

Jodye L. Roebuck  
1603 Gibbons Road  
Point of Rocks, MD 21777

**This letter is being sent via email but a hard copy will follow.**

January 21, 2004

Public Service Commission  
Hearing Examiner Division  
William Donald Schaefer Tower, 16th Floor  
6 St. Paul Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202

Re: Case Number 8997  
Application of Catocin Power, LLC

Dear Mr. Bright,

I was not prepared to speak at the public hearing on the 12<sup>th</sup>, but felt I had to get up to say something because of the poor community turnout. I fumbled a bit, so I am taking the time now to organize my thoughts a little better.

The opposition against the subject application has not been near the strength we had when fighting Duke Energy, but the majority of the broader community IS opposed to this plant.

Need :

While I realize that, thanks to deregulation, the State doesn't consider the "need" factor, it is beyond me to ignore the logic of the facts. According to the [2004 MAAC Reliability Assessment - September 2004](http://www.maac-rc.org/assess/download/2004-maac-reliability-assessment.pdf) that can be found at <http://www.maac-rc.org/assess/download/2004-maac-reliability-assessment.pdf>, Maryland already has a surplus of energy. The summary of this report reads as follows :

"The units scheduled for service prior to or during the 2005 summer period will increase the MAAC internal generation by approximately 1,544 MW to 67,580 MW resulting in an increase in projected reserves to 10,197 MW (17.9%). Projected reserves based on resources committed to serve MAAC load as of this writing meet the 2005 obligation of 16.0% established by the Reliability Assurance Agreement-Reliability Committee."

If we already have a surplus of energy, why would the State of Maryland approve an additional power plant, forcing the greater community to deal with :

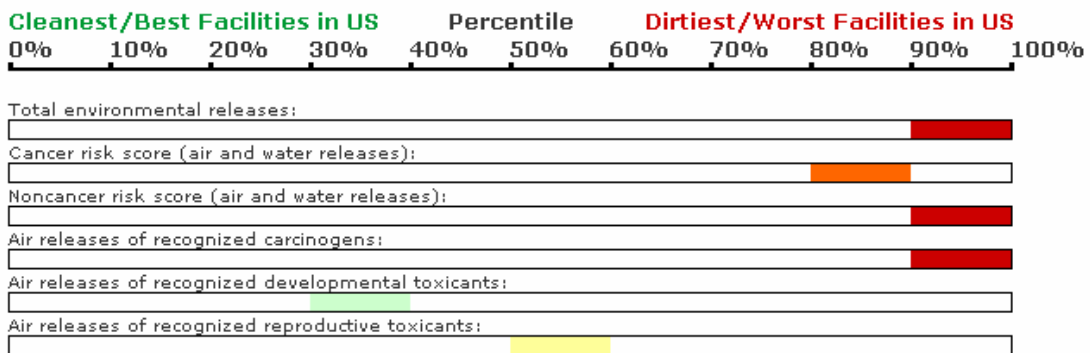
- Significant pollution, potentially causing a number of health risks
- Visual impacts from multiple angles, further damaging our rural character in that immediate area
- Potential economic damages [while Sempra would like you to believe that home prices would not negatively be impacted, they're simply wrong]
- Additional truck traffic (during and after a construction period)
- Light and noise pollution

Air Quality/Health Risks :

According to [www.scorecard.org](http://www.scorecard.org), the Eastalco site is already a very 'dirty' area. To add additional pollution on the same grounds would simply be irresponsible of the State and any agency that approves it.

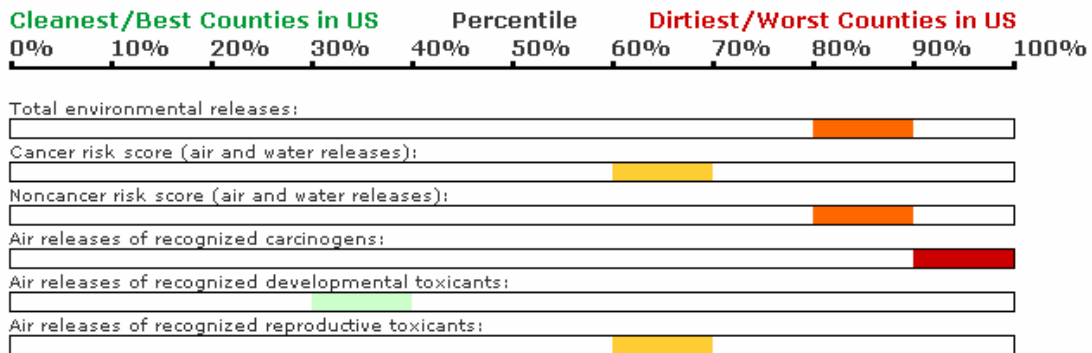
Unfortunately, the website only had 2002 data. Eastalco specific information is outlined in this graph below:

2002 Rankings: Major Chemical Releases or Waste Generation at This Facility\*



Frederick County already does not compare well to other cities in the US according to this graph:

2002 Rankings: Major Chemical Releases or Waste Generation in FREDERICK County\*



The American Lung Association has released their “State of the Air: 2004” report, which can be found at [http://lungaction.org/reports/sota04\\_analysis2.html](http://lungaction.org/reports/sota04_analysis2.html).

