

January 18, 2005

Mr. Robert G. Burnley, Director  
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality  
P. O. Box 10009  
Richmond, VA 23240

Re: Thomas L. Henderson letter.


Dear Mr. Burnley:

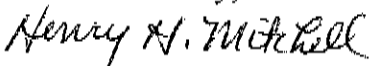
We received the attached letter of January 12 from Thomas L. Henderson, Director, South Central Regional Office DEQ.

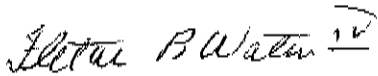
The Henderson letter acknowledges as "the information packet" our January 5 correspondence to your office, "Appeal of plastics-burning practice at Columbia Forest Products - Chatham." We do not consider the Henderson letter to be a response to our appeal to the Director of Virginia DEQ. We instead await your response, and expect a thorough consideration of the problems presented and a comprehensive written statement of forthcoming remedies.

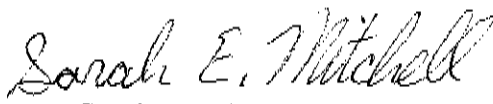
Since the Henderson letter implies that he is not aware of the plans of Columbia Forest Products to install a new boiler, we enclose a copy of an e-mail from David Abts, Plant Manager, advising several local individuals of pending boiler replacement.

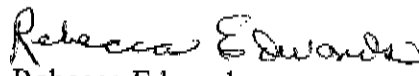
Yours truly,

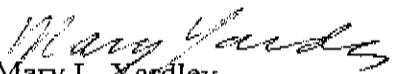
  
Harry & Sylvia Gillispie  
1368 Moses Mill Road  
Chatham, VA 24531-3703

  
Patricia B. Mitchell  
Henry & Patricia Mitchell  
P. O. Box 429  
Chatham, VA 24531-0429

  
Fletcher B. Watson, IV  
P. O. Box 339  
Chatham, VA 24531-0339

  
Sarah E. Mitchell  
P. O. Box 846  
Chatham, VA 24531-0846

  
Rebecca Edwards  
P. O. Box 65  
Chatham, VA 24531-0065

  
Mary L. Yardley  
202 Whittle Street  
Chatham, VA 24531-4638

Gillispie, Mitchell, Watson, et al, to Burnley  
January 18, 2005  
Page 2 of 2

Enclosures:

Thomas L. Henderson letter, January 12, 2005  
David Abts e-mail, November 15, 2004

Copies to:

Mr. Thomas L. Henderson, Director, DEQ South Central Regional Office,  
7705 Timberlake Road, Lynchburg, VA 24502  
Mr. David J. Brown, Air Permit Manager, DEQ South Central Regional Office,  
7705 Timberlake Road, Lynchburg, VA 24502  
Ms. Kathy Frahm, DEQ Director of Policy, P. O. Box 10009, Richmond, VA 23240  
Ms. Helen Tansey, The Nature Conservancy, 530 E. Main St, Suite 1020,  
Richmond, VA 23219  
The Hon. Charles Hawkins, Virginia Senate, P. O. Box 818, Chatham, VA 24531  
The Hon. Robert Hurt, Virginia House of Delegates, P. O. Box 2, Chatham, VA 24531  
The Hon. George Haley, Mayor, Town of Chatham, P. O. Box 370, Chatham, VA 24531



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

W. Tayloe Murphy, Jr.  
Secretary of Natural Resources

SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL OFFICE  
7705 Timberlake Road, Lynchburg, Virginia 24502  
(434) 582-5120 Fax (434) 582-5125  
[www.deq.virginia.gov](http://www.deq.virginia.gov)

Robert G. Burnley  
Director

Thomas L. Henderson  
Regional Director

January 12, 2005

Fletcher B. Watson, IV  
PO Box 339  
Chatham VA 24531-0339

Re: Request for public hearing concerning new boiler for Columbia Forest Products – Chatham.

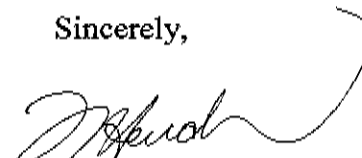
Dear Mr. Watson:

On January 6, 2005, the Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) South Central Regional Office (SCRO) received your request to hold a public hearing in regard to Columbia Forest Products (CFP) "plan" to install a new boiler during the 2005 calendar year. At this time, the Department has not received an application for a new boiler, but will consider your request upon receipt of an application from CFP. Thank you for the information packet that was included with your request. A copy of this package has been sent to CFP.

Regional staff will be contacting you in the near future to discuss the results of ambient air sampling (Watson property), and review of the information you have provided.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Craig Nicol of this office, at (434) 582-5120 ext. 6029.

Sincerely,



Thomas L. Henderson  
Regional Director

(E-mail addresses redacted)

From: "Abts, Dave"

To:

Cc:

Subject: RE: Noise and smoke

Date: Mon, 15 Nov 2004 08:24:48 -0800

Mr. Mitchell,

We will look into this situation right away and see if we can determine a cause? The boiler would not have been "under load" this weekend as the plant did not operate. Boiler operations are necessary during the winter months on weekends to keep pipes, etc. from freezing. I will keep you posted on any findings.

We are also in the process of capital approval for a new boiler. Actual construction and installation will not be complete until fall of 2005 but I hope this will resolve any perceived issues.

Thank you,  
Dave Abts

-----Original Message-----

From: Henry & Patricia Mitchell

Sent: Sunday, November 14, 2004 10:36 PM

To: dabts

Cc:

Subject: Noise and smoke

Sunday, November 14, 8:45 p.m.

Mr. Abts:

A loud tooting noise (that seems to be a repeat of the boiler fan problem we have discussed before) started up mid-afternoon today, and is continuing tonight. It is a pure tone, a multiple of 60-cycles, so it is consistent with what an electric fan might cause. As before, the quality of the noise is somewhat like that caused by blowing on a Coke bottle.

I walked down the hill toward the plant, and the sound faded. As I came back up the hill, it became dramatically louder. Last year we noted that the sound seemed to propagate above the level of the smokestack, not below. It seems to be the case again this evening.

It is loud and clear in our house, and also up on Center Street near Main. It is especially loud on top of the hill at Oak Grove Residential Care, west of the plant.

We also noticed that the boiler was extremely smoky yesterday (Saturday) and today (Sunday). Perhaps the two problems are connected in some way?

Your attention to the situation will be much appreciated.

Henry Mitchell