

In Re: Entergy Mississippi, LLC Traceview Advanced Power Station

Transcript of Proceedings

July 14, 2026

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MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

ENTERGY MISSISSIPPI, LLC

TRACEVIEW ADVANCED POWER STATION

AIR PREVENTION OF SIGNIFICANT DETERIORATION PERMIT

PUBLIC HEARING

Greater Pearlle Grove Missionary Baptist Church

1640 West County Line Road

Jackson, Mississippi 39213

on Tuesday, July 14, 2026,

beginning at 5:45 p.m.

NIKKI L. LLOYD, CCR #1870

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1 MR. WHITLOCK: Good evening, everyone.
2 I'm assuming everybody can hear me. Is that
3 too loud? Not loud enough? Okay. I got
4 thumbs up in the back. All right. Perfect.

5 It is now 5:45, and we will formally begin
6 the hearing. By all means, individuals can
7 still come in, register, and we'll give
8 everybody as time allows an opportunity to
9 comment to speak. I will kind of note on the
10 front end though, we do have a hard stop of
11 8:30. So I just want to let everybody be
12 mindful of that and we'll just kind of go from
13 there.

14 So thank you all for being here tonight.
15 It is now 5:45. And I will now formally begin
16 this public hearing. My name is Jaricus
17 Whitlock, and I am chief of the air division at
18 the Mississippi Department of Environmental
19 Quality, or MDEQ for short.

20 This public hearing is for the proposed
21 issuance of an air Prevention of Significant
22 Deterioration permit to construct, for the
23 construction and operation of a power
24 generation facility owned and operated by
25 Entergy Mississippi, LLC and located at 1972

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1 West County Line Road in Ridgeland,
2 Mississippi.

3 This public hearing is the last part of
4 the second public comment period initiated for
5 this proposed action, which began June 10th,
6 2026 and will formally conclude tonight at
7 12:00 a.m.

8 Now, given the interest this proposed
9 project has garnered, I will share at the onset
10 of this hearing that anything conveyed during
11 this overall proceeding is considered public
12 record and may be recalled, recorded, quoted
13 and/or reported. Also, I will emphasize that
14 this proposed permitting action is specifically
15 for the construction of a power plant, not a
16 data center. I know that's been some confusion
17 about that matter in the -- in the media. This
18 is specifically for a power plant proposed by
19 Entergy.

20 The purpose of this public hearing is to
21 receive comments, concerns and other
22 information for consideration on the proposed
23 draft Prevention of Significant Deterioration,
24 or PSD for short, permit to construct requested
25 by Entergy. This public hearing is a standard

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1 part of the permitting process for projects
2 such as this, and is an essential aspect of the
3 review that will be conducted by MDEQ air
4 permitting staff. As such, at the table with
5 me tonight is Mr. Jeffrey Bland, air permitting
6 coordinator for MDEQ's air permitting branch in
7 the air division.

8 MDEQ developed a proposed draft permit and
9 supporting documents based on a comprehensive
10 review of all information submitted by the
11 applicant for the proposed project. Moreover,
12 the conditions of the draft permit were
13 developed to ensure compliance with all
14 applicable air regulations and standards
15 established by the State of Mississippi and the
16 United States Environmental Protection Agency,
17 or EPA for short, but are subject to change
18 based on information received during this
19 public hearing as well as the overall public
20 comment period. Please note that a final
21 decision on this proposed air permitting action
22 will be made by the Mississippi Environmental
23 Quality Permit Board. The permit board is
24 created by Mississippi law for the purpose of
25 issuing, denying or modifying under such

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1 conditions and limitations as it may prescribe
2 environmental permits and coverages for air --
3 to control air and wastewater releases within
4 the state of Mississippi. The composition of
5 the permit board is established by law and
6 consists of the directors or their assigned
7 designees from specific state agencies that
8 have interest in environmental matters
9 throughout the state. A complete listing of
10 the specific agencies and their corresponding
11 directors or assigned designees can be found on
12 MDEQ's website.

13 Now, I will provide a brief description of
14 the proposed air permitting action under
15 consideration.

16 On June 11th, 2025, MDEQ received an
17 application from Entergy, Air Reference Number
18 1720-00100 requesting a PSD permit to construct
19 for the proposed construction of a natural gas
20 fired, combined cycle turbine power plant for
21 base load operations. The proposed plant is
22 rated to provide 750 megawatts of power and to
23 be named Traceview Advanced Power Station, or
24 Entergy Traceview for short.

25 For a combined cycle power plant,

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1 electricity is initially generated through a
2 combustion of natural gas in a primary turbine.
3 Thereafter, the exhaust gas from natural gas
4 combustion is routed through a heat recovery
5 steam generator, which uses the heat from that
6 exhaust gas to create steam and generate
7 additional electricity in a steam turbine.

8 In addition to the primary combined cycle
9 turbine, this proposed project will include the
10 following additional emission sources: A
11 natural gas fired dew point heater to heat the
12 natural gas fed to the gas turbine and duct
13 burners, diesel fired internal combustion
14 engines for emergency standby power generation
15 and emergency fire pump operations, diesel
16 storage tanks, natural gas condensate storage
17 tanks, and lube oil system things. The overall
18 project is subject to the PSD permitting
19 program because the potential emission of
20 several air pollutants exceeds applicable
21 thresholds established by federal law. As
22 such, Entergy Traceview is considered a PSD
23 major source.

24 As a PSD major source, Entergy Traceview
25 is required to complete a Best Available

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1 Control Technology analysis and an ambient air
2 quality analysis for each regulated air
3 pollutant in which the emissions exceed the
4 regulated PSD threshold.

5 The specific sub-pollutants that are
6 subject to this analyses are: Particulate
7 matter less than 10 microns in diameter, or
8 PM10; particulate matter less than 2.5 microns
9 in diameter, or PM2.5; nitrogen oxides, or NOx;
10 volatile organic compounds, VOCs; sulfur
11 dioxide and carbon monoxide. The Best
12 Available Control Technology analysis is
13 required to ensure that Entergy Traceview will
14 incorporate the best practical air pollution
15 control devices, techniques and/or emission
16 limitations to minimize the emission of each
17 listed pollutant.

18 Upon completing this analysis and
19 submitting it to MDEQ for review, MDEQ has
20 determined the following as bad for the
21 combined cycle combustion turbine: For PM10
22 and PM2.5, the application of good combustion
23 practices and the sole usage of low sulfur
24 pipeline grade natural gas; for nitrogen
25 oxides, the usage of a selective catalytic

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1 reduction control device, and a limitation on
2 air emissions to no more than two parts per
3 million; for carbon monoxide, the usage of
4 oxidation catalyst control device and a
5 limitation on air emissions to no more than two
6 parts per million; for sulfur dioxide, the sole
7 usage of verified pipeline grade natural gas;
8 and for volatile organic compounds, the
9 application of good combustion practices and a
10 limitation on air emissions to no more than 1.5
11 parts per million.

12 The ambient air quality -- excuse me. The
13 ambient air quality analysis is also required
14 to demonstrate that the allowable emission
15 increases from Entergy Traceview will not cause
16 or contribute to air pollution that ultimately
17 violates either an EPA established national
18 ambient air quality standard or any other
19 applicable emission limitation over the current
20 baseline concentration for this area. Such a
21 complex demonstration, which accounts for the
22 existing air quality and the average meter --
23 meteorological conditions is accomplished
24 through dispersion modeling. With
25 consideration to existing air quality, please

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1 note that at present, the existing ambient air
2 quality for Madison County, which is where this
3 facility will be located, and as part of the
4 Jackson metropolitan statistical area, is
5 considered entertainment for all national
6 standards by EPA. For this proposed project,
7 the following pollutants were evaluated in the
8 ambient air quality analysis: PM10, PM2.5,
9 nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide and ground
10 level ozone, which is a -- which is the overall
11 of volatile organic compounds and nitrogen --
12 nitrogen oxides.

13 As MDEQ is conscious of the concerns
14 regarding the contributions that emissions from
15 Entergy Traceview will potentially have to
16 existing air quality, this analysis was
17 thoroughly scrutinized by MDEQ air modeling
18 staff. As such, the proposed facility's
19 impacts from their modeled emissions and the
20 estimates of the secondary formation of certain
21 pollutants were found to be compliant with all
22 applicable standards, PSD increments and
23 significant impact levels.

24 After a comprehensive review and
25 consideration of the information presented in

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1 the application and the ambient air quality
2 analysis modeling, MDEQ has concluded that by
3 adhering to the emission limitations,
4 operational restrictions, and compliance
5 assurance mechanisms develop -- developed
6 within the draft permit, the proposed facility
7 can comply with all applicable Mississippi and
8 federal environmental laws, regulations, and
9 air quality standards.

10 Now, before we begin the comment portion
11 of the hearing, I want to share a few important
12 guidelines and instructions to ensure we hear
13 from as many people as possible and maintain a
14 respectful environment.

15 MDEQ is committed to providing a space
16 where all participants can express their views
17 without disruption. Therefore, we ask that you
18 all refrain from booing, cheering or
19 interrupting a commenter during their
20 remarks -- remarks. Also applause, vocal
21 reactions and any other demonstrations, whether
22 in support or opposition of the proposed
23 project, should be only made during the
24 intermittent periods between commenters.

25 Each speaker is asked to convey their

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1 comments in a concise manner as best they can,
2 so that everyone who wishes to speak has an
3 opportunity to do so. Please come to the
4 podium before presenting your comment. If you
5 are physically impaired and cannot walk to the
6 podium, please let us know and we will bring a
7 microphone to you.

8 This public hearing is being transcribed
9 by a court reporter so that the proceedings can
10 be archived for the public record -- in
11 addition, we have -- excuse me -- therefore, we
12 ask that you speak -- please speak clearly into
13 the microphone so that your comments can be
14 properly archived and interpreted.

15 If you are presenting pre-prepared
16 comments, we ask that you please submit them
17 upon completion of your presentation to ensure
18 the transcript is accurate. Before sharing any
19 comment, please state your name. If you
20 represent an organization, please share its
21 name as well. In lieu of presenting your
22 comment at the podium, you may still submit
23 written comments to enter into the public
24 record located at the registration table as you
25 were coming in, or comment cards and opinions.

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1 Upon completing your written comment, please
2 submit it to MDEQ staff and it will be formally
3 archived as part of this record.

4 We appreciate your consideration, your
5 cooperation and your professionalism in this
6 matter. Your respect for these guidelines
7 helps ensure a fair, orderly and productive
8 public hearing for everyone.

9 We will now call individuals to comment in
10 the following order. First, those individuals
11 that indicated yes on the registration cards;
12 second, those individuals that indicated
13 undecided; and then we will open the floor up
14 just in general for anyone that may want to
15 speak for the first time or, I guess, have a
16 second go at it, so to speak.

17 At this time, I will present the yes -- I
18 will -- I will mention the yeses. I will
19 apologize on the front end. If I get your name
20 wrong, I mean no harm by it. So please bear
21 with me. Kelsey Matthews?

