BEFORE THE GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
STATE OF GEORGIA

Sustainable Newton, Sara and Randall ("Randy") Vinson, and Theodosia and William ("Billy") Wade, Petitioners, v. VoltaGrid, LLC, Respondent.	Docket No. 57243

Exhibit MC-1

From: Air-Permits.Comments <air-permits.comments@dnr.ga.gov>
Subject: FW: Public Comments on Draft Air Permit No. 4911-217-0080-S-01-0 for VoltaGrid Atl-1 EGU.
To: Lagunas, Alexander <alexander.lagunas@dnr.ga.gov>
Cc: Allison, Steve <Steve.Allison2@dnr.ga.gov>; Dorrough, Cynthia <Cynthia.Dorrough@dnr.ga.gov>
Sent: March 16, 2026 2:04 PM (UTC+00:00)
Attached: VoltaGrid Permit Comments Sustainable Newton 2026-03-13.pdf

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From: Sustainable Newton <info@sustainablenewton.org>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2026 11:45 AM
To: Air-Permits.Comments <air-permits.comments@dnr.ga.gov>
Subject: Public Comments on Draft Air Permit No. 4911-217-0080-S-01-0 for VoltaGrid Atl-1 EGU.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please find attached our comments regarding the subject draft air permit.

Sincerely,

Maurice Carter
Co-Founder & President
678-516-5212
https://www.sustainablenewton.org/

SUSTAINABLE NEWTON

SUSTAINABLE NEWTON
PO Box 146, Oxford, GA 30054
www.sustainablenewton.org

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL: *Air-Permits.Comments@dnr.ga.gov*
Mr. Steve Allison
Permitting Program Manager
Air Protection Branch
Environmental Protection Division
4244 International Parkway, Suite 120
Atlanta, GA 30354

RE: Public Comments on Draft Air Permit No. 4911-217-0080-S-01-0 for VoltaGrid Atl-1 EGU.

Dear Mr. Allison:

Sustainable Newton is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organized and led by citizens of Newton County, Georgia, with a mission to drive solution-oriented local responses to the global issues of climate change and sustainability by building awareness with, engaging, and enabling fellow citizens, businesses, and local governments to take positive, meaningful steps. You may recall that our organization was in contact with your office in the 2019-2023 timeframe during EPD's intervention in and monitoring of elevated ethylene oxide levels in Covington. We also consulted with your office in 2024 when a fire at the BioLab facility in Conyers caused air quality concerns here in Newton County.

Our involvement in those situations was through our Environmental Hazards Committee, led by our member Bill Couch, which is also focused on data center developments that impact our community with excessive water and energy consumption and potential increases in air, water, and land pollution. A project of particular concern is VoltaGrid's electric generating unit in Covington, Georgia (Draft Air Permit No. 4911-217-0080-S-01-0 for VoltaGrid Atl-1 EGU). VoltaGrid seeks a permit to operate a behind-the-meter power generation unit for the sole purpose of powering the neighboring ServerFarm data center. This power generation unit consists of thirty-three Jenbacher J620 natural gas-fired engines and ancillary equipment to be located on Hazelbrand Road here in Covington.

Our organization joined with the Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC) and Altamaha Riverkeeper to submit comments concerning VoltaGrid's permit application in December and we will be joining SELC again to comment on the draft permit. Our purpose in writing to you separately is to underscore the extent to which elevated cancer levels and multiple sources of carcinogenic emissions in Covington are a deep concern for our organization and the community.

We see in the Environmental Protection Division's draft permit Narrative that air pollution from this facility will cause ambient levels of formaldehyde equal to EPD's maximum allowable concentration. In its 2024 IRIS Health Assessment, the EPA found that "formaldehyde is carcinogenic to humans by the inhalation route of exposure" and that "inhaled formaldehyde can cause health effects in humans, most notably respiratory effects." The risk is especially high for children. EPD's ambient standard for formaldehyde is thus set to limit cancer risks to those surrounding facilities like VoltaGrid.

A 2019 report published by WebMD cites data compiled by the Georgia Comprehensive Cancer Registry to conclude that:

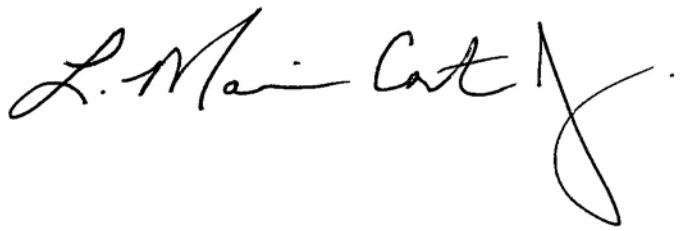
"People who live in the 30014 ZIP code are diagnosed with more cancers than residents in Newton County overall and in the state as a whole. In 30014, there were 527 cases of cancer diagnosed for every 100,000 people, compared with an average of 474 cases of cancer diagnosed for every 100,000 people statewide. The difference between the cancer rate in 30014 and the state is statistically significant, meaning that the increase is not likely due to chance alone."

Given that VoltaGrid's modeling shows its emissions will equal the maximum allowable levels of formaldehyde – and in consideration of other carcinogens present in the area and elevated historical cancer rates in Covington – we believe EPD needs to take extra steps to protect our community. We urge EPD to undertake those protective measures outlined in the comments submitted on our behalf by SELC. (An additional health concern is the proximity of the VoltaGrid site to the Lake Varner Reservoir 1.5 miles away, which is the sole source of drinking water for all of Newton County.)

We are also troubled that EPD is permitting VoltaGrid as a separate business entity from the adjacent ServerFarm datacenter to which VoltaGrid intends to exclusively sell electricity. A business search on the Georgia Secretary of State's Corporations website shows VoltaGrid is not registered to do business in the State of Georgia. Newton County property records show that ServerFarm is the only owner of property at this physical address. And VoltaGrid is not planning to sell electricity to any other user. Thus, we feel strongly the air permitting process needs to take into account total emissions from all businesses operating on this property for the common purpose of operating a data center. In the scenario where VoltaGrid is granted the permit as a separate business entity with no business presence in Georgia, we run a very real risk that air quality or other issues arising from the site will not be addressed by ServerFarm, since they are not the ones with the permit. That will put our local organization at a disadvantage when seeking corrective action from an out-of-state operator.

In light of these facts, EPD should consider VoltaGrid and Serverfarm as a single source of emissions. And, in consideration of our community's history of carcinogenic emissions and elevated cancer rates, we call on EPD to A) consider the emissions from this project within the cumulative context of all carcinogenic emissions in our area and B) apply stricter standards for modeling, testing, and monitoring of emissions from the ServerFarm site.

Sincerely,



L. Maurice Carter, Jr.
Co-Founder & President
Sustainable Newton Inc.