



2006 Burn Operators Forum

Proceedings

Monday, September 11, 2006

Burns Lake BC

*Four presentations were given as part of the forum and are posted at
<http://cleanairplan.ca/2006BurnOperatorsForum.shtml>*

Introductions:

Walter Tymkow	CANFOR
Steven Wright	Nadina Woodlot Association
Ross Hyam	Burns Lake Community Forest Ltd.
Paul Schwarz	PIR/AMS
Mike Watson	BC Timber Sales
Laurie Gallant	AMS/footprint
Jocelyn White	City of Prince George
Garth Ehalt	West Fraser Mills
Eileen Benedict	RDBN – Chair Env. Services Cttee
Earle Hughes	Waterside Ventures, Burns Lake
Doug Bysouth	Babine Forest Products/AMS
Darwin Zimmer	Lakes District Woodlot Association
Dan Metcalf	Corwood Timber Products Ltd
Dan McLarry	Fraser Lake
Cliff Manning	Cliff Manning Forestry Services Ltd.
Ben Weinstein	MOE/AMS
Aurnir Nelson	CANFOR/AMS
Armel Castellan	MOE/AMS

Highlights from 2005 Forum, cross-reference with Clean Air Plan and District Level Burn Management Plans (see presentation)

- Comments on Clean Air Plan review - Timber grading revision will likely cause a change in amount of debris to be burned over time, with the amount gradually increasing; Action: incorporate this statement into AMS document before publishing.
- Vanderhoof plan extended to April 2008

Related BVLD Air Quality initiatives

- Smithers and Houston have passed bylaws regulating wood burning appliances this summer, Burns Lake will be looking at bylaw this fall.
- Is it possible to retrofit stoves – this is a far cheaper solution. Is this technically possible and how to get CSA certification aftermarket – can investigate.
- If a person changes out stove before Exchange, are rebates retroactive? It may be possible to get a partial rebate but perhaps not from retailers and manufacturers given this is their busy season and we are planning for a spring program.
- May want to assess need for additional certified installers to keep Exchange customers happy and not waiting for too long.
- Code of Practice for small sawmills intention paper will be released soon; AMS is planning a forum to assist sawmill operators with residue solutions.
- Noted that RDBN is getting complaints on accumulating debris piles at small sawmills
- CANFOR burner scheduled to shutdown in April 2007; HFP has indicated shutdown for Dec 31, 2007.
- Changes to air quality monitoring network include new PM2.5 monitor in Burns Lake and replacement of vandalized monitor in Telkwa

Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation (OBSCR)

- Full presentation will be posted at cleanairplan.ca
- Noted that OBSCR is currently under review and changes may be in effect for 2007 Burning Season.
- Noted that BC Hydro has a lot of woody debris from bushclearing – are they in compliance? Prince George made a deal with BC Hydro that no burns will take place inside city limits.

How did we do – 2005 report by Ben Weinstein and Armel Castellan

- Full presentation will be posted at cleanairplan.ca
- Noted that CVI service is funded through a partnership. All licensees are asked to contribute at beginning of season; it is possible that a full public-private partnership will be formed in the future.

Tales from the Trenches/lessons learned

- Save your higher elevation burns for borderline venting days and you may be able to burn since venting is better at higher elevations
- Frustration expressed at mills burning out of compliance and woodland operators being blamed for smoke especially in November. Culprits include mills of all sizes.
- How many infractions did we see last year? Big difference between what we see and what we don't see – MOE ability to get out there is limited. COs are busy with fall hunting season and role of Forest Service is not enforcement even though they are out in the bush and may see infractions.
- Action: inform COs and woodland managers that complaints are being received – this is a sensitive issue – need to put in context of larger issue and initiatives, ask for involvement in creating solutions.
- Action: BCTS can be more proactive by handing out daily forecasts to licensees.

Feedback from Participants

- Indicators/variables for evaluating burn season for standardizing annual report
 - # burn days available
 - # additional days over Env Canada forecasts

- Reduction in AQ episodes from one year to the next? Venting as co-indicator to normalize this number.
- Thresholds - # of piles burned in each period
- Having a map to show where everyone is burning is valuable for coordination purposes. Instead of doing mapping exercise at meeting, everyone can send info to Armel, he can compile and send out again to licensees.

Dispersion Modelling – overview and scenario development

- see PowerPoint presentation
- preliminary work has been done by Stephanie Meyn with MOE in Victoria; she has less time now for BVLD work and Ben is gearing up work on this project
- input requested for scenarios that can be modelled to assist with planning and operations for improving air quality
- For example, we can model impact of debris burning during good venting and poor venting conditions
- can we change value of variables as a scenario suggestion i.e. changing moisture contents, amount of dirt and debris in piles
- consult with Canadian Forest Service on Pine Beetle Research for scenario ideas – just presented interesting info at UNBC Conference recently
- can also consult with BC Woodlot Association who is having their annual meeting at the end of September see www.woodlot.bc.ca

