEN: Wonderful.

5 MR. MALLOWNEY: Mark, do you miss me?

6 MR. DENNEN: As always.

7 MS. STONE: The floors is yours, Jim. Five minutes.

8 MR. MALLOWNEY: I have a great presentation, but  
9 we're not going to use it because I can't put it up on my  
10 screen. The presentation is called Drugs Are Chemicals  
11 Too.

12 Now, my name is Jim Mallowney. I'm a chemist on the  
13 hazardous waste disposal business for over 30 years.  
14 President of a company called Pharma-Cycle, and we  
15 collect, contain and destroy cytotoxic chemotherapy drugs  
16 contained in human waste.

17 So I gave this presentation at -- to the EPA in  
18 2009, entitled Drugs are Chemicals Too, as a result,  
19 almost every medical waste incinerator in the country was  
20 (inaudible).

21 MedRecycler's plant is fine for treating biological  
22 hazards, but it doesn't work with chemicals. And that's  
23 where everybody here is missing the point. Not  
24 everybody. What's not taken into consideration is other

1 dangerous medical waste, such as common chemotherapy  
2 drugs, control cancer patients, human waste, it comes  
3 right out of the stack of this facility. These chemicals  
4 are mutagenetic, which means cause birth defects,  
5 miscarriages, and many other well-documented horrible,  
6 horrible effects. They're also teratogenic, which means  
7 it skips a generation before it causes birth defects.  
8 What the system does not do is eliminate any of those  
9 hazards.

10 So the US regulation covering waste incineration  
11 prohibits pharmaceuticals from entering a medical waste  
12 incinerator period. It's 40CFR60, 40CFR60.55C, if you  
13 really want to get into the details. These chemicals  
14 will end up in our air, in our bay, in our soil, in our  
15 drinking water.

16 2019, United States Pharmacopeia, a regulatory body  
17 for the FDA issued regulations to control these chemicals  
18 so that there's zero human exposure, even OSHA. Yet we  
19 take these chemicals from people and we are going to put  
20 them in this incinerator. The body fluids that we're  
21 going to put into this incinerator, you don't have to  
22 worry about the medical waste part of it, or the  
23 pathogens, you're going to have to worry about the  
24 chemical waste part of it.



1           It is illegal to even put the wrapper from some of  
2 these chemotherapy drugs in the trash. Yet, we pump  
3 people full of these drugs, blow up like a balloon and  
4 then we send them home to their families. Up to 90  
5 percent of it is excreted in their clothes, their sheets,  
6 into families, their homes, their septic systems and  
7 wells. And everyone is drinking water. If they're not  
8 flushed down the toilet, they're going to be collected  
9 and they're going to be sent to this facility where it's  
10 going to go straight up in the air.

11           Our company, Pharma-Cycle, is currently working with  
12 Avena out in Denmark, and they're collecting the human  
13 waste from patients undergoing certain chemotherapy  
14 treatments. And we're doing it effectively and safely.  
15 The European Union recognizes the dangers of cytotoxic  
16 drugs and their excretions.

17           The Rhode Island DEM recognizes the dangers of  
18 extremely hazardous wastes and even regulates them. In  
19 2014, the Rhode Island DEM set a new category of  
20 hazardous waste called extremely hazardous waste, and its  
21 chemotherapy drugs and it includes the excretion of these  
22 chemicals.

23           The DEM will say, Well, we can't force people's  
24 bodies. Like, these excretions are so deadly, when they

1 hit one of these incinerators they're just going to  
2 explode into our air, and they know it. And they can  
3 regulate our bodies. Tell that to my face mask.

4 Even the Department of Defense shut down their  
5 chemical weapon incinerators for the same reasons. We  
6 fight chemistry with chemistry.

7 Approval of the MedRecycler plant as written is  
8 extremely unsafe and should be denied.

9 Are there any questions?

10 MS. STONE: Thank you, Jim.

11 At this point, Mark, I believe next on our list is  
12 Marisa Kambour. Please apologize if I mispronounce  
13 anybody's name.

14 MS. KAMBOUR: That's okay. Thank you.

15 MS. STONE: Sorry, Marisa.

16 MS. KAMBOUR: My name is Marisa Kambour and I am  
17 commenting as a resident of East Greenwich, a parent, and  
18 a concerned local citizen, to oppose any permits for  
19 MedRecycler to build a medical waste facility in West  
20 Warwick.

21 We're in the midst of a global climate crisis. More  
22 than ever the choices we make about our waste, our  
23 emission and our resources need to put the health of the  
24 planet at the forefront.

1           As the Ocean State, Rhode Island should be  
2 positioning itself as a leader in true green technology.  
3 MedRecycler is trying to greenwash their operation by  
4 using words such as renewable, but there's nothing green  
5 or environmentally friendly about their proposal.

6           To begin, they would require a significant amount of  
7 external energy sourced from fossil fuels to achieve the  
8 high temperatures needed for pyrolysis.

9           Next, they would be generating and burning materials  
10 filled with toxins, emitting 20,000 tons of carbon  
11 dioxide and other pollutants, the same as those created  
12 by waste incineration, every year. What is green or  
13 renewable about any of that?

14           Approving this facility would be an embarrassment to  
15 our state and our fellow residents. The equivalent is  
16 saying that Rhode Island is not taking the threat of  
17 climate seriously.

18           Health and safety also need to be prioritized here.  
19 MedRecycler's facility simply cannot meet Rhode Island's  
20 medical waste regulations, which prior approved that its  
21 technology is, I quote, protected with respect to total  
22 impact on the environment, as well as ensuring, quote,  
23 the health, safety and welfare of both facility employees  
24 and the general public. This technology has not been

1 tested on medical waste. Taking large amounts of  
2 hazardous material, including up to 25 percent of  
3 plastic, and subjecting them to incredibly intense  
4 temperatures is not what a logical person could call  
5 inherently safe.

6 The long-term risks of human exposure to such  
7 processes and toxins are unknown. And even a small  
8 accident could have a disastrous impact on the community.  
9 If this is the case, how can MedRecycler prove that its  
10 proposal is safe for the environment, its employees or  
11 the community members?

12 I ask you to please err on the side of caution,  
13 instead of choosing to jeopardize our health and safety.  
14 This facility does not belong in West Warwick. It does  
15 not belong in Rhode Island. And it does not belong  
16 anywhere on this planet. It's not worth the harm that it  
17 will do or any of the accompanying risks.

18 Thank you for considering my comments.

19 MS. STONE: Thank you, Marisa.

20 Up next and at this point I'm going to announce who  
21 the next commenter is going to be, as well as who is on  
22 deck so they know who will be kind of coming next in  
23 order.

24 So next we'd like to call up Joe Walsh for some

1 comments, and after that we'll be calling on Donna  
2 Sullivan.

3 So Joe Walsh is up now. Hi, Joe.

4 MR. WALSH: Hi. How are you?

5 MS. STONE: Good. We can hear you just fine.

6 MR. WALSH: All right. Thank you.

7 Good afternoon. My name is Joe Walsh. I want to  
8 thank you for the time to allow me to speak.

9 I'm the business manager for IBW Local Union 99. I  
10 represent 800 women and men and the actual craftworkers  
11 who live and work in all 39 cities and towns in the State  
12 of Rhode Island, including West Greenwich and East  
13 Greenwich -- West Warwick and East Greenwich. Excuse me.

14 I am not a scientist and I am not qualified as you  
15 here tonight are commenting on the environmental impact  
16 of this facility. I will only comment that this project  
17 will provide great jobs for our membership, while it  
18 tackles a complex issue of disposable medical waste.

19 The project will also bring needed tax revenue into  
20 the city, while creating renewable energy for an  
21 estimated 1,000 homes.

22 I certainly would urge approval of this project when  
23 the developer has met the standards required to safely  
24 manage this facility.

1 I thank you for your time, and have a good evening.

2 MS. STONE: Thank you, Mr. Walsh.

3 Mark, you're probably unmuting Donna Sullivan now.

4 And after that I believe we have Paul Brown who will be  
5 speaking.

6 MR. DENNEN: Miss Sullivan.

7 MS. SULLIVAN: Yes. Can you hear me?

8 MS. STONE: Yes, we can hear you.

9 MS. SULLIVAN: Okay. Great. I don't know if my  
10 video is up or not.

11 MS. STONE: We can see you.

12 MS. SULLIVAN: Hi. My name is Donna Sullivan. I am  
13 a mom and a concerned citizen from North Kingstown, and I  
14 just wanted to attend this meeting to learn a little bit  
15 more about it. I obviously have a lot of concerns, as do  
16 many of the people that have already voiced.

17 Within my own neighborhood we've talked a lot about  
18 the fact that this project has not gone through some of  
19 the proper processes here in the State of Rhode Island,  
20 which I just think is shocking. And it just seems like  
21 there's so much uncertainty, and it's just a huge risk.

22 So I am asking you to reconsider this until there's  
23 more information provided and just, you know, don't risk  
24 our kids, and our families, and our future. This seems

1 like something that there's just so many unknowns.

2 So with that, I am just going to say thank you for  
3 letting us have this hearing, and thank you for giving me  
4 an opportunity to speak.

5 MS. STONE: Thank you very much.

6 At this point we're going to call on Paul Brown to  
7 speak, and after Paul, we'll have Rick Carlone, I  
8 believe, representing the Town -- well, he's from -- he's  
9 from GZA. So right now we will call on Paul Brown.

10 MR. DENNEN: I'm having a hard time locating Paul  
11 Brown. He may have signed in by another sign. So if you  
12 could please message me. I'm going to unmute Rick  
13 Carlone now.

14 MR. CARLONE: Thank you, Mark.

15 My name is Rick Carlone. I am a Rhode Island  
16 registered professional engineer with GZA  
17 Geoenvironmental. I've been with GZA for approximately  
18 two years and I received my bachelor's and master's  
19 degree from URI in civil engineering. I am also the  
20 president of the Rhode Island Society of Environmental  
21 Professionals.

22 Through my work at GZA I have gained significant  
23 professional experience with solid waste management  
24 facilities. I was engaged by the Town of East Greenwich

1 to review and provide expert opinion on MedRecycler's  
2 application. In that review I identified a number of  
3 deficiencies which East Greenwich noted in its written  
4 comments to RIDEM. I have also submitted detailed  
5 comments on the deficiencies of the application and  
6 provided proposed conditions that would better protect  
7 the public.

8 In reviewing the application there were two things  
9 that immediately jumped out at me as the biggest  
10 deficiencies in the application. First, the application  
11 lacks a detailed explanation of how the day-to-day  
12 operations of the facility would work. The application  
13 lacks simple details on how facility operations are  
14 related to the amount of material that will be processed,  
15 stored and received at the facility.

16 The second major issue is that the application does  
17 not include sufficient, detailed testing protocols for  
18 determining if this facility is properly doing the job  
19 it's supposed to be in destroying and disposing of  
20 medical waste and protecting worker and public safety.

21 I can state based on my experience in this field,  
22 that it is unusual for an application to be submitted for  
23 approval without these details and that it is unusual for  
24 the department to issue a draft approval that requires



1 development of many key facility details as conditions.

2 In my professional opinion, the materials fail to  
3 meet the regulatory requirements and the application is  
4 incomplete. It is important that these missing details  
5 be supplied prior to the public-comment process so that  
6 the details can be publicly vetted.

7 Accordingly, it is my opinion that this application  
8 should not be approved at this time.

9 Thank you.

10 MS. STONE: Thank you very much.

11 Mark, were you able to find Paul Brown? He may have  
12 signed off.

13 MR. DENNEN: I have not received a private message  
14 from him, and have not been able to find him, so the next  
15 person I have is Hina Khan.

16 MS. STONE: Yes. The floors is yours.

17 MS. KAHN: Thank you. Good afternoon, everyone. My  
18 name is Hina Khan, and I'm a physician and a medical  
19 oncologist, and I'm also an East Greenwich resident, so I  
20 speak not only on behalf of my -- of my fellow residents,  
21 but also as an oncologist who's studied and my nature of  
22 work is in environmental exposure and the effects of  
23 carcinogens that we didn't know of, and some of which we  
24 know of now.

1           So I would just like to give a two-second, you know,  
2           overview about Rhode Island, right, especially in the  
3           past ten years we have done several data analyses based  
4           on national registries. There was an initial data  
5           analysis from 2002 to 2006, which showed that bladder  
6           cancer incidents in the State of Rhode Island have been  
7           one of the highest as compared to 37 versus 52 out of a  
8           thousand cases seen in Rhode Island. And similarly over  
9           the past five years our (inaudible) looked deeper into  
10          the statistics and Rhode Island continues to stand high  
11          in incidents of bladder cancer in the country.

12          And while we're working on the research on why this  
13          is happening, a major part of this is -- which we already  
14          know, is bladder cancer is the textile industry and metal  
15          working industry has been implicated in the dye solvents,  
16          the metal ducts, and a lot of the carcinogens that are  
17          released into the water and air are eventually the cause  
18          of it.

19          And not trying to just talk about the medical  
20          complications, but also the financial burden of the  
21          annual economic burden in the State of Rhode Island to  
22          treat bladder cancer is close to 22 million. So it is a  
23          pretty significant burden.

24          And then, in addition to that, we also worked on

1 looking at the effect of radon in the instance of lung  
2 cancer in the State of Rhode Island, and radon is one of  
3 the highest -- Rhode Island is one of the states with the  
4 highest levels of radon in the soil. And, again, these  
5 are two things that we really didn't know of, and in the  
6 past five to ten years we have come to realize that, in  
7 fact, these were harmful gases and harmful chemicals that  
8 were released, that were actually seeing the effects of  
9 them now.

10 So going back to the technology. So MedRecycler,  
11 the technology that they claim to use is supposed to be  
12 pyrolysis, and all of the literature, if you read up  
13 nationally and internationally on the pyrolysis, is  
14 really a nonmedical waste. And the caveat really for  
15 processes this nonmedical waste is that once they produce  
16 sin gas -- which Kevin Budris really -- nicely talked  
17 about -- once the sin gas is produced, it's really  
18 supposed to be scrubbed. So the sin gas scrubber  
19 produces this pollutant-free exhaust, which if in the  
20 ideal situation when it's really scrubbed well, that  
21 happens. However, if you talk about research that has  
22 been done in the area, the (inaudible) and several other  
23 environmental researchers have claimed that gas  
24 (inaudible) technologies are still underdeveloped.

1           So whatever technology MedRecycler claims to use,  
2           it's still not been well tested and we don't know. Sin  
3           gas contains methane, carbon monoxide, in addition to  
4           several other chemicals. And, again, please don't  
5           forget, the medical waste -- being a physician, I know  
6           that medical waste contains human waste, body fluids,  
7           tissue, blood. It contains plastics, which certainly  
8           burning will produce, we don't know what all. And then  
9           of course infectious waste that was pointed as one of the  
10          speakers, culture (inaudible) vaccines, contaminated  
11          materials, all of this will go into that and we do not  
12          know how and will the technology be able to clean and  
13          disinfect. Again, everything ends up in our water and  
14          our soils.

15          So not only as a citizen, but as an oncologist who  
16          is trying to work on reducing environmental exposures, I  
17          urge the DEM to strongly consider this. And I will be  
18          sending my written comments as well.

19          MS. STONE: Thank you very much.

20          At this point, Mark, we should turn on -- next will  
21          be Frank Lombardo, followed by Marisa Desautel.

22          MR. DENNEN: Mr. Lombardo, if you could unmute  
23          yourself, please.

24          MR. LOMBARDO: Okay. I have. Can you hear me?

1 MS. STONE: We can hear you.

2 MR. LOMBARDO: Okay. Thank you for having this  
3 meeting this evening.

4 I'd like to read an article that was in the Rhode  
5 Island news, dated February 24th, 2020, and I quote, The  
6 Conservation Law Foundation has noted that the emissions  
7 from the pyrolysis contained cancer-causing compounds.  
8 The ash consists of dioxides, mercury and heavy metals.  
9 Pollutants that can make their way into the waterways and  
10 drinking supplies, end of quote.

11 Kent County has a well that pumps from aquifers that  
12 is located in the Mishnock area. It's an aquifer that is  
13 underneath Coventry, West Greenwich, underneath the  
14 Center of New England, West Warwick, and East Greenwich,  
15 and other places. These pumps are located approximately  
16 two to three miles south on 95 of the proposed plant.

