

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO ISSUE AIR PERMIT

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Air Resource Management, Permit Review Section
Draft Air Permit No. 0890004-070-AC
Rayonier Performance Fibers, LLC, Fernandina Beach Dissolving Sulfite Pulp Plant
Nassau County, Florida

Applicant: The applicant for this project is Rayonier Performance Fibers, LLC. The applicant's authorized representative and mailing address is: Mr. Mark Homans, General Manager, Rayonier Performance Fibers, LLC, P.O. Box 2002, Fernandina Beach, Florida 32035.

Facility Location: Rayonier Performance Fibers, LLC operates the existing Fernandina Beach Dissolving Sulfite Pulp Plant, which is located in Nassau County at 10 Gum Street in Fernandina Beach, Florida.

Project: Rayonier Performance Fibers, LLC, Fernandina Beach Dissolving Sulfite Pulp Plant (RPF Plant) is an acid sulfite-based pulp mill using ammonia as the base chemical for the manufacture of dissolving pulp. This plant produces approximately 10 different grades of pulp. The pulp produced at the RPF Plant is used in products such as plastics, photographic film, LCD screens, paints, cigarette filters, pharmaceuticals, food production, cosmetics, and textiles. The mill is permitted to produce a maximum of 175,000 air-dried metric tons (ADMT) of pulp per year, on a 12-month rolling total basis.

On November 14, 2023, Rayonier Performance Fibers, LLC submitted an application requesting an authorization to construct a second-generation bioethanol production process capable of producing 7.5 million gallons of saleable bioethanol per year. The proposed construction is not for a new standalone chemical plant but an addition of a production process to the existing RPF Plant. The new process will use spent sulfite liquor (SSL, also called red liquor) as the basis for ethanol fermentation and will consist of continuous fermenters, distillation and dehydration, and yeast recycling and conditioning systems. Volatile organic compounds (VOC) emissions from the bioethanol production process are expected to be primarily ethanol and will be controlled by the fermentation vent scrubber using cold process water as the scrubbing solution. When operating at full capacity, the maximum potential increase in VOC emissions resulting from bioethanol production is 30.4 tons per year. This increase is below the VOC significant emission rate of 40 tons per year; therefore, the project is not subject to Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) preconstruction review per Rule 62-212.400 of the Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.). In addition, there will be significant emission reduction of carbon monoxide (CO), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), particulate matter (PM), particulate matter with a mean particle diameter of 10/2.5 microns or less (PM₁₀/PM_{2.5}) and VOC from the existing Sulfite Recovery Boiler due to less SSL available to be fired in the boiler. For additional information on this project see the Technical Evaluation and Preliminary Determination document included in the draft permit package.

Permitting Authority: Applications for air construction permits are subject to review in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 403, Florida Statutes (F.S.) and Chapters 62-4, 62-210 and 62-212 of the Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.). The proposed project is not exempt from air permitting requirements and an air permit is required to perform the proposed work. The Permitting Authority responsible for making a permit determination for this project is the Permit Review Section in the Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Air Resource Management. The Permitting Authority's physical address is: 2600 Blair Stone Road, Tallahassee, Florida. The Permitting Authority's mailing address is: 2600 Blair Stone Road, MS #5505, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2400. The Permitting Authority's phone number is 850-717-9000.

Project File: A complete project file is available for public inspection during the normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday (except legal holidays), at the address indicated above for the Permitting Authority. The complete project file includes the Draft Permit, the Technical Evaluation and Preliminary Determination, the application and information submitted by the applicant (exclusive of confidential records under Section 403.111, F.S.). Interested persons may contact the Permitting Authority's project engineer for additional information at the address and phone number listed above. In addition, electronic copies of these documents are available on the following web site by entering the draft permit number:

<https://fldep.dep.state.fl.us/air/emission/apds/default.asp>.

