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Formosa gets state permits to operate new project

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POINT COMFORT — Formosa Plastics Corp. has been issued seven state permits needed to operate its billion-plus dollar expansion project near Point Comfort.

The Texas Air Control Board issued the permits, which will allow the petrochemical company to add a polyethylene-manufacturing plant, two electricity co-generation units, storage tanks and other equipment to the massive project.

Formosa is still awaiting word on two other permits that will allow the company to discharge 10 million gallons of wastewater into Lavaca Bay each day.

Those permits must be issued by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Texas Water Commission.

The air control board's permits were issued this week after the Sierra Club and other opponents to the project withdrew a request for a public hearing, said board spokesman Steve Davis.

Davis said he believed that Formosa and the project's opponents made an agreement which led to the dropping of the request for a public hearing, but he did not know the details of the agreement.

Sierra Club attorney Stuart Henry said Friday that the agreement included a provision that both sides issue a joint news release to announce the terms of the agreement.

No date has been set for the news release, he said.

"We're not ready yet."

Formosa spokesman Jack Wu said that the company "is very pleased with the mutual cooperation between the parties."

The content of that agreement fits with the company's policy to protect the environment and the plant's employees and neighbors, Wu added.

6A—THE VICTORIA ADVOCATE, Sunday, January 31, 1993

Formosa appoints 12 to community panel

Twelve area residents have been appointed to the newly formed Formosa Community Environmental and Safety Committee.

The committee will assist in relaying the concerns of the community to the Formosa Technical Review Commission, a group made up of James Blackburn, an environmental attorney; Davis Ford, a professor of environmental engineering and Ken Mounger, vice president of Formosa Plastics Group Environmental and Safety Center.

Committee members include: Gary Cunningham of Port Lavaca, Elaine Giessel of Inez,

LouAnn Morris of Point Comfort, A.A. Rambikur of Point Comfort, Randy Smith of Port Lavaca, Jay Su of Port Lavaca, Theresa Tanner of Point Comfort, Marian Traylor of Jackson County, Yvonne Wagner of Point Comfort, Diane Wilson of Seadrift, Steve Wilson of Port Lavaca and Joe Wyatt Jr. of Victoria.

Wilson will be the chairman of the committee, and she and Smith also have been appointed to address any environmental concerns residents may have.

Residents can call Wilson at 785-2364 or Smith at 987-7410 if they have any questions. Calls can be made anonymously.