



New-Indy Catawba Addresses Misleading Claims in EIP Report

The following letters, addressed to the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (DES) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), respond to the Environmental Integrity Project's (EIP) May 29, 2025, report, [*A Paper Trail of Pollution*](#), which made misleading claims about New-Indy Catawba's 2023 environmental performance. The letters clarify the mill's mercury and zinc emissions, noting that outdated methodologies inflated reported figures. The letters also explain the now-resolved odor and contamination issues inherited from the mill's 2018 acquisition, highlighting that the mill has made over \$85 million in upgrades, including a new steam stripper, wastewater lagoon improvements and air quality monitoring to ensure compliance with all regulations. New-Indy reaffirms its commitment to transparency, collaboration with DES and EPA, and responsible environmental stewardship. We are sharing these letters with you so that you have accurate information and context and demonstrate New-Indy's ongoing efforts to maintain high environmental standards.



New-Indy Catawba LLC
P.O. Box 7
5300 Cureton Ferry Road
Catawba, SC 29704

6/13/2025

[REDACTED]
Bureau of Air Quality -Emission Inventory Section
SCDES
2600 Bull St
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear [REDACTED]

On May 29, 2025, the Environmental Integrity Project (“EIP”) published a report, [*A Paper Trail of Pollution*](#) (the “Report”), in which EIP made certain misleading allegations about New-Indy Catawba LLC (“New-Indy”). This Report lacks critical context and misrepresents New-Indy’s environmental performance over the last few years. We feel it is prudent to set the record straight and to arm you with the facts on these issues so you can properly address any public outreach regarding this Report.

Mercury Emissions

The Report states that New-Indy released 41 pounds of mercury into the air in 2023, based on information logged by the mill in its 2023 Toxics Release Inventory (SARA 313) report. New-Indy overstated its air mercury emissions due to its reliance on an outdated 1993 National Council for Air and Stream Improvement (NCASI) publication, rather than the current 2010 EPA data (AP42). Had the 2010 EPA data¹ been applied by New-Indy to the mill’s 2023 air mercury emissions calculations, the output would have been less than 3 pounds, representing a 94 percent reduction compared to the figure reported by EIP.

The 2023 National Emissions Inventory, which will be published on the EPA website on March 31, 2026, will show New-Indy’s mercury emissions recharacterized against more recent EPA data. In future reporting years, New-Indy will calculate its fossil fuel emissions against updated standards to more accurately report its air emissions.

Zinc Emissions

New-Indy’s zinc air emissions data stated in the Report were calculated against an outdated 2001 mill stack test. The mill’s zinc air emissions originate primarily from its usage of tire derived fuel (TDF) and in 2001, at the time of the comparative stack test, the mill incinerated 8,845 tons of TDF. In 2023, the mill burned 4,682 tons of TDF. Also in 2023, New-Indy conducted its annual stack testing as scheduled and passed all quality assurance and quality control examinations. Finally, the mill continually operated within all permitted air emissions regulations throughout 2023.

¹ South Carolina Department of Environmental Services used EPA data and presumably reported mercury emissions from the New-Indy mill to US EPA in 2023 of 2.4 pounds.



Resolved Odor Claims

Much of EIP's account regarding New-Indy places undue emphasis on resolved issues related to hydrogen sulfide odors and groundwater contamination claims. As part of the 2018 acquisition, New-Indy inherited an aging paper mill with pre-existing environmental challenges due to lack of proper care and maintenance for decades. New-Indy has worked diligently to address these issues.

Since September 2021, New-Indy's fence-line hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) monitors have detected no elevated emissions. We have invested over \$85 million in facility upgrades and remediation efforts to significantly enhance environmental performance, including:

- Dredging solid waste from the wastewater lagoons,
- Installing a black liquor spill containment system, and
- Installing a new steam stripper and restoring and modifying the existing steam stripper to use in a backup capacity.

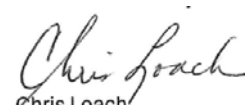
As you know, in May of 2024, New-Indy finalized a settlement to resolve certain class action complaints. The facility continues to uphold its commitment to air emissions guidelines and the community by conducting ongoing fence-line air quality monitoring. Further, we partner with a local environmental consultant to serve as a community liaison fielding and investigating odor complaints and identifying the source of such complaint.

New-Indy has also significantly enhanced the structural integrity of its wastewater lagoons and established rigorous groundwater monitoring protocols. The reports that New-Indy mill regularly submits to South Carolina Department of Environmental Services regarding such activity demonstrate that all detected substances remain within permissible limits and are effectively managed under New-Indy's oversight.

Conclusion

EIP's Report focuses on data calculated from outdated and unreliable standards and revisits resolved odor and groundwater claims to misrepresent New-Indy's environmental record. New-Indy has devoted significant resources and made substantial investments to overcome significant environmental challenges, modernize the facility and ensure compliance with regulatory standards.

New-Indy remains committed to transparent collaboration with DES and the community to ensure that the mill's operations meet all environmental standards and that we remain a responsible, well regarded corporate citizen. We appreciate your attention to this matter, and we welcome the opportunity for further discussion. If you have any questions, please contact me directly at 803-981-8440.


Chris Loach
New-Indy Catawba
Mill Manager



New-Indy Catawba LLC
P.O. Box 7
5300 Cureton Ferry Road
Catawba, SC 29704

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[REDACTED]
EPA Region 4
Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth St, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303

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