

WORKSHOP ON AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLANNING FOR THE SEA-TO-SKY CORRIDOR

~INVITATION TO THE HOWE SOUND COMMUNITY FORUM~

Wednesday, March 16, 2005
1:00 pm – 4:20 pm

District of Squamish Council Chambers

BACKGROUND

While the region is generally recognized for its pristine environmental quality, this past summer an air quality advisory was released in Squamish, and the region is experiencing more hazy days in the summer. The most significant threat to air quality at this time is vehicle-based transportation, and emissions are expected to increase as tourism and population continue to grow.

Air quality issues require cross-jurisdictional management, since emissions produced in one jurisdiction will disperse throughout the airshed. Therefore, the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection (WLAP) contracted the Sheltair Group to evaluate opportunities for developing a regional plan to help ensure that this clean area remains clean. The results of this work are summarized in a report "Sharing the Air: A Community Based Approach to Airshed Management in the Sea to Sky Corridor". In short, the report provides an overview of:

- Current air quality situation and trends.
- Existing community-based initiatives that will contribute to air quality management.
- A proposed approach to developing a Sea-to-Sky Air Quality Management Plan.

To-date, WLAP and Sheltair have confirmed that a number of key stakeholders are interested in participating in a regional air quality planning process. These stakeholders include:

- Resort Municipality of Whistler, represented by Mayor Hugh O'Reilly and Brian Barnett, General Manager of Engineering & Public Works
- District of Squamish, represented by Francesca Langford, Environmental Coordinator
- SLRD, represented by Steve Olmstead, Manager of Planning
- Western Pulp, represented by Jeanne Taylor, Environmental Supervisor
- Howe Sound Pulp & Paper, represented by Al Strang, Manager of Environmental & External Relations
- Randall Lewis of Squamish First Nation
- Sheldon Tetrault of Lil'wat First Nation (to be confirmed)

WLAP and Sheltair are approaching the Howe Sound Community Forum to request that they participate in an air quality planning process for the corridor. Essentially, it is being proposed that the HSCF become the vehicle for guiding the development of a Sea-to-Sky AQMP, and for sharing progress on its implementation. The representatives identified above would become a working group that would develop the AQMP, act as liaison with their organization, and report to the HSCF.

MEETING OBJECTIVES

- Communicate importance of air quality planning to the HSCF, and the linkages with the forum's overarching vision;
- Have the forum agree to act as the vehicle for developing the AQMP, and for sharing progress on its implementation, with the support of the working group; and
- Potentially (if time permits), have the forum develop a common vision and goals for air quality management in the corridor

AGENDA

AGENDA ITEM	PRESENTERS	TIME
Welcome by Host & Introduction	Mayor Ian Sutherland Glen Okrainetz, Manager, Air Protection, BC Government	1:00 pm – 1:05 pm
Why is a regional air quality plan needed? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Current air quality and trends ➢ Linkages between air quality planning and other initiatives ➢ Health implications associated with poor air quality 	Stephanie Meyn, Meteorologist, BC Government Cora Hallsworth, The Sheltair Group Dr. Michael Brauer, School of Occupational & Environmental Hygiene, University of British Columbia	1:05 pm – 1:40 pm
Examples of air quality planning in other jurisdictions...why is the Sea-to-Sky corridor unique?	Stephanie Meyn, Meteorologist, BC Government	1:40 pm – 2:00 pm
What is already being done? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Local government initiatives across the region ➢ Pulp mill continuous improvements 	Cora Hallsworth, The Sheltair Group Al Strang, Howe Sound Pulp & Paper Jeanne Taylor, Western Pulp	2:00 pm – 2:30 pm
BREAK		2:30 pm – 2:45 pm
What more could be done? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Overview of proposed AQMP process/framework ➢ Roles & responsibilities of forum & committee ➢ Proposed timelines 	Cora Hallsworth, The Sheltair Group	2:45 pm – 3:00 pm
Adopting an AQMP process & developing a common vision for air quality in the corridor	Group discussion	3:00 pm – 4:10 pm
Wrap-up & Next Steps		4:10 pm - 4:20 pm

For further information:



Cora Hallsworth
Project Consultant
The Sheltair Group
604-732-9106, ext. 305
challsworth@sheltair.com



Stephanie Meyn
Air Quality Meteorologist
Ministry of Water Land & Air Protection
604-582-5286
Stephanie.Meyn@gems1.gov.bc.ca

WORKSHOP ON AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLANNING FOR THE SEA-TO-SKY CORRIDOR

Wednesday, March 16, 2005
1:00 pm – 4:20 pm

Meeting Location

District of Squamish, Council Chambers

37955 - 2nd Avenue

Phone: (604) 892-5217

Directions:

From Highway 99 turn left onto Cleveland Avenue

Turn right on Pemberton Avenue

Turn left on Second Avenue

