

Abitibi Bowater honored by DHEC

By Don Worthington - dworthington@heraldonline.com

Abitibi Bowater's Catawba plant was honored Thursday by the state Department of Health and Environmental Control for its efforts to reduce the ozone-producing emissions at its plant – and by its employees.

The Catawba plant was awarded the "Spare the Air Award." Last year DHEC made only four such awards throughout the state.

Renee G. Shealy, assistant bureau chief for DHEC's air quality bureau, said the focus on employees was a primary reason the Catawba plant was honored.

"It's important to go beyond the plant's boundaries," she said. "They gave information to employees that they could take home and make a difference."

Ozone is formed when nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds are "cooked" by the sun. The resulting ground-level ozone is a health hazard causing respiratory problems such as coughing, throat irritations and shortness of breath. It can make asthma worse.

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pinwheelkid, 46 year old female, born and raised in Rock Hill. Mother of two wo...
Grits, they got the award for reducing their ozone emissions. As hard as this is to believe, the smell comes from the waste-water ponds. I worked there and was amazed at the lack of that smell in the plant and around the grounds. Then we took a tour around the waste-water ponds and I about got sick. I only live about 2-3 miles from the plant as the crow flies so I am well aware of that putrid odor in the air when you go outside. They are a very environmentally friendly facility though, despite their smelly water.

01/27/2011 07:29 PM Like Reply

Kingfish_Too

Ms. Shealy must have a sinus infection..

01/27/2011 02:24 PM Like Reply 4 Likes

grits29715

A serious, constant, permanent sinus infection, at that. Perhaps she has never been around Bowater and just gave the award based on paperwork submitted.

I know one thing for sure, if she DID visit the plant, they had advanced notice and cleaned the place beforehand. I'm about 15 miles as the crow flies from the plant, and there are days that I walk out the door and the stench takes my breath away.

01/27/2011 06:26 PM in reply to Kingfish_Too 1 Like Like Reply