

CURTIS BAY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION TESTIMONY – 22-0088R:

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My name is Edith Gerald and I have been in Curtis Bay for over 30 years. I moved into Curtis Bay as Fairfield was moving out because of the pollution and everything. They had to move out because no one did anything for 30 years to protect the health of residents and communities. I love my neighborhood. I've always loved my neighborhood. And I always wondered, why would they leave a neighborhood like this? A place that you love. I am a gardener and every morning when I step outside, I don't know what I'm going to smell. I don't know what may come about or what I will see. When I take my walk I have to get back in time so I want be breathing all this stuff, including the coal dust. And the day of the explosion, I was in my house and it woke me up. I asked my daughter, 'what is that?!" and she said 'I don't know, something's going on'. We went outside and we saw dust and everything. I'm just getting tired of this with everybody promising us everything and we get nothing, nothing at all. Thank you.

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I've lived in Curtis Bay my whole life and this is what we are dealing with because of the coal thing. You can see all this stuff just caked on the side of my house and we are just breathing it all in. It doesn't matter, you clean it and it's wet and it's black before it's dry again. I mean we're breathing all this stuff in and I know a lot of people who are dying from cancer who are born and raised right here in Brooklyn and Curtis Bay. It doesn't matter how much you clean it, it's dusty before it even dries. It's terrible, it really is. It's from the coal mines over there that's been here for years. Kids run around and have sweat in their face and it's big giant beads of black dust just everywhere. So if they're sweating it, we are breathing it in. It's not any good. It's not, it's disgusting. It's terrible.

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Hello, This is what I have been going through since I moved here to the 1600 block of Filbert Street in Curtis Bay right next to the Recreation Center about a year ago. Everyday, my mailbox and other surfaces on my front porch are covered in black dust. I wipe them clean but later on in the night they are back to looking like before I wiped them clean. This is a concern of mine because I depend on oxygen to breath, I have it in my home. There are also kids in the neighborhood, there is a rec center right here and I am really concerned about it. Something needs to be done including determining where it is coming from including the coal terminal nearby that is across the street. It needs to get taken care of and fast.

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My name is Liz and I live on the 1600 block of Cereal St in Curtis Bay. When that explosion happened it blew my front windows out and one of my back windows out. My grandson is 3 years old and he is autistic. He hit the floor panicking because it scared the living shit out of him. So I would like to know what can be done about my windows at this point in time and what really caused that explosion.

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The whole neighborhood shook. It was scary. Kids were scared. Dust was in the air. You couldn't come outside because you could barely breathe.

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Angie Shaneyfelt's Testimony submitted by CCBA:

The morning of the explosion I just felt this pressure. I didn't know what it was. I was frozen, my kids are freaking out. And then the boom.

They are saying go inside, but if you must go outside, wear a mask. And that was all we heard. Stay inside, but for how long? We didn't get any calls from MDE, from anybody.

My kids have asthma. I don't open up my windows because of the dust and it's usually black dust so naturally I think it's coal dust. So I don't open up my windows because it comes in the house and then everything is black. When we first moved in 14 years ago we opened the windows but we noticed on the windowsill and everywhere it's black so then we were like 'it's coal dust' so let's shut the windows. We haven't opened up the windows to get fresh air in 10 years...we realized it was coal dust, it's coming in the house we don't want it in the house so shut the windows, don't open them.

When It's a great day it's never, let's do something outside here (in Curtis Bay). It's going out of the community to get open and fresh air.

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My name is Kayla Clarke. I live down here in Curtis Bay and I seen the explosion happen. Me and my fiance were walking down Curtis Ave and through the Amazon doors about 5 explosions happened and we're now seeing busted windows. One of the residents here said that the windows busted open and threw him across the room. I would like to see better air quality and get an actual explanation about what happened. It was me and my fiance and our 1 year old son and it really scared me. We ran into the field praying nothing else happened in case we had to jump down to the ground and cover and i'm still pretty shaken up about it. So i hope things around here can change sometime.

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Tiffani Thompson's Testimony submitted by CCBA:

As a former teacher at Curtis Bay Elementary quite frankly I said I would never live in this community because of the hazards of the fumes and the conditions it caused my students. I had a lot of students who at a young age, 3 or 4, developed asthma and I knew it was largely based on the factories in this area.

Now that I do live here I can say that 3 days out of the week you will come across some unpleasant smells, odors. You don't really want to cook out on the grill because you don't want to endure that smell.

The recent explosion happened blocks away but it felt like something ran into the house or like the house collapsed which was a scary feeling and you're always on guard, you don't know if something is going to blow up and if it blows up how it's going to affect your house.

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It was almost like a bomb went off. It actually rocked this whole block. That was one nasty explosion, it was almost like a hydrogen bomb went off. It actually shook the houses here on Church Street.

