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**CONCERNED CITIZENS OF COOK COUNTY REACH SETTLEMENT  
WITH SPECTRUM ENERGY OVER WOOD PELLET PLANT IN  
GEORGIA**

WASHINGTON, January 7, 2023 – On Thursday, January 5th, the Concerned Citizens of Cook County, represented by the Southern Environmental Law Center, and Spectrum Energy Georgia LLC reached a [settlement agreement](#) regarding the operation of a prospective wood pellet plant in Adel, Georgia.

The agreement includes stronger public health provisions for the citizens of Adel, such as increased air quality control and monitoring, and guarantees significant penalties for Spectrum’s failure to comply with the provisions, including barring the energy corporation from growing its operations. The settlement mandates greater transparency from Spectrum to the Concerned Citizens of Cook County, including the sharing pollution data from Spectrum to Concerned Citizens of Cook County, and requires opportunities for input from Concerned Citizens of Cook County and the public.

The Concerned Citizens of Cook County have been calling on Georgia’s Environmental Protection Division to enforce stronger regulations on biomass industry operations in Adel, whose predominantly Black and Latinx side of the city has already [cited grievances](#) regarding air quality issues from existing wood pellet operations in the city.

Founder and chair of Concerned Citizens of Cook County, Dr. Treva Gear remarked in a joint statement with Spectrum, “Nothing about this agreement lessens our concerns about the legacy pollution and patterns of industrial development that have harmed Black and Hispanic communities in Adel, and we will continue fighting for change.”

RCC President and CEO Robert Musil congratulated the Concerned Citizens of Cook County: “the dedicated advocates of environmental justice in Adel have fought their way to a seat at the table with Big Biomass [Spectrum], a feat most opponents of the industry have yet to achieve. While Cook County residents now have a voice against the incessant pollution of their air and soil by wood pellet operations, the work continues in Georgia and the rest of the southeastern U.S. in ending the false climate solution that is the wood pellet industry.”



In addition to charges of [air pollution](#) and major environmental disruption, biomass energy emits approximately [more CO2 per megawatt hour than modern coal plants](#), rendering it a significant contributor to global climate change.

The RCC has been a [vocal opponent](#) to the biomass and wood pellet industries, lobbying against the industry in North Carolina and publishing [two acclaimed reports](#) on the industry's climatic and environmental and economic follies. You can sign up for a free PDF of our report, *Clear Cut: Wood Pellet Production, the Destruction of Forests, and the Case for Environmental Justice* [here](#).

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The Rachel Carson Council is the national environmental organization envisioned by Rachel Carson and founded in 1965. The RCC educates, organizes, and advocates for climate justice, environmental health, and the promotion of Carson's environmental ethic of empathy for all living creatures.