

FRIDAY

FEBRUARY 9, 2001

Local & State

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TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

EPA finds pollution near pulp mill

DEMOCRAT STAFF REPORT

The Clean Water Network on Thursday said it received additional data from the Environmental Protection Agency showing dioxin contamination at the Buckeye Florida pulp mill in Perry.

Two samples on two different days in July 1999 using the EPA's standard analytical measurement method showed dioxin at 2.87 and 2.6 parts per quadrillion, the Clean Water Network said. Previous data showed 2.4 parts per quadrillion.

"We know this sounds like a small amount," said Linda Young, Southeast regional coordinator for the Clean Water Network, a coalition of environmental

groups, "but the the acceptable level is .014 ppq for state and federal water quality limits."

Buckeye officials dispute the EPA's findings, saying they eliminated dioxin from their waste during the mid-1990s. Buckeye spokeswoman Sondra Dowdell maintained Thursday that the test results are scientifically invalid. "It's a very experimental test," Dowdell said, "and it has not been through any of the EPA's own method for determining whether any data would be reliable."

Young said the latest data came from a sample of 1,000 liters of waste water from the Buckeye plant. The previous data, she said, came from a one-liter sample.