



Administrative Process & Timeline

Permit Application Timeline

- 2002 International Paper (IP) submits permit application
- 2004 DEP releases Intent to Issue
- 2005 Permit challenged by third-party environmental group
- 2006 IP revises application to reflect mill changes
Administrative hearing ensues
- 2007 Permit denied with a stay of the order granted to allow the mill to operate through the revised application process
IP converts to mostly linerboard production
IP submits new application

Administrative Law Judge Findings

In his recommended order in 2007, the administrative law judge recognized that:

- The project will provide significant improvement to the Perdido Bay system.
- All water quality requirements applicable for Perdido Bay, Elevenmile Creek, and Perdido River will be met.
- The study conducted in support of this permit is perhaps the most complete ever of a coastal ecosystem.
- The project will result in the protection and restoration of wetlands.

Administrative Law Judge Basis for Denial of Permit

While the administrative law judge did believe that the project would provide for significant environmental improvement, he ruled that additional scientific information needed to be submitted to show the FDEP and the public that the project would not cause significant adverse impact to the existing wetlands.

To satisfy this requirement, IP gathered the required information and submitted it as part of a revised permit application. This application did not substantially change the design or engineering of the project and includes the information necessary to provide reasonable assurance that the effluent would not have a significant adverse impact to the wetlands.

Pensacola - Final Order Appeal and New NPDES Permit Timeline

