

ST. MARYS RIVER BPAC MEETING  
Lake Superior State University  
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan  
7:00 P.M., June 15, 1995

Minutes

In Attendance:

BPAC Members/Alternates

Don Marles	Chair,	Environmental
Arnett Maurer	Member,	Environmental
Martin McPherson	Member,	Environmental
Jarl Hiltunen	Member,	Environmental
Terry Morse	Member,	Public Servant
Kara Flannigan	Member,	Public Health
John Bain	Met. Vic Huggard	

reported that the official copy of the Certificate of Approval for GP which was signed on April 25th, differs little from the copy which has been on display through the Environmental Bill of Rights, at the library for public comment. Don Marles indicated there was one appeal to the certificate, to which the minister was still replying. Mr. Huggard said that GP intended to start testing their production system in August of 1995 with the goal of full production by October of 1995.

2. Action Item re: Provide information to the BPAC on the regulatory standard for using urea formaldehyde at the Georgia Pacific plant.  
Accomplished

S. Stoddart reported that the by products in the production of urea formaldehyde resin are water and carbon dioxide. The chemical constituents of the resin are "cooked" together and any resulting vapour is condensed back into the product. Any fumes are incinerated at 1200 degrees. Ms. Stoddart talked to Chris Lockwood who is with the production facility in Grayling, and he reported that the plant is a zero discharge facility. Mr. Lockwood reported that GP Flakeboard Inc. will operate a closed system with no resin entering the sewage treatment system. S. Stoddart continued by noting that the Ministry regulations for urea formaldehyde are set at 65 micrograms per cubic metre. Ms. Stoddart said that sewer use by-laws cover the effluent from GP which consists of "grey water," essentially wash water. V. Huggard said that in compliance with the certificate of approval, urea formaldehyde waste will be incinerated and stack tested to meet the Ministry regulation of 65mg./cubic m.

M. McPherson requested that 2 videos on ureaformaldehyde production, including the video on the overall Georgia Pacific production system, be brought to the next meeting. D. Marles said the videos would be shown if possible. J. Hiltunen asked that an executive summary of the Georgia Pacific certificate of approval be made available to BPAC members.

## Discussion of Stage 2

D. Marles reported that Sue Stoddart and Patrick Morash are writing the Stage 2 document and that some preliminary parts have been completed. He continued to report that 4 task teams have prepared draft reports that will be used in writing the stage two document. The draft will be reviewed by the BPAC.

S. Stoddart said she hoped to have a draft copy ready to show the BPAC in October of 1995 and the final copy ready by March of '96. S. Stoddart requested help from the BPAC in arriving at the delisting criteria. Ms. Stoddart asked that a BPAC member volunteer to sit on a committee set up to decide on delisting targets for fish and wildlife. The remaining criteria/targets will be drafted by S. Stoddart and presented for BPAC review. Several BPAC members said this was preferable to forming another committee.

D. Marles asked if any final conclusions had been reached regarding ongoing projects or studies. S. Stoddart replied that sediment mapping would go ahead this summer at several of the contaminated sediment sites. R. Eberhardt noted that 3 of the identified sites are in American water.

## Public Comment

Terry LeBoeuf informed the BPAC that he was glad to be able to attend the BPAC meeting and that he felt it was an excellent forum for public discussion of important environmental issues.

## SPAC REPORT

A. Owens, the present statewide PAC representative for the BPAC asked that a new SPAC representative be nominated and also informed the BPAC about the duties involved in this position which normally holds a 2 year term..

D. Marles requested nominations or volunteers for an SPAC representative from the BPAC. J. Hiltunen volunteered for this position.

## OPAC Report

J. Bain began by saying that the Ontario PAC was the Canadian equivalent of the SPAC in U.S.A. Mr. Bain continued by reporting the main points from the most recent (May 5-7, 1995) meeting in Cornwall, which would be presented at the 1995 IJC meeting. Mr. Bain informed the BPAC that there was some trepidation in the OPAC about the longevity of the RAP program, given the perception that the North Shore RAP's are almost dormant and the many delays in the approval of the stage 2 documents.

Ken Cullis interjected, saying that this perception was incorrect, especially considering the fact that Nipigon Bay is in an advanced stage relative to many other AOC's in Ontario and will be presenting its stage 2 document this September.

John Bain continued with his report saying that OPAC felt the RAPS should be more closely associated with municipal planners and also that the MOEE should be more aggressive itself on environmental concerns, since this was their job, rather than simply encouraging the PAC's to take a tough stand.

The chairperson initiated discussion on OPAC representation. Mr. McPherson asked to be considered as the alternate for OPAC representation with John Bain as the primary representative.

RESOLUTION 95-01 moved: L. Quinlan

That John Bain be approved as the OPAC representative for the St. Marys River BPAC.

Seconded: R. Aikens; carried.

M. McPherson asked that any relevant OPAC material be provided to the new representative, through the BPAC chair, in order to provide continuity.

