

Background to the decision to reject call for the construction of a biopurification plant at Vallvik Mill

2001

- In an environmental decision the Swedish Environmental Court states that internal measures must be prioritised and implemented at Vallvik Mill before an evaluation and determination can be made regarding whether the possible need for any other purification treatment is needed.
- The Environmental Court also motivates its decision by citing the fact that the production of bleached sulphate pulp of the TCF type will be limited in the future.
- The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency lodges an appeal against the decision with the Superior Environmental Court.

2002

- Implementation of the internal environmental measures that Vallvik Mill has undertaken to carry out begins.
- This includes improving post-boiler washing processes, the introduction of a two-stage oxygen bleaching process and improved recovery of so-called brown waste from the fibre line.

2003

- In a brief decision statement, the Superior Environmental Court in May orders Vallvik Mill to have a biological purification process in place by 1 January 2006 because the mill produces TCF.
- The company appeals the matter with the Supreme Court, which decides not to take the case.
- The introduction of internal measures to reduce environmental impact continues. Most of the installations are completed and fine-tuning of equipment is started.
- The demand for TCF pulp continues to decline at the same time as there is a breakthrough in the development of special grades of unbleached pulp for manufacturing cable paper and other electrical applications.

2004

- The installations that are the result of the internal measures are fine-tuned.

2005

- Waste water is measured for chemical and biological content before and after the internal environmental measures are carried out. The results show that there is no notable environmental impact.
- Vallvik Mill decides to stop producing TCF at the end of 2005 for market-related reasons since the amount produced is too small to be profitable.
- Since the production of TCF is stopped, the order from the environmental court from 2003 to build a biological purification plant is no longer relevant.

2006

- The County Administrative Board calls for a review of the mill's emissions into water and of sulphur into the air and calls for a biopurification plant to clean process waste water to be put into operation no later than 30 October 2007.
- The Rottneros Group rejects the call for biopurification on the basis of the fact that the environment in Ljusnefjärden is in very good condition and would not be improved by a biopurification plant.

Upplands Väsby, 24 May 2006

