

PAPER MILL: Opposition to continue

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administration of President Bush is the reason the EPA has now set aside its previous concerns.

"The staff doesn't have the support of the administration to continue to hold up the permit," she said.

But state environmental protection officials say the mill's proposed upgrades would reduce the amount of nutrients, salt and oxygen in the water. They say those upgrades, along with the planned restoration of 6,700 acres of wetlands near the river's headlands, would protect the environmental health of the Gulf.

"Buckeye has given reasonable assurances that all appropriate water-quality standards will be met," said Vince Seibold, water-facilities program administrator for the department.

Young said her group will keep opposing the permit.

"We're going to continue to fight this permit and I hope to shut this mill down," she said.