



STATEMENT FROM NEW-INDY CATAWBA

CATAWBA, S.C. – New-Indy Catawba today released a statement regarding the allegations made against the mill:

“New-Indy categorically denies the baseless accusations made by trial lawyers claiming the mill is discharging pollutants (dissolved solids, sulfate and organic and inorganic compounds) to the groundwater that flows to the Catawba River. Their lawsuit seeks to turn a profit at the expense of the public good by spreading false, scientifically far-fetched allegations. Since the acquisition of the former Bowater paper mill by New-Indy on December 31, 2018, no dioxin has been produced by the papermaking process and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control has determined and stated that there is no evidence of contamination leaving the property in groundwater.”

Supplementary Information:

- Dioxins have extremely low water solubility, making the claims of S.S. Popadopoulos & Associates, Inc. unfounded based on the science.
- When New-Indy acquired the mill over four years ago, it assessed the property, considered pertinent health and safety issues, and voluntarily agreed with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) to locate, characterize, and properly contain dioxins produced at the mill by previous ownership.
- Since then, New-Indy Catawba has spent considerable time and effort to ensure that no dioxins migrate from the property, including through groundwater to the Catawba River, and will continue to work with technical staff at DHEC to determine how best to contain those materials to further reduce any risk those substances could pose to the community.
- New-Indy Catawba maintains 15 groundwater monitoring wells throughout the mill property so that it can carefully monitor levels of contaminants, such as dioxins, in the groundwater.
 - A [report](#) prepared for New-Indy in June of 2022 by S&ME., Inc., a South Carolina-based environmental engineering firm found none of the monitoring wells detected a dangerous level of dioxin.
 - The mill regularly reports the results from those monitoring wells to DHEC.
 - DHEC conducted a [water quality sampling study](#) and concluded “... the New-Indy discharge does not show any indication that the discharge has had any impact to the water quality in the Catawba River watershed.”
 - DHEC has stated [publicly](#) that “There is no evidence of contamination leaving the [Bowater] property in groundwater.”