



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## Office of the Governor

L. Preston Bryant, Jr.  
Secretary of Natural Resources

P.O. Box 1475  
Richmond, Virginia 23218

July 21, 2006

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

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell:

Thank you for your recent letter to Governor Kaine regarding the Columbia Forest Products facility in Chatham. The Governor has asked that I respond to you on his behalf.

As promised in my March 21, 2006 letter, your comments and concerns regarding changes to the facility have been evaluated by Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the Department of Historic Resources (DHR), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. All of your comments, along with the evaluation by the state and federal agencies responsible for the protection of historic resources, were considered by DEQ prior to its issuance of the permit. I believe that several changes were made in response to your comments. For example, the boiler stack will be 30 feet higher than the current boiler stack, and Columbia Forest Products will be required to provide much more complete information about each shipment of resins that they use and the emissions that are likely to result.

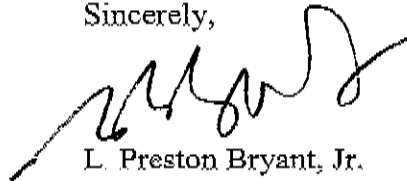
Your letter of June 19, 2006, identified that there had been "errors of fact" in correspondence between the DEQ and DHR. It is my understanding that there was some miscommunication in this exchange and that these issues were addressed in a follow-up discussion between DEQ and DHR. Although the confusion was unfortunate, it was resolved before the final permit decision was made. I note that you have characterized the contact between DEQ and DHR as an intervention on the part of DEQ. Communication between agencies is not only encouraged when there are overlapping issues but would be expected in a case such as this where citizens have requested DHR's consideration of a permit action under development by DEQ.

I can certainly sympathize with your concerns, but it appears that the modifications proposed by Columbia Forest Products are consistent with the regulations administered by DEQ.

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Our environmental permitting process is one that centers on citizen involvement and public participation. You have provided valuable input. As noted, there have been a number of changes made as a result of your involvement, and I hope you will continue your efforts to ensure Chatham remains a sustainable and healthy community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Preston Bryant, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

L. Preston Bryant, Jr.

LPBJr/cbd

c: The Honorable Robert Hurt  
Thomas L. Henderson, Director,  
DEQ South Central Regional Office