



Expert Report Identifies Sources of Area Odor Complaints

New-Indy Catawba Odor & Complaint Analysis shows significant sources of odor in the region; 79 percent unrelated to New-Indy paper mill

From February through August 2021, New-Indy Catawba experienced difficulties with its wastewater treatment system that contributed to excessive amounts of hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) in the community surrounding the mill. New-Indy undertook many significant actions to correct the situation and improve the facility. Since Sept. 1, 2021, New-Indy's contribution to H₂S emissions has decreased significantly, yet odor reports continued to occur. New-Indy suspected that its facility might not be the only, significant source of odor in the area. So, the mill commissioned a study. New-Indy Catawba has been working with Trinity Consultants since 2021 on an exhaustive report that analyzes odor complaints (using the same methodology employed by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control) and H₂S monitor readings in the Catawba region. [Trinity Consultants](#) is an environmental consulting firm with 30 offices around the world that specializes in air quality analysis.

The report, which summarizes more than 5,600 air flow paths, concludes:

- Monitor readings indicate that between Sept. 1, 2021, and Dec. 31, 2022, 79 percent of the time New-Indy Catawba was not the source of odor.
- New-Indy's contribution to H₂S emissions in the community decreased substantially after Aug. 31, 2021.
- More than 30 sites in the Catawba region other than New-Indy Catawba are potential sources of odor, including community and industrial wastewater treatment facilities, sanitary wastewater pumping stations, industrial operations, landfills, and farms.
- There are significant sources of odor north of the New-Indy Catawba facility in the vicinity of:
 - The 12 Mile Water Reclamation facility
 - The Indian Land Wastewater Treatment facility¹
 - The Shandon Wastewater Treatment facility
- Humans' detection of odor is highly subjective and not quantifiable.

Analysis: Trinity analyzed reported odor or H₂S events to trace the air movement to the locations of complaints and monitors. Three air flow paths (10-meters, 100-meters, and 300-meters above ground level) were modeled. These results were categorized in these ways:

Full Path: All three elevations passed within ½ mile of New Indy on the way to the detected location.
Partial Path: Two of the three elevations within ½ mile of New Indy on the way to the detected location.
Minimal Path: One of the three elevations within ½ mile of New Indy on the way to the detected location.
No Path: None of the elevations within ½ mile of New Indy on the way to the detected location.

Trinity's review indicates that only 22 percent of the complaint-based models and only 8 percent of the monitor-based models were Full Path. The Trinity study also demonstrates that 47 percent of the odor complaints studied are not attributable to New-Indy Catawba and that 79 percent of the monitor readings are not attributable to the mill. Full breakdown of the analysis:

	Full Path	Partial Path	Minimal Path	No Path
Odor Complaints	22%	11%	20%	47%
Monitor Location	8%	5%	7%	79%

¹The facility has an odor abatement plan on its [website](#). The plan includes a document for public reporting of odors emanating from the plant, with options such as "Rotten Eggs, Skunk, Cabbage, Chemical Bleach (and) Fecal Matter".