Notice of Intent to Issue Air Permit: The Permitting Authority gives notice of its intent to issue an air construction permit to the applicant for the project described above. The applicant has provided reasonable

(Public Notice to be Published in the Newspaper)

assurance that operation of proposed equipment will not adversely impact air quality and that the project will comply with all applicable provisions of Chapters 62-4, 62-204, 62-210, 62-212, 62-296 and 62-297, F.A.C. The Permitting Authority will issue a Final Permit in accordance with the conditions of the proposed Draft Permit unless a timely petition for an administrative hearing is filed under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S. or unless public comment received in accordance with this notice results in a different decision or a significant change of terms or conditions.

Comments: The Permitting Authority will accept written comments concerning the proposed Draft Permit for a period of 14 days from the date of publication of the Public Notice. Written comments must be received by the Permitting Authority by close of business (5:00 p.m.) on or before the end of this 14-day period to the above address and electronically to David Read at David.Read@FloridaDEP.gov. If written comments received result in a significant change to the Draft Permit, the Permitting Authority shall revise the Draft Permit and require, if applicable, another Public Notice. All comments filed will be made available for public inspection.

Petitions: A person whose substantial interests are affected by the proposed permitting decision may petition for an administrative hearing in accordance with Sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S. Petitions filed by any persons other than those entitled to written notice under Section 120.60(3), F.S., must be filed within 14 days of publication of the Public Notice or receipt of a written notice, whichever occurs first. Under Section 120.60(3), F.S., however, any person who asked the Permitting Authority for notice of agency action may file a petition within 14 days of receipt of that notice, regardless of the date of publication. A petitioner shall mail a copy of the petition to the applicant at the address indicated above, at the time of filing. A petition for administrative hearing must contain the information set forth below and must be filed (received) with the Agency Clerk in the Office of General Counsel, 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 35, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000, Agency_Clerk@dep.state.fl.us, before the deadline. The failure of any person to file a petition within the appropriate time period shall constitute a waiver of that person's right to request an administrative determination (hearing) under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S., or to intervene in this proceeding and participate as a party to it. Any subsequent intervention (in a proceeding initiated by another party) will be only at the approval of the presiding officer upon the filing of a motion in compliance with Rule 28-106.205, F.A.C.

A petition that disputes the material facts on which the Permitting Authority's action is based must contain the following information: (a) The name and address of each agency affected and each agency's file or identification number, if known; (b) The name, address, any email address, telephone number and any facsimile number of the petitioner; the name, address any email address, telephone number, and any facsimile number of the petitioner's representative, if any, which shall be the address for service purposes during the course of the proceeding; and an explanation of how the petitioner's substantial interests will be affected by the agency determination; (c) A statement of when and how each petitioner received notice of the agency action or proposed decision; (d) A statement of all disputed issues of material fact. If there are none, the petition must so state; (e) A concise statement of the ultimate facts alleged, including the specific facts the petitioner contends warrant reversal or modification of the agency's proposed action; (f) A statement of the specific rules or statutes the petitioner contends require reversal or modification of the agency's proposed action including an explanation of how the alleged facts relate to the specific rules or statutes; and, (g) A statement of the relief sought by the petitioner, stating precisely the action the petitioner wishes the agency to take with respect to the agency's proposed action. A petition that does not dispute the material facts upon which the Permitting Authority's action is based shall state that no such facts are in dispute and otherwise shall contain the same information as set forth above, as required by Rule 28-106.301, F.A.C.

Because the administrative hearing process is designed to formulate final agency action, the filing of a petition means that the Permitting Authority's final action may be different from the position taken by it in this Public Notice of Intent to Issue Air Permit. Persons whose substantial interests will be affected by any such final decision of the Permitting Authority on the application have the right to petition to become a party to the proceeding, in accordance with the requirements set forth above.

Extension of Time: Under Rule 62-110.106(4), F.A.C., a person whose substantial interests are affected by the Department's action may also request an extension of time to file a petition for an administrative hearing. The Department may, for good cause shown, grant the request for an extension of time. Requests for extension of time must be filed with the Office of General Counsel of the Department at 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 35, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000, or via electronic correspondence at Agency_Clerk@dep.state.fl.us,

before the deadline for filing a petition for an administrative hearing. A timely request for extension of time shall toll the running of the time period for filing a petition until the request is acted upon.

Mediation: Mediation is not available in this proceeding.