



Lowell City Council

Environment & Flood SC

Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

JOINT WITH NEIC

Date: September 30, 2025
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: City Council Chamber / Zoom
Lowell City Hall, 375 Merrimack St., Lowell, Ma.

PRESENT:

Present on Roll Call for Environmental and Flood Issues SC were Chairperson Belanger, C. Robinson, C. Yem and for Neighborhoods SC were Chairperson Gitschier, C. Belanger and C. Jenness. Others present LFD Chier Charon, Jason Crabtree (LFD), Katherine Moses (DPW-Sustainability) and Aaron Fox (WasteWater). Asst. Clerk Gitschier present in Council Chamber. City Clerk Geary attended meeting via Zoom.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Chairperson Gitschier called the meeting to order noting the attendance and the fuel license petition of the Markley Group before the body.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

C. Gitschier introduced Atty. William Martin who represented the petitioner, Markley Group. Atty. Martin introduced Jackie Martin who was the communication director and also presented slide show regarding the petition. Ms. Martin introduced the following members of the Markley Group:

Aaron Fernandes, Director of Design, Markley Group;



Heidi Richards, Director of Air Quality & Noise Services, VHB;

Bill Taber, Senior Project Manager, VHB;

Vince Tino, Lead Air Quality Analyst, VHB;

Tom Brooks, Senior Sound & Vibration Coordinator, VHB;

Steve Zemba, Health Risk Assessment Specialist, Sanborn, Head & Associates; and

Tony Maura, Principal, Stantec. Atty. Martin commented on the history of the company and its impact on the City in terms of jobs, fees and partnerships. Atty. Martin noted the vast amount of money invested over the years by Markley. Mary Burns (UML Building Authority) noted the benefits of Markley to the University, especially with the LINC Project. Atty. Martin noted the prior permitting for the project and all approvals from the Fire Department and other state agencies. Atty. Martin noted the diesel would only be used in emergencies and commented on the entire operation. Mr. Fernandes commented on operation of the generators and the possible alternatives for them. Mr. Tabor commented on the design of the tanks and the permitting process. Ms. Richards commented on sustainability of the project and moving forward in that regard. Mr. Brooks commented on the efforts for noise mitigation in the area. Mr. Tino provided an air quality assessment noting compliance with Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regulations. Mr. Fernandes commented on current construction and future plans at the site. Atty. Martin closed up the presentation and requested matter be referred to a public hearing before the full Council.

C. Gitschier open meeting to the public:

Alex Solange noted health concerns on the dense neighborhood and that there was a lot of fuel involved. Justin Ford noted the amount of fuel in a dense neighborhood. Eileen Castle noted Markley was not to be trusted and that it is a quality-of-life issue. Sarah Lapp noted concern for the effect on the neighborhoods and that there is a need to protect them by a Community Benefits Agreement (CBA). Mary Wumbai noted stored diesel pollutes as well and that



there should be no more diesel on the property. Ryan Oates noted the plan uses a generous amount of energy as diesel could be used more and that alternative fuel should be explored. Roger Beauchesne noted that this plant should not be in anyone's backyard. Kim Scott indicated that she is speaking as a neighbor and resident of the City and requested that permit should be denied and noted many topics to be included in a CBA. Rita Mercier indicated that she is speaking as a resident and commented on the company noting that demands of neighborhood should be met before the issuing of any permits. Nancy Fortes commented on all of the suffering caused by Markley who is misleading, and that there should be no further diesel on that property, and lastly there should be a CBA in place for the neighborhood. Jake Fortes opposed any further fuel on the site and that the company constantly lies and that a written agreement should be formulated.

C. Gitschier closed that portion of the hearing and requested some answers posed by the speakers. Firefighter Crabtree indicated that there was a small amount of fuel in tanks for testing purposes. Ms. Moses noted that the state would track the amount of energy use by Markley and that she could report on that. C. Belanger commented on the flood issues on Andrews Street. Mr. Fox noted the issues present and that they were working on solution with Markley. C. Belanger commented on the sustainability issues with the petition. Ms. Moses described the relationship with Markley regarding this topic. C. Belanger noted surprise with timing of petition. Atty. Martin commented on prior notice to the body regarding additional petitions. **Motion** by C. Belanger, seconded by C. Robinson to refer matter to full Council to set a public hearing before full body regarding this petition at its earliest convenience. Adopted per Roll Call vote 5 yeas (C. Gitschier, C. Belanger, C. Yem, C. Jenness, C. Robinson). So voted. C. Yem noted concern for security and environment and that neighborhood needed protection. C. Yem noted that there should be transparency, engagement, sustainability and public safeguards throughout the process. C. Yem questioned emergency response and spill protection. Fire Chief Charon noted tanks have a 110% spill capacity and that there is an emergency response plan in place. Mr. Zembra commented on a preliminary assessment done by Markley which indicates that all health criteria (federal and state) are being met. C. Jenness commented on use



restrictions on the generators. Mr. Tino noted those restrictions are determined by the permits. C. Jenness questioned the amount of diesel on site currently. Mr. Fernandes noted that it was about 68,000 gallons. C. Jenness questioned how often generators are used and requested a history of use. C. Jenness requested information comparing other data centers in Massachusetts. C. Jenness noted trust must be reestablished and that a CBA could provide that. C. Robinson requested original site plans of the property. C. Robinson noted that transparency must exist with the neighbors and the City and questioned if the mitigation plan could be improved. Atty. Martin commented that the company has met all regulations and guidelines and that they use the best technology available. C. Gitschier question the pressure on the current grid and if that is monitored.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn by C. Belanger, seconded by C. Yem. So Voted.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk