



**Minutes
Citizens Advisory Panel
September 25, 2001**

The meeting was opened by Terry Walmsley as Chairman Brian McNeill was unable to attend the meeting.

Members present: Bruce Holgate, Barry Jungwirth, Leroy Noreen, Allan Saunders
Father Steven Verhelst

Members absent: Renee Hayden, Lynette Hofland, Carolyn Lee, Bill Lee, Jan Lundebrek,
Ray Millett

Also present: **City of Benson:** Bob Flaws, Marge Scheffler, City Manager Rob
Wolfington
Fibrominn: Anne Donato, David Frith, Terry Walmsley
Ulteig Engineers: Rich Revering

Approve Minutes of July 2001 CAP Meeting
Minutes were approved.

Mission Statement
Approval will be addressed next meeting

Update on the Power Plant Siting Exemption Application:

The Power Plant Siting process has been around since the 70's and was created to look at the environmental and human impact of siting large power plants (over 50 megawatts) It also allows for an exemption from parts of the siting process for plants between 50 – 80 megawatts. The process still requires a complete environmental and human impact review.

The exemption is being applied for because it allows Fibrominn to choose the site rather than the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board – EQB – making site selection. The exemption application evaluates a project's effects on the environment, the community and land based economy, however, for the Fibrominn plant, most of the EQB concern will likely be about air emissions issues.

The exemption application was filed on July 31, 2001. The process now is in the 60 day comment period. The EQB will then review and consolidate comments and make a

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recommendation to the EQB board. The EQB will then meet and vote on the exemption application. The next EQB Board meeting is October 19th and if all goes well, the application will be on the agenda.

Wetlands Issue

The total site is 84 acres and about 25 acres of the site could be classified as wetlands. The wetlands that will be impacted by construction can be considered low quality wetlands since most of it was created when the airport was built. Any wetland needs to be replaced on a ratio of 2:1, according to State laws and 1:1 according to federal requirements. The facility will be impacting 3.2 acres. Land has been purchased for wetland replacement north of Route 9. The city and county have gone above and beyond the call of duty in addressing this issue.

FAA

The height of the stack will be 350 feet. The stack will impact the airport's airspace but this was known prior to choosing this site, No matter where the stack was located on the site, this would be the case.

Noise

A background noise survey will be completed before the project is constructed. The increase in noise will be no more than 5 decibels, which is below a noise level than you can detect. Most of the noise will come from fans that take the flue gas up the stack and a some noise from the cooling tower. There will be noise during construction which will be limited to normal hours.

Truck Traffic

The facility is designed to take 70% of all daily deliveries in 4 hours. Therefore, the trucks should not be idling. The average number of trucks will be 130 trucks a day (110 fuel trucks). A lot of traffic will avoid the center of town and will stay on Rts 9, 29 and 12. Fibrominn has agreed to avoid sensitive areas (e.g.: truck will not use the road in front of the Country Inn)

Ash By-product

Ash will likely be marketed as a fertilizer. A contract should be signed before we are up and running. The nutrients are more concentrated than the original litter. The ash will not contain nitrogen but will be rich in phosphorus and potassium (which are in the poultry feed (corn and soybeans)).

Odors

"Negative pressure" will be used to keep air flowing into the building at all times...which prevents the escape of odors. Furthermore, the doors are kept closed except when trucks enter and leave. When the boiler is down there will be a back up odor control system.

Visible Plumes

A light steam like plume will come out of the stack. Mostly, the plant will not even look like it's in operation.

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Water Resources

Water will come from:

- 1) The Benson wastewater treatment plant,
- 2) Raw well water from Benson city wells
- 3) Drinking water from Benson's water distribution system

The current design is for no process water discharge.

Stormwater will be collected on-site and might be discharged into the on-site ditch.

Air Permit Update

Prior to submitting the Fibrominn Air Pollution Permit Application, (submitted to the MPCA on August 28 2001), Fibrominn completed an Air Toxics Review. This wasn't a permit requirement but was submitted to demonstrate to the MPCA that the plant will have little risk. The air permit application also indicates that the impact of the Facility stack emissions on plants, animals and soils will be insignificant.

Booklet for EPC Contractors

The Chamber of Commerce has a package for visitors to Benson which they are currently updating. They have supplied copies of the current version and would be pleased to include any additional information that might be helpful as the Fibrominn project unfolds for anyone new to the area. This could include temporary housing, for instance. It was agreed that CAP members would review this information and bring suggestions to the next meeting.

Fibrominn Website www.bensonmn.org/fibrominn

The Fibrominn website has been launched. It is on the City of Benson website, and contains a link for the EQB Power Plant Siting Exemption Request. The Chamber has already created a link.

CAP Website

CAP members agreed to proceed with a website for CAP connected with the City of Benson.

The information to be included follows:

- Mission Statement
- CAP Members/business name/address/phone
- CAP Meeting minutes
- Site plan for Fibrominn
- Frequently asked questions.

Suggested topics for the next meeting:

- Progress on permitting
- Budget
- Groundbreaking
- Traffic routes
- Show CBS evening news piece