

CITY OF
BENSON  **MINNESOTA**
CITIZENS ADVISORY PANEL

Minutes
Citizens Advisory Panel
August 27, 2002

Members present: Allen Saunders, Carolyn Lee, Leroy Noreen, Bruce Holgate, Steve Verhelst, Barry Jungwirth, and Jan Lundebrek
Members absent: Renee Hayden, Lynette Hofland, Brian McNeill, Ray Millett, and Bill Lee
Present:
City: City Manager Rob Wolfington and Marge Scheffler
Fibrowatt: Terry Walmsley, Anne Donato, and Greg Langmo
Other: Sue Pirsig and Aaron Peterson

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

It was moved by Lundebrek, seconded by Saunders and carried unanimously to approve the June 3, 2002 CAP minutes as written.

Terry Walmsley began the meeting with a review of the draft air emission permit that each CAP member received prior to the meeting. He informed the panel that the 45 day comment period began on August 5. So far only one negative comment has been received. They are anticipating that the air emission permit will be presented to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Citizens Board for their consideration at their October 22 meeting.

Terry went through a long discussion on the permit, covering most of the permit from front to back. He explained this is a major facility for purposes of permitting and that is why the permit took so long. He explained that the permit is for 5 years and it is for building the plant and operating it. Before the permit is finalized, the MPCA must consider the public comments on the permit and US Environmental Protection will also look at the permit and might comment on it.

The permit is very long and covers a lot of different items such as operation, maintenance, pollution control, testing, recordkeeping, and reports to MPCA. When the plant starts up there will be a lot of emissions testing to make sure that the actual emissions are below the levels allowed in the permit. Fibrominn will also have to certify that they are below their limits every year. The permit has requirements for pollution monitors in the stack to constantly look at emissions. Fibrominn is also required to notify the MPCA whenever the plant is not running properly or if the pollution control equipment is not working properly. They also must control fugitive dust emissions from the plant. The permit also has 8 odor prevention permit conditions and the permit requires that the plant must meet state noise limits.

CITIZENS ADVISORY PANEL

Fibrominn may still have to complete some additional air modeling when the plant starts up to make sure dust from the paved roads is not a problem. The road dust issue is what delayed the permit for several months.

The permit has a large section on the stack monitors (continuous emission monitors) that provides a timing for when the monitors must be installed, how they will be checked, how they will be maintained, and how they will be independently checked for accuracy. He went through the emission limits for dust, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, and HCL. The permit also only allows certain types of fuel “acceptable biomass fuels” that are like crops, herbs, nuts, vegetable oils, crop residue, agricultural processing residue, manure, wood, and grasses. The plant cannot take garbage or industrial waste materials. The permit has a list of materials that cannot be used. Along with normal stack testing, Fibrominn will also look at mercury emissions so MPCA can see if mercury is in litter. Fibrominn litter testing did not find any mercury. Fibrominn will also do dioxin testing to compare US levels with plants in the UK. Fibrominn will also have to constantly look at the operation of their pollution equipment to see that it is running properly. They will monitor the pressure in the fabric baghouse to make sure it is always working. The permit also requires that reports be sent to MPCA on emissions and that fees are charged for each ton of pollution.

Jan Lundebrek suggested that letters of support be sent to the MPCA during the public comment period. Members were encouraged to spread the word so that as many support letters as possible can be sent. A few ideas on what people might write about were given: clean water, reduce odors, economic development, renewable power, distributed generation, degree of communication between Fibrominn and the community, new jobs. A draft letter of support was reviewed. It was agreed that Chairman McNeill would sign the letter on behalf of CAP.

The MPCA public information meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, September 12, 2002, at the Junior High Auditorium in Benson, MN.

Members were reminded that the Chamber of Commerce and the CAP were hosting an Open House at the Fibrominn and Chamber offices at 1204 Atlantic Avenue on Wednesday, August 28, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Copies of the Fibrominn handouts were given to each CAP member. The handouts cover the major questions that might be asked about the permit and a general information sheet.

The City Manager introduced Aaron Peterson. Mr. Peterson is running for state representative in the November 5 election.

Terry Walmsley gave a background of the MPCA permit process and briefed the Panel on the Technical Support Document for the Draft Air Emission Permit.

Sue Pirsig inquired if there are changes in food fed to the turkeys would it affect the litter and how would it affect the power plant. Terry said they monitor the litter and with the technology of the power plant he didn't see it to be a problem.

CITIZENS ADVISORY PANEL

Greg Langmo mentioned that it has been almost four years to the day that he has been working on getting a facility constructed in the United States. He encouraged everyone to bring people to the open informational meeting on September 12; visible support of the project is also needed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.