22 MS. MATHEWS: Hello. My name is Kelsey
23 Mathews. I'm a member here at this church, a
24 Jackson State Ph.D. candidate for -- in the
25 Department of Environmental Science and a

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1 research assistant at the Community Noise Lab,
2 which is an environmental organization located
3 here in downtown Jackson.

4 And the question I have is that the
5 proposed location is in close proximity to AWS,
6 the landfill, and other surrounding industrial
7 facilities and my alma mater, Tougaloo College.
8 So how will environmental exposure data be
9 incorporated into the State's risk assessment
10 process, and how will the data be made
11 transparent and accessible to the public?

12 MR. WHITLOCK: So as part of a -- for such
13 a project such as this, a PSD permitting
14 action, all relevant sources that are nearby,
15 including the landfill, AWS, are evaluated as
16 part of the existing air quality. So all of
17 those -- all of the emissions that are emitted
18 from such sources go into our ambient air
19 quality analysis. So when we say that their --
20 so when we say that the emission limitations
21 that the facility must meet to comply with all
22 federal and state regulations, that takes into
23 part the emissions from others. Okay.

24 MS. MATHEWS: Thank you.

25 MR. WHITLOCK: Aaron Hill.

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1 MR. HILL: Good evening. My name is Aaron
2 Hill, Director of Capital Projects for Entergy
3 Mississippi. Thank you to the Mississippi
4 Department of Environmental Quality, the
5 Environmental Quality Permitting Board and the
6 members of the public for your opportunity --
7 for the opportunity to speak regarding the
8 draft air permit for the Traceview Advanced
9 Power Station.

10 The Traceview Advanced Power Station has
11 been developed to support the reliability and
12 stability of the region's electric system,
13 while meeting all applicable state and federal
14 environmental requirements. The facility will
15 utilize modern, high efficient natural gas
16 combined cycle technology, support -- supported
17 by Best Available Control Technology,
18 consistent with the draft permit.

19 In addition to the required environmental
20 controls, the project incorporates several
21 community-focused design elements intended to
22 minimize offsite impacts. These include
23 maintaining natural vegetative buffers around
24 the site, oriented major equipment to reduce
25 visibility and sound propagation, implementing

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1 a closed loop cooling design to reduce water
2 usage, utilizing an air cooled condenser to
3 significantly reduce water demand and applying
4 a fully shielded lighting system to prevent
5 light spill beyond the property boundary.
6 Independent studies confirmed that operational
7 noise will remain below local ordinance
8 thresholds at nearby residences. These
9 measures reflect our commitment to being a
10 responsible neighbor, while ensuring the
11 facility operates in compliance with all air
12 quality standards, monitoring requirements and
13 environmental obligations set forth by MDEQ.
14 The Entergy Mississippi Traceview Advanced
15 Power Station is designed to operate safely,
16 reliably and responsibly to power the lives of
17 our customers.

18 Thank you for your time and consideration.

19 MR. WHITLOCK: Ms. Yolanda Daniel.

20 MS. DANIEL: Good evening. My name is
21 Yolanda Daniel. I represent Environmental
22 Advocates Mississippi. We are here asking the
23 Board to deny -- ultimately, those making the
24 decision to deny the permit for Entergy
25 Traceview -- Entergy Mississippi Traceview.

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1 There's important information not considered in
2 the permit, which could impact compliance with
3 federal and state law. If the Board does not
4 deny the permit tonight -- which I'm now
5 assuming you won't make a decision tonight,
6 right? This is just discussion -- we would
7 like a hearing before any final decision is
8 made. And that hearing, a public hearing,
9 before any decision is made.

10 Environmental Advocates Mississippi, EAMS,
11 I'll call it for the remainder of my comments,
12 together with Better Data Center Project
13 previously submitted research and comments to
14 MDEQ. And in that, we saw that the scope of
15 what was considered was not complete based on
16 the application.

17 I'll just go through a few things that we
18 identified as part of that review. The permit
19 does not analyze a key pollutant. This plant
20 will use a large ammonia system as part of its
21 pollutants control, but the permit has no
22 ammonia limit. It requires no ammonia
23 monitoring. It does not include ammonia in the
24 air pollution modeling. And as you are aware,
25 ammonia is important because it reacts in the

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1 air with other pollutants to form fine
2 particulate matter, PM2.5, which is known to
3 cause harm to cardiovascular and respiratory
4 health. Without controlling and measuring
5 ammonia, the Board cannot know the true air
6 quality and health impacts of this plan. And I
7 mentioned PM2.5, but sometimes it actually can
8 be smaller than that, as you are aware as well,
9 which crosses the blood brain barrier, which is
10 even more impactful to mortality, and I'll get
11 into mortality estimates as we go through my
12 comments.

13 The permit does not consider cumulative
14 impacts. And I know we're not here tonight to
15 discuss a landfill. We're not here tonight to
16 discuss data centers. But you can't consider
17 this plant without considering the cumulative
18 impact, especially when those developments are
19 12 steps across the street from residences,
20 from places of faith, including this one, from
21 daycare centers and early childhood schools and
22 other businesses.

23 The permit does not count pollution from
24 diesel generation -- diesel generators being
25 built by two nearby data centers. One just

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1 directly across the street, just yards away.
2 Together, those data center generators alone
3 would produce more nitrogen pollution than this
4 proposed natural gas power plant.

5 The MDEQ Board is aware of those projects,
6 but their pollutant impacts are not counted in
7 this permit's air quality analysis. Without
8 understanding these combined impacts, the Board
9 cannot know whether the permit has protections
10 in place for our community and air quality, and
11 we just want to be able to breathe good air.

12 The permit -- excuse me. Our air quality
13 is already unsafe, and this plant would make
14 that worse. Air monitors already show
15 pollution levels at or above the federal safety
16 limits. This plant alone would add about 10
17 percent more pollution to the county's air.
18 This could potentially violate federal
19 standards and grounds for denying the permit.
20 The impact of data centers supported by this
21 proposed plan would add even more pollution,
22 ensuring levels well above safety limits. The
23 health and air of our communities cannot afford
24 a new source.

25 And I will say, as we go through this

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1 process, we are happy to provide data and
2 research, independently assessed research. And
3 so we'd be happy to -- if you find something
4 different from us to -- about you or Entergy,
5 find something different from us, we expect the
6 same reciprocal analysis, independent,
7 peer-reviewed research to compare.

8 No. 3, the pollution will harm our health.
9 Independent studies from Harvard researcher
10 Michael Cork says that this plant could cause
11 anywhere from 18 to 32 million in health damage
12 every year. That includes one to two early
13 deaths every year. Over 30 years, that could
14 add up to 62 early deaths. And the studies
15 also found about 240 missed school days and 89
16 missed work days every year, or on an annual
17 basis. These are not mere numbers. These are
18 families, these are community members, these
19 are friends, these are loved ones that the
20 future of this city, this county and this state
21 depend on. And we should give them every
22 opportunity to not only live, but to thrive.

23 Pollution dispersion versus removal. And
24 I won't spend much time here, but this is just
25 to say, at one point we understood that there

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1 were going to be taller stacks, and the EPA and
2 GO -- GOA in 2011, and EPA found that taller
3 stacks does not limit the impact locally of
4 pollutants being dispersed at a location.
5 Rather, it actually disperses that pollution
6 over a longer period of -- a longer area,
7 rather. EPA guidance and regulations
8 explicitly limit giving regulatory credit for
9 dispersion from stack heights and require that
10 stack heights beyond generally good engineering
11 practices not be used to relax emission limits.
12 And why that matters, again, we're talking
13 about particulate matter and the impacts that
14 that would have on community health.

15 And then finally, I want to introduce a
16 research that was conducted for a population of
17 approximately 68.5 million elders, Medicare
18 recipients. And in that study, it found
19 that -- and researchers analyzed 16 years of
20 health data from 68.5 million Medicare
21 enrollees. This is the most extensive study of
22 PM2.5 and the link to health disparities and
23 mortality. They focused on PM2.5, and the
24 study showed a causal link between longterm 2.5
25 exposure and higher mortality. We have that

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1 study. We're happy to pass that on to you for
2 your further evaluation.

3 We won't make many comments about water.
4 We will say -- but we're currently researching.
5 But we will say that given current examples
6 such as meta -- meta and the poisoning of
7 groundwater and water systems has already
8 shown, and Amazon in Oregon and meta has shown
9 the propensity, even if it is a closed loop
10 system, that it will in waterways, poison
11 waterway systems.

12 And then finally, I will say that this
13 is -- I know I said finally twice, right,
14 but -- but it's a lot. It's a lot.

15 I will say that this is new technology
16 that is being introduced. And I'm saying new
17 because there has been no independent
18 peer-review research that aligns with the
19 comments that this is safe. This technology
20 has primarily been installed internationally,
21 such as in Asia and a few other places, and
22 there are a few installations in the United
23 States. I know that Entergy is planning to
24 install this technology in the Greenville
25 plant, if I'm not mistaken. But, again, we are

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1 not guinea pigs, and we don't want our lives to
2 be impacted by something that does not already
3 show independent, peer-review research
4 regarding its safety.

5 Finally, I just want to give condolences
6 to our community members in Gloster who are
7 currently suffering from air pollution.
8 They're not -- they didn't have the opportunity
9 to do the prework that we are doing to prevent
10 poisoning of communities. We just hope working
11 with MDEQ, we prevent anything that is as
12 catastrophic as what Gloster is experiencing
13 today. Different industry, same pollutants.

14 So we just ask that you think about us
15 just as approximately a month ago, the six
16 funerals on a Friday of Gloster residents that
17 they -- their families had. And we appreciate
18 you having this public comment. Thank you.

19 (Applause)

20 MR. WHITLOCK: Ms. Erin Shirley Orey.

21 MS. OREY: Good evening. You were close.
22 It's Erin Shirley Orey.

23 MR. WHITLOCK: So sorry.

24 MS. OREY: That's okay. That's okay.

25 Thank you for allowing us to have this -- these

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1 public comments tonight.

2 I just really have a question that I'm not
3 sure you can answer, but I would like for it to
4 be on record. What does it mean to live near a
5 natural gas power plant? This plant will burn
6 natural gas around the clock year round. That
7 comes with real pollution, that kind that
8 affects breathing and health. Three things
9 this plant will put out into our air. First,
10 smog-forming pollution. That's what causes the
11 chest tightness and coughing you feel on a bad
12 air day. It's worse for kids and older adults
13 and anyone with asthma.

14 Second, fine soot particles so small they
15 get into your bloodstream, such as the part of
16 Particulate Matter 2.5. Those are linked to
17 more asthma attacks, more heart attacks and
18 shorter lifespans. The closer you live to the
19 source, the more of it you breathe every single
20 day.

21 Thirdly, ammonia. The plant plans to
22 store 40,000 gallons of pressurized ammonia on
23 site. Small leaks could happen, but a bigger
24 accidental release next to homes is a real
25 risk. It's not a hypothetical one.

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1 The permit's own modeling shows this
2 project already crosses the pollution
3 thresholds that are supposed to trigger extra
4 scrutiny. That should be a red flag in itself,
5 not a box to check.

6 There's no air quality monitor that I am
7 aware of in this county. The numbers that were
8 used to judge the background pollution come
9 from a monitor that's in a different county,
10 not from this area.

