



NOTICE OF 30-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
Milliken & Co/Gaffney Manufacturing Co. Site
Railroad Avenue, Gaffney, South Carolina

DHEC (The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control) is accepting public comments on a potential Voluntary Cleanup Contract until February 27, 2009.

The Voluntary Cleanup Contract will affect approximately 16.88 acres identified by tax map number 0990700241000. The property is between Railroad Avenue to the north, Walnut Street to the east, Elm, Birch and Cherry Streets to the south, and East Robinson and Concorde Avenue to the west.

The property was a large textile mill that began operating in 1892. Various industrial processes and chemicals were used in the plant. The mill buildings have been removed, but environmental testing has found low levels of industrial pollution remaining on the property.

Cherokee County wants to buy the property from its current owners to construct a county administration building and parking lots on the property. Cherokee County will also transfer at least three acres to the City of Gaffney for a park and green space with walking trails.

This Voluntary Cleanup Contract will be between DHEC and Cherokee County. If this contract is implemented, DHEC will allow Cherokee County to acquire the property as a "Brownfields Site" because of the environmental pollution.

DHEC will not hold Cherokee County responsible for the pre-existing pollution in exchange for doing work under the Voluntary Cleanup Contract. Under State law, Cherokee County will not be responsible if anyone is affected by the contamination. Entering into this contract does not reduce the responsibility of any former owners or operators of the site.

Cherokee County did not create the pollution, but will take steps to control it to make the property safe for re-use. Cherokee County has tested samples of soil and groundwater collected from the property. Under the proposed contract, Cherokee County will be required to take additional steps to protect human health and the environment in order to redevelop the property.

DHEC uses Voluntary Cleanup Contracts to keep Brownfield sites in productive reuse. Public comments on the proposed contracts help DHEC balance the environmental and redevelopment issues in the best interest of the state. The proposed contract is available at http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/lwm/public_notice.asp. Printed copies may be obtained from the DHEC Freedom of Information Office at (803) 898-3882.

Citizens may provide written, email, or telephone comments on the proposed contract until February 27, 2009. Questions or comments may be directed to Konstantine Akhvlediani, Project Manger, email akhvlekt@dhec.sc.gov, telephone (803) 896-4045, or Craig Dukes, email

dukescv@dhec.sc.gov or TOLL-FREE telephone (866) 576-3432. Written comments should be directed to either individual at SCDHEC, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201.