

2002 Governor's Pollution Prevention Award Winners

MANUFACTURING

Honorable Mention

Medium Industry Facility (101- 499 employees)

Georgia Feed Products (a subsidiary of American Proteins, Inc.)

American Proteins, Inc. is a major poultry rendering company. More than 80-million pounds of allied poultry products are transported each week from poultry processing plants throughout the Southeast to the American Proteins plants located in Cumming, Georgia, Hanceville, Alabama and Cuthbert, Georgia.

The Cuthbert Division processes the raw materials into nutrient-rich feed supplements for the poultry, livestock and pet food industries all around the world and employs 100. Its pollution prevention project was a modification of its condensing system, to allow discharged wastewater to be used as cooling water to condense vapor from the cooking process.

Wastewater is discharged into a holding lagoon. The water is then pumped to shell and tube condensers installed in the facility. The water then returns to the holding lagoon and is discharged back to the lagoon through a spray system. The spray system is utilized to cool the return water in order to allow the water to be reused in the system. Through the process of cooling the return water, large amounts of water are evaporated. By utilizing this recycle system, American Proteins avoids using groundwater and reduces the amount of wastewater it needs to discharge through its land application system.

American Proteins originally utilized air condensers which require large amounts of electricity and have very high maintenance costs. Results of this modification have shown a reduction of approximately 42,200,000 gallons per year of wastewater discharged through its land application system (which includes approximately 2,700,000 gallons of additional wastewater). This project also allowed American Proteins to avoid the need for approximately 139,750,000 gallons per year of groundwater.