11 Does MDEQ consider the existing landfill
12 near the proposed site? And I think you
13 mentioned that it did. Will MDEQ evaluate the
14 cumulative impacts of the natural gas plant,
15 the landfill, the data center?

16 So tonight, I'm asking MDEQ to deny the
17 permit and at least do these three things:
18 Study the actual health impact on families
19 living closest to the plant, not just the
20 area-wide average; put a real air monitor here
21 in this community before even considering
22 approving the permit; require Entergy to share
23 its emergency plan for the ammonia tank with
24 this community, not just with regulators; and
25 respond to everyone's concerns in -- everyone's

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1 concerns in writing before any final decision
2 is made. Because we are not just data points
3 on a map, we are the people who live, worship
4 and work near the proposed site.

5 And as a -- just a rhetorical question for
6 those -- and this is for the record, for those
7 who will be making the final decision about
8 this, would you want to live near this plant?
9 Thank you.

10 (Applause)

11 MR. WHITLOCK: Mr. Jerry Young.

12 MR. YOUNG: I thank you very much. I am
13 Jerry Young. That's J-E-R-R-Y. You got it.
14 And I'm privileged to be the pastor of New Hope
15 Baptist Church here in Jackson, here in the
16 community, live in this community as well. And
17 I would -- and I'm not as versed as other
18 persons are with all of the technology and the
19 technical terms. Unfortunately, I spent most
20 of my life studying theology, and -- and so I
21 don't understand a lot about the technical
22 stuff. But here is my concern.

23 It appears to me that what is happening
24 here is that there are some persons who
25 apparently have decided that profits ought to

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1 be placed above people. That's my real
2 concern. Because with the facility being in
3 that close proximity to our neighborhood, it
4 would seem to suggest to me that someone has
5 concluded that in the final analysis, making
6 the money is a lot more important than
7 preserving the health of the community.

8 And lastly, I've been in this community
9 now for nearly 50 years. I have pastored New
10 Hope Baptist Church for 46 years. I've lived
11 in the community. I have five grandchildren;
12 three of them have asthma. Everything that I
13 have read says to me that however we do this,
14 if it's this close to the community, the
15 adverse effects are absolutely catastrophic. I
16 would ask, along with those persons who were so
17 eloquent, that we would raise the question,
18 what is it that ultimately God requires? And I
19 believe the answer comes back, whatever you do,
20 He says, do justly, and that's justly, and
21 that's justice for all of our communities,
22 love, mercy and walk humbly with God. I say
23 that because I am utterly concerned that there
24 is no way that this facility can be this close
25 to the community without adversely affecting

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1 the community.

2 FEMALE SPEAKER: Right. Amen, amen.

3 (Applause)

4 MR. WHITLOCK: Ms. Traci Hayes.

5 DR. HAYES: Good evening, Traci Hayes,
6 Doctor of Public Health.

7 So I would have to say that I've enjoyed
8 hearing all the statistics and the information
9 put forth by the previous speakers. So I'm
10 going to keep mine short.

11 I would like to say that I would like to
12 go on record asking you to deny this permit for
13 this Entergy Traceview Power Station.

14 For the last 13 years that I've been in
15 this area, I -- we seem to be fighting with
16 MDEQ so much. You have tried to put landfills
17 over here. You've got one, maybe two. We've
18 fought the landfills. We are now fighting
19 this -- we tried to fight the data center, but
20 the information was so low key and not
21 transparent at all that we just saw work going
22 on. I thought it was a supermarket. Would
23 have been nice to be a supermarket, but it was
24 this data center hidden behind the trees. So
25 there was limited transparency, limited

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1 communications, which is key in public health.
2 You have to share with the community. And MDEQ
3 after reading your material about what your
4 role is, you're only suggesting, you should do
5 a more effective job suggesting locations that
6 are not in the midst of the community.
7 These -- these operations are always placed
8 where people are least likely to fight, with
9 the resources not to fight.

10 Again, one of the speakers asked, would
11 they want it in their neighborhood? The
12 research shows that the individuals that are
13 putting this in place do not live within 50 to
14 60 miles of these plants. And I'm really
15 surprised that Madison okayed this, but it's
16 probably because it's so close to these
17 communities over here in Jackson, their
18 operations. It's a few neighborhoods that are
19 going to be affected in the Ridgeland
20 community.

21 But again, my question is, we're standing
22 here; we're asking you to deny it. How likely
23 is this to be denied off the request of
24 individuals with limited power, with just a
25 mere vote of putting officials in? And if we

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1 do have that capacity to make you think
2 otherwise, what is the alternative? Give
3 Entergy an alternative. We can't pack up and
4 move our homes. We can't pack up and relocate
5 the church. But they have resources. They
6 charge us abundantly enough for everything that
7 they do. Have them locate and be
8 inconvenienced. We see this across the nation
9 that people are losing their homes. No one
10 wants it anywhere. And if they don't want it
11 and they're suffering from it, it means that
12 the people that have a decision have a due
13 diligence to discover and investigate more.

14 So please take into consideration what
15 these young ladies have suggested and what
16 Reverend Young has proposed, and just find us
17 an alternative. This is a neighborhood that
18 contributes significantly to the tax base of
19 this community. Why do you always want to
20 destroy it? You want to put the most dangerous
21 things in some of your high paying tax areas,
22 in places where we -- we don't have anywhere
23 else to run and go to. Ask Entergy to
24 relocate. It's fair. They can do it. Thank
25 you.

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1 (Applause)

2 MR. WHITLOCK: Reverend Bridges.

3 REVEREND BRIDGES: Thank you. I am Arthur
4 Bridges. I'm actually the pastor of this
5 church, and I would be remiss if I did not make
6 some comments.

7 My -- as Pastor Young has said, my -- my
8 greatest concern, of course, even just the
9 nature of my calling is souls. Souls
10 translates to people. And so my -- my greatest
11 concern has to be people. Much -- many of my
12 questions have already been asked. I won't
13 necessarily repeat those. But one of the ones
14 that I will repeat is that I see that most of
15 the air quality compliance is regionally. And
16 again, I would ask that there be an air quality
17 testing that would be near this property. We
18 have service here every Sunday. We have Bible
19 study on Wednesdays. We have special events
20 where there is a large concentration of people
21 here all the time. We have seniors. We have
22 people who have asthma. We have people with
23 all types of health conditions that I must
24 consider as their pastor. I must show some
25 concern for them as well. And so I ask that

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1 you do the same thing, and I don't want us to
2 do anything irresponsible.

3 I'm not against progress, but I -- as it
4 was stated by Pastor Young, I don't believe in
5 putting progress or profit over people. And so
6 I do ask you to consider people and to take the
7 right measures, not just consider regional
8 data, but very localized data.

9 And also, again, as it has been said,
10 considering the cumulative effect, there's
11 already a landfill, there's a data center, now
12 a power plant. My church -- well, not my
13 church, but God's church, all of God's churches
14 here, Greater Pearlie Grove, New Hope,
15 Anderson. There are a number of churches
16 within mile radiuses of this location, this
17 proposed location. So I just ask that you
18 would consider those very localized effects
19 instead of only looking regionally to determine
20 what the effects would be. Thank you.

21 (Applause)

22 MR. WHITLOCK: This next group -- excuse
23 me. This next group of names are those that
24 marked undecided. If you wish to speak after I
25 call your name, feel free to come to the mic.

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1 If not, you can just kind of say no or just
2 stay where you are. So your choice, no
3 pressure.

4 Mr. Curtis Harris?

5 MR. HARRIS: Everything -- everything
6 they've said, pretty much --

7 MR. WHITLOCK: Hold up.

8 MR. HARRIS: Good afternoon. Curtis
9 Harris. Everything has pretty much been said
10 what I was going to comment on, so I don't have
11 anything. I'm sorry. Thank you.

12 MR. WHITLOCK: Ms. Tamika Gilbert?

13 (No response)

14 MR. WHITLOCK: Ms. Sheila Stewart?

15 MS. STEWART: No.

16 MR. WHITLOCK: Okay. Mr. Samuel? I'm not
17 sure of your last name. I'm sorry.

18 MR. ASHMORE: Ashmore.

19 MR. WHITLOCK: Ashmore.

20 MR. ASHMORE: No.

21 MR. WHITLOCK: Okay. Ms. Teresa Blackmon.

22 MS. BLACKMON: Yes. I would like to
23 speak.

24 My name is Teresa Blackmon, and I'm a
25 member here of Greater Pearlie Grove. And just

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1 you-all talking about what Entergy plans to do
2 or would like to do, it has already kind of
3 touched me to the point that -- breathing wise,
4 just talking about it. I am an asthma baby.
5 Correction, I became an asthma baby at the age
6 of 45. I am now 66 years of age. I attend
7 church as much as I can, but prior to three
8 years ago, I was living in Southaven,
9 Mississippi with my son, his wife and his
10 children, my grandchildren, and they made a
11 decision to move back this way to Ridgeland by
12 way of Madison because of what was going on in
13 Memphis, Tennessee, by way of Southaven,
14 Mississippi.

15 And like all the speakers before me have
16 stated, why? Why this area? Why, why and why?
17 You got so much open land up 55 going north
18 with abundance of trees when you're traveling
19 from north to south, why couldn't the plant be
20 designated that way? My personal feeling is
21 it's all about convenience. It's all about not
22 caring about the real people. And we are.
23 Everybody that's in this room today are the
24 real people.

25 It's hard to even breathe when you smell a

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1 certain smell, whether it's a perfume, whether
2 it's a smell of the waste management area. If
3 I have to travel north to go to north
4 Mississippi by way of Hazlehurst, through Byram
5 and my windows are down, I have to literally
6 pull my car over because I started expelling so
7 terribly because of the smell.

8 In all my life of working, I've worked in
9 a particular place, public service place, but
10 you still have to deal with the elements of the
11 building, whether it's fibers from the boxes,
12 heat, cold, cough, muscles. The body is
13 already being torn down as you age anyway. But
14 the question is, why must we have to go through
15 this unnecessary process that somebody else
16 that doesn't even live in the area that is
17 being spoken on in regards to this process,
18 have to deal with it.

19 So let's please reconsider this proposal
20 and take it somewhere else where people don't
21 live. Our lives matter. Thank you.