17 Providence Water has a purification plant  
18 approximately ten miles away as the crow flies, with  
19 (inaudible) streams and reservoirs nearby. Should any of  
20 the pollutants reach Kent County's water aquifers and/or  
21 Providence Water system, consequences will be  
22 catastrophic on everyone's quality of life.

23 I ask that Rhode Island DEM not make West Warwick  
24 and East Greenwich the new Flint, Michigan. The

1 MedRecycler plant should not be built. I ask that Rhode  
2 Island DEM deny MedRecycler a license.

3 Thank you.

4 MS. STONE: Thank you very much, Mr. Lombardo.

5 At this point we'll hear from Marisa Desautel,  
6 followed by Nick Campanella.

7 MS. DESAUTEL: Good evening. Thank you for hosting  
8 this DEM, folks.

9 My name is Marisa Desautel, I am an attorney who was  
10 hired very recently to represent a group of residential  
11 property owners in East Greenwich. These property owners  
12 anticipate being impacted by the proposed siting.

13 Given my recent representation, the only substantive  
14 comment I have, after hearing the comments today, is that  
15 my client wishes to echo the concerns from the East  
16 Greenwich representative that there is no so-called  
17 two-step process in the DEM regulations, as outlined by  
18 the DEM director. There are serious due-process concerns  
19 associated with the process that the director has  
20 outlined. And, again, it's not justified by DEM's  
21 regulations. My concern is the standard appeal process  
22 under the EPA. When does the agency's final decision  
23 actually occur for purposes of appeal?

24 Besides those preliminary issues, I thought it

1 appropriate to attend here today so that DEM understood  
2 the scope of stakeholder objection and opposition. We  
3 will be submitting substantive objections by the April  
4 deadline. And thank you for your time.

5 MS. STONE: Thank you very much.

6 At this point, Mark, would you like to unmute  
7 Mr. Campanella, and after him it will be followed by  
8 Carey Jeffrey, I believe, is next on the list.

9 MR. DENNEN: Mr. Campanella, you're free to speak.

10 MR. CAMPANELLA: I want to thank DEM for the  
11 opportunity to engage the community and discuss our  
12 proposal. I want to thank Mark Dennen, Yan Li working  
13 with us for close to two years now with our process. The  
14 benefits of MedRecycler proposal for Rhode Island are  
15 significant. We've gone through great lengths to ensure  
16 that the facility would be a good neighbor and a safe  
17 neighbor. The project is going to support up to a  
18 hundred jobs and trades.

19 During construction dozens of permanent jobs, once  
20 complete, will generate well over \$4 million in tax  
21 revenue for the community over the life of our lease.  
22 The material process there will generate renewable  
23 energy, while extending the life of Rhode Island's  
24 central landfill, which is projected to reach capacity in

1 2030.

2 This is important and why we will be handling  
3 materials that all of us generate whenever we go to the  
4 doctor or the dentist, when we go to the hospital or the  
5 clinic, or even when you take your dog or cat to the vet,  
6 all of us generate this material and it's important to  
7 have a way to process it without filling up the landfill.  
8 Our company will do that while generating clean,  
9 renewable energy.

10 Most of the comments I've heard and read don't  
11 really question the process, instead they ask whether it  
12 is an appropriate place for MedRecycler. Both the towns  
13 in West Warwick and East Greenwich have been answering  
14 yes for many years. I say that because the location is  
15 zoned industrial both by towns -- both towns and set  
16 aside for industrial uses for many years.

17 Safety will be our top priority. The lengthy list  
18 of conditions in the DEM letter, all of which we have  
19 agreed to, means that our operation will be safe.  
20 Everyone on the MedRecycler team looks forward to  
21 building this project that will create jobs and economic  
22 activity, while also producing green that will help move  
23 Rhode Island closer to its renewable goals.

24 I'm a businessman, not a politician. So I'm a



1 little out of element when it comes to political  
2 controversies like this. However, I'm confident that the  
3 facts will show that our proposal is good for Rhode  
4 Island and I would invite everyone to get the facts at  
5 MedRecycler.com.

6 Just to get to the bottom line, I guarantee that the  
7 project is going to be safe, we're going to be a good  
8 neighbor and do whatever is required by professionals  
9 that are reviewing our process.

10 Thank you.

11 MS. STONE: Thank you, Mr. Campanella.

12 At this point we'd like to call on Carey Jeffrey,  
13 and following Carey Jeffrey will be Jerry Petros.

14 So, Carey, at this time.

15 MS. JEFFREY: Hello. My name is Carey Jeffrey and I  
16 am an East Greenwich resident and, you know, the thing  
17 about Mr. Campanella is he says the same things over and  
18 over again. And I'm really dismayed to hear how the DEM  
19 is potentially going to approve this -- this license,  
20 without even having a safety plan in place.

21 And there's one overriding scientific fact to this,  
22 and that is, this process that MedRecycler is proposing  
23 has been never been done before and so usually when  
24 there's a licensing process going on, you have to

1 practice the process to develop the safety procedures  
2 that are needed to it. And so there's multiple levels of  
3 safety that are missing from this proposal. And look,  
4 the goal -- to reduce waste going into the landfill is  
5 commendable, but what they're proposing is setting up a  
6 mini landfill in West Warwick, on the East Greenwich line  
7 and how can they guarantee that every trailer filled with  
8 medical waste isn't going to be dropped off and the  
9 waste-concealed containers would crack? Because I can  
10 guarantee you that the rats and the other animals would  
11 find that crack. Okay? And so -- and there's many other  
12 safety issues.

13 But one last point is that MedRecycler's financing  
14 is coming from bonds created by the Rhode Island Commerce  
15 Department, and this should ring some bells. Granted the  
16 structure is different in this case. Does anyone  
17 remember how the commerce department gave loans to Curt  
18 Schilling to development video games? Had he ever  
19 developed video games before? No, but because he was a  
20 Boston Red Sox star, well, you know the rest of the  
21 story.

22 In MedRecycler's case, instead of Boston Red Sox,  
23 substitute the words renewable energy. Only this is  
24 much, much worse than a video game. This could sicken

1 and destroy thousands of lives and livelihoods. This is  
2 not NIMBY. This is take your idea, test it in a desert  
3 with a buffer zone and develop ways to monitor safety  
4 transportation, storage and emissions, correct  
5 temperature and accident mitigation plans.

6 In the meantime, it is absolutely DEM's  
7 responsibility to deny this license. Thank you for your  
8 time.

9 MS. STONE: Thank you very much.

10 At this point we'll move on to Jerry Petros, again,  
11 I apologize if I am mispronouncing anybody's name,  
12 followed by Miguel Figueroa.

13 Jerry, at this point.

14 MR. PETROS: Thank you, Liz.

15 Jerry Petros. I represent M-F Athletic company, a  
16 family-owned business. M-F's business is literally in  
17 the same building as the proposed facility. They will  
18 share a wall. M-F employs 70 people at this location.  
19 M-F strongly opposes this proposal to site a medical  
20 waste processing facility on the other side of a sheet of  
21 wallboard from its business with 70 employees.

22 We have reviewed the proposed facility license. It  
23 is fundamentally flawed. That license contradicts and  
24 ignores numerous solid waste statutory and regulatory

1 requirements for the issue of a license. I will give you  
2 four clear-cut examples that compel denial of this  
3 application.

4 First, the application neither meets nor even  
5 addresses the buffer zone requirement. Under the General  
6 Solid Waste Operating Standards, a medical waste  
7 treatment facility like this shall be required to  
8 maintain a buffer zone. The term "shall" in regulatory  
9 language means the applicant must meet this requirement.  
10 RIDEM has no discretion to waive it.

11 Specifically, the statute regulations states the  
12 buffer zone must be an area of undeveloped vegetative  
13 land retained in its natural, undisturbed condition or  
14 created to resemble a natural occurring vegetative area.  
15 There is no buffer zone. There's a half-inch piece of  
16 wallboard that will separate this facility from my  
17 client's business and risk the health and welfare of 70  
18 employees.

19 Did the applicant meet this requirement in its  
20 application? It didn't meet the requirement. It didn't  
21 address the requirement. It didn't discuss the  
22 requirement. It ignored the requirement. You won't find  
23 the word "buffer" in this application. There's just a  
24 sheet of wallboard. And what did DEM say about this

1 blatant failure? Nothing. DEM needs to correct that  
2 serious oversight immediately.

3 Second, the applicant did not obtain the required  
4 approval from the State Planning Council. Again, the  
5 statute says the applicant shall also submit  
6 simultaneously with the application a certificate of  
7 approval from the State Planning Council. This is a  
8 critical citing function mandated by the state statute.  
9 DEM is powerless to waive or modify that requirement.

10 What happened here? SPC did not notice, invite or  
11 receive public comment on siting or consider alternative  
12 sites. SPC did not issue the certificate, the applicant  
13 could not and did not submit it. DEM should not have  
14 processed this application or even consider it. We  
15 shouldn't be here tonight because they haven't met the  
16 threshold requirements.

17 Third, the applicant was required to obtain  
18 approvals from RIDEM for alternative technology. We've  
19 heard about that from five different speakers. I don't  
20 want to just repeat it, but let me put it this way:  
21 There are five requirements for alternative technology,  
22 and DEM cannot process the application unless and until  
23 it determines that those requirements are met. It is  
24 undisputed that two of those requirements, 40 percent of

1 them, have not yet been met. If I brought home a grade  
2 of 60 on a test in high school, I fail. That's this  
3 applicant's grade, 60. This application fails. There's  
4 no condition of approval. You don't put it up, build it,  
5 and see if one of my client's employees is injured or  
6 made sick or hurt in some other way. They have to prove  
7 it first, that's commonsense and that's DEM's own  
8 regulations. Why are you ignoring your own regulations?

9 And, finally, the applicant has to obtain the  
10 required certificate for final determination that the  
11 site conforms with local land use laws from West Warwick.  
12 The solid waste statute again requires this. DEM has no  
13 discretion to waive it. The applicant did not do it. It  
14 did not submit with its application the required local  
15 certificate. They could not submit it because West  
16 Warwick has never issued the certificate because they  
17 haven't asked for it.

18 And for that reason, again, we should not be here  
19 tonight. There should be no NOI for this application.  
20 DEM should not have processed it until these threshold  
21 determinations and certificates were either made or  
22 submitted, and none of those four have been accomplished  
23 at this point in time.

24 Medical waste treatment facilities must comply with

1 the specific facility operating standards. They must  
2 comply with the statute that sets up our solid waste  
3 program. They must obtain prior approvals before DEM can  
4 even review the license. They did not do that. No SPC  
5 certificate, no town approval, no approval of a proposed  
6 alternative technology and no buffer zone even  
7 proposed --

8 MS. STONE: Thirty seconds, Jerry.

9 MS. PETROS: -- (inaudible) were approved.

10 For all of those reasons, DEM should deny this  
11 application now, they should withdraw the NOI, and it  
12 should not restart this until and unless the applicant  
13 meets all of these requirements.

14 Thank you, Liz. Thank you, Mark.

15 MS. STONE: Thank you very much for your comments.

16 At this point we'll move on to Miguel Figueroa,  
17 followed by Sharon Williams.

18 MR. FIGUEROA: Hi. Can you hear me?

19 MS. STONE: We can hear you.

20 MR. FIGUEROA: My name is Miguel Figueroa. I am a  
21 student here in East Greenwich, Rhode Island. I wanted  
22 to comment on the proposed and specific holding  
23 incinerator that may or may not be built near the East  
24 Greenwich/West Warwick border.

1           The project is the subject of a lot of frustration  
2 in my community, and I'm willing to bet my neighbors in  
3 West Warwick are experiencing the same thing. It seems  
4 that everyone who pays attention to local news is opposed  
5 to this building project for their reasons.

6           Now, I'm pretty far left politically, I have found  
7 myself on the same side of even the most conservative  
8 people in my community and our apparently unanimous  
9 opposition to this construction project. But because I  
10 am a sunriser, I thought I would take a different  
11 approach to this and give my environmental take on why  
12 this project should not be approved.

13           First of all, Mr. Campanella, CEO of MedRecycler, RI  
14 and some specific holdings, and his attorney,  
15 Representative Carcierri, will go on about the green myths  
16 of their pyrolysis method, like they did when they first  
17 proposed the project in May of 2019. I would like to  
18 encourage the DEM to ignore that noise.

19           The incinerator, as I'm sure you are all aware, will  
20 produce for the company called synthesis gas, or sin gas.  
21 You may know it as biomethane. Its sister fuel natural  
22 gas is constructed with the same pyrolysis method as an  
23 identical chemical composition. And like natural gas,  
24 when you burn biomethane it produces energy at the cost



1 of releasing greenhouse gases that trap heat in our  
2 atmosphere and accelerate global warmth. In other words,  
3 biomethane is not clean and pyrolysis isn't clean either.  
4 Do not let them tell you that is.

5 Now, I will admit, the human organs, animal body  
6 parts, and used hospital supplies that Mr. Campanella's  
7 subsidiary wants the state's permission to burn are not  
8 technically fossiled yet. So biomethane isn't  
9 technically considered a fossil fuel yet. You got me.  
10 But that doesn't make the process green by any means.

11 Secondly, I know that Representative Carcierri has  
12 clarified that the entire incinerator plan will be a  
13 closed system and that no gas will escape. In his words,  
14 this makes the project green.

15 Now, there's probably a natural gas line explosion  
16 on a Native American reservation for every word of the  
17 sentence, and I'm sure that all of those fossil fuel  
18 companies gave the same kind of assurance to the  
19 communities they later poisoned, but I'm not indigenous,  
20 so I'm not even going to get into that.

21 Representative Carcierri, DEM members, I don't care  
22 what MedRecycler, RI is doing with the biomethane. My  
23 main concern is what will happen to the biomethane when  
24 MedRecycler, RI harvests it and sells it to energy

1 companies to be burned as a fuel source?

2 And I would like to remind the DEM, and anyone else  
3 listening, that these are the same energy companies that  
4 have donated more than \$12,000 to Representative  
5 Carcieri's reelection campaigns, according to follow the  
6 money. In fact, Representative Carcieri has made six  
7 times more in campaign contributions than the next  
8 highest fundraising candidates.

9 Now, the Union of Concerned Scientists published a  
10 paper in 2013 that stated that medical recyclers, like  
11 the one proposed for West Warwick, would only produce  
12 enough energy to cover three percent of California's  
13 natural gases, even if they burned all of the state's  
14 hospital trash. Assuming Rhode Island and California  
15 have at least similar natural gas consumption rates,  
16 there is no practical reason to harvest biomethane as a  
17 fuel source unless it is making you personally a lot of  
18 money.

19 That brings me to my last point, killing the planet  
20 is a lucrative industry, but take it from Chevron, at  
21 some point people are going to get frustrated when you  
22 dump 600 gallons of oil directly into the San Francisco  
23 Bay.

24 Mr. Campanella is currently facing the ire of 1,000

1 angry suburban (inaudible) and their Tweeter leftist  
2 kids, and that's a crowd that tends to be difficult to  
3 bargain with.

4 It's easy to fall into this trap of believing that  
5 Mr. Campanella and folks like him are evil and don't care  
6 about anything other than their bottom line, but I don't  
7 think Mr. Campanella is an evil person, (inaudible).  
8 He's right, the landfills are gross. He's right that  
9 letting our trash gases float away into the atmosphere  
10 like some kind of collective fart is a bad way to go  
11 about our business. We shouldn't be dumping our garbage  
12 and ruining our environment like that.

13 But here is where Mr. Campanella is wrong. The  
14 difference isn't between destroying our planet and  
15 destroying our planet critically. We don't have to keep  
16 destroying our planet. We don't have to keep burning  
17 natural materials to create fuel. We don't have to keep  
18 burning fossil fuels and pumping the toxins into black  
19 and brown communities. We can make ethical and  
20 sustainable infrastructure choices.

21 As a sunrise organizer, I spoke with Rhode  
22 Islanders, all age, beliefs and backgrounds about the  
23 same way that I do now. It's time for a green  
24 (inaudible) in our state. Somebody to completely

1 reimagine our infrastructure so this doesn't have to be a  
2 problem in the future.

3 Australia, the entire West Coast burned to the  
4 ground last year, Texas doesn't have power, Puerto Rico  
5 has been dealing with hurricane after hurricane, and  
6 Rhode Island could be next in.

7 Things aren't going to get better. If we adopt a  
8 new mind-set, we can stop them from getting worse.

9 Thank you.

10 MS. STONE: Thank you very much.

11 At this point we'd like to move on to Sharon  
12 Williams, followed by Brian Cunningham.

13 Sharon, the floor is yours.

14 MR. DENNEN: I'm having a problem locating Sharon  
15 Williams. I didn't see a Sharon Williams. If she could  
16 message me?

