

NOTICE OF THE OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION AIR PROTECTION BRANCH

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF UPSON

NOTICE OF PSD PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION AND DRAFT PART 70 OPERATING PERMIT MODIFICATION

To All Interested Parties:

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) announces its intent to modify Interfor U.S. Inc. – Thomaston Mill Part 70 Air Quality Operating Permit No. 2421-293-0007-V-04-0 by the issuance of Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) Permit Amendment No. No. 2421-293-0007-V-04-1. The facility is located at 75 Ben Hill Road, Thomaston, Georgia. The facility operates a lumber mill that produces dimensional lumber.

The primary purpose of this permit amendment is to allow physical modifications to the construction and operation of a continuous, direct-fired lumber kiln including ancillary equipment; and for facility wide upgrades to the existing sawmill. The proposed modifications include construction and operation of one continuous drying kiln (ID No. OSK4), one fuel silo with cyclone, one debarker, one bark hog, two green wood chippers, one chip bin with cyclone, one sawdust cyclone to pneumatically convey sawdust to the boiler area at the mill, one planer mill with associated planer mill shavings cyclone, one shavings cyclone to pneumatically convey sawdust to the boiler area at the mill, one diesel fire pump engine, an upgrade of equipment in the pine sawmill as well as the permanent shut down of one debarker, two green wood chippers, one chip bin cyclone, one planer mill, three planer mill cyclones and one shavings collection cyclone. The Georgia Environmental Protection Division is preparing Title V Operating Permits in accordance with Title V of the Clean Air Act. This permit amendment will be enforceable by the Georgia EPD, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and other persons as otherwise authorized by law.

The proposed project will result in an emissions increase of 18 tons per year of nitrogen oxides (NO_x), 45 tons per year of carbon monoxide (CO), 241 tons per year of volatile organic compounds (VOC), 4 tons per year of sulfur dioxide (SO₂), 23 tons per year of particulate matter (PM/PM₁₀/PM_{2.5}), 10 tons per year of a single hazardous air pollutant (HAP), 15 tons per year of combined hazardous air pollutants (HAP), and 36,855 tons per year of total greenhouse gases (Total GHG). A Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) analysis was performed for the facility for all pollutants to determine if any emissions increase was above the “significance” level. Only the VOC emissions increase will be above the PSD significant level threshold.

The draft permit, PSD Preliminary Determination, and all information used to develop the draft permit are available for review. This includes the application and all other relevant materials available to the permitting authority. This information is available for review at the office of the Air Protection Branch, 4244 International Parkway, Atlanta Tradeport - Suite 120, Atlanta, Georgia 30354. A copy of the application may also be available for review at 106 E Lee St #110, Thomaston, GA 30286 (Telephone: (706) 647-7012), along with a copy of the draft permit and PSD Preliminary Determination. Electronic files of the application, draft Title V permit,

PSD Preliminary Determination will be available through our internet site <http://https://epd.georgia.gov/psd112gnaa-nsrpcp-permits-database>. (Please note that the Internet is generally accessible from most public libraries in Georgia.)

If copies are desired, a copying machine for public use is provided by EPD at the Atlanta Air Protection Branch office. There will be a copying charge of \$0.10 per page. Copies will be made on a first-come, first-served basis. Files are available for review and copying 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday - Friday, excluding holidays.

You are hereby notified of the opportunity to submit written public comments concerning the draft Part 70 Operating Permit Modification and the Preliminary Determination concerning the modification. The Preliminary Determination is a summary of the technical review of the application and contains a copy of the Company's application along with supporting documents and the draft Permit Amendment. The draft permit serves as both a draft PSD permit and a draft Part 70 permit amendment. Persons wishing to comment on the draft Part 70 Operating Permit Modification and Preliminary Determination are invited to submit their comments, in writing, to EPD at the Atlanta address above, or via email to epdcomments@dnr.ga.gov (email comments must include the facility name and "Air Permit" in subject line) no later than 30 days after the date of publication in the newspaper. All comments postmarked on or prior to that date will be considered by the Division in making its final decision on the permit.

The Division has concluded that Interfor U.S. Inc. – Thomaston Mill's application should be approved and that a permit should be granted. This conclusion is based upon evidence that the proposed project will comply with the Division's Rules and Regulations for Air Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-1; that the emissions from the source will not cause or add to a violation of any applicable National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) or Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) increment; and will comply with the Federal PSD regulations, 40 CFR 52.21, including the use of Best Available Control Technology (BACT) for regulated pollutants.

Net emission increases of nitrogen oxides (NO_x), carbon monoxide (CO), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), particulate matter (PM/PM₁₀/PM_{2.5}), and total greenhouse gas (Total GHG) from the proposed project do not exceed the significant emission levels established by the PSD regulation. The net emission increases of volatile organic compounds (VOC) from the proposed project exceed the significant emission levels established by the PSD regulation. The Division has determined that these emissions will not cause an adverse impact on ambient air quality, and the air quality levels should pose no significant health risk around the plant.

The PSD regulations allow specific maximum incremental increases in ambient concentrations of particulate matter (PM₁₀), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), and nitrogen oxides (NO₂). Since net emission increases of these pollutants do not exceed the associate PSD significant emission levels, no impact analysis is required for the proposed project. Also, EPD has concluded that the proposed project will not adversely affect the air quality (i.e., exceed the allowable incremental increases in ambient concentration of PM₁₀, SO₂, NO₂).

Similarly, Class I area analysis is not required because net emission increases of PM₁₀, SO₂, and NO₂ do not exceed the associate PSD significant emission levels. With regard to the Class I Areas (Okefenokee NWR, Cohutta NWR, Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock Wilderness, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and Shining Rock Wilderness), the EPD has determined that the proposed project will not adversely affect the air quality (i.e., exceed the allowable Class II and Class I incremental increase in ambient concentrations of PM₁₀, SO₂, NO₂).

Any requests for a public hearing must be made in writing within the 30-day public comment period. Such requests should specify in detail the portion of the Air Quality Control Rules which the individual believes may not have been adequately reviewed. A public hearing may be held if the Director of the EPD finds that such a hearing would assist the EPD in a proper review of the facility's capability to comply with the requirements of Federal and State Air Quality Control regulations. State laws specify that a permit shall be issued on evidence satisfactory to the Director of compliance with applicable State and Federal regulations and requirements.

Following the 30 day public comment period, as required by PSD and Part 70 regulations, a proposed amendment, incorporating any changes that result from comments received during the public comment period, will be made available to U.S. EPA and affected states. In accordance with Part 70 regulations, EPA Region 4 has a 45-day period in which to review this proposed permit amendment. Information pertaining to U.S. EPA's review period can be found on their website at <http://www.epa.gov/caa-permitting/georgia-proposed-title-v-permits>.

After the comment period has expired, the EPD will consider all comments, make any necessary changes, and issue the Part 70 Operating Permit and a Final Determination. Copies of the final Title V Operating Permit, Final Determination, comments received, EPD's responses to comments, and any other relevant information will then be made available for public review during normal business hours at the office of the Air Protection Branch, as well as at the Internet addresses given above.

For additional information, contact Eric Cornwell, Program Manager, Stationary Source Permitting Program, at the Atlanta address, or by phone at 404/363-7000. Please refer to this notice when requesting information.