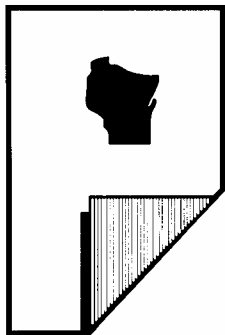


# WISCONSIN PAPER COUNCIL

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# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE JUNE 30, 2003

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## **Paper Industry Applauds DNR Initiative, Pledges Support**

NEENAH – The Wisconsin Paper Council announced its support for a new Department of Natural Resources Air Permit Improvement Initiative. The new initiative was announced by DNR Secretary Scott Hassett in a June 24 memo to the Natural Resources Board.

Paper Council president Pat Schillinger applauded the new initiative. “This initiative addresses two of the key regulatory concerns raised by the paper industry and others – new source review and permit streamlining. Secretary Hassett should be applauded for making these high priority issues for the DNR.”


The Paper Council’s recent report, *The State of Wisconsin’s Paper Industry: Recommendations for Action*, identified environmental regulation as a high priority issue. It specifically identified new source review and permit streamlining as issues that needed to be addressed.

“The Paper Council and the paper industry is committed to working cooperatively with DNR to make changes that will maintain Wisconsin’s commitment to environmental protection, while reducing the time and cost of compliance,” Schillinger said. “We are forming an industry Task Force to assist DNR in this effort,” he said.

The Wisconsin Paper Council is the trade association for the pulp, paper and allied industries in Wisconsin.

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**CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM****State of Wisconsin**

DATE: June 24, 2004  
TO: Natural Resources Board Members  
FROM:  Scott Hassett, Secretary  
SUBJECT: Air Permit Improvement Initiative

I would like to announce Wisconsin's Air Permit Improvement Initiative. This will be one of my top priorities during the 2003-05 biennium. My Executive Assistant, Elizabeth Kluesner, will lead this effort which will involve a two pronged approach, including streamlining the permitting process for operation and construction permits in the Air Program and retooling Wisconsin's new source review regulations in light of the federal changes in this area. The charge for each team is attached.

Mary Jo Kopecky, the Deputy Administrator of the Air & Waste Division, has volunteered to head up the Air Permit Streamlining Project. Lloyd Eagan, the Director of the Air Management Program, will lead "Retooling Wisconsin's New Source Review Regulations." We intend on presenting draft rules to the Board for hearing authorization in December 2003 and final rules for adoption by May 2004.

Business owners have told me they support our environmental protection goals but can't afford the transaction costs. On the other hand, the Air Program is facing difficult decisions on how much of its ever-decreasing resources should be invested in process streamlining work versus ongoing regulatory responsibilities. I believe there is a solution to the problems that businesses and the Air Management Program are facing. We will figure out how to improve our efficiency in environmental regulation and program implementation while meeting the environmental protection needs of our citizens.

We intend to work closely with Wisconsin businesses and environmental groups as we conduct this effort. I will personally invite key business and environmental group leaders to participate in this effort. I will keep you posted on our progress in this area.

cc: Jordy Jordahl – Governor's Office  
Elizabeth Kluesner – AD/5  
Jay Hochmuth – AD/5  
Mary Jo Kopecky – AD/5  
Lloyd Eagan – AM/7

