V I R G I N I A:

At a joint meeting of the Washington County Board of Supervisors and the Washington County Planning Commission held Thursday, October 11, 1990, at 7:00 p.m., at the County Administration Building in Abingdon, Virginia, the following were present:

PRESENT:

James P. Litton, Chairman
Maurice H. Parris, Vice Chairman
Aubrey E. Brown
Charles O. Byrd
Thomas Whittaker
Cecil K. Simcox

Bruce E. Bentley, County Administrator
Sandra M. Hatfield, Secretary

ABSENT:

Kenneth G. Mathews, Supervisor
Barry Proctor, Acting County Attorney
Mark W. Seamon, Director of Accounting

The following were present from the Washington County Planning Commission:

William Canter, Chairman
W. D. Young, Jr., Vice Chairman
Phillip McCall
Ruddy Duty
Mickey Tyler
Michael Kleinot
William K. Harley

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1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mr. James P. Litton, Chairman of the Board.

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2. Invocation and Pledge

Mr. Cecil Simcox gave the Invocation and led in the Pledge to the flag.

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3. Joint Meeting of the Washington County Planning Commission

Mr. Litton turned the meeting over to Mr. Canter, Chairman, Washington County Planning Commission.

Mr. Canter called the meeting to order declaring a quorum was present.

Request for Special Use Permit

(1) Virtex Chemical Corporation: request for a Special Use Permit of Virtex Chemical Corporation to construct and operate a 10,000 square foot manufacturing plant for the production of Sodium Azide. The Proposed use will be located on approximately 5 acres of property on the Southwest side of State Route 869 adjacent to the Norfolk Western Railway, in a M-2(Industrial, General) zone, Wilson Magisterial District.

Mr. Canter invited comments both in support of and in opposition to the application filed by Virtex Chemical Corporation.

The following people addressed the Planning Commission in support of the the special use permit for Virtex Chemical Corporation:

From Virtex Chemical Corporation: Mr. Jack Barker; Dr. A. L. Baxley; From Hayes, Seay, Mattern & Mattern, Inc. of Roanoke, Virginia: Stephen P. Clinton; Dr. Brundege, Chemical Engineer; Michael Biscotte, Structural Materials Engineer. Also speaking was Michael Larimer, a citizen.

The following major points were presented in favor of Virtex:

Virtex Chemical Corporation: will produce sodium azide, a component used to inflate automobile air bags; will provide 40 full-time jobs and generate $30M in revenue.

Chemicals used in the manufacture of sodium azide: Butyl alcohol, caustic soda; sodium nitrate, hydrazine hydrate, and sulfuric acid.

Raw materials will be tested daily. Virtex received approval from Bristol Utilities Board to discharge waste into sewer; received approval of Permit from Air Pollution Control Board.

Olin Chemical and DuPont Chemical are involved in the project.

Sodium Azide has a good safety record. Chemical itself is non-explosive.

Mr. Jack Barker commented on the administrative operations of the chemical corporation, Dr. A. L. Baxley on the manufacturing process, Mr. Clinton on the design of the plant, Dr. Brundege on the chemicals to be used.

The following people spoke in opposition to the special use permit expressing concerns over toxicity; potential health dangers to the community; chemical hazards; safety; discharge of chemicals into the sewer system; plant design and manufacturing of chemicals; transporting chemicals to the plant; insufficient time given to studying the issue of allowing a chemical plant to locate in Washington County.

Jim Jones, Attorney for Bristol Compressors; Larry Rayment, Bristol Compressors; Linda Jenkins; Bill Bish; Joyce Jones; Laurie Schaefer; Mr. Adger; John Peltier

Mr. Jones read a prepared statement and requested that further study be made before a decision is made.

Other speakers who addressed the Planning Commission: Lewis Morgan, independent chemist; Tim Shean.

There being no further comments, Mr. Canter declared the public hearing closed.

During discussions, Mr. McCall expressed his viewpoint that a committee should be formed to study the matter.

On motion of Mr. Harley, second by Mr. McCall, it was resolved to deny the special use permit of Virtex Chemical Corporation to construct and operate a 10,000 square foot manufacturing plant for the production of Sodium Azide. The Proposed use will be located on approximately 5 acres of property on the Southwest side of State Route 869 adjacent to the Norfolk Western Railway, in a M-2(Industrial, General) zone, Wilson Magisterial District.

The vote on this motion as as follows: (7-0)

William Canter	Aye	W. D. Young, Jr.	Aye	Phillip McCall	Aye
Ruddy Duty	Aye	Mickey Tyler	Aye	Michael Kleinot	Aye
William K. Harley	Aye				

In making his motion, Mr. Harley expressed his viewpoint that he would feel more comfortable with allowing the chemical corporation to locate at the Olin Chemical facility which was located in Saltville, Virginia.

Mr. Canter turned the meeting over to Mr. Litton.

Mr. Litton invited comments both in support of and in opposition to the application filed by Virtex Chemical Corporation.

General discussion and comments were exchanged among the Supervisors and the audience. Dr. Baxley responded to questions from the Supervisors concerning the chemicals and the plant facility.

There being no further comments, Mr. Litton declared the public hearing closed.

On motion of Mr. Simcox, second by Mr. Brown, it was resolved to form a committee to investigate the project before a decision is made on the special use permit for Virtex.

The vote on this motion was as follows (6-0):

Mr. Litton	Aye	Mr. Brown	Aye	Mr. Byrd	Aye
Mr. Parris	Aye	Mr. Simcox	Aye	Mr. Whittaker	Aye

During discussion of the motion, Supervisors agreed to giving a 30 day notice to the citizens and people present before the Board of Supervisors takes action on the special use permit for Virtex.

The following individuals were appointed to serve on the committee:

William Bish, Jr.; Linda Jenkins; Larry Rayment; Lewis Morgan; Dr. A. L. Baxley; Jack Barker; Phillip McCall.

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4. Adjournment

On motion of Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Whittaker, it was resolved to adjourn the meeting.

The vote on this motion was as follows (6-0):

Mr. Litton	Aye	Mr. Brown	Aye	Mr. Byrd	Aye
Mr. Parris	Aye	Mr. Simcox	Aye	Mr. Whittaker	Aye

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James P. Litton, Chairman