



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
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**Public Hearing on September 30, 2015 at Sheraton Hotel, Falls, PA
Subject: Elcon Recycling Services LLC Phase I Exclusionary Site Permit
Application**

**Team Leader
Technical Review Committee
DEP Waste Management Department
2 E. Main Street
Norristown, PA**

I am Elizabeth Tatham, 79 Old Mill Lane, Holland, PA, speaking for the LWV of PA, urging you to deny the exclusionary site permit application of Elcon. We also ask that you extend the written comment period because people here tonight will receive information that they will use in drafting their own comments and two weeks is not sufficient time. We, therefore, would appreciate having an extension to October 31st. In addition, should everyone who wishes to speak tonight, not be able to do so, we ask you to schedule another hearing in order to allow a full 5 minutes for everyone who wishes to speak and is entitled to give input on this important permit decision DEP will make.

Based on emission information provided by Elcon, this would not be a “minor” source of emission pollution, with less than 25 tons per year, but it would be a major source and a different application process is needed to meet federal regulations. Pollution sources cannot be separated, but must be given in the aggregate and all sources must be included.

There are 596 hazardous waste materials projected to be treated by Elcon at this site, Many of these are highly toxic and some are highly explosive,

carcinogenic, sometimes radioactive and a threat to humans, animals, the water, soil and people who depend on the Delaware for their tap water, businesses that depend on clean water for processing the goods they manufacture or sell and restaurants, farms, schools, hospitals, etc. These hazards would exist for people on both sides of the Delaware and would affect millions of people if DEP grants this site permit.

From August 12 to 17 several huge explosions at a hazardous storage facility in China caused tremendous damage. According to the NY Times article “New Concerns in Tianjin Blast after Dead Fish are Found” dated 8/20/15 describes the thousands of dead fish that were found 4 miles away on the riverbank after the blast. More than 100 people were killed, 65 were still missing, mostly fire fighters and many hundreds were injured, mostly from burns. What caused the explosion? “According to the Local Monitoring Station it was the collection of toxic industrial chemicals, including sodium cyanide, toluene and calcium carbide and the company was also licensed to handle highly combustible substances such as compressed and liquefied natural gas.”

From my notes of Dr. Ramesh’s recent presentation in Morrisville, a couple of the chemicals that Elcon expects to receive “from all over the country” are on this short list, including toluene. A list of some of the wastes Elcon plans to process is on one of the handouts.

While we were told on August 12th at the meeting here that “population density does not matter,” It matters to many of the people who will be affected, whose businesses and properties will lose value and who may be unable to grow crops that anyone wants to buy. Most of all, we care about our children and we will do all we can to stop this plant - peacefully and praying that DEP and Governor Wolf, who also have children they love will listen to the people who don’t want to become sacrificial lambs.

Thank you for considering our comments.