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Woodworking Industry News

Mississippi town takes on wood pellet production company

By [Larry Adams](#)

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Residents from Gloster, in southwest Mississippi, had been preparing to present a list of demands to managers at the Drax Group, which operates a wood pellet production plant that the residents say is hurting area air quality.

The meeting, according to news reports, scheduled for July was canceled as was the previous meeting scheduled for June 2022.

According to [NBC News](#), the residents planned to present the company with a list of demands meant to address their concerns about the plant’s industrial pollution. Priority items on the list included installing air quality monitors within a quarter-mile of the facility and requiring the plant to cease operations during nighttime hours, per Gloster’s noise ordinances.

“We weren’t really expecting them to answer any of our questions anyways,” said Krystal Martin, a Gloster native and a community leader who spoke with NBC. “We just want to see action from Drax.”

In an email statement to NBC News, Alex Schott, head of Drax North America communications, said the meeting was canceled due to “an unexpected scheduling clash.”

According to NBC, since the facility’s opening in 2016, residents have complained of deteriorating air quality and health, and the state’s environmental regulator has twice issued notices to Drax regarding violations of air pollution regulations.

In 2020, the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality fined Drax \$2.5 million for violating its permit’s annual limits on the release of volatile organic compounds. Drax said the company has taken the appropriate steps to come into compliance with volatile organic compound limits.

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