22 (Applause)

23 MR. WHITLOCK: Mr. Larry Henderson.

24 MR. HENDERSON: I wasn't going to say
25 anything. I just came to listen, too. My name

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1 is Larry Henderson. I'm also a minister, and I
2 believe in life for people. And I live in the
3 area, actually on the Ridgeland side. And I
4 fought with the landfills. I was in meetings
5 about the power center, about Amazon. And as
6 someone before stated, it's about the money.
7 There were a lot of people on both sides,
8 Madison and Hinds County that said, I didn't
9 want it. But when you have a county that said,
10 We're bringing in money and we're bringing in
11 jobs, but where we locate it is where people
12 have already been affected over the years by
13 the landfills. Cancers, deaths, asthmas. I
14 mean, I'm at an age where I'm on the side going
15 down, but I have grandchildren. I've got
16 children. And right now throughout this
17 nation, you see everybody -- it was on the news
18 about Southaven. I've got a daughter that
19 lives up in DeSoto County. They're talking
20 about the plant there. The noises that are
21 generated, the pollution, whether it's noise
22 pollution or air pollution, and it's -- it's
23 like -- as they say, it's about the money. And
24 people are disposable. Certain people are
25 disposable. People that may not have resources

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1 to fight. And I'm not just talking black.
2 It's people that are disposable. If you don't
3 have the means, then you can be disposed of
4 because you're not able to relocate. You're
5 not able to maybe go to Maine or Montana
6 somewhere where you don't have as many people.
7 But when you are here and you've invested and
8 you're looking to say, I want this for my
9 posterity. I want my grandchildren to one day,
10 maybe if they want to, to live in an area where
11 they're not worried about their health, they're
12 not worried about the things that are going on.
13 I mean, I'm not against progress now because we
14 need jobs, we need businesses. But then is it
15 one that will benefit the people that are
16 living there?

17 So I -- I just concur with everyone else,
18 you know, that the plant not be installed.

19 Thank you.

20 MR. WHITLOCK: Ms. Delores Vaughn.

21 MS. VAUGHN: No.

22 MR. WHITLOCK: Mr. Calvin, Sr.

23 MR. CALVIN, SR.: No.

24 MR. WHITLOCK: Okay. Nkeba Bell?

25 COURT REPORTER: Could you say that name

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1 one more time?

2 MR. WHITLOCK: Nkeba Bell.

3 COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

4 MS. BELL: No.

5 MR. WHITLOCK: Okay. Regina Jones?

6 MS. JONES: No.

7 MR. WHITLOCK: Luella Love.

8 MS. LOVE: No.

9 MR. WHITLOCK: Last name Byrd? I may have

10 to come back to that one. I'm sorry.

11 Natalie Speaks.

12 MS. SPEAKS: Natalie Speaks.

13 MR. WHITLOCK: Okay.

14 MS. SPEAKS: Thank you so much. I am here

15 to request that the Board deny the permit

16 applied by for Entergy for the gas plant.

17 I just have a couple of questions and,

18 obviously, they will be rhetorical, but I do

19 want to state them for the record.

20 How much is a life worth? What amount of

21 money could be exchanged for a human life?

22 Because even if what you have heard some of the

23 experts state, people who are well versed in

24 this technology and scientific words that I

25 don't know, even if 90 percent of what they

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1 have said is wrong and only 10 percent is
2 right, how much? How much is that life worth?
3 We've heard -- we've heard talk tonight about
4 the health implications and how people with
5 cardiovascular issues and liver and kidney
6 issues, how they are negatively affected,
7 people who have asthma, how the children and
8 the elderly are even more affected. How much
9 is their life worth?

10 And when we're talking about understanding
11 the role of MDEQ -- and I will say, I am a
12 novice. This is not my area of expertise. But
13 I read the pamphlet that you guys provided
14 tonight, and it appears to me that MDEQ does
15 not control anything except for the permitting,
16 because when you have asked questions about the
17 data centers you ask about -- you've asked what
18 people are typically concerned about, which is
19 energy cost, water usage, pollution, all of
20 those things. None of that is controlled by
21 MDEQ. The only thing that MDEQ controls is
22 whether or not this permit is issued. And
23 based on that, I feel that MDEQ -- because
24 there are no regulatory measures -- there's
25 nothing that MDEQ can do and come back and say,

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1 Oh, we made a mistake. We messed up. We see
2 that people are dying, that children are being
3 born stillborn, that there is a higher
4 maternity morbidity rate. We've -- which all
5 of these things are documented in other states
6 where data centers and gas power plants are
7 actually located. And because you can't
8 control that, then right now, use the control
9 and deny this permit.

10 My area of expertise is real estate. You
11 have heard several neighbors stand before you
12 tonight and indicate that they're concerned
13 because they don't have the ability to just
14 pick up and move. The lady before me, she said
15 that her and her family moved here from
16 Southaven because of what was happening in
17 Memphis. Three years later, it is happening
18 here. Again, how -- how are people supposed to
19 live if you are depriving them of their equity?
20 Because no one wants to live next -- next to a
21 data center or across the street from a gas
22 power plant. What do they do?

23 It continues to mimic the strategic
24 disinvestment that the city of Jackson has
25 faced for decades. Lots of people have talked

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1 about how this area is being negatively
2 impacted by the landfill, by all of these
3 things, by the data center, and now a potential
4 gas power plant. Its strategic disinvestment,
5 and the citizens of Jackson are the ones who
6 are going to bear the brunt of it.

7 So, again, I am asking that you deny the
8 permit for Entergy of Mississippi, for this
9 Tracepoint (sic), for the gas power plant.
10 Thank you.

11 (Applause)

12 MR. WHITLOCK: We're going to try this one
13 again. Middle name starts with an E. Last
14 name begins with a B.

15 MR. BRYANT: It ain't John Bryant, is it?

16 MR. WHITLOCK: What did you say?

17 MR. BRYANT: John Bryant?

18 MR. WHITLOCK: Could be. That is your
19 handwriting?

20 MR. BRYANT: Yes, sir, I want my own say
21 in there, so... I came in kind of late.

22 Good evening. My name is John Bryant. I
23 live at 273 Rouser Road. That's a hop, skip
24 and a jump from here. This is my church, the
25 Greater Pearlie Grove. Y'all talking about the

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1 gas and stuff. I'm a retired fireman. I have
2 a degree in a hazmat technician and Tech 2.
3 Y'all talking about the gases that's going to
4 be gave out. Gases can run from 2.3 to 5.2 or
5 higher. This plant, like I said, would be
6 almost in my backyard. Look at Rouser Road and
7 look where you're going to build it. I invite
8 you and you. Your name? I forgot your name.

9 MR. WHITLOCK: Jaricus.

10 MR. BRYANT: I invite y'all to come out
11 and have a cup of coffee with me. From the
12 landfill, I live about three quarters of a mile
13 from it. Y'all -- y'all going to grant the gas
14 company to run a plant. I live at 273 Rouser
15 Road, again. Pastor Hughes tried to get
16 natural gas on Livingston Road on the east
17 side. Y'all got a tent, a 8-inch main running.
18 They said it wasn't feasible to tack on to it,
19 but it's feasible to tack on to it for the
20 plant coming in. Do you know how much propane
21 gas costs? I get gas from Lampton-Love.
22 Summer fill up is July. It's still \$3.25 a
23 gallon. I got a 500-gallon tank. They can
24 grant gas for a plant, but they can't grant gas
25 for natural living people. How can you justify

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1 that?

2 This center I hear that they putting in,
3 when y'all came -- when they came and put out a
4 sign, there was a little sign that was stuck on
5 the side of the ditch. And when we found out
6 about it, it was too late. It was too late.
7 We had a meeting up in Ridgeland at the brand
8 new city hall. It was too late. The mind was
9 already made up. The people that showed up, if
10 it wasn't for Patricia Sanders and a couple
11 more people that was interested and the
12 Livingston Road Homeowners Association, we
13 showed up in full force.

14 So take in consideration. Let us live.
15 Let our church stay in balance. Moving into
16 the plant, our churches start shifting. They
17 start shifting. Walk around the church here.
18 It will start shifting. Trucks bringing in and
19 out, coming in and out. We got a landfill, not
20 in my backyard, almost in my front yard. If
21 you ride down through there -- years ago, I had
22 horses. I belong to the Mississippi
23 (indiscernible) Association, me and my wife.
24 We used to ride down through there. There was
25 a little creek that crossed the road. There

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1 used to be snakes and fishes swimming. I used
2 to take -- I used to take my pistol down there.
3 I used to shoot the snakes. I let my wife
4 shoot them. But now, ain't nothing there from
5 the runoff. And the smell from that landfill,
6 they got pipes burning out at night, which are
7 burning off the methane. But it's still rough.

8 I invite y'all two to come out one morning
9 when the wind is right to have a cup of coffee
10 with me on my patio. It would make you
11 nauseated and sick. Thank you.

12 (Applause)

13 MR. WHITLOCK: Sabir.

14 MR. ABDUL-HAQQ: You got it. Sabir
15 Abdul-Haqq. That's it. Say that five times
16 fast.

17 MR. WHITLOCK: I'm sorry. Could you spell
18 your last name?

19 MR. ABDUL-HAQQ: Sure. Okay. See, when
20 I'm doing print, I start going into cursive.
21 You should see my signature. A-B-D-U-L,
22 hyphen, H-A-Q-Q. You should see me sign my
23 kids' progress report.

24 I'm here to comment on the State's
25 proposed regulatory approach to incoming data

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1 center applications, as outlined in MDEQ's
2 informational guidance.

3 Now, I understand we're not talking
4 directly about data -- about data centers, but
5 the Agency's current stance, to me, seems like
6 a masterclass in bureaucratic hand washing,
7 treating massive industrial infrastructure as
8 if it were a local grocery store. Let's look
9 at the gaping disconnect between MDEQ's relaxed
10 timeline and federal reality. The pamphlet
11 that we were given notes that aggrieved
12 citizens have a mere 30 days to appeal an
13 environmental permit after it's issued. Yet if
14 we look at the broader regulatory landscape,
15 specifically the Federal Energy Regulatory
16 Commission, also known as FERC, the federal
17 government is moving in lightning speed to
18 reform how these massive, large loads integrate
19 into the grid. FERC has already established
20 strict compressed federal timelines this year
21 to force grid operators to justify the immense
22 infrastructure impacts driven by data centers.

23 Speaking of infrastructure impacts, how
24 can MDEQ sit here, claim we can't evaluate
25 environmental impacts in a vacuum while

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1 companies like Kinder Morgan and Southern
2 Company are actively pushing the massive
3 Mississippi Crossing, also known as MSX and the
4 South System Expansion 4, also known as SSE4,
5 pipeline projects through our state. Let's be
6 completely transparent. These two
7 interconnected projects represent nearly
8 500 miles of massive 36 and 42-inch methane gas
9 pipelines, gouging straight through Mississippi
10 counties like Washington, Humphreys, Holmes,
11 Attala, Leake, Neshoba, Newton, Lauderdale and
12 Clarke. It is seat belting across the entire
13 state. The developers claim this \$5.2 billion
14 pipeline buildout is absolutely necessary. But
15 independent financial analyses show the low
16 growth is highly speculative and driven almost
17 entirely by the AI data center. MDEQ states in
18 its literature that we have no jurisdiction
19 over electricity rates against Mississippians
20 who will be left holding the bag, paying higher
21 utility bills to subsidize underused fossil
22 fuel infrastructure when the AI bubble bursts.
23 Meanwhile, these projects are actively
24 threatening 18 different river watersheds,
25 risking localized gas leaks and forcing massive

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1 new or expanded compressor stations into our
2 communities that will spike the very air
3 pollution like nitrous oxide that MDQ -- MDEQ
4 claims to monitor. You cannot separate the
5 environmental degradation of the MSX and SSE4
6 pipelines from the data centers they are built
7 to feed. Giving the public a tiny 30-day
8 window to digest this massive, overlapping
9 ecological threats, while federal dockets are
10 sprinting forward is a regulatory failure.

