CONCERNS

- 100 trucks of plastic going to the facility per day, causing traffic and noise
- Chemicals from Encina’s plant can cause cancers, liver & kidney damage, birth defects, nervous system issues, or respiratory issues
- Risk of chemical and microplastic pollution to the Susquehanna River
- A high risk of flooding could lead to washing hazardous chemicals and plastics into the river and waterways
- Encina’s proposed technology is new and unproven
- Light pollution from 24/7/365 operation of the plant
- Encina has not guaranteed that jobs will go to local job-seekers
- Risk of toxic air pollution from plastics processing and flaring

SOURCES

1. Encina Open House. May 11, 2022

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QUESTIONS ABOUT ENCINA?

HERE ARE THE FACTS

SAVE OUR SUSQUEHANNA
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BACKGROUND

In April 2022 a Texas company, Encina, announced plans to construct a plastic waste processing facility.

- **Location:** Along Rte 11 and the Susquehanna River in Point Township, Northumberland County PA.

- **Proposed project:** The plant will receive 450,000 tons of post-consumer plastic waste per year to be used as feedstock for production of chemicals (benzene, toluene, xylene, propylene) that can be used to make more plastics. Plastic will arrive to the site by truck and chemicals will be stored at the site and then be shipped by rail along the Susquehanna River. The catalytic pyrolysis process will be powered by a natural gas pipeline to the plant.

CONSTRUCTION

Encina plans to begin construction of the plant in late 2023 and anticipates opening the plant in two phases, the first in 2024 and the second in 2025.3

HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

The Department of Health and Human Services has determined that benzene causes blood related cancers in humans.4 Exposure to toluene, xylene, or propylene can cause damage to liver & kidneys, birth defects, nervous system issues, or respiratory issues.5, 6, 7, 8

The proposed Encina project will require pumping up to 2.9 million gallons per day from the Susquehanna River for washing plastics and cooling the pyrolysis process. The waste water will then be processed at an on-site facility along with sewage generated at the facility and returned to the river. This can cause chemical and microplastic pollution of the river, which is an important source of drinking water for many residents in the Susquehanna Valley.9

The property is sited within the 100-year floodplain of the Susquehanna River and severe weather events have the potential to flood the area, washing hazardous chemicals and plastics into the river and nearby waterways.7

ECONOMIC VIABILITY ISSUES

- **Jobs:** This company is new and has no record of past successes. The claims about the number of jobs coming to this area have changed over time between 70 and 300 permanent positions. The company has provided no guarantee that the jobs will go to local job-seekers.

- **Funding:** Encina has reported a $55 million investment towards its funding goal out of the $1.1 billion needed for the proposed plant.11

- **Commercial Viability:** Attempts to bring “chemical recycling” systems up to a commercial scale have been ongoing over the last 20 years; of 37 projects that were announced, only three are commercially operational, often leaving communities with stranded assets and toxic industrial sites to remediate.12 This is a new and unproven technology; the potential benefits are uncertain, but the health and environmental risks are very clear.