Vedran Paul Jakovcevic

20th October 2010

The Standing Committee on Environment and public Affairs

Re: Inquiry into Cockburn Cement Ltd. (Munster Plant)

As I am aware that there is currently an inquiry in to Cockburn Cement Limited (Munster plant), I feel I must express my concerns and inform you of the impact that Cockburn Cements operation has had and is continuing to have on our lives. I have lived at the above address for approximately 44 years (I grew up here on a market garden) for many years I don't recall having any noticeable pollution( as in dust fall out or odors) emitting from the plant. Approximately 4-5 years ago we started noticing dust fall out all over our cars and also odors in the air that caused a dry burning sensation in the nose and the throat area. Because of our location we can clearly see the cement works from our family room and our outdoor area. The amount of pollution that we see emitting from the stacks is nothing short of disgraceful (I will try and attach some photos with this email although the camera seems to minimize the impact). I must most strongly state that lately (perhaps in the last two years) the dust fall out has virtually been on a daily basis when there is a southerly wind blowing ( due to the fact that we are due North of the works). The amount of dust that falls on our property, mostly visible on the cars at times looks like there has been a snow storm, in fact the safety officer has been and taken photos and dust samples from our cars( approximately December last year), but no one has as yet told us what the outcome has been. The dust penetrates the paint especially when there is dew in the air in the mornings, it seems like someone has sprinkled cement or lime dust and then sprayed it with water and allowed it to set. It is almost impossible to remove without scrubbing which obviously damages the paint work over a period of time.

Most importantly we are concerned about our health. As I previously mentioned this odor that causes burning sensation in the throat and the nose area is of a great concern to us and in my personal case it also causes headaches. The problem is so severe is that on many occasions when there is a southerly wind blowing we have to go indoors and close our doors and windows until the wind direction has changed or the emitting of pollutants has stopped. This situation is intolerable and we strongly plead with the Department to take all necessary action to prevent this serious situation continuing.

Many people I speak to, not only in our area but also in the old part of Yangebup and right down through to Mayor Road and not to mention the whole of Stanford Gardens have the same experience but are unaware that there is something that they can do about it or even who to raise their concerns with.

Regards

Vedran Paul Jakovcevic

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