11 Finally, we must address the leadership
12 overseeing these critical decisions. It's hard
13 to swallow MDEQ's assurances of rigorous,
14 independent environmental protection when you
15 have newly -- newly chaired Billy Vandiver sits
16 at the helm of the Mississippi Commission on
17 Environmental Quality. One has to marvel at
18 the efficiency of appointing someone with deep
19 ties to Claw Forestry Services. I'm sure it's
20 a complete and total coincidence that an
21 industry heavily reliant on massive timber
22 yields and operational sawmills is being
23 overseen by a man positioned to perfectly watch
24 those exact sectors thrive under rapid
25 industrial development. It certainly gives a

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1 whole new meaning to sustainable forestry when
2 the regulatory environment is cleared as
3 efficiently as a clear cut white pine
4 plantation. We need a unified, proactive
5 regulatory framework that aligns with the fast
6 movement federal documents, the FERC docs --
7 dockets, not defensive pamphlets telling
8 Mississippians to call a hotline after the
9 pipeline -- the pipelines are buried and the
10 damage is already done.

11 MDEQ must extend public notice periods and
12 conduct comprehensive cumulative impact studies
13 regarding the MSX, SSE4 buildout before rubber
14 stamping these permits. Thank you.

15 MR. WHITLOCK: I have two names, Charles
16 Rogers and Angela Greer.

17 MR. ROGERS: Charles Rogers.

18 MR. WHITLOCK: Can you come to the mic?

19 MR. ROGERS: I really don't think I have
20 much of anything to add to what's already been
21 said here tonight. But as I was sitting there
22 thinking about passing on the opportunity to
23 say something, one thought did come to my mind.
24 As we all know, that plant has already been
25 built, which I understand costs in excess of \$1

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1 billion. Those pipelines have already been
2 laid, you know. So we either believe that it's
3 the process to go spend \$1 billion without the
4 permits being already approved? I mean --
5 so -- so obviously, whoever put that plant out
6 there is expecting their permits to be rubber
7 stamped, you know. And from my life
8 experiences, we are all kidding ourselves if we
9 think that that won't be done. That's all I
10 wanted to add. Thank you.

11 (Applause)

12 MR. WHITLOCK: I didn't want to pass by
13 it. I guess we'll go with Ms. Angela Greer's
14 opportunity if she --

15 MR. ROGERS: It's my spouse.

16 MR. WHITLOCK: Oh, okay.

17 MR. ROGERS: She's supposed to be coming.

18 MR. WHITLOCK: Okay. Montina Clay?

19 MS. CLAY: Good afternoon. My name is
20 Montina Clay. I'm a resident of Ward 2, the
21 City of Jackson, which is where the proposed
22 power plant is going to be located. And I just
23 ask that you deny the permit based on
24 everything that you've heard and all the
25 effects of the city. And I think the citizens

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1 of Jackson are willing to work with Entergy to
2 find another location that would be better
3 suited for all parties involved.

4 (Applause)

5 MR. WHITLOCK: Mr. Michael Davis?

6 MR. DAVIS: I think everything has been
7 said.

8 MR. WHITLOCK: And another Michael.

9 MICHAEL: No.

10 MR. WHITLOCK: Okay. Anthony Brown?

11 MR. BROWN: No.

12 MR. WHITLOCK: Mr. Jerry Christer?

13 MR. CHRISTLER: Christler. No.

14 MR. WHITLOCK: Ms. Linda Ganter?

15 MS. GANTER: No. Everything has been
16 said. Just don't let it fall on deaf ears.

17 MR. WHITLOCK: That is everyone who has
18 either -- that has denoted undecided. We still
19 will allow an opportunity for anyone that
20 wishes to come and present comments, even if
21 you did say no on your registration card. So
22 I'll pause to allow that opportunity right now.

23 DR. HAYES: So my question --

24 MR. WHITLOCK: Just come back to the mic.

25 COURT REPORTER: Say your name again,

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1 please.

2 MR. WHITLOCK: Say your name again.

3 DR. HAYES: Dr. Hayes. So my original
4 question when I stepped up here first was what
5 is the option. So are you all prepared to give
6 Entergy an alternative? Because like the
7 gentleman mentioned, because there is such an
8 investment already in place, it's highly likely
9 you would just leave it unaddressed. So did
10 you have a contingency? Is there a Plan B once
11 you hear that the community did not want it,
12 the -- the vote was there to deny it. Do you
13 have an alternative for them? And then what is
14 the scalability look like or sustainability for
15 this program? So the data center is over
16 there, and they need this power plant. We
17 don't want it. We're asking you to deny it.
18 What do they do?

19 MR. WHITLOCK: So to answer your first
20 question about alternative locations, that is
21 not up to us. We base our decisions based on
22 zoning as it comes to us. So that particular
23 land was zoned for Entergy Traceview's, usage.
24 If the permit board decides to deny that
25 permit, they can't be up there. It's then up

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1 to them to decide where else they would like to
2 go. So -- but as far as DEQ suggesting or
3 promoting alternative locations, that's not --

4 DR. HAYES: You don't do that.

5 MR. WHITLOCK: Yeah, we don't do that.

6 DR. HAYES: Okay.

7 MR. WHITLOCK: I'm sorry. I didn't want
8 to -- I wanted to answer your second question.

9 So I guess to your second question about
10 sustainability of the data center. If the
11 power plant goes away, that's out of our hands
12 as well. They built the plant under the
13 understanding of, I guess, the current grid
14 sustainability, I guess the current grid
15 allocations, whatever the wording may be for
16 that. If Entergy Traceview does not get
17 approved, I guess it's really kind of up to
18 them to figure it out. Thank you.

19 DR. HAYES: They have to figure it out.

20 Okay. Since I'm up here, can I throw a
21 third one in? So what type of monitoring or
22 reporting do you require? Are you all auditing
23 them every quarter, every -- you know, twice a
24 year, once a year? What do they have to turn
25 in so that we can see that things are not

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1 killing us?

2 MR. BLAND: So if you look in the draft
3 permit that went to public notice, you will see
4 emission limits that Entergy is required to
5 comply with if the permit is issued. They will
6 also have monitoring and record keeping
7 associated with those limits that they are
8 required to comply with. And then they have to
9 report that to us. Typically, you have that on
10 a semiannual basis. So every six months is
11 what you typically see for a PSD and as well as
12 a Title V facility. And so that is all a part
13 of our purview. And that's what we put in our
14 permits. We put emission limits to control the
15 amount of emissions. And then we put
16 monitoring record keeping to demonstrate
17 compliance with those limits as well as
18 reporting to the agency. And we also have a
19 group that is our environmental compliance and
20 enforcement group that actually goes out and
21 inspects those facilities to make sure that
22 they are complying with the permitted limits in
23 their facility.

24 DR. HAYES: Okay.

25 MR. BLAND: And there are consequences for

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1 any facility in Mississippi that is permitted
2 by MDEQ for violating those limits.

3 DR. HAYES: What are the consequences?
4 Would they ever be shut down? So if they don't
5 follow the rules, would you shut them down?

6 MR. BLAND: That is a very loaded
7 question. If a -- yeah, that's a very loaded
8 question.

9 DR. HAYES: So I'll just close by saying,
10 before you make a decision, I concur with all
11 the others requests. Please notify us. Put it
12 on the news everywhere. Share it. Make sure
13 it's broadly disseminated and not posted in
14 little signs, like the gentleman said, on the
15 side of the curb or whatever, you know. Do as
16 much as you can to keep us informed because
17 you're the government agency. They're the for
18 profit. So we understand their motivation;
19 yours should be different. Thank you.

20 MS. DANIEL: My question is regarding --

21 MR. WHITLOCK: Say your name again, I'm
22 sorry.

23 MS. DANIEL: Yolanda Daniel, EMS. And
24 another thing -- this is not a loaded question.
25 It's a question of fact. And I'm asking this

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1 from the position of monitoring. Is MDEQ fully
2 funded?

3 MR. WHITLOCK: Unfortunately, that is a
4 loaded question. And that's something that,
5 just to be candid, is outside of the purview of
6 me and the staff here presenting before you.

7 MS. DANIEL: So and the reason why I ask
8 it is because Mississippi has essentially --
9 and the United States has essentially brought
10 on a new industry. Data centers -- excuse
11 me -- hyperscale data centers and the power
12 generation facilities that support them is new.
13 The level of pollution is new and different
14 because of the impacts on water and air. And
15 so how do -- does an organization like MDEQ
16 scale for the scaling of risk imposed on the
17 public? So that is one question.

18 MR. WHITLOCK: So, much like any other
19 industry within Mississippi, they still have to
20 go -- undergo the same level of permitting that
21 we're doing -- as we're proposing today, based
22 on the same level of analysis that we look at
23 as far as the ambient air monitors that we
24 operate, Mississippi operates, and then develop
25 draft permits, see if they get issued. Maybe

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1 they do; maybe they don't. If they do, then
2 that triggers a whole nother level of scrutiny
3 in regards to, as Mr. Blaine mentioned,
4 compliance assurance, coming out and inspecting
5 them, whether it be scheduled, unscheduled.
6 Making them do certain testing, making them do
7 continuous emissions testing. So not just
8 testing for a moment in time, actually doing
9 continuous what's coming out of the stack and
10 submitting that data to us for review and for
11 public distribution should anybody want it. So
12 to answer your question of -- I guess that kind
13 of relates to adaptability. It's -- I guess I
14 essentially have to answer that we still
15 followed the same model we've always done.

16 MS. DANIEL: Okay. And -- and I promise,
17 I'm not saying that to put you on the spot,
18 because I know, you know, ultimately you are
19 the sole decision makers in the work. But what
20 I'm discerning from your comment is if we're
21 doing the same thing and the level of risk has
22 been elevated, then we have a gap regarding our
23 monitoring processes because the level of
24 exposure and risk for communities is much more
25 heightened before the introduction of

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1 hyperscale and the -- the new -- like even this
2 new technology that Entergy Mississippi is
3 attempting to bring in, it's new, right? So,
4 you know, we should level up. And it really is
5 in support of MDEQ that -- that you all should
6 be able to scale in your ability to monitor
7 based on the level of risk that has been
8 imposed on the community. So that's the first
9 thing.

10 The second thing I will say, and I know
11 location is not necessarily an issue, but I do
12 want to say for the public during zoning board
13 hearings in the city of Ridgeland, in which the
14 zoning board for the City of Ridgeland voted no
15 against the continued use permit for Entergy
16 Mississippi, they voted no, and three days
17 later, the Board of Aldermen came out and said
18 they rode by there, and they approved it. But
19 anyway, nonetheless, during that process, they
20 did mention -- it was mentioned by a city
21 official and by Entergy officials that other
22 sites were evaluated. But this one on West
23 County Line Road was the least expensive, and
24 that they were building this facility for
25 residential ratepayers, that they were not

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1 building it for data centers. Now, we've had
2 some very hard migration to, well, we're
3 building it for data centers, too, but they're
4 going to pay their fair share. So the level of
5 trust that the community can have, not only
6 based on what they've committed to, but even
7 what's in this permit, deserves a level of
8 scrutiny that I don't think has been there.
9 And we have to really consider the impacts.
10 Again, you know, you have a Medicare study of
11 68 million people. I think that is very
12 representative of the risks that are going to
13 be introduced to the community. And so we have
14 to understand that that is a very localized
15 risk for this community that has to be
16 considered when considering this -- this
17 permit.

