



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 4  
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER  
61 FORSYTH STREET  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

SUBJECT: Assistance in Review of Proposed Variance  
For Premier Chemicals, LLC

FROM: Annie Godfrey, Chief *Annie M. Godfrey* 9/17/07  
East Standards, Monitoring & TMDL Section

TO: Dorothy Rayfield, Chief  
Construction & Technical Assistance Section

Attached are several documents relating to a proposed variance to Florida water quality standards for Premier Chemicals, LLC. Several of these documents have been identified and labeled as "Confidential Business Information."

Based on our review of the information provided, the facility is a candidate for a variance under the federal requirements of 40 CFR § 131.10(g), which allows states to remove a designated use which is not an existing use if, "controls more stringent than those required by Sections 301(b) and 306 of the Act would result in substantial and widespread economic and social impact." I am requesting assistance from your staff in review of this information as part of EPA's preliminary review of the materials provided by the State as a basis for the variance.

Premier Chemicals has provided and analyzed information for 2002, 2003, and 2004 for several of the indicators outlined in *Interim Economic Guidance for Water Quality Standards*, EPA 823-B-95-002, March 1995. (See letter dated November 1, 2005 from Premier Chemical to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.) Based on year 2004 data, the Current Ratio of Assets to Liabilities is which is less than the value of 2.0 described in EPA's guidance document as an indication that the entity should be able to cover its short-term obligations. Also, using year 2004 data, the Beaver's Ratio is

The information provided by Premier Chemical also includes an estimate of the Profit Rate with Pollution Control Costs and the Debt to Equity Ratio based on year 2004 information.

Included in the Confidential Business Information submitted by Premier is a Financial Statement for year 2005 (as well as information for years 2001 – 2004). Please review this information to determine if the more recent data would result in a different assessment for purposes of EPA's determination in regard to the proposed variance.

Also, Premier has submitted information relating to the impact of the closure of their facility. (See letter dated April 25, 2005 from Gulf County Economic Development Council, Inc. to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.) Please review this information, and any other relevant available information in relation to the "widespread" component of the 40 CFR § 131.10(g) regulation.

If you have questions, please contact Fritz Wagener at extension 29267.

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are CBI.