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## **Catalyst Paper Still on Hook for Environmental Clean-ups Approved Sale in Bankruptcy Court Maintains Existing Permit Obligations**

PHOENIX (Dec. 19, 2012) – Sale of the Catalyst Paper Mill in Snowflake, Ariz., approved today by a federal bankruptcy judge in Delaware, ensures that any environmental damages discovered at the site will be cleaned up as required under State and federal law and the permits issued by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, the state's environmental quality director, Henry Darwin, said today.

"Today's court order ensures that Catalyst Paper will bear the cost to remediate any environmental contamination found at the mill site," Darwin said.

Catalyst Paper, a Canadian-based corporation, announced in July its decision to close the mill amid the company's bankruptcy proceedings, which left in doubt whether it would honor its clean-up commitments under both State and federal law and as specified in the mill's operating permits.

In early October 2012, ADEQ conducted an extensive multi-media inspection of the Catalyst facility to evaluate compliance with air, water, and solid and hazardous waste regulations. As a result of the inspection, ADEQ required no further action of Catalyst; however ADEQ felt it was important to work with the Arizona Attorney General's Office, Navajo County, the Arizona State Land Department, and the United States Department of Justice to get the environmental protection provisions in the sale agreement and court documents.

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