

Williams Lake Power Plant

Owned and operated by:



The Environmental Appeals Board (EAB) released a Preliminary Matters Decision on March 29, 2017, concerning appeals filed in October of 2016 against the MOE and its issuance of both an amended Air Permit to the Williams Lake Power Plant (WLPPP) in September of 2016, as well as an administrative Amendment to WLPP's existing MOE Landfill Permit, which was also issued in September of 2016. This Letter is provided to interested Stakeholders as an update on that decision. The Appeals to the MOE actions address a number of concerns these individuals have with regards to the burning of Railroad Ties, which has been authorized by the Permit Amendment at a higher amount per year than previously allowed.

Landfill Permit

The request to strike these Appeals by the MOE's Legal Counsel was upheld by the EAB and these appeals in their entirety have been dismissed. The EAB Board concluded that the appellants had not shown they were aggrieved in any manner by such amendments, and denied the Appeals due to a lack of legal standing.

Air Emissions Permit

The request to strike these Appeals by the MOE's Legal Counsel were partially successful, as it removed some of the grounds of appeal put forward by the represented appellants, primarily because those grounds were related to the landfill issues and not the air emission issues. The balance of the request to Strike was not upheld, so that a number of the Appeals were granted standing and will be evaluated on their merits in the subsequent EAB review. Of note, the EAB stated in its Decision Letter that "the Panel agrees that it is only the increase authorized in the Amendment Decision that is properly before the Board, not the decision to allow treated rail ties to be burned at all".

It is now expected that the Appeal of the air permit will be scheduled for review in due course. The EAB has policy statements to the effect that appeals should be heard and decided in a nine month time frame. That time frame may be optimistic in this case due to the technical nature of the issues and the evidence that can be expected.

WLPP believes the MOE has been both prudent and correct in issuing amended Air Permit #8808, and WLPP is confident that the burning of RRTs will be protective of human health and the environment. Precautions mandated by MOE, such as a number of new controls, as well as actions taken by WLPP beyond the requirements of the amended permit, such as Health Risk Assessments and Independent Third Party reviews, will ensure that discharges from the burning of RRTs do not result in unacceptable emissions.

Please feel free to provide WLPP with any comments and/or additional questions you may have. Atlantic Power has been a strong supporter of the City of Williams Lake and looks forward to a continued role in the community. Thank you.