

## **Reasons the IP permit for wetlands should not be issued.**

1. The second permit is a permit for the same plan which was denied by an administrative law judge previously.
2. The effluent is too dirty to apply to a wetland without severely harming the wetland. Florida standards for applying wastewater to wetlands require an effluent to have minimum standards. BOD should be no more than 5 mg/l; Total Suspended Solids (TSS) should be no more than 5 mg/l and total nitrogen should be no more than 3 mg/l. The proposed permit for IP (daily average) allows a BOD of 25 mg/l; a TSS of 58 mg/l; and there is no limit on Total Nitrogen.
3. The amount of land is too small. According to DEP's wetland specialist, general treatment of wastewater effluents require 110 acres for every 1 million gallons per day (MGD) of effluent released. IP plans to release 23.5 million gallons per day on the average. Hence the wetland should be 2585 acres instead of 1400 acres. For maximum flow of 40 MGD 4,400 acres would be required
4. For treatment wetlands, the DEP requires the effluent stay on the the wetlands for at least 14 days. IP's effluent will only remain an average of 3 days. If berms are lowered, as is being recently considered, the effluent would leave the wetlands before 3 days.
5. The entire 1,400 acres of IP wetlands will be inundated with at least 0.6" of water which would change the natural hydroperiod of the wetland.
6. Pilot wetland studies done by IP during the 1990's showed that only 2.5% of the trees planted survived for 5 years. The pilot wetlands turned into cattail ponds.
7. Dr. Livingston (IP's biological consultant) testified that organic carbon from the mill caused low levels of dissolved oxygen in Eleven mile Creek. These low dissolved oxygen levels reduced the fish populations. Similar

reductions in fish are expected in the wetlands.

8. There has been no evidence presented by IP that diverting 70% of their effluent through the tidal lakes of Tee and Wicker will not do great harm to these lakes.

9. There has been no oversight by DEP to prevent the degradation of Perdido Bay. IP has been allowed to operate on a permit which expired in 1994. No fines have been levied against the mill since 1999 for violations in the creek.