

A Review of NCASI's Interests And Activities In Water Information and Research

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Biographical Sketch of Author

Dr. McLaughlin is a Principal Research Scientist with NCASI, and currently has a key role in the design and implementation of the organization's water science investigative program. Prior to joining NCASI in 2002, he worked for five years as a consulting scientist responsible for the design, implementation, and communication of technical studies at contaminated sediment sites, and nine years as an environmental scientist with a pulp and paper manufacturer.

Abstract

In 1943, in recognition of the role of scientific information in addressing the pulp and paper industry's environmental concerns, the National Council for Air and Stream Improvement (NCASI) was created. NCASI is a non-profit membership funded organization whose mission is to address, through its research program, the environmental information needs of the forest products industry. NCASI's member companies collectively produce over 95% of the pulp and paper and a sizeable fraction of the wood products manufactured in the United States. The forest products industry depends on water resources and on water information. In the past several decades, industry impacts on water quality have been reduced as the tools and knowledge needed to manage water quality concerns have evolved. Yet, important information gaps remain as new environmental endpoints, objectives, and associated regulations are established, new methods to assess and manage water quality are developed, and economic demands on the industry continue to require efficient solutions to water quality problems. Today as in the past, the development and use of water-related science and information is the focus of a significant portion of NCASI's overall technical studies program. NCASI has several research activities designed to reduce information gaps on the condition of the industry's receiving waters, and the effects of its discharges on water resources. This presentation will provide an overview of NCASI and its water quality related research program, including summaries of its Long Term Receiving Water Studies initiative and some current uses of hydrologic and other water information.