



Mr. Terry Sargent, Chairperson
Manitoba Clean Environment Commission
305-155 Carlton Street
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cec@gov.mb.ca

August 28, 2009

Dear Mr Sargent,

I am writing with respect to the application from Louisiana Pacific (LP) to discontinue the use of Regenerative Thermal Oxidizer (RTO) Technology. During their submission to the CEC, LP made a claim that Green Party of Canada policies imply our support for the LP application. This is a misleading and egregious misinterpretation of Green Party policy.

Please be aware that LP did not ask the Green Party of Canada for our opinion on the issue. Had we been asked, we would have made it clear that the Green Party does not support LP's application.

The Green Party is committed to protecting the health and safety of Canadians. We have called for improved National Air Emission Standards to protect Canadian citizens from toxic emissions. Equipment such as RTO technology, or the more efficient and up-to-date Regenerative Catalytic Oxidizer (RCO) are critical to the health of the surrounding community. The Green Party is working to make emissions reduction equipment mandatory and to bring Canadian air quality regulations up to the US and European standard.

The Greenhouse Gas question has been used as a smoke screen to confuse the LP application. The LP Swan Valley Oriented Strand Board plant certainly produces a large amount of Greenhouse Gases. However only a small fraction is produced by the RTO. That fraction could be reduced by half, simply by switching from RTO to RCO technology.

The question of employment has also been raised. This also confuses and distorts the issue. LP documents state:

“The start of 2009 has proven to be very challenging for our businesses and while the level of activity for the remainder of the year is expected to increase, the rate is unclear. Our goal this year is to conserve cash and improve liquidity so that when this economic downturn subsides, we will be well positioned to compete.”

Short-term cost savings is the real issue in this application. No company wants to spend money on pollution reduction if they can instead divert it into shareholder profits. However, in a company with annual sales of close to \$1 billion, total assets of over \$2 billion dollars, and a profitable outlook, the cost of replacing and operating the emissions equipment in the Swan Valley plant is insignificant.

The Green Party of Canada believes that emissions reduction is an expense which the company must bear in exchange for the privilege of seeking profit from the forests of Manitoba and from the labour of the people of the Swan Valley.

LP has entered into a partnership with the people. They must not be allowed to shirk their obligations to protect the health of the citizens of Manitoba.

Sincerely,

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