



MANITOBA ECO-NETWORK

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Mr. Terry Sargent, Chairperson
Manitoba Clean Environment Commission
305-155 Carlton Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 3H8

August 5, 2009

AUG - 7 2009

Dear Mr. Sargent,

I am writing with respect to the recent public meeting in Swan River regarding Louisiana Pacific's (LP) application to discontinue use of the Regenerative Thermal Oxidizer Technology for removal of pollutants from their airborne waste stream.

Manitoba Eco-Network was not present at the meeting. However, it has come to our attention that during Louisiana Pacific's presentation to the Commission, a number of groups including the Manitoba Eco-Network were cited as being in favour of greenhouse gas emission reductions, and that it was implied by the presenter (we are informed) that these groups therefore would support the company's application.

I would like to be very clear that while it goes without saying that the Manitoba Eco-Network favours GHG emission reductions, our organization was never asked by LP for an opinion on this issue. Had the company made such a request, we most likely would have declined to provide an opinion, or referred the matter to our Board of Directors. Manitoba Eco-Network is an umbrella group with more than 50 environmental group members, all of whom may have their own position or opinion on a given issue. Unless we are directed by our member groups, or working on their behalf on a given issue, (as was the case in the Pembina Valley Water Coop hearing where our Water Caucus acted on behalf of a number of groups) we seldom take positions on specific issues such as this one. We do regularly advocate for the public's right to participate in environmental decision-making, including through the environmental assessment process, and support our member groups in their participation.

Curt Hull, the Project Manager for Climate Change Connection (one of the Eco-Network's projects) sent a letter to LP that was read into the record by Ms. McCrae from Boreal Action. Insofar as the Manitoba Eco-Network may take a "position" on this issue, the information from Mr. Hull sums it up very well. From an environmental standpoint, it makes no sense to trade emissions reduction for increased pollution levels. The correct approach is to seek a solution to both issues concurrently.


I hope this clarifies any misconception that may have taken place regarding Manitoba Eco-Network's position on this application. Please do not hesitate to contact me if any further information is required.

Yours truly,

Anne Lindsey,
Executive Director

cc. Kevin Betcher, Plant Manager
Louisiana Pacific

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