

Air Quality Council Meeting: June 16th, 2016

Notes from the meeting held on Thursday June 16th, 2016 at 2:00 pm in the
ACRD Board Room, 3008 Fifth Avenue, Port Alberni, BC

Present:	Chris Alemany (City of Port Alberni) Judy Carlson (Community at large) Larry Cross (Catalyst Paper) Dave Jarrett (Community at large) Earle Plain (MOE) Sarah Thomas (Chair) Cynthia Dick (Tseshah First Nation) Bernadette Wyton (Community at large) Lucus Banton (ACRD, Director Cherry Creek) Patty Edwards (MLA's Office) John McNabb (ACRD) Andrew McGifford (ACRD Environmental Services) Ashley Popovich (Catalyst Paper) Gary Swann (Community member) Jade Yedia (Island Health)
Regrets:	Tim Pley (Fire Department)

Introductions

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved.

The minutes from April 21 meeting of the Air Quality Council were accepted as distributed. Moved and seconded. Carried.

1. Woodstove Exchange Update

What is the current voucher count?	20 vouchers have been claimed 12 of those are complete and the money dispersed. 11 vouchers remaining.
What are next steps?	See how it goes over the summer and review where we are at in the fall. Infographic series to be launched in the fall.

2. Catalyst Sustainability Report

What is the Catalyst Sustainability Report?	An annual document put out by the mill that outlines key points, stories, highlights, and low-lights of the previous year. The report outlines social, environmental, and financial sustainability. It is available at: http://www.catalystpaper.com/investors/sustainability-reports
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	<p>Note: there is specific data in the back that compares parameters such as emissions by mill etc.</p> <p>June 7th <i>Corporate Knights</i> magazine highlighted Catalyst Paper under the category of 'clean capitalism'. Catalyst was one of 2 pulp and paper mills in Canada that made the list. Congratulations to Catalyst for their recognition in this publication. For more information the report can be found at: http://www.corporateknights.com/reports-landing-page/</p>
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3. Cantimber Update

What is the current status?

- Smoke that seems to be attributed to Cantimber has been, at times, affecting the residential area in south port.
- A number of complaints have been received from the public regarding the operations at the Cantimber facility.
- no public agency has publicly released information regarding the situation.

What is the role of the AQC?

The role of the AQC is to ask questions and help make information available to the public as well as directing people to the appropriate agencies.

It was decided that it would be wise for the Air Quality Council to make public some information regarding the AQC perspective of the project and put forward some recommendations to the City, ACRD, PAPA, and Cantimber.

A 'Concerns and Recommendations' document was drafted and presented at the meeting. A few adjustments were made. It was moved, seconded and carried that *The 'concerns and recommendations' document would be edited as discussed and would be formally released to the public and distributed to the City of Port Alberni, the ACRD, the Port Alberni Port Authority, and Cantimber.*

The final version of this document is included in the Appendix below.

Cantimber and the AQC

Cantimber approached the AQC regarding participation in the AQC. Cantimber was specifically invited to come and participate in the May Air Quality Forum which they did with thanks.

Members of the AQC felt that the time was not right for cantimber to be a member on the council but that it would be good to have PAPA and Cantimber come as a delegation in the near future. They will be invited for the first meeting in the fall.

4. Alberni Valley Air Quality Report – Presentation and Discussion

What is included in this Ministry of Environment Air Quality Report?	Air quality data from the last 5 years including Alberni elementary monitoring site data, the mobile monitor that was positioned at the Firehall during 2014, and nephelometer study that was completed in 2013.
What key questions are addressed in the report?	Is the current monitoring site representative? What is the spatial distribution of PM 2.5 in Port Alberni?
What are key findings from the report?	- Geography – mountains inhibit air circulation particularly in the winter. - Drainage flows are particularly important in Port Alberni. A lot of flow along Cherry Creek. 21% calm in the winter. An important parameter. - PM2.5 is a health issue. Combustion is the mainsource.
How can particular sources of air pollution be identified?	Hebdimodal plots. Show the temporal changes. For instance it is evident that emissions are highest on Sundays which suggests residential burning to be a major source.
What is the PM2.5 variation across town?	More impact at the elementary school than at the firehall >> indicates impact from out of town. Arrowview housing area – particular pollution impacts >> couple bad woodstoves? See more impacts from industrial sector during the summer upslope in Port Alberni. North port, Hupacasath, Tseshah, and Cherry Creek are hot spots for wood-smoke during the cold months.
What are important sources to work on reducing? What recommendations were put forward?	Woodstoves open burning Continue with airshed management table continuous improvement marine emissions and cantimber emissions need to be managed. Updating OBSCR (in process) continue work with forest sector continue to improve bylaws and education
Where can the full report be found?	http://www.bcairquality.ca/reports/pdfs/port-alberni-aq-report.pdf