18 So anyway, I thank you both for, you know,
19 what you do, but let us not all be tricked.

20 I will also say, last thing, that Entergy
21 has the ability to change location, and it's
22 not the community's job to figure out where
23 else Entergy can go. So I won't even get into
24 reimbursement rates, you know, for Mississippi,
25 is the highest. We pay the highest. Two

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1 percentage points higher than any other state
2 under Entergy's footprint. But I will say that
3 that is not our job to figure out where Entergy
4 needs to safely place their -- their, you know,
5 plant facilities. So thank you again for
6 holding this conference.

7 (Applause)

8 MR. WHITLOCK: Anyone else?

9 MS. MATHEWS: Kelsey Matthews again. As a
10 student environmental scientist in the area,
11 this community is very personal to me. I live
12 here, I worship here, and I go to school in the
13 area. And it's very interesting hearing all of
14 the presenters before me.

15 So my question for you guys today is I've
16 heard about locations for the ambient air
17 quality monitors that you have. Do you know
18 how far away that is from this area that you're
19 proposing to build the power plant?

20 MR. WHITLOCK: Your question is about the
21 location of our ambient air monitors?

22 MS. MATHEWS: Yes.

23 MR. WHITLOCK: So we have two in the
24 Jackson metro area. One is right by the
25 Veterans Memorial Stadium, just south of it,

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1 and the other one is located at Hinds Community
2 College in Raymond.

3 MS. MATHEWS: So that's a good bit of ways
4 from here. So does MDEQ have any plans to
5 implement any more ambient air quality near
6 these industries?

7 MR. WHITLOCK: No.

8 MS. MATHEWS: For the air quality
9 measurements that you report on, are they
10 daily? Are they weekly? Monthly? What are
11 the emissions reports? Like the time period
12 for, like, the VOC emissions, is it reported
13 for monthly?

14 MR. WHITLOCK: So the information that is
15 submitted by the facility, is that what
16 you're -- I want to just make sure you're --
17 are you talking about the data that we collect?

18 MS. MATHEWS: Yes.

19 MR. WHITLOCK: The data that MDEQ collects
20 is continuous. So it is by the second. Maybe,
21 I think -- I could be wrong -- I believe it's
22 by every 15-second increments. Some data is
23 collected on a daily basis. Some data is
24 collected one in six. That's based on EPA's
25 schedule, not necessarily our schedule. But

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1 the majority of the data that we collect is
2 continuous, 365, 15-second increments. And
3 then we basically compile that data and then
4 submit it to the EPA for then public
5 distribution through their platform. I'm
6 hoping I'm answering your question.

7 MS. MATHEWS: You did. Thank you.

8 MR. WHITLOCK: Okay.

9 MS. SPEAKS: Natalie Speaks again. And my
10 industry is real estate, so I'm a novice. But
11 I think I understood you saying that it would
12 be up to Entergy to conduct their own -- their
13 own testing, and they would do that once every
14 six months, and then they would report the
15 testing or the findings from -- that they
16 conduct to MDEQ. And then also that you guys
17 would go in and investigate the facilities. Is
18 that -- did I understand that correctly?

19 MR. WHITLOCK: So I will say -- so the
20 level, and I apologize for maybe not the lack
21 of detail in the specific. The amount of stack
22 testing that they have to do, where they have
23 to evaluate what comes out of the stack is
24 variable. I don't know as to what specific
25 timeframe it is. There is a level of

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1 continuous emissions that are being read as it
2 comes out the stack live; that data is provided
3 to us along with other information on a
4 semiannual basis, once every six months. So we
5 do get that data, we review it, we evaluate it,
6 we call into question any discrepancies. So
7 that's, I guess as far as reporting to us, in
8 addition to some other reports that come
9 outside of that six-month window.

10 MS. SPEAKS: Okay. And, again, if we were
11 talking price per square foot, I could -- I
12 could -- I could speak intelligently about
13 that. So essentially -- and here's my concern.
14 My concern is self-testing and self-reporting.
15 And -- and the reason that that's a concern is
16 because -- I don't -- I don't know how familiar
17 you guys are with Gloster, but essentially
18 every time they fail, they just write a check
19 and keep on going. People are still dying.
20 And so what Ms. Daniel outlined is concern for
21 the integration of additional staff or
22 resources required for this onboarding of new
23 technology, new emissions testing, all of that
24 thing -- all of that that's -- that's
25 associated with this. And if there's not

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1 resources available, if there's not staff, if
2 there's not people who will be able to do
3 testing on behalf of MDEQ, which is supposed to
4 be here to protect the citizens, we can count
5 on Entergy just writing a check for every
6 violation, which is exactly what they're doing
7 in Gloster. Every time there's a violation,
8 they write a check and they keep -- they
9 keep -- they keep killing people. They -- they
10 keep poisoning the community and people are
11 still passing. And so I know there's not a
12 number that is sufficient enough, but how much
13 is a human life worth? And if we've got to
14 rely on corporations who are beholden to their
15 shareholders, if we've got to rely on their
16 protection, and we can't count on MDEQ, what do
17 we have? Because -- because your role is to
18 approve or deny the permit. After that, it's
19 intermittent testing. It is review of data
20 submitted by the corporation. And in the
21 interim, it's people passing. It's people with
22 increased visits to the hospital. It's
23 increased stillborn births. Like, that's the
24 data that we've seen from other states. And if
25 you are the only guardrail between our health

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1 and the grave, what -- that's my concern. And
2 I believe that's the concern of the community
3 as well. Because, again, this is all you guys
4 do. You're only responsible for the
5 permitting. And when we have attended other
6 meetings where residents have spoken out about
7 different issues and Southaven and all of these
8 things, essentially what -- I'm a novice. I
9 don't know. Essentially, what I've seen is
10 that the Board will say, Well, this is
11 compliant, so we're going to approve it. Based
12 on what Entergy submitted, they're going to be
13 compliant, so we're going to approve it. But
14 who protects us? Who protects the people? Who
15 protects the equity? I've been to Southaven,
16 Mississippi. They can't even give their homes
17 away. Literally, they can't -- like people
18 have dropped the price 30-, 40-, \$50,000.
19 That's money that they will never get back.
20 And they still can't get rid of their houses.
21 Who protects the community? Who protects --
22 who protects us from corporations who don't
23 care about us? Who protects minority
24 communities who are overly impacted by -- by
25 data centers, by gas power plants, who protects

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1 us? It's strategic. Because Entergy -- y'all
2 just heard Ms. Daniel. I remember that
3 Ridgeland board meeting. I didn't attend it,
4 but I remember her calling and saying, You're
5 not going to believe me. They had other sites
6 where people would not be directly impacted,
7 and they chose this one on purpose. So who
8 protects us? Thank you.

9 (Applause)

10 MR. WHITLOCK: Anyone else?

11 MS. OREY: Dr. Erin Shirley Orey again. I
12 just wanted to verify. So when you talked
13 about the air quality monitors, are there any
14 in Madison County?

15 MR. WHITLOCK: No, ma'am.

16 MS. OREY: Okay. I just wanted that to be
17 on the record, everybody, that there's not one
18 in Madison County. Then the closest one would
19 be near the stadium in Jackson, correct? Okay.
20 Thank you.

21 REVEREND BRIDGES: So piggybacking off of
22 that and what Kelsey said, you said there's no
23 plans to put one in this local area, but is
24 there a process by which we being in this
25 community could petition you to put a monitor

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1 in this area if we have a concern?

2 MALE SPEAKER: That looks like a no.

3 MR. WHITLOCK: I don't want to -- I don't
4 want to say you can -- you all well -- you're
5 well within your right to petition a request
6 for an ambient air monitor within this
7 location. But as far as us accepting that and
8 actually doing that, that's a very loaded and
9 nuanced process. The location of monitors are
10 really -- it's a really in-depth, complex
11 process as to how you put a monitor where you
12 do it for the purposes we do it. We need --
13 the monitors, the two monitors I mentioned,
14 both at Raymond and south of Veterans Memorial
15 Stadium were based -- were put there based on
16 all the criteria that EPA lays out as far as
17 where you put a monitor. You put it in the
18 most populous area, i.e. Jackson. You put it
19 where it's clear of interferences such as
20 trees, houses, industry. It's really -- it's a
21 long laundry list of things you have to go
22 through as far as putting it there for the
23 purposes we use it. Just to be honest, like,
24 there's a lot that goes in to running that
25 station for -- for -- to demonstrate ambient

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1 air quality is where it is. So I guess to say,
2 I don't want to say you can't petition. But I
3 don't want to, I guess, kind of minimize the
4 level of effort it takes into putting one there
5 and actually doing what it's supposed to do.
6 So yeah.

7 REVEREND BRIDGES: So then one last
8 question. If we were to hire a third party to
9 put air quality monitors in this area, is that
10 data submissible to you? Would it be
11 considered by you if we were to give you that
12 information?

13 MR. WHITLOCK: Yes. I can -- I would say
14 potentially, yes. It's a lot -- there's a lot
15 of detail that goes into how you set it up, how
16 you operate it, but potentially --

17 REVEREND BRIDGES: Well, we would use one
18 reputable. I mean, it would be someone who, of
19 course, knew what they were doing.

20 MR. WHITLOCK: Right.

21 REVEREND BRIDGES: If we had to find it,
22 could we submit them then to MDEQ and you
23 consider the information?

24 MR. WHITLOCK: Potentially, yes. I will
25 say yes to that.

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1 REVEREND BRIDGES: Okay. Thank you.

2 MR. WHITLOCK: Because the devil's in the
3 detail.

4 MS. CLAY: Montana Clay, again. I just
5 want to ask a question. Based on what you just
6 said, there is no written procedure of how we
7 could get a monitor in this area if we wanted a
8 monitor? And there are no guidelines or
9 requirements? You just arbitrarily decide how
10 you put the monitors and where you put them, et
11 cetera?

12 MR. WHITLOCK: No, that's incorrect.

13 MS. CLAY: Okay. So what is the
14 procedure?

15 MR. WHITLOCK: So the -- so the monitors
16 that MDEQ dispatches, operates, are based on
17 EPA rules and guidelines. So we have to get
18 their approval on where we put them. They do
19 dictate where they are as far as how far away
20 from the street, how much is around it,
21 everything.

22 MS. CLAY: So we can request one put in
23 this area and let them tell us where it could
24 be based on if we requested and it's not
25 appropriately put there, that they suggest

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1 somewhere else or something?

2 MR. WHITLOCK: So you can make the
3 request. I guess that's a different story as
4 far as your request going to EPA. I'm not -- I
5 can't -- I can't outline how that would go, to
6 be honest. If you're -- if you're requesting
7 EPA as to getting approval or guidance on how
8 to put a monitor from them, I'm sorry, ma'am.

9 MS. CLAY: So you guys, the state level,
10 the two monitors you have are the only monitors
11 we can have in this area?

