



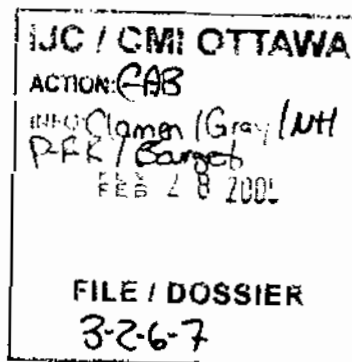
Fraser Valley Regional District

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February 22, 2005

9050-20-056

Mr. Murray Clamen
Secretary, Canadian Section
International Joint Commission
234 Laurier Avenue West, 22nd Floor
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6K6



Dear Mr. Clamen:

RE: Canada-US Air Quality Agreement 2004 Progress Report

Further to the December 13, 2004 request from the Chair of the IJC Canadian Section for comments on the above progress report, the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) would like to highlight the following items.

In general, the report indicates that good progress is being made by both countries relative to reductions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds and acid precipitation. The focus of these reductions is in the Canadian southeast and US northeast areas, and they are related in large part to implementation of the Acid Rain and Ozone Annexes. This is good news for both countries, although it is to a lesser extent in the Lower Fraser Valley airshed considering the focus is on the eastern areas of the two countries.

It is also noted that Canada is now moving to develop policies related to Continuous Improvement and Keeping Clean Areas Clean. These are meant to achieve the intent of the US Prevention of Significant Deterioration and the Regional Haze Program. The FVRD has had some input to these Canadian initiatives and we believe they will help to improve air quality in both countries, particularly in transboundary areas.

We note with particular interest the following excerpt from the "Conclusion" of the Progress Report:

"...these conclusions and those of other joint analyses, such as that in the Georgia Basin-Puget Sound of British Columbia and Washington State, provide the basis for

moving forward in a bilateral context. In particular, these conclusions guide the countries in addressing PM and other air-related matters with priority given to the eastern half of the two countries and with due consideration given to the issues identified in the shared airshed in the Georgia Basin-Puget Sound and the Rocky Mountain region."

The FVRD is located in the sensitive Lower Fraser Valley airshed that is part of the larger Georgia Basin-Puget Sound airshed and we continue to participate in the development of a strategy to manage air quality in this transboundary region. The FVRD Board has taken the position that an Annex to the Canada-US Air Quality Agreement is the best strategy to manage air quality and to reduce emissions in this larger airshed. The relevance of this position seems to be borne out by the impressive progress that has been made in the east through implementation of the existing Annexes to the Agreement.

Moreover, the excerpt above, which is indicative of the progress report's thematic references, continues to highlight air quality issues in the eastern portions of the countries. While we in the west acknowledge that there are very real air quality problems in these areas, there is a growing body of health evidence to indicate that air quality is an issue in western areas as well. Therefore, we would ask the Canada-US Air Quality Committee and the Parties to consider providing an equal focus on western issues, particularly as these relate to the Georgia Basin-Puget Sound airshed. This would be particularly relevant if a decision is made to develop a PM Annex.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 2004 Progress Report.

Yours truly

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry Raymond", written over a horizontal line.

Terry Raymond
Chair, Board of Directors