17 MS. STONE: She might just be in -- there's a Sharon  
18 and then a Sharon --

19 MR. DENNEN: Yeah, there's a Sharon. I can unmute  
20 Sharon. It just says Sharon.

21 MS. STONE: If that is the correct Sharon.

22 MR. DENNEN: Sharon, if you could -- okay. She  
23 unmuted herself.

24 MS. WILLIAMS: My name is Sharon Williams. I live

1 on Locust Drive in East Greenwich. I'm in opposition to  
2 the application, and I'm most concerned about the  
3 pollution of medical waste, including drugs from  
4 unmonitored and uncontrolled materials. I'd like to  
5 thank our elected officials and the experts who have  
6 spoken here today.

7 I'm 77 years old. I'm worried about my daughter and  
8 her family, including her daughters, who live down the  
9 street from me in East Greenwich, and I'm also concerned  
10 about her in-laws who live on Pine Glen Drive, just down  
11 the street, down Route 2 from this new facility. She's  
12 about 81 years old, and he's about 88, and he has serious  
13 lung conditions.

14 It sounds to me like the marketing materials for  
15 this company could be, You want something burned, we'll  
16 burn it. And I'm in opposition to that.

17 Thank you.

18 MS. STONE: Thank you very much, Sharon.

19 At this point we'd like to move on to Brian  
20 Cunningham, followed by Nancy Nordquist.

21 Hi, Brian.

22 MR. CUNNINGHAM: Hello. How's it going?

23 My name Brian Cunningham. And I am a current  
24 resident of East Greenwich. I just wanted to formally go

1 on record and posit my opposition to the MedRecycler  
2 waste permit application.

3 I have spent three years working as an environmental  
4 specialist for Triambridge (phonetic) Environmental, a  
5 waste disposal and management company that dealt with  
6 several pharmaceutical and industrial waste producers in  
7 Rhode Island and across the country. And for two of  
8 those years I worked feet on the ground in the actual  
9 hospitals, the labs and facilities where this kind of  
10 waste is produced. I have personally managed the  
11 disposal of several thousands tons of regulated medical  
12 waste, and from that experience I can tell you with  
13 certainty that it has a very varied composition.

14 Now, MedRecycler would like to paint this picture  
15 that this is a green technology and that the implication  
16 of pyrolysis, the process used here to treat the waste,  
17 is simply a great source of renewable energy. They want  
18 it to seem like there's only three main wastes that are  
19 being produced from this process: The flammable sin gas,  
20 which is used to burn for electricity, the solid ash that  
21 will be disposed as a separate waste stream, and  
22 flammable tar that is then reused to heat the  
23 vitrification system. But in reality it's not that  
24 simple. Those are just the tangible waste streams that

1 must be handled by them after doing this heating process.  
2 But the off gas from the thermal oxidizer releases gas  
3 back to that stack out of the facility, that's going to  
4 be releasing numerous chemicals into our atmosphere, and  
5 they have scrubbers on it, supposed to be all scrubbed,  
6 but there's still an amount of pollution that is escaping  
7 into the atmosphere, that includes greenhouse gases like  
8 carbon dioxide, a lot of toxic heavy metal and dioxins,  
9 and that's just if everything is going as smoothly as it  
10 can. And I can say as a prior member of the waste  
11 handling community, that things rarely go as smoothly as  
12 they can.

13 MedRecycler currently has no formal agreement to  
14 spot check their waste. So they aren't even going to be  
15 fully aware of the not-yet regulated chemicals that could  
16 complicate the equation in these waste streams.

17 MedRecycler wants them to seem like most of the waste  
18 that's going to the facility is just plastic gloves and  
19 tubing, and that is true, but the reality is you don't  
20 need a lot of these hazardous materials, a lot of volume,  
21 to have a very negative impact on human health. And when  
22 you start cranking out 70 tons of waste a day, the  
23 possible risk is elevated astronomically. This is truly  
24 anything but a green technology.

1 Rhode Island is trying to move in a more sustainable  
2 direction, and I think that this kind of facility is not  
3 only a step, the complete opposite direction of that, but  
4 one that can seriously endanger those in the residential  
5 areas nearby.

6 I'll also be submitting this in a written form, and  
7 thank you for your time.

8 MS. STONE: Thank you very much.

9 At this time we'd like to move on to Nancy  
10 Nordquist, followed by Cheryl Patnaude.

11 MR. DENNEN: Ms. Nordquist, if you could unmute  
12 yourself.

13 MS. NORDQUIST: Thank you. Sorry.

14 My name is Nancy Nordquist. First of all, I thank  
15 you very much for this opportunity. I'm a very new  
16 resident of East Greenwich. As a matter of fact, I have  
17 bought a condo about a mile away from the targeted  
18 location and if I had known the facility was coming in  
19 and is approved, I really would have had serious  
20 reconsiderations about it.

21 The things that I am concerned about relate to the  
22 health, safety and welfare of the residents surrounding  
23 the location. My concerns are related to the limited use  
24 of the pyrolysis for recycling and the lack of testing



1 that has been available for it, especially for medical  
2 waste. It's my understanding that this process had been  
3 available for many years, and my concern -- or one of the  
4 thoughts I have is if it's been available for so many  
5 years, then why are there so few facilities that are  
6 processing things like the medical waste? And the ones  
7 that I'm aware of are really only processing wood and  
8 plastics.

9 The other thing that is really a concern to me or  
10 another concern to me is the location for this  
11 processing. From what I am understanding, it should be  
12 really in a buffered zone and not in an industrial park  
13 or near a children's daycare center, across from a school  
14 where there are many students, around many, many  
15 residents and some other companies, and during the  
16 wetlands that may be polluted by this.

17 The other thing that I'm very concerned with is  
18 there doesn't seem to be a clear process for handling the  
19 residue from the process, and that trucks with pathogens  
20 inside are going to be parked in the parking lots. They  
21 asked for approval to have, from what I am understanding,  
22 25 trucks be able to park in the parking lot with the  
23 materials, the medical waste in the trucks before they  
24 can be processed.

1 I am asking for your consideration to please not  
2 approve this proposal. And I thank you for the time.

3 I'd also like to thank the representatives that have  
4 been speaking here and have done such a good job.

5 Thank you very much.

6 MS. STONE: Thank you, Nancy.

7 At this point we'd like to move on to Cheryl  
8 Patnaude, followed by Bret Jedele.

9 MR. DENNEN: I couldn't find Cheryl Patnaude in the  
10 list of attendees, so I'd ask Mr. Jedele to unmute  
11 himself.

12 Ms. Patnaude, if you can private message me what  
13 your screen name is.

14 MS. STONE: Bret, the floor is yours.

15 MR. JEDELE: Thank you, mark and Liz. Can you hear  
16 me?

17 MS. STONE: We can hear you just fine. Thank you.

18 MR. JEDELE: My name is Bret Jedele and I represent  
19 Mr. David Straus. He's an East Greenwich resident who  
20 resides in a neighborhood close to this proposed  
21 facility. After reviewing the applications and the  
22 pertinent regulations, my client objects to this  
23 application for the following reasons: First, DEM has  
24 not satisfied its obligation in reviewing the

1 application. Under state law DEM is obligated to address  
2 the siting concerns and surrounding community. Rhode  
3 Island General Laws 23-18.9 was revised in 2018 to add a  
4 higher standard affording great weight to the detrimental  
5 impact placed on surrounding communities.

6 Since the 2018 amendment of that statute, DEM has  
7 not promulgated standards for A, the placement of these  
8 types of facilities; B, when placement causes detrimental  
9 impact on the surrounding; or C, standards that recognize  
10 and afford great weight to these concerns. And, in fact,  
11 the record in this matter is absent consideration of  
12 these factors.

13 So my client, along with others, as you have heard  
14 today, and will hear as the hearing goes along, submit  
15 that this application cannot be considered until DEM has  
16 developed these standards and proven that it has  
17 considered them.

18 Second, the applicant must receive, review and  
19 approval from the State Planning Council. And here it  
20 has not. State law dictates that the SPC can approve a  
21 site, again, similar to the last issue, only after  
22 affording great weight to the detrimental impact of the  
23 surrounding community, and after an evaluation of an  
24 alternative site. But the SPC has done neither here. In

1 fact, the SPC has yet to go through a public comment  
2 and -- notice and comment process, and as such DEM is  
3 precluded from considering this application further until  
4 the SPC process is completed. Any decision by DEM in the  
5 absence of that process prejudices my client, the  
6 residents of East Greenwich, as well as the residents of  
7 West Warwick.

8       Importantly, and related to the SPC process, the  
9 applicant must receive approval from the local zoning and  
10 planning departments. In fact, the final determination  
11 from the municipality that the site conforms with all  
12 applicable land use and ordinance requirements is  
13 required before DEM can issue a decision on an  
14 application case like this.

15       Here the applicant is merely at this starting point  
16 of the local permitting process. The applicant has yet  
17 to apply for a preliminary plan or final plan approval  
18 from the West Warwick Planning Board. So DEM cannot  
19 consider granting a license here until a certificate of  
20 final determination from the Town of West Warwick is  
21 submitted.

22       Moving on. The documentation necessary to support  
23 this application is lacking significantly. The laws and  
24 regulations require that all supporting documentation be

1 made available for public comment. The draft DEM  
2 conditional license says that certain documentation has  
3 yet to be produced and that information includes, for  
4 instance, the West Warwick contingency plan, a  
5 pre-operating test of the system, and importantly,  
6 evidence of financial assurance.

7 So I would submit that since this technology is  
8 untested and unproven, financial assurance should be  
9 vetted and ensured upfront, and all of those documents  
10 that I mentioned are critical to informing the public and  
11 satisfying public participation requirements.

12 And, finally, it's been said up to this point, and  
13 I'm sure repeated, that this technology is unproven.  
14 State law requires that this technology be vetted, and  
15 the regulations require that DEM review, approve all  
16 testing plans and protocols before issuing an approval.

17 And, again, as grounds for the fact that this  
18 technology is proven, the applicant cited to one facility  
19 in Mexico, the Monarch facility. It's my understanding  
20 after looking at the Federal Register that the Monarch  
21 facility was recently denied approval by EPA for  
22 pyrolysis.

23 So I'd like to wrap this up by saying that there's  
24 been talk that the applicant has brought equipment in and

1 started some form of operations. If this is true, this  
2 agency's decision should not and cannot be swayed by  
3 pleas for tolerance or leniency. The applicant cannot be  
4 allowed to profit by impatiently skirting the system.

5 I will be submitting written comments at the end of  
6 the public comment period. And, again, thank you for the  
7 opportunity to speak.

8 MS. STONE: Thank you, Bret.

9 At this point we'd like to move on to Tom Romeo,  
10 followed by Greg Gerritt.

11 MR. DENNEN: I'd ask Mr. Romeo to unmute.  
12 Mr. Romeo.

13 MR. ROMEO: I don't have any comments. I put all my  
14 comments in writing to Mark earlier.

15 I must say I can't believe that DEM didn't follow  
16 the rules, but apparently that's the case from everything  
17 I'm hearing.

18 This is a bad idea in my opinion. But the least --  
19 I would say the least, or the minimal thing of having a  
20 truck turn over, if you see the trucks going to the  
21 landfill there in Johnston, the central landfill, you see  
22 stuff all over the ground, it's possible you could have  
23 an accident as a truck comes from one of the New England  
24 states to Rhode Island or in Rhode Island. So I just

1 think it's a bad idea. I don't know the technology. I  
2 was very impressed and learned a lot from some of the  
3 science-oriented folks. So those are my only comments.  
4 I think it's a bad idea. I hope it doesn't go.

5 And I hope Governor McKee takes a position soon. A  
6 public position, you know. Seems like money has changed  
7 hands, and that's not a good idea in my opinion.

8 Thank you.

9 MS. STONE: Thank you very much.

10 At this point we'd like to turn to Greg Gerritt,  
11 followed by Mike Ashworth.

12 MR. GERRITT: Am I on?

13 MS. STONE: Greg, we can hear you.

14 MR. GERRITT: Great.

15 My name is Greg Gerritt. I live in Providence. I'm  
16 going to testify for myself, but I also have been asked  
17 to say that the Environment Council of Rhode Island, the  
18 coalition of more than 16 environmental groups in the  
19 State of Rhode Island has also said we do not think that  
20 this is a good project and we do not want it.

21 They have most -- you have heard all the reasons for  
22 that, so I won't reiterate those. I have some other  
23 things to say.

24 This project is not clean energy. It burns natural

1 gas to heat up the chamber in which to melt the plastic  
2 that is already burning fossil fuels. Plastics are  
3 fossil fuels. Everything that they are making out of  
4 plastic, they're making out of oil. And as we go to  
5 electric cars, the oil industry has said we are going to  
6 flood the world with plastic so that we can keep selling  
7 oil. But every bit of oil we take out of the ground  
8 contributes to the greenhouse disaster that we are going  
9 through, and we should not be either using it to heat  
10 plastic or burning plastic.

11 And I understand that they do this, they call it  
12 pyrolysis, but, essentially, Rhode Island has banned  
13 incineration. And this is just, you know, a slightly  
14 different (inaudible) and we do not want this, we will  
15 not stand for it.

16 I want everybody to think about Burrillville. The  
17 people in Burrillville went through the same thing  
18 recently with their proposed power plant. You know, the  
19 political insiders all kind of greased it. DEM kind of  
20 greased it. And it was really, really obnoxious.  
21 Eventually, like you, hundreds and hundreds of people  
22 kept coming out and eventually the state got it. It  
23 didn't meet our greenhouse gas goals. It's not clean,  
24 and the people don't want it.



1           In Providence right now they're trying to get these  
2 things called Green Justice Zones. Essentially it's low  
3 income neighborhoods, people of color neighborhoods that  
4 are facing real problems from pollution over time for --  
5 continued for years and years it just builds. So they  
6 have been objecting, and, you know, so the city is  
7 starting to deal with that. And there's a bill at the  
8 legislature on Green Justice Zones. And this is exactly  
9 the kind of situation that these are called for. It says  
10 the people -- if the bill passes, it says the people in  
11 the neighborhood have a right to say no. And that is not  
12 a conditional right to say no. It is an unconditional  
13 right to say no.

14           When -- I've lived in places that people wanted to  
15 build nuclear waste dumps, and we stopped them. And this  
16 is what's going to happen here because the people have  
17 the right to say no. The process, the politics is not  
18 right when the people are shut out of this decision.

19           And it's clear that the political power says, We  
20 think this is economic development. But it's never good  
21 economic development. It doesn't actually advance a  
22 sustainable community, a healthy community, a community  
23 using resources to do good things in it. It's basically  
24 just say, Well, we've got to put the trash somewhere so

1 you've been picked.

2           So I think that this is a really bad idea. It's not  
3 green, it's not clean. And it's not being run in  
4 accordance with the principles of DEM democracy. And  
5 when everybody realizes stuff, we are all environmental  
6 justice zones and that we all need green environmental  
7 justice zones, we will have a state process in which  
8 people who would like to speak -- who would like to stop  
9 these things get equal footing. You don't give the  
10 developer, you know, 15 years head start and we get to  
11 come in at the end. It's like, we need to be in from the  
12 beginning and they shouldn't be doing anything without  
13 full public disclosures and testimony.

14           Thank you.

15           MS. STONE: Thank you, Greg.

16           At this point, before we turn to Mike Ashworth, we  
17 need to take a couple minutes break. We have a  
18 stenographer who is attempting to keep up with recording  
19 everything that's being said here, and we need to take a  
20 quick break. So at this point I'll call for a  
21 three-minute break or so, and we will be back on in just  
22 a few minutes, starting with Mike Ashworth, and Christine  
23 Berger.

24           Thank you.

1 (A recess was taken at 5:45 p.m.)

2 (Resumed at 5:47 p.m.)