12 MR. WHITLOCK: That'll be operated by DEQ?
13 At this moment, yes.

14 MS. CLAY: Who decides that, and how do
15 you decide it?

16 MR. WHITLOCK: So I paused because I
17 didn't want to get the word -- I want to get
18 the words right and, I guess, to the point.
19 That's, I guess -- it's a mixture of a lot of
20 things, mostly manpower, resources, everything.
21 Because like I said, to run -- those two
22 monitors were put there for a reason to get EPA
23 approval. Also, to run that station entails a
24 level of resources and manpower that is
25 substantial. So I guess that's where I just

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1 don't -- it's not as easy as -- I guess, I
2 don't want to --

3 MS. CLAY: So is somebody -- your superior
4 make that decision, or do you make that
5 decision?

6 MR. WHITLOCK: My superior.

7 MS. CLAY: Okay. So just tell us to
8 request it from your superior, and we will.

9 MR. WHITLOCK: You can -- by all means,
10 you can.

11 MS. DANIEL: Can you give us a policy or
12 the guidelines?

13 MR. WHITLOCK: I can't give you that, not
14 at this moment. But I can. Just say your
15 name, ma'am.

16 MS. CUTLEY: She kind of answered my
17 question. Passion Cutley. You said the EPA
18 decides? Does the EPA decide that it should be
19 near this location that we're discussing today?
20 What are their requirements for a monitor to be
21 placed in there? You said they make the
22 decisions. So what have they decided about
23 data centers and plants of the nature that
24 we're talking about?

25 MR. WHITLOCK: So nothing.

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1 MS. CUTLEY: Nothing.

2 MR. WHITLOCK: So, yeah, I guess to me --
3 I guess to provide a little bit of clarity on
4 an ambient air monitor, an ambient air monitor
5 that we -- MDEQ runs, that any other state
6 agency, Alabama, Georgia will run. It's
7 ambient. So it's to reflect, I guess, natural
8 conditions.

9 To put it out here would be considered a
10 little -- kind of in the weeds of maybe too
11 industrial, too wooded, too residential. An
12 ambient air monitor is traditionally supposed
13 to be in kind of an open area that's not used
14 by anything. It's to really give a -- a clear
15 outline of what air quality is, if that makes
16 sense.

17 MS. CUTLEY: It does make sense.

18 MR. WHITLOCK: Okay.

19 MS. CUTLEY: So is there anything that's
20 available to -- that you monitor that
21 disrupts -- disrupts the air quality? So if
22 you're monitoring how clean the air is, what
23 is -- what do you use to determine how bad the
24 area is? So if it was something here, what
25 would be -- what would you put here? What

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1 could we have here that would monitor how
2 really bad it is if what you have the ambiance,
3 if I'm pronouncing the word correctly, shows
4 how clean it is? So what shows how bad it is?

5 MR. WHITLOCK: Just to be honest, a
6 monitor. I guess if you're looking for just
7 real time air quality data, that would be a
8 monitor, but that's something that is outside
9 of the scope of what the DEQ does, just to put
10 in a air monitor, just tell you what it is here
11 and now for this particular area. Also, our
12 primary role is to see what ambient air quality
13 is. So there are avenues where communities and
14 individuals have put out monitors to tell what
15 air quality is for their particular place, but
16 that's kind of something they do independent of
17 us. So I guess that's what I want to clarify
18 between the two of, I guess, the different
19 roles.

20 MS. CUTLEY: Okay. And I guess -- I guess
21 I'm going to repeat what everybody else said.
22 I live in the area. I live right down the
23 street. I do wake up like the gentleman say,
24 it's come on the -- on a Sunday morning, come
25 outside, you can barely stand out there. It

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1 smells horrible.

2 So just adding to these issues and health
3 issues, I live around a community where a lot
4 of elderly people have been in this area longer
5 than I have. I've only been here five -- six
6 years. These individuals have been here -- my
7 neighbors have been in their community for over
8 30-plus years. And I don't think they plan on
9 moving and going anywhere. And just to -- and
10 there -- some of them can -- on monitors and
11 they have breathing equipment that they have
12 just to -- just to function on a daily basis.
13 And then to have this particular issue that
14 we're constantly facing. And I kind of pushed
15 it off, didn't really see how serious this is.
16 I had no idea that people are -- I've heard
17 about people putting these plants in minority
18 neighborhoods. I've seen it on television, but
19 to actually be living it in real time, and the
20 fact that you guys have the power to determine
21 my life scares me. You determine my future,
22 you determine my daughter's future. You
23 determine my neighbor's future by a stroke of a
24 pen. And what's scary to me is you don't have
25 any parameters for this new way of living, this

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1 new data center, this new -- this new way of we
2 using AI and all of these things. That's why
3 we need it. You don't have any parameters for
4 we're doing things a little different. I
5 always say, you know, Mississippi is like
6 Jackson -- like Mayberry. You know, we
7 still -- you call, you have to call.
8 Everything is sometimes paper based. You know,
9 we don't do technology like in some places.
10 You go down to the tag place, they're still
11 doing things kind of the same way they've
12 always done it. So for you to say that your
13 policies are the same for a center that is
14 brand new is scary. It's scary to know that
15 you're saying, I checked these boxes based on
16 what we've always done. You're checking boxes
17 based on what you did 20 years ago. You're
18 checking boxes based on what you did five years
19 ago. You're checking boxes based on what you
20 did ten years ago to say they're meeting these
21 qualities, they're meeting these guidelines,
22 they're meeting these parameters. But that's
23 not the case because things are changing, but
24 your procedures are the same. So that makes me
25 scared that you have the power to dictate my

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1 life based on old information. And it's --
2 it's -- and like that person said, you wouldn't
3 bring your own family and live down the street.
4 I'm less than three minutes away. You wouldn't
5 buy a house in that neighborhood either knowing
6 that that center is across the street. And you
7 probably wouldn't come to this church on
8 this -- on a Sunday -- on every Sunday morning,
9 because that place is across the street.

10 Just think about that. You have the power
11 in your hands. And the fact that you are
12 putting people's lives in danger based on
13 checking off boxes. Just think about that.

14 (Applause)

15 MR. WHITLOCK: Anyone else? Okay?

16 MS. MATHEWS: Kelsey Mathews back again.
17 So is it accurate to say that there are no
18 current or proposed programs where MDEQ can
19 directly monitor emissions from this proposed
20 facility, or the cumulative emissions from
21 other industries in the area? And a follow up
22 for that is, what is MDEQ's plan for monitoring
23 other proposed data centers to come in the
24 area? And this is just -- it could be a -- a
25 rhetorical question because, as we all know,

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1 there are proposed data centers to come in
2 Brandon and Clinton, another in Jackson. And
3 based on that trend, there could be potentially
4 more to come. So will MDEQ only -- for all of
5 these industries to come in this area? Will
6 they only have those two air quality monitors
7 that are next to each other to report for air
8 quality emissions for this area?

9 MR. WHITLOCK: So short answer, I guess
10 those two monitors are standard. So I guess to
11 kind of answer that question, maybe, first.

12 If your question -- I apologize if I'm
13 misinterpreting it. If your question is in
14 regard to monitoring emissions from facilities,
15 that is not something DEQ does. That is, I
16 guess, as someone has -- as someone has noted
17 as a concern, facilities self monitor and
18 self-report such emissions. We do not have the
19 capacity nor the resources to do independent
20 monitoring at facilities. So with that, I
21 guess -- I believe that's part of your
22 question. And so I'm going to stop to see if I
23 answered them or if I missed something.

24 MS. MATHEWS: That's all.

25 MR. WHITLOCK: Okay. I'm sorry. Anyone

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1 else? Okay.

2 MS. SPEAKS: Only because she got up for a
3 third time. So that's -- Natalie Speaks again.
4 Okay. So I'm a novice again, so forgive me.
5 But it -- based on what you guys have said,
6 No. 1, ambient -- the ambient air monitors are
7 set up to monitor what undisturbed areas look
8 like. They're not set up to monitor what areas
9 like what we're talking about right here would
10 actually -- how they would be impacted.
11 Correct?

12 MR. WHITLOCK: (Nonverbal response.)

13 MS. SPEAKS: Okay. And then also, it
14 appears based on the questions from Pastor
15 Bridges and others, that it is a whole lot
16 easier to get a gas permit passed than it is to
17 get a monitor for the air quality, correct?
18 It's rhetorical. Just FYI.

19 MR. WHITLOCK: The floor is still open, I
20 guess. Yes, ma'am.

21 MS. RICHARDSON: Hello. My name's Jan
22 Richardson. I live in Ridgeland about a mile
23 and a half away. I also have science training.
24 I have a Ph.D. From what I hear, the control
25 for every permit -- permit is the same. So

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1 whether someone is building in Clinton or
2 Brandon, they'll be using these same two air
3 monitors. So you're always going to have --
4 whatever is proposed to build, you're using the
5 very same data from these two monitors. Is
6 that true?

7 MR. WHITLOCK: That's very loaded. So I
8 think that -- yeah, that's very loaded.

9 MALE SPEAKER: It's not loaded.

10 MR. WHITLOCK: Well, it kind of is
11 because, I guess, ambient air -- ambient air
12 quality data comes into play for such sources
13 as Entergy Traceview, which is a PSD source,
14 which is the highest level of permitting --
15 permitting possible given the amount that it
16 can -- the amount of emissions it can
17 potentially release. Any facilities that do
18 less than that do not necessarily have to base
19 looking at air quality as such as Entergy
20 Traceview had to. There are certain regulatory
21 thresholds that trigger having to bring in air
22 quality into the equation as far as your
23 evaluation.

24 So I guess to answer your question, the
25 two -- the two monitors that we have are used

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1 to evaluate ambient air quality for the Jackson
2 metropolitan area, which includes Hinds,
3 Madison and Rankin County and Copiah County.
4 But as far as everyone having to look at that,
5 that is not -- that is not true. Depending on
6 how much you emit or how much you restrict your
7 emissions, you do not have to automatically
8 look at air quality data.

9 MS. RICHARDSON: So it's fair to say that
10 every data center that's being built will use
11 this?

12 MR. WHITLOCK: No, no. Because not every
13 data center is the same. Some are bigger than
14 others. We've seen some bigger, some smaller.

15 MS. RICHARDSON: So -- so some won't have
16 to look at air quality at all?

17 MR. WHITLOCK: Correct. Some are willing
18 to restrict their emissions below certain
19 thresholds; some aren't.

20 MS. RICHARDSON: Okay. And then we'll
21 only know whether they're successful at
22 restricting below those emissions after they
23 start functioning and self-report?

24 MR. WHITLOCK: Correct.

25 MS. RICHARDSON: Okay. Thank you.

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1 MR. WHITLOCK: You're welcome.

2 MR. FINLEY: Willis Finley, I'm a real
3 estate broker in the area, and I also attend
4 this church. I was not planning to speak.
5 However, the context of this information that's
6 been given has been quite concerning.

7 So basically -- and let me ask you this
8 question, because I could tell from the context
9 of your expressions that an air monitor would
10 probably be very expensive, probably millions
11 of dollars, correct? And the chances of having
12 another one in this area are slim to none,
13 correct? Just be honest. Yes, it's true.