The part I can't understand is why they have a coal pier here? Why do they need a coal pier in a residential district? That's number 1

The coal pier is why people don't want to move down here. That's why people have sold their houses to rental companies. That could be the best thing they've ever done, is get rid of the coal pier. Get rid of the coal pier.

Look at the people in west virginia that died from black lung, from coal dust. So you bring it here in the city, in Curtis Bay and you spread it all around. You've got coal dust all along the outside window sills and even on the inside of your window, where it comes through the screens. It's nasty. My wife is tired of washing window sills and windows.

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Janet Clarke's Testimony submitted by CCBA:

The morning of the explosion my daughter and her youngest baby had just walked down that way, near the Rec Center, and then it happened BOOM BOOM! And I was panicked. I just lost it.

Before the explosion we had a pool for my grandson but there was this black soot all on top of the water and all on top of the rim of the pool, so we had to wipe it off everyday or empty it everyday.

In the house, if you open the windows it's black all over everyday. This is since I've been here in Curtis Bay.

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Terriq Thompson's Testimony submitted by CCBA:

I sent the following email to CSX on May 11th 2022 in hopes of getting a response to my concerns about the explosion and the risk it poses to me and my fellow residents. I am sharing that months later I still have received no response to my email. I am beyond frustrated with the lack of response to life and death questions regarding a facility that is being allowed to operate without directly responding to neighbors like me regarding fundamental safety issues. Why is this facility being allowed to operate following the explosion in the absence of peer reviewed evidence? OSHA has found critical violations including improper electrical equipment. In addition OSHA has noted and fined CSX for a pattern of retaliation against workers who report safety concerns:

<https://www.osha.gov/news/newsreleases/region6/07012021>. In light of all this, I am declaring that I believe it to be an unjust and discriminatory practice that is knowingly being allowed to continue by our City and State officials to allow this facility to continue to operate in close proximity to homes and a Recreation Center in a low income community of color with a life expectancy several years lower than other Baltimore City communities just miles away such as Roland Park. Regardless of location, the facility has been demonstrated to pose a safety threat to those closest to it, workers, and should not be in operation. A failure to cease operations at the CSX coal terminal constitutes a knowing violation of our government's duty to protect the wellbeing and safety of communities.

From: Terriq Vkt <kingnova700@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, May 11, 2022 at 11:22 AM

Subject: Community Safety

To: <Rebecca\_Hensley@csx.com>

Dear CSX,

I am writing to you as a resident in the Curtis Bay community. I graduated from Benjamin Franklin High School and am committed to helping make my community a healthier and better place.

I am writing to you regarding the explosion that took place at the CSX Coal Pier on December 30th 2021 across the street from the Rec Center and community park. I felt the force of the explosion at my house and was terrified. I have read news articles and attended community meetings where I have repeatedly heard that the cause of the explosion is still being investigated. I am writing with a related but different question that is very important to me.

My question is, can you make a promise to me that your coal facility will never explode again, (of course excluding external forces outside of CSX's control) ? I am not asking if you will take all required precautions to reduce the risk of future explosions. I am asking if you can commit to stating that the facility will not explode again. If the answer is "yes", then please explain how you can make this commitment. If the answer is "no", then please explain why as well.

I am asking you this because it is it important for me to know, given the size of the facility and the force of the recent explosion within close proximity to where I live to have a better understanding of the

inherent risk that a coal terminal of this scale presents to myself and nearby residents regardless of best practices taken to reduce those risks.

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On the afternoon of June 1, 2022 I observed and documented visible coal dust emissions from the CSX coal terminal in Curtis Bay. The video I captured is linked to here. I reported the emissions to the Community of Curtis Bay Association and the South Baltimore Community Land Trust.

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/43MO-eHpRPY>

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This photo was shared with me the day of the explosion at the CSX coal terminal on Dec 30 2021. I was shocked to see the misinformation being spread by CSX that "negligible" coal dust spread into the community as a result of the explosion when pictures like this one have been widely available since the incident. The amount of coal dust that entered Curtis Bay can be clearly see on the attached photo and should be used as evidence to directly contest CSX's claims for the past several months about what happened and the impact it had on the neighborhood. This photo was taken across the street from the Rec Center at 1630 Filbert St. I also need to note that black dust like this from the coal pile is seen regularly but was even worse the day of the explosion.



This photo is another that was shared with me the day of the explosion at the CSX coal terminal on Dec 30 2021. The car covered in black coal dust was parked on the same block as the Curtis Bay Rec Center at 1630 Filbert St.









**LATE  
PROPERTY  
PASSING**

1602











**CURTIS BAY**

Curtis Bay Rec  
Center  
of online



Community association  
the Curtis Bay we  
deserve.

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