3 MR. DENNEN: I believe Richard is next, is that  
4 correct?

5 MS. STONE: I'm sorry. Let me look at the list,  
6 which I might have misread.

7 MR. DENNEN: It might have been that we accidentally  
8 skipped him, and that he was on earlier. I just got a  
9 message --

10 Hi.

11 MR. BINGHAM: Hi. Do you mind if I continue?

12 MR. DENNEN: I'm sorry?

13 MR. BINGHAM: Can I continue?

14 MR. DENNEN: Liz?

15 MS. STONE: Yes. So this is Richard who is going  
16 now. My apologies, --

17 MR. DENNEN: Yes. I don't have a last name.

18 MS. STONE: So after that, I believe you have Mike  
19 on your list next?

20 MR. DENNEN: I believe so. Yes.

21 MS. STONE: We'll go from Richard to Mike. Sorry,  
22 Mike. A few more minutes.

23 MR. BINGHAM: My name is Richard Bingham. We are  
24 the technology supplier, which is ten of (inaudible) from

1 South Africa. There's only one thing that I want to talk  
2 about, and that is the emissions. It's the emissions  
3 that everyone is afraid of. I'd like to just pick out  
4 three.

5 The dioxins and furans are formed during high  
6 temperature combustion, the material that contains  
7 chlorine compounds. And we don't get to those  
8 temperatures, so we don't create the dioxins and furans.

9 Secondly, we remove the chlorine as a pre-treatment  
10 exercise and we cover most of it.

11 And finally, we have a line alkaloid gas (inaudible)  
12 on exit from the pyrolyser, along with the rest of the  
13 gasoline system, which I won't go into now.

14 And lastly, we have a regenerative thermal oxidizer,  
15 such as that in the unlikely event there are any dioxins  
16 and furans, at this point they would be destroyed.

17 Anyone that technically knows about dioxins and  
18 furans will say, Yes, they could reform if the flue gas  
19 is not quenched rapidly. And we quench the flue gas in  
20 fractions of a second.

21 So dioxins and furans, which are the worst thing  
22 that can be carcinogenic and create problems for people,  
23 we have five mitigating circumstances to obviate them.

24 The next thing is nitrous oxides. We have

1 documented evidence that our nitrous oxides are less than  
2 18 milligrams per cubic meter. We allowed 200. So we  
3 have less than ten percent of what the world agrees is a  
4 reasonable emission. We are composting the gas in our  
5 gas engines. The chassity we have, with the very low  
6 knocks, are high-efficiency engines, and we have very low  
7 knocks.

8 Again, in the unlikely event that that noxious  
9 (inaudible) wanted, the regenerative thermal oxidizer  
10 allows us to input urea, which will bring it down to less  
11 than ten percent of whatever it is.

12 The final thing that everyone talks about is the  
13 CO2. Believe it or not, our plant is, in relative terms,  
14 CO2 negative, and that is because we obviate in the  
15 landfill where the CO2 emissions are higher than our  
16 total CO2 emissions if the same material was put in the  
17 landfill. We also have a negative effect of creating the  
18 electrical energy from the facility. So its landfill  
19 avoidance gives us our main offset, which take us to a  
20 negative footprint.

21 Now, I realize that everyone doesn't want the  
22 facility. However, it's for the wrong reasons. The  
23 other option for the medical waste is to put it in the  
24 landfill, and the landfill we will create methane, which

1 is 20 times worse than CO2.

2 I think that's all I have to say. Thank you.

3 MS. STONE: Thank you very much, Richard.

4 At this point we would like to turn to Mike  
5 Ashworth.

6 Mike?

7 MR. DENNEN: I can't see Mike Ashworth. William  
8 Ash -- I don't see him.

9 MS. STONE: There's just a --

10 MR. DENNEN: Mike, if you could unmute yourself, if  
11 you are Mike Ashworth. No. He's not -- okay. Maybe we  
12 could let Denise Lopez go next?

13 MS. STONE: Yes. She's next. Denise Lopez,  
14 followed by --

15 MR. DENNEN: I think she messaged me directly, which  
16 is why Yan didn't see her on the chat board. So I  
17 apologize to her.

18 MS. STONE: So, Denise Lopez, the floor is yours,  
19 followed by Katie Silberman.

20 MS. LOPEZ: Am I on?

21 MS. STONE: Yes. We can hear you.

22 MS. LOPEZ: And also I just sent a text to Mike  
23 Ashworth.

24 MS. STONE: Thank you very much.

1 MS. LOPEZ: And I apologize, because I'm losing my  
2 voice a little bit. Been talking about this project a  
3 bit.

4 MS. STONE: We can hear you loud and clear.

5 MS. LOPEZ: Good afternoon. My name is Denise Lopez  
6 and I'm an East Greenwich resident, but today I come to  
7 speak as a representative of Kent County and the voice of  
8 those who aren't able to come and speak today.

9 I have spent the last year following the MedRecycler  
10 project and objectively learning more in order to provide  
11 facts to the community on what is being proposed. Quite  
12 frankly, the more I have learned, the more concerned I  
13 have become that the project has gotten this far, for  
14 such a congested area in the middle of Kent County.

15 As stated in a Science Direct article, a pyrolysis  
16 plant for self-sustaining energy through waste is  
17 thermo-dynamically unproven, practically implausible, and  
18 even environmentally unsound. Yet MedRecycler claims  
19 their process is safe, even green, but it has never  
20 tested the system with medical waste to date, only  
21 incineration.

22 Pyrolysis is not that different from incineration.  
23 Both methods use high heat and produce ash, char and air  
24 pollutants, including mercury and lead. I have heard

1 from many families impacted by cancer, thanking me for my  
2 efforts, as the last thing Rhode Island needs is  
3 additional dioxins that will increase our risk statewide.

4 While I could go on for hours, the focus today is on  
5 the solid waste permit. So I will concentrate my  
6 comments on that.

7 And I had a few things that have already been  
8 stated, in particular, with regards to the alternative  
9 technology regulations in Section 1.14. And with DEM  
10 stating that the process cannot be proven to date for the  
11 environmental impact, as well as health concern, they  
12 stated themselves that with respect to three and four,  
13 those two items, the Office of Waste Management has  
14 remaining concerns that need to be addressed,  
15 specifically shredding untreated medical waste may  
16 aerosolize pathogens that could negatively impact the  
17 health of workers in the community at large.

18 They also go on to say that this technology has not  
19 previously been permitted or utilized in Rhode Island.  
20 And this is a key piece of information for this location,  
21 that I will address later.

22 Secondly, as stated by the businessowner next door,  
23 it's alarming that the number of flags that appear when  
24 general oversight of the solid waste regulations. I know



1 this is alternative technology, but when we have our  
2 basic solid waste regulations that aren't being followed,  
3 that should be a flag. In particular, with regards to  
4 Section 1.6 and (d) with odors. You know, odors that  
5 they say it's going to smell. We know it's going to  
6 smell. They said they're going to be a good neighbor and  
7 get rid of the smell. Why try to cover it up? If  
8 they're saying that it's going to smell, at least we  
9 would know what was going on.

10 In Section 1.8, the odor control problem, I had a  
11 couple of questions to what offsite alternative medical  
12 waste facility has been determined for processing boxes  
13 with offensive odors. Because they state that some will  
14 come in. And then if such facility has not been  
15 identified, how is it permissible to be as stated in the  
16 application process immediately onsite?

17 With regards to -- several -- and then if such in an  
18 e-mail. But on Page 47 of the application it states that  
19 should radioactive material be detected, the container  
20 labeled as radioactive and temporarily placed away from  
21 employees, in most cases it will decay to acceptable  
22 background limits and may be processed as regular medical  
23 waste. So if we don't allow it in a solid waste  
24 building, why, you know, are we even considering it for

1 this application?

2 Basic general operating standards, again safety  
3 provisions. The facility should be designed, operated  
4 and maintained in such a manner that would protect the  
5 health and safety of the facility and personnel  
6 associated with the operation. If you don't know  
7 something is safe, it should not be tested close to an  
8 operating business and residential area. The buffer zone  
9 with the 70 employees that are next door, we've already  
10 talked about that.

11 And moving -- and also with regards to that, they  
12 have a loading dock where trucks come in daily 6:00 to  
13 8:00 a day, so not only employees but they're, you know,  
14 they're -- the truckloads that they are receiving daily.

15 Moving on to general comments about the application  
16 of documents submitted by MedRecycler. Again, in the  
17 two-five statement they say that they don't have specific  
18 details for the test protocols. Therefore, permit  
19 conditions have been included to require additional  
20 details in the testing protocols, department approval,  
21 and oversight prior to testing. That is a flag because  
22 if after two years you still don't know how you're going  
23 to test this, you know, the public is expected to be the  
24 guinea pigs for the environmental impact of the process.

1           There are some specific discrepancies between the  
2 DEM application and approval letter. Why is the DEM's  
3 Notice of Intent to approve say that MedRecycler can  
4 store medical waste, when the application states that  
5 they won't? Why does the DEM Notice of Intent to approve  
6 say, you know, that no more than 20 containers of medical  
7 waste shall be stored inside and no more than 25 outside?  
8 You know, it just goes on. And, again, I'll send some  
9 additional ones.

10           The application is clear as to reference even the  
11 original Johnston site. They didn't even have it updated  
12 for West Warwick. There's an employee manual and, you  
13 know, the one provided is from a company called  
14 Environmental Health Concepts. I was just curious how  
15 this company represents itself as the employee manual of  
16 MedRecycler. Is it a sample of a business they're  
17 working with or just one they provide in the absence of  
18 not having one themselves?

19           And they use Monarch Waste facilities as comparison  
20 a site. And I did have the opportunity to speak with  
21 someone in Sante Fe. And her conversation: Monarch  
22 recently moved operations out of my homeland due to  
23 restrictions placed on not processing human or non-human  
24 body parts last year, and it no longer being financially

1    lucrative.  The facility was near a residential area and  
2    neighbors said the smell was horrible, and couldn't even  
3    walk their pets outside anymore.  I lived far enough away  
4    to where it didn't smell.  My concerns were around what  
5    the EPA deems safe amounts of things like arsenic.

6            They also didn't do a full environmental impact  
7    assessment, so no information on how it would impact  
8    groundwater, only air emissions.  I would advocate for a  
9    full environmental impact assessment.  It's completely  
10   done over here, no longer in operation, thankfully.

11           While I think it's important that we find ways to  
12   dispose of waste safely, I'm not understanding why these  
13   facilities need to be near homes and communities, and  
14   near areas that are deemed disposable, largely  
15   communities of color and Indian reservations.  I don't  
16   know what the demographics look like in your area, but in  
17   my case it was an environmental racism.  And there is a  
18   long history of sacrifice zones where nuclear waste was  
19   dumped and uranium mining occurred.  I'd definitely be  
20   concerned with the let's try it and then test it method,  
21   end quote.

22           And going back, in closing, to the DEM alternative  
23   knowledge regulations stated above in subsection B, not  
24   withstanding the provisions of 1.59F5A of this part, the

1 director deny any application for just cause within the  
2 scope and intent of these regulations. And especially in  
3 this age of Covid, consists of a relatively new and  
4 unique use of pyrolysis of disposal of medical waste, I  
5 question whether or not even the Rhode Island DEM has the  
6 ability or expertise to thoroughly and safely evaluate  
7 the proposed project. It is certainly new territory for  
8 DEM and an alternative use of this technology will set  
9 precedence for the state.

10 This company, and I'm sure many others, will come to  
11 Rhode Island, as many are looking for states that offer  
12 industrial bond funding for self-identified green  
13 initiatives.

14 We are urging DEM to do their job and provide the  
15 scrutiny and oversight of this application and protect  
16 the ones you serve.

17 Thank you very much, and I hope that you oppose this  
18 application.

19 MS. STONE: Thank you, Denise.

20 At this point we'd like to move on to Katie  
21 Silberman, followed by Christine Berger.

22 Hi, Katie.

23 MS. BERGER: Thank you.

24 My name is Katherine Silberman. I'm an East

1 Greenwich resident and I'm the primary author of a letter  
2 in opposition to MedRecycler that has currently been  
3 signed by 1,484 people, including more in the past two  
4 hours, I'd like to say. I don't have time to read the  
5 entire letter, but I would like to read excerpts.

6 But first I would like to say for the record that  
7 we're getting many, many, messages from the West Warwick  
8 and East Greenwich residents who are trying to sign on to  
9 this call, who are not able to due to the 300-person  
10 capacity. I personally contacted DEM last week by phone  
11 and e-mail to let them know we had over a thousand  
12 signatures on the letter, we expected a huge turnout for  
13 this call, they needed the capacity to handle that, and  
14 they chose not to do that, to have a 300-person capacity.  
15 People want to participate who have not been able to, and  
16 so I think this is not an authentic or sufficient public  
17 participation.

18 But let me read the letter: As residents of West  
19 Warwick, East Greenwich and nearby towns, we are writing  
20 to oppose any permits for MedRecycler to build a medical  
21 waste pyrolysis facility in West Warwick. I'm going to  
22 skip some because we've been through a lot of this. But  
23 this pyrolysis is potentially hazardous technology that  
24 is inappropriate for a residential neighborhood. The

1 residents of West Warwick and East Greenwich bear all the  
2 risks of this dangerous technology for human health and  
3 the environment and would have no control or even  
4 knowledge of the hazardous waste imported to our towns  
5 everyday.

6 Medical waste is known to contain persistent,  
7 bioaccumulative toxics like mercury, harmful plastics and  
8 other toxics that cannot be eliminated by pyrolysis.

9 We're concerned about potentially harmful air and water  
10 pollution from MedRecycler damaging our health and

11 environment, including substances known to result from  
12 pyrolysis, including carbon dioxide, lead, mercury,

13 dioxins, furans, sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, ash,  
14 and char. With two daycare centers and residential

15 neighborhoods surrounding the site, we're especially  
16 concerned about the health effects of lead and dioxins,

17 as discussed, known to cause cancer, liver and endocrine  
18 damage, infertility, birth defects and environmental

19 harm, and the potential for radioactive waste to come to  
20 the facility, who are deeply rooted in our hometowns,

21 personally, professionally, financially, and  
22 historically. Our voices of opposition should be heard

23 in contrast to the developer who wants to come to Rhode  
24 Island from New Jersey with technology from South Africa

1 that is previously untested on medical waste.

2 We encourage DEM to apply the Precautionary  
3 Principle, an established tenent of environmental law to  
4 this decision. Since pyrolysis has never been used to  
5 treat medical waste, the true risks are currently  
6 unknown. The residents of West Warwick and East  
7 Greenwich do not consent to our children, our families  
8 and our neighborhoods being used as guinea pigs for an  
9 untested technology which could cause unknown harm. What  
10 happens if there's a malfunction, an accident, a fire or  
11 unpredictably harmful emissions from this plant? How do  
12 you undo that harm? The answer is: It is impossible.  
13 Therefore, DEM should err on the side of caution to  
14 protect human health and the environment.

15 The fact is, there's nothing green or recycled about  
16 MedRecycler. Pyrolysis is barely distinguishable from a  
17 medical waste incinerator with a greenwashed name.  
18 Medical waste incinerators are notoriously toxic,  
19 polluting facilities that are inconsistent with  
20 residential communities.

21 The definition of regulated medical waste includes:  
22 Human blood, body parts, and live vaccines, among many  
23 other biohazards. Especially now, in the age of  
24 super-infectious Covid-19, these are not appropriate



1 materials to import to this site. We are concerned about  
2 machine malfunctions, accidents, spills, fires, toxic  
3 emissions, worker safety, first responder safety,  
4 environmental harm, air, water, wildlife, and ecosystems,  
5 and the health of all the people who live and work near  
6 or to the site.

7 We want to stress that our opposition to this  
8 facility does not rest in the "not in my backyard" theory  
9 of local protectionism. Rather, this facility does not  
10 belong in anyone's backyard. Our state, nation and world  
11 are experiencing a climate crisis. It's long past time  
12 to reject the polluting technologies of past and look to  
13 a truer greener future for us all.

14 Rhode Islanders are justifiably proud of our  
15 beautiful coastal environment, and in this small state we  
16 care deeply about the well-being of our neighbors.  
17 Therefore, we ask DEM to prioritize the health and  
18 environment of Rhode Island families over the process of  
19 this speculative developer and deny any permits for  
20 MedRecycler.

21 Thank you.

22 MS. STONE: Thank you, Katie.

23 We will turn next to Christine Berger, followed by  
24 Shanna Wells.

1 Mark, at this point I will let you take over.

2 MR. DENNEN: Thank you. And I've got Christine B.  
3 I believe that is you?

4 MS. BERGER: Correct. Good evening. I'm Christine  
5 Berger, a resident of Rhode Island. I oppose any permit  
6 to build a medical waste pyrolysis facility in Rhode  
7 Island.

