

MDEQ Approves Enviva Air Quality Permit

By Royce Armstrong, GC Times

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The last piece necessary for Enviva to proceed on its planned wood pellet mill in George County fell into place on Tuesday morning.

The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) approved an air quality permit application submitted by Enviva.

“We are pleased with today’s positive outcome and look forward to starting construction of our new wood pellet facility in Lucedale,” said Yana Kravtsova, Vice President, Environmental Affairs at Enviva. “We appreciate the diligent and hard work on the permitting process by MDEQ and the Permit Board and are thankful to all of our supporters during this process. We look forward to becoming an active participant of the local economy, providing new jobs in Mississippi and becoming a strong member of the local community.”

Local officials and Enviva representatives attended the MDEQ meeting in Jackson Tuesday morning, July 9, to show their support for the permit.

The permit application was originally scheduled for consideration by MDEQ in early spring, following a public hearing comment phase; MDEQ received a number of comments, most originating with the Dogwood Alliance, expressing concerns for the project.

MDEQ decided to hold a public meeting to hear comments in May. That meeting was held in George County on May 14. Some 300 people attended the meeting in support of the project while only about 10 people were opposed. MDEQ took all of the written and verbal comments into consideration while reviewing the permit application.

Construction of the \$160 million plant that will annually produce 750,000 metric tons of industrial grade wood fuel pellets will begin right away. During the construction phase, an estimated 300 construction workers will be employed on the project. When it becomes operational, the plant will employ about 90 to 100 people.