



bulkley valley - lakes district airshed management society

2006 Review of the Clean Air Plan – Summary of Feedback and AMS Action September 13, 2006

Proposal	Community Feedback	AMS Board Response	Action Taken
<p>1- Clean Air Plan needs to include goals, indicators and strategies for New Sources of PM2.5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples of new sources include: Telkwa Coalbed Gas, Molybdenum Mine, Northwest Premium Meat Co-op • Examples of strategies include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ understanding health risk associated with emissions ○ requiring zero/low emissions plan before development is approved, ○ running scenarios through dispersion model before granting permits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important to distinguish between known and new versus potential sources. • Can offer workshop with local government to identify strategies for managing for potential new sources • Provide information on existing Environmental Assessment process, <i>Environmental Management Act</i> and <i>Waste Discharge Regulation</i>, and current and best management strategies • Important to understand existing permitting process • Climate change impacts might be included here 	<p>This is a siting issue; industrial lands should be set up where there are good dispersion conditions.</p> <p>Look into possibility and benefits of tagging on 1 day workshop around potential new sources onto 2007 BC Clean Air Forum versus having a BVLDA AMS event in Smithers.</p> <p>Scenarios can be submitted to MOE for dispersion modelling including siting of fictional operations inside and outside of the airshed. Results can be used to assist with siting decisions. As well, the modelling aspect can become part of the workshop noted above.</p>	<p>Laurie has joined a committee of the Smithers Social Planning Council to review the Smithers OCP to see how to better integrate social planning and environmental goals into the document.</p> <p>Laurie is consulting with BC Lung Association on partnering up to offer workshop.</p> <p>Ideas for scenarios are being requested at each public meeting AMS hosts and a call will be put out to membership for more ideas.</p>
<p>2- Evaluate CN Rail Emissions What is the significance of diesel emissions and coal dust to ambient air quality?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 new locomotives being brought on to service port in Rupert – what emission standards will these engines meet? • AMS can draft letter with 	<p>Additional questions added to letter.</p>	<p>Laurie met David Brogliato from CN Rail at a Prince George air quality workshop June 26. Letter sent to David on July 19; Response received August 28. Posted on website.</p>

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	questions.		
<p>3 - Commuter traffic emissions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • transportation emissions especially Telkwa – Smithers travel corridor. • facilitate safe alternatives such as bike paths and sidewalks • provide education on lowering vehicle emissions • Related: need to have better advertising for used oil recycling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lot of work being done in lower Fraser Valley • Where is used oil going? • Can we accommodate vehicle alternative when repairing highway • Need more public education 	<p>This is a secondary priority and we don't have resources to be proactive on this issue right now. However, our focus for partnerships if they appear would be on truck diesel emissions. Noted that BC Transit is part of team producing a Local Government toolkit for emission reduction – Laurie and Ben will be reviewing for applicability in our airshed and how this may address transportation emissions. For example, anti-idling campaigns and bylaws don't make sense here year round but can focus on summer applications.</p> <p>As for used oil, AMS cannot take on every issue but will pass on this concern to the appropriate authorities. Links to strategic websites can be added to cleanairplan.ca.</p>	<p>Laurie and Ben have volunteered to review Municipal Toolkit currently being developed and will offer suggestions on how to create synergies with the Clean Air Plan. AMS partnered with One Sky to raise awareness of transportation emissions on Clean Air Day, June 7, 2006. AMS is willing to repeat partnership and expand to other communities in 2007.</p>
<p>4 - Agricultural balewrap plastic Many farmers are burning Need project to collect and reuse or recycle plastic</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water group could look at this issue as relationships are already established • Can we offer suggestions in some type of “sustainability directory” 	<p>This falls under the Environmental Farm Planning umbrella. Need to determine if this activity is legal under provincial regulation. Ian Sharpe wearing MOE hat will write letter to Min. of Agriculture and Lands regarding air quality and health issues related to burning of balewrap plastic.</p>	<p>Ben has been researching this issue around the province and we are not the only ones with this problem. Permits are required to burn this material it is highly unlikely that one could be obtained from local MOE office. Ian has been in contact with Min. of Agriculture and a balewrap pilot project is underway in Okanagan-Similkameen that we will hopefully benefit from. Laurie contacted the Smithers recycling depot and found out they are taking balewrap</p>