Technology and Best Practices Update

- Wood residue management varies depending on source (i.e. forestry harvesting versus landclearing, landscaping, construction, sawmill operations)
- Biomass energy systems such as bio-mass boilers for district heating systems (Prince George) and also combined heat and power systems (CHPs) look promising; value added products such as panelboard and pellets are also viable for large sawmills
- Small sawmills can tap into smaller bio-mass energy systems – the small sawmill forum will explore these options, as was done at the BioEnergy June 2006 conference in Prince George (i.e. *Community-Based Mill Waste Utilization May Hold New Promise for Production of Steam and Electricity on the Western Olympic Peninsula with Larry Mason - Project Coordinator, Rural Technology Initiative, College of Forest Resources, University of Washington*)
- Wood residue management options for municipal sources were explored in April 2006 at a Solid Waste Management Planning workshop in Smithers (i.e. air curtain burning, chipping, composting, mixing with sewage sludge etc.)
- Discussion on experiences with obtaining permits between RDBN and other permit holders for burning wood residue
 - Moisture content, dirt and debris, size of piles, and proximately to populations all affect permitting requests

- Wood residue inventory for transfers stations (and small sawmills) is now complete we are just waiting for results
- RDBN looked into air curtain burning – too expensive given that this is only an interim solution, better to invest in long term solution; also tried mixing wood chips with sewage sludge for application at landfill –this worked well.
- Things are working out much better now that RDBN and MOE are working together – small, smaller permitted burns have taken place
- On chipper option, issue with last one was size – too small for job and had to be hand fed; it is possible to rent a larger unit

Coarse Woody Debris Management

- submission from Dave Duncan, forester with MOF re: recommendations from Chief Forester’s report and Ruth Lloyd’s study in Houston (see handouts and powerpoint presentations)
- agreement that recommendations and practices are great for biodiversity but don’t really address burning questions, though noted that retention of CWD based on percentage of cutblock size does reduce quantity to be burned and therefore reduces emissions
- PIR has been using a 20% retention for 15 years – Lakes District licensees are in the 8% range
- Logging in small stands creates more waste than logging in large stands; always better to reduce the amount of debris brought to the roadside.

Improvements for coming year and outreach efforts

- Post-season data to be collected to help with analysis of impact of burning on ambient air quality; operators to submit data on how much, where and specific dates to MOE; results will be presented at next year’s meeting.
- Operators to send .shp (ARC map files) to Armel who will develop a “master map” to show overlaps and send out to help with coordination efforts.
- MOE to send letter to folks not present today (list of licensee holders, woodlot associations etc) with following points:
 - Highlights of today’s event most relevant to their operations
 - Link to proceedings
 - Invitation to next years event and request for suggestions for speakers and topics?
- Scenario suggestions for dispersion modelling: pile sizes, burning during poor venting, altering moisture.
- Cliff will give OBSCR presentation at next Lakes District Woodlot Association meeting (Sept 12/06)
- Send letter of invite for Small Sawmill event to Woodlot Associations **Update: Intentions Paper for Small Sawmill Regulation will be released shortly and consultation will take place in November.**
- AMS/MOE to investigate if large mills with new energy systems / co-gen plants can accept harvesting debris. What are specs? Check with Houston, Prince George, and Williams Lake.
- MOE to investigate possibility of burning at night when venting the next day is forecast to be good

- MOE to investigate whether or not burning of planting boxes is allowed in the OBSCR
- AMS/MOE to investigate potential of importing a solution to the issue of burning bale wrap -- it is a commonplace activity **Update: Recycling available through Smithers Recycling Centre.**
- MOE to investigate potential for putting webcam at burns lake monitoring station
- MOE to send gentle reminder to all necessary parties to follow OBSCR and burn plans
- Send results of investigations and notice of proceedings being posted on web to participants

8. Next meeting and event evaluation

Based on feedback, the next meeting will be in Houston, early September. We will want to coordinate this with area events (i.e. BV Fall Fair, Houston Trade Show, BL Fall Fair to ensure MOE and AMS staff are available too).

Suggestions for topics and speakers for next year included:

- have Ben and Armel back to report out on the 2006 Burning Season
- Barb Hall and Small Sawmill Regulation/Intentions Paper (depending on status!) – roles and responsibilities
- Modelling with and without various atmospheric inputs
- Local Conservation Officer on coordinated enforcement of OBSCR
- AQ Episodes and whether open burning was taking place during the event or within 2 days of the event
- Someone from Fire Protection
- Any changes to OBSCR resulting from review process
- Biomass energy speaker

Note on AMS Membership:

Attending an event does not automatically make you a member, though we invite you to join. No membership fees, just support goals and methods of AMS. Please contact our office to be included on the information list or to become a voting member. We need voting members to retain or incorporated non-profit status and our charitable status (members should outnumber directors 2 to 1).

Two options:

E-mail information list – air quality advisories, newsletter, event notice and announcements related to implementation of Clean Air Plan (i.e. Woodstove Exchange Program launch or beehive burner shutdown).

Voting member – attend AGM and be involved with elections.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm. Next meeting: September 2007.