



What is the smell?

Sappi Ngodwana Mill

When the mill cooks wood chips to extract their fibres for the paper making process, our system collects most of the sulphide compounds. Unfortunately a small amount of sulphide compounds do escape, and this is the cause of the strong smell around the Mill. Sulphide compounds are detectable by the human nose at extremely low concentrations. We are so sensitive to the smell that if a drop the size of a pinhead was present in an Olympic size swimming pool, we would immediately be able to detect it. For this reason it will not be possible to totally eliminate the odour.

What does Sappi do to reduce the odour?

Over the past 3 years the mill has spent almost R40 million to improve air quality. Results show that a significant reduction in both the area affected and the concentration of detectable gas particles has been achieved by implementing new technology. Unfortunately it is still impossible to contain the odour to a specific area, and the problem can be made worse by climatic conditions such as low clouds, wind direction or inversion.

Does the odour pose a health hazard to people living and working nearby?

No, the emissions pose neither a health nor an environmental risk. In fact, the Mill's gas emissions are significantly below acceptable world health standards.

We measure these emissions at the point of highest concentration at the point sources, namely the process stacks as well as through the Mill's ambient air monitoring station.

Have independent experts been consulted?

Yes. In the measurement and modelling of the air emissions, the mill works with world renowned experts in their fields.

sappi

Inspired by life

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