8 These facilities are designed specifically for their  
9 feedstock and to generate specific products. But what  
10 exactly is in these sealed containers that will be  
11 brought in by the truckload? And please imagine,  
12 envision in your mind what 70 tons a day looks like.  
13 They will then be shredded and heated on-site. Pyrolysis  
14 plants that are not properly designed for their feedstock  
15 are harmful to the environment.

16 Rhode Islanders will have no control or even  
17 knowledge of what the hazardous waste imported into our  
18 towns every day will be. And why should Rhode Island be  
19 a test site for such a potentially dangerous, polluting,  
20 untested experimental technology?

21 The applicants have thus far been unable to prove  
22 that treating medical waste through pyrolysis is safe for  
23 human health and for the environment (inaudible). I am  
24 concerned about the emissions that will leach into the

1 surface water, into the water table or bioaccumulate into  
2 our plants and our animals.

3 Please think of the dangers posed to those who live,  
4 work and go to school in the properties immediately  
5 abutting the facility we are discussing. We do not want  
6 this in Rhode Island.

7 I respectfully request DEM to not grant the solid  
8 waste permit.

9 Thank you.

10 MR. DENNEN: Thank you for your comment.

11 Next I have Shanna Wells. Miss Wells?

12 MS. WELLS: Hi. My name is Shanna Wells, and I'm a  
13 I'm resident of West Warwick who lives two-and-a-half  
14 miles away from the proposed site. I'm here to say I do  
15 not want the proposed MedRecycler treatment facility here  
16 in my town or, indeed, anywhere in Rhode Island.

17 Pyrolysis is not ordinarily used for medical waste  
18 and there is no scientific data on a technological  
19 impact. I think it unconscionable that an untried,  
20 untested process would be approved, turning the residents  
21 of West Warwick and East Greenwich into lab rats for the  
22 financial benefit of an out-of-state vendor.

23 It also make me question the DEM's motivation, since  
24 their job is to protect and steward the land in a

1 responsible, ecologically safe manner. If you don't know  
2 the long-term impact this facility will have on the  
3 environment and the humans who live adjacent to it, then  
4 the answer should always be no.

5 Thank you.

6 MR. DENNEN: Thank you for your comment.

7 Next I have Lily Scott. Just give me one moment.

8 Okay. There. Miss Scott.

9 MS. SCOTT: Yes. Hi. Can you hear me?

10 MR. DENNEN: Yes, I can.

11 MS. SCOTT: Hi. My name is Lily Scott. I'm an EG  
12 resident, I'm a mom of two kids in the community, and I'm  
13 also a former educator in the State of New York City. I  
14 have a master's degree in early childhood education,  
15 specialty in learning disabilities.

16 I taught in a high-needs, hard-to-staff area of New  
17 York City called the South Bronx for several years, and I  
18 can attest to you the real true ramifications of both  
19 working in and watching children grow up in an  
20 environment with medical waste incinerators.

21 I personally have never been so ill. The true  
22 effects of the air quality pollution are 100 percent  
23 real. No matter how much of a standard is in place  
24 within the governing bodies of the area, it doesn't

1 matter if a medical incinerator or a pyrolysis factory is  
2 working towards and meeting the expectations of any  
3 governing body. Everyone will be ill; that is the case.

4 I worked in a school with over 800 children, and the  
5 rate of asthma in that school topped 90 percent. It is a  
6 real and present danger. That is not an exaggeration.  
7 That is a reality. And there is a hundred percent zero  
8 ways to get around that. The only way that we extricate  
9 ourselves from that type of harm to our community, our  
10 children, our seniors, everyone who lives here is for DEM  
11 to throw this out. There's absolutely no other  
12 conversation to be had.

13 And that is my comment. I will also put it in  
14 writing, and do anything else to make this go away, and  
15 get out of our state.

16 MR. DENNEN: Thank you for your comment.

17 Next I have Claudia Iannotti. And I just have  
18 Claudia down, so I will assume that that's you. Claudia?

19 Oh, Miss Scott, could you mute yourself again,  
20 please? Thank you. Good. Okay.

21 Claudia Iannotti.

22 MS. IANNOTTI: Yes, Mark.

23 MR. DENNEN: There you are. And by the way, just  
24 before you start, next I have Justin, then Linda Grenier.

1 I don't have a last name for Justin.

2 Okay. Please.

3 MS. IANNOTTI: Thank you, Mark. Thank you.

4 I don't want to repeat -- a lot of what has been  
5 said also encompasses the concerns that I have and I  
6 don't want to repeat those things, but the one thing I  
7 did not hear, and I could have missed it, was right next  
8 door to this facility is the daycare and then immediately  
9 next door to the daycare is -- there are two ponds there,  
10 and that's a bit of a concern for me because what happens  
11 in the event, due to human error, and some of this  
12 infectious -- or if a hauler has an accident and some of  
13 this infectious waste escapes, there are so many airborne  
14 infectious diseases, that that's a big concern for me.  
15 And other than that, I think everything else I wanted to  
16 comment on has already been said, so I'm not going to  
17 repeat.

18 MR. DENNEN: I'm sorry, are you done?

19 MS. IANNOTTI: I'm -- yes, I am. I am new to Zoom,  
20 so this is new to me.

21 MR. DENNEN: Thank you very much for your comment.

22 MS. IANNOTTI: Thank you.

23 MR. DENNEN: I believe next I have Justin here. I  
24 have Justin. I don't have a last name listed. I'm

1 trying to unmute Justin, but I'm unable to for some  
2 reason.

3 Okay. Justin, if you can private message -- private  
4 chat me.

5 I'm going to move on to Linda Grenier. And I just  
6 have to allow you to unmute yourself. Okay. Linda  
7 Grenier.

8 MS. GRENIER: Yes. Hi.

9 MR. DENNEN: Hello. Please go ahead.

10 MS. GRENIER: Okay. Liz and Mark, I want to thank  
11 you for allowing me to comment. Can you hear me?

12 MR. DENNEN: I can hear you just fine.

13 MS. GRENIER: Okay. Thank you.

14 I'm Linda Grenier, a Coventry resident, and I would  
15 like to make this comment that Rhode Island has only  
16 4,000 hospital beds between 14 hospitals, plus medical  
17 offices, nursing homes and other medical facilities.  
18 Seventy tons of medical waste per day seems excessive for  
19 such a small little state. I'm concerned that  
20 MedRecycler will be accepting waste from other states.

21 Without collected scientific data that might give  
22 DEM a green light to approve this facility, I'm asking  
23 RIDEM to not allow Rhode Islanders to be guinea pigs for  
24 this potentially unsafe project.

1 And thank you.

2 MR. DENNEN: Thank you.

3 Next I have on my list Wendy Greene. And I believe  
4 you're under the name Mark Greene?

5 MS. GREENE: Yes. Hi. Can you hear me?

6 MR. DENNEN: Yes.

7 MS. GREENE: Okay. Thank you.

8 Good afternoon. My name is Wendy Greene, and I am a  
9 resident on the Warwick/East Greenwich line, about a mile  
10 from the proposed facility, and my concerns are not just  
11 for myself but for all the citizens and communities in  
12 Kent County and throughout the entire State of Rhode  
13 Island.

14 We're such a small state, and a facility such as  
15 this, with the magnitude of, as the last person just  
16 mentioned, processing 70 tons of medical waste per day  
17 24/7 effects all of us and not just one community.

18 So I'm very deeply concerned that the pyrolysis  
19 process is common in the chemical industry to produce  
20 fossil fuel by-product, but there's no examples of  
21 commercial use.

22 There are three plants in South Africa, but not in  
23 the US. And, again, for the commercial sector, it is not  
24 a proven one in the US.



1 I'm concerned about truckloads upon truckloads  
2 containing medical waste that will be stored for up to  
3 two weeks. So what does that even mean? Contaminants  
4 being spread, radioactive contaminant, air pollutants. I  
5 believe Denise mentioned offensive odors. So what are  
6 the protocols to even oversee something like that?

7 The other thing that concerns me is back in May  
8 Scientific Holding Corp. has a PR firm and they released  
9 a statement that a ten-year lease with a ten-year option  
10 was identified and negotiated and executed on the -- at  
11 the facility, the 48,000-square foot facility at 1600  
12 Division Road in West Warwick.

13 So I'm wondering why was a lease already a done  
14 deal? And unless, in my view, the fix was in to approve  
15 the medical waste facility, I believe that that lease  
16 shouldn't have even been implemented at that time.

17 And then why would the City of West Warwick approve  
18 to commence an office build-out in the medical waste  
19 location without any public hearing? So I have a lot of  
20 questions.

21 Again, I've heard the word guinea pig used. I, too,  
22 believe, like, why are we allowing the little State of  
23 Rhode Island to be a guinea pig that test -- untested  
24 technology? Why allow it next to a child daycare center,

1 a university, a golf course, a neighborhood, waterways?

2 And what is the due diligence that is going to be  
3 done in order to really study this pyrolysis in the  
4 commercial sector, and in a heavily populated  
5 environment? And how do we even know that what we're --  
6 what they are planning to do won't allow cancer-causing  
7 emissions into the environment?

8 I'm concerned about the lack of transparency that  
9 has been -- has been sort of swept under the rug until  
10 recently. There's only been recent press coverage, which  
11 is all due in part to the concerned citizens for speaking  
12 out against it.

13 And I know I'm running out of time, so I'll just end  
14 with the fact that I'm concerned about this obviously.  
15 The relationship between MedRecycler and the State of  
16 Rhode Island and the concerned citizens doesn't seem to  
17 be off to a good start. I think there's a lot of  
18 unanswered questions, and I emphatically and  
19 wholeheartedly request that Rhode Island DEM do the right  
20 thing and deny the medical waste license to MedRecycler.

21 Thank you.

22 MR. DENNEN: Thank you.

23 Next I have Nicole Armstrong. And I'll ask you to  
24 unmute. And then after that I have Stephanie and John

1 Carne. Okay?

2 So Ms. Armstrong, the floor is yours.

3 MS. ARMSTRONG: Hi. Thank you. I really appreciate  
4 the opportunity to speak.

5 My name is Nicole Armstrong. I live in East  
6 Greenwich. And I really do not want to see Kent County  
7 become the next Flint Michigan. Flint public officials  
8 had the laudable goal of saving some tax dollars, but it  
9 devolved into a public works tragedy, because it was  
10 determined -- after irreversible damage to human health  
11 had been done, it was determined to be caused not by  
12 malice but by faulty assumptions, bad science and a  
13 failure to perform due diligence.

14 In Flint, when local officials and pollmakers  
15 switched to a new, what turned out to be, corrosive water  
16 supply and then failed to correctly treat it, as you know  
17 it created a perfect storm that caused lead to leach from  
18 the pipes into folks' homes and created a massive water  
19 crisis that tripled the levels of lead in their  
20 children's blood.

21 Flint's residents suffered devastating life-long  
22 consequences, despite initial claims that it's temporary  
23 or we looked into the science and it's safe.

24 And now here in Rhode Island MedRecycler is trying

1 to serenade us with greenwashed claims and earnest  
2 promises that, We want to be good neighbors. It's safe.  
3 Trust us. Smack dab in the middle of our state, they  
4 hope to pyrolysize medical waste trucked in from all over  
5 New England and New York, with little more than earnest  
6 promises because the science isn't there.

7 Peer-reviewed studies on pyrolysing medical waste do  
8 not exist. There are coincidental adjacent studies and  
9 these point to the release of elevated levels of  
10 environmentally persistent highly-toxic contaminants.

11 I don't want Rhode Island's residents to suffer  
12 devastating life-long consequences because of faulty  
13 assumptions, bad science, and a failure to perform due  
14 diligence. This is a Superfund site in the making, and  
15 as I see it, the only beneficiaries might be some  
16 specific shareholders, and I say may because the SEC  
17 filings report that MedRecycler's parent company is,  
18 quote, "Has been and is insolvent since inception," end  
19 quote. Another quote is, Since our inception we have  
20 failed to create cash flows from revenues sufficient to  
21 cover basic costs, end quote.

22 So this company is asking Rhode Island to loan them  
23 \$7.2 million to create 20 long-term jobs, while they are  
24 claiming a deficit of \$10.5 million, and they have,

1 quote, "Been unable to meet financial obligations," and  
2 I'm quoting from their annual report that, "We have not  
3 been able to accomplish to date."

4 So like 38 Studios, this project has all the  
5 razzle-dazzle and hip jargon of cutting-edge tech, but I  
6 fear that it too will end in bankruptcy, with the added  
7 affront of becoming a grotesque environmental injustice  
8 against Rhode Island.

9 So I urge all elected officials, policymakers and  
10 regulatory entities to please soundly reject this  
11 proposal.

12 And I thank you for your time.

13 MR. DENNEN: Thank you, for your comment.

14 Next I have Stephanie, and -- I believe this is you,  
15 there's no last name here, so I'm going to ask you to  
16 unmute. Stephanie, can you hear me? Maybe that wasn't  
17 you. There's also a Stephanie Grady and a Stephanie  
18 Delsisto. If you can private chat me and let me know  
19 what your last name is, I'll make sure -- or your screen  
20 name, I'll make sure and let you comment.

21 In the meantime, I'd like to move ahead to John  
22 Carne. And give me a moment to unmute -- I believe  
23 you're under Pat Carne, is that correct? John Carne?  
24 No? Okay. Oh, dear. Okay. All right. Well, John

1 Carne? I have -- Ms. Li said you're waiting comment. I  
2 don't see you. I'm sorry.

3 Linda Grenier. G-R-E-N-I-E-R. See if I can find  
4 her. I cannot find her. All right. All right. Lin --  
5 Linda Grenier. I apologize. Let me take a short break  
6 and make sure I have all of my next speakers lined up.  
7 I'd like to take a two-minute break and then we will be  
8 right back. All right?

9 (A recess was taken at 6:27 p.m.)

10 (Resumed at 6:28 p.m.)

11 MR. DENNEN: Thank you for your patience, everyone.  
12 This is Mark.

13 Andrew Kaplan, would you like to speak next?

14 MR. KAPLAN: Yes, I would. If I may.

15 MR. DENNEN: I tried to -- John Carne, if you are  
16 there and under a different name, Linda Grenier also, if  
17 you're there under a different name, I apologize for  
18 skipping you over. Not intentional.

19 And Mr. Kaplan. Is that correct? Mr. Kaplan, if  
20 you'd like to go ahead and make your comment in the  
21 meantime.

22 MR. KAPLAN: Thank you for the opportunity to speak.  
23 I would just like to voice my opposition to this project  
24 going forward for the following reasons: The approval of

1 this project has not gone through the correct procedures,  
2 as was outlined by the previous speakers. What also  
3 concerns me is the notion that more trash and potentially  
4 more pollution in the area has ever seen could be  
5 generated when the system or plant would go online. And  
6 I'm very concerned about that.

7 What also concerns me is that this is an  
8 experimental process, and I take exception to that for  
9 the following reasons: I work in the medical industry,  
10 specifically in the IT portion of it, and when we start  
11 deploying any new type of technology application, or  
12 whatnot, we take the time to test it out. In other  
13 words, go through the beta testing process. In fact, we  
14 do an alpha and a beta testing. It does not appear that  
15 neither one of those was conducted prior to this  
16 proposal, and I have grave concerns about that.

17 What also I found interesting was that this type of  
18 technology is not used anywhere in the United States. So  
19 not only are we not alpha and beta testing it, we are  
20 basically version 1.0 of this type of system, and any  
21 type of system that has a dot zero as part of its  
22 versioning is problematic because there's always going to  
23 be patches or improvements needing to be done.

24 The company that is supposed to be running this

1 plant is not experienced in this procedure. So I get the  
2 impression that it's the blind leading the blind, to put  
3 it bluntly. If anybody was going to do this, I would  
4 want some company or outfit that knows what they are  
5 doing. It's akin to my replacing a component in a  
6 server. I am being tasked to replace it based on the  
7 notion that I know what I'm doing. My company would not  
8 want me to go in and start opening up a hundred thousand  
9 dollar server if I have no idea what I'm doing.

10 What also has been brought forth is that this has  
11 not been shown to be alternative technology. Alternative  
12 technology is excellent, especially in today's day and  
13 age, but it has to be proven as alternative, and this  
14 technology has not. So I have misgivings about that.

15 What also concerns me is the potential environmental  
16 fallout in case of an accident. Now, I cite two other  
17 instances of environmental disasters. Granted, different  
18 industries but the concept is the same. I remind my  
19 colleagues about the Chernobyl disaster, as well as the  
20 Fukushima disaster.

