



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

L. Preston Bryant  
Secretary of Natural Resources

March 21, 2006

Mr. and Mrs. Henry H. Mitchell  
Post Office Box 429  
Chatham, VA 24531-0429

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell:

Governor Kaine asked me to respond to your letter regarding the proposed air pollution control permit for the Columbia Forest Products (CFP) facility in Chatham. Thank you for bringing your comments to our attention.

I understand that the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has received your comments. The issues that you raised are being evaluated by DEQ, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. I assure you that your concerns will be given full consideration prior to any decision on this permit.

As you indicated in your letter, one of the expected benefits of this project is to address the "heavy smoke" that has been noted at the plant. From a conceptual standpoint, the Commonwealth encourages and supports such projects. However, as you have recognized, this specific project does require analysis to ensure that the expected benefits are realized and that air quality will be protected. The permit process to which you provided comments includes the assessment of the air quality impacts. If this assessment shows that an air quality standard developed to protect health and welfare will be exceeded, the permit cannot, and will not, be issued.

Citizen input on environmental issues is a critical component of the Commonwealth's efforts to protect our resources. The information you provided indicates a significant amount of time devoted to research in order to understand the project and the potential environmental impacts. I encourage you to remain involved in this issue and to continue to communicate with DEQ so that they might have the benefit of broader citizen perspective.

Please feel free to contact Thomas L. Henderson, DEQ's South Central Regional Office Director in Lynchburg. Mr. Henderson can be reached at 434-582-6220 or [tjhenderson@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:tjhenderson@deq.virginia.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Preston Bryant, Jr.', written over a white background.

L. Preston Bryant, Jr.

LPBJr/cbd

cc: Thomas L. Henderson, Director, DEQ-SCRO