

Darlene Schanfald
P.O. Box 3028
Sequim, WA 98362
360-452-6843

6 October 1996

Administrator, Region X
US EPA
1200 6th Ave
Seattle, WA 98101

RE: Appeal of KPLY. Pt Angeles WA AOP No. 01-96 under AOPCA

You should have received from OAPCA my communications to them re: KPLY, OAPCA, and DOE withholding of public information re: KPLY air emissions, waste stream disposal, and failure to inform at a public forum on Port Angeles WA air quality held 12/6/95 there was a draft EIS for public review.

Herein I wish to addend events between 26 September - 4 October 1996 by OAPCA and KPLY involving air pollution. Violation of permit, especially G2, amd withholding of public information. Obviously, such information could not be included in the draft EIS stage, but is able to be included under Sec. 505 (b) (2).

DATE: September 26, 1996 TIME: 3 PM - 7 PM

Driving into Port Angeles air was coated with dark brownish stack plume streaking through the air for miles. Parked next to KPLY, identified the brown stack emission coming from KPLY. Got out of the car. Air stunk. Difficult to breathe. Affected travel throughout the rest of the day and early evening in Pt Angeles. At a few minutes before 7PM I exited the Vern Burton building, located on 4th and Peabody Streets, and walked to the site's parking lot. The air was so foul and thick with the KPLY emission that to breathe it was necessary to cover my nose and mouth to remain outside and accomplish a task.

I called OAPCA the next day. Craig Weckeser (CW) took my call, said he had an inspector in PA that day and would have him investigate. Craig called me back early the following week and said the mill had a problem which began at 2 PM and was fixed that evening and that there had been another citizen complaint. I believe on the 28th.

How is it that CW said KPLY admitted there was a problem on 9-26 between certain afternoon to evening hours and that JW did not get particulars in his report so the agency and the public could track what was being emitted into the air and impacting public health? JK said not much beyond SO₂ can be monitored. Is this accurate?

Toxins from the KPLY stack were poisoning the air and making people sick. No report? No info? Convenient.

Should you need verification of what was seen, smelled, and tasted on 9-26, let me know. I was with two air quality experts here on business who experienced the same thing.

Further, a nurse informed me she called OAPCA to report an air quality problem last week that she experienced around Laurel St. where one would smell KPLY effluent. It made her feel sick. She spoke with JW and did not feel he took her call very seriously.

KPLY is violating air emissions standards. The stench lasts well beyond 3 minutes, well beyond what the codes say. The AOP should be denied and staff of OAPCA and EPA should be removed for denial of information and insulting and beratement of the public trying to report and learn about KPLY's pollution of the air.

S3.3 REPORTING OF DEVIATIONS FROM PERMIT CONDITIONS. For deviations which represent a potential threat to human health or safety, the term “prompt”... Clearly there was threat to human health and safety; clearly this goes on repeatedly. Seemingly, according to “Lena” and OAPCA JW records aren't being kept. Even though “prompt” gives them “twelve hours” it seems information is being deleted, not reported, and/or lied about and outright kept from the public.

All your reporting timelines are too lenient. Clearly it allows all evidence to be removed and reports like JW's to say “no violation. I saw nothing when I arrived.”

In a sense, the actions above represent G7. CONCEALMENT AND MASKING, this time of public information. Is this behavior under Criminal Codes?

G8> “reasonable precautions to prevent fugitive dust.” Reasonable should be replaced with clear delineation of what precautions should be taken.

Fugitive dust is blown off KPLY property and affecting all in the vicinity. KPLY should pay for and place detectors off site to measure for “fugitive dust.” This is the only way to know what is escaping, to give the public protection, and for corrective actions to be made.

HERE IS THE DECEPTION. I called OAPCA last Friday, 4 October 1996 to find out what caused the foul smell. I spoke to Jim Warner (JW). He said he knew nothing about this. I explained my conversations with Weckeser. Warner continued to deny me information as well as turn me over to another employee who might know what happened at KPLY. He said he would check further and call back.

