

Executive Officer's Summary Report
9:00 a.m., July 15, 2010
Regional Water Board
5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA

Item: 4

Subject: Proposed Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2010-0033 and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit for Freshwater Tissue Company, Samoa Pulp Mill

The Samoa Pulp Mill (hereafter "Facility") is located on a 150-acre site on the Samoa Peninsula in Humboldt County. The Facility began production of kraft pulp in 1965 and, until 2001, was owned and operated by Georgia-Pacific Corporation or Louisiana-Pacific Corporation. Since 2001, the Facility has been owned by a succession of owners: Samoa Pacific Cellulose, Stockton Pacific Enterprises, Evergreen Pulp, Inc., and, finally, Freshwater Pulp Company LLC beginning in February 2009 (now Freshwater Tissue Company (FTC)). The Facility has the capacity to produce an average of 700 air dried tons per day of bleached and unbleached kraft pulp and discharge up to 20.0 million gallons of wastewater created during the pulp production process and energy and chemical recovery processes to the Pacific Ocean.

On January 27, 2010, FTC submitted a NPDES application and report of waste discharge (ROWD) requesting authorization to discharge wastewater from pre-production maintenance activities and process wastewater upon commencement of full operations for a bleached and unbleached pulp mill in the 4th quarter of 2010. Regional Water Board staff developed requirements for a draft NPDES permit for discharge of process wastewater and circulated the tentative order for public review on March 30, 2010. A public hearing to consider adoption of the draft NPDES permit and draft Cease and Desist Order was scheduled for June 10, 2010. As a result of comments received from the FTC, the State Water Board and the USEPA, staff made changes to the draft Order and recirculated the Order for another 30-day comment period that began on May 28, 2010 and ended on June 28, 2010.

The revised draft NPDES permit includes:

- Technology-based effluent limitations for BOD and TSS applicable during the production of bleached kraft pulp and separate numerically lower limitations for BOD and TSS that apply during the production of unbleached pulp

- Water quality-based effluent limitations for TCDD Equivalents (dioxin), aldrin, HCH, and DDT for all process wastewater discharges created during the production of pulp and from energy and chemical recovery processes
- Technology-based effluent limitations for the discharge of solids from the water treatment plant to the ocean based on Table A effluent standards in the Ocean Plan
- Water-quality based effluent limitations for metals, pesticides, and TCDD Equivalents (dioxin) for the discharge of solids from the water treatment plant
- Monitoring requirements to demonstrate compliance with effluent limitations
- Extensive receiving water monitoring requirements to demonstrate compliance with narrative water quality objectives in the Ocean Plan

Regional Water Board staff received numerous public comments on this Item. A detailed staff report for this Item is currently being prepared and will be provided to the Board prior to July 9, 2010.