

CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT, Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Dr. Jason W. Mitchell, Director  
Abel Wolman Municipal Building, 6th Floor  
200 N. Holliday Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

March 27, 2023

William Fornoff  
Director Laboratory  
Clean Harbors of Baltimore  
1910 Russell Street  
Baltimore, MD 21230

Dear Mr. Fornoff:

The Baltimore City Department of Public Works (DPW) has completed the review of your request, dated March 22, 2023. Specifically, you requested the disposal of pretreated wastewater into the Baltimore City wastewater collection system, which was produced from remediation work and cleanup that followed the train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio (East Palestine) on February 3, 2023. DPW is not opposed to Clean Harbors utilizing its facilities at 1910 Russell Street to pretreat the wastewater. However, your request to discharge the East Palestine pretreated wastewater into the Baltimore City wastewater collection system is denied.

A cursory review of the waste profile raises concern about the potential impact on the Back River Wastewater Treatment Plant's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, and the potential for impact on collection and plant treatment system, residuals, plant personnel, and the receiving waters. The residual organic chemicals, unknown, suspected and confirmed, are of primary concern because of the potential impact of volatized organics in the sanitary sewerage conveyance system and Back River Wastewater Treatment Plant, especially in confined areas and aerated processes. Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) create hazardous conditions in confined spaces and enclosed buildings, endanger sewer workers and plant personnel, and contribute to air quality issues.

You have a right to request an administrative review of any notice or order of the Department of Public Works.

Should you have any further questions regarding this matter, please contact me at 410-396-9695 or via email at [pat.boyle@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:pat.boyle@baltimorecity.gov).

Regards,

*Patricia A. Boyle*  
Patricia A. Boyle,  
Pollution Control Program Administrator  
Baltimore City DPW

cc: Dr. Jason W. Mitchell, Director of DPW  
Yosef Kebede, DPW- Bureau of Water and Wastewater  
Paul Sayan, DPW – Bureau of Water and Wastewater  
Michael Hallmen, DPW- Bureau of Water and Wastewater  
Patricia Boyle DPW, DPW- Bureau of Water and Wastewater  
Darnell Ingram, DPW General Counsel