DISCUSSION

What questions were discussed?	Where do we go from here? How do we use this information as leverage? Who else needs to be involved?
What is the status of ACRD bylaw development?	<p>On the work order. There is certainly an appetite on the board to move forward with this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Want more alternatives to burning such as compost program. - concern about duplication of service and that if ACRD does a bylaw, conservation officers would defer to ACRD staff rather than ticket.
Where should the Air Quality report go from here?	<p>Tool to bring to the community. Should do some media outreach on this. Perhaps turn it into a short video clip or flyer for easy absorption by the public.</p> <p>Island Health can help with health messaging and help with bylaw creation.</p>

Next Meeting – October 13th, 2016, 2pm, ACRD Board Room.

Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.



June 16, 2016
Port Alberni Air Quality Council

Cantimber – Inner City Smoke Pollution

Some problems related to smoke emissions from Cantimber are:

1. Cantimber is established within a high-density population.
2. Regular smoke events put citizens in proximate neighbourhoods at risk.
3. The smoke has a strong, acrid, creosote smell that may be particularly toxic.
4. Emissions may be creating an occupational hazard for Cantimber employees and others working on the waterfront.
5. Emissions have a negative aesthetic impact that further degrades the enjoyment of residents and tourists in the Harbour Quay area.
6. There is a lack of transparency around Cantimber operations. Knowledge of their operations is proprietary and their processes are patent-pending. If part of the technology they are employing is experimental or has not been fully developed, then the surrounding citizens have been put in a vulnerable position. Given the risks, it is not clear why the City and the Port Authority would agree to a product development phase of this nature within the heart of the city.
7. There is a lack of integration and oversight with regard to Port Authority industrial and economic development planning.

Some recommendations to address these problems are:

1. CONTINUOUS MONITORING

It is advisable to have continuous monitoring put in place, especially during the trial phase of Cantimber operations. It should be left in place until there are virtually no emissions, as predicted by Cantimber.

It may be necessary to have continuous monitoring at more than one site. Final decisions regarding monitor placement should be made by the MOE based on meteorological data.

2. STACK MONITORING

It is advisable to conduct some stack monitoring, at least at start-up phase, to assess the nature of Cantimber emissions.

3. GAS-FIRED BACKUP

Cantimber puts great emphasis on using only wood to fire their operations. To avoid regular or sporadic pollution events, it is advisable that the company install some natural gas-firing capacity, especially for start up and combustion upsets.

4. TRIAL PHASE DEADLINE

There should be a time limit set for trial operations. By that deadline, if emissions are not reduced to negligible, as promised, there should be a plan to move the operation out of the city.

5. THIRD PARTY REVIEW

It is advisable to have a 3rd part review of the technology and equipment being used by Cantimber.

6. SUSPEND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY

Operating to fill commercial orders should not take place until emissions are consistently low.

7. INTEGRATION/OVERSIGHT

Although the Ministry of Environment does not have direct jurisdiction over the Port Authority, pollution from their land is crossing into provincial and municipal territory. A higher level of environmental oversight is crucial for this project.

8. PROTOCOL

The AQC is frequently called in when there are problems but is often completely ignored when deals like that with Cantimber are made. It is advisable that the City, ACRD, and Port Authority consult the AQC before making decisions that may have an impact on air quality.

Public Interface and Role of the Air Quality Council

When air quality problems arise, part of the AQC's role in airshed protection is providing recommendations to minimize air pollution and maximize the best air quality possible. This document is one such example of that and outlines our concerns regarding the current Cantimber operations.

The AQC encourages complainants to register their concerns in writing to the Port Authority and the City and also to record their complaints by phoning the RAPP line (1-877-952-7277).