

AT LINERBOARD MILL

GP Prepares for Wastewater Pipeline

Georgia-Pacific (GP) has completed survey work and begun ground clearing in preparation for constructing a 4-mile pipeline that will take wastewater from its kraft paper and linerboard mill in Palatka, Fla., to the St. Johns River, reports the *Financial News & Daily Record* of Jacksonville, Fla.

However, it's still uncertain if the Atlanta-based papermaker will receive the authorizations needed from Florida's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to discharge its wastewater into the St. Johns River.

To receive the authorizations, GP must demonstrate that its wastewater discharge cannot meet water quality standards for Rice Creek, where the wastewater is now released, says Jodi Conway, spokesperson for the Florida DEP.

Recently, GP hired engineering firm Brown and Caldwell to study wastewater treatment alternatives. The report failed to come up with technologies to enable the mill to meet water quality standards for Rice Creek, says Gary Frost, GP's president of manufacturing, in a letter to Florida's DEP. "The capital and operating costs associated with technologies evaluated would not allow the mill to remain viable as currently structured," Frost says.

An administrative order issued in August 2002 requires that GP meet Florida DEP's water quality standards. The pipeline must be operational by October 2012, says GP spokesperson Jeremy Alexander.

GP says it has invested about \$200 million on the mill's wastewater system since 1998, and that this cut phosphorus and nitrogen discharges by 73 percent and 54 percent, respectively, using 1997-1998 as a baseline.

Environmental watchdog group St. Johns Riverkeeper is campaigning to keep GP from discharging into the St. Johns River. It expects to shortly release a study it did on GP's report about its need for the pipeline. The Riverkeeper, which is also circulating a petition to stop the pipeline, would like to see talks renewed with all parties involved, once its study is released.

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Freedom Corrugated, Hazelton, Pa., is implementing a WPS Global system to save more than 20 percent on the supply side of its energy consumption.

Freedom Corrugated's decision to install the WPS Global solution in October was based on its success within other plants managed by Indianapolis-based Schwarz Group.

Terry Raffety, general manager for Freedom Corrugated, expects the cut in energy costs will result in a 20 percent reduction in electrical usage. "Just as it has done with many other corrugators, we anticipate our facility's efficiency will be greatly improved by the system WPS Global has custom-designed for us, and we'll enjoy significantly reduced power consumption in the short and long term," he states.

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