

Archived: Friday, September 27, 2019 8:54:05 AM
From: [Dogwood Alliance](#)
Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2019 12:53:07 PM
To: [James White](#)
Subject: Registration Number 61653 - Protect our Forests and our Health
Importance: Normal

Sep 11, 2019

James White

Dear Permitting Officer, White,

I am writing to urge you to deny Enviva's proposed expansion. I oppose any expansion in production at the Enviva Southampton County wood pellet facility. Additionally, I call on VA DEQ to decouple Enviva's permit for expansion with their permit for air pollution controls. Enviva must be required to install air pollution controls that their competitors in other states have used for years. The public should have the ability to comment on these two separate issues independent of each other.

I am concerned with the expansion of the wood pellet industry, led by Enviva, and the industry's impact on Virginia's forests, communities, and the climate.

The urgency of the climate crisis demands that we dramatically scale up forest protection. We cannot afford the increased logging and degradation of our forests. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, to meet our climate goals we must dramatically scale up forest protection, conservation, and restoration. Yet Enviva is driving the destruction and degradation of tens of thousands of acres of Southern forests per year. An increasing body of scientific evidence shows that burning trees for utility-scale electricity releases more greenhouse gas emissions than fossil fuels do. If the Southampton County increase goes through, it will increase logging to 19,000 acres per year, and carbon emissions to 1,430,757 tpy - the equivalence of 303,770 additional cars on the road per year.

Enviva has been documented numerous times logging in the Roanoke River Basin, a river that has already flooded Southampton County numerous times. As our coastal communities prepare for more frequent and intense hurricanes, it is more important than ever to invest in nature to protect communities from the damage wrought by these intense storms. Natural forests and wetlands absorb floodwaters and slow them down, buffering communities from flooding and reducing costly property damage.

Furthermore, this expansion request comes amidst revelations of years-long violations of the Clean Air Act, and attempts by the industry to cover this up. A recent report by Environmental Integrity Project shows a shocking pattern of air quality violations or

noncompliance at almost all wood pellet facilities, with Virginia's Enviva facility being amongst the worst. For years, Enviva has been spewing hazardous pollutants into the air, emissions that have been linked to respiratory illness, heart disease, and cancer. Enviva consistently claims the health of communities living near their facilities is too expensive to protect. Enviva recently agreed to install proper air pollution controls at the Hamlet and Sampson County plants only after being dragged through court and threatened with an enforcement action.

Time and again, Enviva has misled the public, government, and investors on their emissions and sourcing practices. The company's past actions and missteps make it all the more imperative that it is strongly scrutinized at every step of the way.

I urge you to deny this Air Quality permit, Registration Number 61653, and any other proposals made by Enviva to expand operations. Additionally, I call on VA DEQ to decouple Enviva's permit for expansion with their permit for air pollution controls. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this permit.

Sincerely,

Brenda Staab
3033 Mansfield Ln
Virginia Beach, VA 23457-1181
bcstaab@cox.net

Archived: Friday, September 27, 2019 8:54:05 AM
From: White Jr., James
Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2019 10:09:23 AM
To: Faggert, Stanley (DEQ)
Subject: Fwd: Enviva Clean Air permit for plant updates
Importance: Normal

This email is a first... one that is actually in support of the plant expansion.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jamie Craig** <jamie@beechtree.biz>
Date: Wed, Sep 11, 2019 at 9:29 AM
Subject: Enviva Clean Air permit for plant updates
To: james.white@deq.virginia.gov <james.white@deq.virginia.gov>
Cc: Don Grant <Don.Grant@envivabiomass.com>, Maria Moreno <Maria.Moreno@envivabiomass.com>

Mr. White,

As a landowner in the City of Franklin it is important to me to keep the town clean, safe, and desirable as a place to live, work, and raise a family. To that end, Enviva, one of largest and newest corporate citizens, is applying to update and improve their operations at the local Biomass plant. We support this action and would like to request that DEQ approve this request. There are many reasons to do so but three stand out to us.

First, Enviva has been and continues to be good corporate citizen in the community. Three years ago they announced a conservation grant program designed to invest in the most sensitive ecological areas within their operations area. To date they have awarded almost \$2 Million dollars in grant funds with an emphasis on protection of Cypress Tupelo, White Cedar, Carolina Bays, and Poquoson areas. Of those funds over a third has landed in Southampton county and been used to acquire and protect vast stretches of riverfront on the state Scenic Nottoway River. Without their ongoing commitment to local conservation none of these areas would have been protected.

Secondly, Enviva as a business has been extremely beneficial to our community. They have created jobs through the construction of their plant, by buying and processing their biomass, and with their plans to update the facility, will expand operations and add more workers in our area. It is easy to say this has been financially beneficial to our community; however, quite hard to put in real dollars the positive impacts they have had on people's lives. It has been substantial.

Finally, the revisions and enhancements they seek are all state of the art, intended to improve the ecological impacts and footprint of the facility, and will enable Enviva to source from a wider variety of materials than they currently utilize while emitting less from their operations going forward. How can one argue against enhancements designed to improve the environmental impacts of an already "green" operation?

Please submit this note into the formal record as a vote to approve the request. Feel free to contact me directly with questions.

Kindest Regards,

Jamie Craig

James E. Craig Jr. *MIM / CCIM*

Beechtree Group, LLC

PO Box 6804

Falls Church, VA 22040

C. 703.608.3874

Jamie@beechtree.biz

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NOTE: It is preferred that you e-mail documents via attachments. Thank you.

James A. White Jr.

Senior II Air Permit Writer

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Tidewater Regional Office (TRO)

5636 Southern Blvd.

Virginia Beach, Virginia 23462

Phone: (757) 482-0991 Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

(757) 518-2180 Tuesday and Thursday

Fax: (757) 518-2009

E-mail: james.white@deq.virginia.gov

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