14 MR. WHITLOCK: Yes.

15 MR. FINLEY: Okay. So, yes. Can we say
16 yes? We need to look in the back and see if we
17 can say yes?

18 MR. WHITLOCK: As far as DEQ operating
19 one, highly unlikely, yes.

20 MR. FINLEY: Okay. Thank you for being
21 honest. And the chances of another entity, say
22 this church, say this area, say this
23 subdivision, say this county of being able to
24 monitor the air quality and DEQ or EPA accept
25 that information are slim to none also.

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1 MR. WHITLOCK: I would not say that.

2 MR. FINLEY: Okay. What type of avenue --
3 would they have to build their own air quality
4 testing apparatus for that to happen? And
5 would it have to be monitored and governed by
6 EPA for it to be acceptable? And we're looking
7 at millions of dollars, if that's so, correct?

8 MR. WHITLOCK: Yeah. Well, first you have
9 to be able to monitor, yes. But then there are
10 certain criteria you have to meet for that data
11 to be considered defensible.

12 MR. FINLEY: So all unlikely that a small
13 church, small subdivision, small part of the
14 county could afford to do that. Highly
15 unlikely. Let's just say that. I answered
16 that for myself.

17 So I want you to realize that -- well, my
18 next question before I say this is when, not
19 if -- when something goes wrong and air quality
20 does not meet the standards that EPA demands in
21 their tests, what do you do?

22 MR. WHITLOCK: So if air quality gets to
23 that -- air quality gets to that degree, then
24 that triggers a whole nother level of scrutiny
25 as far as permitting.

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1 MR. FINLEY: It's done. The center is
2 built. So it's done. It's reducing the air
3 quality. It's not acceptable. What does MDEQ
4 do?

5 MR. WHITLOCK: Exactly that. That opens
6 up a whole new level of permitting. So -- no,
7 no, no, I get -- well, sir, let me finish.

8 So in such a -- in such an occasion where
9 you get into non-attainment, that triggers a
10 whole nother level of permitting and a whole
11 nother set of rules to where it is -- it is the
12 goal of MDEQ to get back into compliance with
13 those standards. So in -- whether there are
14 actionable permits by existing facilities,
15 those are subject to be reopened for the
16 express purpose of getting back into
17 compliance.

18 MR. FINLEY: Okay. So you would pull a
19 permit if they were outside of compliance?

20 MR. WHITLOCK: Reopen.

21 MR. FINLEY: Okay. Reopen means that that
22 particular facility would not be able to
23 operate any longer?

24 MR. WHITLOCK: That means every emission
25 limit that's in there must be reevaluated and

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1 might have to be more stringent.

2 MR. FINLEY: Okay. So can you give me an
3 example of when that has happened in our area?

4 MR. WHITLOCK: There is none, because
5 this --

6 MR. FINLEY: For any facility.

7 MR. WHITLOCK: For any for the state? The
8 state has --

9 MR. FINLEY: I'm asking --

10 MR. WHITLOCK: No. There --

11 MR. FINLEY: -- for any facility. And we
12 have manufacturing all over this facility. I
13 want to know, has that happened before that you
14 looked at a particular permit and said, You're
15 out of compliance. Here's how you're going to
16 get in compliance within this amount of time.
17 If not, you have to stop production.

18 MR. WHITLOCK: So, yes, sir, I guess now
19 you're --

20 MR. FINLEY: I'm asking about your job.

21 MR. WHITLOCK: So now you're -- you're --
22 now going between two separate topics.
23 Noncompliance --

24 MR. FINLEY: I'm asking you what happens
25 when things go wrong. I'm asking what happens.

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1 What do you guys do when compliance fails?

2 MR. WHITLOCK: So those are two
3 separate -- those are two separate topics.
4 Compliance where if a facility fails an
5 emission limit, there is certain triggers where
6 the agency's environmental enforcement and
7 compliance division actually will institute an
8 enforcement action against the facility that
9 violates an emission limit. That's -- and you
10 mentioned about noncompliance from a facility.
11 Noncompliance as far as air quality is a much
12 more broad thing that it talks about
13 permitting. So you can have a facility violate
14 an emission limit in their permit, but have air
15 quality still in attainment. So that's where
16 we're going -- you're going to -- we're
17 going -- that's two separate topics.

18 MR. FINLEY: So let me be more clear. So
19 you are thinking about permitting a particular
20 industry, a particular building, a particular
21 commercial establishment, let me say that,
22 industrial. And you will have certain
23 guidelines in place that they have to meet.
24 And they will be tested. They will have to
25 procure these additional samples and things

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1 that you require so often.

2 MR. WHITLOCK: Correct.

3 MR. FINLEY: Okay. And you will monitor
4 those.

5 MR. WHITLOCK: Correct.

6 MR. FINLEY: Okay. What happens when they
7 exceed your standards, the limits that you've
8 set?

9 MR. WHITLOCK: That triggers enforcement.

10 MR. FINLEY: Such as? How do you enforce?
11 What do you do? And what have you done in the
12 past for not just this facility that's
13 coming -- are you telling me that every
14 facility that you've given permits for are
15 within compliance? Please don't do that.

16 MR. WHITLOCK: Well, wait. I'm not going
17 to do that because I'm going to say that's not
18 the purview of the air division. Air division
19 does not handle compliance and enforcement.
20 That's a separate division.

21 MR. FINLEY: Okay.

22 MR. WHITLOCK: So I will not --

23 MR. FINLEY: But it falls in with the same
24 overall --

25 MR. WHITLOCK: No.

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1 MR. FINLEY: I'm saying that it's within
2 Department of Environmental Quality --

3 MR. WHITLOCK: Department of Environmental
4 Quality is made up of several divisions.

5 MR. FINLEY: I get that. But once you
6 find that something is wrong, how -- how do you
7 stop it?

8 MR. WHITLOCK: That's -- I guess that's
9 a -- for another, that is for the
10 environmental -- ECED for sure.

11 MR. FINLEY: So you -- do you see why I'm
12 standing here in front of you? Because once
13 you pass this, it is very difficult to stop the
14 horse from running. It's very difficult to
15 pull this back once you say yes. It is very
16 difficult once these -- and I say once -- once
17 these -- these thresholds are not met, what
18 happens then? Once you say yes, how do you --
19 because a fine doesn't fix it. Okay. We --
20 you have a particular timestamp that you have
21 to get. What about all the damage it causes
22 and has continued to cause and will continue to
23 cause? Like, are you -- can you sleep? And I
24 know it may not be your decision, but it's part
25 of the group that you work for. How do you

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1 sleep at night knowing that this is what it's
2 doing here? This is what it's doing there.
3 Why won't it do the same thing here? I think
4 your mom probably told you, don't run across
5 the street, you can hit by a car, right? This
6 is the same thing. We're running across the
7 street right now, and you have the power to
8 say, Child, don't do that. I'm going to hold
9 you back. I'm going to take care of you.

10 Vote no. It's the only logical,
11 reasonable thing that you can do because you
12 don't have a way to stop the horse once you let
13 it go. There's nothing that you can do that
14 will limit. And I get what you're saying.
15 Well, that's a different division. Here's what
16 we're going to do. But it doesn't stop the
17 horse. The horse continues to run. It
18 continues to trample people. And from another
19 analogy, the child gets hit walking across the
20 street. And I see the confusion on your face.
21 But I think you know where I'm going. This is
22 not a good idea. It's not a good idea for this
23 community. There's other freaking places for
24 it -- excuse me, Pastor -- and it shouldn't be
25 here. I get -- but, Hey, make it a playground

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1 for birds, I don't care, but that cannot
2 operate here. So thank you.

3 (Applause)

4 MR. WHITLOCK: So we're still open. If
5 there -- if there is no one else who wishes to
6 speak on the record, let me offer our thanks to
7 you all for your time and your comments.

8 Public review and commenting on this
9 proposed air permitting action are important
10 elements; however, all concerns and issues
11 presented here this evening or during this
12 overall public comment period will be
13 considered by MDEQ to ensure all relevant
14 issues have been properly examined.

15 On careful review, MDEQ staff will develop
16 response -- responses to all comments received
17 during the overall public comment period.

18 Also as deemed necessary, MDEQ may modify
19 conditions within the draft permit to clarify
20 and/or reinfer -- reinforce -- excuse me --
21 certain aspects prior to our presentation of
22 this collective information to the permit board
23 for a final determination.

24 If presented to the permit board, the
25 permit board will be provided with a copy of

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1 the transcript that has been completed tonight,
2 MDEQ's response to comments document, the draft
3 permit and any other information relevant to
4 the application for review and consideration
5 prior to rendering a decision on this
6 permitting action.

7 The permit board meets the second Tuesday
8 of each month routinely. Therefore, the
9 earliest this permitting action could be
10 presented to the permanent board is
11 scheduled -- is their scheduled meeting of
12 August 11th, 2026. However, that is contingent
13 upon our resolution of comments received,
14 including responses to all said comments and
15 any other remaining issues.

16 At this time, I will officially close this
17 public hearing. I sincerely thank you all. I
18 wish you-all a good night.

19 (Time Noted: 7:45 p.m.)

20

21 ORIGINAL: JARICUS WHITLOCK, P.E.

22

23

24

25

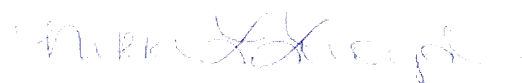
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1 CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER

2 I, Nikki L. Lloyd, Court Reporter and Notary
3 Public, in and for the State of Mississippi, hereby
4 certify that the foregoing contains a true and correct
5 transcript of the public hearing, as taken by me in the
6 aforementioned matter at the time and place heretofore
7 stated, as taken by stenotype and later reduced to
8 typewritten form under my supervision by means of
9 computer-aided transcription.

10 I further certify that, to the best of my
11 knowledge, I am not in the employ of or related to any
12 party in this matter and have no interest, monetary or
13 otherwise, in the final outcome of this matter.

14 Witness my signature and seal this the 3rd
15 day of August, 2026.



16
17 **NIKKI L. LLOYD, CCR #1870**

18 My Commission Expires:
19 April 30, 2029
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23
24
25

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Comments?

Air Quality Control

6228 Amblerwood Dr

601.954.9864

Jackson, MS

39213

Entergy Mississippi LLC, Madison County Advanced Power Station

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Greater Pearlie Grove Missionary Baptist Church

1640 West County Line Road, Jackson, MS 39213

Name:

- Ridgeland resident
Jan Richardson

E-mail:

~~janrichardson~~
jan.m.richardson1@gmail.com

Comments?

In Louisiana, the development of dangerous industries followed after energy plants were built which led to "Cancer Alley". Madison Ct already has a surprisingly high rate of cancer. Has MDEQ investigated this? People around the nation are realizing the ~~I implore you~~ dangers of gas powered plants. Please deny the permit + allow the public opportunity to learn more.

Entergy Mississippi LLC, Madison County Advanced Power Station

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Greater Pearlie Grove Missionary Baptist Church

1640 West County Line Road, Jackson, MS 39213