#### Coordinator's Report

S. Stoddart reported that a National Pollution Release Inventory was now available from:

Environment Canada  
7th Floor,  
25 St. Clair Ave. E.  
Toronto, Ontario,  
M4T 1M2

S. Stoddart, reported that the MOEE RAP Steering Committee, which produces a quarterly report on RAP activities, will be providing the opportunity for a one page 'community perspective' from the BPAC in the upcoming RAP updates.

Ms. Stoddart also outlined a new funding opportunity which was available to BPAC members. She said there was funding available to study community health education and to do a community health assessment. Funding is available through Health Canada which could aid research into specific concerns.

Roger Eberhardt reported that the State of The Great Lakes report for 1994 had been recently released and that a notably concise description and "user's guide" for the Michigan DNR had also been released which would be of assistance to persons dealing with the DNR.

#### MOEE Report

V. Huggard began his report by informing BPAC members about progress on the sandblasting and painting of the International Bridge. Mr. Huggard said that no certificate of approval was necessary for this work as MOEE standards were being met.

V. Huggard reported that the MISA regulations for effluent limits for iron and steel manufacturing, hydro-electric production, as well as the MOEE regulations for air quality, were to be released June 23.

In regard to the Georgia Pacific flakeboard facility, Mr. Huggard reported there would be no waste water discharge. He added that contrary to popular belief 80 - 90 % of the workers were from Sault Ste. Marie.

Mr. Huggard reported that Algoma Steel would be testing today to determine

valving arrangements so that when the furnace shut down later this year, noise levels would not be unreasonable. He said that when the furnace was closed today, with its attendant air release, MOEE monitors recorded levels at 65 decibels. He stressed that standing at gate 60 this was not as loud as a chainsaw. Mr. Huggard said that no complaints had been received from the public.

Mr. Huggard reported that the foundations had been poured for the clarifier/aerator at St. Marys Paper and that this facility should be ready by October. He also said that funding had been approved for the east end STP project but that the level of funding was yet to be determined.

K. Cullis reiterated that money had been approved for two sewage treatment projects. M. McPherson suggested that some of this money be applied to decoupling toxic industrial wastes from the municipal sewage treatment system. He felt this would force companies to treat their own wastes, or to substitute with less harmful substances. V. Huggard replied that regulation 346 was now handling this problem and that municipalities should also be monitoring this situation. He also said there would be limited discharge from the Georgia Pacific plant. D. Marles said that one of the goals of the BPAC was that municipal and industrial waste would not be discharged into the municipal sewer system .

D. Marles inquired as to the nature of the work going on at the Algoma Steel settling ponds. V. Huggard said he would report on this at the next meeting.

#### Correspondence

D. Marles passed on information he had received from the Great Lakes Regional Office stating that funds were available for a representative to attend the 1995 IJC Biennial meeting in Duluth, Minn. from Sept. 22 - 25. L. Quinlan proposed that D. Marles as BPAC chair should be selected to attend.

Moved: Jarl Hiltunen

That D. Marles attend the IJC meeting in Duluth, Minn. from Sept. 22 - 25.

Seconded: Martin McPherson

D. Marles reported on the meeting regarding Hwy. 17 expansion, reporting that leachates may go into the Garden and St. Marys Rivers. He asked that BPAC members watch the paper for the next public meeting.

Roger Eberhardt reported on correspondence received from John Campbell concerning the Big Rock Nuclear Plant being decommissioned. He said that this would be the first plant in U.S. A. to be decommissioned. He continued by saying that although there would be no discharges into the water, air pollution was a concern. He proposed that John Campbell be asked whether this action would have affects on the St. Marys River AOC. D. Marles said he has asked for a copy of their report and will give a brief summary to BPAC members when it arrives.

W. Sarich voiced concern with pollution inversions around Algoma Steel and asked why there has been an increase in emissions in the last while. Mr.

Sarich went on to say that World Health Organization recommendations regarding coke oven controls are not followed and that deadly dioxins and other chemicals are being incinerated at Algoma Steel. He stressed that pollution control equipment should be used properly.

J. Aikens noted Algoma Steel would be spending 20 million on pollution control and questioned how this money would be spent.

V. Huggard stated that spending on pollution control would be targeted at achieving MISA goals and that environmental officers visit the Algoma Steel plant every day and many evenings as well, often announced. He continued by saying that MOEE resources make it impossible to have someone there at all times, but an MOEE staff person is there each day to the point where 50 - 75% of his day is spent at Algoma Steel. He said that this individual is able to bring charges and that in the event of non compliance, the company or any individual on staff can be charged. Mr. Huggard expressed the desire that Algoma Steel develop a pro environmental philosophy.

Action: Don Marles asked that a letter to Algoma steel be drafted outlining the concerns and comments of BPAC members.

D. Marles informed the PAC that Terry Morse would be leaving the BPAC after many years of hard work and thanked Mr. Morse for his service.

Next Meeting and Objectives:

Videos on Georgia Pacific manufacturing process and urea formaldehyde.  
Delisting criteria

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Date: Wed., Aug. 16, 1995.

Location: Algoma Boardroom  
City Hall  
99 Foster Drive  
Sault ste. Marie, Ont.

Adjournment: moved and carried.

Minutes prepared by:

Jim Bailey  
RAP Facilitator

Regional File TS 43-01-01 (e)

