Public Notice

Mississippi Environmental Quality Permit Board

P. O. Box 2261

Jackson, MS 39225

Telephone No. (601) 961-5171

Public Notice Start Date: March 25, 2020 MDEQ Contact: Mr. Jaricus Whitlock

Vicksburg Forest Products, LLC – Waltersville Lumber Mill (i.e. “VFP”) located at 1725 North Washington Street in Vicksburg, MS; (601) 982-8728; has applied to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) for the following permitting action: the renewal of the Title V Operating Permit (Air Ref. No. 2780-00004). The applicant's operations fall within SIC Codes 2421 (Sawmills and Planing Mills, General) and 2426 (Hardwood Dimension and Flooring). An “*Information Relative*” document has been prepared that contains a discussion of the decision-making that went into the development of the permit and provides the permitting authority, the public, and other government bodies a record of the technical issues surrounding issuance of the permit. The Information Relative also addresses any changes to emissions as a result of any modification of the facility.

VFP is an existing industrial facility that primarily manufactures dried dimensional lumber from harvested softwood timber and hardwood timber via a green timber sawmill area, one (1) wood waste-fired boiler, and twenty-eight (28) indirect-fired steam-heated lumber drying kilns, and a dried lumber planer mill area. VFP also has the capability to chemically treat dried lumber. VFP is a major source for volatile organic compounds (VOCs), particulate matter (PM), PM less than 10 microns in diameter (PM10), PM less than 2.5 microns in diameter (PM2.5), nitrogen oxides (NOX), and carbon monoxide (CO) given that the emission of each pollutant exceeds 100 tons per year (tpy). However, VFP is not a major source for hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) given that the facility has requested operational restrictions to limit the emission of any individual HAP to less than or equal to 9.90 tpy and all HAPs in total to less than or equal to 24.90 tpy. In regards to Prevention to Significant Deterioration (PSD) applicability, VFP is considered an existing major source. However, this permitting action is to reissue the TVOP, which will not trigger a PSD review.

The staff of the Permit Board has developed this draft permit based on information submitted to the Permit Board by the applicant, appropriate State and Federal agencies, and other interested parties. The staff of the Permit Board is soliciting all relative information pertaining to the proposed activity, including public comment, to ensure that the final staff recommendation on the draft permit complies with all State and Federal regulations. Public review and comment on the draft permit and supporting documentation is an important element in the staff evaluation and resulting recommendation to the Permit Board. The draft permit conditions have been developed to ensure compliance with all State and Federal regulations but are subject to change based on information received as a result of public participation.

Persons wishing to comment upon or object to the proposed determinations are invited to submit comments in writing to Mr. Jaricus Whitlock at the Permit Board's address shown above or at jwhitlock@mdeq.ms.gov no later than the end of the thirty (30) day public notice. All comments received by this date will be considered in the formulation of final determinations regarding the application. A public hearing will be held if the Permit Board finds a significant degree of public interest in the proposed permit. Persons wishing to request a public hearing may do so by submitting that request in writing to Mr. Jaricus Whitlock or the Chief of the Environmental Permits Division (Ms. Krystal Rudolph) at the address shown above. The Permit Board is limited in the scope of its analysis to environmental impact. Any comments relative to zoning or economic and social impacts are within the jurisdiction of local zoning and planning authorities and should be addressed to them.

After receipt of public comments and thorough consideration of all comments, the staff will formulate its recommendations for permit issuance and a proposed permit if that is the recommendation. The Title V Operating Permit (TVOP) is a permit that is required by Title V of the Federal Clean Air Act and the Mississippi Air and Water Pollution Control Law. The TVOP is a Federally-enforceable permit as well as a State permit. Therefore, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will also be allowed an opportunity to review the application, the proposed permit, and all comments received during the public comment period prior to Permit Board action on the application.

The EPA has agreed to treat this draft permit as a proposed permit and to perform its 45-day review provided by the law and regulations concurrently with the public notice period as long as no public comments are received within the 30-day public notice period. If comments are received, the EPA’s 45-day review period will cease to be performed concurrently with the public notice period. The EPA’s 45-day review period will start once the public notice period has been completed and the EPA receives notification from the MDEQ that comments have been received and resolved. Whether the EPA’s 45-day review period is performed concurrently with the public comment period or after the public comment period has ended, the deadline for citizen’s petitions to the EPA Administrator will be determined as if the EPA’s 45-day review period is performed after the public comment period has ended.

The status regarding the EPA’s 45-day review of this project and the deadline for citizen’s petitions can be found at the following website address: <https://www.epa.gov/caa-permitting/mississippi-proposed-title-v-permits>. Additional details about the application, including a copy of the draft permit, are available by writing or calling the Public Records Request Officer at the above Permit Board address and telephone number. Additionally, as a courtesy for those with Internet access, a copy of the draft permit may be found on the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality’s website at: <http://opc.deq.state.ms.us/publicnotice.aspx>. This information is also available for review at the following locations during normal business hours:

Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

Office of Pollution Control

515 East Amite Street

Jackson, MS 39201

Please bring the foregoing to the attention of persons whom you know will be interested.