

BLUE RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE LEAGUE

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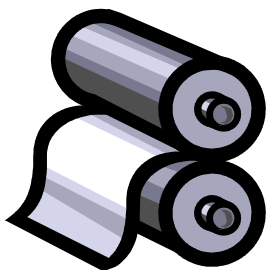
PAPER MILL FACTS

International Paper-Riegelwood Mill

Air Permit No. 03138T20
Riegelwood, North Carolina

Site Number: 2400036
Columbus County

International Paper-Riegelwood is a bleached kraft paper mill which manufactures paperboard from wood fiber. In a kraft mill, wood chips are cooked in digesters with added chemicals, or white liquor. Spent liquor and lignin are removed from the mixture, leaving a brown cellulose pulp. The pulp is then bleached to make paper.



The table at right shows air pollution limits approved by the NC Division of Air Quality for International Paper-Riegelwood. These toxic air pollutants and more may be emitted annually if the permit is approved.

Some of these compounds are toxic and cause short term illness. For example, formaldehyde causes irritation of the skin, eyes, nose, and throat. Carbon disulfide affects the nervous system and even low levels of may result in headaches, loss of energy, and sleep disturbances. Others compounds cause cancer. For example, acrylonitrile, also known as vinyl cyanide, is “reasonably anticipated” to cause cancer in people. (ATSDR, <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts125.html>) Methylene chloride, according to the EPA, is a “probable cancer-causing” toxin. (ATSDR, <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts14.html>)

Pollutant	Allowable annual emissions in pounds
Acetaldehyde	7,513,452
Acrylonitrile	436
Carbon disulfide	986,376
Carbon tetrachloride	23,125
Chlorine	100,338
Chloroform	38,051
Chromium VI	80
Cresol	91,104
Fluorides	75,701
Formaldehyde	72,708
Hexachlorocyclopentadiene	1,569
Mercury compounds	137,386
Methylene chloride	18,150,346
Pentachlorophenol	2,299
Phenol	7,884
Sulfuric acid	1,337,104
Total	28,537,963

IP = INTERNATIONAL POLLUTION

Paper mills emit large amounts of toxic formaldehyde, hydrogen sulfide, hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, mercury, dioxin and many other pollutants. Because they emit large amounts of hazardous air pollutants (HAP) to the air, most paper mills are regulated by Title III of the federal Clean Air Act. A study of paper mill workers found elevated levels of stomach cancer and leukemia which were related to their exposure to pollutants on the job. (Galson, S. K., *Hazard Evaluation and Technical Assistance Report: Boise Cascade*, published by National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, 1990.)

To reduce water pollution, paper mill operators burn waste products from the paper process in the power boilers. **International Paper-Riegelwood's** draft permit lists 5 power boilers, 3 recovery boilers, 4 smelt tanks, 2 lime slakers, 2 lime kilns, and many other sources of air pollutants. The plant is a major source of hazardous air pollutants and must comply with Title III maximum achievable control technology (MACT) standards for paper mills (40 CFR Part 63, Subparts S and MM).

International Paper also seeks a case-by-case MACT determination for two of the power boilers under the Industrial, Commercial, Institutional Boiler source category (Section 112j of the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments). Case-by-case MACT allows the operator of a major pollution source to satisfy air quality standards based on a risk assessment, that is, an estimate of the hazard to public health. Three of the power source boilers for the paper mill burn fuel oil (No. 4 or No. 6). The other two boilers burn a variety of fuels including coal, wood bark, paper making sludge, and oil residue; these are the two boilers for which IP seeks a case-by-case MACT. A risk assessment and computer air modeling analysis was performed by **International Paper** and were submitted to the NC Division of Air Quality. *Now is the time to speak out!*



Clean air for children's health!

**ATTEND THE PEOPLE'S HEARING ON INTERNATIONAL PAPER
FEBRUARY 12, 2004 IN LAKE WACCAMAW, NC**

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