

**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
AIR AND RADIATION ADMINISTRATION**

NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND INFORMATIONAL MEETING

The Maryland Department of the Environment, Air and Radiation Administration (ARA) received a permit-to-construct application from Allegany Biochar, LLC on January 5, 2024 for the installation of a Biochar Processing Facility. The proposed installation will be located at 11600 Pittsburgh Plate Glass Road SE, Cumberland, MD 21502.

In accordance with HB 1200/Ch. 588 of 2022, the applicant provided an environmental justice (EJ) Score for the census tract in which the project is located using the Maryland EJ Screening Tool. The EJ Score, expressed as a statewide percentile, was shown to be 60.22 which the Department has verified. This score considers three demographic indicators – minority population above 50%, poverty rate above 25% and limited English proficiency above 15%. Multiple environmental health indicators are used to identify overburdened communities.

Copies of the application, the MDE EJ Screening Tool Report (which includes the score), and other supporting documents are available for public inspection on the Department's website at <https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Permits/AirManagementPermits/Pages/index.aspx> (click on Docket Number 02-24). Any applicant-provided information regarding a description of the environmental and socioeconomic indicators contributing to that EJ score can also be found at the listed website. Such information has not yet been reviewed by the Department. A review of the submitted information will be conducted when the Department undertakes its technical review of all documents included in the application.

Pursuant to the Environment Article, Section 1-603, Annotated Code of Maryland, an Informational Meeting has been scheduled so that citizens can discuss the application and the permit review process with the applicant and the Department.

An Informational Meeting will be held on March 6, 2024 at 5:30 PM at the Allegany County Department of Emergency Services, 11400 Pittsburgh Plate Glass Road SE, Cumberland, MD 21502. In the case of inclement weather, the meeting will be held at the same time and location on March 11, 2024.

The Department will provide an interpreter for deaf and hearing impaired persons provided that a request is made for such service at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting. Further information may be obtained by calling Ms. Shannon Heafey at 410-537-4433.

Christopher R. Hoagland, Director
Air and Radiation Administration