

CORNWALL CLEAN AIR COMMITTEE

2002/2003 Annual Progress Report

July, 2003

Enhancing the Quality of Life through Clean Air

Committee Members

Dr. Jeff Ridal (Chair)

Manager, St. Lawrence River
Institute of Environmental
Sciences

Mark Boileau, Sr. Dev. Officer,
Cornwall Economic Development
Department

**Nick Cox, Chair, Material
Resource Recovery Public Liaison
Committee**

Gail Kaneb, President,
Breakthrough Strategies

John St. Marseille, Sr.
Environmental Engineer, The
Thompson Rosemount Group Inc.

**Elaine Kennedy, Chair, Cornwall
and District Environment
Committee**

**Guy Menard, President, Menard
Bros. & Assoc. Ltd., & VP,**
Cornwall Builders Association

**Heather Moore, Community
Liaison, St. Lawrence River
Institute of Environmental
Sciences**

B.R. Ravishankar, Sr.
Environmental Engineer, Trow
Associates Inc.

Tony Harte, Community Member

Resource Personnel

**Stephen Alexander, Manager of
Planning and Housing Services,**
City of Cornwall

Joanne Haley, County Planner,
United Counties SD&G

**Amy Lo, Manager of
Environmental Services, Domtar
Inc.**

**Michael Séguin, Area Supervisor
(Acting), Ministry of the
Environment**

**Dan Julien, Safety &
Environmental Manager, Morbern
Inc.**

2002/2003 Activities

This year, the CCAC met with several major industries to discuss issues surrounding air pollution emission reduction with industries. The CCAC is noticing progress on the air quality front, and we ask that industries continue this good work. Industries are asking for detailed feedback from the public about where to focus their air pollution reduction endeavors—several industries specifically ask that the public call them directly so that they can quickly and effectively address odour problems. With the assistance of industries, the CCAC has begun to develop a strategy to facilitate the communication between local residents and industries. The CCAC also discovered some industries do not yet have a formal plan or standard operating procedure to deal with complaints, although most industries do have a contact person.

What can you do?

Several local industries that the CCAC has met with this year—particularly industries that have faced odour challenges recently—are asking members of the public to call them if and when poor air quality prevents people from enjoying the outdoors. If the industry is given the opportunity to respond to a problem while it is happening, the industry is more likely to discover what is causing the odour and to resolve the problem. If you notice an annoying or troubling odour, we would like you to:

- Note observations: time of day, location, description of odour
- Call the Ministry Of Environment (MOE) Spill Action Center at 1-800-268-6060 or the MOE Cornwall office at 933-7402 (8:30 to 5:30, Mon to Fri)
- Call the suspected source of the odour (the MOE should be able to provide the appropriate phone number)
- Ask both for a follow-up report.

Summary of Industry Meetings

Material Resource Recovery Inc. (MRR) destroys mercaptans and PCBs through incineration under controlled conditions. Between November 2001 and November 2002, MRR was virtually odour-complaint free. In the spring of 2003, MRR installed a new, much larger, 7000 lb., packed-carbon filter to replace their smaller filter. MRR is also planning on obtaining a Certificate of Approval to increase its stack's height. The company is now planning to increase the volume of PCBs they process in the future.

Morbern Inc. has hired consulting firms to monitor air emissions and to prepare plans to reduce odours. One consulting firm has mapped out the area in Morbern's vicinity that may experience odours to varying degrees. This innovative model might be a way to quantify a decrease in odours over time.

CORNWALL CLEAN AIR COMMITTEE

Morbern now uses electric lift trucks and solvent recyclers. The company is testing out new equipment and technologies to reduce emissions. At a December 2002 CCAC meeting, Jean-Claude Chabot said that Morbern emissions are well within the amounts allowed by the Ministry of the Environment at the point of impingement (where the nearest neighbour might receive the pollutants).

Toluene emissions from Canadian Technical Tape have shown an overall downward trend over the last several years. At a meeting with the CCAC in February 2003, Mr. Edward Mercer, Plant Manager, explained that toluene is a chemical with properties required for the production of cellophane tape. Air containing toluene moves to a carbon bed filtration system located just outside the plant. The toluene is removed from the carbon bed and that chemical is re-used.

American Standard, which manufactures acrylic bathtubs and whirlpools at its Cornwall facility, held a public meeting in April 2003. The company has taken steps to contain and reduce fugitive emissions (releases of pollutants to the air from places other than the stack), and has made improvements to the stacks. Plans for May to December 2003 include installing a bulk resin storage system to reduce spills, installing a climate-controlled curing tunnel, and moving towards certification to the ISO 14000 environmental management standard. American Standard is also conducting research to develop new backing materials to replace the styrene-containing resin backing material.

Valspar manufactures paint and resins. The company developed the lower-styrene-content

resin that American Standard now uses. In 2003, Valspar installed a patented, custom-designed pollution control system that is 75% efficient at removing styrene from air leaving the stack. The collected styrene is re-used. A number of other odour reduction initiatives have been launched, such as various ways of minimizing the production of odour and preventing odorous chemicals from leaving the facility. Valspar has developed a Community Outreach Program that includes a rapid response system to investigate and report on all neighbourhood complaints. Such a report goes to the Vice-President of Manufacturing. Valspar believes that the Cornwall facility does not adversely affect the health of workers or the community. The CCAC acted as a sounding board for Valspar as they prepared for their May 2003 public meeting.

Sensient Flavors Canada Inc. produces food flavours used in gravies and sauces. The whey plant has been completely shut down. Most of the equipment at their production facility has a scrubber on it. As one of the spray dryers has only a fabric particulate filter, it is suspected to be a source of odour. Sensient submitted an application to the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) for a Certificate of Approval to upgrade it. Sensient is still waiting for MOE approval. A flare burns off a biogas from the wastewater plant at Sensient. Monitoring and/or emission estimates were done for Sensient's Selected Targets for Air Compliance (STAC) report, submitted to the MOE in February 2003.

The CCAC met with the Ministry of the Environment to discuss their 2002/2003 work with local industries and to help the MOE to establish priorities for the upcoming year.

The Cornwall Clean Air Committee (CCAC) was formed in November 2001 as an autonomous committee to continue the progress made by the former Air Quality Improvement Committee, a Chamber of Commerce economic renewal initiative. Through dialogue, we encourage industries to reduce air emissions, and we help open the lines of communication between local industries and residents. The administration of the CCAC has been supported through a grant provided by the Ontario Trillium Foundation to the St. Lawrence River Institute of Environmental Sciences.