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**APPLETON**

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

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DEC 17 2009

December 14, 2009

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

The Honorable John Hanger, EQB Chairperson and Sec. of Env. Prot.  
Environmental Quality Board  
P.O. Box 8477  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477

Dear Honorable Hanger:

Appleton Papers Inc. would like to provide comment regarding the proposed rule that would increase air emission fees at all Title V facilities in Pennsylvania.

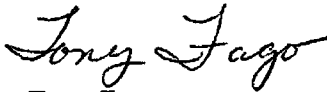
Appleton Papers has been 100% employee owned since 2001. The Roaring Spring Mill, located in Roaring Spring, Pennsylvania, is part of Appleton's Technical Papers Division. The Technical Papers Division has locations in Wisconsin, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. The Roaring Spring Mill has been an integral part of the community since it opened during the 1860s. With an employment of 466, Appleton is also a major employer in Blair County and a considerable, positive economic impact on the region.

Our business, like many in the United States, has been forced to lay off employees as we struggle to battle some of the worst economic conditions we have ever faced. Fierce competition has caused prices and profit margins to drop significantly. Recouping increased manufacturing costs through price increases is not a viable option for most companies. The proposed rule significantly increases the annual emission fees and adds a significant amount of new annual air permit related activity fees for all permitted facilities. Our estimate is that the proposed rule change will impact Appleton's environmental costs by \$50,000 per year.

Appleton has enjoyed a good working relationship with the DEP and understands budgetary pressures being felt by State agencies. However, the proposed rule puts an onerous financial burden on manufacturing facilities. The paper industry has already been hit extremely hard during these economic times. The air permit fee increases will result in further hardship to our facility and to our industry and ultimately negatively impact our community as well.

If you need any additional information, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Tony Fago  
Mill Manager  
tfago@appletonideas.com  
(814) 224-6338

C: The Honorable Jerry Stern, State Representative  
The Honorable John Eichelberger, State Senator

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