

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Memorandum

TO: Jim Byer

JB

FROM: Melissa Woehle

MW

DATE: 12-11-07

SUBJECT: International Paper (IP) Sulfuric Acid Spill of 12-7-07

On 12-8-07, the Cantonment IP reported a sulfuric acid spill to the SWP (Incident # SWP071208-8161). John Taylor called and spoke with me on 12-10-07 to notify of actions taken by IP to address the spill.

The release was caused by a pulp loader bumping into a line used for bleeding the system that carries weak acid to the bleach plant for washing pulp. Most of the acid went into the process sewer at the release location. The sewer was plugged and overflowed. The overflow ran along a paved area with the majority of the overflow going into the process sewer at another point south of the release. Some of the overflow went onto the ground between the paved area and the rail road tracks.

Mr. Taylor said that approximately 7,800 gallons of 20% sulfuric acid was released on 12-7-07 beginning at 2:30 P.M. (estimated 6 hours of discharge). The release was detected 12-8-07 at 10:30 A.M. and addressed immediately by applying lime and washing down with water. The pH of the acid when release was less than 2. The spill was within IP's "zone of discharge" as defined in the IW permit. The pH of puddles along the paved area was checked using broad range pH paper after lime and water were applied and found to range from 6 to 11. The minimum pH going into the WWTP was 4.6 and occurred at 1:55 A.M. 12-8-07. The minimum pH going into the ponds after clarification was 5.5.

Three dump truck loads (14 cubic yards each) of affected soil were excavated and staged in on-site decant basins. The soil will be placed in the on-site clay line landfill. I spoke with both Bill Evans and Marshall Seymore who said that there should be no problem with putting the soil in the decant basin and landfill as long as it was not hazardous waste. One composite sample will be taken from each load and analyzed for pH. Confirmatory samples will be taken every 20 yards along the paved area to ensure that all of the affected soil has been removed and a report will be issued to the Department.