

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Environmental Protection Division • Air Protection Branch

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Noel Holcomb, Commissioner

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For Immediate Release

EPD to Host Public Hearing on CertainTeed Proposed Permit Modification

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) will host a Public Hearing on Monday, March 6, 2006, from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., at the Athens-Clarke County Library in Athens. EPD has been reviewing a proposed modification to the Title V Air Quality Permit held by the CertainTeed fiberglass plant located at 425 Athena Drive in Athens.

The purpose of this meeting is to receive formal comments regarding the proposed modification.

“In 2005, we hosted two question and answer sessions in Athens and held a workshop at the University of Georgia to give local residents an opportunity to ask questions and to give us their feedback on CertainTeed’s application to revise its permit,” said Heather Abrams, manager of the Stationary Source Permitting Program of EPD’s Air Protection Branch. “This formal hearing process is another opportunity for residents to give feedback. EPD is currently taking formal comments on the draft permit, and we’ll consider all comments prior to making a decision whether to or not to give final issuance.”

CertainTeed is seeking the permit modification primarily for plant enhancements to increase fiberglass production. The company proposes replacing a gas-fired furnace with a larger electric furnace, installing a new bonded fiberglass forming line, and increasing the production rate of an existing unbonded forming line. Also, the plant’s batch house would be expanded to accommodate the increase in production.

A Title V Air Quality Permit consolidates all federal, state and local air pollution control requirements into a single, comprehensive “operating permit” that covers all aspects of an industry’s year-to-year air emission activities. It is designed to streamline the regulation process by making it easier to understand and comply. It also gives citizens easier access to information about an industry’s pollution controls as required by federal, state and local authorities.

For information on the permit application or review process, please contact Heather Abrams, 404-363-7020, or John Yntema, 404-363-7117. For information about the public hearing, please contact Thomas Smith, 404-362-2790.

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