I then called KPLY for the information. “Lena” said there was no air emission problem on 9-26. This is the same KPLY employee who, at the 12-6-95 Port Angeles Air Quality forum denied KPLY dealt with any pollutants, denied they deposited a waste stream anywhere (I learned since that it goes to the city dump), and failed to inform the public that night that sitting in the local library was a draft AOP for public review. On this call, she also refused to let me speak with anyone else at KPLY, which I wanted to do to see if I could get some accurate information re: 9-26 KPLY air pollution.

JW from OAPCA called back, admitted he was the “inspector” of KPLY and that he did not cite KPLY “the next day because there was no problem the next day!” I repeated that CW told me there had been a problem and that KPLY called it in. When I repeated that the air was so bad I could not breathe, in a sarcastic manner JW cut in “If you couldn't breathe you should have gone to your doctor.”

I called your agency. One employee called me back, listened re: the above, and politely told me how to inform EPA, etc. of the above. After I received a second call, this time from “Jim Keenan (JK),” I related the story to him. He said he would call OAPCA and discuss the situation. In the interim he complained that he was one of three inspectors for a number of states and could not cover things and that he clearly expected the public to take care of the problems! *Read on!*

JK called me back; his attitude, demeanor, and comments were remarkably bizarre. He informed me that there was no report of a *problem* with KPLY on the date cited, that JW saw nothing on 9-27, the following day when he was in Pt Angeles, and therefore there had been no air emission problem by KPLY. When I reiterated the problem was fixed by late evening according to CW and so of course there was nothing visible by the next day, *JK blamed me for not calling in the report right away. He told me he did not believe what I said and covered for JW's sarcastic remark about seeing a doctor if I could not breathe by saying “We instruct people to first cover for their own safety.”* He continued to tell me he “frankly did not believe” what I told him.

First he tells me he relies on the public to basically do his job (“report to me”) and then he accuses the public of lying.

G8 (iii) “Log yard debris...” Define, “piled only in wet conditions to minimize dust emissions.” During wet weather “dust” particles will run with water is outside and uncontained.

In several sections the word “encouraged” is used. This word should be replaced with *directed*.

Returning to G2. Clearly G2 was violated on 9-26 and a week later when the nurse reported air pollution problems. EPA should also check indoor and outdoor surrounding buildings offsite of KPLY for stickiness from their glue emission vented outdoors.

G2 o. may have been violated by KPLY: “Lena” said there were no records of stack problems for 9-26-96 which would impact the air. How could OAPCA Craig Weckeser have a report and not OAPCA JW or KPLY “Lena”?

If records do, indeed exist, why don't they spell out the problem and what toxins were emitted causing lung, nasal, and eye irritation?

Investigate proper record reporting, keeping, and whether private and public officials are being deceitful to the public.

G3 FALLOUT is often violated as is G3 a.: e.g., 9-26 occurrence G3.b. apparently was violated. If JW and “Lena” are telling the truth.

G5 ODORS often violated. Two reports in September are examples.

G6 SULFUR DIOXIDE May have been violated, given the two September complaints. Records apparently not being kept.

In sum, the AOP are lax, not respected, and do not account for the cumulative health impacts long with Diashowa and Rayonier. Don't brush this off with “speak to your legislators and get laws changed.” Enforcement of current laws by local, state and EPA doesn't happen now.

You are not providing for the safety of the public in Port Angeles. You can start by revoking KPLY's AOP, putting JW and JK on probation for their antipathy towards the public and attempts to deter air quality reporting, rescind responsibility from State agencies because they have not served to protect the public, send an EPA official high up in your administration to live in Pt Angeles for one month near the mill effluent, breathe and monitor the air with instruments, speak to individuals and the grass roots organizations working to protect the people, and develop a real plan to protect the people from KPLY toxic emissions, as well as those of the other mills.

Darlene Schanfald, Ph.D.