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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC  
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Mr. Michael Wood  
Environmental Team Leader  
Weyerhaeuser NR Company  
810 Whittington Avenue  
Hot Springs, AR 71901

**REFERENCE:** Close-out of Project XL for the Pilot Pretreatment Program of Weyerhaeuser Company

Dear Mr. Wood:

I am writing with regard to the final close-out of the environmental innovation project conducted by Weyerhaeuser Company through EPA's innovation piloting program, *Project XL* (<http://www.epa.gov/projectxl/file2.htm>). Thank you for forwarding the 2011 Final Project Report which we have posted to the EPA Project XL website.

Project XL ("eXcellence in Leadership") was an EPA national innovation piloting program that allowed state and local governments, businesses and federal facilities to develop innovative strategies in collaboration with EPA to test better and more cost-effective ways of achieving environmental and public health protection. In exchange, EPA issued regulatory, program, policy, or procedural flexibility to conduct the experiment. EPA stopped accepting new project proposals under Project XL in 2002 but remained committed to completion of the 52 projects initiated under the program and the Agency is now in the process of completing documentation to close the records for individual projects.

On January 17, 1997, Weyerhaeuser Company, the State of Georgia represented by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division (EPD) and Pollution Prevention Assistance Division (P<sup>2</sup>AD), and EPA were joint signatories to a Final Project Agreement (FPA) for a pilot innovation project. The expected benefits of the project were to create a long-term environmental minimum-impact manufacturing plan, reducing the overall usage of both water and energy, minimizing the impact of both discharge and solid waste, and improving best management practices regarding company forestlands and nearby aquatic ecosystems. Under the terms of the FPA, EPA provided a site-specific variance to the facilities' CAA Title V Permit to enable the pilot project. In the FPA, and the site-specific rule, we anticipated that a successful project outcome might dictate that the rule and subsequent permit could be left intact at the completion of the XL project to allow for continued superior environmental performance under the conditions and procedures established in a successful pilot project.

The outcomes of these projects were described in your 2011 final report submitted by Weyerhaeuser Company. This report appears on EPA's website (<http://www.epa.gov/projectxl/weyer/final-annual-report.pdf>). Based on the final report, the project appears to have been an overall success, and the report indicates a successful approach to minimizing the impact of manufacturing and a large decrease in resource inputs.

Through this letter, we are completing the official documentation for the pilot project conducted by the Weyerhaeuser Company at the Flint River facility under Project XL. We would like to thank representatives of the company, the state, and others who have worked hard on developing and implementing the project. Much has been learned from these projects through those efforts.

If we can provide you with any additional information or answer any questions related to this project, please feel free to contact Gerald Filbin at EPA Headquarters Office of Policy (202) 566-2182.

Sincerely yours,



Nancy Ketcham-Colwill, Acting Director

cc: Latoya Miller, EPA Region 4  
Jack Cap, Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD)  
Jay Sum, Weyerhaeuser Flint River  
Gerald Filbin, EPA OP OSEM  
Nicholas Ryu, EPA OP OSEM