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			for recycling and are asking farmers to clean it up more before bringing it in. So, it seems there is no excuse for burning balewrap in the valley as a viable alternative does exist. Please help us spread the word.
<p>5 - Reduce slash burning focus on reducing quantity of slash to be burned by leaving logging debris on the ground Kalum LRMP Section 2.2.4 Biodiversity, Objective 6, Strategy 6.3: "Encourage development and use of a variety of methods to retain or restore biodiversity at the stand level. For example, long butting of trees, leaving logging debris on the ground rather than pile and burn, leaving blow down rootwads in place, identifying living trees as future snags or wildlife tree patches, leave some second growth thickets unspaced and some brush unmanaged." Do other LRMPs have air quality objectives and strategies?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morice LRMP has air quality objective • Can emphasis reduction in future workshops • Clean Air Plan needs to address change in timber grading • Interpretation of pile and burn seems to vary – more education needed? 	<p>Timber grading rules have recently changed – much (about 90-95%) of the dead and dry grade is now sawlog grade and thus a mandatory utilization grade; this may be helpful in reducing burning as less dead and dry material will be left on harvest areas. On the other hand, we may also see a gradual increase over time in the amount of residue to be managed (which for now means burning) as the overall amount of harvesting increases.</p> <p>Another recent change is the development of the full ‘take or pay’ concept with respect to the stumpage system in BC – any cubic metre of utilizable timber left on the block is charged full stumpage, which encourages removal.</p> <p>With respect to the Kalum LRMP reference to pile and burning, our interpretation is that this is a reference to burning in the bush, as a silviculture technique to increase plantable spots, and not roadside burning to reduce slash accumulations at the roadside as a result of harvest. Roadside burning is the dominant form of burning now.</p>	<p>These comments were raised September 11 at the annual Burn Operator’s Forum. Noted that new biodiversity recommendations from Chief Forester include leaving a certain % of coarse woody debris on the cutblock (based on size of cutblock). Also noted that biodiversity strategies are great for biodiversity, but we need other strategies for reducing amount to be burned. We have pretty much exhausted all possibilities for reducing emissions from burning via custom venting index forecasting, sharing of best practices and reviewing regs every year before burning starts, and extending our outreach by asking woodlot associations, BC Timber Sales and other groups to get out our messages. We will continue these actions.</p>

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		<p>Many harvest areas have woody debris objectives, and other objectives, to maintain or enhance biodiversity. A number of local harvest operators (forest companies, small business operators, Ministry of Forests) have forest certification programs where managing woody debris on their harvest operations is a part of their certification.</p>	
<p>6 – Consider impacts of global warming Human behaviour is influenced by weather; If winters are warmer, how will this affect behaviour and air quality? i.e. woodstove operations? Should we prioritize reducing greenhouse gas emissions and helping communities adapt to climate change from an air quality perspective?</p>	<p>Noted that Energy Centre of the North funding was contingent on existence of Clean Air Plan Need to think globally, act locally (note this is addressed in Chapter 2)</p>	<p>At this time our work on helping communities adapt to global warming will happen indirectly through our existing projects. It was noted that warming may affect the slash burning season too.</p>	<p>Nothing AMS specific but a proposal by MOE and local private consultants has been put forward to research the relationship between el nino, el nina, and potential episode days under new provincial funding envelope for climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies.</p>
<p>7 – Provide bulletins on Beehive Burners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why are HFP and Decker Lake Burners still going? How can we influence economics? • Can material be directed to NEWPRO? • What are emissions connected with new CANFOR and PIR systems? 	<p>Why are there no phase out dates for Tier 2 burners?</p>	<p>HFP is committed to installing energy system and closing down burner in time to comply with permit that requires shutdown by December 21, 2007 Send out membership bulletin; scan letter and post on website Approval given to develop and implement recognition program for actions that help improve air quality. Need for mobile hogger noted; co-gen solution was great because it could take bark too; noted that CANFOR's new system will have capacity to take more material with new system but is limited to white wood.</p>	<p>AMS invited to take tour of CANFOR construction site.</p> <p>Beehive Burner Bulletin sent out to members of our Update E-mail list July 27/06</p>

