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### **PPSA Announces Recipients of its Safety Honors**

*Clearwater Paper, WestRock snag Safety Innovator and Safety Committee/Team awards*

**ATLANTA** (July 28, 2020) – The Pulp and Paper Safety Association (PPSA) has announced the winners of its highest safety honors: the 2019-2020 Safety Innovator Award winner is **Clearwater Paper** in Lewiston, ID and the 2019-2020 Safety Committee/Team Award winner is **WestRock** in Demopolis, AL.

The **Safety Innovator Award** annually honors one facility demonstrating the most inventive safety improvement product or process. The Clearwater Paper team based at the company's Lewiston mill helped mitigate the dangers employees can be exposed to while dispensing chemicals for sampling by designing and implementing a Chemical Sampling Port. The new Port only allows access when a ball valve is turned to the off position. This new, mistake-proof design reduces the risk of exposure to hazardous chemicals with its prevention-through-design concept, taking risk reduction to the next level. Previously, employees were protected through a combination of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), procedural training and safety awareness. However, they could still be endangered by chemical build up, process pressures and the potential to become complacent during routine procedures.

The annual **Safety Committee/Team Award** honors a pulp and paper industry committee/team that has made a significant contribution to safety and health at their location, company or within the industry. This year's recipient, WestRock – Demopolis, designed a new process to reduce risk for everyone through a Valve Labeling System. The special color-coded valve labels are based on the respective product, such as water, hazardous material, etc., and are etched with product information and unit numbers that match documentation for safety checks. The color-coded labels on each valve enable employees to easily and quickly identify specific product types which increases awareness and knowledge of all valves, particularly if hazardous.

To review the finalists' presentations and learn more, please visit the [Awards page](#) on PPSA's website.

Normally voted on and awarded at PPSA's annual conference in June, this year's in-person competition was replaced with a virtual one due to the pandemic. There were five finalists for the Safety Innovator Award and three finalists for the Safety Committee/Team award. Each finalist submitted video presentations which drew over 260 individual reviews and ballots, and the presentation page had over 1,100 hits during the voting period.

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### **ABOUT PPSA**

In the early 1940s, a group of safety professionals gathered together to form what is now the leading industry association solely focused on safety. The Pulp and Paper Safety Association is a non-profit, non-political organization that remains devoted to safety throughout the forest products industry. Each year, during its annual safety and health conference in June, PPSA recognizes individuals, teams, corporations, facilities and organizations that have made significant contributions to the industry. The next submission will take place in advance of the 2021 Annual Conference, June 13 – 16, in St. Petersburg, FL.

## **ABOUT CLEARWATER PAPER**

Clearwater Paper manufactures quality consumer tissue, away-from-home tissue, parent roll tissue, bleached paperboard and pulp at manufacturing facilities across the nation. The company is a premier supplier of private label tissue to major retailers and wholesale distributors, including grocery, drug, mass merchants and discount stores. In addition, the company produces bleached paperboard used by quality-conscious printers and packaging converters, and offers services that include custom sheeting, slitting and cutting. Clearwater Paper's employees build shareholder value by developing strong relationships through quality and service. For additional information on Clearwater Paper, please visit our website at [www.clearwaterpaper.com](http://www.clearwaterpaper.com).

## **ABOUT WESTROCK**

WestRock (NYSE: WRK) partners with our customers to provide differentiated paper and packaging solutions that help them win in the marketplace. WestRock's team members support customers around the world from locations spanning North America, South America, Europe, Asia and Australia. Learn more at [www.westrock.com](http://www.westrock.com).