

Crofton Airshed Citizens Group

<http://www.croftonair.org>

please respond to:

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Tel 250-537-2616; Fax:250-537-2681

February 6, 2004

The Mayor and Council
Municipality of North Cowichan
7030 Trans Canada Hwy
Fax: 250-746-3133

Dear Mayor and Council,

Re: NorskeCanada Crofton Mill

Thank you for sharing our concerns about the lack of adequate baseline data for the Mill, and for reversing your earlier decision on the 'Alternative Fuels Trial'. As demonstrated at the January 20 meeting, you have a lot of community support on this issue. We understand that a special delegation from NorskeCanada head office will be presenting to Council on February 13. We will be attending the meeting and would like Council to be aware of our position.

Our position is that the Company should work with the community, including representatives from Council, CACG and MWLAP, to address the following needs before any 'Alternative Fuels', or new generating capacity, are added to the Crofton site, and certainly before any tax reduction is considered:

1. An independent baseline study of air and water quality, and their health impacts, is to be produced for the communities surrounding the mill. The study is to include computer modeling of the airshed, soils testing of school playgrounds and agricultural lands, and leachate sampling of the Company's landfill sites.
2. Permanent ambient air testing stations are to be upgraded, relocated as necessary and independently monitored, in all of the communities in the airshed of the mill.
3. A system is to be established to inform the public immediately when emissions are too high for health and safety so that residents can protect themselves.
4. An independently managed toll-free hotline is to be established for citizens in the region to report problems emanating from the mill. Those complaints, and how they were responded to, along with data from the ambient air testing stations, are to be published each week throughout the year by the papers in the region.

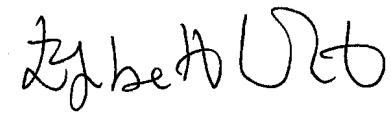
In the event that the Company does not agree to fund these tasks, our group will be pursuing the work by other means. We are also requesting that MWLAP investigate and review the content, process and enforcement of all NorskeCanada Crofton's permits, including those relating to solid waste disposal.

We are in favour of the establishment of an Advisory Group, to include Council , CACG, and MWLAP, but only if the Terms of Reference for the Advisory Group provide for a comprehensive independent review of the emissions from the facility as stated above, and for a clear process for their reduction and elimination. Our objectives are clean air, clean water, clean soil. We believe that these objectives are shared by Council and by the Company. We also believe that they are achievable objectives, essential for the long-term prosperity of both the Company and the airshed communities.

We have attached for your information our letter to MWLAP dated Jan 25. More information is available on our website: www.croftonair.org

We look forward to the February 13 meeting, and to future discussions.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth White". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "E".

Elizabeth White
250-537-2616

Carol Donnelly
250-246-1305

for The Crofton Airshed Citizens Group