21 Now, granted those two are nuclear industries, this  
22 is something else. However, the environmental fallout  
23 was the following: For Chernobyl, an entire city,  
24 Pripyat, basically became uninhabited. Now, Pripyat is a



1 very -- was a very large city. Roughly akin to the size  
2 of West Warwick, if not more.

3 So if a worst-case scenario occurred, we're talking  
4 about, for example, potentially a whole area of Rhode  
5 Island becoming now uninhabited. We don't have that type  
6 of space. And as far as Fukushima is concerned, we're  
7 still experiencing the fallout there.

8 Now, let's say there is a disaster or an accident of  
9 some kind, has there been an evacuation plan thought up  
10 and proposed for the necessary removal of people from the  
11 immediate area? For example, if you go up to the  
12 Seabrook power plant in New Hampshire, basically if there  
13 was a meltdown or some other accident there, at least  
14 there is some type of plan. We have not been told what  
15 this plan is if, God forbid, something was to happen in  
16 our area. If we don't have anything like that, or a plan  
17 B, then I do not feel confident in this plant being set  
18 up in our area.

19 I submit this to you as a concerned citizen of West  
20 Warwick. Thank you very much.

21 MR. DENNEN: Thank you very much for your comment.

22 Next I have Melissa Chernick. Ms. Chernick?

23 MS. CHERNICK: Hello. Yes.

24 MR. DENNEN: The floor is yours.

1 MS. CHERNICK: Thank you.

2 MR. DENNEN: And by the way, before I let you --  
3 before I start the timer, Caryn Corenthal, from the town  
4 council, I have you down next. I'm sorry if we didn't  
5 call ahead of time.

6 So Ms. Chernick, go ahead, please.

7 MS. CHERNICK: Thank you. I'm just echoing what has  
8 been stated before that this technology is untested on  
9 medical waste. We do not want to be the guinea pig.  
10 It's unconscionable to me that we have gotten this far in  
11 the process with DEM, with everything that has been  
12 neglected, and that's their part as far as the paperwork  
13 that they need to turn in, and I just -- it's a little  
14 baffling to understand how we're even at this meeting,  
15 but we are, so I would like to be heard.

16 You know, when this process is unknown, I don't see  
17 how we can stand to be the guinea pig for it. And this  
18 company is unable to prove that treating medical waste  
19 with this process is safe. And we have heard from  
20 experts who state that this is not safe. So, again, I'm  
21 not sure why we're even having this conversation.

22 And, lastly, we know that there needs to be a buffer  
23 zone, and there is none. So stating all of those  
24 reasons, that is why I am against this proposal.

1 Thank you.

2 MR. DENNEN: Thank you very much.

3 Next I have Caryn Corenthal from the East Greenwich  
4 Town Council. If you were here at the beginning, I  
5 apologize, because we did try to give preference to  
6 elected officials representing their constituents.

7 Ms. Corenthal, do you want to speak now?

8 MS. CORENTHAL: Sure. Thank you very much.

9 I have to commend the overwhelmingly eloquent --  
10 number of eloquent speakers that we had, and I will be  
11 must less eloquent.

12 But I wanted to address Mr. Campanella's comment  
13 that this is a political controversy. This is not a  
14 political controversy. Frankly, there is no controversy.  
15 The people of East Greenwich, and we're hearing the  
16 number of people in West Greenwich, are opposed to this  
17 plant being built here.

18 The other comment that Mr. Campanella made numerous  
19 times was about jobs, and as a council member, and all my  
20 council members, we welcome jobs to East Greenwich, but  
21 the fact that frankly the job component is irrelevant and  
22 should be irrelevant to the DEM process -- permitting  
23 process.

24 In addition, the Chamber of Commerce in East

1 Greenwich opposes this plant. So let me just address a  
2 couple of things.

3 Number one, overwhelming number of people said the  
4 science is unreliable. It's not a political. They were  
5 doctors, they were scientists, they were  
6 environmentalists, they were experts. We did not pay  
7 them like you obviously, I'm sure, have a paid  
8 consultant.

9 The other concern that DEM should be considering is  
10 the environment. My understanding is DEM should be  
11 protecting the environment. Clearly there are a lot of  
12 concerns about that.

13 The other question is that DEM should be considering  
14 the health and safety of the employees and the residents  
15 of the immediate area, East Greenwich and West Warwick  
16 and the surrounding area. And, clearly, I don't think  
17 that has been answered correctly. And I just also wonder  
18 is the company planning to put an enormous amount of  
19 funds in a bond or something so that when there is a  
20 potential leak, accident, disaster, they will be able to  
21 correct the problem, and will they be paying for the East  
22 Greenwich Fire Department to train in hazardous waste and  
23 have the proper equipment that they will need in the  
24 event that there will be -- that there is an accident?

1           So, again, like my other town council, I am opposed  
2 to this plant being built. Thank you very much.

3           MR. DENNEN: I'm sorry. I was on mute for a second.

4           I'd just like to remind everyone to please keep the  
5 chat free for speakers and those that are having  
6 technical problems.

7           Next I would like to ask Catherine Webb-Lynch.

8           MS. WEBB-LYNCH: Hi. Can you hear me?

9           MR. DENNEN: I can hear you just fine.

10          MS. WEBB-LYNCH: Perfect. Good evening. Thanks for  
11 the time.

12          My name is Catherine Lynch. I was recruited to  
13 Rhode Island by one of its largest employers. I was  
14 enamored with the beautiful waterways, wetlands, forest  
15 and oceans. I'm a homeowner very near this proposed  
16 site. Why would we want to open up this level of  
17 untested technology this close to residential homes, this  
18 close to our protected wetland, this close to our ocean  
19 and our tourism industry?

20          A cursory review of research publicly available  
21 outlines the risk high heat pyrolysis of medical waste  
22 could have. The Journal of Analytical and Applied  
23 Pyrolysis in 2020 found that the feedstock, which is  
24 waste input, it contains plastic, must be better

1 researched before being included in the pyrolysis  
2 process. Outputs of this process could produce C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>4</sub>,  
3 which has hazard certification and can autodetonate.  
4 This means it explodes without air being present. Think  
5 about this for just one minute. A citizen -- concerned  
6 citizen earlier talked about a plan to evacuate. In an  
7 explosion, an evacuation won't matter.

8 On April 17, in 2013, while I lived in Texas, an  
9 ammonia nitrate explosion occurred at the West Fertilizer  
10 Company Storage and Distribution Facility in West Texas,  
11 18 miles north of Waco, fifteen people were killed, 160  
12 people were injured, more than 150 million -- sorry --  
13 150 billion were damaged -- buildings were damaged or  
14 destroyed. This explosion was devastating and terrible  
15 for the community. This process is different. I fully  
16 acknowledge that MedRecycler is not fertilizer, but the  
17 repercussion could be very similar and just as  
18 devastating. A postmortem of the explosion in West Texas  
19 found the facility was pre-approved with agencies not  
20 fully understanding what was being stored there, or how  
21 to regulate it.

22 I have been to West many times. The bank I worked  
23 for had a branch that was destroyed. I saw the  
24 devastation that this community had to recover from.

1 There is a very scary parallel here.

2 The research that is publicly available is directly  
3 contradictory to safety and any tie to potential green  
4 energy and innovation. An expert paid by MedRecycler  
5 earlier this evening stated that this is a decision  
6 between putting material in a landfill or recycling it.  
7 It is not.

8 The decision, test this where people do not live and  
9 do not work. Prove its safety there first.

10 Mark and Yan, this question is for you, would you  
11 drop off your child, your niece, your nephew at the  
12 daycare facility that shares a parking lot with this  
13 proposed location? Would you allow them to play on the  
14 playground? Would you allow your teenager to attend  
15 college at New England Technology across the street? You  
16 have to deny this permit because this technology is  
17 completely untested and potentially dangerous.

18 I yield the rest of my time.

19 MR. DENNEN: Thank you for your comment.

20 Next I have Pamela Powers. If you would please  
21 unmute yourself.

22 MS. POWERS: Hello. Thank you for the opportunity,  
23 Mark and Liz, and my neighbors to allow me to voice my  
24 opinion.

1 I'm a fine artist and I absolutely delight in  
2 residing in the State of Rhode Island. I find the  
3 environment very precious and my neighbors' lives and  
4 welfare precious as well.

5 I am not going to reiterate any of the shortfalls  
6 that have already been mentioned so eloquently regarding  
7 the licensing approval for not complying with the  
8 planning and zoning and environmental concerns.

9 But I am very much in opposition because there seems  
10 to be very little guarantee, besides an assurance by  
11 Mr. Campanella, that they will be very much concerned  
12 with the health and welfare of Rhode Island residents,  
13 especially in the West Warwick area, when they actually  
14 haven't even really proven all the dangers involved, due  
15 to their lack of science.

16 I find that without an insurance plan involved we  
17 may end up with the same detriment that happened with the  
18 company that was Swiss-owned, Ciba-Geigy, that was in New  
19 York, where my family has rental property that is  
20 difficult to rent because of the proximity to still  
21 contaminated land that has been fenced off and is full of  
22 litter and clutter still after being closed in 1984, and  
23 it took two years for them to actually move out.

24 So I just want Rhode Island residents to remember



1 our own history with toxic companies. And I don't think  
2 that this beautiful state, with the proximity to the  
3 ocean, the bays, three important river waterways, can  
4 afford to stumble into a chemical disaster that's  
5 potential because there's no guarantee and there's no  
6 plan financially. And it certainly won't be a financial  
7 return to the benefit of the State residents to the  
8 degree that it is guaranteed for the benefit of producing  
9 30 jobs and maybe a hundred jobs of builders to the site.

10 So I find that there's just way too many shortfalls  
11 and lack of consideration. So with that, I just want to  
12 also add as a professor of glass art, there's a real  
13 concern with pyrolysis, and it hasn't been mentioned  
14 much, but there is radiation from high-burning processes  
15 and that even exists in glass blowing.

16 And what about the fact that there will be more  
17 contaminants and plastics that are mentioned. Plastics  
18 being bad enough. Glass takes 2,000 degrees to burn and  
19 it's going to be residual solid waste in the waste ash  
20 that they are proposing if it does contain glass, i.e.,  
21 needles and things like that.

22 So given those shortcomings and for the reasons that  
23 were stated in the lack to compliance with the licensing  
24 on behalf of the DEM's review, I strongly oppose this

1 company moving in. Thank you.

2 MR. DENNEN: Thank you very much.

3 Next I have Steve Dressler. And then after that I  
4 have Lynn Dressler, and Jim Braitsch. Here we go.

5 Steve Dressler, if you could unmute yourself,  
6 please.

7 MS. DRESSLER: Actually, you have Lynn Dressler.

8 MR. DENNEN: Oh, okay.

9 MS. DRESSLER: I have listened for the last few  
10 hours. I was particularly interested in Dr. Kahn's  
11 comments because I, in fact, am a bladder cancer patient  
12 and I am a life-long Rhode Islander and currently reside  
13 in East Greenwich.

14 Rhode Island has the highest cancer rate in the  
15 country for bladder, lung, brain, breast, childhood  
16 cancers, and thyroid, among many others. I remember  
17 Ciba-Geigy, they were the largest polluter of the bay,  
18 which took many decades to clean up. So I am not  
19 unfamiliar with environmental toxins because bladder  
20 cancer is an environmentally-caused cancer.

21 I would like to ask Mr. Campanella if this is such a  
22 great idea and will increase our property values in the  
23 entire State of Rhode Island, and will give us so many  
24 jobs, and so much more tax revenue, why he isn't putting

1 it in New Jersey, where he can benefit from it because he  
2 is a New Jersey resident?

3 I'm just disgusted that the State continues not  
4 protecting this little landmass that we all share for the  
5 sake of a few dollars in tax revenue and a few jobs  
6 because, you know, when you're dead, the jobs really  
7 don't mean anything.

8 My father died also from bladder cancer. It is not  
9 hereditary. It is environmentally caused. And so the  
10 fact that he had a job all those years was great, but his  
11 job, in fact, caused his bladder cancer because he worked  
12 with metal.

13 We don't know what is going up the chimney when they  
14 shoot those 70-plus tons of waste every day. We know  
15 it's going to be chemotherapy, it's going to be glass, as  
16 the previous lady mentioned. It's going to be plastics,  
17 it's going to be all sorts of nasty things that will kill  
18 you down the road.

19 And, again, why are we the guinea pigs? There are  
20 20 -- no. I'm sorry -- 2.5 billion acres of land in the  
21 United States. 2.5 billion, almost. Why is our little  
22 acreage here in Rhode Island being picked out of those  
23 billions of acres for this science experiment, for a few  
24 jobs, for a few dollars in extra taxes?

1 Please, don't insult us. DEM, do your job.

2 Thank you.

3 MR. DENNEN: Thank you for your comment.

4 I had Jim Braitsch on next, but I cannot find him in  
5 the attendees list. So please private chat me if you are  
6 under another name.

7 Next I have Felix Appolonia, and after that I have  
8 Tom Oates.

9 Okay. Mr. Appolonia. I'm sorry. I may not  
10 have allowed you to unmute yourself. My mistake.  
11 Mr. Appolonia? Can you unmute yourself now? Felix  
12 Appolonia? Mr. Appolonia?

13 Okay. I'm going to call on a Tom Oates next.  
14 Mr. Oates, if you can unmute yourself.

15 MR. OATES: Good afternoon. Can you hear me?

16 MR. DENNEN: I can hear you just fine.

17 MR. OATES: Good afternoon.

18 Mr. Dennen, and ladies and gentlemen, there's a  
19 young man I believe that's still in the audience,  
20 perspective Eagle Scout, and who did his environmental  
21 science merit badge and when he heard about this, and he  
22 was on the last Zoom as well, he contacted me, and he has  
23 a lot of concerns with this as an environmentalist, and I  
24 would have to agree. And I question the environmental

1 stewardship of the State to consider this, and especially  
2 the Town of West Warwick.

3 Currently in West Warwick we have a number of  
4 different hotspots. One is the River Point Park  
5 recreational area, where we have a dump. We have the  
6 Flat Top Park recreational area, where we have another  
7 dump. DEM is very well aware of these. And I believe  
8 clean-up is in process on one. We also have the 4N  
9 properties at 41 and 43 Industrial Lane, that's the  
10 property of former Representative Nunes. These  
11 properties are all in wetlands. Two of them are on the  
12 Pawtuxet River, one just a couple of feet from the  
13 Pawtuxet River, which at one point in time was one of the  
14 most polluted waterways in New England. Now it's one of  
15 the cleanest. But the way things are going, you know,  
16 the DEM being on top of this and we want to add another  
17 possible major pollutant to our community, that's got to  
18 be taken into consideration. And I just wanted to  
19 mention that as the concerns of the youth of our  
20 communities, especially the Boy Scouts, who are very  
21 environmental friendly, always doing clean-up jobs all  
22 around the State.

23 And that's all I have, and I want to thank you for  
24 allowing the time to speak.

1 MR. DENNEN: Thank you for your comment.

2 Next I have a Jim Cunningham, and then I'd like to  
3 take a break for just a few minutes.

4 Mr. Cunningham.

5 MR. CUNNINGHAM: Hi. My name is Jim Cunningham.  
6 I'm a resident of East Greenwich, and coincidentally a  
7 cancer survivor. In doing research about this subject,  
8 it's being --

9 MR. DENNEN: I'm sorry. Mr. Cunningham, I have  
10 someone else who is unmuted, and I don't know how that  
11 happened. Let me see. All right. I think --

12 MR. CUNNINGHAM: Did you get my introduction?

13 MR. DENNEN: I did, but if you'd care to restart, I  
14 won't hold the time against you. Okay? I didn't want  
15 you to have to compete with anything. So --

16 MR. CUNNINGHAM: No problem.

17 MR. DENNEN: I will choose Mr. Dressler next. I  
18 believe he unmuted himself. Okay. Thank you.

19 MR. CUNNINGHAM: Just to reintroduce myself. My  
20 name is Jim Cunningham, I'm an East Greenwich resident,  
21 and coincidentally a cancer survivor.

22 This whole initiative, this whole project is being  
23 sold to us on a -- as a green project. Yet in all the  
24 research that I have done, I find no data to support

1 those claims. So if it's not green, well, what are we  
2 doing? Let's look at what is being done by the DEM. In  
3 the research that is available on this subject and the  
4 data that is available, such as newspaper articles, that  
5 were done some time ago, what I found was that it seems  
6 to have been -- and someone mentioned this earlier -- it  
7 seems to have been fast-tracked. There seemed to be some  
8 connections here.