“Maryland had three counties in the list of the most ozone-polluted counties in the nation: Harford County at 15th worst; Anne Arundel tied for 17th worst, and Cecil County ranked at 24th worst. Baltimore City ranked 23rd worst among counties with poor short-term particle levels.”

Even though this statement doesn’t list Frederick County... the air that is emitted from a power plant in Frederick County, doesn’t necessarily stay in Frederick County.. it may reach these already unhealthy areas. What I’m reading about ‘particle pollution’ or ‘particulate matter’ is horrifying.

“For the first time, the American Lung Association’s annual *State of the Air* report uses data from a new, national air-quality surveillance network to go beyond its traditional analysis of smog, or ozone air pollution, to include particle pollution. Produced by **power plant emissions**, diesel exhaust and wood burning, among other sources, particle pollution can be dangerous when it reaches unhealthy levels over a few hours or a few days, as well as with constant daily exposure over a long period of time. The complex and dangerous health effects of particle pollution were confirmed in a National Research Council report released in March 2004.”

This is scary enough to read about in general, but when you look at how many THOUSANDS of Frederick County residents this could seriously effect.. it really hits home. People who don’t have pre-existing conditions will be affected, but those who do already have asthma or other breathing issues.. are going to be forced to breath in more pollution, worsening their conditions – all at the State of Maryland’s doing. This graph is taken from the regional analysis of the ALA ‘state of the air’ report :

County	Total Pop	14 & Under	65 & Over	Pediatric Asthma	Adult Asthma	Chronic Bronchitis	Emphysema	Cardiovascular Disease
<u>ANNE ARUNDEL</u>	503,388	104,791	50,857	10,460	30,881	16,651	5,423	103,596
<u>BALTIMORE</u>	770,298	148,795	111,532	14,969	48,166	26,458	9,757	178,431
<u>BALTIMORE CITY</u>	638,614	133,463	82,202	13,238	39,171	21,133	7,386	136,933
<u>CALVERT</u>	80,906	18,433	7,053	1,879	4,771	2,561	806	15,576
<u>CARROLL</u>	159,025	34,487	17,174	3,488	9,568	5,197	1,750	33,003
<u>CECIL</u>	90,335	19,950	9,574	2,000	5,419	2,929	976	18,489
<u>CHARLES</u>	129,040	29,662	10,148	2,995	7,618	4,043	1,218	23,872
<u>FREDERICK</u>	209,125	46,815	19,914	4,682	12,504	6,693	2,137	41,022
<u>HARFORD</u>	227,713	51,045	23,961	5,117	13,583	7,373	2,470	46,746
<u>KENT</u>	19,613	3,148	3,823	326	1,277	721	299	5,256
<u>MONTGOMERY</u>	910,156	192,333	102,871	19,072	55,621	30,363	10,385	195,556
<u>PRINCE GEORGE'S</u>	833,084	187,148	66,236	18,405	50,111	26,489	7,914	155,251
<u>WASHINGTON</u>	134,246	25,492	18,897	2,573	8,434	4,598	1,662	30,633
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>4,705,543</b>	<b>995,562</b>	<b>524,242</b>	<b>99,204</b>	<b>287,124</b>	<b>155,209</b>	<b>52,183</b>	<b>984,364</b>

#### Zoning & Land :

It is hard to argue that the zoning of this land is inappropriate for a power plant siting. However, there is a pretty substantial fear among residents that, if this application is approved and the plant is built, that other industry will follow. Eastalco has been a good steward of their land, and keeping most of it farmed has been wonderful. If Eastalco were to go out of business and another company were to obtain all of their property.... having both the 400 acre smelting plant and the 20+ acre power plant facilities onsite could be the beginning of a much larger industrial park. Especially considering they own approximately 2,200 acres.

The request by the Board of County Commissioners regarding land preservation is certainly reasonable. Utility companies, and Sempra specifically, get these requests all the time. Sempra has argued that they don't own any land around the site, and that this is an unreasonable request. They don't have to own the land, they just need to purchase the easement and come to an agreement with Eastalco. Eastalco has been talking about putting land into preservation for years. They have committed to doing this to both the County Commissioners and to the Carrollton Manor Land Trust.

#### Summary :

I understand that natural gas fired power plants are the "cleanest" type of power plant, and that the EPA will regulate certain emissions from the plant to whatever their standards are. That's all fine, but approving and allowing this plant to be built, will no doubt make our air quality worse than what it is without it. That's the plain and simple truth.

I am obviously quite opposed to this and any other power plant application for our region. I don't want it to be approved. If it were approved, however, I would hope that the State would consider the 'people factor' and not just the sciences of all the studies that have been done.

I appreciate the opportunity to vent and to address my concerns, but I feel that the public comments are not considered as heavily as they should be. This public input phase comes at the absolute end of the hearing process... after all of the State agencies have given their approval, and working relationships have been formed between the decision making entities and the applicant.

Sincerely,

Jodye L. Roebuck