



Environmental Performance

The Pensacola Mill has a proven history of continuous improvement.

In the 1980s, the mill was among the first paper mills in North America to introduce oxygen as a primary pulping and bleaching chemical, and in the 1990s it was among the first to eliminate the use of chlorine in its bleaching process. In fact, the mill was used by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a reference for the development of its "Cluster Rules," which served to define best available technologies for environmental performance. At the same time, the mill became best in class for the color of its final effluent.



More recently, the mill installed a primary clarification system to improve air quality by significantly reducing the generation of methanol emissions and by reducing other malodorous compounds that can come from the treatment system. The technology also allows the mill to recover solid waste products for beneficial reuse and it provides additional capacity to more efficiently.



From the late 1990s to present, the mill has reduced the amount of nutrients associated with its effluent such that it can meet proposed state and federal guidelines established through years of scientific study to protect the area waterways, including Perdido Bay.

For the future, the Water Quality Improvement Project will take another significant step forward. By partnering with the Emerald Coast Utilities Authority (ECUA), the mill will use reclaimed water as a means of reducing its consumption of fresh water.



The project will be among the first for pulp and paper mills in North America to eliminate a direct surface water discharge. The mill's effluent will be used to protect, enhance, and in some cases restore 2,600 acres of wetlands, at the same time enabling the mill to meet all applicable water quality standards, thus safeguarding the Perdido Bay system for the foreseeable future.