9 The DEM is, and should be, in Rhode Island, very  
10 much sacred in the fact that it protects our environment.  
11 Environment is in your name. I don't know what has  
12 happened with this getting to this point as fast as it  
13 has without all of the necessary testing. There are  
14 no -- there's no data to suggest that it's green.  
15 There's no data that says that it's not dangerous. That  
16 has been talked about by multiple speakers previous to  
17 me.

18 I just want to echo the sentiment that some of the  
19 speakers have mentioned earlier, DEM, please, be  
20 responsible and do your job. Thank you.

21 MR. DENNEN: Thank you.

22 I would like to take -- I'd like to take a  
23 four-minute break right now, and then after we come back  
24 from the break, Mr. Dressler, if you wanted to speak as

1 well, we would -- please let me know. And then the next  
2 person I have is David Revens and Eduardo Figueroa. So  
3 if we can reconvene -- it is 6:56 now. We'll reconvene  
4 at 7:00 p.m. All right? And thank you everyone. I did  
5 put in the chat e-mail address, if you'd like to submit  
6 written comments. Maybe some people didn't hear our  
7 initial remarks that we are here tonight to have oral  
8 comments, but as always, we accept comments in writing,  
9 mailed to our department or by e-mail. So I will -- we  
10 will reconvene in just a few minutes, at 7:00 p.m.

11 (A recess was taken at 6:57 p.m.)

12 (Resumed at 7:01 p.m.)

13 MR. DENNEN: All right. We are back. Next on my  
14 list is David Revens. If you could unmute yourself,  
15 Mr. Revens.

16 MR. REVENS: Thank you. My name is David Revens.  
17 I'm here on behalf of Playground Prep Pre-School  
18 Childcare Center, which as its name implies, is a  
19 preschool that sits to the immediate south of the  
20 proposed site.

21 Like many others, Playground Prep opposes this  
22 application, and the reason is simple: The potential  
23 harm to the community, and the real risk in relation to  
24 that vastly outweighs the potential benefits of the



1 proposed site.

2 As you have all heard, this process, I'll call it,  
3 by which the proposed or by which the applicant proposes  
4 to conduct its business simply has not been properly  
5 vetted, and to think that this facility could be such a  
6 short stroll from our young ones is unfathomable really,  
7 and for that reason we oppose the application.

8 Thank you.

9 MR. DENNEN: Thank you.

10 Okay. Mr. Figueroa. Eduardo Figueroa.

11 Give me one moment to unmute you. There you go. If  
12 you could unmute yourself.

13 MR. FIGUEROA: Hello. Hello. Can you hear me?

14 MR. DENNEN: I can hear you fine.

15 MR. FIGUEROA: Okay. I think it is truly  
16 disgraceful that we are giving a business the right to  
17 destroy our environment. They tell us it's a cleaner  
18 energy, while we all know there's nothing clean about the  
19 incineration of human remains. I have seen the location  
20 they plan to build it and is next to a daycare center.  
21 They have given promises of clean energy and lie about  
22 the money they plan to make off of this. If I am  
23 correct, this is the same Nick Campanella who was  
24 involved in a \$45 million mass-priced gouging scheme.

1 And I see no reason why we should trust him with  
2 anything, much less our environment. Do not let them  
3 pretend like they care about our environment or the  
4 people in this town. Nick Campanella upcharged people on  
5 what they need to survive and now wants us to forget all  
6 that and allow him to build his human waste factory.

7 Even if everything goes right and we assume there is  
8 no issues on-site, they will be burning human remains  
9 feet away from a daycare.

10 I oppose the permit to build here and anywhere else  
11 in Rhode Island. Thank you.

12 MR. DENNEN: Thank you.

13 Just, again, I'd like to emphasize to please keep  
14 the chat free of commentaries so that we can use it for  
15 allowing people to set up, to sign up, or if they're  
16 having technical problems.

17 David Hie. And I understand your name is Galaxy.  
18 So let me see if I can find you. I'm not able to see you  
19 under that name.

20 So Richard Rogers, if you would care to speak.

21 Mr. Hie, if you can let me know if you are still  
22 there.

23 Okay. Mr. Rogers -- I believe you're under Roger's  
24 iPhone. Please unmute yourself.

1 MR. ROGERS: My name is Rogers. How you doing?

2 MR. DENNEN: Sure. Before you go, I just want to  
3 let -- so, David Hie, if you could private message me.  
4 And Rusty S of MF Athletic, I have you on to speak next,  
5 and afterwards is Helene Tay.

6 So, please, Mr. Rogers -- Mr. Richards, go ahead and  
7 speak.

8 MR. RICHARDS: (Inaudible). Richard Rogers. It's  
9 actually Rogers Richards. I'm a resident of West  
10 Warwick, the Greenwood section. I'd like to comment on a  
11 couple of things. First off, I am really opposed to  
12 this. I am a US war veteran and currently serving in the  
13 Rhode Island Air National Guard. I have been deployed  
14 over to the Southwest Asia, so I actually know, you  
15 know -- I've told I've been near burn pits, so, you know,  
16 I also served veterans on the outside of my job. I'm not  
17 opposed to jobs, but I'm opposed to these type of jobs  
18 you're trying to bring in.

19 I also am a father -- son of a father. My father  
20 was a Viet Nam veteran, who lives also two streets over  
21 from me, and is a hundred percent VA disabled due to  
22 Agent Orange. Like we're hearing about this company, the  
23 government lied to us. It seems like we're getting told  
24 lies about this is a great technology.

1 My wife is also a breast cancer survivor  
2 two-and-a-half, three years out. So I heard about  
3 cancer, you know, stuffed caused by cancer. I'm  
4 definitely opposed, you know, and the fact that we're  
5 going to bring in.

6 The one thing that nobody has mentioned, and I'd  
7 like to mention here, and I want to thank the great  
8 residents of East Providence for helping out with this, I  
9 think about this site -- I think about Erin Brockovich.  
10 So everybody just think about that. Erin Brockovich,  
11 watch that if you haven't. That's what I think we're in  
12 for, another Erin Brockovich if DEM approves this. I  
13 hope you guys will, you know, definitely consider not  
14 approving this. It should not be approved.

15 And, lastly, if this does get disapproved, does not  
16 go through, everybody needs to watch in the area that the  
17 developer or another business might try to bring in the  
18 next kind of business in West Warwick, because West  
19 Warwick seems to be the dumping ground for all the bad  
20 businesses around here.

21 Thank you very much.

22 MR. DENNEN: I'm sorry. I think I had myself on  
23 mute.

24 Helene Tay, if you would please give us your

1 comments. Ms. Tay, can you hear us? Ms. Tay? Okay.

2 MS. TAY: Hi. Sorry. Can you hear me?

3 MR. DENNEN: Yes. Yes.

4 MS. TAY: Okay. Thank you.

5 MR. DENNEN: We're all set now.

6 MS. TAY: Okay. All right. I unmuted and then it  
7 muted me, and then I unmuted again.

8 MR. DENNEN: Okay. So a battle of the muting. All  
9 right.

10 MS. TAY: Thank you very much, Mark. And thank you  
11 for giving me this opportunity. But like everyone else,  
12 I don't agree that this plant should go forward. I think  
13 DEM should stop processing this application immediately.

14 My -- I have two big problems with this. One, very  
15 little information as to how this plant would be laid  
16 out, how it would be ventilated, precisely how the  
17 pathogens would be controlled prior to maceration, has  
18 been provided to the public. So it leaves the public  
19 without cogent questions to ask, and unable to precisely  
20 discern the impact to their own health.

21 Additionally, DEM does not have any regulations that  
22 assess pyrolysis systems. The current DEM air pollution  
23 control regulations for waste incineration do not apply  
24 to the pyrolysis process. DEM engineers have no

1 regulations that they can cite for the approval or  
2 disapproval of the MedRecycler plant, and they don't have  
3 experience with pyrolysis systems to adequately evaluate  
4 MedRecycler's process.

5 DEM's only choice would be to test while the system  
6 is being built, which makes (noise in background) for any  
7 harmful solutions that are released during testing. I am  
8 not volunteering to be a guinea pig. To me it would mean  
9 DEM is not considering my safety.

10 So it is time for DEM to admit that you don't know  
11 what you don't know, and that your ignorance will put  
12 citizens in harm's way.

13 Thank you for the opportunity to express my  
14 concerns, and I want to thank East Greenwich residents  
15 for being so vocal on this issue.

16 MR. DENNEN: Thank you for your comment.

17 Next I'm going to ask Pat Taylor.

18 MS. TAYLOR: Good evening. Can you hear me?

19 MR. DENNEN: I can hear you fine.

20 MS. TAYLOR: Great. Thank you.

21 My name is Patricia Taylor. I'm director of the  
22 Plastics Waste Reduction Project for EHFI, Environmental  
23 & Human Health in Connecticut. The proposed medical  
24 waste incinerators you are considering to permit expects

1 to process a significant amount of plastics. EHHI is  
2 concerned about the incineration of plastics because of  
3 emerging and ongoing science on the health impact of our  
4 exposures to plastics and plastic waste.

5 In addition, fine particle pollution presents an  
6 ongoing environmental and climate crisis from local to  
7 global communities. We also caution that pea pods,  
8 chlorinated chemicals that cause a host of human health  
9 harm in very low doses are used to make medical products  
10 that include surgical gowns and drapes, implantable and  
11 medical devices like vascular grafts, stent grafts,  
12 surgical meshes, heart patches, catheter tubes, sterile  
13 container filters, needle retrieval systems,  
14 tracheostomy, catheter guide wire for laparoscopy and  
15 inhaler cannister coating, among other things.

16 Should you allow this permit, you must protect the  
17 health of vulnerable residents who may be exposed to  
18 these harmful compounds in air, ash and water pollution  
19 created by the facility. If that is your plan, then  
20 residents warrant notification in realtime of the air,  
21 soil or water in their community that may cause them  
22 harm. Please make any air, soil and water quality  
23 monitoring test results you require as part of your  
24 permitting process to be immediately, easily and

1 continuously available to the public, either in the form  
2 of a reverse 911 system or through a health disparities  
3 map you produce in coordination with your state health  
4 department.

5 Thank you for your attention, and I'll be submitting  
6 this as a written comment as well. I appreciate my  
7 ability to participate.

8 MR. DENNEN: Thank you.

9 Everyone, if you missed my original comments,  
10 everyone even -- whether you have commented or not, we  
11 encourage everyone to submit their comments in writing  
12 for the sake of clarity and completeness.

13 Jay Ferguson, I do not see you on here, so if you're  
14 under another screen name, please let me know, otherwise,  
15 I will ask Susie Leahy, and I have you down, I believe,  
16 as just Susie. So. Ms. Leahy, if you would unmute  
17 yourself.

18 MS. LEAHY: Hi, there. Thank you so much for taking  
19 my comment. I have a daughter who goes to New England  
20 Tech. I live not too far from the area. I'm over  
21 there -- it's a stomping ground for everybody in that  
22 area when we're doing our shopping, going to visit  
23 friends. My heart goes out to the people who have been  
24 commenting that -- about their health and their proximity



1 of living right near this facility or want-to-be  
2 facility.

3 DEM has a sacred responsibility to the citizens of  
4 Rhode Island, not to a businessman. If the Department of  
5 Environmental Management does not include keeping the  
6 environment safe, then there needs to be another  
7 organization to do that. It's supported by our  
8 (inaudible) and to -- and its job is to keep the  
9 environment for the people and the animals safe.

10 If my friend got in trouble the other day for, you  
11 know, taking a clam that was an inch too small from, you  
12 know, what the limit of clam taking is, and the  
13 Department of Environmental Management officer talked to  
14 her about that, then certainly the big guns of DEM can  
15 argue the point with a businessman from New Jersey about  
16 why this isn't for Rhode Island.

17 I don't want my daughter breathing that in when she  
18 goes to school. I don't want the children, who I don't  
19 even know at the daycare next door, having to worry about  
20 that, their families should not have to worry about this.

21 I will be putting this in writing.

22 There is far too many people that are concerned  
23 about this and it really should not go any step forward.  
24 Thank you for letting me comment.

1 MR. DENNEN: Okay. I believe next I have Brittany  
2 S. I don't know if we have passed you over, or -- if you  
3 weren't on the list, but I see now, Brittany S, if you  
4 would like to unmute yourself. There we go.

5 RUSTY: So this is Rusty, her --

6 MR. DENNEN: Oh, okay. Yes. I had you on earlier.  
7 And -- okay. So, Rusty, please give us your comment.

8 RUSTY: Not much to add. Just from my own house,  
9 except for the fact that I work there at that building  
10 right next store, with no buffer in between, outside of  
11 the thin wall that's there already in place. And the  
12 worry of anything that could possibly negatively happen  
13 to me healthwise, being so close, if anything happens,  
14 like I'm -- I have no choice, I'm either SOL or I can  
15 bring something home. I have to worry about bringing  
16 something home to my family, and that's not something  
17 that I should have to even have on my mind. And not to  
18 mention the fact that my son's daycare is right down the  
19 street as well, along with the one right outside the  
20 building.

21 Anyway, it's just -- this doesn't make any sense to  
22 me that something like this is going to be in a multiple  
23 ten-apartment residential area. Makes no sense. That's  
24 basically about it.

1 MR. DENNEN: Okay. Well, thank you for your  
2 comments.

3 Next, James Ferguson is on now. So I'd like you to  
4 unmute yourself, please. Mr. Ferguson.

5 MR. FERGUSON: Hello.

6 MR. DENNEN: Hi.

7 MR. FERGUSON: Hi. Can you hear me?

8 MR. DENNEN: I can hear you fine.

9 MR. FERGUSON: Okay. Great. I just want to  
10 introduce myself. I'm an East Greenwich resident at  
11 Signal Ridge Way across the street, and also a pulmonary  
12 physician. I wanted to have a moment to just be able to  
13 relay concerns, you know, as a physician, and a pulmonary  
14 physician at that, my responsibility is to advocate for  
15 the health of everyone that I take care of within the  
16 community in which they live. So I am in no way in  
17 support of the burning of medical waste within Kent  
18 County, or any other community in Rhode Island, or the  
19 United States or internationally, in the method that's  
20 being proposed.

21 There's a dichotomy that I don't quite understand  
22 how it's being proposed. This is either new technology  
23 and unproven or it's old technology and that old  
24 technology, which people have mentioned, is available

1 widely, as far as incineration has, like, inexplicably  
2 tied to a number of different health adverse effects,  
3 specifically respiratory in regards to asthma, lung  
4 cancer. And then there's a number of neoplastic  
5 processes, lymphoma. And basically every cancer that you  
6 can think of there's been ties to proximity to  
7 incineration-type facilities.

8 Now, the problem is that you're not going to be able  
9 to have the data to be able to show this in a short  
10 period of time. This is things that are going to show up  
11 years down the line and they will be Rhode Island  
12 residents who are similar to those who have spoken  
13 already tonight, who will be diagnosed with lymphomas,  
14 bladder cancers, lung cancers, and they will not be able  
15 to directly tie their links to this.

16 However, if we're going to say this is somewhat  
17 similar, which I believe it is, to many other  
18 propositions that have been done before and rejected by  
19 Rhode Island, that this is just an unsafe way to get rid  
20 of a -- I think a real problem, in that landfills need to  
21 have an alternative. This is not a solution, but I think  
22 it is in the best interest of Rhode Island.

23 There are many communities that have needed to  
24 combat incineration near their communities. There is a

1 20-year-old now named Destiny Watford, in Baltimore, who  
2 was just awarded one of the most prestigious  
3 international environmental awards that there is to be  
4 given, who advocated to stop an incinerator being  
5 constructed in her community in Baltimore. The  
6 incinerator that had been placed in one of the  
7 densely-populated areas in Baltimore has estimated to be  
8 responsible for nearly \$55 million worth of increased  
9 healthcare costs.

10 And my biggest concern overall is that this is not  
11 in the interest of Rhode Island residents and the  
12 Department of the Environmental -- sorry -- protection  
13 agencies that are at stake need to be a third party.  
14 This right now seems to be, if I was to compare it to a  
15 medical standpoint, it's like an in-lab, theoretically  
16 this could be done in a somewhat clean process. However,  
17 it has not had a clinical trial or a human trial. So if  
18 it's untested, it is unfit to be unleashed to this scale,  
19 to this magnitude, without serious vetting by parties  
20 that do not have the vested interest in the technology,  
21 but invested interests in the safety of the community.

