

Chuck Whitt

As a 41 year employee of the mill on the tidflats, currently owned by WestRock, I have seen substantial change take place. The "aroma of Tacoma" was a real thing when I started here in 1977, but over the last 41 years, through cooperation with the mill's owners, the city and the state, the mill has cleaned up its act. The city's newest generations probably would not recognize or understand that phrase today. It wasn't an accident, it was a deliberate effort to make the mill and the city better. The current project, the chip screen room replacement, promises to better utilize the wood chips that come into this mill, promising a gain in efficiency that will allow the mill to make more paper with less wood. There will be a small increase in pollutants as a result of that increased production, but there will also be less transient dust than currently exists. The overall impact to the environment, the community, the city and the mill's employees will be positive. This is nothing more than a continuance of the cooperative environment that this mill and this city have made over the mill's 90 years of existence, that has resulted in continuous improvement to one of the best places to live in the state of Washington.

I encourage the regulatory authorities to continue with this cooperation, to allow the permits and to help continue making Tacoma the best place to live and work.

Thank you,
Chuck Whitt