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		<p>Phase out dates for Tier 2 burner were set years ago but the ball has dropped as there is no political will to enforce them. Noted that ownership change for Decker Lake is in progress – should wait until this is completed to approach them on burner issue since there may be an operational change as well.</p>	
<p>8 – Prioritize programs for small sawmills Need a plan to deal with existing stockpiles and preventing more stockpiles How come Corwood has such a big stockpile? What is their plan? What are burning permit requirements? How come sawmills aren't required to have a plan before they begin operations? Do we have estimates of wood residue expected over next 5 years?</p>	<p>More information needed on how system works – for everyone.</p>	<p>License to cut by Min. of Forests should include AQ objectives and residue disposal plan. New proposed MOE regulation will cover this off (hopefully).</p> <p>Proceed with planning of small sawmill forum – have events at either end of airshed if needed to boost attendance. Include information on how permitting system works and provide case studies demonstrating a range of approaches and results for various residue management strategies. Noted that Corwood stockpile is being directed to NEWPRO.</p>	<p>Small sawmill forum being planned and Corwood will assist in developing invite list. Will be synchronized with MOE consultations on new Code of Practice for small sawmills this fall (possibly early November).</p> <p>MOE co-op student is compiling a wood residue inventory (not projections just current volumes).</p> <p>As part of MOE duties, Ben Weinstein has prepared a presentation that highlights the differences between open burning as part of the OBSCR and permitted or approved open burning. This will be posted on the AMS website and was presented at the September 11 forum in Burns Lake.</p>
<p>9 - More public education on Air Quality Advisories</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness of air quality warning systems and messages? 	<p>Current methods: AMS members and select others get direct e-mail from Ministry of Environment; radio broadcasts Suggestion: highway or high</p>	<p>Municipalities with bylaws that include reference to Advisories will need to know Advisory status on daily basis. Should each town hall have a sign indicating status during the heating season? Best to</p>	<p>MOE will look into purchase and placement of electronic read out boards.</p> <p>Laurie will research how other</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness of sources of pollution and seasonal nature? Demonstrated ability to use information? i.e. voluntary wood stove changeouts, not using wood stove on poor air quality days, only using seasoned wood as fuel. 	<p>profile location with daily bulletin board similar to wildfire hazard system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can we use Interior News Website Plead with radio stations to announce AQ advisories AMS members to help spread word – coffee shops are a great place to do this. 	<p>have more than one way for residents to access information, ideas include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TV station Call Town office Electronic Boards Internet Pre-recorded message on a AQ Hotline? 	<p>jurisdictions communicate advisories.</p> <p>Have included information in new brochure on Local Air Quality Bylaws and in updated display materials for Fall Fair and Houston Trade Show.</p>
<p>Suggestion for co-indicators for Table 3-3 General Goals, Indicators and Strategies - Degree of agreement between modelled AQ and measured AQ during “episode scenarios”</p>		<p>Agreement to add in Stephanie’s co-indicator for agreement between reality and modelled scenario: number of scenarios run and how they are used.</p>	<p>Will add in next Plan revision.</p>
<p>Dive into strategies that will affect indicators. Road dust and wood burning appliance emissions still need more attention. Add road dust to list of active sources in the Fall. In 2005 this was a factor</p>		<p>Are already focusing on wood burning appliances. Can do another push for road dust. Is New Deal money is being used to upgrade sweeping equipment?</p>	<p>Laurie will canvass participants in our 2004 Road Dust forum on the need for another forum, program and speaker suggestions.</p>
<p>Set interim goal for % days PM2.5 average > 30 µg/m3 to 0.5%.</p>		<p>Recommendation accepted. Will review this target annually.</p>	<p>Will add in next Plan revision.</p>
<p>Include Canada Wide Standard (CWS) as an indicator for PM2.5.</p>		<p>Agreed.</p>	<p>Will add in next Plan revision.</p>
<p>Continue to refine definition of PED - Some areas have less incident of calm winds Attempt to link ‘still air’ PED’s with PM10 24 hour average PED’s and see if there’s more common ground.</p>		<p>Are counting on MOE to advise us on best definitions and indicators.</p>	