

Reach for Unbleached!

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BRIEF BRIEF ON PULP MILL SOLID WASTE

Advisory on Areas of Community Concern

1) Contaminating Paradise with Dioxin

Nine coastal pulp mills in BC are creating one quarter of the inventoried dioxin in all of Canada, because they are burning "salty hog fuel" to generate power. These wood chips are from logs transported and stored in ocean booms, soaking up chlorine from salt water. Only about 10 grams are released to the air; the rest (137 grams) winds up in solid waste, currently landfilled. COFI proposes to put better stack controls on a couple of the power boilers and otherwise continue to create the dioxin. The real solution? Stop creating dioxin. Get the logs out of the water, as has been done back east where logs used to be transported by river drive. (*Arena: Canada Wide Standards, CCME, due spring 2000, BC is lead*)

2) Look out for Landfills

Pulp mill landfills and treatment lagoons are contaminated with remnants from the really dirty production prior to 1994. They are old and leaching, in every region of the province. Many are built on flood plains or in the gravel of the Fraser River system. Of particular concern are Crofton, Crestbook at Skookumchuk, Skeena Cellulose, and Kamloops. (*Arena: Regional MOELP permits*)

3) Dumping the Precautionary Principle and Spreading Sludge Instead

MOELP currently has Draft Regulations to permit the land spreading of pulp mill solid wastes, from sludge to fly ash. These regulations apply the standard criteria for contaminated sites, but pulp mill wastes are a mix of hundreds of compounds unrelated to chemical manufacturing. The Draft Regs would do an excellent job of regulating apples. Unfortunately we expect sludge is full of oranges, and no one has bothered to look and see if there are any tangerines. There has been no real testing - we are about to embark on an experimental program in the environment. In Ontario, similar landspreading programs are attended by continual controversy, citizen outrage, municipal revolts, and regular claims of illness from airborne bacteria. (*Arena: MOELP Industrial Pollution Prevention*)

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