22 I just date back to the 1990's, we already passed  
23 legislation in Rhode Island state -- I am quoting Rhode  
24 Island law that due to the myriad of over 400 toxic

1 pollutants, including lead, mercury, dioxins and ash  
2 gases to be emitted during solid waste incinerators, the  
3 known and unknown threats posed by solid waste  
4 incineration health, safety of Rhode Islanders,  
5 particularly children, along with those of unknown  
6 threats, are -- enter the environment, are unacceptable.

7       Despite the use of state-of-the-art landfill liner  
8 systems, leach collecting system plants, both  
9 particularly incinerator ash, landfills release toxic  
10 leaching into the ground and surface waters, which pose  
11 an unacceptable threat to the public, the environment,  
12 the state limits ground and surface water resources. The  
13 incinerator of solid waste is the most costly method  
14 waste disposable known and unknown escalating costs place  
15 substantial and unreasonable burdens on the state,  
16 municipal budgets and seriously jeopardize the public's  
17 interest.

18       So this is already -- then I know this is unproven,  
19 but if we are going back and saying this is somewhat  
20 similar to what has happened in other areas of the United  
21 States, it has been costly, it has been thought out, and  
22 it has been rejected multiple times.

23       I would strongly encourage that we continue to  
24 reject this and do not make a similar mistake as other

1 the areas of the country have unfortunately been done so  
2 to not be able to block incinerators such as this.

3 Thank you.

4 MR. DENNEN: Thank you for your comment.

5 I have two more people signed up to speak. I have  
6 Pete Cottrell. And, Amy, if you have not yet signed up  
7 to speak, please do so. If you are on a phone and you're  
8 not able to sign up, then I will ask those that are on a  
9 phone and haven't spoken yet to speak after I finish with  
10 the people that have signed up.

11 So, Mr. Cottrell, I understand you went -- you were  
12 going to speak before and something happened. So if you  
13 could unmute yourself, Pete Cottrell. Mr. Cottrell, are  
14 you there? Okay. I don't see you unmuting yourself.

15 I'd like to move on and ask Amy, Amy, I'm going to  
16 give you the ability to unmute yourself. We don't have  
17 the last name. Amy, go ahead. Amy, would you like to  
18 unmute yourself?

19 AMY: I did. I just did. Thank you for the  
20 opportunity to speak. I feel special that I'm speaking  
21 towards the end because I was the first person to speak  
22 out against this at the West Warwick Town Planning  
23 meeting in May of 2019. I had concerns then, many of  
24 which have never been answered to this day.

1 I live across the street from 1600 Division Road  
2 where this site is, which is a light industrial area.  
3 This one building, it is not an industrial park, as it's  
4 made out to be by some people who are trying to sell this  
5 as a safe area for this to be built.

6 I want to point out -- I have kind of rewritten what  
7 I wanted to say during this because so many of you have  
8 done such a great job voicing concerns about this. The  
9 70 tons of waste that they're proposing is only the first  
10 phase of what they would like to do. So the permit that  
11 is being questioned is for the 70 tons, but that's the  
12 first phase.

13 I'm very concerned about the fact that inner-state  
14 waste is going to be coming up 95 or down 95, whichever  
15 way you want to look at it, and it's going to be accepted  
16 at this facility, but it is not allowed to come from out  
17 of state to go to the landfill because we don't accept  
18 out-of-state waste at the landfill. So accepting waste  
19 from all over the northeast into Rhode Island for this  
20 facility baffles me. I'm not sure how that's -- how  
21 that's going to be legal.

22 When Mr. Campanella spoke earlier, he said that he  
23 guaranteed safety of this project. That he guaranteed  
24 safety. There is no possible way that you can guarantee



1 safety with an unproven technology. It's never been used  
2 for medical waste. Not to mention the fact that  
3 accidents happen at facilities managed by human beings.  
4 What about fires or spills or a hazard? Something that  
5 needs to be cleaned up? The effects of just, you know,  
6 our health, which has been talked about repeatedly  
7 tonight, the groundwater, the soil, a truck, a vehicle  
8 accident. What training are the workers in this facility  
9 going to have? What safety checks are being done?

10 At the last DEM meeting you stated that you were not  
11 sure how often testing would happen due to your staffing.  
12 You admitted publicly that you weren't sure what the  
13 schedule would be for DEM to be there to test and we were  
14 to just rely on this facility to test itself.

15 There's no way to test it safely. It would have to  
16 go online first, and whatever DEM uses in those  
17 testings -- in the testings would not necessarily be  
18 what's coming in. They're going to take in material and  
19 they don't even know what's in it. They have admitted  
20 they have no idea. Every day they could be burning  
21 something different. Every box could contain something  
22 different. They keep saying that there's a lot of banned  
23 materials that will not be accepted. How will they know?  
24 They won't know because they're not looking at those

1 boxes. They're shredding them and then burning them.

2 I'm really unsure, and I have no scientific  
3 background of how you would test something when you have  
4 no idea what it's going to accept or what is going to be  
5 there. There's no way the statistics stated previously,  
6 saying the emissions were going to be this percentage of  
7 this and under this percentage of that, how would they  
8 know? They could never know because Tuesday could be  
9 different than Friday.

10 Mr. Campanella stresses these jobs and he claims  
11 he's going to create these jobs, but at what cost? I am  
12 not opposed to any businesses in West Warwick. I own a  
13 business in West Warwick. My business is on Main Street  
14 in West Warwick. But at what expense? There's no way  
15 that 30 jobs, or whatever they're going to tell you that  
16 they're creating, is going to have any impact on the tax  
17 base in West Warwick. He's quoting that he's going to  
18 spend \$4 million in taxes over the next ten years. I  
19 challenge that, because what is he paying in taxes? He  
20 doesn't own that building. He's going to pay West  
21 Warwick the same way every other business does based on  
22 what they have in his facility, what he owns. I highly  
23 doubt that that's going to amount to \$400,000 a year.

24 For those attending this meeting who don't live in

1 Rhode Island, you're solely here because you're an  
2 investor, and in my opinion you don't carry any weight.  
3 You're using our state to make a personal profit. This  
4 is a business that is waiting to open so they can collect  
5 their promised bond money on fallacies, and, you know,  
6 trying to create this, We're green and clean, with no  
7 backing of that whatsoever. It's amazing to see our  
8 diverse community come together and voice your concerns  
9 against this project.

10 I encourage you to continue to send letters and all  
11 of these things to DEM, anything you stated here tonight.  
12 And I appreciate you telling your friends and neighbors.  
13 Thank you so much.

14 MR. DENNEN: All right. I've just had a couple of  
15 people join. I know it's -- we said 7:30, and it's 7:27,  
16 but I do want to try to get all of the people that want  
17 to comment.

18 So Derek, you had asked to speak. Would you care to  
19 speak?

20 DEREK: Yes. Can you hear me?

21 MR. DENNEN: Yes.

22 DEREK: I have been sitting here all night listening  
23 to this. As far as the incinerator goes, I got my own  
24 opinions, I'll keep those to myself as of right now. But

1 the biggest thing that I think we all need to understand  
2 and know, is this is going to be through West Warwick,  
3 and the West Warwick planner and town officials, they and  
4 the DEM finance a lot of what I'm going to talk about.

5 So there's a playground in town financed by the DEM  
6 with a grant, and just so everybody knows, the town  
7 planner couldn't successfully put a handicapped  
8 playground together. It's actually closed right now  
9 until it's put together properly. So I'm a little  
10 worried that the planning department will have a lot to  
11 do with this type of business being put together in the  
12 town. I'm pretty sure a lot of things will get  
13 overlooked, probably not intentional, just from not  
14 having experience.

15 There's a planning board and planning -- the town  
16 planner itself in town, where there's multiple DEM  
17 violations dating back to 2006, the planner still went  
18 and ahead and did a subdivision in West Warwick.  
19 Never -- didn't know enough to go and look for the DEM,  
20 make sure that the land is clear for any DEM violations.

21 So I just want to bring that to everybody's  
22 attention that the Town of West Warwick, in my opinion,  
23 is far from experienced enough to put this project  
24 together. And as far as the business itself, I'm not

1 completely sold, but I'm going to keep my opinions to  
2 myself at this moment. And that's it.

3 MR. DENNEN: Thank you very much for your comment.

4 Representative Serpa just joined us. Representative  
5 Serpa, would you like to speak? I will have -- if you  
6 could unmute.

7 REPRESENTATIVE SERPA: Yes. Am I unmuted now?

8 MR. DENNEN: You are unmuted now.

9 REPRESENTATIVE SERPA: Okay. I just want to thank  
10 you for acknowledging me, and I certainly want to  
11 apologize to anyone who thought I wasn't interested or  
12 that I wasn't present. I did have someone seat in for me  
13 and take some notes, but I had a personal emergency to  
14 deal with earlier. I think I've got that squared away as  
15 I can. So I do want to make my apologies and let people  
16 know why I wasn't here from the beginning.

17 So that being said, I certainly don't want to be  
18 redundant. I don't want to repeat everything that has  
19 likely been said. I've done my own research. I'm trying  
20 to understand this process. At the moment I just don't  
21 think we're ready for this process. I don't think it  
22 belongs in West Warwick. I don't think it belongs in  
23 East Greenwich. And, frankly, I don't think it belongs  
24 anywhere in Rhode Island. There is just too much

1 potential -- and I'm sure this has all been said, so  
2 forgive me for the redundancy. I'm sure this has all  
3 been said, but when I think of the damage to a densely  
4 packed residential area breathing that air, close to an  
5 elementary school, close to a playground, close to the  
6 playground at the elementary school, close to a daycare,  
7 the dorms at New England Tech, I think of the possible  
8 spills on that turn from Route 2 into Division Road.  
9 And, frankly, I just don't think the technology is well  
10 perfected or perfected to the degree that we should  
11 frankly welcome it with open arms.

12 I know my constituents remain totally opposed to  
13 this. I haven't had one person contact me to express  
14 that, yes, this is good for our town, good for our  
15 economy. So I'm going to stand firmly opposed.

16 So, Mark, I just wanted to go on record and let  
17 everyone know that I am present, and I certainly will  
18 review the notes that were taken for me earlier.

19 Thank you.

20 MR. DENNEN: Thank you very much for your comment,  
21 Representative Serpa.

22 I also -- Philip Parsons has his hand up. So  
23 Mr. Parsons, I'd like you to ask -- unmute if you haven't  
24 spoken and want to.

1 MR. PARSONS: Yes. Can you hear me?

2 MR. DENNEN: Yes. Please go ahead. Mr. Parsons, I  
3 heard you, and then it seems like you're muted again.

4 MR. PARSONS: Okay. I'm okay now.

5 MR. DENNEN: There.

6 MR. PARSONS: My name is Phil Parsons. I'm vice  
7 president and general counsel at New England Institute of  
8 Technology. New England Tech's primary concern is for  
9 the safety of the students and faculty and the staff.  
10 And the things I have heard from everybody tonight, we --  
11 we're right in the same place as the residents are.

12 The proposed MedRecycler plant is less than half a  
13 mile from the college's East Greenwich campus. The  
14 campus fronts Division Road over which trucks hauling  
15 medical waste will be traveling to the facility. And  
16 given the potentially deadly consequences of any failure  
17 of the process, the unproven nature of the technology,  
18 the facility's proximity to the college, the college  
19 raises an objection and concern with the issuance of a  
20 solid waste management facility and license.

21 Thank you.

22 MR. DENNEN: Thank you for your comment.

23 I see a hand up for Rogers iPhone. I believe I  
24 already called on you, but if that's not the case, please

1 unmute yourself. Let me know.

2 Okay. I don't have anyone else on my list of people  
3 who expressed an interest in commenting. But I'd like to  
4 ask if someone wants to comment now -- Mary Madden, you  
5 are asking to comment. So I'm going to unmute you.

6 Okay. So please unmute yourself now. Ms. Madden.

7 MS. MADDEN: Yes. I'm here. I had unraised my hand  
8 before because everyone was so eloquent. Can you hear  
9 me?

10 MR. DENNEN: Oh, yes. I can hear you. I'm sorry.  
11 I'm sorry. I was --

12 MS. MADDEN: Okay. My comment is very, very short.  
13 I'm 74, my husband is 74. We live in East Greenwich. We  
14 have four grandchildren -- son, daughter-in-law, four  
15 grandchildren in East Greenwich, but this is really a  
16 question about for everyone. It's not just for us. It's  
17 what kind of world do we want to leave our children?

18 Now, I've been in public education for 47 years. I  
19 retired three years ago. Almost 40 of those years --  
20 yes, 40 of those years were in teaching chemistry, and  
21 you had a chemist on earlier and he was -- he was  
22 accurate in everything he said.

23 One thing I would just add is this, pyrolysis can  
24 split down, can crack down, can break down lots of stuff,



1 but when you get down to it, as this gentleman mentioned,  
2 the cancer treatment medications or the arthritis  
3 medications or any number of medications, you have what  
4 are called organometallics, and when you break them all  
5 down, you have heavy metals, and those go somewhere.  
6 They cannot be broken down further. They're elements.  
7 They are mercury, they're lead, they're arsenic, they're  
8 chromium, they're gold. You could just go on and on and  
9 on. They cannot be broken down. And they persist in the  
10 environment, whether they're airborne or whether they are  
11 residue -- particulate residue that gets into the ground.  
12 It gets into the human system. We don't want to leave  
13 that for our children or our grandchildren. We don't.  
14 That's the bottom line.

15 Thank you very much. It was a wonderful -- people  
16 were wonderful in what they presented. Thank you.

17 MR. DENNEN: Thank you for your comment.

18 Pete Cottrell I had called on earlier, but  
19 apparently he was disconnected at that time and is  
20 connected now.

21 So, Mr. Cottrell, would you care to speak? Pardon  
22 me. My words aren't coming out properly. Mr. Cottrell,  
23 would you care to speak? If so, please unmute yourself.  
24 Perhaps I've lost him again. Mr. Cottrell.

1           Okay. I don't have anyone else on my list. Would  
2 anyone else like to speak? Please put your name in the  
3 chat or raise your hand. If you're unable to do either,  
4 and you have joined us by phone, I will try to unmute and  
5 allow people the opportunity.

6           I see no comments in the chat box. I see no hands  
7 up. But I do want to make sure that everyone has the  
8 opportunity to comment and sometimes people may just be  
9 calling in and may not be able to unmute themselves. So  
10 I'm going to give people the ability to unmute  
11 themselves.

12           So, please, I would like to ask everyone to stay  
13 silent for just a moment so that I could see if there are  
14 other people that would like to speak. I want to make  
15 sure everyone gets an opportunity. Is there anyone who  
16 has not spoken yet that would like to speak now? You can  
17 unmute yourself. Okay. Going once. Going twice. Going  
18 three times.

19           I want to thank our stenographer, who's -- I know  
20 this has been really challenging with so many comments,  
21 and she's done a wonderful job trying to keep up. And I  
22 want to thank all the people that helped me, both the DEM  
23 staff that helped me. And also some of the citizens have  
24 been really good about telling me when people are in the

1 waiting room and letting everybody have a chance to  
2 speak.

3 So hearing no other comments, I would like to  
4 closing the hearing at this time. I do want to mention  
5 that we'll be accepting comments for another 30 days  
6 following the close of the hearing, and I believe that's  
7 April 14th. So we will be accepting comments by e-mail  
8 or by regular mail.

9 And I urge everyone that have spoken here, because  
10 sometimes we forget things, so please do follow up with  
11 an e-mail or something in writing so that we make sure to  
12 have all your concerns for the record. The department  
13 will respond within 90 days the close of the public  
14 period.

15 I want to thank you all. I know it's been -- I know  
16 I have required a lot of patience of you with the number  
17 of people that are in the meeting, and thank you for  
18 being so patient and for being so courteous to one  
19 another. And thank you very much for joining us.

20 Yes. And as been mentioned, Ms. Constantino just  
21 put the e-mail addresses in there, so I won't retype  
22 them, yan.li@dem.ri.gov, or mark.dennen@dem.ri.gov. So  
23 please don't hesitate to make your concerns known to the  
24 department. Thank you very much.

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(Proceedings concluded at 7:39 p.m.)

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, Ellen McNamara, a Notary Public in and for the State of Rhode Island, hereby certify that the foregoing pages are a true and accurate record of my stenographic notes that were reduced to print through computer-aided transcription.

In witness whereof, I hereunto set my hand his 1st day of April, 2021.

ELLEN McNAMARA, NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission (RI) Expires on 8/17/2024

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