

Enviva holds meetings with George County leaders

By Royce Armstrong, George County Times

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Community leaders were invited to question Enviva officials firsthand about the wood pellet plant Enviva will soon begin construction in George County.

The County supervisors hosted a series of three meetings on Wednesday, February 13, in the county board room so Enviva representatives and community and business leaders could meet one another, exchange information and get questions answered, according to Communications Director Ken Flanagan. County elected officials were invited to one meeting; Chamber of Commerce members and business leaders invited to a second; and civic organization and community group leaders invited to the third.

In all, about 100 people attended the three meetings, Flanagan said.

In each of the meetings the Enviva representatives, Bill Little, vice president of construction; Nina Mrose, vice president of communication; and Jason Eberstein, Enviva Government Affairs, gave an overview of the wood pellet manufacturing process and how George County pellets will fit into the world market.

They also discussed the construction process, which is slated for ground breaking later this spring when all of the necessary permits have been issued. Construction will take about 14 months, the community and business leaders were told. An additional three months will be needed for training employees and making sure all equipment and processes are working properly.

Enviva will employ about 90 people directly at the plant. An additional 150 to 200 people will have jobs directly related to the plant, although they will not be Enviva employees. These include the loggers, truck drivers and others involved in supplying wood to the plant.

Enviva also announced it will be holding meetings in the near future for contractors and subcontractors to outline what will be needed and how to qualify for bidding.

The remaining permits pending, including the air quality permit, are routine and have already been pre-approved, Flanagan said.