



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

REGION 4  
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER  
61 FORSYTH STEET  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

April 18, 1997

4-APT

VIA FACSIMILE AND  
FIRST CLASS MAIL

Dwight K. Wylie, P.E., Chief  
Air Division  
Office of Pollution Control  
Mississippi Department of  
Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 10385  
Jackson, Mississippi 39289-0385

SUBJ: Review of Proposed Permit for First Chemical Corporation

Dear Mr. Wylie:

The purpose of this letter is to provide comments to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MSDEQ) on the proposed title V operating permit for First Chemical Corporation, received by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on March 7, 1997. Based on EPA's review of the proposed permit and the supporting information, EPA formally objects, under the authority of 40 C.F.R. § 70.8(c) (see also Mississippi Regulation APC-S-6 V.C.1.), to the issuance of the First Chemical permit. As you know, 40 C.F.R. § 70.8(c) requires EPA to object to the issuance of a proposed permit in writing within 45 days of receipt of the proposed permit and all necessary supporting information if EPA determines that the permit is not in compliance with the applicable requirements under the Clean Air Act or 40 C.F.R. Part 70. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 70.8(c), this letter provides a statement of EPA's reasons for its objection as follows.

1. Necessary supporting information pertinent to the evaluation of this source including information related to the calculation of potential HAP emissions was not provided by MSDEQ or First Chemical to enable EPA to adequately review the proposed permit. All supporting information from First Chemical should have been available to MSDEQ in developing the permit prior to its proposal to EPA and prior to its having been made available for public review. Because some necessary supporting information was received during the 45-day review period, EPA has not been given full opportunity to review and evaluate this information relative to the proposed permit. [40 C.F.R. § 70.5(b); 40 C.F.R. § 70.8(c)]
2. The proposed permit fails to ensure the practical enforceability of the facility-wide emissions limitation (emissions cap) for emissions of hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) and fails to ensure practical enforceability of specific SIP emissions limitations by failing to address periodic monitoring for these units. Further, the State has failed to provide

EPA with a complete determination that First Chemical's potential to emit HAP emissions is below the major source applicability threshold. This has further added to the uncertainty for determining the major source status of the facility and has raised concerns of whether the proposed permit (and supporting permit application) has identified all applicable requirements for the facility. Based on this concern, it appears that the facility is a major source for HAPs and therefore subject to the requirements of the Hazardous Organic NESHAP (HON) under 40 CFR Part 63, Subparts A, F, G, H, and I. [40 C.F.R. § 70.6(a)(3), (b), and (c); also see § 70.2 definition of potential to emit]

3. The proposed permit and the permit application fails to adequately account for all emissions units and all points of emissions in sufficient detail to establish the basis for applicability of requirements under the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. §§ 7401 - 7671q). Thus, the proposed permit and supporting information fails to account for all HAP emissions which are relative to the demonstration of minor source HAP emissions. [40 C.F.R. §70.5(c)(3)]

Some of the concerns outlined in our comments provided to your office via facsimile transmission on April 16, 1997, may have been addressed in the supplemental material received by our office from your office and from First Chemical Corporation (see Enclosure B). We have not, however, had adequate time to review all the additional material. Also, as was indicated during the conference call, as of this date, we are awaiting additional information regarding the source's potential to emit (See Enclosure A).

We expect that the State will revise and resubmit this permit within 90 days. As you are aware, 40 C.F.R. 70.(c)(4) provides that if the State fails within 90 days to revise and resubmit a proposed permit in response to EPA's objection, EPA will issue or deny the permit. We are committed to working with you to resolve these issues; please let us know if we can provide assistance to you and your staff. If you have any questions or wish to discuss this further, please contact Mr. Douglas Neeley, Chief, Air and Radiation Technology Branch at (404) 562-9097, Ms. Carla Pierce, Chief Operating Source Section, at 404-562-9099, or Ms. Jenny Jachim, Lead Permit Reviewer, at 404-562-9024.

Sincerely,

/s/

Winston A. Smith  
Director  
Air, Pesticides & Toxic  
Management Division

Enclosures

cc: Carl D. Rensink  
First Chemical Corporation