

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Environmental Protection Division • Air Protection Branch

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Chris Clark, Commissioner
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For Immediate Release

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EPD to Host Q & A Session and Public Hearing in Valdosta on Proposed Biomass-Fired Power Plant Application Submitted by Wiregrass Power, LLC

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) will host a forum to present information and to answer questions on an Air Quality Operating permit application submitted by Wiregrass Power, LLC to construct and operate a proposed 45-megawatt (MW) biomass-fired power plant. The company is seeking to locate the plant in Valdosta.

EPD will hold a question-and-answer (Q&A) session and a public hearing on Tuesday, April 27, from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. in the multipurpose room in the Valdosta City Hall Annex. The city hall annex is located at 300 N. Lee Street.

“The protection of Georgia’s air quality is our ultimate concern,” said Eric Cornwell, manager of EPD Air Protection Branch’s Stationary Source Permitting Program. “And, the purpose of this meeting is to present information and to answer questions about the permitting review process for the Air Quality Operating permit application required to operate this type of power generating facility. We also will host a public hearing after the Q&A session to receive official comments from those in attendance. We invite all who are interested to come to the meeting and to learn about this process.”

Wiregrass Power, LLC submitted the air quality permit application according to federal and state laws related to such plants intending to use wood as its primary power-generating source. The proposed facility would include a fluidized bed boiler. To generate power, the facility would burn approximately 99.5 percent wood waste and 0.5 percent sludge to be secured from Valdosta’s Mud Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant.

EPD will accept formal comments at the public hearing and in writing until May 4, 2010. EPD has made a rough draft permit available for public review at our web site: <http://www.georgiaair.org/airpermit/html/index.htm>.

For information on the permit application review process, please contact Eric Cornwell, manager of the Air Protection Branch’s Stationary Source Permitting Program, at 404-363-7020. For information about the Q&A Session and public hearing, please contact Thomas Smith, 404-362-2790.

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