



November 22, 2005

File: PA-01902
Xreference: 85783

Rob Wiltzen
Crofton Airshed Citizens Group
145 Robinson Rd
Saltspring Island BC V8K 1R6
E-mail: rwiltzen@telus.net

and

Delores Broten
Reach for Unbleached
Box 39
Whaletown BC V0P 1Z0

Dear Mr. Wiltzen and Ms. Broten:

Thank you for your letter addressed to the Honourable Barry Penner, Minister of Environment, regarding permit PA-01902. Your request has been forwarded to me for response on the Minister's behalf. I apologize for the delay in responding.

Permit PA-01902, originally issued in 1976, authorizes the discharge of air emissions from the Crofton pulp mill. Since 1976, as the technology and understanding of environmental impacts evolved, the permit was amended a number of times, reflecting various operational changes and improvements in the emission quality.

For example, the last two permits amendments of 1991 and 1997 specified major reductions in the emissions of particulate matter and sulphurous compounds from the mill. The reductions were achieved by replacing two old recovery boiler lines with a new low odour boiler, converting the existing recovery boiler #3 to a low odour configuration, installing additional emission control works to reduce the discharge of particulate matter from wood-fired power boiler #4, installing lime kilns and dissolving tanks, improving the collection and treatment of sulphurous emissions from other sources and the permanent shut down of oil-fired power boiler #2.

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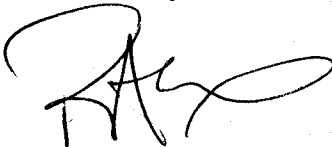
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Subsequent to the last two amendments, due to both economic and environmental reasons, the mill has implemented further operational changes which are highlighted in their letter of October 13, 2005 attached. These changes have an overall impact of reducing the total allowable emissions of particulate matter and other contaminants and will be formalized by a permit amendment as part of an ongoing process of reducing the total emissions from the mill. This amendment will reflect the current provincial and federal standards and/or legislation respecting air emissions from pulp mills and be more stringent than any of the previous permit versions.

To address other existing or future environmental concerns related to the Crofton Mill, please be advised that I value public input helping the ministry to identify potential issues of concern and develop strategies to deal with them. A draft permit amendment has been made available to the public for discussion through the Crofton mill's Community Advisory Forum. I encourage you to continue to take an active part in the work of the Public Advisory Forum so that public concerns are being addressed in future negotiations with the mill.

If you have any questions, please contact Bernard Bintner at 250 751-3126.

Yours truly,



R. Alexander
Regional Environmental Protection Manager
Vancouver Island Region

Attachment

pc: Michelle Vessey, Environmental Manager, Crofton Division, NorskeCanada