

TO: David.Read@floridaDEP.gov

CC: yarborough.clay.web@flsenate.gov, dean.black@myfloridahouse.gov

Subject: Concerns Regarding Proposed Ethanol Refinery in Fernandina Beach, Florida **0890004-070-AC - DRAFT PERMIT**

Mr. Read,

I am writing to express my profound concerns regarding the proposed ethanol plant by RYAM in Fernandina Beach, Florida. While acknowledging the importance of pursuing sustainable energy initiatives, it is essential to address several deficiencies in the application that may significantly impact our community and environment.

1. Location within a community: The proposed Ethanol Plant will be in the middle of a residential area, with many homes sitting just hundreds of yards away from the proposed site. I believe this production facility should not be in the middle of a residential area.
2. Baseline Emission Data: I believe that the baseline emission data provided in the application does not accurately reflect the current situation at the site. Given the operational changes since 2014-2015, particularly with the startup of Lignotech in 2018, it is crucial to update this data to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the potential environmental impacts.
3. Incomplete Air Emission Data: In my opinion, the application lacks comprehensive data on air emissions, particularly concerning the fermentation process and the production of by-products such as CO₂. Furthermore, the emission of other fermentation by-products has not been adequately addressed. This omission raises concerns about the true extent of the project's environmental footprint.
4. Increased Health Risks to the Community: There are legitimate concerns regarding the potential emission of toxic fermentation by-products, including acrolein, acetaldehyde, and methanol. Past incidents in similar facilities have demonstrated the health risks posed by these substances to nearby communities. It is imperative to thoroughly evaluate and mitigate these risks to safeguard public health.
5. Increased Fire and Explosion Hazards: The proposed ethanol plant introduces heightened fire and explosion hazards to our community, particularly concerning the processing, handling, and storage of flammable ethanol. Coupled with the existing storage of hazardous materials such as sulfur and chlorine, these risks are further compounded. Urgent measures must be taken to address and mitigate these potential hazards to ensure the safety and well-being of our community.

It is evident that the proposed ethanol plant may not be suitable for the current location in Fernandina Beach. It is our firm belief that this is the "right project, wrong location." I urge the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to consider the identified deficiencies and explore alternative locations or mitigation strategies to minimize the potential impact on our community and environment.

My home is approximately 800 yards (as the crow flies) from this proposed site. I am concerned about my safety, my health risks from the emissions, the property value of my home, and increased homeowner and auto insurance costs due to this potentially hazardous plant.

Thank you for your attention to these critical matters. I trust that the Department will prioritize transparency, accountability, and public safety in its decision-making process.

Name,

Resident, City of Fernandina Beach