



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
841 Chestnut Building
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107-4431

NOV 27 1996

Honorable L. F. Payne
House of Representatives
Dan Daniel P.O. Building
700 Main Street, Suite 301
Danville, VA 24541-1827

Dear Congressman Payne:

Thank you for your letter of November 4, 1996, concerning problems your constituent, Mr. Harry Gillispie, is having with the Columbia Forest Plywood Company. Mr. Gillispie and the plywood company share a common boundary. A black sludge like material has been dumped in the boundary area. It is thought that this sludge may be responsible for trees dying in the area.

Mr. Jack Downie, an On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will investigate the problem. A removal assessment will be performed to determine the environmental and health implications associated with this sludge. OSC Downie will be in contact with Mr. Gillispie in the near future to obtain additional information prior to starting the assessment. Please be assured that we will investigate the problem carefully and take whatever action we can within our legal authorities.

If you should have further questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact this office again.

Sincerely,

W. Michael McCabe
Regional Administrator