



Project Overview

The goal of International Paper's (IP) Water Quality Improvement Project is to secure an updated operating permit for the mill that meets all applicable water quality standards and, wherever possible, protect, enhance, and restore the Perdido Bay ecosystems.

To accomplish this goal, the Pensacola Mill will implement a comprehensive project that includes upgrades to its wastewater treatment system, construction of a pipeline to eliminate the discharge of treated effluent to Elevenmile Creek, and distribution of the effluent over a large tract of land, which will act as a "polishing agent" to render any effluent that reaches the bay virtually impact-free.

The land in question is located just north of Perdido Bay distributed over 2,600 acres owned by IP and is currently being used as a pine plantation. Since the late 19th century, this land has been used for various purposes including timber, agriculture, and naval stores.

To implement the changes, IP will spend \$70 million to upgrade its existing wastewater treatment facility, construct a ten-mile long pipeline from the mill to land tract to company-owned land adjacent to Perdido Bay, and remove the effluent from Elevenmile Creek. The diverted effluent will travel through the pipeline to be distributed in a controlled flow over a portion of the 2,600 acres set aside for protection and enhancement. Approximately five and one-half miles of earthen distribution berms will be constructed on the site, over which the highly-treated effluent will be spread at an average depth of one-half inch across nearly 1,400 acres.

As part of its commitment to protect the ecosystem, IP provided lands along the Perdido River corridor on both the Florida and Alabama sides that have been set aside to ensure their protection for generations to come.

Additionally, to reduce the mill's fresh water consumption, IP has partnered with the Emerald Coast Utilities Authority (ECUA) to use a portion of the reclaimed water generated from their new wastewater treatment facility in Cantonment, which will soon replace their Main Street facility.

