

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION – ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCIES Regulation 2019

AUGUST 2020

The Canadian Federal Government has enacted new rules in the Environmental Emergencies (E2) Regulation to include increased communication with our neighbours on certain chemicals that we store and use on site to produce pulp. For HSPP these chemicals are Sodium Chlorate and Chlorine Dioxide (ClO₂) – both of which we have used in the same manner on site for many, many years without impact to the mill fence line or neighbouring community.

SODIUM CHLORATE

Sodium Chlorate is used in the manufacture of Chlorine Dioxide. The main hazard from sodium chlorate is in the event of an explosive reaction. Sodium chlorate is received and stored in a liquid form, so the chances of explosive reactions are low. The modelling for an incident with Sodium Chlorate does not extend beyond the mill property.

CHLORINE DIOXIDE

Chlorine dioxide is used in the bleaching of kraft pulp – making the white pulp that is used to make many different end products – from tissue to paper. Chlorine dioxide is widely used in the pulp industry and has been used onsite at HSPP since 1963. We make and store ClO₂ for use on site. In its gaseous state ClO₂ appears as a bright yellow green cloud and is heavier than air. Contact with ClO₂ can irritate the skin and eyes. Breathing will irritate the lungs, nose and throat causing coughing or shortness of breath.

Safeguards in place at HSPP

The design of the R8 Generator where ClO₂ is made, the ClO₂ storage system and our operations keeps safety paramount. Strict engineering and operating protocols are applied to make, store and use ClO₂. What we do to ensure safe operations are:

- Continuous monitoring of the operational process by trained operators.
- Local gas sensors and conductivity monitoring will alarm and alert operators for the need to investigate/act.
- In the event of a failure of a tank or line, the chemical would be contained to a bermed area and suppressing foam deployed to prevent gaseous release of ClO₂.
- Capacity to neutralize released material to further mitigate any health or environmental concerns.
- Onsite 24/7 Fire Department, fully trained to respond to all Hazardous Material emergency situations.
- Established Emergency Response Plan and procedures.
- Monthly practices of the Response team and Annual drills to maintain proficiency in response.
- Preventative inspections and maintenance schedule for all critical safety components.

Modelling has been conducted to show that in the unlikely event of a significant release there would be a downwind impact area ranging from 0.3 to 4.9 km, depending on weather conditions. The greatest distance modelled being on a warm (21c) calm, clear night with 4 m/s winds, which in reviewing 8 years of hourly metrological data, the combination of temperature, wind and time of day condition has never occurred. But we plan for such emergencies, no matter how remote of possibility.

In the event of a major release where notifying our neighbours of the hazard and potentially to evacuate HSPP would enlist the help of local RCMP and first responders. The SCR D will be launching a broadcast emergency notification system at the end of 2020 that would alert subscribed phone numbers or emails of any emergencies in their area and what to do.

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